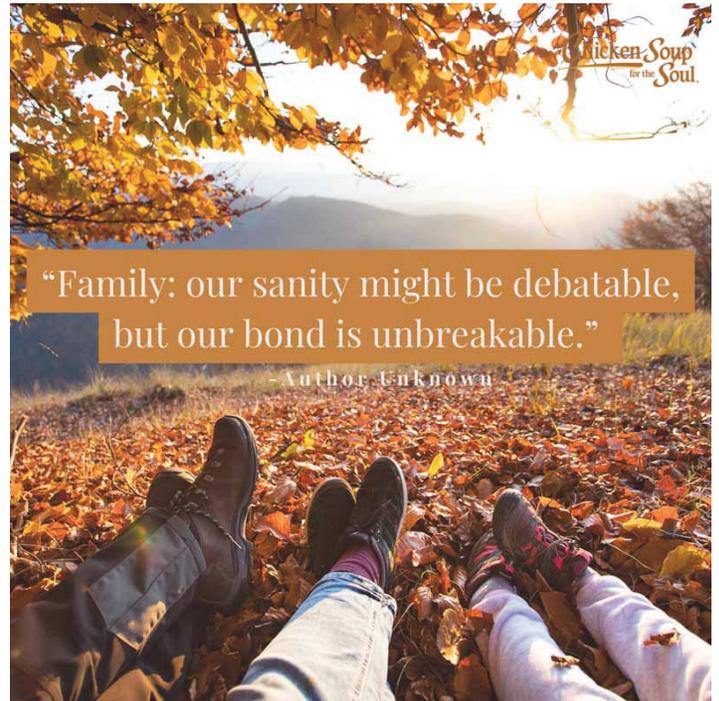


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Groton Community Calendar

Sunday, Oct. 30

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, Milestones for JK and K, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.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. 31

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, chocolate cake, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg bake.

School Lunch: Chicken legs, mashed potatoes.

Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm

United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm

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

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

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

OPEN: **Recycling Trailer in Groton**
The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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The Wolves Defense Wreaks Havoc on the Dragons in 28-Point Win

Aberdeen, S.D. – Northern State University football upheld their unbeaten streak from Dacotah Bank Stadium this season on Saturday, surging past MSU Moorhead 35-7. Northern broke two school records in the contest, the single game rushing yards allowed record and the single season sacks, as Ian Marshall notched 2.5, bringing his season total to 12.5. NSU is now 3-1 in the North Division, sitting third in the division behind Bemidji State and Minnesota Duluth.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 35, MSUM 7

Records: NSU 6-3, MSUM 3-6

Attendance: 4195

HOW IT HAPPENED

- Stanley Haskins Jr. scored first for the Wolves on a 2-yard run with 3:39 left in the first
- Northern added a 4-yard receiving touchdown from Will Madler to Caleb Schentzel midway through the second and held the 14-0 lead into the half
- Isaiah Cherrier opened the second half for the Wolves and tallied the lone score of the third quarter with a 4-yard rushing score
- Ben Noland extended the lead in the fourth on an 8-yard reception at 6:39 in the fourth
- MSU Moorhead answered back, notching their lone touchdown of the contest, a 64-yard reception by Birrenkott
- Wyatt Block closed out the game for the Wolves on a 39-yard rushing touchdown and extra point by Michael Bonds (Yes! You read that right Bonds!) to solidify the 28-point victory
- The Wolves offense recorded 21 first downs, 254 yards rushing, and 148 yards passing in the win; averaging 5.0 yards per rush and 8.7 yards per catch
- The Northern defense tallied an interception, two fumble recoveries, eight sacks (76 yards lost), and held MSU Moorhead to 4-of-15 on third down
- MSU Moorhead recorded 218 yards of total offense in the loss
- NSU added 55 return yards, 41 via punt and 14 on kickoffs, and went 9-of-14 in third down conversions
- Madler threw for 148 yards, hitting both Schentzel and Noland for touchdowns
- Block led the team with 110 yards rushing, while Cherrier and Madler added 67 and 41 apiece
- The Wolves combined sacks came from Ian Marshal (2.5), Trey King (1.0), Luke Chuol (1.0), William Berry (1.0), Emeka Jillani Ogakwu (2.0), and Daniel Sedlacek Jr. (0.5)
- Jordan Hillesheim tallied the team's interception, while Ogakwu notched the forced fumble
- Marshall tallied a fumble recovery and 12-yard return following a bad snap by the Dragon offense

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Will Madler: 148 yards passing, 2 touchdowns, 41 yards rushing
- Wyatt Block: 110 yards rushing, 1 touchdown
- Felipe Alvear: 6 tackles, 0.5 tackles for a loss
- Ian Marshall: 5 tackles, 4.5 tackles for a loss, 2.5 sacks, 1 fumble recovery
- Emeka Jillani Ogakwu: 2.0 sacks, 1 forced fumble

UP NEXT

Northern travels to Bemidji State next Saturday for a 1 p.m. kick versus the Beavers. The Wolves then close out the regular season on November 12, hosting Minnesota Duluth. 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.

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No. 7 St. Cloud State Sneaks Away From Northern State

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University volleyball battled with No. 7 St. Cloud State on Saturday afternoon, ultimately falling in four sets. The Wolves opened the match with a 25-19 victory, however the Huskies stormed back and fended off a late fourth set attack by NSU.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 1, SCSU 3

Records: NSU 16-10 (11-7 NSIC), SCSU 21-5 (13-5 NSIC)

Attendance: 1325

HOW IT HAPPENED

- St. Cloud State secured the win sweeping the middle sets with scores of 25-15, 25-17, and 28-26
- Northern rallied back from a 3-point deficit in the fourth, tying the set at 20-all
- The two teams traded points and challenges in the final 14 points scored, with SCSU sneaking ahead
- The Wolves hit .211 in the match to the Huskies .272 and added 53 kills, 50 assists, 67 digs, nine blocks, and five aces
- Sally Gaul nearly matched her career high with 25 kills in the match, followed by Taylor Buckley with 13
- Four Wolves recorded double digit digs and four notched multiple blocks
- Keri Walker averaged 11.25 assists per set and led the team on defense matching her career high with 16 digs

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Sally Gaul: 25 kills, .412 attack%, 10 digs
- Taylor Buckley: 13 kills, 14 digs
- Keri Walker: 45 assists, 16 digs, 4 blocks, 2 aces
- Madison Langlie: 13 digs, 2 assists, 1 ace

UP NEXT

Northern closes out the regular season next Friday and Saturday at Minnesota Crookston and Bemidji State. Match start times are set for 6 p.m. on Friday against the Golden Eagles and 4 p.m. on Saturday versus the Beavers. The Wolves sit in seventh in the NSIC standings with an 11-7 record overall; one game ahead of Augustana.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord.

ZECHARIAH 8:22

Etching of "The Preacher" by Frank Brangwyn (1948)

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BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Matthew 12, when an evil spirit returns to a person, how many companions does it bring? 2, 3, 7, 16

3. In which book's 22:18 does it state, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live"? *Exodus, Numbers, Isaiah, Hebrews*

4. From 1 Samuel 16, what king of Israel was tormented by an evil spirit? *Solomon, David, Elah, Saul*

5. Who called the city of Nineveh the mistress of witchcraft? *Ahab, Nahum, Lucifer, Peter*

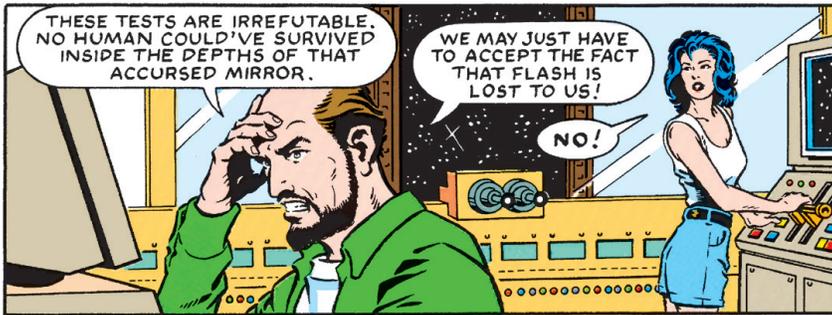
6. What mark of the beast number comes from Revelation 13? 7, 333, 490, 666

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) 7, 3) Exodus, 4) Saul, 5) Nahum, 6) 666

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com.

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THESE TESTS ARE IRREFUTABLE. NO HUMAN COULD'VE SURVIVED INSIDE THE DEPTHS OF THAT ACCURSED MIRROR.

WE MAY JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT FLASH IS LOST TO US!

NO!

THE SKELETAL REMAINS WE FOUND WEREN'T HIS. HE'S STILL OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.

AND IF HE IS ALIVE, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE UP ON HIM.

NOT NOW.

NOT EVER!



FLASH GORDON

WITH HIS FOLLOWERS HAVING FLED AND THE PORTAL TO THE DARK VOID SLOWLY DIMINISHING, GARAKAHN ENGAGES FLASH IN A FIGHT TO THE FINISH!

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I'VE LOST EVERYTHING BECAUSE OF YOU!



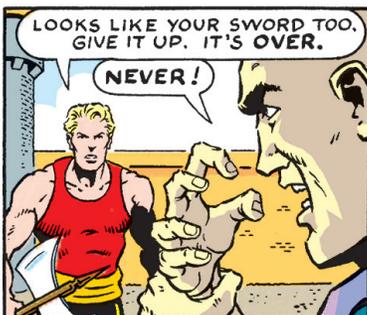
MY PEOPLE, KARA...

JIM KEEFE 10-23

EVERYTHING!

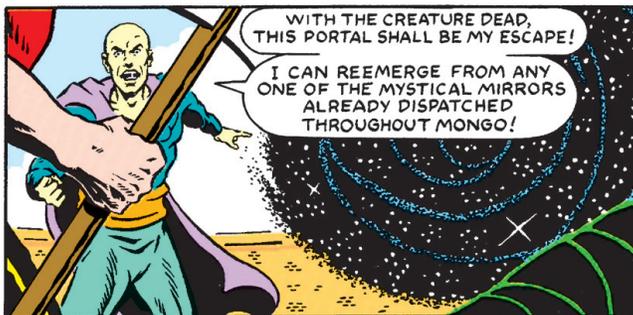


K-CHING!



LOOKS LIKE YOUR SWORD TOO. GIVE IT UP. IT'S OVER.

NEVER!



WITH THE CREATURE DEAD, THIS PORTAL SHALL BE MY ESCAPE!

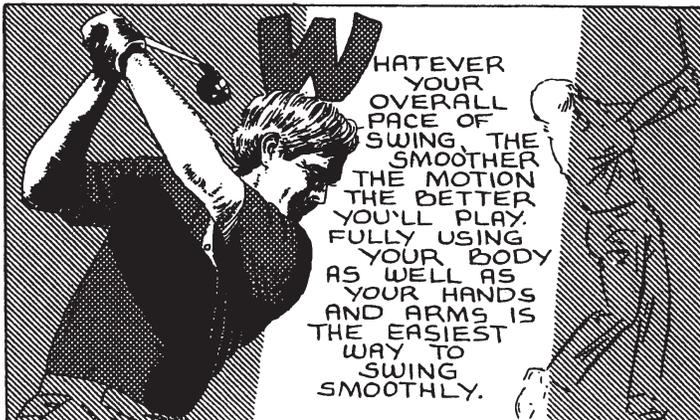
I CAN REEMERGE FROM ANY ONE OF THE MYSTICAL MIRRORS ALREADY DISPATCHED THROUGHOUT MONGO!



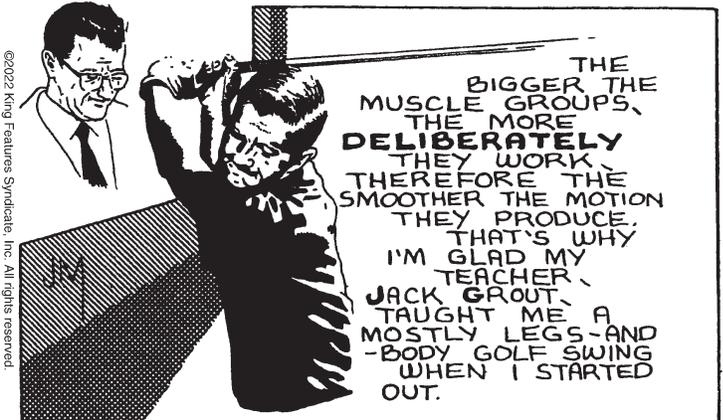
YOU MAY HAVE WON THE BATTLE, GORDON, BUT THE WAR IS FAR FROM OVER!

NEXT: INTO ETERNITY!

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



WHATEVER YOUR OVERALL PACE OF SWING, THE SMOOTHER THE MOTION THE BETTER YOU'LL PLAY. FULLY USING YOUR BODY AS WELL AS YOUR HANDS AND ARMS IS THE EASIEST WAY TO SWING SMOOTHLY.



THE BIGGER THE MUSCLE GROUPS, THE MORE DELIBERATELY THEY WORK, THEREFORE THE SMOOTHER THE MOTION THEY PRODUCE. THAT'S WHY I'M GLAD MY TEACHER, JACK GROUT, TAUGHT ME A MOSTLY LEGS-AND-BODY GOLF SWING WHEN I STARTED OUT.

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Taking a Tetanus Vaccine With an Allergy Requires Careful Monitoring

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was told by my doctor that I need a tetanus booster shot, but when I was 17, I cut my foot and needed stitches. I was told then that I was allergic to the tetanus shot, so they gave me penicillin instead. Of course, that was a long time ago, since I'm now 81 years old. How could they have determined I was allergic to the shot, and is that even reliable? Can I be tested now? Or do I even need to be tested? — *M.N.*

ANSWER: Reactions to vaccines are common, but they were much more common 64 years ago, when the purity of vaccines was far less than what it is now. One reaction that was common in the 1950s is called an Arthus reaction, which causes painful swelling at the injection site within a few hours — the worst swelling usually occurring around 24 hours later, and then slowly decreasing. You are unlikely to get that type of allergic reaction because of better vaccines, and because it has been so many years since you've taken the vaccine.

Very few people get anaphylactic reactions. Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening condition, which often starts with skin symptoms such as hives or swelling; respiratory symptoms such as nasal congestion, discharge or the sensation of the throat closing; gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting or abdominal pain; and cardiovascular symptoms such as dizziness and fainting. Any history of anaphylaxis prevents you from getting the same trigger (vaccine or medication) again, if it can be helped. Only a careful history

allergic reaction you had can provide an answer on which type of reaction it was. Blood testing for allergic reactions is not 100% reliable.

If you haven't had a tetanus vaccine in over 60 years, the decision to get one now really is a judgment call based on your likelihood of exposures. If you do a lot of gardening or hiking, it may be worthwhile to give you a vaccine with careful monitoring. If you were to develop a tetanus-prone wound, such as a deep wound that comes into contact with soil or manure, you would be recommended tetanus immunoglobulin as well as a tetanus vaccine. Penicillin alone is not effective in preventing tetanus: Meticulous wound cleaning is critical, in addition to the shots.

DEAR DR. ROACH: How do I know if I've been vaccinated for polio? — *S.A.*

ANSWER: The first U.S.-transmitted case of polio in a decade was reported in Rockland County, New York, in July 2022. The person who contracted polio was unvaccinated: They probably contracted the case from a person who was vaccinated outside the U.S., since it was a vaccine-derived polio case. Occasionally, the weakened strain used for the oral polio vaccine can mutate and cause disease. The oral polio vaccine has not been used in the U.S. since 2000, but it is still used in other parts of the world.

The vast majority of American and Canadian adults are vaccinated for polio, as it is required for school. So, most adults do not need vaccination, but it is routine for those traveling to endemic areas to receive a booster. Unfortunately, many children have not gotten their boosters on time due to the pandemic, and parents in the area of the case are recommended to get their kids' vaccines up-to-date as soon as possible. Anyone exposed to a known case should get guidance from their physician, who will probably be in contact with the health department.

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

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Bobby Cannavale stars as Dean Brannock in "The Watcher." Courtesy of Netflix

"The Watcher" (TV-MA) -- If you're looking for a new TV show to binge, look no further than this mystery thriller out now. Based on a true story, this seven-episode series focuses on the Brannock family, who relocated from New York after finding their dream home in a quiet suburb in New Jersey. Shortly after they move in, the Brannocks begin receiving disturbing letters in the mail from someone called "The Watcher," who claims to be watching them, and their house, from a distance.

These letters, followed by odd interactions with their neighbors, leave the Brannocks to question their move. But, little do they know that once they had set their sights on the house, they would never be able to just walk away. (Netflix)

"The White Lotus Season 2" (TV-MA) -- The huge success that followed the limited series "The White Lotus" led to its renewal by HBO as an anthology series, prompting a second season with a mostly new set of characters. Jennifer Coolidge reprises her role as Tanya, Michael Imperioli ("The Sopranos") portrays a new troubled character named Dominic Di Grasso and Aubrey Plaza ("Parks and Recreation") stars as Harper Spiller. The second season is set in the White Lotus resort based in Sicily and explores a range of tough relationship dynamics similar to the ones viewers encountered at the Hawaii resort during the first season. The first episode of the season is out now. (HBO Max)

"Selena Gomez: My Mind & Me" (R) -- From director Alek Keshishian ("Madonna: Truth or Dare"), this documentary film zooms in on the past six years of Selena Gomez's career in Hollywood. Gomez reached a turning point in her life when she was diagnosed with lupus. After having battled depression and anxiety for years leading up to this point, the young star knew she needed to reset and regain her power back, so she focused her efforts on learning how to stabilize her mental health. This documentary shows a vulnerable, raw side to Gomez in a way meant to inspire others as she reaches a breakthrough in her personal and professional life. Out Nov. 4. (AppleTV+)

"My Policeman" (R) -- Another notch on Harry Styles' acting belt this year is the romantic drama film "My Policeman," based on the 2012 novel by Bethan Roberts. In Brighton, England, during the 1950s, Tom Burgess (played by Styles) is a policeman who's deeply within the closet but marries schoolteacher Marion Taylor (Emma Corrin) in order to maintain the image that he's a heterosexual man. However, Tom is in love with a museum curator named Patrick, and by choosing to marry Marion, he swears all three of them to secrecy. But can either relationship truly thrive this way, or will Tom have to sacrifice for love? "My Policeman" is available to stream Nov. 4. (Prime Video)

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1. The Love Unlimited Orchestra was the band for which artist?
2. Who wrote and released "Silver Dream Machine"?
3. Which artist released "What's New Pussycat"?
4. Roxette's "It Must Have Been Love" was used in which film?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "You think you lost your love, Well I saw her yesterday, It's you she's thinking of, And she told me what to say."

Answers

1. Barry White and his female vocal trio Love Unlimited. White's first hit with the orchestra came in 1973 with his "I've Got So Much to Give" album.
2. David Essex, in 1980. The song was used in the film "Silver Dream Racer" about motorcycle racing. (Essex starred in the film as well.) The film flopped, but the song didn't.
3. Tom Jones, in 1965. The song picked up an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Song after being used in the film of the same name.
4. "Pretty Woman," in 1990.
5. "She Loves You," by the Beatles in 1963. Legend says that Paul McCartney's father tried to get them to change the lyrics from "yeah, yeah, yeah" to "yes, yes, yes." Thankfully they didn't.

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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{Wagner}

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"The mascot is offended by our win-loss record!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs ^{by Dave T. Phipps}

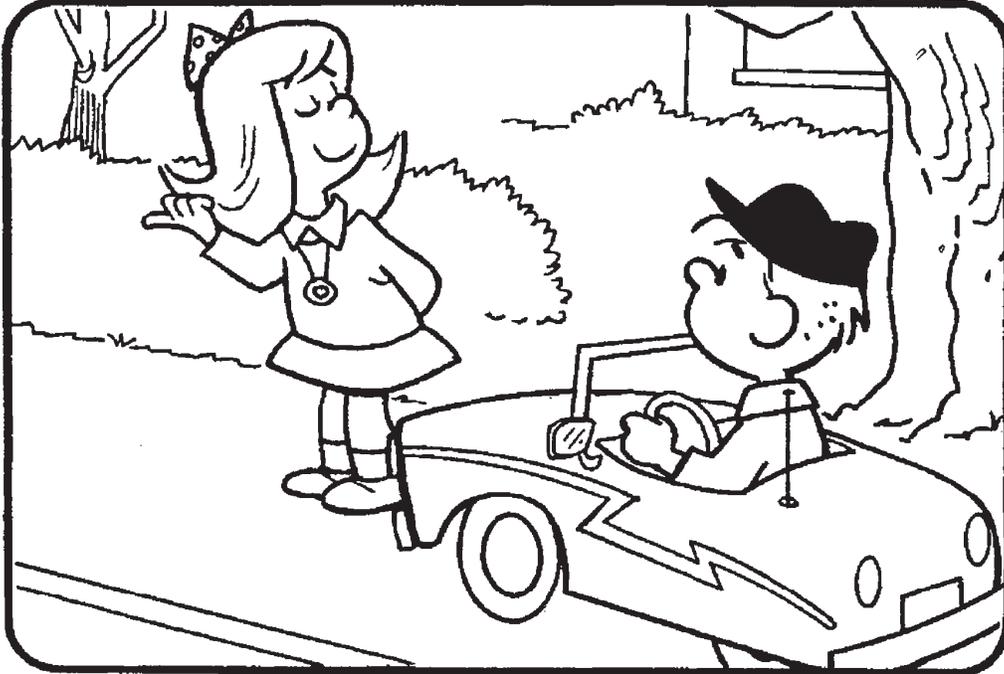


NO MORE EXERCISE. MY BACK'S KILLING ME. PROBABLY BECAUSE IT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING MY FRONT.

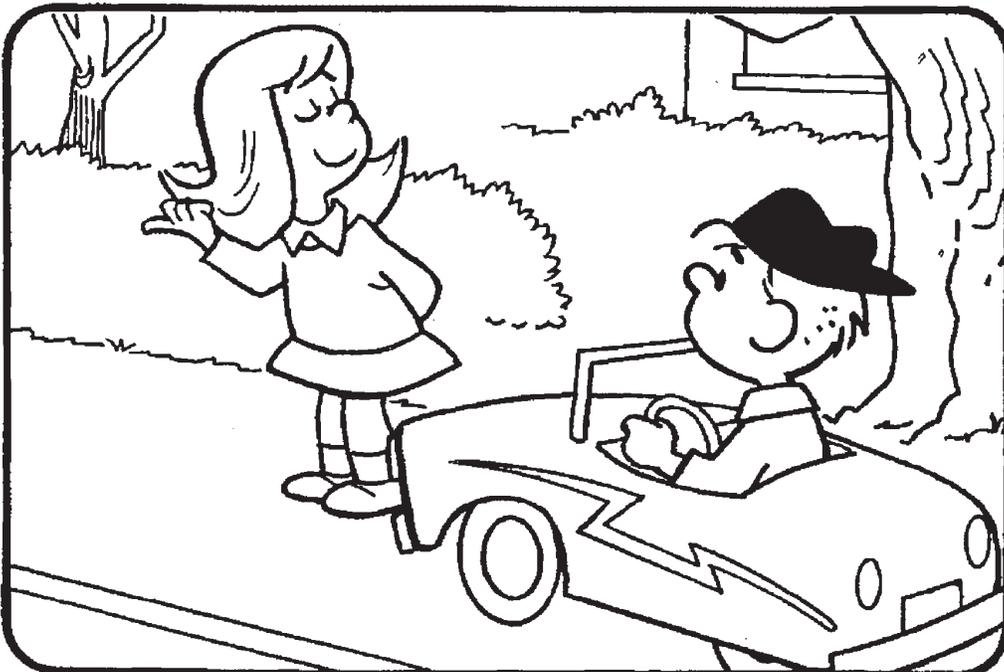
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Bow is missing. 2. Locket is missing. 3. Stripe is different. 4. Mirror is missing. 5. Cap is reversed. 6. Antenna is missing.

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* L.H. in Illinois writes: "Never use a printed paper napkin to wipe off a spill. I once dabbed at a spot on a white tile, which left a stain from the ink."

