

Groton Daily Independent

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Groton Community Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 20

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion (League Pie Auction following worship), 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.; Sunday school and Christmas Program Practice, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Monday, Nov. 21

Senior Menu: Baked chicken, rice pilaf, cauliflower and pea salad, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg bake.

School Lunch: Oriental chicken stir fry, rice.

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

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

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

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

JH GBB at Langford (7th at 4 p.m. followed by 8th grade game)

Tuesday, Nov. 22

Senior Menu: Potato soup, ham salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, pineapple tidbits.

School Breakfast: Egg Omelets.

School Lunch: Corn dogs, baked beans.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

UMC: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

St. John's Quilting, 9 a.m.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Northern State Offense Ignites in Second Half Win

Aberdeen, S.D. – The (RV) Northern State University men’s basketball team bounced back Saturday evening with a 12-point victory over (RV) Point Loma Nazarene. Following the completion of the Small College Basketball Champions Classic, senior Sam Masten was named to the all-tournament team.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 80, PLNU 68

Records: NSU 2-2, PLNU 3-2

Attendance: 3058

HOW IT HAPPENED

- The Wolves led the Sea Lions 35-33 at the half, after a back and forth battle through the first 20 minutes
- Northern added 45 points in the second, hitting 14-of-24 from the floor
- NSU shot 50.9% from the field, 28.6% from the 3-point line, and 87.5% from the free throw line
- The Wolves tallied a game high 35 rebounds, 13 assists, and 5 blocks and scored 38 points in the paint, 21 points off turnovers, and 14 points off offensive rebounds
- Four Wolves scored in double figures and three tallied six rebounds or more in the win

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Jordan Belka: 21 points, 58.3 FG%, 8 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals
- Josh Dilling: 17 points (career high), 58.3 FG%, 4 rebounds, 2 assists
- Sam Masten: 16 points, 9 rebounds, 4 assists
- Augustin Reede: 12 points

UP NEXT

Northern State will play three games next week versus MSU Moorhead, Texas A&M – Kingsville, and Presentation College. Game times are set for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 7 p.m. on Friday, and 6 p.m. on Saturday.

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Rix Quinn – Shopping thoughts for early season buyers

If you're like me, your mailbox is bulging with holiday gift catalogs. Yesterday I even got a catalog showing other catalogs I could order.

It's smart to choose "age appropriate" items. Last year a ten-year-old up the street got a full-sized car. He can't drive worth beans, and neither can his kid sister.

Many families consider the dog to be part of the family. "What do I buy Rover?" is a common question, especially if Rover is a cousin.

The answer is simple: Dogs don't keep calendars, so they don't know holidays from squat.

Of course, always select non-toxic toys. Sometimes a dog will eat one, and it is days before you can find and disinfect it.

My history books say that the first Thanksgiving, turkey was skewered on a long solid rod called a spit.

I am a vegetarian. I never cook my vegetables that way, and I never spit on them.

I often have trouble shopping for relatives who show up only occasionally. Each year for the last decade, Uncle Ken has arrived on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and stayed in our guest room.

He eats a lot, but he doesn't bring any food. He never remembers anybody's names.

So, last week I asked my wife not to invite her Uncle Ken again. "My uncle?" she replied, "I thought he was your uncle."

Finally, activity books make a great gift. Even toddlers can spend hours with crayons if they've got pictures or furniture to color.

Whatever you buy, remember it's better to give than to receive...especially a depilatory coupon.

Rix's new Amazon Kindle e-book is now available for 99 cents. It's a Thanksgiving-related humor title called Turkey's Viewpoint. I hope you'll buy it and read it...and then leave a review.

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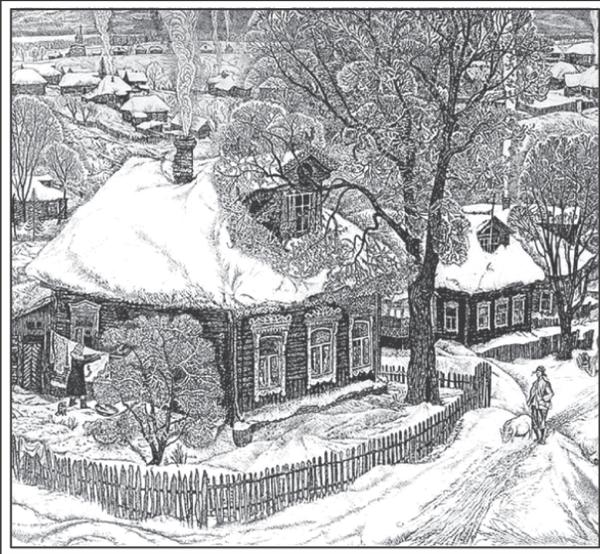


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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Detail of "Winter" by Stanislav Nikireev (1972)

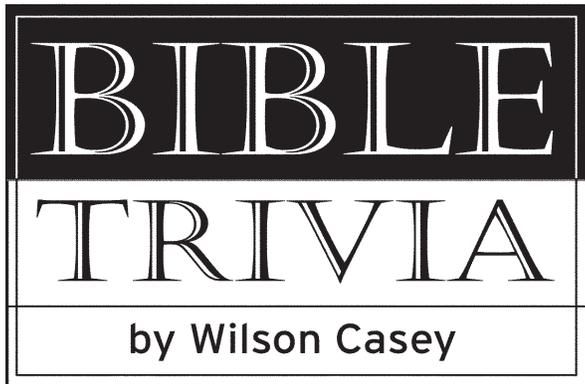
Perhaps I will stay with you for a while, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:6



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1. Which book of the Bible (KJV) mentions the word “thanksgiving” the most times at eight? *Genesis, Nehemiah, Psalms, Isaiah*

2. In 2 Timothy 3:1-2, what human qualities does Paul list as being signs of the last days? *Adulterers, Sun worshipers, Renegades, Unthankful people*