* Use clothespins to reseal bread bags instead of twist ties. I buy colorful plastic ones at the store or have the kids paint wooden ones. Keep them handy in a pretty bowl on the counter! -- J.B. in Rhode Island

* "Fold little dessert paper napkins into triangles and insert into fork tines for place settings. Lemons and limes in a pretty bowl make a simple centerpiece. Fill a small kids pool with ice to keep drinks cold at parties. -- M.F. in Washington

* Before planting anything new in your yard, get in touch with your county agriculture agent to find out about

any restrictions. You can also get advice on when and where to plant. -- L.H. in Illinois

* When sending cards, attach a return address label to the back so they don't have to search for the address if they wish to respond. -- D.L. in Minnesota

* For dusting, use a clean tube sock and spray with furniture polish, then dust away! It's easier to get into nooks and crannies. -- C.F. in Oklahoma

* "I feel the following is the best way to remove lint from the trap on my dryer. After completion of the drying cycle, take the used Bounce dryer sheet and swipe the screen. Then throw it into the wastebasket located next to the dryer. For loads not using Bounce, take a used one from the wastebasket and use. This puts the Bounce sheet through a complete clothes-drying cycle." -- G.B. from Minnesota

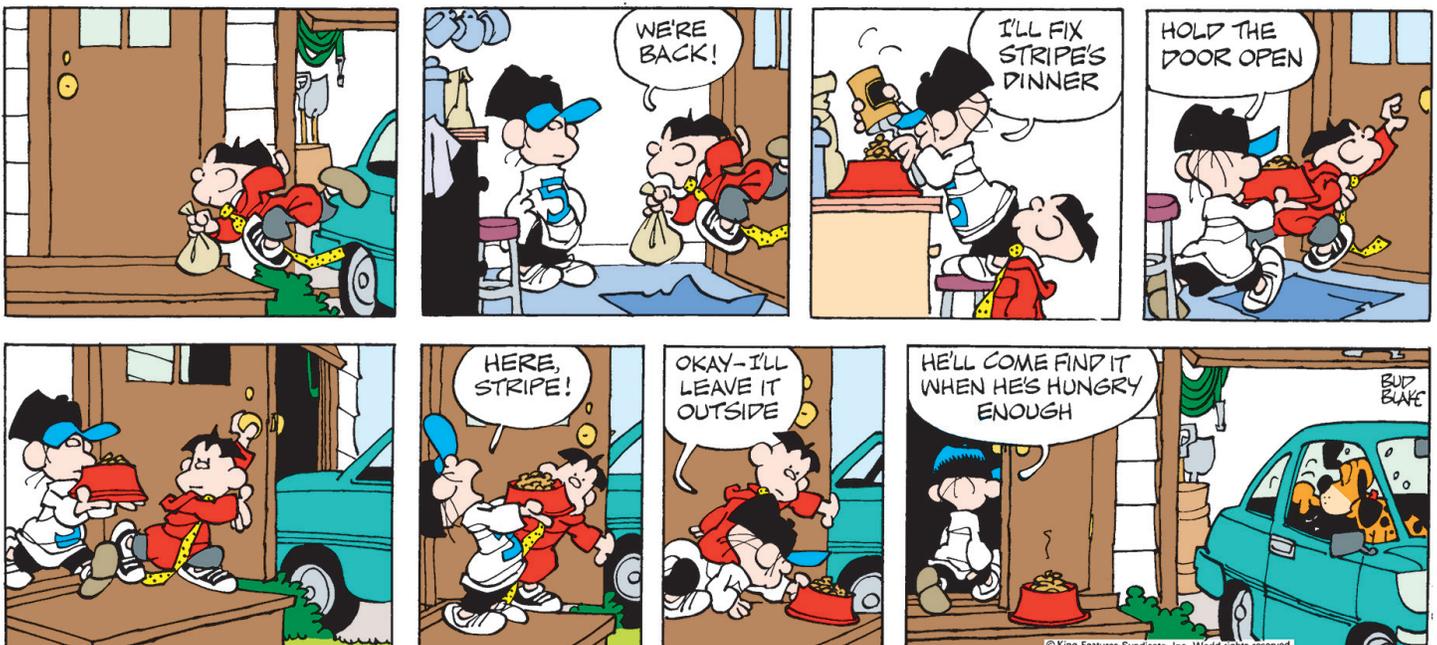
* A great way to keep tennis shoes and other shoes together: When you take them off, tie the shoes together by the shoestrings (loosely) or connect the two shoes with Velcro straps if they close that way. In doing this, it is much faster and easier to find BOTH shoes when ready to go. Keep smiling! -- J.B. in Virginia

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

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 **TIGER**

by **BUD BLAKE**



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Whispered "Hey!"
 5 Cacophony
 8 Last write-up
 12 Jazz singer James
 13 Punk rock offshoot
 14 Indy event
 15 Meander
 16 Has a portion (of)
 18 Seeming contradiction
 20 Small earrings
 21 Allow
 22 — Paulo
 23 Social worker's load
 26 Talkative birds
 30 Half of bi-
 31 Levy
 32 French article
 33 Layered dessert
 36 Media barrage
 38 Dog tags, e.g.
 39 Sheep call
 40 Acid in proteins
 43 Lets off
 47 Sunshades
 49 "Phooey!"
 50 Earth Day subj.
 51 "A mouse!"
 52 Outside (Pref.)
 53 Painter

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16			17				
18				19				20				
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31					32		
33			34	35				36	37			
			38				39					
40	41	42				43				44	45	46
47					48				49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

- Magritte
 10 On the rocks
 11 Hardy heroine
 17 Despot
 19 — Moines
 22 Swing band instrument
 23 Drink holder
 24 Santa — winds
 25 Knight's address
 26 Bit of butter
 27 Gigi's "yes"
 28 Stick with a kick
 29 "— who?"
 31 Poetic contraction
 34 Closing number
 35 Big fusses
 36 Saloon
 37 Firetruck necessity
 39 Soaks up the sun
 40 Unoriginal one
 41 Spiked club
 42 Pressing need
 43 Entreaty
 44 Killer whale
 45 D.C. baseball team
 46 Halt
 48 British ref. work

DOWN

- 1 Criminal, to cops
 2 Old portico
 3 Flag feature
 4 Mexican entree
 5 Station
 6 Big-screen format
 7 Neither mate
 8 Speaker
 9 Capital of Azerbaijan

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

P	S	S	T		D	I	N		O	B	I	T	
E	T	A			E	M	O		R	A	C	E	
R	O	A	M		P	A	R	T	A	K	E	S	
P	A	R	A	D	O	X			S	T	U	D	S
			L	E	T		S	A	O				
C	A	S	E	S		P	A	R	R	O	T	S	
U	N	I			T	A	X				U	N	E
P	A	R	F	A	I	T			B	L	I	T	Z
			I	D	S			B	A	A			
A	M	I	N	O		P	A	R	D	O	N	S	
P	A	R	A	S	O	L	S			D	R	A	T
E	C	O	L		E	E	K			E	C	T	O
R	E	N	E		D	A	S			R	A	S	P

LAFF - A - DAY



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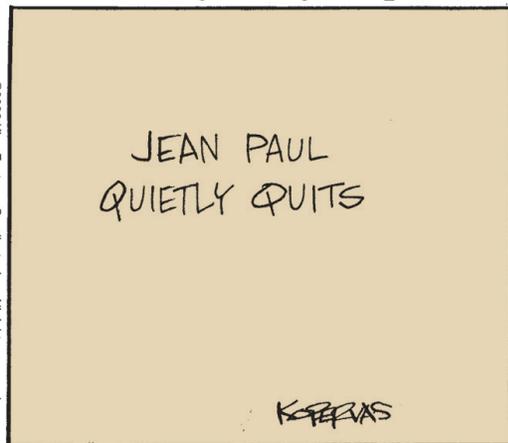
"That reminds me, Mom — have you told Dad about your car yet?"

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

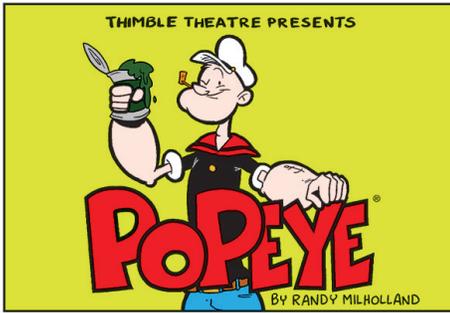


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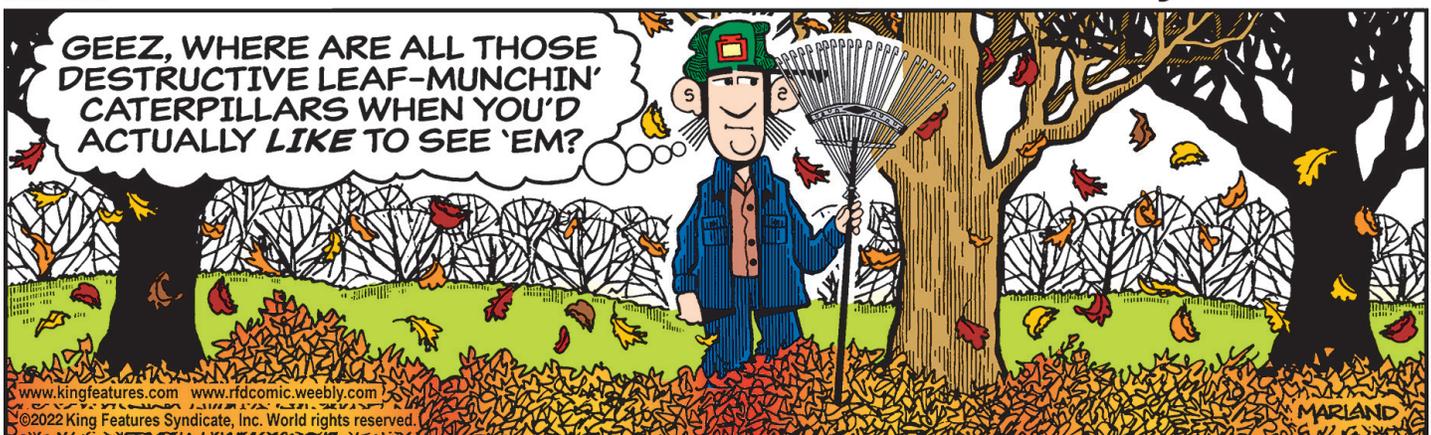
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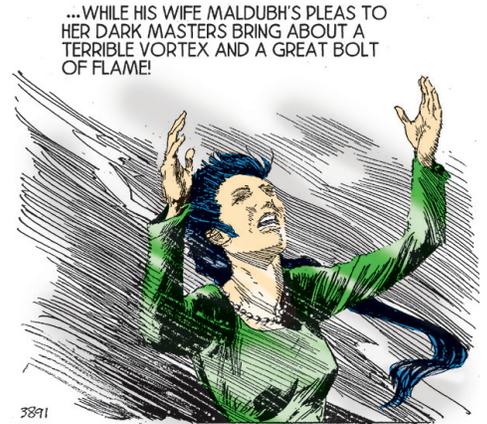
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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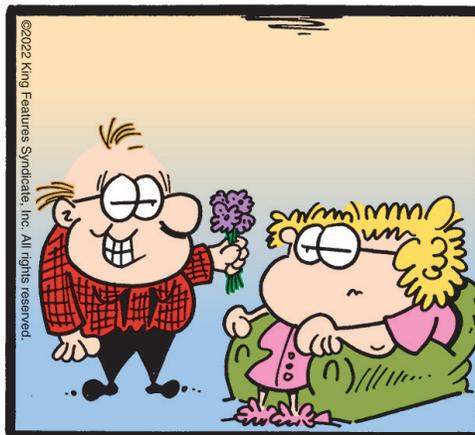
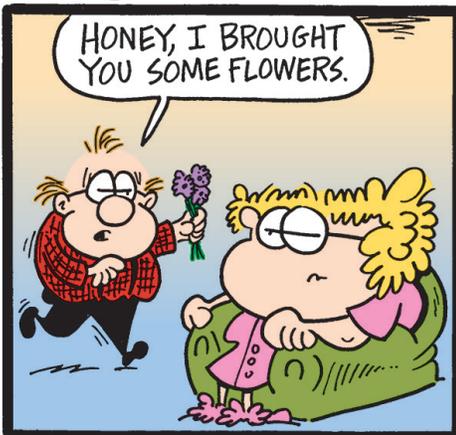
...WHILE HIS WIFE MALDUBH'S PLEAS TO HER DARK MASTERS BRING ABOUT A TERRIBLE VORTEX AND A GREAT BOLT OF FLAME!

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Social Security Benefit for 2023

It's official: Our Social Security increase for 2023 will be 8.7%. They say it's the largest increase in 40 years.

For the average senior, that's going to mean a \$146 monthly increase. Plus we're getting a small "rebate" on that massive Medicare Part B increase we faced last year when the cost went to \$170.10 to pay for Aduhelm, an Alzheimer's disease drug that was said to cost \$56,000 per year. (After facing criticism, manufacturers had to cut the cost in half, down to \$28,200.) We'll now save \$5.20 on our Part B premium, with the average monthly deduction being \$164.90. The Part B annual deductible will drop to \$226, a \$7 savings.

What's disturbing is that only a few months ago the financial gurus were expecting we'd receive a 10.2% increase on Social Security, based on all the high prices we've been seeing this year and will likely see into 2023. Instead, they've lowered that to the 8.7% ... while prices have continued to rise.

The problem is how those annual increases are calculated. They use the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners And Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which calculates the prices of goods and services for things those urban workers care about: clothing, education, electronics and so on. That CPI-W covers 29% of the population. Instead, they should use the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E), which focuses on goods and services that seniors spend money on: medical, drugs, food, housing and so on.

The next time you call your senators and representatives, be sure to ask why the Elderly index isn't being used. After all, they've been thinking about it since the 1980s.

Meanwhile, don't let the Medicare open enrollment period pass you by. Until Dec. 7 you have the option to make changes to your original Medicare Advantage plan, supplemental plan and prescription drug plan.

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1. In 2010, feline-named sportswear company Puma acquired what reptilian-named golf equipment manufacturer?

2. What is the name of the bronze pig trophy awarded to the winner of the Iowa Hawkeyes vs. Minnesota Golden Gophers college football rivalry game?

3. Three-time NBA All-Star Gilbert Arenas was known by what nickname inspired by his jersey number?

4. Name the Loyola Marymount University Lions basketball star who collapsed during a game and later died from a heart condition in 1990 at age 23.

5. What NASCAR driver married former Tennessee Titans cheerleader Whitney Ward in 2017?

6. Name the former UCLA and NBA basketball player who was the lead plaintiff in an antitrust class action lawsuit against the NCAA over the use of athletes' images and likeness for commercial purposes.

7. What mixed martial arts organization was founded by pro wrestling promoter Jeff Osborne in Boonville, Indiana, in 1995?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Cobra Golf.
2. Floyd of Rosedale.
3. Agent Zero.
4. Hank Gathers.
5. Austin Dillon.
6. Ed O'Bannon.
7. HOOKnSHOOT.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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Helping a "Found" Cat Get Home

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My friend found an orange cat matching the description on a paper flyer posted on a nearby telephone pole. However, the email address listed on the flyer keeps coming back as "invalid," so she has no way to contact the owner. What else can she do to return the cat to its rightful owner? -- Jimmy V., via email

DEAR JIMMY: Kudos to you and your friend for caring for the lost cat and trying to get it back to the owner!

The first thing to do is to contact nearby shelters and veterinarian's offices and tell them that you've

found a lost cat but cannot contact the owner. They may have you bring in the cat to scan for a microchip -- the best way to identify pets and reunite them with their owners when a collar and tag are lost. Or they may ask for a description and have you email a photo of the cat so they can put up a "found" flyer in their lobby. Chances are, if the owner has already put up flyers, they have probably been checking with shelters regularly to see if their cat has been reported found or has turned up there.

Next, get the word out. Paws.org has a downloadable PDF flyer (www.paws.org/resources/reunite-a-found-pet/) that you can use to post your own found sign and add a contact email or number for the owner to call. Post a found notice on Facebook groups like Lost and Pound (www.facebook.com/lostandpound), which focus on lost pets.

Chances are, you'll locate the owner locally, but getting the word out as far and as wide as possible will help reunite that cat with its owner.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* In 2015, Colin Furze invented a creative alarm that would literally throw its user out of bed.

* A study in which researchers scanned actors' brains while they answered questions revealed that their brain activity differed depending on whether they spoke as themselves or as the character they were portraying.

* Female ferrets will die if they go as long as a year without mating, due to elevated estrogen levels.

* Prior to 2011, any drink in Russia with less than 10% alcohol content was legally classified as a soft drink.

* On Aug. 20, 2013, a group of students from Delaware built the tallest Lego tower in the world, standing at 112 feet tall and consisting of more than 500,000 pieces.

* Not that we think you're likely to drop an ant from the Empire State Building, but if you do, you should know ahead of time that it will walk away unharmed. Due to its proportions and tough exoskeleton, its terminal velocity won't be enough to kill or hurt it on impact.

* If the sun explodes, we won't know it until just over eight minutes afterward.

* Pretty much everyone finds TV ads annoying, but at least they don't normally last too long -- with the exception of a commercial for Old Spice that aired in Brazil in 2018 and ran a staggering 14 hours, earning it a Guinness World Record for the longest TV ad ever.

* In the early 1900s, tug of war, pigeon shooting and pistol dueling were Olympic sports.

* Studies suggest that "Huh?" is the closest thing humans have to a universal word. This expression is understood and used in almost every language.

Thought for the Day: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."
-- Winston Churchill

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THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



STILL ANOTHER REASON WHY PARENTS GO BONKERS- YOU BUY DAUGHTER LUPINA A DESK, STUDENT LAMP, TYPEWRITER STAND, ETC.- SO WHERE DOES SHE DO HER SCHOOL WORK?





Drying gourds

Clean gourds with soapy water and air dry; hang them in a dark area, making sure they do not touch, for about 6 months. Discard any that decay, shrivel or get soft. If mold appears, wipe it with a cloth dipped in bleach. When the gourds become light, solidly hard and you hear the seeds rattling inside when you shake them, they can be carved or painted. - Brenda Weaver

Source: gardening.about.com





by Freddy Groves

Expanded Help for Veteran Caregivers

The Department of Veterans Affairs is giving a helping hand to veteran caregivers of all eras. The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) has been expanded to include eligible veterans who served after May 7, 1975, and before Sept. 11, 2001.

At-home caregivers have been the glue that held together any number of veteran programs, and now more of them will get the assistance they need. The program assists caregivers with health insurance and access to health care through CHAMPVA, peer support, respite care (30 days per year), education and training, financial assistance and monthly stipend, certain travel expenses, resources and more. The program includes both primary and secondary (backup) caregivers, although there are different services for secondary.

At the same time, the VA is extending the length of time that Legacy participants, veterans and their caregivers can stay eligible for the program. This date now runs through Sept. 30, 2025. "Legacy" means that a veteran was designed as eligible before Oct. 1, 2020.

Eligible veterans include those who had a serious injury or a serious illness during active duty during any service era. The veteran must have a disability rating of 70% or higher, have been discharged or have a medical discharge and need at least six months of personal care services for assistance such as feeding, supervision, safety and bathing.

To learn more about the Caregiver Support Program, call them at 855-260-3274 on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST, and on Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST.

For an online application and specific eligibility criteria, go to www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers. Look for the link to VA Form 10-10CG. In addition, the veteran needs to be enrolled in VA health care. Apply for that on VA Form 10-10EZ on that same webpage. Don't send any medical records with your applications. The VA will ask for those later.

For even more information on PCAFC, go to www.caregiver.va.gov/support/support_benefits.asp and click on "Fact Sheets."

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Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which animal is believed to have the most powerful bite in the world?
2. TELEVISION: Where is the Dunder Mifflin office located in "The Office"?
3. LITERATURE: Which 20th-century horror novel is set in the Overlook Hotel?
4. MUSIC: Before his solo career, singer Harry Styles was part of which boy band?
5. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital city of Denmark?
6. MOVIES: Which book is the 1922 silent film "Nosferatu" based upon?
7. BUSINESS: Which company goes by the nickname "Big Blue"?
8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which state has produced the most presidents (8) by birth?
9. ANATOMY: What is a common name for the tympanic membrane?
10. U.S. STATES: Which state features a full-size replica of the Parthenon?

Answers

1. Saltwater crocodile.
2. Scranton, Pennsylvania.
3. "The Shining."
4. One Direction.
5. Copenhagen.
6. "Dracula."
7. IBM.
8. Virginia.
9. Eardrum.
10. Tennessee.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Stronger Families – Stronger Communities

I recently met with several childcare providers in Sioux Falls to discuss challenges their industry faces. One of the biggest challenges to filling the available jobs across our state is the lack of available childcare, and I knew that our childcare providers would be best at finding solutions to increase access and affordability. We had a fantastic discussion about streamlining regulations that are currently placed on our childcare industry and how to start fixing the broken business model. I was so moved by these folks' insight and passion. And I loved their emphasis on helping South Dakota families.

That's at the heart of everything I do as Governor: helping families. Building stronger families leads to stronger communities. In turn, stronger communities build a stronger South Dakota. With every action I take, and every policy I pursue, I focus on making South Dakota safer and stronger for our kids and grandkids. That's what family is all about – setting our next generation up for success.

In the past few years, we have promoted families in South Dakota by extending paid family leave opportunities to state employees. In my budget for next year, I will include resources to help expand these opportunities to private employers across the state.

I will continue to work on increasing access to childcare. We have awarded numerous grants to childcare providers across the state to help them cover costs and continue to help families, but we have more work to do. One of their biggest challenges is that they can't provide benefits to their employees, so I will be working on a solution that will make employment in childcare more attractive for potential employees. We will also overhaul our child care rules and regulations, in partnership with the industry leaders.

And we will continue our work to recruit more foster families in our state. All kids deserve to grow up in a family where they are loved and protected, and foster families help provide that opportunity to many of our precious South Dakota children. We met our goal this past year of recruiting 300 new families to help kids who are in crisis, and we will continue working to meet our new goal of recruiting 900 families over the next three years.

So many of the folks moving to South Dakota are doing it for family reasons. Their kids didn't have the opportunity to learn in the classroom. They couldn't take their families to church. When governments closed these families' small businesses, it became harder to put food on the table. Some of them were prevented from saying "goodbye" to a loved one in their final days. For all of these reasons and more, they were moved by South Dakota's Freedom, and they chose to make our state their home.

Bryon and I love our family. The honor of our lifetimes has been raising three children who love their family and have an even deeper love for the Lord. And as a new grandma, I'm once again being reminded of the joy that children bring into the world. I want to continue to promote strong families for the sake of my grandchildren – and for kids and grandkids across the state of South Dakota.

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John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



It's Time Democrats Stop Ignoring Problems They Caused

Over the last two years our economic, energy, and national security have been moving in the wrong direction. High inflation has strained family budgets month after month. A radical environmental agenda threatens our energy security. And a failure to address the surge in illegal immigration has led to a humanitarian crisis at our southern border. These crises are the result of President Biden and Democrats putting their big-government priorities over the needs of the American people.

Most Americans just wanted to get back to normal after a year of the pandemic, but Democrats swept into office determined to enact a far-left agenda. They started off with their \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, flooding the economy with unnecessary spending despite economists warning that their proposal could trigger inflation. Even as it became clear that the American Rescue Plan was indeed driving up inflation, Democrats kept pushing ahead with another, even larger reckless tax-and-spending spree. While they were eventually forced to shelve this \$5 trillion plan last December, by the following August Democrats had agreed on yet another partisan tax-and-spending bill. And just days after signing this bill into law, President Biden announced a massive student loan giveaway, which alone could cost more than \$1 trillion and will, to quote one independent analysis, "meaningfully boost inflation."

Democrats' reckless spending has helped drive up prices across the board, including energy prices. But the price of energy is especially high because of Democrats' attacks on conventional energy production. From canceling the Keystone XL pipeline, to imposing burdensome regulations on investment in the oil and gas sector, to increasing taxes on oil and gas producers, the president and Democrats have pursued an agenda hostile to conventional U.S. energy production. The result has been higher prices for utilities, gas, and diesel, not to mention the energy jobs that will be lost because of the administration's misguided policies.

After taking office the president also made quick work of dismantling our nation's border security, sending a clear message to migrants that the border was open. In fiscal year 2022, the Biden administration broke its own record for the highest number of illegal immigrant encounters at the southern border. There were 2.3 million encounters in fiscal year 2022, a 37 percent increase over fiscal year 2021. And that doesn't include known "gotaways," immigrants who evaded apprehension after crossing the border – more than 1.1 million combined in the previous two fiscal years alone. Yet Democrats refuse to acknowledge that there is a crisis at the border or that their policies have contributed to the ongoing surge in illegal crossings.

Instead of addressing the crises they helped create, Democrats are focused on passing the rest of their original reckless tax-and-spending bill, which would drive up inflation even further. And if they increase their majority in November, they may again try to gut Senate rules to force through legislation empowering a federal takeover of elections and allowing abortion up until the moment of birth.

Republicans, on the other hand, want to promote growth in our economy by making lower tax rates permanent. We want to unleash American energy production with an all-of-the-above energy agenda. And we want to secure the border, deter illegal immigration, and stop deadly drugs like fentanyl from pouring into our communities.

South Dakotans can't afford another two years like the last two. And for the sake of our country, I hope we don't have to see what two more years of Democrat power would bring.

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



Energy Insecurity

It's Halloween weekend—we see jack-o-lanterns, bats, skeletons, and zombies in many front yards of our streets. It gets us in the spooky spirit of Halloween, but there's one thing that spooks me year-round—American energy insecurity.

Our president's actions continue to make America reliant on other countries, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and OPEC for energy—putting our energy supply in their control. We saw the risks of this when OPEC recently decided to significantly cut oil production to keep prices high. While OPEC benefits from higher profits, Americans are feeling the strain on their wallet from these record high prices. On average, monthly energy costs are up \$159 per household in South Dakota, and most Americans are experiencing the same high prices.

This week, the Congressional Western Caucus released their priorities for an economy that's strong. Through American energy dominance, an all-of-the-above energy portfolio, permitting reform, and responsible American mining, we can have cleaner energy, a stronger and more secure energy supply, and a stronger economy.

As our energy demand increases, we should be producing more to meet the needs of Americans. States like California and parts of the Midwest have been preparing for rolling blackouts and President Biden still refuses to increase American oil production. Two steps to increase our energy security are maximizing production of reliable, American-made energy, and cutting the permitting process time in half to reduce our reliance on foreign countries.

I sent a letter to President Biden with over 120 of my Republican colleagues urging him to address the energy crisis he is worsening by his policy decisions. We strongly requested that he issues a five-year offshore leasing plan to unleash American energy. We need to tap into America's vast energy resources. It'll be for the better for our energy security, the climate, and the world.

There's not much that's spookier than an America that goes dark.

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See Cookie Will Sneak

For more years than I care to remember, I have been on a diligent pursuit, and I won't stop until I reach my goal.

My quest is to find a cookie I don't like. Throughout the years, I have eaten every cookie I could find and loved them all.

My biggest obstacle in this pursuit is The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She has the crazy idea that I should limit my cookie consumption. I told her I will whenever I find a cookie that I don't like. So far, that hasn't happened.

My favorite time of the year is when the Girl Scouts are selling cookies. I love those little angels. I tell The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that I'm just supporting these lovely young girls, and that's all.

I don't think she believes me, but I will try what I can get away with.

Recently, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has been on a baking spree. She was baking cookies for various people, of which I have no idea. My focus is not on the people she's baking for, but on the cookies she's baking.

As a faithful husband, I encourage her along these lines and congratulate her on a job well done.

One rule she has laid down is I'm not allowed to have any cookie she does not give me personally. That is a very hard rule to keep with all of the cookies in the kitchen. I try my hardest, but my hardest is not enough.

One of my favorite hymns has a line that says, "Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin."

Last Tuesday my wife planned spending the day with one of our daughters. I was supportive of her activity and encouraged her to spend as much time as possible with her daughter.

She looked at me suspiciously and said, "While I am away, I do not want you to eat any cookies in the kitchen." Then she went to the kitchen, pulled out one cookie, handed it to me, and said, "This is the only cookie you are allowed for today."

Of course, I took the cookie, smiled as she left, and told her to have a great day.

Unfortunately, I did not know what kind of day I was facing and hummed the "Yield not to temptation" hymn all morning long.

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For the first couple of hours, everything went well. I was working in my office, and things were just okay.

Then in the middle of the morning, I decided to take a break and get a cup of coffee. I never have too much coffee on any day. I had forgotten the cookies that were stacked up in the kitchen.

As I entered the kitchen, the aroma of all those freshly baked cookies slapped me in the face liked I've never been slapped before. Up to this point, I was able to "Yield not to temptation." But I am afraid that the "Yield not" had just expired.

As I was fixing my coffee, I thought it would not harm me to look at and admire those freshly baked cookies. After all, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage does a wonderful job in baking cookies. I just wanted to admire them and appreciate all the excellent work behind every one of those cookies.

I thought I could handle the situation, but boy was I wrong. I've been wrong on a lot of things; I was wrong on this thing.

With a cup of coffee in my hand, I began thinking that one cookie just wouldn't hurt me. I don't think my wife would find out that I had one cookie because there were so many cookies in that kitchen.

I took one cookie very craftily and then walked back to my office, where I would drink my coffee and nibble on this delicious cookie. I thought I had solved the problem and gotten over any further thoughts I had about another cookie.

After I finished that first cookie, I just sat back in my chair and enjoyed swallowing the last crumb. How delicious it was. Of all the cookies in all the world, why did this cookie taste so delicious?

I thought it was over, but I could not get that cookie out of my head. Then, after lunch, I picked up another cookie, went to my office, and nibbled on it very slowly, enjoying every last crumb.

An hour went by, and I needed another cup of coffee, walking through the kitchen, I smelled those delicious cookies. So I decided I deserved two cookies this time because I was working so hard. After all, how would The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage know I had two cookies?

Later that afternoon, I heard the front door open, and looking at my watch I realized it was time for my wife to come home. She entered the kitchen, and I heard her say very loudly, "How many cookies did you eat?"

It was then I knew I was in trouble, but I didn't know how much trouble I was in.

I remembered the words of Jesus in Mark 14:38, "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak."

Everybody faces temptation in some form. The real issue has to do with yielding to that temptation. It's the weakness of my flesh.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: How are populations of sea turtles faring these days? -- A.J., Los Angeles, CA

Swimming alongside a sea turtle in coastal waters is certainly a thrilling sensation, but the experience is becoming increasingly harder to come by. Declines in sea turtle populations around the world and in U.S. waters over recent decades is a sad reminder of all the environmental offenses that contribute to making the world's oceans less hospitable to these majestic, iconic reptiles.

Researchers estimate that since the dawn of the Industrial Age in the early 20th century, global sea turtle populations have decreased by as much as two-thirds overall. These days only about 6.5 million sea turtles roam the world's subtropical and tropical coastlines. Indeed, sea turtle populations are on the ropes: Three out of the world's seven sea turtle species are considered "critically endangered" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN); green sea turtle numbers have fallen by some 90 percent while Leatherbacks have lost 40 percent of their population. Strict conservation measures are needed if we are to save these species outright.

But why even care about the turtles? They might seem like any other sea creature, but they are actually vital to maintaining a balanced environment. Turtles graze on seagrass meadows to regulate their growth and prevent them from suffocating. Unhatched eggs are also a vital source of nutrients to sand dunes, which allow vegetation to grow. So, if our turtle populations become too low, it will cause a chain reaction within the whole shoreline ecosystem.

Unfortunately, populations of sea turtles face myriad threats. For starters, sea turtles often mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, one of their favorite delicacies. But this plastic can get stuck in the turtle's stomach, imitating their sensation of being full which causes them to not eat any actual food. Researchers estimate some 52 percent of turtles have eaten some type of plastic.

With sea level rises, many beaches and even smaller barrier islands are disappearing. Turtles therefore become confused as to where to lay their eggs, potentially making it so that they don't lay any. In addition, as reptiles, the gender of their hatchlings relies on temperature. Higher equals females, and lower equals males. With global warming, beaches are warming up, drastically altering the male/female balance. This could potentially affect the breeding success of turtles, and contribute to the decline as well.

The federal Endangered Species Act already protects turtles by making it illegal to harm them in any way, and provides resources to combat endangerment. Environmentalists have also created new programs like the State of the World's Sea Turtles and the IUCN Turtle Specialist group which examine risk factors, data and potential conservation efforts.

Additionally, many volunteers come together during nesting and hatching season to protect and guide turtles. And their efforts have not gone to waste; Leatherback turtle nests in and around U.S. waters are up from 27 in 1989 to 614 in 2014 thanks to protections enacted under the Endangered Species Act. In addition, 3,960 nests have been counted on the Georgia Coast, a record for the state. By continuing to fund conservation efforts and with the help of volunteers, sea turtles can continue to thrive in the wild. .



Since the dawn of the Industrial Age, global sea turtle populations have decreased by 2/3, with only 6.5 million sea turtles left today. Credit: Pexels.com.

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South Dakota COVID-19 Report

New Cases*

719
+88

Total Cases*

264,187

Currently Hospitalized

56
-7

New Hospitalizations

26

Total Hospitalized

11,898

[Click to Visit](#)

[SD COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage](#)

New Deaths

10

Total Deaths

3,059

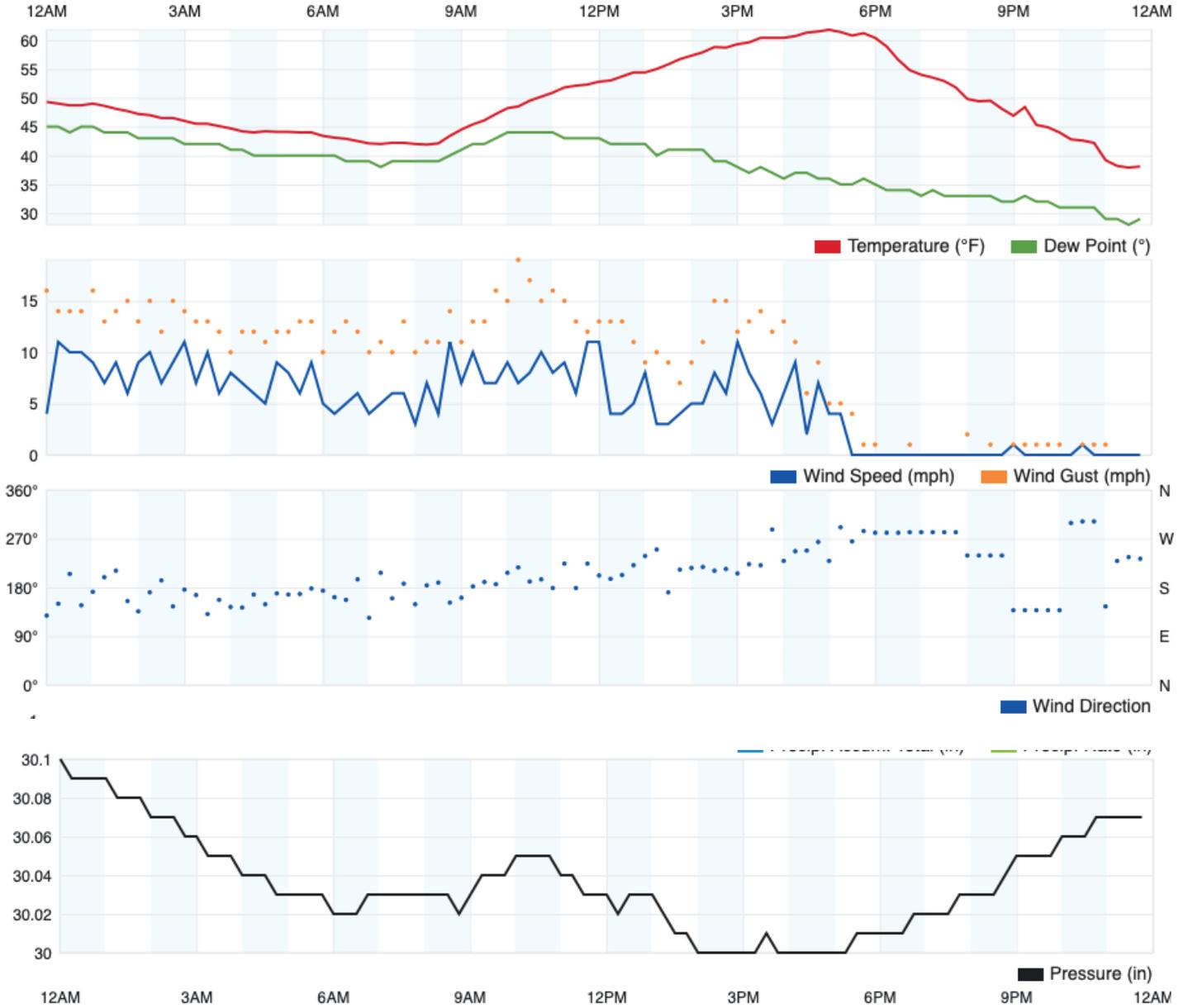
[Click to Visit](#)

[COVID-19 Community Levels](#)

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Mostly Sunny

High: 63 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 31 °F

Monday



Sunny

High: 67 °F

Monday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 35 °F

Tuesday



Sunny

High: 70 °F



Above Average Temps to Continue

October 29, 2022
1:47 PM

Sunday

→ Mostly Sunny, Highs 56-66°

Monday

→ Partly Cloudy, Highs 60s to around 70°

Tuesday

→ Mostly Sunny, Warm ...Highs 63-76°



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Dry and mild weather will continue into early next week. #mnwx #sdwx

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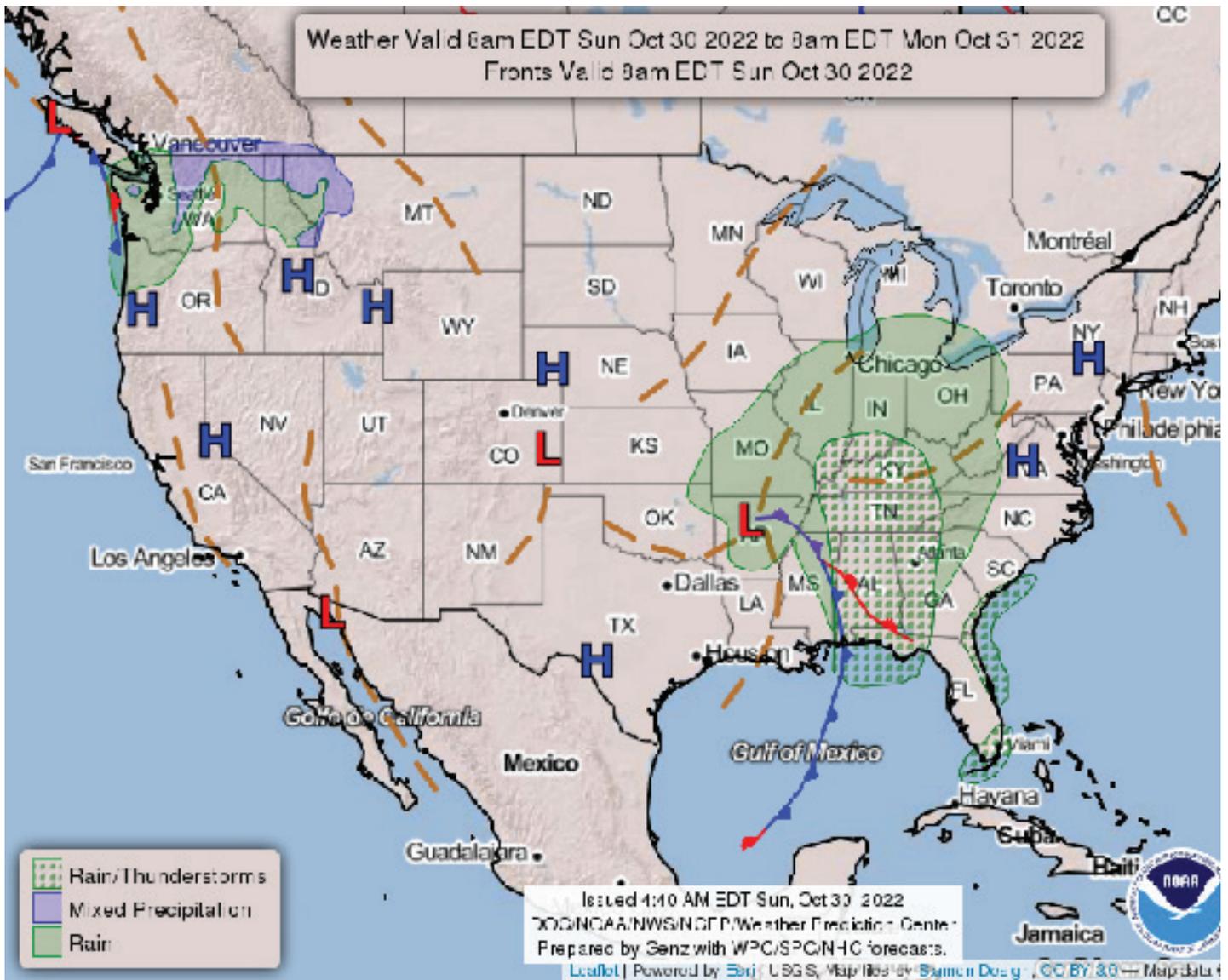
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 62 °F at 4:58 PM
Low Temp: 37 °F at 11:34 PM
Wind: 19 mph at 10:09 AM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 10 hours, 16 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 85 in 1950
Record Low: 8 in 1991
Average High: 51°F
Average Low: 27°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 2.09
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.45
Average Precip to date: 20.42
Precip Year to Date: 16.50
Sunset Tonight: 6:24:13 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:09:14 AM



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Today in Weather History

October 30, 1943: Snow fell across much of central and north central South Dakota on this date in 1943. Snowfall amounts of 2 to 7 inches occurred. Snowfall amounts included, 2 inches at Timber Lake, 4 inches at Murdo, 5 inches at Mobridge, and 7 inches at Kennebec and Pierre.

October 30, 1950: Much above normal temperatures occurred across the entire area of central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Record highs were mostly in the 80s across the area. The records were 78 degrees at Sisseton, 80 degrees at Wheaton, 85 degrees at Watertown and Aberdeen, 86 degrees at Mobridge, 88 degrees at Pierre, and a hot 91 degrees at Kennebec.

1925 - Nashville, TN, was blanketed with an inch of snow, their earliest measurable snow of record. (The Weather Channel)

1947 - The Donora, PA, smog disaster finally came to an end. For five days an inversion trapped impurities in the lower atmosphere over the Monongahela Valley killing 20 persons, and leaving more than 2000 others sick. (26th-30th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 74 mph near the town of Gould. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the central U.S. Temperatures warmed into the 80s from Texas to the Lower Missouri Valley. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Ten cities in the Upper Midwest reported record low temperatures for the date. The morning low of 20 degrees at South Bend IND was a record for October, and lows of 18 degrees at Grand Rapids MI and 20 degrees at Fort Wayne IND equalled records for October. The low of 2 degrees at International Falls MN smashed their previous record for the date by 11 degrees. Syracuse NY received 2.9 inches of snow to establish a record for October with 5.7 inches for the month. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Temperatures soared into the 70s in the northeastern U.S. The record high of 73 degrees at Alpena MI marked their sixth straight day of record warmth. In the western U.S., Klamath Falls OR reported a record low of 19 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1991: The Perfect Storm, also known as the No-Name Storm reached maximum strength on this day with a low pressure of 972 mb and sustained winds of 69 mph.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

COVER IT UP!

Asking for forgiveness is often more difficult than it seems. To have offended someone and not be troubled by the pain it produced in the other person is indeed the sign of a calloused heart and an indifferent attitude: both an abomination to God!

But to acknowledge that we have wronged another person is difficult. For whatever our reason may be, and although we do not admit it, we all seem to think we live a life that is as close to perfect as possible. Our opinions are absolute, and our values are without question, the ones that every person ought to hold.

That, however, defies Scripture and reason. Most of us have a difficult time getting through one day without some conflict about some issue with another person. And, if our opinion or position on the issue does not agree with the other persons, conflict erupts.

Now, conflict is not all bad. Often creativity comes out of conflict and that's good. If however, we become hardened in our position and refuse to accept the ideas of the other person and use words to hurt and harm them, that is indeed wrong and displeasing to God.

We are all equal in God's eyes - even when our ideas or positions disagree with another. If we are thoughtless in expressing our differences to the point that we use abusive language to destroy and defeat one of God's children - that's definitely wrong. End of discussion.

"He who covers over an offense promotes love." Here we are advised to plead for forgiveness and "cover it up." Another way of saying it is to "forgive and pray for the other."

Prayer: Give us tender hearts, Lord. May we spend time today making amends, where necessary for harming others and blessing them in Your Name. Amen.

Scripture For Today: He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends. Proverbs 17:9



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
11/23/2023 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

03-18-19-27-29

(three, eighteen, nineteen, twenty-seven, twenty-nine)

Estimated jackpot: \$131,000

Lotto America

14-16-27-38-49, Star Ball: 4, ASB: 2

(fourteen, sixteen, twenty-seven, thirty-eight, forty-nine; Star Ball: four; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$29,430,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 87,000,000

Powerball

19-31-40-46-57, Powerball: 23, Power Play: 3

(nineteen, thirty-one, forty, forty-six, fifty-seven; Powerball: twenty-three; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$1,000,000,000

Youngstown St. uses 28-point 2nd quarter to top South Dakota

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP) — Mitch Davidson threw for 242 yards and a career-high three touchdowns, Jaleel McLaughlin rushed for 119 yards and two scores, and Youngstown State scored 28 unanswered points in the second quarter to beat South Dakota 45-24 on Saturday for its third straight conference victory.

Davidson led four touchdown drives in the second quarter, thanks to two takeaways by the defense, for a 38-10 lead at the break. He started the scoring run with a 42-yard pass to Bryce Oliver. The duo also combined on a 19-yard touchdown for a 45-17 lead in the third quarter.

Davidson also had a touchdown run for Youngstown State (5-3, 3-2 Missouri Valley Conference). Oliver had seven grabs for 122 yards and two scores.

Aidan Bouman was 17 of 30 for 254 yards and one touchdown for South Dakota (2-6, 1-4). Bouman also had a rushing touchdown, and Travis Theis added 56 yards on the ground with a score.

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL=

Lower Brule 54, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 0

Red Cloud 42, Standing Rock, N.D. 16

Tiospa Zina Tribal 46, Omaha Nation, Neb. 12

Todd County 28, Winnebago, Neb. 24

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

South Dakota State tops Indiana St. behind Gronowski's 4 TDs

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mark Gronowski threw for three touchdowns and ran for another to help South Dakota State ease by Indiana State 49-7 on Saturday.

South Dakota State built a 21-0 lead by the 14:13 mark of the second quarter after two short touchdown runs by Isaiah Davis and another by Gronowski.

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Gronowski's 2-yard touchdown connection with fullback Michael Morgan capped South Dakota State's 21-point quarter for a 35-7 halftime lead. Gronowski started the third with a 21-yard scoring pass to Tucker Kraft.

Davis rushed for two touchdowns and Amar Johnson added a team-high 75 yards rushing with a score for South Dakota State (8-1, 6-0 Missouri Valley Conference), which announced an attendance of 19,041. Jadon Janke had 82 yards receiving and a score, and Kraft added 59 yards and a score.

Cade Chambers was 11 of 24 for 114 yards with one touchdown and one interception for Indiana State (1-7, 0-5).

Somalia's president says at least 100 killed in car bombings

By OMAR FARUK Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Somalia's president says at least 100 people were killed in Saturday's two car bombings at a busy junction in the capital and the toll could rise in the country's deadliest attack since a truck bombing at the same spot five years ago killed more than 500.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, at the site of the explosions in Mogadishu, told journalists that nearly 300 other people were wounded. "We ask our international partners and Muslims around the world to send their medical doctors here since we can't send all the victims outside the country for treatment," he said.

The al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group, which often targets the capital and controls large parts of the country, claimed responsibility, saying it targeted the education ministry. It claimed the ministry was an "enemy base" that receives support from non-Muslim countries and "is committed to removing Somali children from the Islamic faith."

Al-Shabab usually doesn't make claims of responsibility when large numbers of civilians are killed, as in the 2017 blast, but it has been angered by a high-profile new offensive by the government that also aims to shut down its financial network. The group said it is committed to fighting until the country is ruled by Islamic law, and it asked civilians to stay away from government areas.

Somalia's president, elected this year, said the country remained at war with al-Shabab "and we are winning."

The attack in Mogadishu occurred on a day when the president, prime minister and other senior officials were meeting to discuss expanded efforts to combat violent extremism and especially al-Shabab. The extremists, who seek an Islamic state, have responded to the offensive by killing prominent clan leaders in an apparent effort to dissuade grassroots support.

The attack has overwhelmed first responders in Somalia, which has one of the world's weakest health systems after decades of conflict. At hospitals and elsewhere, frantic relatives peeked under plastic sheeting and into body bags, looking for loved ones.

Halima Duwane was searching for her uncle, Abdullahi Jama. "We don't know whether he is dead or alive but the last time we communicated he was around here," she said, crying.

Witnesses to the attack were stunned. "I couldn't count the bodies on the ground due to the (number of) fatalities," witness Abdirazak Hassan said. He said the first blast hit the perimeter wall of the education ministry, where street vendors and money changers were located.

An Associated Press journalist at the scene said the second blast occurred in front of a busy restaurant during lunchtime. The blasts demolished tuk-tuks and other vehicles in an area of many restaurants and hotels.

The Somali Journalists Syndicate, citing colleagues and police, said one journalist was killed and two others wounded by the second blast while rushing to the scene of the first. The Aamin ambulance service said the second blast destroyed one of its responding vehicles.

It was not immediately clear how vehicles loaded with explosives again made it to the high-profile location in Mogadishu, a city thick with checkpoints and constantly on alert for attacks.

The United States has described al-Shabab as one of al-Qaida's deadliest organizations and targeted it with scores of airstrikes in recent years. Hundreds of U.S. military personnel have returned to the country

after former President Donald Trump withdrew them.

Philippine storm victims feared tsunami, ran toward mudslide

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Victims of a huge mudslide set off by a storm in a coastal Philippine village that had once been devastated by a killer tsunami mistakenly thought a tidal wave was coming and ran to higher ground where they were buried alive by the boulder-laden deluge, an official said Sunday.

At least 18 bodies, including those of children, have been dug out by rescuers in the vast muddy mound that now covers much of Kusiong village in southern Maguindanao province, among the hardest-hit by Tropical Storm Nalgae, which blew out of the northwestern Philippines early Sunday.

Officials fear 80 to 100 more people, including entire families, may have been buried by the deluge or washed away by flash floods in Kusiong between Thursday night and early Friday, according to Naguib Sinarimbo, the interior minister for a Muslim autonomous region run by former separatist guerrillas.

Nalgae, which had a vast rain band, left at least 61 people dead in eight provinces and one city in the Philippine archipelago, including in Kusiong, and a trail of destruction in one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

The catastrophe in Kusiong, populated mostly by the Teduray ethnic minority group, was particularly tragic because its more than 2,000 villagers have carried out disaster-preparedness drills every year for decades to brace for a tsunami because of a deadly history. But they were not as prepared for the dangers that could come from Mount Minandar, where their village lies at the foothills, Sinarimbo said.