3. From Psalms 106:1 (KJV), “O give thanks unto the Lord; for his _____ endureth for ever.” *Hope, Good, Mercy, Spirit*

4. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, “In every thing give thanks; for this is the _____ of God”? *Power, Will, Gratitude, Travail*

5. From Leviticus 22, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is most meaningful when it is ... *Sincere, Often, At your own will, Extravagant*

6. Where was Jonah when he prayed with the voice of thanksgiving? *Fish’s belly, Aboard ship, In the wilderness, Mountaintop*

ANSWERS: 1) Psalms, 2) Unthankful people, 3) Mercy, 4) Will, 5) At your own will, 6) Fish’s belly

“*Test Your Bible Knowledge,*” a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

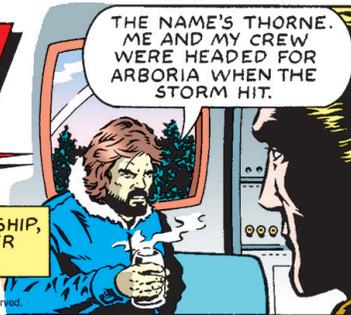
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FLASH GORDON

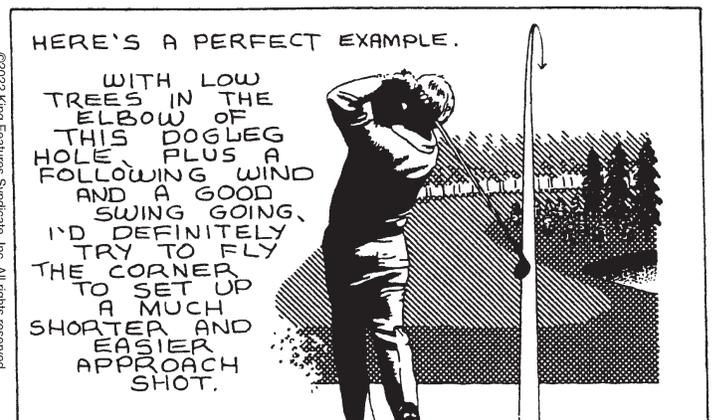
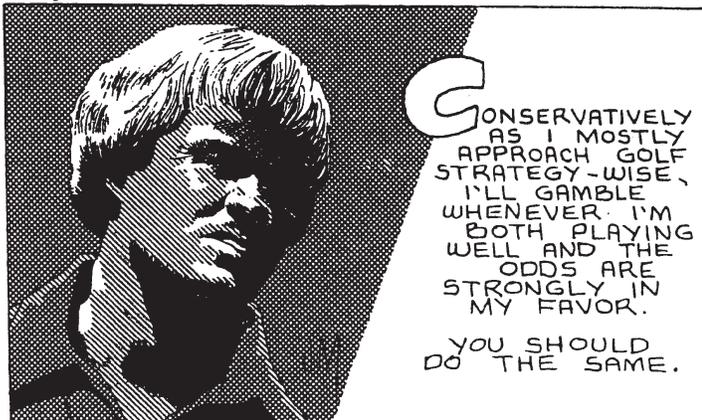
SAFELY ABOARD FLASH'S SHIP, THE WOUNDED STRANGER RECOUNTS HIS TALE.



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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Supplement With Good Potential Still Needs to Be Better Studied

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have a friend with multiple health problems, mostly digestive and throat issues, who has recently discovered the supplement astaxanthin through his treatment with a nutritionist. He is extremely optimistic that this supplement is his ticket to better health. He said it was developed by a biochemical engineer. As a doctor, would you recommend this for your patients? He says it is a powerful antioxidant and reduces inflammation. He also believes it will destroy any cancer cells. — *N.H.*

ANSWER: Astaxanthin is a naturally occurring pigment related to vitamin A that was first isolated from a lobster in 1938. It indeed has both anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. It has been used as a coloring agent in salmon, and is also naturally found in salmon. Most astaxanthin sold commercially is synthesized from petroleum products.

As a supplement, astaxanthin has been best studied to treat and prevent skin damage from aging. Multiple small studies have shown that it can improve skin appearance and function when used orally or topically. There is also some evidence it can reduce DNA damage from ultraviolet light.

The ability to reduce the type of damage that may ultimately lead to skin cancer is a far cry from the ability to “destroy any cancer cell.” There is no secret or hidden cure to cancer.

categorizes astaxanthin as “generally regarded as safe.” As I have often said, since supplements are not tightly regulated in the United States, you must rely on the manufacturer providing you with what they say they are, and there have been many, many instances where that has not been the case (in general, not about astaxanthin in particular).

Being conservative, I would say this supplement has potential, but I can’t recommend it until it has been better studied.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My hair is falling out. What can be done about it? I take biotin and saw palmetto, but it hasn’t stopped the hair loss. The older a lady gets, the more her hair falls out! — *L.*

ANSWER: I have learned not to underestimate the psychological effects of hair loss in women. Female pattern hair loss is a common problem affecting older women. The diagnosis can be made for certain by your regular doctor or a dermatologist after an exam. The most common pattern is thinning of the hair, often initially in the midline and worse on the top of the scalp (vertex). There are other causes of hair loss, so it is important to get a correct diagnosis in order to choose the right treatment.

I have not seen much success with over-the-counter supplements. Topical minoxidil (Rogaine) is the most common treatment, but I have started to try very low-dose oral minoxidil in some of my women patients. Spironolactone (a blood pressure medicine that also blocks testosterone receptors) and finasteride (used in men both for enlarged prostate and for male pattern hair loss) are also used by experts for women. It takes months to see if these are working.

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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"Don't Worry Darling" (R) -- Olivia Wilde's second directorial project was a hot topic during its premiere at the 79th Venice International Film Festival in September, as social media swarmed with memes about the project's messy inception. The film, starring Harry Styles ("Dunkirk") and Florence Pugh ("Midsommar"), follows a couple, Jack and Alice, who seemingly have the perfect marriage in the utopian company town of Victory. Every day follows the same formula, with Alice sending her husband off to work and taking care of all the household duties until their romantic reunions in the evening. But when Alice begins to experience jarring interruptions in her schedule, she has a growing hunch that nothing in Victory is what it seems. Out now. (HBO Max)



Kate Gerwin competes under the watchful eye of judge Frankie Solarik in "Drink Masters." Courtesy of Netflix

"Drink Masters" (TV-MA) -- Who doesn't love food-based reality competitions? From "Cake Wars" to "The American Barbecue Showdown," there's something out there for everyone's food palette. But did everyone just forget about the drinks? Well, for those who like to end their days with a fun cocktail or enjoy an adult beverage to pair their meal with, Netflix presents "Drink Masters," out now. In this series, an array of bartenders from around the world face off in exciting challenges to earn the grand prize of \$100,000 and become "The Ultimate Drink Master." So, pour yourself a drink, sit back and relax as you watch these mixologists put their skills to the test. (Netflix)

"Nope" (R) -- One of the most promising film releases of this year is now available to stream. Directed by Jordan Peele ("Get Out" and "Us"), this sci-fi horror film takes place on the Haywood family ranch, where siblings OJ ("Daniel Kaluuya") and Em ("Keke Palmer") raise horses that are used in film and TV. Shortly after their father's death, OJ and Em start experiencing power outages, with their horses reacting wildly to a mysterious object floating through the night sky. Once they realize that this object has the power to vacuum up anything in sight, the Haywoods deem it a UFO and hatch a plan to document proof -- if they can out-manuever it to survive, that is. Peele is quickly building himself a respectable and memorable resume of films. You don't want to skip this one; it'll really stick with you. (Peacock)

"Marry Me" (PG-13) -- Released earlier this year, this rom-com starring Jennifer Lopez and Owen Wilson is a movie that I had honestly dreaded watching. Produced by Lopez's own production company, it follows a caricature of who Lopez is in real life, a superstar singer and dancer named Kat Valdez. Kat plans to marry her male counterpart in the industry, Bastian (Maluma), on stage during a concert, until she sees a leaked video of Bastian's infidelity right before. In what can be described only as the most emotional reaction ever, she picks an audience member out from the crowd and decides to marry him instead. If you can brush past the lack of believability, the heart of this movie isn't half-bad. (Prime Video)

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1. Which artist wrote and released "Heart of Gold" in 1972?
2. Who released "Blue on Blue"?
3. Which duo released "The Look"?
4. Name the group that released "I Want It All."
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "I wish I could carry your smile in my heart, For times when my life seems so low."

Answers

1. Neil Young. He not only put aside the electric guitar for this one (opting for only the acoustic), he also had Linda Ronstadt and James Taylor singing backup.

2. Bobby Vinton, in 1963. The song was on his album of the same name, all songs having a "blue" theme, such as "Blueberry Hill" and "Mr. Blue."

3. Roxette, in 1989. It was written by Per Gessle while he was learning how to use a synthesizer. He came up with lyrics to be used as mental placeholders as he mastered the synthesizer.

4. Queen, in 1989. There are three versions of the song. The album, the single and the compilation all used different instruments.

5. "All Out of Love," by Air Supply in 1980. The song relates the efforts of a man to win back his lady love after he's hurt her.

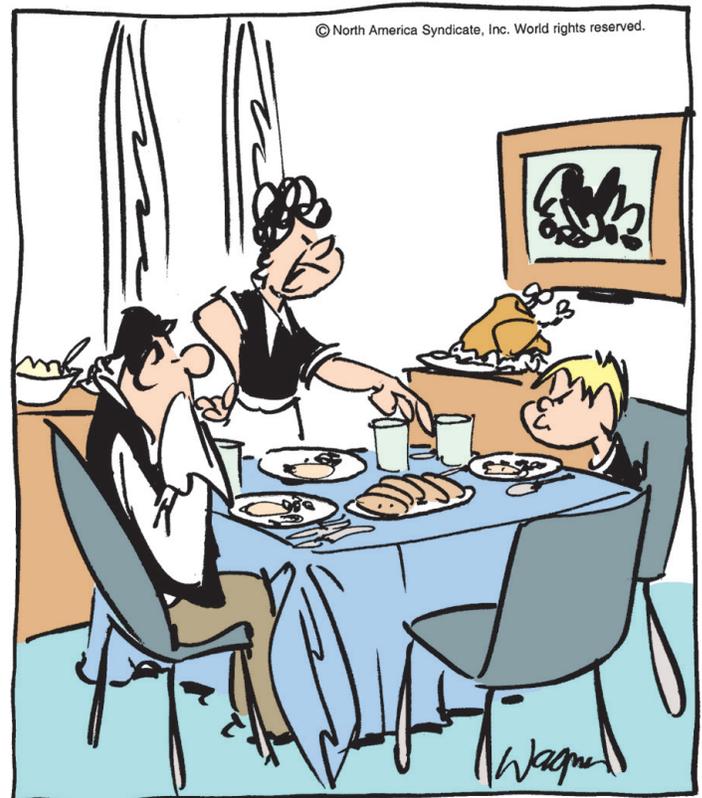
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN and BEAR IT