"When the people heard the warning bells, they ran up and gathered in a church on a high ground," Sinarimbo told The Associated Press, citing accounts by Kusiong villagers.

"The problem was, it was not a tsunami that inundated them but a big volume of water and mud that came down from the mountain," he said.

In August 1976, an 8.1-magnitude earthquake and a tsunami in the Moro Gulf that struck around midnight left thousands of people dead and devastated coastal provinces in one of the deadliest natural disasters in Philippine history.

Lying between the Moro Gulf and 446-meter (1,464-foot) Mount Minandar, Kusiong was among the hardest hit by the 1976 catastrophe. The village never forgot the tragedy. Elderly villagers who survived the tsunami and powerful earthquake passed on the nightmarish story to their children, warning them to be prepared.

"Every year, they hold drills to brace for a tsunami. Somebody was assigned to bang the alarm bells and they designated high grounds where people should run to," Sinarimbo said. "Villagers were even taught the sound of an approaching big wave based on the recollection of the tsunami survivors."

"But there wasn't as much focus on the geo-hazards on the mountainside," he said.

Bulldozers, backhoes and payloaders were brought to Kusiong on Saturday with more than 100 rescuers from the army, police and volunteers from other provinces, but they were unable to dig at a spot where survivors said the church lay underneath because the muddy mound was still dangerously soft, officials said.

The national disaster-response agency reported 22 missing from the storm's onslaught in several provinces. Sinarimbo said many of the missing in Kusiong were not included in the government's official tally because entire families may have been buried and no member was left to provide names and details to authorities.

Army Lt. Col. Dennis Almorato, who went to the mudslide-hit community Saturday, said the muddy deluge buried about 60 rural houses in about 5 hectares (12 acres) of the community. He gave no estimate of how many villagers may have been buried but described the extent of the mudslide as "overwhelming" and said the nighttime disaster may have unfolded fast.

A regional army commander, Major Gen. Roy Galido, has been ordered to lead an emergency command center to head search and retrieval work in Kusiong, officials said.

The stormy weather in a large swath of the country prompted the coast guard to prohibit sea travel in

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dangerously rough seas as millions of Filipinos planned to travel over a long weekend for visits to relatives' tombs and for family reunions on All Saints' Day in the largely Roman Catholic nation.

More than 100 domestic and international flights were canceled, Manila's international airport was briefly closed amid stormy weather and sea voyages in storm-whipped seas were prohibited by the coast guard, stranding thousands of passengers.

Floodwaters swamped many provinces and cities, trapping some people on their roofs, and more than 700 houses were damaged. More than 168,000 people fled to evacuation camps. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. expressed disappointment over the high casualty toll in a televised meeting with disaster-mitigation officials Saturday.

"We should have done better," Marcos Jr. said. "We were not able to anticipate that the volume of water will be that much so we were not able to warn the people and then to evacuate them out of the way of the incoming flash floods."

About 20 typhoons and storms batter the Philippine archipelago each year. It is located on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a region along most of the Pacific Ocean rim where many volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur, making the nation one of the world's most disaster-prone.

Flashy Dubai will cash in on a World Cup a short flight away

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The FIFA World Cup may be bringing as many as 1.2 million fans to Qatar, but the nearby flashy emirate of Dubai is also looking to cash in on the major sports tournament taking place just a short flight away.

Some soccer fan clubs have already said they'll be commuting to Qatar during the cup on 45-minute flights from Dubai, the skyscraper-studded, beachfront city-state in the United Arab Emirates. Other fans plan to sleep on cruise ships or camp out in the desert amid a feverish rush for rooms in Doha.

Dubai's airlines, bars, restaurants, shopping malls and other attractions now hope to benefit, further boosting their rebounding tourism industry in the crucial fall and winter months after the blows delivered by the coronavirus pandemic.

"If you can't stay in Qatar, Dubai is the place you'd most like to go as a foreign tourist," said James Swanston, a Middle East and North Africa expert at Capital Economics. "It's somewhere safe, somewhere more liberal in terms of Western norms. It's the most attractive destination."

Now home to the world's tallest building, cavernous malls — including one with an indoor ski slope — and thriving nightclub scene, Dubai has seen explosive growth fueled by its boom-and-bust real estate market that's transformed the one-time pearling village over the last 20 years.

Its long-haul carrier Emirates helped make Dubai International Airport the busiest in the world for foreign travel and provides a steady stream of new visitors who stay for layovers or longer. And while still an autocratic sheikhdom like its other Gulf Arab neighbors, Dubai has a relatively more-liberal view on drinking and nightlife.

In the lead-up to the tournament, concerns about hotel room space and high prices for the rooms available have trailed Qatar, which lacks hotel capacity for all teams, workers, volunteers and fans at the World Cup. So Doha has created camping and cabin sites, hiring cruise ships, and encouraging fans to stay in neighboring countries and fly in for games.

Qatar has estimated it will have 45,000 hotel rooms for the tournament.

Surrounding nations, like Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, also suggest they could see a spike in visitors — even though Bahrain is the only among them that allows alcohol. Even Iran, months ago, suggested developing plans for World Cup tourists to stay on its Kish Island. Apparently, nothing came of the idea and now the Islamic Republic is gripped by nationwide protests.

Meanwhile, Dubai has over 140,000 hotel rooms, putting it easily into the top 10 destinations worldwide as far as available hotel rooms go, said Philip Wooller, a senior director at STR, a company that monitors the hotel industry. Dubai also offers price ranges greater than what Qatar can at the moment, given the

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demand, he said.

"I think Dubai is an incredibly eclectic city," Wooller said. "You can buy a room for \$100 or you can buy a room for \$5,000."

Still, he added, he expects "Qatar will be able to accommodate most of the fans coming to the World Cup (but) there will be a knock-on in Dubai."

Dubai appears fully poised to take advantage of the tournament.

Its low-cost carrier, FlyDubai, plans as many as 30 round-trip flights a day during the World Cup, shuttling fans between Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport at Dubai World Central, or DWC, in the city-state's southern reaches, to Doha International Airport, Qatar's old main airport.

Other airlines that may use Al Maktoum airport include KLM, Qatar Airways and Wizz Air, while private jets will fly from there as well to the tournament, said Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports. That could help boost the profile of an airfield that Dubai hopes will expand in the future as Dubai International Airport nears its capacity.

"It's a great experience for us to see DWC suddenly so busy for the World Cup," he said. "It will give exposure to the convenience of the airport for so many people that (airlines may) actually favor operating from there."

The expected economic boost from the World Cup for Dubai comes after its turnaround since suffering through the pandemic. It spent billions for its delayed Expo 2020 world's fair — which largely attracted visitors already in the UAE.

Dubai, like much of the world, had a lockdown early in 2020. However, by July that year, it announced it was reopening for tourists. Though Dubai faced a surge of international criticism when cases spread from the emirate months later, around New Year, Dubai and the rest of the UAE widely rolled out vaccines.

The UAE dropped its mandatory mask policy about a month ago.

"Dubai is on a lot of people's radars as one of the most phenomenal places to come and visit," said Dennis McGettigan, the CEO of an eponymous empire of Irish bars in Dubai and elsewhere. "And I think the World Cup has added a layer" of desire to visit.

McGettigan said his bar business is already up as much as 40% on its sales, compared to 2019, something he linked to pent-up demand for socializing after the worst days of the virus. He said he's overstaffed his locations and expects strong business through the tournament.

But McGettigan and others acknowledged headwinds Dubai faces in attracting World Cup tourists — the strong U.S. dollar. The Emirati dirham has long been pegged to the dollar, making a Dubai trip now more expensive for those using British pounds, euros and other currencies.

Other financial dangers also lurk for tourist-reliant Dubai, built on the promise of globalization.

"We still need to be cautious of global economic pressures, including rising interest rates, high oil and commodity prices, supply chain issues that are creating inflationary pressures which could impact Dubai's economic recovery," said Sapna Jagtiani of S&P Global Ratings.

McGettigan doesn't expect that to be too much of a damper. His firm also will be organizing a massive fan zone venue in the grassy expanses of Dubai Media City, complete with musical performances, massive televisions and even a winter-themed area in Dubai's desert environs.

"I, for one, am absolutely delighted to see everything back on full steam ahead and actually a little bit more," he said.

S. Korea in shock, grief as 151 die in Halloween crowd surge

By KIM TONG-HYUNG and HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Concerned relatives raced to hospitals in search of their loved ones Sunday as South Korea mourned the deaths of at least 151 people, mostly in their teens and 20s, who got trapped and crushed after a huge Halloween party crowd surged into a narrow alley in a nightlife district in Seoul.

Witnesses said the crowd surge in the Itaewon area on Saturday night caused "a hell-like" chaos as people fell on each other "like dominos." Some people were bleeding from their noses and mouths while

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being given CPR, witnesses said, while others clad in Halloween costumes continued to sing and dance nearby, possibly without knowing the severity of the situation.

"I still can't believe what has happened. It was like a hell," said Kim Mi Sung, an official at a non-profit organization that promotes tourism in Itaewon.

Kim said she performed CPR on 10 people who were unconscious and nine of them were declared dead on the spot. Kim said the 10 were mostly women wearing witch outfits and other Halloween costumes.

The crowd surge is the country's worst disaster in years. Tens of thousands of people were believed to have gathered in Itaewon for Halloween festivities. Witnesses said the streets were so densely clogged with people and slow-moving vehicles that it was practically impossible for emergency workers and ambulances to reach the alley near Hamilton Hotel swiftly.

There were concerns the death toll could grow as 24 people among the 104 being treated for injuries were in critical condition, according to Seoul City's disaster headquarters.

The city government said more than 2,600 people have called or visited a nearby city office as of Saturday afternoon, reporting missing relatives and asking officials to confirm whether they were among those injured or dead after the crush.

The dead included 19 foreigners, said Choi Seong-beom, chief of Seoul's Yongsan fire department, whose jurisdiction includes Itaewon. South Korea's Foreign Ministry did not confirm the nationalities of those victims, but it said it alerted those countries' embassies in Seoul. The Chinese state news agency Xinhua said at least three Chinese nationals were killed.

The bodies of the dead were being kept at 42 hospitals in Seoul and nearby Gyeonggi province, according to Seoul City, which said it will instruct crematories to burn more bodies per day as part of plans to support funeral proceedings.

Around 100 businesses in the Hamilton Hotel area have agreed to shut down their shops through Monday to reduce the number of partygoers who would come to the streets through Halloween Day.

An estimated 100,000 people had gathered in Itaewon for the country's biggest outdoor Halloween festivities since the pandemic began. The South Korean government eased COVID-19 restrictions in recent months.

While Halloween isn't a traditional holiday in South Korea, where children rarely go trick-or-treating, it's still a major attraction for young adults, and costume parties at bars and clubs have become hugely popular in recent years.

Itaewon, near where the former headquarters of U.S. military forces in South Korea operated before moving out of the capital in 2018, is an expat-friendly district known for its trendy bars, clubs and restaurants and it's the city's marquee Halloween destination.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared a one-week national mourning period on Sunday and ordered flags at government buildings and public offices to fly at half-staff. During a televised speech, Yoon said supporting the families of the victims, including their funeral preparations, and the treatment of the injured would be a top priority for his government.

He also called for officials to thoroughly investigate the cause of the accident and review the safety of other large cultural and entertainment events to ensure they proceed safely.

"This is really devastating. The tragedy and disaster that need not have happened took place in the heart of Seoul amid Halloween (celebrations)," Yoon said during the speech. "I feel heavy hearted and cannot contain my sadness as a president responsible for the people's lives and safety."

After the speech, Yoon visited the Itaewon alley where the disaster occurred. Local TV footage showed Yoon inspecting the alley filled with trash and being briefed by emergency officials.

It was not immediately clear what led the crowd to surge into the narrow downhill alley near the Hamilton Hotel, a major party spot in Seoul. One survivor said many people fell and toppled one another "like dominos" after they were pushed by others. The survivor, surnamed Kim, said they were trapped for about an hour and a half before being rescued, as some people shouted "Help me!" and others were short of breath, according to the Seoul-based Hankyoreh newspaper.

Another survivor, Lee Chang-kyu, said he saw about five or six men push others before one or two began

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falling, according to the newspaper.

In an interview with news channel YTN, Hwang Min-hyeok, a visitor to Itaewon, said it was shocking to see rows of bodies near the hotel. He said emergency workers were initially overwhelmed, leaving pedestrians struggling to administer CPR to the injured lying on the streets. People waited beside the bodies of their friends, he said.

Another survivor in his 20s said he avoided being trampled by managing to get into a bar whose door was open in the alley, Yonhap news agency reported. A woman in her 20s surnamed Park told Yonhap that she and others were standing along the side of the alley while others caught in the middle of the alley had no escape.

Choi, the fire department chief, said that bodies were being sent to hospitals or a gym, where bereaved family members could identify them. He said most of the dead and injured are in their 20s.

"Horror news from Seoul tonight," British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak tweeted. "All our thoughts are with those currently responding and all South Koreans at this very distressing time."

Jake Sullivan, the U.S. national security adviser, tweeted that reports of the disaster were "heartbreaking" and said Washington "stands ready to provide the Republic of Korea with any support it needs."

The last South Korean disaster this deadly also hit young people the hardest. In April 2014, 304 people, mostly high school students, died in a ferry sinking. The sinking exposed lax safety rules and regulatory failures. It was partially blamed on excessive and poorly fastened cargo and a crew poorly trained for emergency situations. Saturday's deaths will likely draw public scrutiny of what government officials have done to improve public safety standards since the ferry disaster.

It was also Asia's second major crushing disaster in a month. On Oct. 1, police in Indonesia fired tear gas at a soccer match, causing a crush that killed 132 people as spectators attempted to flee.

More than 1,700 response personnel from across the country were deployed to the streets to help the wounded, including about 520 firefighters, 1,100 police officers and 70 government workers. The National Fire Agency separately said in a statement that officials were still trying to determine the exact number of emergency patients.

This was the deadliest crushing disaster in South Korean history. In 2005, 11 people were killed and around 60 others were injured at a pop concert in the southern city of Sangju.

In 1960, 31 people died after being crushed on the stairs of a train station as large crowds rushed to board a train during the Lunar New Year holidays.

Women's clinic in South Sudan a casualty of distracted world

By DENG MACHOL Associated Press

MINGKAMAN, South Sudan (AP) — In a country where the maternal mortality rate is one of the highest in the world, a small clinic dedicated to reproductive health care for more than 200,000 people is about to be shut down. The worried-looking mothers know too well what might happen next.

"If the hospital closes, we will die more because we are poor," said one expectant mother who gave her name only as Chuti. She was attending a monthly checkup at the Mingkaman reproductive health clinic in this town on the White Nile River, and it might be her last.

The United Nations has said it intends to end the clinic's operations by December because of a lack of funding from European and other supporters. It is just one casualty among many in developing countries as humanitarian donors have been stretched by one crisis after another, from COVID-19 to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The U.N. would not say how much it costs to run the clinic.

A loss like the clinic is of critical importance for people in places like Mingkaman, which along with the rest of South Sudan has struggled to cope with the aftermath of a five-year civil war, climate shocks like widespread flooding and lingering insecurity that includes shocking rates of sexual violence.

The U.N. Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan has said the war in Ukraine has led to a dramatic cut in funding for emergency medical care for people who have been sexually assaulted. "It's not that sexual violence ebbs and flows, it's going on all the time, largely unseen," commissioner Barney Afako said. The

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commission also has asserted that the government has failed to invest in basic services like health care.

This reproductive health clinic in the capital of Aerial county in central South Sudan serves a community largely of people displaced by the civil war and the floods. It is where women who once gave birth at home now come to deliver their children. It is also where women who are assaulted come for care.

The maternal mortality rate in South Sudan was 789 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2019, according to the World Health Organization. That's more than double the rate in more developed neighboring Kenya, according to U.N. data, while the U.S. rate was 23 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

At least 250 women give birth in the Mingkaman clinic every month, said Teresa Achuei, the site manager with the organization IMA World Health, which runs the facility. She said she knew of only three women who have died while giving birth in the community, all of them outside the clinic.

Now, she said, hundreds of women could be at risk. "Our aim, our mission, is to reduce maternal mortality rate. Every woman should deliver safely. If the facility closes, there will be many deaths in the community," she told The Associated Press during a visit in mid-October.

The clinic was founded in 2014, the year after South Sudan's civil war began. Set up in tents as a temporary way to serve people displaced by fighting, it remains makeshift but works around the clock.

It is a center of activity in Mingkaman, a community on one of South Sudan's muddy main highways without reliable electricity and running water. The military is present to respond to flares of violence. Many women support their families by collecting firewood from the nearby forest to sell or work in modest local hotels.

Multiple women expressed concern about the clinic's coming closure.

"It will be worsening for us because it was helping us," said Akuany Bol, who delivered her three children there. She looked miserable while waiting for a midwife to examine her child.

Andrew Kuol, a clinical officer, said the facility receives an average of 70 to 80 patients per day. It often admits 20 patients a day, or twice the number of beds.

Some women must be treated on the ground.

Kuol said the clinic faces shortages of medicines including malaria drugs, post-rape drugs, antenatal drugs and others, again because of waning donor support.

The nearest hospital is in the city of Bor in the neighboring state of Jonglei, where the clinic's more complicated cases are sent. Getting there is complicated, too. With no bridge between the states, it can take an hour for a boat to cross the Nile.

As in much of South Sudan, travel is challenging. And current circumstances mean few of the people here can easily relocate for health care or anything else.

"These (displaced people) are not going anywhere because there is still insecurity and also the flooding," said James Manyiel Agup, the Aerial county director for health here in Lakes state. He urged the U.N. partners to continue supporting the facility to save lives.

Powerball grand prize climbs to \$1B without a jackpot winner

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The Powerball jackpot keeps getting larger because players keep losing.

It happened again Saturday night as no one matched all six numbers and won the estimated \$825 million grand prize. That means the next drawing Monday night will be for a massive \$1 billion, according to a statement by Powerball.

The winning numbers Saturday night were: white balls 19, 31, 40, 46, 57 and the red power ball 23.

The increased jackpot will be the second-largest in U.S. history. The biggest prize was a \$1.586 billion Powerball jackpot won by three ticketholders in 2016.

Although the advertised top prize will be an estimated \$1 billion, that is for winners who receive their winnings through an annuity paid over 29 years. Winners almost always opt for cash, which for Monday's drawing will be an estimated \$497.3 million.

The \$825 million jackpot for Saturday's draw increased from \$800 million on Friday as a result of strong

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ticket sales, Powerball said.

Players who missed out on the latest grand prize in the 30-year-old lottery shouldn't immediately toss away their receipts.

A Florida ticket holder matched all five white balls in Saturday's drawing and increased the prize to \$2 million by including the game's "Power Play" feature. Six tickets won a \$1 million prize by matching five white balls, including two in California, two in Michigan, one in Maryland and one in Texas.

Another 17 tickets won a \$150,000 prize while there were 80 winners of \$50,000 each. More than 3.8 million tickets won cash prizes totaling above \$38 million, Powerball said.

It has been nearly three months since anyone hit all six numbers and took the lottery's top prize, with a \$206.9 million jackpot win in Pennsylvania on Aug. 3. Thanks to Powerball's long odds of one in 292.2 million, there have now been 37 consecutive draws without a jackpot winner.

Powerball is played in 45 states, as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Astros burst ahead, beat Phillies 5-2, tie World Series 1-1

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Framber Valdez swapped his glove and his spikes midgame. He repeatedly rubbed his hands.

By the time he strode off the mound to a standing ovation and handed the Houston Astros' bullpen a seventh-inning lead, it was clear he had thrown a curve at the Philadelphia Phillies.

"This was a really good game for the fans, a really good game for our team and also for me," he said through a translator after pitching the Astros over the Phillies 5-2 Saturday night to tie the World Series at one game apiece. "I've just been playing really inspired."

Valdez made a five-run lead stand up after Houston's lightning first-inning burst and Alex Bregman homered as the Astros rushed to a 5-0 lead for the second straight night. Unlike ace Justin Verlander in the opener, Valdez and Houston held on.

"His curveball was on tonight," Phillies star Bryce Harper said after going 0 for 4. "It was big, sharp."

Houston became the first team to open a Series game with three straight extra-base hits, and Valdez pitched shutout ball into the seventh, rebounding from a pair of poor outings against Atlanta last year that had left him with a 19.29 Series ERA.

He threw 42 curveballs among 104 pitches and got six of nine strikeouts with that pitch, three of them looking. He allowed four hits and one run in 6 2/3 innings, giving up a leadoff double in the seventh to Nick Castellanos, who scored on Jean Segura's sacrifice fly off Rafael Montero.

Valdez said his hand-rubbing was inconsequential.

"Nobody should think of it as anything like in the wrong way. I do it out in the open," he said. "It's all tendencies I do. I do it throughout the game, maybe distract the hitter a little bit from what I'm doing, like maybe look at me, rubbing different things, and nothing about the pitch that I'm going to throw. I've been doing it all season."

Valdez started the game with a tan glove and spikes with orange and yellow trim, then swapped ahead of the second inning for a dark glove and dark cleats with a white stripe.

"Normally have different spikes when I warm up and the ones that I go into the game. Today I decided to start the game with the ones I warmed up in," he said. "I had a long inning there and I was like, You know what, I'm going to change everything. I'm going to change my glove, my belt, my cleats. And those are just things that us Dominicans do, just some tendencies here and there."

When the Phillies put two runners on for the only time against him in the sixth, Valdez struck out Game 1 star J.T. Realmuto with high heat, then got Harper to bounce a first-pitch sinker into an inning-ending double play.

Phillies manager Rob Thomson didn't take issue with Valdez rubbing his palm — social media was abuzz, wondering if there was some banned sticky substance.

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"The umpires check these guys after almost every inning and if there's something going on MLB will take care of it," Thomson said. "We saw it the last time he started, too."

Jose Altuve, Jeremy Peña and Yordan Alvarez all doubled as Houston took a two-run lead four pitches in against Zack Wheeler. Shortstop Edmundo Sosa's throwing error allowed another run in the first.

Bregman added a two-run homer in the fifth when Wheeler left a slider over the middle of the plate, Bregman's sixth career Series homer.

A day after coming back for a 6-5 win in 10 innings, Philadelphia tried to rally in this one, too.

With the Phillies trailing by four runs, Kyle Schwarber hit a drive deep down the right-field line with a man on in the eighth against Montero that was originally ruled a two-run homer by right field line umpire James Hoyer.

First base umpire Tripp Gibson at first signaled for umps to conference and the call was reversed on a crew chief review when it was determined the ball was just to the foul side of the pole.

Schwarber, who led the NL with 46 home runs this season and added three more in the playoffs, hit the next pitch 353 feet to right, where it was caught by Kyle Tucker just in front of the wall.

Ryan Pressly finished a six-hitter for a bullpen that lowered its postseason ERA to 0.89, giving up a run on when an first baseman Yuli Gurriel allowed Brandon Marsh's grounder to skip past him and down the right-field line for an error.

Following the split in Houston, the Series resumes Monday night when Citizens Bank Park hosts the Series for the first time since 2009.

Of 61 previous Series tied 1-1, the Game 2 winner went on to the title 31 times — but just four of the last 14.

"I just can't wait to get out on Monday and keep it rolling," Segura said.

Altuve, who broke out of a 4-for-37 postseason slump with three hits, lined a sinker into left on Wheeler's first pitch and Peña drove a curveball into the left-field corner on the second for a 1-0 lead. Alvarez fouled off a pitch and drove a slider high off the 19-foot wall in left.

Wheeler gave up five runs — four earned — six hits and three walks in five innings, a day after Aaron Nola struggled.

"I think everybody deserves a poor start every once in a while," Thomson said. "Those guys have been so good for us for so long, and I fully expect them to come back and be ready to go and pitch well for us."

BIG DIFFERENCE

Houston won 106 games during the season and Philadelphia 87, the second-highest win disparity in the Series behind the 93-win Chicago White Sox beat the 116-win Cubs in 1906.

UP NEXT

RHP Noah Syndergaard will start Game 3 for the Phillies and RHP Lance McCullers Jr. for the Astros. Phillies LHP Ranger Suárez will take the mound for Game 4, and likely LHP Cristian Javier for Houston.

Brazil's polarizing Bolsonaro-Lula contest goes to voters

By DIANE JEANTET Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilians vote Sunday in a polarizing presidential runoff election that pits an incumbent vowing to safeguard conservative Christian values against a former president promising to return the country to a more prosperous past.

The runoff shaped up as a close contest between President Jair Bolsonaro and his political nemesis, former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Both are well-known, divisive political figures who stir passion as much as loathing.

The vote will determine if the world's fourth-largest democracy stays the same course of far-right politics or returns a leftist to the top job — and, in the latter case, whether Bolsonaro will accept defeat.

More than 120 million Brazilians are expected to cast ballots, but because the vote is conducted electronically, the final result is usually available within hours after voting stations close in late afternoon. Most opinion polls gave a lead to da Silva, universally known as Lula, though political analysts agreed the race

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grew increasingly tight in recent weeks.

For months, it appeared that da Silva was headed for easy victory as he kindled nostalgia for his 2003-2010 presidency, when Brazil's economy was booming and welfare helped tens of millions join the middle class.