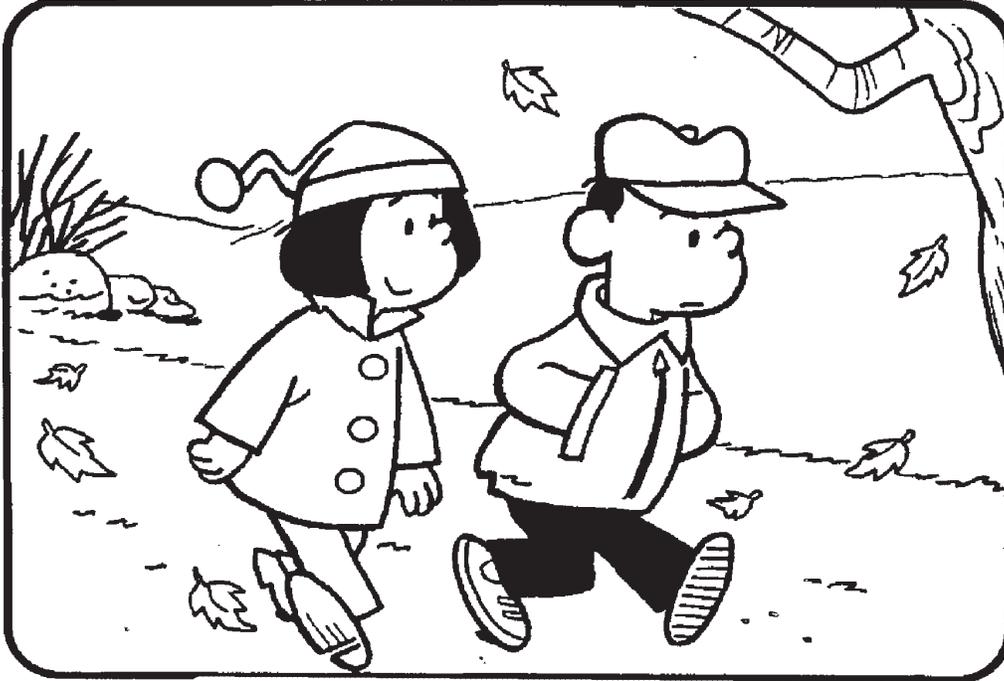
"The Pilgrim kids didn't get a toy with their Happy Meal, Otis!"

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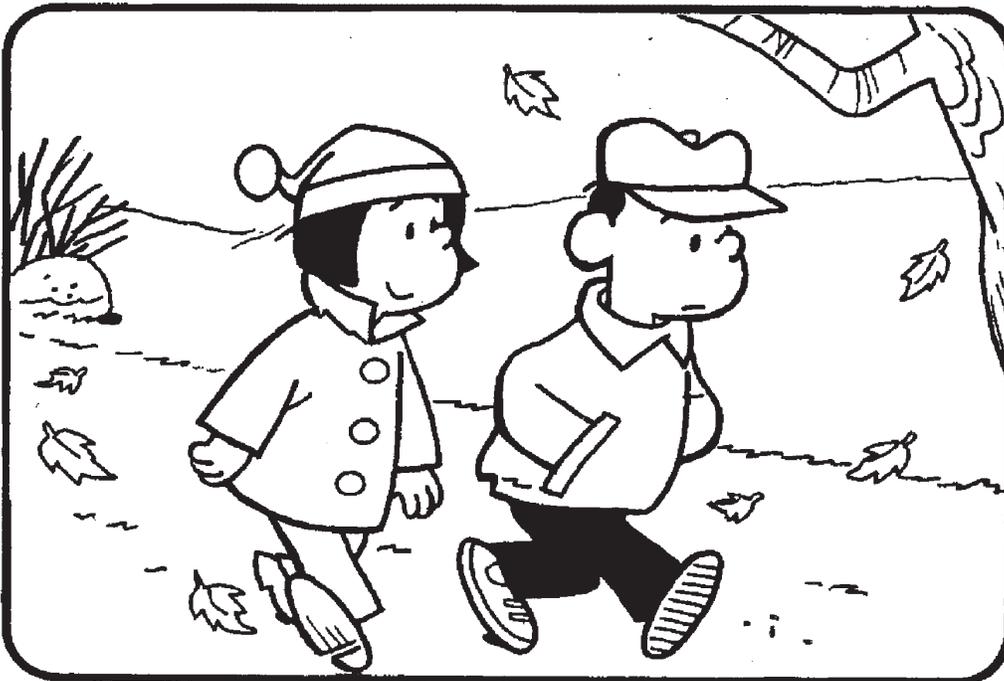
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Rocks are missing. 2. Tassel is shorter. 3. Hair is different. 4. Pocket is missing. 5. Zipper is missing. 6. Leg is moved.

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by
Jo Ann
Derson

* "During the holidays, our schedules change so much, it's hard to keep track. I used to write and re-write our family calendar, but now I just make a grid for the days/weeks, and I use Post-it notes to enter parties, school obligations and anything that is a 'maybe.' It's much easier to move around, and to add or delete events as needed." -- via email

* "Fasten all buttons, snaps, fasteners and zippers on your clothes before washing and drying. It will help them keep their shape. Turn socks inside out, too. It will help prevent them from getting fuzzballs." -- M.W. from Saskatchewan, Canada

* "I pick up extra coffee mugs from second-hand stores, then clean and fill them with hot chocolate packets, small coffees and wrapped tea bags and a few little chocolate bars. These make nice little gifts for friends and service people. I am on a fixed budget, but I find that I can be generous this way." -- T.L. in North Carolina

* When mailing packages, keep in mind that secure cargo is tightly packed. You don't have to buy expensive packing peanuts or bubble wrap; you can use what's around. For instance, plastic grocery bags are always in abundance. They can be tucked into any spare room and they barely weigh a thing. Same with newspaper; fill all the available space so that nothing bounces around in transit. Save your bubble wrap for the following tip.

* "When mailing cookies, make sure they are packed well. Use an appropriate size container, and give layers some space by separating them with small sheets of bubble wrap. My cookies arrive intact every time." -- J.J. in Florida

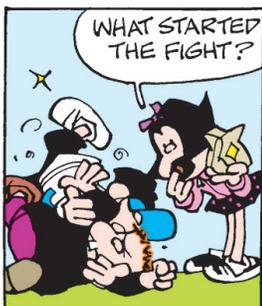
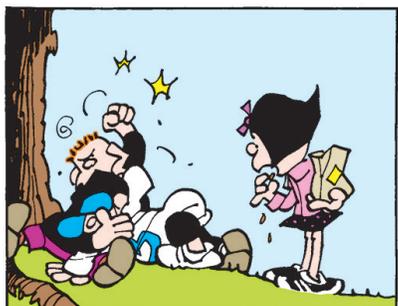
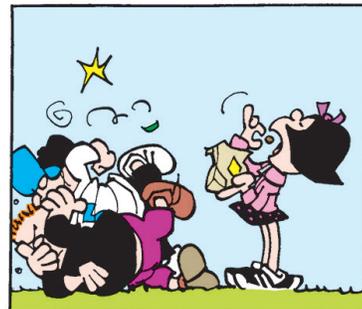
* "I use a black permanent marker to 'erase' scuff marks on my black heels. I only wear them a couple of times a year, so I have to make them last. It works." -- R.E. in Minnesota

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 Venus, to Serena
- 4 Sad
- 8 Padlocked fastener
- 12 E.T.'s craft
- 13 Slithery
- 14 New York canal
- 15 Sobriquet
- 17 Karate level
- 18 Poolroom prop
- 19 Livid
- 20 Fury
- 22 Coal source
- 24 Loathe
- 25 "The — Papers" (Dickens novel)
- 29 Bird (Pref.)

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
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20	21					22	23					
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37	38	39					40					
41					42	43					44	45
46					47					48		
49					50					51		

- 30 Hay bundles
- 31 — chi
- 32 Fined for speeding, e.g.
- 34 Shopper's aid
- 35 Geese formations
- 36 Selects from a group
- 37 Everglades wader
- 40 Delhi dress
- 41 Hip
- 42 Popular play-ground game
- 46 Corridor
- 47 Adhesive
- 48 Born abroad?
- 49 Rhyming tributes
- 50 Hotel furniture
- 51 Boston team, for short
- 9 Region
- 10 Sediment
- 11 Seeger or Sampras
- 16 Winslet of "Titanic"
- 19 Pen fluids
- 20 "Huh?'"
- 21 Sitarist Shankar
- 22 Odometer reading
- 23 On the rocks
- 25 Cracker spread
- 26 Natives of Rome
- 27 Poet
- Sandburg
- 28 Young foxes
- 30 Borscht veggie
- 33 Gushes with pride
- 34 Street edge
- 36 Bakery array
- 37 Canyon sound
- 38 Incite
- 39 Actor's quest
- 40 Gulf War missile
- 42 Old CIA foe
- 43 — -de-France
- 44 Zodiac cat
- 45 Superman foe Luthor

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



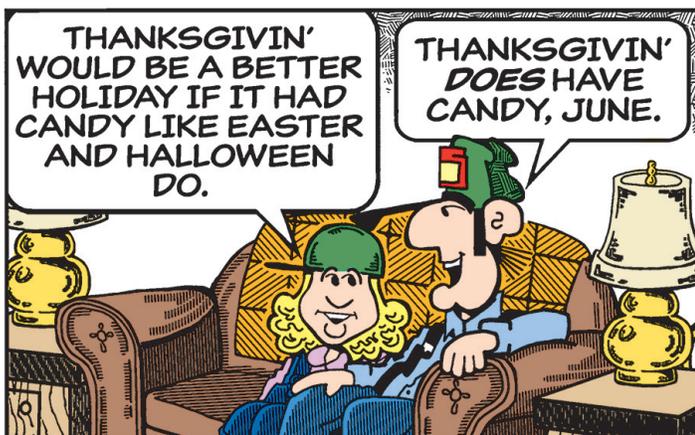
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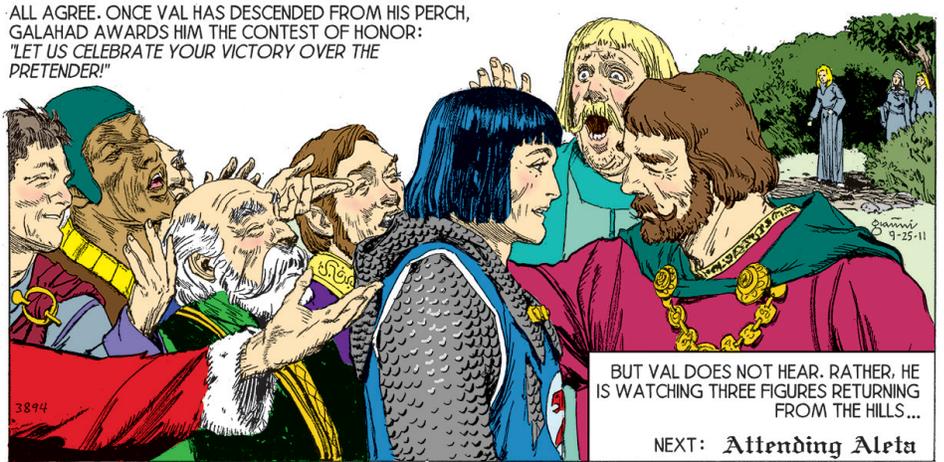
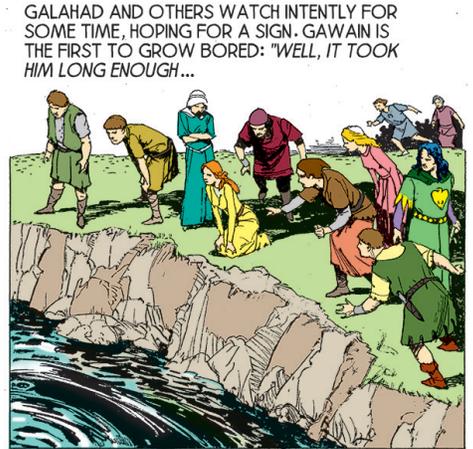
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