But in the Oct. 2 first-round elections, da Silva finished first among the 11 candidates with 48% of the votes, while Bolsonaro was second at 43%, showing opinion polls significantly underestimated the president's popularity. Many Brazilians support Bolsonaro's defense of conservative social values and he has shored up support with vast government spending.

Candidates in Brazil who finish ahead in the first round tend to win the runoff. But political scientist Rodrigo Prando said this campaign is so atypical that a Bolsonaro win could not be ruled out. The president secured endorsements from governors of the three most populous states, and allied politicians scored big wins in congressional races.

"Politically, Bolsonaro is stronger than had been imagined," said Prando, a professor at Mackenzie Presbyterian University in Sao Paulo. "Mathematically, Lula is in front."

Twelve gubernatorial races will also be decided, among them Brazil's most populous state, Sao Paulo, Amazonas state and northeastern Bahia state.

More than 150 million Brazilians are eligible to vote, yet about 20% of the electorate abstained in the first round. The Supreme Court has issued a ruling enabling state capitals to provide free public transport on election day, and both da Silva and Bolsonaro have focused efforts on driving turnout.

The candidates presented few proposals for the country's future beyond affirming they will continue a big welfare program for the poor, despite very limited fiscal room going forward. They railed against one another and launched online smear campaigns — with considerably more attacks coming from Bolsonaro's camp.

His four years in office have been marked by proclaimed conservatism and defense of traditional Christian values. He claimed without any evidence that da Silva's return to power would usher in communism, legalized drugs, abortion and the persecution of churches.

Da Silva homed in on Bolsonaro's widely criticized handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and said the president failed to care for society's neediest members. And he painted Bolsonaro as an opponent of the Amazon rainforest, given that he defanged environmental authorities and presided over a surge in deforestation.

In campaign videos, da Silva also took aim at Bolsonaro for being behind a policy directing billions to lawmakers for pet projects in exchange for political support. It is referred to as the "secret budget," due to a lack of transparency around the money's final uses, and da Silva said it depleted funds for key social spending.

But for many, the record of da Silva's Workers' Party is equally off-putting. A sprawling investigation revealed the party's involvement in vast corruption scandals that ensnared top politicians and executives.

Da Silva himself was imprisoned for 19 months for corruption and money laundering. The Supreme Court annulled his convictions in 2019, on the grounds that the judge was biased and colluded with prosecutors. That did not stop Bolsonaro from reminding voters of the convictions. Da Silva's potential election would be like letting a thief return to the scene of the crime, the president warned.

The president's tremendous digital mobilization was on display in recent days as his campaign introduced fresh — and unproven — claims of possible electoral manipulation. That revived fears that Bolsonaro could challenge election results should he lose — much like former U.S. President Donald Trump, whom he admires.

For months, he claimed that the nation's electronic voting machines are prone to fraud, though he never presented evidence, even after the electoral authority set a deadline for him to do so.

More recently, allegations focused on airtime for political ads. Bolsonaro's campaign claimed that radio stations failed to air more than 150,000 electoral spots and implied that might have resulted from an intentionally malicious effort to hurt his candidacy. The electoral authority declined to open an investigation, citing lack of evidence.

"We don't know whether this result will be contested or not, and to what extent," said Carlos Melo, a

political science professor at Insper University in Sao Paulo. "It's a very tough second round and a very tense Sunday, and tensions may continue beyond today."

Crush kills at least 151 at Halloween festivities in Seoul

By KIM TONG-HYUNG and HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A mass of mostly young people among tens of thousands who gathered to celebrate Halloween in Seoul became trapped and crushed as the crowd surged into a narrow alley, killing at least 151 people and injuring 82 others in South Korea's worst disaster in years.

Emergency workers and pedestrians desperately performed CPR on people lying in the streets after the crush in the capital's nightlife district of Itaewon on Saturday night.

Those killed or hurt were mostly teens and people in their 20s, according to Choi Seong-beom, chief of Seoul's Yongsan fire department. The dead included 19 foreigners, he said, whose nationalities weren't immediately released. The death toll could rise further as 19 of those injured were in critical condition.

An estimated 100,000 people had gathered in Itaewon for the country's biggest outdoor Halloween festivities since the pandemic began and strict rules on gatherings were enforced. The South Korean government eased COVID-19 restrictions in recent months and this was the first big chance to get out and party for many young people.

While Halloween isn't a traditional holiday in South Korea, where children rarely go trick-or-treating, it's still a major attraction for young adults, and costume parties at bars and clubs have become hugely popular in recent years.

Itaewon, near where the former headquarters of U.S. military forces in South Korea operated before moving out of the capital in 2018, is an expat-friendly district known for its trendy bars, clubs and restaurants and it's the city's marquee Halloween destination.

Witnesses say Itaewon's streets were so densely clogged with people and slow-moving vehicles that it was practically impossible for emergency workers and ambulances to reach the alley in time to treat the injured.

Seoul's city government said more than 1,000 people have called a city office in nearby Hannam-dong as of midday Saturday, reporting their relatives as out of contact and asking officials to confirm whether they were among those injured or dead after the crush in Itaewon.

Officials initially said 150 people were injured as of Sunday morning before later lowering their tally.

National Fire Agency officials didn't immediately explain why the tally was reduced but said emergency workers would have had a more accurate idea of the casualties as rescue operations proceeded and that some of the injured would have been converted to deaths. It was also possible that some of those who were lightly injured had returned home overnight and were no longer counted.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared a national mourning period on Sunday and ordered flags at government buildings and public offices to fly at half-staff. During a televised speech, Yoon said supporting the families of the victims, including their funeral preparations, and the treatment of the injured would be a top priority for his government.

He also called for officials to thoroughly investigate the cause of the accident and review the safety of other large cultural and entertainment events, including regional festivals, to ensure that they proceed safely.

"This is really devastating. The tragedy and disaster that need not have happened took place in the heart of Seoul amid Halloween (celebrations)," Yoon said during the speech. "I feel heavy hearted and cannot contain my sadness as a president responsible for the people's lives and safety."

After the speech, Yoon visited the Itaewon alley where the disaster occurred. Local TV footage showed Yoon inspecting the alley filled with trash and being briefed by emergency officials.

It was not immediately clear what led the crowd to surge into the narrow downhill alley near the Hamilton Hotel, a major party spot in Seoul. One survivor said many people fell and toppled one another "like dominos" after they were pushed by others. The survivor, surnamed Kim, said they were trapped for about

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an hour and a half before being rescued, as some people shouted "Help me!" and others were short of breath, according to the Seoul-based Hankyoreh newspaper.

Another survivor, Lee Chang-kyu, said he saw about five to six men push others before one or two began falling, according to the newspaper.

In an interview with news channel YTN, Hwang Min-hyeok, a visitor to Itaewon, said it was shocking to see rows of bodies near the hotel. He said emergency workers were initially overwhelmed, leaving pedestrians struggling to administer CPR to the injured lying on the streets. People wailed beside the bodies of their friends, he said.

Another survivor in his 20s said he avoided being trampled by managing to get into a bar whose door was open in the alley, Yonhap news agency reported. A woman in her 20s surnamed Park told Yonhap that she and others were standing along the side of the alley while others caught in the middle of the alley had no escape.

Choi, the fire department chief, said that bodies were being sent to hospitals or a gym, where bereaved family members could identify them. He said most of the dead and injured are in their 20s.

"Horrific news from Seoul tonight," British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak tweeted. "All our thoughts are with those currently responding and all South Koreans at this very distressing time."

Jake Sullivan, the U.S. national security adviser, tweeted that reports of the disaster were "heartbreaking" and said Washington "stands ready to provide the Republic of Korea with any support it needs."

The last South Korean disaster this deadly also hit young people the hardest. In April 2014, 304 people, mostly high school students, died in a ferry sinking. The sinking exposed lax safety rules and regulatory failures; it was partially blamed on excessive and poorly fastened cargo and a crew poorly trained for emergency situations. Saturday's deaths will likely draw public scrutiny of what government officials have done to improve public safety standards since the ferry disaster.

It was also Asia's second major crushing disaster in a month. On Oct. 1, police in Indonesia fired tear gas at a soccer match, causing a crush that killed 132 people as spectators attempted to flee.

More than 1,700 response personnel from across the country were deployed to the streets to help the wounded, including about 520 firefighters, 1,100 police officers and 70 government workers. The National Fire Agency separately said in a statement that officials were still trying to determine the exact number of emergency patients.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol issued a statement calling for officials to ensure swift treatment for those injured and review the safety of the festivity sites.

This was the deadliest crushing disaster in South Korean history. In 2005, 11 people were killed and around 60 others were injured at a pop concert in the southern city of Sangju.

In 1960, 31 people died after being crushed on the stairs of a train station as large crowds rushed to board a train during the Lunar New Year holidays.

Russia suspends Ukraine grain deal over ship attack claim

By ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia announced Saturday that it will immediately suspend its implementation of a U.N.-brokered grain deal that has seen more than 9 million tons of grain exported from Ukraine during the war and has brought down soaring global food prices. Ukraine accused Russia of creating a world "hunger games."

The Russian Defense Ministry cited an alleged Ukrainian drone attack Saturday against Russia's Black Sea Fleet ships moored off the coast of occupied Crimea as the reason for the move. Ukraine has denied the attack, saying that the Russians mishandled their own weapons.

The Russian declaration came one day after U.N. chief Antonio Guterres urged Russia and Ukraine to renew the grain export deal, which was scheduled to expire on Nov. 19. Guterres also urged other countries, mainly in the West, to expedite the removal of obstacles blocking Russian grain and fertilizer exports.

The U.N. chief said the grain deal — brokered by the United Nations and Turkey in July — helps "to cush-

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ion the suffering that this global cost-of-living crisis is inflicting on billions of people," his spokesman said. U.N. officials were in touch with Russian authorities over the announced suspension.

"It is vital that all parties refrain from any action that would imperil the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which is a critical humanitarian effort that is clearly having a positive impact on access to food for millions of people," said Guterres' spokesman, Stephane Dujarric.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called the Russian move "predictable." He accused Moscow of "blockading" ships carrying grain since September. Currently, he said, 176 vessels are backed up at sea, carrying more than 2 million tons of food.

"This is a transparent attempt by Russia to return to the threat of large-scale famine in Africa and Asia," Zelenskyy said Saturday in his nightly video address. He called for a tough response against Russia from international bodies like the U.N. and the G-20.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, accused Russia of playing "hunger games" by imperiling global food shipments.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the suspension was regrettable and urged "all parties to keep this essential, life-saving Initiative functioning."

"Any act by Russia to disrupt these critical grain exports is essentially a statement that people and families around the world should pay more for food or go hungry," Blinken said in a statement Saturday night. "In suspending this arrangement, Russia is again weaponizing food in the war it started, directly impacting low- and middle-income countries and global food prices, and exacerbating already dire humanitarian crises and food insecurity."

Russia's Foreign Ministry on Saturday accused British specialists of being involved in the alleged attack by drones on Russian ships in Crimea. Britain's Defense Ministry had no immediate comment on the claim.

"In connection with the actions of Ukrainian armed forces, led by British specialists, directed, among other things, against Russian ships that ensure the functioning of the humanitarian corridor in question (which cannot be qualified otherwise than as a terrorist attack), the Russian side cannot guarantee the safety of civilian dry cargo ships participating in the Black Sea initiative, and suspends its implementation from today for an indefinite period," the Russian statement said.

Ukraine's Ministry of Infrastructure said that Ukraine has never threatened the Black Sea grain corridor which "is exclusively humanitarian in nature," and would continue to try to keep shipments going. It said since the first ship left Odesa on Aug. 1, more than 9 million tons of food have been exported, including more than 5 million tons to African and Asian countries. As part of the U.N. World Food Program, it said, 190 thousand tons of wheat have been sent to countries where there is hunger.

Russia also requested a meeting Monday of the U.N. Security Council because of the alleged attack on the Black Sea Fleet and the security of the grain corridor, said Dmitry Polyansky, Russia's first deputy representative to the U.N.

Russia's agriculture minister said Moscow stands ready to "fully replace Ukrainian grain and deliver supplies at affordable prices to all interested countries." In remarks carried by the state Rossiya 24 TV channel, Dmitry Patrushev said Moscow was prepared to "supply up to 500,000 tons of grain to the poorest countries free of charge in the next four months," with the help of Turkey.

Earlier Saturday, Ukraine and Russia offered differing versions on the Crimea drone attack in which at least one Russian ship suffered damage in Sevastopol, a key port on the Ukrainian peninsula annexed by Moscow in 2014.

The Russian Defense Ministry said a minesweeper had "minor damage" during an alleged pre-dawn Ukrainian attack on navy and civilian vessels docked in Sevastopol, which hosts the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet. The ministry claimed Russian forces had "repelled" 16 attacking drones.

The governor of the Sevastopol region, Mikhail Razvozhayev, claimed the port saw a "massive attack" by air and sea drones. He provided no evidence, saying all video would be seized for security reasons.

But an adviser to Ukraine's Interior Ministry claimed that "careless handling of explosives" had caused blasts on four warships in Russia's Black Sea Fleet. Anton Gerashchenko wrote on Telegram that the vessels included a frigate, a landing ship and a ship that carried cruise missiles used in a deadly July attack

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on a western Ukrainian city.

In other developments on Saturday, Russian troops moved large numbers of sick and wounded comrades from hospitals in Ukraine's southern Kherson region and stripped the facilities of medical equipment, Ukrainian officials said as their forces fought to retake the province.

Kremlin-installed authorities in the mostly Russian-occupied region have urged civilians to leave the city of Kherson, the region's capital — and reportedly joined the tens of thousands who have fled to other Russia-held areas.

Zelenskyy said the Russians were "dismantling the entire health care system" in Kherson and other occupied areas.

"The occupiers have decided to close medical institutions in the cities, take away equipment, ambulances, just everything," Zelenskyy said.

Kherson is one of four regions in Ukraine that Russian President Vladimir Putin illegally annexed last month and where he subsequently declared martial law. The others are Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia.

As Kyiv's forces sought gains in the south, Russia kept up its shelling and missile attacks in the country's east. Three more civilians died and eight more were wounded in the Donetsk region, as Russian soldiers try to capture the city of Bakhmut, an important target in Russia's stalled eastern offensive.

Russian shelling also hit an industrial building in Ukraine's southern Zaporizhzhia region.

In the latest prisoner exchange, 50 Ukrainian soldiers, including two former defenders of the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol, and two civilians were released Saturday as part of a swap with Russia, who received 50 Russian soldiers, both sides reported.

What is known about the attack on Speaker Pelosi's husband

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A man broke into House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's home in San Francisco and severely beat her 82-year-old husband, Paul Pelosi, with a hammer early Friday while the Democratic lawmaker was in Washington.

Paul Pelosi had surgery to repair a skull fracture and serious injuries to his right arm and hands, and his doctors expect a full recovery, the speaker's office said. In a letter to congressional colleagues Saturday night, Nancy Pelosi said her husband's condition "continues to improve."

David DePape, 42, was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, elder abuse and burglary, police said. "This was not a random act. This was intentional. And it's wrong," San Francisco Police Chief William Scott said.

The violence was the latest jolt to an increasingly splintered political system that is riven with extremism. A look at what is known about the attack and the suspect:

WHAT HAPPENED?

An intruder wielding a hammer smashed his way through a rear door into the Pelosi residence in San Francisco shortly before 2:30 a.m. Friday. The man confronted Paul Pelosi and shouted, "Where is Nancy," according to a person familiar with the situation who was granted anonymity to discuss it.

Paul Pelosi called 911 himself and when police arrived they found him struggling with the assailant. The man managed to strike Pelosi at least once with the hammer before he was tackled by officers and arrested, police said.

Nancy Pelosi was in Washington at the time of the attack.

HOW'S PAUL PELOSI DOING?

He underwent surgery to repair a skull fracture and serious injuries to his right arm and hands, and his doctors expect a full recovery, the speaker's office said Friday. Other than Nancy Pelosi's letter to colleagues, there were no updates on his condition Saturday.

Nancy Pelosi arrived in San Francisco late Friday. The couple has been married since 1963.

In her letter, the speaker thanked colleagues for their prayers and warm wishes. "Our children, our grandchildren and I are heartbroken and traumatized by the life-threatening attack on our Pop," she

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wrote. "We are grateful for the quick response of law enforcement and emergency services, and for the life-saving medical care he is receiving."

WHAT ARE INVESTIGATORS SAYING?

Scott, the San Francisco police chief, said the attack was not a random act. "This was intentional," he said.

Police didn't immediately confirm a motive, but three people with knowledge of the investigation told The Associated Press that the assailant targeted Pelosi's home.

The FBI and Capitol Police are also part of the joint investigation.

WHO IS THE SUSPECT?

DePape was expected to be charged next week with attempted homicide, assault with a deadly weapon, elder abuse and burglary. After his arrest, he was taken to a hospital, where he remained as of Friday evening.

DePape posted frequently on social media, often making racist and rambling comments that included questioning the results of the 2020 election, defending former President Donald Trump and echoing QAnon conspiracy theories.

A two-decade resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, he was known locally as a pro-nudity activist who had picketed naked at protests against laws requiring people to be clothed in public.

He grew up in Powell River, British Columbia, before following an older girlfriend to California. He has three children with two women. Stepfather Gene DePape said the suspect had lived with him in Canada until he was 14 and had been a quiet boy.

"He was reclusive," said Gene DePape. "He was never violent."

HAVE OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS BEEN THREATENED?

It's been almost two years since the riot at the U.S. Capitol, when Trump supporters broke into the building and hunted for Pelosi and other members of Congress. Since then, threats to lawmakers and their families have increased sharply.

The U.S. Capitol Police investigated almost 10,000 threats to members last year, more than twice the number from four years earlier.

Lawmakers have pressed for better security, especially for their families and their homes outside of Washington. Security officials have promised to pay for upgrades to certain security systems and an increased Capitol Police presence outside Washington. But the vast majority of members are mostly on their own.

The attack on Paul Pelosi happened when Nancy Pelosi was out of town, which meant there was less of a security presence in their home.

No. 1 Georgia pulls away late, wins 'Cocktail Party' 42-20

By MARK LONG AP Sports Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Top-ranked Georgia expects to eventually benefit from a game like this. It might happen next year. Or maybe next week.

Daijun Edwards and Kenny McIntosh ran for two touchdowns each, and the Bulldogs pulled away from Florida following a second-half scare to win 42-20 Saturday night in the rivalry dubbed "the World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party."

Next up: No. 3 Tennessee, a game that could have Southeastern Conference and College Football Playoff implications. Georgia might not have the same margin for error against the Volunteers as it enjoyed against Florida.

The defending national champion Bulldogs (8-0, 5-0 SEC) looked to be in trouble when the Gators (4-4, 1-4) scored the first 17 points of the third quarter and turned a 28-3 deficit into a one-score game.

But the Dawgs answered in resounding fashion with consecutive touchdown drives to seal their 10th consecutive victory. It was Georgia's fifth win over Florida in the last six seasons.

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"I don't enjoy losing the momentum in the game," Dawgs coach Kirby Smart said. "I enjoy the fact that we never blinked. ... There's two things (that happen) when adversity hits: you fracture or you connect. Our team connected."

This one was dedicated to legendary Georgia coach Vince Dooley, who died Friday at age 90.

Dooley dominated the Georgia-Florida series during his coaching career, going 17-7-1 against the Gators. The most famous victory came in 1980, when Lindsay Scott hauled in a 93-yard touchdown pass from Buck Belue in the closing minute. The improbable 26-21 triumph propelled Georgia to a perfect season and their first consensus national title.

"Such an ambassador for our program and all of college football," Smart said. "I know if he was looking down on that one, he would have enjoyed the first half. I don't know that he would have enjoyed the second one."

Florida had all the momentum in the third quarter after Amari Burney forced two turnovers following Trevor Etienne's TD run. Burney stripped McIntosh and intercepted a pass from Stetson Bennett.

"They didn't stop us other than that," Bennett said. "We answered really well after the pick I threw and went right down the field. Everybody answered the call whenever they were asked."

Georgia put the game away thanks to a few key fourth downs. Bennett connected with tight end Brock Bowers on a fourth-and-7 play to set up one touchdown in-between Florida's two failed attempts to move the chains on fourth down.

"Yeah, it's a turnover on downs and turnovers affect the outcome of the game," Florida coach Billy Napier said. "No different than them turning the ball over allowed them to get us back in the game. ... We had our opportunities. We can coach better. We can play better."

Georgia played nearly flawless football down the stretch and finished with 555 yards against Florida's beleaguered defense. Edwards had 106 yards rushing, including a 22-yard TD run that halted Florida's comeback. McIntosh added 90 on the ground.

Bennett completed 19 of 38 passes for 316 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions. Bowers caught five passes for a career-high 154 yards, including a 73-yard score in which he hauled in a ball that tipped off linebacker Burney.

"Ball's bouncing in the air and I just snatched it," Bowers said.

Richardson threw for 271 yards and a touchdown for the Gators, who have lost 12 of their last 15 SEC games. Nearly half of Richardson's passing yards came on plays of 78 and 41 yards.

"Whenever you have a team like that, it's easy for them to do what they do," Richardson said. "They have people doing their job, and it's kind of hard to affect them and stop them."

THE TAKEAWAY

Florida: Despite rallying against Georgia, the Gators have ground to make up in the SEC's Eastern Division. Napier knows it starts on the recruiting trail.

Georgia: The Bulldogs struggled at times because of dropped passes, costly penalties and turnovers. Those are the kind of mistakes that could doom Georgia in close games with the toughest part of its schedule looming.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Georgia should retain its top spot in the next AP college football poll.

KEY INJURIES

Georgia standout linebacker Nolan Smith spent the second half in street clothes because of a shoulder injury. Freshman linebacker Darris Smith was shaken up on the second-half kickoff when Florida's Jack Pyburn drove him to the ground. Georgia right tackle Amarius Mims was helped off the field in the fourth quarter with a left knee injury.

UP NEXT

Florida plays at Texas A&M for the second in three years. The Aggies won 41-38 in 2020.

Georgia hosts third-ranked Tennessee. The Bulldogs have won five in a row and 10 of 12 in the series.

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Arizona AG gives county OK for full ballot hand counts

By BOB CHRISTIE Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Arizona's Republican attorney general has issued an opinion saying county officials can hand-count all ballots in at least five races from the Nov. 8 election, a move that gives a green light to GOP officials in at least two counties who have been clamoring for hand counts.

The efforts to hand-count ballots are driven by unfounded concerns among some Republicans that problems with vote-counting machines or voter fraud led to former President Donald Trump's 2020 defeat.

The new attorney general opinion led the two Republicans on the three-member Cochise County board of supervisors to boost their plan to hand-count some races in both early and Election Day ballots. They had pledged to pare back the effort on Wednesday.

Under state law, the local leaders of both the Democratic and Republican parties would have to provide hundreds of volunteers to do the counts.

At a fiery meeting Friday, Democratic Supervisor Ann English said she'll do everything she can to stop the county Democratic Party chair from providing those workers.

"It would be my fondest hope, that if I have any authority, any way that I can convince the chair of the Democratic party in Cochise County not to provide people for this fiasco that will be my intent," English said. "Because I think that every day that we're discussing this, then people are wondering 'what's wrong with our elections.'"

That comment came after GOP Supervisor Peggy Judd said she wanted to move ahead, and Republican Supervisor Tom Crosby pushed back strongly on English's opposition and effort to halt the full count.

"I'm OK talking about how this will be done, but all you want to do is make it not get done," Crosby said. "So, I'm not interested in that discussion — I'm interested in the discussion of how it will get done."

The Cochise County Democratic Party referred inquiries about whether they would send volunteers for the expanded hand count to the state party on Saturday. Arizona Democratic Party spokeswoman Morgan Dick said party officials are consulting with their attorneys on the issue.

The county party did post on its Facebook page Saturday, saying they were "beyond disappointed in yesterday's circus of a meeting."

"Judd, Crosby and (county Recorder David) Stevens are hell bent on appeasing MAGA election deniers instead of doing what's right for our county," the post continued.

The hand count would take place along with the machine count, and the machine count will be used for the legal results.

The informal opinion issued Friday by Attorney General Mark Brnovich's office came as the board has been battling with Democratic Secretary of State Katie Hobbs. She warned officials there not to expand the required small hand count to all races because it was illegal. Hobbs is the state's top election official and is running for governor.

Hobbs did give them the OK to hand-count all Election Day ballots in four races, but she said it would be illegal to do so for early votes, which make up more than 80% of ballots in the state. Normal hand-count audits required under law to ensure accuracy of ballot counting machines cover only a small percentage of ballots.

The opinion from Brnovich's deputy solicitor general said the county may hand-count all the ballots in as many as five races.

Hobbs' office said they disagreed and that the law does not allow it for early ballots.

"With early voting well under way and less than two weeks from election day, these antics are doing nothing more than creating chaos and confusion around the election and tabulation of ballots, which is wildly irresponsible," a statement from Hobbs' office said.

Supervisors in Pinal County, a much larger and growing suburban area just south of metro Phoenix's Maricopa County, also have been considering a hand count. Both boards have meetings planned for next week to discuss the issue.

The elected Republican county attorneys in both jurisdictions have warned their respective boards there

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is no legal authority to expand a hand-count of ballots.