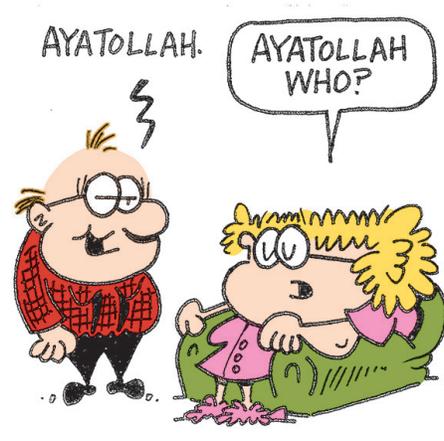
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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Avoiding Holiday Shopping Scams

It's that time of year again when we do holiday shopping, much of it online. It's also the time when more scammers come out.

And what is it scammers want most? They want your personal information so they can turn it into cash and fraudulent purchases.

Here are a few ways to avoid getting scammed online this holiday season:

Beware sales emails that include links, even if the email is from a store you usually use. Thieves are very good at making their scam pages look genuine. Instead of clicking a link, open a web browser and go directly to the website itself. Sometimes the email will request that you update your account information. Instead, call the store and ask if they've sent out that request.

Beware the tracking emails you get with updates about packages that you're expecting. Remember that genuine FedEx and UPS emails won't ask for any personal information from you. Don't click links. Go directly to the website.

Be careful where you shop online. Check reviews to see what others have to say. Avoid those with few or low ratings.

Consider using Amazon for most of your online purchases and having a Prime membership. Amazon is good at protecting customers when it comes to you receiving damaged items or not receiving any items at all. A Prime membership now costs \$139 a year, but it includes free shipping, free movies and videos, and more.

If you are scammed, report it. Call your bank and the police, and then notify the Elder Fraud Hotline at 833-372-8311.

A goal for 2023: Go inside your bank to do your transaction now and then. Yes, it's easier to just use the drive-up window for deposits and cash withdrawals, but there is a lot to be said for letting them put a face to a name. Once they know you and your banking habits, they're more able to quickly identify anything that might be wrong.

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1. Who are the only father-son duo in Major League Baseball history to both hit at least 50 home runs in a single season?

2. Stamford Bridge is the home stadium of what English Premier League football club?

3. Between brothers Terry and Bobby Labonte, which had more career NASCAR Cup Series race victories?

4. What Pro Football Hall of Famer served as head coach of the Los Angeles/Oakland Raiders from 1989-94 and again in 2006?

5. The Webb Ellis Cup is the trophy awarded to the winner of what quadrennial sports tournament?

6. Name the South African boxer, nicknamed "The Bionic Hand," who was the first African-born boxer to fight for and win a heavyweight title.

7. What marathon, held annually in London from 1909 to 1996, was the first to be run at the 26.219-mile distance?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Cecil and Prince Fielder.

2. Chelsea F.C.

3. Terry, with 22. Bobby had 21.

4. Art Shell.

5. The Rugby World Cup.

6. Gerrie Coetzee.

7. The Polytechnic Marathon.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Plan Now for the Cost of a New Pet

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: As the holiday season approaches, many people are thinking about adopting or purchasing a pet as a gift. Can you remind readers that the cost of owning a pet can be quite high? Unexpected pet care expenses are one reason that pets wind up at shelters after the holidays. -- Carl W., Indianapolis

DEAR CARL: You brought up this issue at the perfect time, as many families start thinking about and committing to getting a pet for Christmas. Potential owners have a lot of things to think about and discuss,

and one big item is the cost of owning a pet.

Bringing home a cat or dog from the shelter can cost \$1,200 to \$1,800, a Geico Living post reports. Adoption fees, the initial vet visit and supplies are part of the upfront costs. Smaller pets like hamsters and goldfish will cost about \$200 initially when a tank, cage and supplies are factored in.

Then there's the cost of continuing care. A cat will cost at least \$800 per year in litter, food, toys, medical care and more. Dogs can cost \$1,500 per year or more, and if a professional trainer is needed, that adds to the cost. And if your pet gets sick, veterinary bills can be quite expensive.

This is not to talk people out of owning a pet, but to make them aware that a pet will impact the household budget more than most new owners expect. Know the upfront cost of a new pet. Budget for the monthly and annual costs of keeping a pet healthy and happy. Minimize financial surprises, and you can focus fully on your pet's well-being.

Have unexpected pet expenses affected you? Tell us your story at ask@pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Do you like tequila? Thank a bat. Seriously. Bats are the main pollinators of the agave plant, which is the key ingredient in tequila. No bats, no agave, no tequila!

* If Michael Phelps were a country, he'd rank No. 35 on the all-time Olympic gold medal list, ahead of 97 countries.

* On Jan. 20, 2022, a U.S. hacker managed to bring down North Korea's entire internet. In addition, he performed this feat in great comfort, while wearing his pajama pants, watching "Aliens" and munching on spicy corn snacks.

* James Cameron came close to casting O.J. Simpson as the Terminator, but ultimately decided the athlete was "too pleasant" to portray the character.

* If you attended the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, perhaps you participated in a Thanksgiving tradition known as Frozen Turkey Bowling. And yes, it's essentially what it sounds like: A bunch of folks hurling oiled frozen turkeys down a grocery store aisle at a set of bowling pins. Strange? Sure, but it raises money to combat smoking, so we're on board.

Thought for the Day: "For me, becoming isn't about arriving somewhere or achieving a certain aim. I see it instead as forward motion, a means of evolving, a way to reach continuously toward a better self. The journey doesn't end." -- Michelle Obama

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* Finnish Ph.D. students graduate in style! Along with their hard-earned diploma, they receive a sword and top hat.

* Cherophobia is the fear of being happy.

* Within a week of stealing 16 statues from an Indian Hindu temple, the thieves responsible believed their subsequent nightmares and bad luck were a direct result and brought back some of the property with a note asking for forgiveness -- but still held on to two of the statues anyway.

* Baby elephants suck their trunks for comfort.



Cutting back perennials

When it comes to perennials, don't cut them back until after several hard frosts. The roots are still reclaiming energy for healthy growth in the spring, and the decomposing leaves insulate the plant during freezes and thaws and provide fertilizer for spring growth. Leave seed-heads standing to feed the birds in cold weather. However, you should remove dead foliage containing pests or disease.

Source: www.almanac.com

— Brenda Weaver



by Freddy Groves

The PACT Act and You

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics, also known as the PACT Act, adds a number of important modifications to veteran health care.

Among other benefits, PACT requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to do a toxic exposure screening on each veteran who's enrolled in VA health care. That's a good start. Additionally, it extends eligibility for veterans who were exposed, adds more exposure locations for radiation and Agent Orange,

and adds over 20 more presumptive conditions for AO and other toxin exposure, as well as exposure to burn pits.

That word "presumptive" is key. It means you don't have to fight tooth and nail to prove that an illness came from being stationed at a particular location. It's "presumed" that your illness came from being there and that the surrounding conditions were the cause. You don't have to prove a thing.

If you've been getting VA care for several years, the name can be confusing because "PACT" used to mean something else: Patient Aligned Care Teams. In that incarnation of PACT, personalized primary care was the objective. It started in 2010 with the creation of teams made up of nurses, providers, social workers, pharmacists, nutritionists and many others. They would employ e-health visits, phone calls, monitoring at home, group visits, the whole medical gamut, to give individualized care to veterans. Surveys done then indicated that the program was modestly successful, at least when it came to reducing the number of urgent care visits (33%) and hospital admissions (12%).

Let's just hope that the current incarnation of PACT is at least that successful.

To read about the current PACT, go to va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits. You can read about eligibility of various eras, screenings, filing claims, info for survivors and more.

For specific help with how you can file a claim, call them at 800-698-2411. Or go to va.gov and file Claim Form 21-526ez online.

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Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. TELEVISION: At which popular restaurant does Penny work in "The Big Bang Theory"?
2. ASTRONOMY: Which one of Jupiter's moons has active volcanos?
3. GEOGRAPHY: The Tiber River flows through which famous capital city?
4. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "The Martian Chronicles"?
5. U.S. STATES: Which river forms the eastern border of Iowa?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to give a televised address from the White House?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What image on Canada's flag is a recognizable symbol of the country?
8. MEASUREMENTS: Which ancient civilization used palms, digits and cubits to measure length?
9. MOVIES: Who voices the character Princess Anna in "Frozen"?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: An elephant has the most muscles in which part of its body?

Answers

1. Cheesecake Factory.
2. Io.
3. Rome.
4. Ray Bradbury.
5. Mississippi.
6. Harry Truman.
7. A maple leaf.
8. Egyptians.
9. Kristen Bell.
10. Trunk.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Thanksgiving – A Time for Family & Fellowship

The first American Thanksgiving was a celebration of unity across cultures and races. Two cultures who did not know each other gathered together to have a meal and engage

in fellowship. I hope that our kids learn this as part of our nation's true and honest history. Native Americans far outnumbered the Pilgrims at Plymouth – and they brought food to welcome their new neighbors. They spent time together giving thanks for the abundance that was available to them. And they were grateful for the extra time to spend with family, too.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving together this year, I hope that we can truly focus on how much there is for us to be thankful for. We're thankful that South Dakota's economy remains strong, with incomes rising faster than any other state and new business applications leading the nation.

Some of our farmers may still be harvesting, so we're thankful for this year's crops and the strong commodity prices that will help our agriculture producers to make ends meet.

We're thankful for the opportunities to enjoy our state's natural beauty year-round, including the deer and pheasant hunting that is available this time of year.

We're thankful for the men and women who answer the call to serve and keep us safe, both in law enforcement and in our armed services. In South Dakota, we will always respect them in words, and we will back that up with meaningful action.

In particular, I'm thankful for my wonderful and growing family. I'm grateful for my husband Bryon; for my daughter Cassidy, her husband Kyle, my granddaughter Miss Addie, and my grandson who will come in just a few short months; for my daughter Kennedy and her new husband Tanner; for my son Booker who is serving the Lord so wonderfully; for Bryon's family, my in-laws; and for all of my own family. I'm grateful for the friends who offer me words of encouragement; for the staff and state employees who so graciously serve the people of South Dakota; and for the people who have trusted me with the honor of serving them.

Yes, I am thankful for all of you. And for the next four years, I will continue to give back to you by focusing on growing South Dakota. Together, we will make our state even greater by promoting Freedom and Opportunity for our kids and grandkids. We have a lot to be thankful for in South Dakota. Let's treasure it, defend it, and thank God for it.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Thankful for Farmers and Ranchers

Thanksgiving is many things. A special day with family. A moment to thank God for all that we have. A chance to reflect on the blessings of liberty we enjoy as Americans. Thanksgiving is also a day when we enjoy a meal with the ones we love. And our full Thanksgiving tables, and full stomachs, are thanks to the extraordinary work of our nation's agriculture producers who brave brutal cold, sweltering heat, droughts, and other extreme weather to feed our nation.

Agriculture is the lifeblood of South Dakota, and it is a heritage that is deeply rooted in our state. And whether it's the holiday season, planting or harvesting season, or any other day, farmers and ranchers are always hard at work. These producers are my most trusted advisors as I bring their perspective to the Senate. I'm a longtime member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, which gives me a platform from which I'm able to advocate for farmers and ranchers and ultimately shape agriculture policy – including the farm bill we'll be considering next year.