"It would be illegal at this point to do a full hand count," Pinal County Attorney Kent Volkmer told his board on Wednesday.

Cochise County Attorney Brian McIntyre has told the board he also believes a full hand count is illegal and said the board and county Recorder David Stevens would need to find outside attorneys if they went ahead. He repeated that Friday, after Supervisor Judd said Brnovich had given the go-ahead.

He also noted that the effort runs afoul of a legal doctrine set up by the U.S. Supreme Court that says election rules and procedures can't be changed close to an election.

An effort to hand count ballots in rural Nevada's Nye County has been beset with issues, including slow counts and a legal challenge that forced the effort to halt on Thursday night. Officials in the GOP-led county pledged to restart their effort as soon as they can.

Permitless carry laws raise new dilemmas for police officers

By REBECCA REYNOLDS Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Police saw Carmon Tussey walking briskly toward a crowded Louisville bar carrying a semi-automatic weapon.

With people running away, officers moved in, service weapons drawn. They put the 26-year-old in handcuffs and confiscated his gun. Tussey was later charged with terroristic threatening, wanton endangerment and disorderly conduct, prosecutors said, and could face up to 20 years in prison.

His lawyer says he "was engaged in perfectly legal behavior" in the incident last year, raising a relatively new legal argument in the United States that now stands before the courts to settle.

That's because Kentucky made it legal in 2019 to carry a gun in public without a permit, joining what is now a majority of states with similar laws.

Many celebrate the end of the bureaucracy erected around what they consider every American's constitutional right to carry any firearm they want. But permitless carry laws have created a dilemma for officers working the streets: They now have to decide, sometimes in seconds, if someone with the right to carry a gun is a danger.

"Kentucky is one of the states that allows a citizen to 'open carry' — meaning it is perfectly legal to walk down a public street carrying a loaded gun out in the open," said Tussey's attorney, Greg Simms.

Louisville prosecutors say it was more than just the gun that led police to detain Tussey. The type of weapon, how he carried it, and where he was headed also mattered. A witness also told officers that Tussey was returning to the bar after a verbal altercation.

After he was detained, Tussey told police he "was returning to shoot" the people he fought with, according to the arrest citation. Those comments came later. Simms argued in court that he had given police no legal reason to take him into custody when they did.

The judge hasn't been persuaded by that argument so far, saying in a preliminary ruling on evidence that police had other reasons to arrest Tussey at the time. But Simms says he thinks he can convince a jury that Tussey didn't commit any crimes, in part because of Kentucky's new law. His next hearing is Nov. 2.

Advocates say permitless carry makes people safer. Opponents say it makes it more dangerous for ordinary people, and for police officers.

"It's no secret why so many law enforcement leaders are speaking out against permitless carry laws," said John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety. "Allowing anyone to carry a gun anywhere makes the job of a police officer harder and more dangerous."

Gun violence is up nationwide. There have been 35,000 deaths in the U.S. so far this year, following 45,000 deaths in 2020 and the same in 2021. About 79% of the killings in 2020 involved a firearm, the highest percentage since at least 1968.

Earlier this year, Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb signed an Indiana law removing the permit requirement for carrying a handgun in public even though Indiana's state police superintendent had weighed in against it. The new law took effect July 1.

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"We're still expected to enforce our laws and take those guns off the streets and make sure people that aren't supposed to have them don't," Indiana State Police spokesman Capt. Ron Galaviz said recently. "It's just an extra couple of steps in that process."

Under the new law, Galaviz said, officers can't immediately grab a gun or ask to see a permit when they pull someone over.

Complaints about armed people in public settings can have a range of outcomes.

In Boise, Idaho, police got multiple "man with a gun" calls about 27-year-old Jacob Bergquist, who took a firearm to places they weren't allowed, like a store, a hospital and a mall, according to The Idaho Statesman.

Idaho passed permitless carry in 2016, but the state allows property owners to ban them in specific locations. Boise Police Chief Ryan Lee said his officers never had grounds to arrest Bergquist under Idaho law.

Lee made that comment after Bergquist entered the Boise Towne Square Mall and fatally shot a 26-year-old security guard and a man, and wounded four others.

Bergquist, who died after exchanging gunfire with police, promoted gun rights on a YouTube channel.

In Houston, Guido Herrera walked into a mall in February with a rifle in one hand and a Bible in the other, wearing a leather mask and a shirt with the Punisher logo.

His lawyer, Armen Merganian, argued that Guido Herrera was just "a gun-loving Texan" who meant no harm. Jurors convicted him of a misdemeanor, disorderly conduct. It's legal to carry loaded guns in public in Texas, but not in a manner calculated to alarm.

"Cops just like to assume that everyone is a bad guy and everyone is there to cause harm and that's not necessarily the case. Some people just really enjoy their Second Amendment rights," Merganian said.

In Florida, Michael Taylor films himself with guns and a fishing pole walking to piers and other spots to cast a line. He says he's trying to educate people about Florida gun laws, which don't allow a person to carry a gun without a permit but make exceptions if someone is hunting or fishing.

Sometimes Taylor's actions lead to discussions about state gun laws. Other times they prompt 'man with a gun' calls to police.

Officers in Clearwater stopped Taylor last year as he walked down a crowded beach with a fishing pole, a "Don't Tread On Me" flag and a loaded semi-automatic weapon, according to a video he posted to social media. Police ask what he's doing and he tells them he's going fishing and isn't breaking any laws.

"Sir, you're scaring everybody walking down the beach," one officer says.

After cuffing him, the officers move him to a less crowded area, question him further and release him. He heads on down the crowded beach to the pier.

Shannon West, a training supervisor at the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training, which trains some 300 recruits a year, said that when responding to an armed person in public, officers have "got a very quick decision to make ... as to whether or not to intervene, when to intervene, and how."

In one rare case this year, an Indiana man fatally shot a gunman who killed three people at a mall days after permitless carry took effect in the state. Authorities said the man who shot the gunman was legally armed and praised his actions for saving others' lives.

That's the type of scenario that gun rights advocates point to when they argue that the best way to stop a bad guy with a gun is to have a good guy with a gun on the scene.

But that still can create a dilemma for police when they arrive.

"It used to be if someone was carrying a firearm and they had a concealed carry permit, it would be less suspicious for them to have a firearm," said UCLA law professor Adam Winkler, an expert on gun policy. "But when you eliminate the permit requirement, then anyone can carry a firearm on the streets and it becomes harder for police and for others to figure out whether that person has bad intent or not."

Gerald Stern, prize-winning and lyrical poet, dies at 97

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Gerald Stern, one of the country's most loved and respected poets who wrote with spirited melancholy and earthly humor about his childhood, Judaism, mortality and the wonders of the

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contemplative life, has died. He was 97.

Stern, New Jersey's first poet laureate, died Thursday at Calvary Hospice in New York City, according to his longtime partner, Anne Marie Macari. A statement from Macari, released Saturday by publisher WW Norton, didn't include the cause of death.

Winner of the National Book Award in 1998 for the anthology "This Time," the balding, round-eyed Stern was sometimes mistaken in person for Allen Ginsberg and often compared to Walt Whitman because of his lyrical and sensual style, and his gift for wedding the physical world to the greater cosmos.

Stern was shaped by the rough, urban surroundings of his native Pittsburgh, but he also identified strongly with nature and animals, marveling at the "power" of a maple tree, likening himself to a hummingbird or a squirrel, or finding the "secret of life" in a dead animal on the road.

A lifelong agnostic who also fiercely believed in "the idea of the Jew," the poet wrote more than a dozen books and described himself as "part comedic, part idealistic, colored in irony, smeared with mockery and sarcasm." In poems and essays, he wrote with special intensity about the past — his immigrant parents, long-lost friends and lovers, and the striking divisions between rich and poor and Jews and non-Jews in Pittsburgh. He regarded "The One Thing in Life," from the 1977 collection "Lucky Life," as the poem that best defined him.

There is a sweetness buried in my mind
there is water with a small cave behind it
there's a mouth speaking Greek
It is what I keep to myself; what I return to;
the one thing that no one else wanted

He was past 50 before he won any major awards, but was cited often over the second half of his life. Besides his National Book Award, his honors included being a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1991 for "Leaving Another Kingdom" and receiving such lifetime achievement awards as the Ruth Lilly Prize and the Wallace Stevens Award. In 2013, the Library of Congress gave him the Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for "Early Collected Poems" and praised him as "one of America's great poet-proclaimers in the Whitmanic tradition: With moments of humor and whimsy, and an enduring generosity, his work celebrates the mythologizing power of the art."

Meanwhile, he was named New Jersey's first poet laureate, in 2000, and inadvertently helped bring about the position's speedy demise. After serving his two-year term, he recommended Amiri Baraka as his successor. Baraka would set off a fierce outcry with his 2002 poem "Somebody Blew Up America," which alleged that Israel had advance knowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks the year before. Baraka refused to step down, so the state decided to no longer have a laureate.

Stern, born in 1925, remembered no major literary influences as a child, but did speak of the lasting trauma of the death of his older sister, Sylvia, when he was 8. He would describe himself as "a thug who hung out in pool halls and got into fights." But, he told The New York Times in 1999, he was a well-read thug who excelled in college. Stern studied political science at the University of Pittsburgh and received a master's in comparative literature from Columbia University. Ezra Pound and W.B. Yeats were among the first poets he read closely.

Stern lived in Europe and New York during the 1950s and eventually settled in a 19th century home near the Delaware River in Lambertville. His creative development came slowly. Only during free moments in the Army, in which he served for a brief time after World War II, did he conceive the "sweet idea" of writing for a living. He spent much of his 30s working on a poem about the American presidency, "The Pineys," but despaired that it was "indulgent" and "tedious." As he approached age 40, he worried that he had become "an eternally old student" and "eternally young instructor." Through his midlife crisis, he finally found his voice as a poet, discovering that he had been "taking an easier way" than he should have.

"It also had to do with a realization that my protracted youth was over, that I wouldn't live forever, that death was not just a literary event but very real and very personal," he wrote in the essay "Some Secrets,"

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published in 1983. "I was able to let go and finally become myself and lose my shame and pride."

His marriage to Patricia Miller ended in divorce. They had two children, Rachael Stern Martin and David Stern.

Stern mostly avoided topical poems, but he was a longtime political activist whose causes included desegregating a swimming pool in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and organizing an anti-apartheid reading at the University of Iowa. He taught at several schools, but had great skepticism about writing programs and the academic life. At Temple University, he was so enraged by the school's decision in the 1950s to build a 6-foot brick wall separating the campus from the nearby Black neighborhoods of Philadelphia that he made a point of climbing the wall on the way to class.

"The institution subtly and insidiously works on you in such a way that though you seem to have freedom you become a servant," he told the online publication The Rumpus in 2010. "Your main issue is to get promoted to the next thing. Or get invited to a picnic. Or get tenure. Or get laid."

Besides Macari and his children, Stern is survived by grandchildren Dylan and Alana Stern and Rebecca and Julia Martin.

Biden votes early in Delaware for November midterms

By SEUNG MIN KIM The Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — President Joe Biden — accompanied by one of his granddaughters, a first-time voter — cast his midterm ballot on Saturday.

In-person early voting in his home state of Delaware, where Biden regularly returns for weekends, began Friday. Democrats nationwide have encouraged voters to take advantage of early voting, either by mail-in ballots or at precincts where available to maximize turnout.

Biden said he was feeling good about the midterms, which will decide control of Congress for the next two years.

In the final days before the Nov. 8 elections, Biden plans to step up his campaign travels with scheduled trips to Pennsylvania, Florida, New Mexico and Maryland to stump for Democratic congressional and gubernatorial candidates.

"I'm going to be spending the rest of the time making the case that this is not a referendum. It is a choice. A fundamental choice," he said. "A choice between two very different visions for the country."

Biden voted alongside his granddaughter Natalie, who is 18 years old. He also voted in Delaware last month, when he made a quick, one-day trip for the state's Sept. 13 primaries.

Delaware has no competitive congressional races this cycle.

US storm survivors: We need money faster, less red tape

By WAYNE PARRY Associated Press

MIDDLETOWN, N.J. (AP) — Survivors of storms that pounded several U.S. states say the nation's disaster aid system is broken and that they want reforms to get money into victims' hands faster, with less red tape.

On the 10th anniversary of Superstorm Sandy's landfall at the Jersey Shore, devastating communities throughout the northeast, survivors gathered Saturday with others who went through hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria and Ida along with victim advocacy groups from New Jersey, Florida, Texas, Louisiana and Puerto Rico.

Robert Lukasiewicz said Sandy sounded like "a hundred freight trains" as it roared past his Atlantic City, New Jersey, home on Oct. 29, 2012.

Contractor fraud set his recovery efforts back and work by a second contractor stalled because of a lack of funds, Lukasiewicz said. After waiting two years for a government aid program, he said he finally found out he needed to have flood insurance first — the price of which had by then soared to unaffordable levels.

"If all these things had been steps instead of missteps, I could have been home years ago," he said. "You've got different systems that are all butting heads and blaming the other side, when the homeowners and families that all of this was designed for are suffering."

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The survivors and their advocates listed five reforms they say are needed to help future storm victims avoid the type of delays, runarounds and financial desperation they experienced: getting money into people's hands more quickly; ensuring that disaster recovery systems are applied equitably; making flood insurance work for storm victims instead of against them; including future storm resiliency into disaster recovery efforts; and ensuring that disaster recovery is systematic, not piecemeal.

Specific recommendations call for a single point of application for the numerous local, state and federal assistance programs; imposing a smaller cap on annual flood insurance premium rate increases; giving storm victims direct payments and health insurance for a period after the storm; restructuring loan repayment or aid overpayment "clawbacks" to take into account a storm survivor's ability to pay; and paying 100% of mitigation costs upfront for low-income storm victims instead of reimbursing them after they pay for the work.

Joe Mangino, whose Jersey Shore home was damaged by Sandy, co-founded the New Jersey Organizing Project, which brought storm survivors together on Saturday.

"Surviving the actual storm was the easy part," he said. "There was a disaster after the disaster."

For Ute Schaefer of Houston, it was the snakes that flowed into her home with flood waters that trapped her inside for four days, banging on windows for help until a passing boat rescued her — and dumped her on the shoulder of a highway.

"All the shelters were full," she said. "I was on my own."

She eventually sought help from two local nonprofits that were already out of money. She went to the county, which referred her to the city, which referred her back to the same nonprofits.

"I was grasping for anything, but there was nothing there," she said.

Shanna Hebert, a single mother from Houma, Louisiana, is about to lose her house that was left unlivable by Hurricane Ida last year. Her one-year mortgage forbearance agreement is ending, and the company wants \$17,000 by next week or it will foreclose. She said her insurance company declared bankruptcy, forcing her to buy a trailer with her own money.

Millie Santiago fled Canóvanas, Puerto Rico, for Florida after Hurricane Maria in 2017, only to encounter multiple impediments to emergency aid, including housing.

"They were asking two to three times the normal rent, up front," she said. "A disaster should not be an opportunity for corporations and contractors to get rich off the suffering of survivors."

Michael Moriarty, director of the mitigation division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency region that includes New Jersey, said the agency is constantly trying to become more responsive to storm victims.

"That's been the Holy Grail, to get aid to people while their house was flooded," he said. "That's taxpayer money, so we have to be cautious, not just throwing it away, making sure it gets to the right place and is properly used. We're trying to get to a mechanism that allows for quicker relief."

He said the idea for a single application point for storm aid is good, but cautioned that federal privacy laws restrict information sharing with state and local governments without first getting signed releases, which can take weeks.

And a post-Ida aid program designed to be fast-tracked so applicants could learn within two weeks whether they had been approved took eight months to be reviewed by federal budget monitors, Moriarty said.

"It was within the first year but not within the goal of the first month," he said. "I think that will get better and better."

U.S. Rep Andy Kim, who spoke at Saturday's event with fellow Democrat Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., said what the storm survivors are asking for "makes total sense."

"You have not gotten what you deserve over the last 10 years," he said. "What good is a government if it does not stand with people in their time of greatest need? The stories we heard today on this stage should never have happened and should never happen again."

Two explosions rock Somalia's capital, killing at least 30

By OMAR FARUK Associated Press

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MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Two car bombs exploded Saturday at a busy junction in Somalia's capital near key government offices, causing "scores of civilian casualties" including children, national police said. One hospital worker counted at least 30 bodies amid fears of possibly many more.

The attack in Mogadishu occurred on a day when the president, prime minister and other senior officials were meeting to discuss expanded efforts to combat violent extremism, especially by the al-Qaida-affiliated al-Shabab group that often targets the capital. It also came five years after another massive blast in the exact same location killed over 500 people.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Al-Shabab rarely claims attacks with large numbers of civilians killed, as in the 2017 blast. But President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud blamed al-Shabab by name, calling the attack "cruel and cowardly."

A volunteer at the Medina hospital, Hassan Osman, said "out of the total of at least 30 dead people brought to the hospital, the majority of them are women. I have seen this with my own eyes." At the hospital and elsewhere, frantic relatives peeked under plastic sheeting and into body bags, looking for loved ones.

The Aamin ambulance service said they had collected at least 35 wounded. One ambulance responding to the first attack was destroyed by the second blast, director Abdulkadir Adan added in a tweet.

"I was 100 meters away when the second blast occurred," witness Abdirazak Hassan said. "I couldn't count the bodies on the ground due to the (number of) fatalities." He said the first blast hit the perimeter wall of the education ministry, where street vendors and money changers were located.

An Associated Press journalist at the scene said the second blast occurred in front of a busy restaurant during lunchtime. The blasts demolished tuk-tuks and other vehicles in an area of many restaurants and hotels. He saw "many" bodies and said they appeared to be civilians traveling on public transport.

The Somali Journalists Syndicate, citing colleagues and police, said one journalist was killed and two others wounded by the second blast while rushing to the scene of the first.

The attack occurred at Zobe junction, which was the scene of a huge al-Shabab truck bombing in 2017 that killed more than 500 people.

Somalia's government has been engaged in a high-profile new offensive against the extremist group that the United States has described as one of al-Qaida's deadliest organizations. The president has described it as "total war" against the extremists, who control large parts of central and southern Somalia and have been the target of scores of U.S. airstrikes in recent years.

The extremists have responded by killing prominent clan leaders in an apparent effort to dissuade support for that government offensive.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre said the attack would not dampen the public uprising against al-Shabab, and he and the president expressed the government's determination to wipe out the extremist group.

EXPLAINER: How and why do crowd surges turn deadly?

By The Associated Press undefined

It happened at a music festival in Houston, a soccer stadium in England, during a hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, in a Chicago nightclub, and countless other gatherings: Large crowds surge toward exits, onto playing fields or press up against a stage with such force that people are literally squeezed to death.

And it has happened again, during Halloween festivities in the South Korean capital Seoul, where a crowd pushed forward, the narrow street they were on acting as a vice, leaving more than 140 people dead and 150 more injured.

The risk of such tragic accidents, which receded when venues closed and people stayed home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has returned.

To be sure, most events where large crowds gather happen without injury or death, with fans coming and going without incident. But those that went horribly wrong shared some common traits. Here is a look at why that happens:

HOW DO PEOPLE DIE AT THESE EVENTS?

While movies that show crowds desperately try to flee suggest getting trampled might be the cause of

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most of the deaths, the reality is most people who die in a crowd surge are suffocated.

What can't be seen are forces so strong that they can bend steel. That means something as simple as drawing breath becomes impossible. People die standing up and those who fall die because the bodies on top of them exert such pressure that breathing becomes impossible.

"As people struggle to get up, arms and legs get twisted together. Blood supply starts to be reduced to the brain," G. Keith Still, a visiting professor of crowd science at the University of Suffolk in England, told NPR after the Astroworld crowd surge in Houston last November. "It takes 30 seconds before you lose consciousness, and around about six minutes, you're into compressive or restrictive asphyxia. That's a generally the attributed cause of death — not crushing, but suffocation."

WHAT IS THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING SWEEPED INTO A CRUSH OF PEOPLE LIKE?

Survivors tell stories of gasping for breath, being pushed deeper under what feels like an avalanche of flesh as others, desperate to escape, climb over them. Of being pinned against doors that won't open and fences that won't give.

"Survivors described being gradually compressed, unable to move, their heads 'locked between arms and shoulders ... faces gasping in panic,'" according to a report after a human crush in 1989 at the Hillsborough soccer stadium in Sheffield, England, led to the death of nearly 100 Liverpool fans. "They were aware that people were dying and they were helpless to save themselves."

WHAT TRIGGERS SUCH EVENTS?

At a Chicago nightclub in 2003, a crowd surge began after security guards used pepper spray to break up a fight. Twenty-one people died in the resulting crowd surge. And this month in Indonesia, 131 people were killed when tear gas was fired into a half-locked stadium, triggering a crush at the exits.

In Nepal in 1988, it was a sudden downpour that sent soccer fans rushing toward locked stadium exits, leading to the deaths of 93 fans. In the latest incident in South Korea, some news outlets reported that the crush occurred after a large number of people rushed to a bar after hearing that an unidentified celebrity was there.

But Still, the British professor who has testified as an expert witness in court cases involving crowds, pointed to a variation of the age-old example of someone shouting "Fire" in a crowded movie theater. He told the AP last year that what lights the fuse of such a rush for safety in the U.S., more than in any other country, is the sound of someone shouting: "He has a gun!"

WHAT ROLE DID THE PANDEMIC PLAY?

Stadiums are filling up again. During the pandemic, as games went forward, teams took some creative steps to make things look somewhat normal. Cardboard figures of fans were placed in some of the seats and crowd noise was piped in — a sports version of a comedy show laugh track.

Now, though, the crowds are back, and the danger has returned.

"As soon as you add people into the mix, there will always be a risk," Steve Allen of Crowd Safety, a U.K.-based consultancy engaged in major events around the world, told the AP in 2021.

Brazil's Bolsonaro, Lula make final appeals for votes

By MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva made their final appeals for support ahead of Sunday's presidential runoff vote following an acrimonious face-to-face debate.

The right-wing Bolsonaro took part in a motorcycle rally Saturday in Belo Horizonte, capital of a state that generally winds up backing the winner — and where he finished second to his leftist competitor in the initial round of voting.

Da Silva supporters, meanwhile rallied in the country's biggest city, Sao Paulo, where Simone Tebet — a center-right candidate who finished third in the first round — pushed a da Silva victory in the runoff.

"I voted for Tebet on first round and now on second round I'm voting for Lula, against Bolsonaro. I have reservations about (da Silva's) Worker's Party, but this weekend I'm putting that aside" said Marcelo Erlich, a 55-year-old executive.

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The appearances followed a combative Friday night debate on Globo TV that centered on the economy — an issue that could sway some of the few voters still undecided.

Da Silva, who leads in opinion polls and is trying to reclaim the job he held from 2003 to 2010, once more pledged to boost spending on the poor, though he did not outline a clear plan on how to do that.

He also said that due to inflation, the minimum wage is now worth less than when Bolsonaro was inaugurated.

Bolsonaro quickly promised to lift the minimum wage from \$229 a month to \$265 next year, though that wasn't included in the budget proposal he has already sent to Congress. He said the economic downturn during the COVID-19 pandemic had prevented a minimum wage boost, but said the economy was improving.

"We did better than you would have done," the president said to da Silva. "We are ready to take off. We have one of the world's best economies now."

Mario Sérgio Lima, a senior Brazil analyst for Medley Global Advisors, said the final debate probably would not sway many voters.

"Bolsonaro needed to score a big win. ... He didn't do very well among focus groups of undecided voters nor in online mentions," Lima said, referring to surveys published online in real-time by pollsters. "Now, it is up to the edited videos that both campaigns will create to energize their supporters."

Bolsonaro, who at one point said, "The whole system is against me," appeared rattled at times.

This debate marked a change from their only previous encounter, when da Silva focused on the president's widely criticized handling of the pandemic that killed more than 680,000 Brazilians and Bolsonaro homed in on corruption investigations that tarnished his opponent and the Workers' Party as a whole. The two candidates raised these issues again Friday, but dwelled less on them.

Da Silva repeatedly sought to characterize Bolsonaro's administration as isolated in the world, noting his scarcity of trips and allies abroad. Bolsonaro retorted that his trip to Russia secured a supply of fertilizer ahead of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, helping Brazilian agribusiness, and he said the Middle East receives him "with open arms."

Bolsonaro closed by thanking God for saving his life after he was stabbed during the 2018 presidential campaign, and invoked his faith in an appeal to religious voters. Earlier in the debate, he threw his hands in the air and raised his arms, calling out his motto: "God! Country! Family!"

The tensest moment of the debate was when Bolsonaro called da Silva to stand next to him as he answered a question. "Stay here, Luiz," the president said.

The former president shot back, "I don't want to be anywhere near you," then turned his back.

In a post-debate interview with TV Globo, Bolsonaro indicated that he will respect results of the vote. Many analysts have expressed concern he has laid the groundwork to challenge results if they are unfavorable, much like former U.S. President Donald Trump.

"There's no doubt: Whoever has more votes takes it," Bolsonaro said. "That is what a democracy is."

Witnesses allege Eritrean abuses during Ethiopia peace talks

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Even as Ethiopia's warring sides attend their first formal peace talks in a devastating two-year conflict, witnesses in the country's embattled Tigray region tell The Associated Press that forces from neighboring Eritrea are killing some civilians and looting as they and allied Ethiopian forces head for the regional capital.

With internet and telephone access to the region cut off, and independent journalists barred from Tigray, observers say it is increasingly hard to reach people for accounts of the fighting that erupted again in August after a monthslong lull.

The United States now estimates hundreds of thousands of people could have been killed in the war marked by abuses on all sides as fears grow the conflict has reached its deadliest phase.

The AP spoke with witnesses from the towns of Shire, Axum and Adwa, where Ethiopian and allied forces are present as they battle Tigray forces. All spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation. It is

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not clear how many civilians have been killed in recent weeks.

An aid worker from Axum who relocated to Shire this week fearing for his life said civilians were being killed by Eritrean forces there since at least Sunday.

"I witnessed four dead bodies in a village some 4 kilometers away from Axum" while fleeing Tuesday, he said, and described the bodies as being in civilian clothing. "People are living under nights of terror."

The Eritreans also were burning crops, he said — an echo of their first occupation in the early weeks of the war.

In Shire, a staffer with an international humanitarian organization said Eritrean forces were looting vehicles and household items, in some cases loading stolen goods onto camels they brought with them. The Eritreans also entered a camp for displaced people, he said, and earlier controlled the local airport. It was not clear whether they still did.

Ethiopian forces occasionally tried to stop Eritrean forces, the two witnesses said. "But they simply watch them most of the time," the man from Axum said. "Sometimes they try to stop them, but it is beyond their capacity."

An Ethiopian government spokesman, Legesse Tulu, did not respond to questions about the allegation and whether Ethiopian forces have any control over Eritrean ones.

In addition, two humanitarian workers based in Shire said Ethiopian forces searched U.N. offices in the town. A U.N. humanitarian spokeswoman didn't reply to questions.

The African Union-led peace talks between the Ethiopian government and Tigray regional authorities are being held in South Africa, whose government has said the discussions will end Sunday. But Eritrea isn't part of talks, and it's not clear whether the deeply repressive country bordering the Tigray region will heed any agreement.

Tigray authorities want the Eritreans out of the region, in addition to the restoration of basic services such as electricity, banking and unrestricted access to humanitarian aid. The United Nations says aid delivery to Tigray ended Aug. 23, a day before fighting resumed, because of "lack of federal clearances," and it warns of widespread malnutrition and a lack of medicines.

A leader of the Tigray forces, Tadesse Werede, said Thursday the Ethiopian government should ensure that Eritrean forces leave Tigray for any peace effort to be sustainable.

In the earliest weeks of the war, witnesses told the AP of widespread looting and violence including killings and rapes by forces from Eritrea, whose government under the only president the country has ever had, Isaias Afwerki, has long been hostile to Tigray leaders. For months, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed denied the Eritreans' presence in Tigray.

Since fighting resumed, the Eritreans have returned. People inside Eritrea have described new military mobilization, and satellite imagery has shown a military buildup near the border with the Tigray region.

Now, as the war with abuses documented on all sides marks two years next week, international expressions of alarm over atrocities in Tigray have soared. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum warned this week of a "heightened risk of genocide," noting "the situation has deteriorated exponentially as Ethiopian security forces, supported by Eritrean forces and Amhara special forces, have seized key towns and cities."

Ethiopia's government on Friday issued an angry statement alleging "extreme slander" and said it may be "forced to weigh its options and consider its relations with some states and entities."

And Eritrea's government in an open letter to the museum accused it of recycling defamatory accusations but acknowledged a "huge loss of life and destruction of property" in the conflict.

The letter did not address the presence of Eritrean forces in Tigray.

But witnesses confirmed it in towns including Adwa, where a humanitarian source said Eritrean and Ethiopian soldiers engaged in heavy fighting this week with tanks and long-range weapons on its outskirts. Terrified civilians are fleeing for safety, they said.

Long trapped in Tigray, tens of thousands of civilians are again on the move, some on foot as the U.N. says little fuel has been allowed into the region.

Shire was like a dead city, the humanitarian staffer there said. One of the humanitarian workers who fled

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to the regional capital, Mekele, told the AP the sometimes deadly bombardment of Shire had intensified in recent weeks. Now Ethiopian and Eritrean forces control the town, the worker said, their identities made clear by their uniforms and vehicles.

On Friday, a health worker in Mekele said fighting had not reached the regional capital. Tigray forces spokesman Getachew Reda, one of the representatives at the peace talks, asserted in a tweet that fighting was 160 kilometers (100 miles) away.

The war continues to be deadly for all involved. On Friday, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society said one of its ambulance drivers was killed by "armed forces" and injured passengers were shot and killed. The driver had been transporting the injured from Adwa to the neighboring Amhara region.

Oz-Mastriano: An awkward pair atop Pennsylvania's GOP ticket

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

MALVERN, Pa. (AP) — On a chilly Saturday morning in mid-October, state and national Republican Party leaders made their way to a hotel patio restaurant in the critically important Philadelphia suburbs to energize loyalists heading into next month's election that features an awkwardly fitting pair at the top of the Pennsylvania ticket.

After citing what they said were the failings of Democrats, the party officials introduced the keynote speaker: Dr. Mehmet Oz, the Senate nominee against Democrat John Fetterman in a race that could decide control of the chamber and the fate of President Joe Biden's agenda.

"I am excited to retire the name doctor and let's make sure he's a senator," Ronna McDaniel, the Republican National Committee chairwoman, told the crowd.

Nowhere in sight — and not even mentioned — was Doug Mastriano, the GOP nominee for governor against Democrat Josh Shapiro.

Oz, the heart surgeon-turned-TV celebrity, and Mastriano have national political winds at their back. But they are running dramatically different campaigns and targeting two very different types of voters — in ways that may hinder, rather than help, the other.

That dynamic is complicating a Republican path to victory in Pennsylvania on Nov. 8, strategists say, and forcing the GOP into an uneasy balancing act in which the two men only rarely appear together.

Party strategists said it makes sense to avoid Mastriano because he is trailing Shapiro in polls and running a far-right campaign that is driving off the moderate voters that Oz will need to beat Fetterman, the lieutenant governor.

Ryan Costello, a former Republican congressman who once represented this stretch of Chester County, said if he were running for office and were invited to a party event, "I would ask if Mastriano was coming and if they said 'Yes,' I would do something else. He's horrible."

Mastriano will lose Republican votes in Philadelphia's moderate and heavily populated suburbs, just as Donald Trump did in his 2020 presidential election loss to Biden, Costello said.

GOP officials didn't respond to questions about Mastriano.

The dynamic isn't lost on Fetterman, who is continually tying Oz to Mastriano. In their Tuesday night debate, Fetterman interrupted Oz's answer to a question on abortion to assert that "you roll with Doug Mastriano!"

The next day, Mastriano mentioned that line in a stump speech in Lancaster County, and chuckled about it — "I like that: Let's roll together." But he didn't mention Oz, only Fetterman.

Like Mastriano, Oz has been endorsed by Trump. But unlike Mastriano, Oz hasn't been warmly embraced by Trump's most loyal voters — the ones that form Mastriano's far-right base.

Mastriano has gone hard after the Trump bloc, sprinkling conspiracy theories about transgender youth into more mainstream GOP talking points on crime and inflation while refusing to answer questions from mainstream, independent news organizations. But that messaging, plus his blanket opposition to abortion, his peddling of Trump's election lies and his presence outside the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6 insurrection, has alienated moderates and GOP donors.

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"It's like he's still running a primary campaign," said Republican campaign strategist Bob Salera. "He's not going anywhere. He's not talking to any groups of people who already aren't going to vote for him in the general election. He's not inviting media into his events. He's not getting a message out beyond his base."

Oz, meanwhile, emphasizes national GOP talking points on crime and inflation, aiming to persuade swing voters and even Democrats. He has campaigned with mainstream GOP figures, including Nikki Haley, Trump's U.N. ambassador, retiring two-term Republican Sen. Pat Toomey, whom Oz hopes to succeed.

Mastriano has campaigned with far-right figures, including propagandists, QAnon conspiracy theorists, election deniers, self-described prophets and Christian nationalists such as Michael Flynn, who once led the U.S. military's intelligence agency and now is at the center of a far-right Christian nationalist movement.

Toomey hasn't endorsed Mastriano.

Mastriano had been set to speak at Flynn's two-day ReAwaken America conference last weekend in Manheim, but skipped it without explanation. Most recently, he has campaigned with propagandist Jack Posobiec, perhaps best-known for peddling the conspiracy theory "pizzagate," which suggested Hillary Clinton was running a pedophile ring out of a pizzeria.

"That's who he surrounds himself with: white supremacists, extremists," Shapiro, the two-term attorney general, said in an interview. "He's the only candidate in the nation who is actively out recruiting white supremacists on Gab to be part of his campaign. So it shouldn't surprise us. He's the guy who wore the Confederate uniform on the grounds of the Army War College. This is who he is."

Fetterman and Shapiro have no such issues appearing together. They show up at the same major party events and union rallies, such as one 30 miles away in Philadelphia where they threw an arm around each other and mugged for rallygoers' cameras.

Mastriano can still help Oz, strategists say, by getting the party's base to come out and vote for Oz. But Oz will have to attract moderate Republicans in places such as Chester County even if they refuse to support Mastriano, Costello said.

"And if he does, that's where Oz wins," Costello said.

Mike Mikus, a Democratic political strategist, said that kind of balance can work, but that Mastriano lacks the campaign cash to reach base GOP supporters who might not vote in a midterm election.

Those voters are critically necessary to motivate if the GOP is to win, Mikus said.

"There's going to be high turnout," Mikus said. "But there are going to be people who stay home because Oz can't motivate them, and Mastriano would be able to motivate them, but doesn't have the money or infrastructure to turn them out."

Swiss claim record for world's longest passenger train

GENEVA (AP) — A Swiss railway company claimed the record for the world's longest passenger train Saturday with a trip on one of the most spectacular tracks through the Alps.

The Rhaetian Railway company ran the 1.9-kilometer-long (1.2-mile-long) train composed of 100 coaches along the Albula/Bernina route from Preda to Berguen.

The route was designated a UNESCO World Heritage in 2008 and leads through 22 tunnels, some of which spiral through mountains, and across 48 bridges, including the curved Landwasser Viaduct.

The entire journey took over an hour. Rail enthusiasts lined the valley to watch the train's 25 sections wind their way about 25 kilometers (15.5 miles) through the Alps.

Rhaetian Railway director Renato Fasciati said the record attempt was intended to highlight some of Switzerland's engineering achievements and to celebrate 175 years of Swiss railways.

Trick or trash: Candy makers grapple with plastic waste

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

Halloween treats have a tricky problem: plastic packaging that's difficult to recycle.

As America loads up on an estimated 600 million pounds of candy for Halloween, a handful of companies are trying to make it easier to recycle all those wrappers. But they acknowledge their efforts are only

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making a small dent and say more fundamental changes are needed.

Since the beginning of October, Mars — the maker of Snickers and M&Ms — has distributed 17,400 candy waste collection bags to U.S. consumers through its website and at community events. The bags can be filled with wrappers and packaging from any brand and mailed free to a specialty recycler in Illinois. That recycler, G2 Revolution, forms the packages into pellets and uses them to make waste bags for dogs.

The bags fit around 4 ounces of material; if all 17,400 are returned, that would equal more than 2 tons of recycled wrappers. But even then, the recycling program would still address just a fraction of the problem.

“What I’d like to see is this program actually goes away over time and we have a solution where it’s no longer required and we’re fully recyclable,” said Tim LeBel, president of sales for Mars Wrigley U.S.

Mars is partnering with Lexington, Kentucky-based Rubicon Technologies, a consultant and software provider that connects companies and municipalities to recyclers. Since 2019, Rubicon has had its own program called Trick or Trash, which mails one free box to schools, businesses and community groups to collect candy wrappers for recycling. An additional box, or a box for personal use, is \$100; Rubicon says that covers the cost of making the box, shipping it both ways and recycling the wrappers. Rubicon expects to send out 5,000 boxes this year.

Mars and Rubicon won’t say how much they’re spending on their Halloween programs. Rubicon notes that it pays extra to UPS to offset the carbon emissions from shipping.

Plastic wrappers are ideal for candy for lots of reasons. They’re cheap and lightweight, which cuts down on shipping costs, said Muhammad Rabnawaz, an associate professor in the school of packaging at Michigan State University. They’re also easy to modify for different functions; some might have a coating so candy doesn’t stick to them, for example.

But plastic wrappers are a challenge for recycling companies. They often contain a mix of materials, like foil, which must be separated. They’re small and flimsy, making it easy for them to bypass typical sorting equipment. They have to be cleaned to remove grease, oil and other food waste. They’re multi-colored, so when they’re mixed together they come out as an unappealing brown.

Even when companies do go to the effort of recycling candy wrappers, they produce such a low-value plastic that it doesn’t recoup the cost of recycling.

“It’s got to be profitable. These guys aren’t social workers,” said Brandon Wright, a spokesman for the National Waste and Recycling Association, which represents waste management companies.

As a result, a lot of plastic packaging ends up getting thrown away. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, containers and packaging made up 21% of trash going into landfills in 2018.

That’s why it’s critical to have food companies or individual consumers funding recycling efforts, said Tom Szaky, the CEO of TerraCycle.

The New Jersey-based recycling company recycles candy wrappers in the United Kingdom through partnerships with Nestle and Ferrero. In the U.S., the company will ship boxes to consumers to collect candy and snack wrappers and return them for recycling. A small box is \$86; a large one is \$218. TerraCycle said that covers the cost of shipping and the multi-part recycling process.

Szaky said TerraCycle has recycled approximately 40 million candy wrappers worldwide since 2014.

Leah Karrer, a conservationist in Washington D.C., bought a TerraCycle box in 2020 and collected 5 pounds of Halloween candy wrappers from about 20 neighbors. She liked raising awareness about the problem and supporting TerraCycle, but she hasn’t done it again because the box was so expensive.

“This is not a cost-effective solution for most families, when the items can simply be thrown into a trash container to be picked up for free,” she said.

This year, she ordered a free bag from Mars, so that she can send a message that consumers care about plastic waste and want companies to switch to sustainable packaging.

“The onus cannot be on the customer to fix the massive plastic waste problem,” she said. “The solution is system change.”

Candy makers say they’re spending millions to develop new packaging that would be easier to recycle or compost.

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Mondelez's Cadbury introduced more easily recyclable packaging — made of 30% recycled plastic — in some markets this year. Mars recently partnered with Danimer Scientific, a biotech company, to develop compostable packaging. Hershey has set a goal of making all its packaging easily recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2030.

The National Confectioners Association, which represents the candy industry, says federal, state, and local governments also need to invest in more advanced recycling.

But Janet Dornitz, the executive director of the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group, said recycling alone will never keep up with amount of packaging waste people generate. Dornitz said single-use plastic packaging needs to be eliminated altogether.

"The problem isn't the number of candy wrappers on Halloween, but the 365 days a year that our infrastructure is set up to throw away," she said.

Iran's Guard warns protesters as more unrest roils country

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard issued a new warning on Saturday to antigovernment protesters, even as demonstrations continued in cities and university campuses across the country for the sixth straight week.

Also on Saturday, authorities reported that the gunman who killed 15 people at a major Shiite holy site in southern Iran earlier this week died in a hospital from injuries sustained during his arrest. Tehran has not disclosed details about the man who carried out Wednesday's attack on Shah Cheragh in Shiraz, Iran's second-holiest Shiite shrine.

The militant Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the shooting. But Iran's government has tried to blame the attack on the largely peaceful protests roiling the country, without offering evidence. Amaq, the militant group's media arm, released a video on Saturday that purportedly shows the Shiraz attacker pledging allegiance to the group.

The nationwide unrest — sparked by the Sept. 16 death of Mahsa Amini in the custody of the country's morality police — has rocked the Islamic Republic for a month and a half. Amini died after being detained for allegedly violating the country's strict Islamic dress code for women.

At the funeral for victims of the shooting attack in Shiraz, the chief of the Revolutionary Guard, Gen. Hossein Salami, appealed to Iranians to stop protesting. The Guard and other security forces have violently cracked down on demonstrations with live ammunition, anti-riot pellets and tear gas.

"Today is the end of the riots. Do not go to the streets anymore!" Salami said on Saturday as crowds thronged the coffins of the victims of the Shiraz attack. "We are telling our youth, the minority of you who have been deceived, stop the evil acts."

He added in the same harsh tone: "This ominous sedition will bring no happy ending to you. Do not ruin your future!"

Despite the threat, student associations reported protests at dozens of universities across the country on Saturday, from the capital of Tehran to the central cities of Isfahan and Yazd. Videos spread online show students chanting for freedom and the end of Iran's clerical rule.

At the Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences in the northwestern city of Sanandaj, the human rights group Hengaw reported that security forces opened fire on protesters, critically wounding a student.

University campuses have become hotbeds of opposition, fueling the protest movement and prompting a harsh backlash from security forces.

The Iranian government has repeatedly alleged that foreign powers have orchestrated the protests, without providing evidence. The protests have become one of the most serious threats to Iran's ruling clerics since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The protests first focused on the state-mandated hijab, or headscarf, for women but quickly grew into calls for the downfall of Iran's theocracy itself. At least 270 people have been killed and 14,000 have been arrested in the protests that have swept over 125 Iranian cities, according to the group Human Rights Activists in Iran.

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A court in Tehran on Saturday heard the case of several protesters charged with “corruption on earth” — a term often used to describe attempts to overthrow the Iranian government that carries the death penalty. Judicial officials have announced charges against hundreds of people in Tehran and other provinces as they seek to quash dissent.

On Friday, Iranian security forces opened fire on demonstrators in the southeastern flash point city of Zahedan, killing at least two people, according to activists.

Zahedan, in Iran’s long-restive Sistan and Baluchestan province, has seen the deadliest violence in protests so far. Activists estimate that in Zahedan alone, nearly 100 people have been killed since a Sept. 30 rally set off a violent police response.

Pelosi attack shocks country on edge about democracy threats

By CHRIS MEGERIAN, JONATHAN J. COOPER and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An America that can already feel like it’s hurtling toward political disintegration has been jolted yet again, this time by the violent attack on the husband of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi less than two weeks before Election Day.

Seizing a hammer and leaving a trail of broken glass, an intruder broke into the couple’s San Francisco home early Friday and repeatedly struck Paul Pelosi, 82. He had surgery to repair a skull fracture and serious injuries to his right arm and hands, and his doctors expect a full recovery, the speaker’s office said.

The assailant confronted Paul Pelosi by shouting, “Where is Nancy,” according to another person familiar with the situation who was granted anonymity to discuss it. The Democratic congresswoman was in Washington at the time.

The calling out of her name was a sign that the assault could have targeted the lawmaker, who as speaker is second in line to the presidency. The ambush was a particularly savage reminder of the extremism that has coursed through American politics in recent years, adding to a sense of foreboding with the Nov. 8 election nearly at hand.

Armed watchers are staking out ballot drop boxes in Arizona to guard against false conspiracies about voter fraud. Threats against members of Congress have risen to historic levels. Public opinion surveys show fears for a fragile democracy and even of a civil war. Former President Donald Trump continues to deny that he lost the 2020 election to President Joe Biden, and his acolytes are attempting to consolidate their power over future elections.

A new domestic intelligence assessment from the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies said extremists fueled by election falsehoods “pose a heightened threat” to the upcoming midterms.

The assessment, dated Friday, said the greatest danger was “posed by lone offenders who leverage election-related issues to justify violence.”

“It is worse than it’s ever been,” said Cornell Belcher, a Democratic pollster. “This is uncharted waters.” Belcher blamed “the mainstreaming of behavior in politics that was, once upon a time, left or right, abhorrent.”

Police have not identified a motive for the attack on Pelosi’s husband. Judging by social media posts, the suspect appears to have been stewing in a mix of conspiracy theories about elections and the coronavirus pandemic.

“It’s bad regardless of the reasons, but if it’s politically motivated, it’s just another example of political violence and irresponsibility of folks who are opening the door to that type of violence against other elected officials,” Michigan Sen. Gary Peters, chairman of the Senate Democrats’ campaign arm, said in an interview. “It’s a very sad time for our country right now.”

Politicians from both parties expressed outrage about the assault.

“This attack is shocking, and Americans should worry because it is becoming more common,” said Joe O’Dea, a Republican candidate for Senate in Colorado. “Partisanship and polarization are tearing the country apart.”

Some responses, however, reflected a sharp sense of partisanship.

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Gov. Glenn Youngkin, R-Va., worked the incident into his remarks at a campaign stop for a congressional candidate as he called for Democrats to lose power in Congress.

"There's no room for violence anywhere, but we're going to send her back to be with him in California," Youngkin said. "That's what we're going to go do."

From the Civil War and attacks on Black voters during Jim Crow to the assassination of elected leaders like John and Robert Kennedy, the United States has experienced spasms of political violence. No party or ideology has a monopoly on it.

Five years ago, a left-wing activist opened fire on Republicans as they practiced for an annual charity baseball game. Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana was critically wounded. In 2011, then-Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., was shot in the head at an event outside a Tucson grocery store.

Today, violent rhetoric and imagery have become a staple of right wing politics in the United States, and it escalated during Donald Trump's presidency. Democrats viewed the intrusion into Pelosi's home as an extension of the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, when Trump's supporters interrupted the peaceful transition of power to Biden.

On that day, protesters searched for Pelosi and chanted that they wanted to hang then-Vice President Mike Pence, who had defied Trump's demands to overturn the election results.

Less than two years later, only 9% of U.S. adults think democracy is working "extremely" or "very well," according to this month's poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Members of the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack have received a steady stream of threats for their work.

"If we do not stop the big lie, perpetuated by those who seek to win at any cost, our democracy will cease to exist," Rep. Elaine Luria, a Virginia Democrat who was assigned a security detail in recent months because of her work on the committee, said in an interview. "Then nothing else we do will have mattered."

Nowhere has the temperature been hotter than in Arizona, a cauldron for election conspiracy theories. People inspired by unsupported claims that ballot drop boxes perpetuate election fraud have camped outside those boxes, photographing voters and their license plates as they turn in ballots.

Maricopa County Sheriff Paul Penzone said on Monday that he is patrolling around drop boxes and devoting unprecedented manpower to election security after two people armed with pistols and wearing tactical gear were seen keeping watch on a ballot drop box outside Phoenix. The incident sparked fears of voter intimidation and the potential for confrontations that could escalate into violence.

"It goes very quickly from well-intended to poorly executed, and then bad things happen," Penzone said.

Penzone, a Democrat, said there's "a growing toxic problem where individuals feel that it is appropriate to use forms of intimidation and threats to try to influence political outcomes."

Left-leaning groups have filed two lawsuits against groups organizing watch parties, including one with ties to the Oath Keepers militia. A federal judge on Friday declined to order one group to stop its activities.

A 36-year-old man was arrested this past week for allegedly breaking into the campaign headquarters of Katie Hobbs, the Democratic nominee for governor and the current secretary of state. There's no indication the burglary was politically motivated, but it alarmed her staff, which is constantly on guard for threats.

Federal prosecutors have charged three people with threatening to harm Arizona election officials, including Hobbs, since the last election.

Earlier in the week, three men were convicted of supporting a plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer after a trial that raised fears about paramilitary training and anti-government extremism.

And on Friday, a man pleaded guilty to threatening to kill Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Calif. Also, a Kansas man is facing a felony charge of threatening to kill one of the state's congressmen, Republican Jake LaTurner.

Rep. Val Demings, a Florida Democrat who is running for Senate, has campaigned with a large private security detail for much of the year. It is a necessary precaution, she said in an interview, given an uptick in violent threats in the months since she served as a House manager in Trump's first impeachment trial.

"I never thought that I would have my worst moment, feeling like I was really going to die, in the Capitol on Jan. 6," said Demings, a former Orlando police chief. "When I had been in back alleys and bar fights

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and arresting people who killed other people, and never did I have the feeling on the streets like I had that day. And it was all in politics, and I'm like, 'What is going on?'"

Brazil president makes Argentina a campaign boogeyman

By DANIEL POLITI Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — As a Brazilian journalist living in Argentina, Luciana Taddeo says she spends ever-more effort rebutting ever-crazier rumors.

There were claims that Argentina's presidential palace had been invaded, that people had to leave keys in their cars' ignitions so the government could use them at any time, that the government had abolished the right to inherit properties.

"Journalists have been forced to dedicate more and more time to say, 'Look, this isn't real, this isn't happening,'" she said.

Many of those rumors have been fanned by the presidential election in neighboring Brazil, where incumbent President Jair Bolsonaro has turned Argentina — already a bitter soccer rival — into a sort of political boogeyman, a warning of the horrors his nation could face if it elects leftist former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

On Wednesday, Bolsonaro's campaign began its nightly ad slot on national television with a blast at Argentina's left-leaning leaders, who have been friendly with his election rival.

"In Argentina, the leftist candidate that Lula supports also promised barbecue and beer for everybody," said a voice as images showed people complaining of rising poverty and soaring inflation under center-left President Alberto Fernández.

Bolsonaro and his allies had long used another leftist neighbor — crisis-wracked Venezuela — as a cautionary tale, but shifted to Argentina after Fernández defeated center-right President Mauricio Macri — whom Bolsonaro favored — in 2019.

"Venezuela was far away and Brazilians didn't understand it very much; it was a whole other universe," said Paulo Pereira, 38, coordinator of da Silva's campaign in Argentina. "Argentina is the country where many Brazilians go on their first international trip."

While critics focus on Argentina's persistent high inflation and import controls, its per capita income still outstrips Brazil's, by World Bank measures at least, and both have relatively low poverty rates by global standards. Brazil's homicide rate is roughly four times higher than Argentina's.

They're roughly equal in their passion for soccer — and have a deep rivalry over it.

"Among Bolsonaro and his allies, there is almost an obsession related to Argentina," said Andressa Caldas, 46, a Brazilian human rights lawyer who has lived in Argentina for eight years.

The president's lawmaker son, Eduardo Bolsonaro, used a trip to Argentina this month to take a swipe at Argentina's rampant inflation. In a video posted on his social media accounts, he is seen counting out dozens of bills to pay for a meal at a restaurant.

"Paying for lunch in Argentina," he wrote on his Instagram account. "If you don't want this for Brazil, vote Bolsonaro."

The political rivalry is also personal. Bolsonaro in 2019 urged Argentines to vote for Macri rather than Fernández — who had ostentatiously visited da Silva in jail before convictions were thrown out by Brazil's Supreme Court.

"The ties were already poor, but the electoral context has been very bad for the bilateral relationship because it put political differences at the top of the agenda," said Esteban Actis, an international relations professor at the National University of Rosario.

Brazilians living in Argentina largely agree there's certainly plenty to criticize: galloping annual inflation of 83%, a stagnant economy and — just as in Brazil — poverty that affects roughly half of the nation's children.

"The strange thing is that instead of focusing on the real problems that there are already so many of in Argentina, they have to exaggerate even more the situation, which is already serious," Taddeo said.

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Nattascha Dumke, a 30-year-old medical student who has lived in Argentina since 2018, has almost 80,000 followers on Instagram. She's accustomed to Brazilians asking about life in Argentina, but recently the tone of the questions has turned much more negative.

"People who want to live here, study here, and even the parents of students here are writing me," Dumke said. "They ask me about violence, if supermarkets don't have food, if we're going hungry."

Dumke became so exasperated by a viral video that claimed Argentina's supermarkets were filled with empty shelves that she made her own video refuting the claims and showed fully stocked markets.

The woman who helped make the original empty-shelves video, 25-year-old Maria Laura Assis, pushed back against claims she was spreading falsehoods about Argentina to help Bolsonaro's campaign.

"What I tell them is to go to the supermarkets and see for themselves," said Assis, a Brazilian who has lived in Argentina for 15 years. "Today Argentina really does have a limit in the number of units of certain products you can buy and is suffering shortages of certain products due to the closure of imports."

When Dumke published her video showing shelves full of products in several Buenos Aires supermarkets, many accused her of being the one spreading misinformation.

"Even using videos to try to show the reality of the country ... they don't believe it," Dumke said. "They're not alarmed by receiving fake news, they only want to share disinformation for political ends."

Feds unveil plan to grow wind power while sparing rare whale

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — The federal government has outlined a strategy to try to protect an endangered species of whale while also developing offshore wind power off the East Coast.

President Joe Biden's administration has made a priority of encouraging offshore wind along the Atlantic coast as the U.S. pursues greater energy independence. Those waters are also home to the declining North Atlantic right whale, which numbers about 340 in the world.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management released a draft plan this month to conserve the whales while allowing for the building of wind projects. The agencies said the ongoing efforts to save the whales and create more renewable energy can coexist.

"As we face the ongoing challenges of climate change, this strategy provides a strong foundation to help us advance renewable energy while also working to protect and recover North Atlantic right whales, and the ecosystem they depend on," said Janet Coit, assistant administrator for NOAA Fisheries.

The development of offshore wind is going on along the migratory routes of the whales, which travel from Georgia and Florida to New England and Canada every year. That potentially leaves the whales vulnerable to disturbance or injury. The agencies said they plan to provide offshore wind developers with guidance about mitigation measures to help navigate the regulatory process as part of the whale strategy.

The strategy focuses on "improving the science and integrating past, present and future efforts related to North Atlantic right whales and offshore wind development," said Jon Hare, the director of NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center and a lead author on the document. It also identifies mitigation measures related to project planning, leasing and siting, he said.

The right whales have been declining in recent years and face threats such as collisions with ships and entanglement in fishing gear. Environmentalist groups, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, have called for more protections for the whales.

The protection strategy is promising, but it needs funding for implementation and requirements for measures that minimize harm to the whales, said Alison Chase, a senior policy analyst with the council. Those include speed and noise reductions, Chase said.

"We need offshore wind, and we need to do it right," Chase said. "But as we fight climate change, we must avoid, minimize, and mitigate threats to ocean life in whatever ways we can."

The government will take public comment on the draft strategy until Dec. 4.

Looming elections in US, Brazil pose test for Musk's Twitter

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By DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

Pivotal elections in Brazil and the United States will present an early test to Twitter's new owner Elon Musk and his promise to ease up on the platform's policies on misinformation.

Voters in both nations have already faced a torrent of misleading claims about candidates, issues and voting. That torrent could become a deluge if Musk makes good on his vows to roll back Twitter's rules just as millions of voters prepare to cast a ballot.

"This is the most critical time for this work, right before an election," said Alejandra Caraballo, an instructor at Harvard Law School's Cyberlaw Clinic who has been monitoring the online response to Musk's purchase. "We're going to see a test run with the election in Brazil this Sunday, when we'll see how bad things get."

Even if Musk waits until after the elections to make changes, his decision to fire the executive in charge of content moderation raises questions about the company's ability to combat misinformation and extremist content linked to deepening distrust in democracy.

Musk, the world's richest man, hasn't detailed his plans for Twitter, which he purchased this week for \$44 billion. But he has called himself a "free speech absolutist" and has said the platform should tolerate any content that is legally permissible.

That's a threshold that varies widely among countries. In the U.S., it would cover misleading content about vaccines or elections as well as Holocaust denialism and hate speech.

He's also said he disagreed with Twitter's decision to banish Donald Trump after the ex-president's lies about the 2020 election helped spur the deadly Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Yet Musk has also signaled that he'd consider some level of moderation, as he did this week when he said he didn't want Twitter to become a "free-for-all hellscape."

On Friday, Musk announced the creation of a committee to review Twitter's policies on content moderation and the reinstatement of suspended accounts. "No major content decisions or account reinstatements will happen before that council convenes," Musk tweeted.

One of Musk's first moves as Twitter's owner was to fire top leaders at the platform, including chief legal counsel Vijaya Gadde, who had overseen Twitter's content moderation and safety efforts.

Gadde's departure is not only a blow to Twitter's current election efforts, but a sign of where Musk may take Twitter, Caraballo said. Musk is also reportedly considering deep layoffs at the company.

Twitter began preparing for the elections in Brazil and the United States months ago. Over the summer, the platform rolled out a series of policies designed to stop the spread of election-related misinformation while also making it easier for users to find trustworthy sources.

Despite sometimes inconsistent enforcement, Twitter at least had rules in place prohibiting hate speech and the most harmful kinds of misinformation. Those "guardrails" have been shown to be necessary, according to Suzanne Nossel, CEO of PEN America, a New York-based literary and human rights group.

"Our politicians have learned that trafficking in disinformation can pay off big time," Nossel told the AP. "Hopefully he (Musk) takes this seriously. Hopefully he's listening and asking questions. If he makes good on some of his more outlandish promises we could be in trouble."

Misinformation can have an even greater impact when delivered right before an election, when officials and independent journalists have little time to push back. Sometimes misleading claims about voting can be part of an intentional campaign to confuse or frighten people into staying home. Other times, it can mislead voters about results.

Brazilians have been bombarded by false political claims ahead of this weekend's presidential election between Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and incumbent Jair Bolsonaro. Similarly, there's been a significant increase in misleading and deceptive content about the election in the U.S. next month, which will decide control of Congress.

Long-time critics of social media moderation cheered Musk's purchase of Twitter and said it heralded a new day for unfettered online communication.

"He has stated he intends to do away with content moderation ... that more speech, not censorship, is the best way to arrive at the truth," said Jenin Younes, litigation counsel at the New Civil Liberties Alliance.

Eager to test the rules under Twitter's new owner, some conservative and far-right Twitter users on Friday

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posted conspiracy theories about COVID-19 or the 2020 election. In many cases, however, the content was already permitted even under Twitter's old rules.

"I can finally speak the truth on Twitter. Joe Biden did not win the 2020 Election," comedian and far-right commentator Terrence K. Williams tweeted. Yet on Jan. 6, 2021, Williams posted that the election was rigged and blamed liberals for staging the Jan. 6 insurrection. That post remains up.

Musk will have to weigh many factors before deciding how to moderate content on his new platform, said A.J. Nash, vice president for intelligence at ZeroFox, a cybersecurity firm that tracks misinformation. Advertisers, for example, could become reluctant to place ads on the platform if it becomes too extreme, he said.

Musk may also learn that running a platform with 240 million daily users in dozens of nations is harder than criticizing it from the sidelines, Nash said.

"It's easy to do that from the stands," Nash said. "Let's see what happens now."

Affirmative action under threat as high court hears UNC case

By MARK SHERMAN and HANNAH SCHOENBAUM Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Once a bastion of segregation, the University of North Carolina now takes account of race to make up for its sordid history and to increase the number of Black students and other underrepresented minorities on campus.

Its affirmative action program, using race among many factors to build a diverse student body, is similar to plans in place at other selective public and private institutions.

But a Supreme Court that has twice blessed race-conscious college admissions programs in the past 19 years now seems poised to restrict their use or outlaw them altogether.

The case, following the overturning of the nearly 50-year precedent of *Roe v. Wade* in June, offers another test of whether the court now dominated by conservatives will move the nation's policies to the right on another of its most contentious cultural issues.

The court is hearing two cases Monday, involving UNC and Harvard, the nation's oldest public and private universities, respectively.

The challengers to the universities' programs have lost at every step as lower courts have rejected their claims that the schools discriminate against white and Asian American applicants.

But Students for Fair Representation, the creation of conservative activist Ed Blum, has always pointed toward the nation's highest court, more conservative now than former President Donald Trump's three nominees are among the nine justices, as the best forum to roll back more than 40 years of court rulings that allow race to be one factor among many in admissions.

North Carolina's flagship university in Chapel Hill is a curious place to make that case.

The first Black students didn't arrive until 1951, and then only under court order. Into the 1980s, students reported they were subjected to racial slurs and astonishing displays of insensitivity, including being asked to do laundry by a white classmate, according to an account by historian David Cecelski that is included in court documents.

Even now, U.S. District Judge Loretta Biggs noted in her 2021 decision upholding the university's program, underrepresented minorities win admission to UNC at lower rates than do white and Asian American applicants and "minority students at the University still report being confronted with racial epithets, as well as feeling isolated, ostracized, stereotyped and viewed as tokens in a number of University spaces."

Defending its program, North Carolina wrote in its main brief to the Supreme Court that the school "continues to have much work to do."

On a recent, brilliant fall day in Chapel Hill, students talked about what they see as the benefits and drawbacks of affirmative action in college admissions.

Christina Huang, an 18-year-old freshman from West Milford, New Jersey, who is co-director of UNC for Affirmative Action, said diversity on campus enriches the learning environment for all students, even outside the classroom.

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"I think there's a negative connotation of affirmative action and this idea that it's a quota and it's hurting Asian Americans," said Huang, a first-generation college student who is studying political science. "But culture plays such a big role, especially on UNC's campus, because you walk around and there's culture everywhere. There's people dressed up in traditional clothes, fashion shows, people dancing to their different types of music, even the foods we eat — it's so meaningful. You'd lose so much if we were not to make sure we have that diversity."

Students now picnic under the billowing trees in McCorkle Place where the Confederate statue Silent Sam stood for more than 100 years until protesters toppled it in 2018.

Joy Jiang, a 19-year-old sophomore from Harrisburg, North Carolina, and co-director of the affirmative action group, said recent racial tensions on campus that she described as a backlash after the statue came down, have scared away some students of color from vocalizing their support for affirmative action.

Jacob James, 20, of Robersonville, North Carolina, recognized the value of diversity. "Diversity on college campuses is good, but it shouldn't come at the expense of fairness," said James, the chairman of UNC College Republicans. Affirmative action, he said, "unfairly disadvantages some individuals over other individuals based on race."

James' comment meshes with the main point made by Blum's group, that the Constitution forbids any consideration of race. Students for Fair Admission said it draws support from the seminal case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the 1954 decision that paved the way for the desegregation of the nation's public schools.

The group told the justices that *Brown* rejected many of the arguments UNC is making. "It argues that racial classifications make everyone better off. It warns that universities cannot discard race quite yet. And it contends that the legality of its practices should be decided by North Carolinians, not this Court. The segregationists agreed," according to the group's final Supreme Court brief.

Students for Fair Representation also makes repeated use of the *June* decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade's* constitutional protection for abortion to bolster its arguments that the court should jettison its affirmative action precedents.

The abortion decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* strongly suggests the court would be willing to impose an "all-out ban" on considering race in college admissions, said Paulette Granberry Russell, president of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education.

"The implications extend well beyond UNC and Harvard. It may very well result in a different outcome than what we have seen in the *Bakke* case, the *Grutter* case in 2003, the *Fisher* cases," Granberry Russell said, citing the court's earlier college admissions cases.

Blum, who has worked for years to rid college admissions of racial considerations, also was behind the ultimately losing lawsuit on behalf of Abigail Fisher, a white woman who claimed discrimination explained her rejection by the University of Texas.

That case was decided only six years ago, but the makeup of the court has changed significantly since then, with the addition of the three Trump appointees and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the court's first Black woman.

Jackson is sitting out the Harvard case because she was on an advisory board until recently. But she is taking part in the North Carolina case, which strongly suggests the court would use that case if it ends up making a major pronouncement on affirmative action.

Every U.S. college and university the justices attended, save one, is urging the court to preserve race-conscious admissions.

Four justices attended law school at Harvard, and two were undergraduates there. Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Notre Dame and Holy Cross also have joined briefs in defense of Harvard's and UNC's admissions plans.

Only Justice Amy Coney Barrett's undergraduate alma mater, Rhodes College, in Memphis, Tennessee, is not involved in the cases.

Nine states already prohibit any consideration of race in admissions to public colleges and universities:

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Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma and Washington.

In California, the same electorate that gave President Joe Biden a 5-million-vote margin over Trump in 2020 handily rejected a proposal to revive affirmative action.

Public opinion on the topic varies depending on how the question is asked. A Gallup Poll from 2021 found 62% of Americans in favor of affirmative action programs for racial minorities. But in a Pew Research Center survey in March, 74% of Americans, including majorities of Black and Latino respondents, said race and ethnicity should not factor into college admissions.

A decision in the affirmative action cases is not expected before late spring.

EXPLAINER: Drag queens and how they got pulled into politics

By JEFF McMILLAN Associated Press

Lately, drag has been dragged through the mud.

The art form has been cast in a false light in recent months by right-wing activists and politicians who complain about the "sexualization" or "grooming" of children. Opponents often coordinate protests at drag events that feature or cater to children, sometimes showing up with guns. Some politicians have proposed banning children from drag events and even criminally charging parents who take their kids to one.

Performers and organizers of events, such as story hours in which colorfully clad drag queens read books to children, say the protesters are the ones terrorizing and harming children and making them political pawns — just as they've done in other campaigns around bathroom access and educational materials.

The recent headlines about disruptions of drag events and their portrayal as sexual and harmful to children can obscure the art form and its rich history.

WHAT IS DRAG?

Drag is the art of dressing and acting exaggeratedly as another gender, usually for entertainment such as comedy, singing, dancing, lip-syncing or all of the above.

Drag may trace its roots to the age of William Shakespeare, when female roles were performed by men. The origin of the term is debated, but one possibility is that it was coined after someone noticed the dresses or petticoats that male actors wore onstage would drag along the floor. Another casts it as an acronym — an unproven notion that notes in scripts would use "DRAG" to indicate the actor should "dress as a girl."

Drag performances could later be seen on the vaudeville circuit and during the Harlem Renaissance. They became a mainstay at gay bars throughout the 20th century, and remain so.

RuPaul took things a step further with his reality-competition show "RuPaul's Drag Race," which became an award-winning hit and allowed drag to explode in popularity — and into the mainstream.

IS DRAG SEXUAL?

Many drag opponents cite nudity in their objections. Every performer makes different choices, but drag queens often wear more, not less, clothing than you'd see on a typical American woman of the 21st century, at a public beach or on network TV.

Their costumes tend toward extravagant, sometimes floor-length gowns. Drag queens may use false breasts, wear sheer costumes, and use makeup or other means to show cleavage and appear exaggeratedly feminine.

The difference, performers note, is that opponents of drag see sexual deviance in the cross-dressing aspect.

Drag does not typically involve nudity or stripping, which are more common in burlesque, a separate form of entertainment. Explicitly sexual and profane language is common in performances meant for adult audiences. Such routines can consist of stand-up comedy that may be raunchy — or may pale in comparison with some mainstream comedians.

SHOULD CHILDREN SEE OR DRESS IN DRAG?

It's up to parents and guardians to decide that, just as they decide whether their children should be exposed to or participate in certain music, television, movies, beauty pageants, concerts or other forms

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of entertainment, parenting experts say.

Performances in nightclubs and brunches meant for adults may not be suitable for children, while other events, such as drag story hours, are tailored for children and therefore contain milder language and dress.

Drag performers and the venues that book them generally either don't allow children if a performance has risqué content, or else require children to be accompanied by a parent or guardian — basically, how R-rated movies are handled by theaters.

Drag story hours, in which performers read to children in libraries, bookstores or other venues, have become popular in recent years. The events use a captivating character to get their child's attention — any parent whose kid can't take their eyes off Elsa from "Frozen" gets the idea. The difference here is that the goal is to get kids interested in reading.

Some children have performed drag at age-appropriate events. One 11-year-old who dons a princess dress and tiara was scheduled recently to perform at a story and singing event at an Oregon pub — but was downgraded to "guest of honor" after protests outside broke out into fighting.

"Part of keeping our children safe is allowing them to be children, to be playful, to take risks, and to be silly, without it necessarily meaning anything deeper or more permanent," says Amber Trueblood, a family therapist. "Many parents are OK with children dressing as assassins, evil villains or grim reapers, yet they seldom take the costume choice to mean anything more than playful and fun."

THREATS AND 'GROOMING'

Opponents of drag story hours and other drag events for audiences of children often claim they "groom" children, implying attempts to sexually abuse them or somehow influence their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The term "grooming" in a sexual sense describes how child molesters entrap and abuse their victims. Its use by opponents of drag, as well as by protesters in other realms of LGBTQ opposition, seeks to falsely equate it with pedophilia and other forms of child abuse.

Perpetrators of the false rhetoric can then cast themselves as saviors of children and try to frame anyone who disagrees — a political opponent, for example — as taking the side of child abusers.

The objections are often religious in nature, with some opponents citing the devil at work. Threats to drag events, and story hours in particular, have increased along with the rhetoric. In addition to the protest in Oregon that failed to suppress one such event, organizers of a recent one in Florida did cancel theirs after what they said were threats from hate groups.

The threats are likely an attempt to scare parents into not taking their children to such events, leading them to fizzle out and push drag back into the closet, observers say. Some organizers, parents and performers have dug in their heels, insisting they won't cave.

In another tactic to discourage attendance, drag opponents have been known to attend performances, take and post a video that lacks context, and then troll or "dox" the performer or venue.

One such video clip showed a profane drag act in front of a young child and framed it as abuse — though the child was with adults and the venue had advised attendees about coarse content, suggested parental discretion and required any children to be accompanied by parents.

Other undermining efforts include a false claim that a performer flashed children at a Minnesota library and another false claim that the head of the Drag Queen Story Hour organization was arrested for child pornography.

Despite some opponents' claims, drag cannot "turn" a child gay or transgender, although its playful use of gender may be reassuring to kids who are already questioning their identity. That way, therapist Joe Kort wrote in a blog post in Psychology Today, gender-nonconforming kids can have "other templates as they begin to sort out their feelings about who they authentically are."

Today in History: October 30, honor for Rosa Parks

By The Associated Press undefined
Today in History

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Today is Sunday, Oct. 30, the 303rd day of 2022. There are 62 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 30, 2005, the body of Rosa Parks arrived at the U.S. Capitol, where the civil rights icon became the first woman to lie in honor in the Rotunda; President George W. Bush and congressional leaders paused to lay wreaths by her casket.

On this date:

In 1885, poet Ezra Pound was born in Hailey, Idaho.

In 1912, Vice President James S. Sherman, running for a second term of office with President William Howard Taft, died six days before Election Day. (Sherman was replaced with Nicholas Murray Butler, but Taft, the Republican candidate, ended up losing in an Electoral College landslide to Democrat Woodrow Wilson.)

In 1938, the radio play "The War of the Worlds," starring Orson Welles, aired on CBS.

In 1945, the U.S. government announced the end of shoe rationing, effective at midnight.

In 1961, the Soviet Union tested a hydrogen bomb, the "Tsar Bomba," with a force estimated at about 50 megatons. The Soviet Party Congress unanimously approved a resolution ordering the removal of Josef Stalin's body from Lenin's tomb.

In 1972, 45 people were killed when an Illinois Central Gulf commuter train was struck from behind by another train on Chicago's South Side.

In 1974, Muhammad Ali knocked out George Foreman in the eighth round of a 15-round bout in Kinshasa, Zaire (zah-EER'), known as the "Rumble in the Jungle," to regain his world heavyweight title.

In 1975, the New York Daily News ran the headline "Ford to City: Drop Dead" a day after President Gerald R. Ford said he would veto any proposed federal bailout of New York City.

In 1995, by a razor-thin vote of 50.6 percent to 49.4 percent, Federalists prevailed over separatists in a Quebec secession referendum.

In 2000, comedian, television host, author and composer Steve Allen died in Encino, California, at age 78.

In 2001, Ukraine destroyed its last nuclear missile silo, fulfilling a pledge to give up the vast nuclear arsenal it had inherited after the breakup of the former Soviet Union.

In 2013, the Boston Red Sox romped to their third World Series championship in 10 seasons, thumping the St. Louis Cardinals 6-1 in Game 6 at Fenway.

Ten years ago: A weakening Superstorm Sandy inched inland across Pennsylvania, leaving behind it a dazed, inundated New York City, and a waterlogged Atlantic Coast; the New York Stock Exchange was closed for a second day from weather, the first time that had happened since the Great Blizzard of 1888. The Walt Disney Co. announced that it would buy Lucasfilm Ltd. for \$4.05 billion, paving the way for a new "Star Wars" trilogy.

Five years ago: Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and a former Manafort business associate, Rick Gates, were indicted on felony charges as Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election revealed its first targets. (Manafort was sentenced to more than seven years for financial crimes related to political consulting work in Ukraine; he was pardoned by President Donald Trump in the final weeks of Trump's term. Gates pleaded guilty to federal conspiracy and false-statements charges and testified against Manafort.) At his sentencing hearing, Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl apologized to the military personnel who were wounded searching for him after he walked off his post in Afghanistan in 2009. (Bergdahl would be spared a prison sentence by a military judge.) A federal judge in Washington barred the Trump administration from proceeding with plans to exclude transgender people from military service.

One year ago: A court filing by the National Archives revealed that former President Donald Trump was trying to block documents including call logs and handwritten notes from his chief of staff relating to the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection from being released to the House committee investigating the riot. Leaders of the world's biggest economies, at a G-20 summit in Rome, endorsed a global minimum tax on corporations as part of an agreement on new international tax rules. President Joe Biden received Communion at St.

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Patrick's Church in Rome during Saturday Vigil Mass, a day after saying Pope Francis told him he should continue to partake in the sacrament.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Claude Lelouch is 85. Rock singer Grace Slick is 83. Songwriter Eddie Holland is 83. R&B singer Otis Williams (The Temptations) is 81. Actor Joanna Shimkus is 79. Actor Henry Winkler is 77. Broadcast journalist Andrea Mitchell is 76. Rock musician Chris Slade (Asia) is 76. Country/rock musician Timothy B. Schmit (The Eagles) is 75. Actor Leon Rippey is 73. Actor Harry Hamlin is 71. Actor Charles Martin Smith is 69. Country singer T. Graham Brown is 68. Actor Kevin Pollak is 65. Rock singer-musician Jerry De Borg (Jesus Jones) is 62. Actor Michael Beach is 59. Rock singer-musician Gavin Rossdale (Bush) is 57. Actor Jack Plotnick is 54. Comedian Ben Bailey is 52. Actor Billy Brown is 52. Actor Nia Long is 52. Country singer Kassidy Osborn (SHeDAISY) (sh-DAY'-zee) is 46. Actor Gael Garcia Bernal is 44. Actor Matthew Morrison is 44. Business executive and former presidential adviser Ivanka Trump is 41. Actor Fiona Dourif is 41. Actor Shaun Sipos (SEE'-pohs) is 41. Actor Tasso Feldman is 39. Actor Janel (juh-NEHL') Parrish is 34. Actor Tequan Richmond is 30. Actor Kennedy McMann is 26. NHL defenseman Cale Makar is 24.