To get ready for next year's farm bill, I have held multiple roundtables across the state over the past several months to hear directly from farmers and ranchers about the effectiveness of farm programs. These conversations have provided me with valuable feedback that will help inform the provisions that I'm working to secure in the 2023 farm bill.

In addition to my continued strong support of crop insurance and commodity programs, this year I've offered multiple proposals that seek to improve the overall effectiveness of the farm bill. I've introduced legislation that would improve and strengthen livestock disaster programs that assist producers in the aftermath of adverse weather events. I have also proposed improvements to the Conservation Reserve Program that would make the program a more attractive working-lands option for producers. And I have introduced legislation to restore mandatory country of origin labeling for beef so consumers know when their food is truly a "product of the USA" that is made by hardworking American cattle producers.

Farmers and ranchers work hard every day, often from before sunrise until after sunset, to feed our nation and the world. America depends on South Dakota's farmers and ranchers, and I am proud to represent the men and women who have chosen this way of life and who are committed to passing it on to future generations.

On Thanksgiving, we take a moment to be grateful for all that we have. And before we sit down for this year's meal, it's worth remembering where the food on our table came from and the work that went into producing it.

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



An Opportunity to Deliver More Results

I am grateful and honored to serve as South Dakota's only voice in the U.S. House of Representatives for another two years. Since coming to the U.S. House in 2019, Republicans have been the minority party. Despite that, I've stayed focused on effectiveness and led more than a dozen bills across the finish line. I plan to bring that same attitude to the 118th Congress—working hard and getting things done for South Dakotans.

South Dakotans sent me back to the House to fight inflation, secure the border, increase American energy security, end our reliance on China, and increase their overall quality of life.

Inflation

At the top of everyone's mind is inflation. Months of record-high inflation is making it hard for families to make ends meet. With a conservative majority in the House, we can effectively block reckless, trillion-dollar spending packages pushed by the Biden Administration. Closing the gap in workforce shortages and passing pro-growth deregulatory policies are two of my priorities that will boost the American economy from coast to coast and fight inflationary pressure.

Border

South Dakota communities have seen an uptick in local crime, specifically crime connected to drugs trafficked across the southern border. On Tuesday, FBI Director Wray testified before the House Homeland Security Committee and mentioned just one incident in which the FBI took down a vehicle with enough fentanyl to kill the entire state of Pennsylvania. Open border policies have created a crisis. We need to reimplement the Remain in Mexico policy, finish building the border wall, increase the number of border patrol officers, and employ advanced technology to prevent illegal border crossings and trafficking by cartels.

Energy

America's energy insecurity must be remedied. High gas prices, a diesel shortage, a depleted Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and more anti-American energy actions by the Biden Administration have hurt the pocketbooks of hardworking American families. I'm focusing on implementing an all-of-the-above energy approach, cutting the permitting process time in half, and ending the Administration's reliance on other countries like Venezuela and Russia for energy.

China

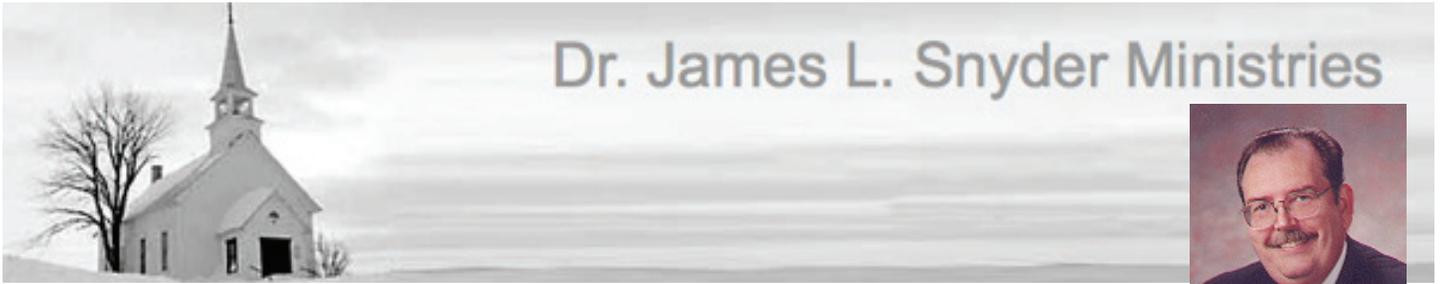
China has been expanding its influence for years. Whether it's purchasing U.S. based agriculture businesses or influencing American youth on TikTok, Congress needs to take the threat of Chinese expansion seriously. I have been and will continue to be a leader opposing China's control over our supply chain and ability to access Americans' sensitive data.

South Dakotans have sent me to Congress to deliver results for them. I have done it before and look forward to doing so again alongside my Republican colleagues.

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A Day Trip in the Sissy Van

Last week was the first anniversary of my heart attack. My celebratory plan was to go to McDonald's for a double cheeseburger, large fries, and a chocolate milkshake.

I tried to keep my plan secret, at least from someone in the house, but I failed most miserably.

Somehow The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage discovered my celebratory plans. How she found out, I don't know, but I sure would like to know.

She stood in front of me for a moment, with both hands on her hips, and said, "If you proceed with your celebratory plans, a heart attack will be the least of your problems."

Not knowing exactly what she meant, I immediately canceled my plans just to be on the safe side.

Then I realized she had plans of her own. I had an appointment with my heart doctor on Monday morning at 11 o'clock. I have a checkup every six months; this was my one-year anniversary.

Of course, I had forgotten about that appointment so all my plans were put in my back pocket to save for some other time.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage offered to drive me to my appointment, and because it was at 11 o'clock, she made plans for lunch. I was completely okay with that; the only problem was we would have to go in her Sissy Van.

It was only to the doctor's office and then to lunch, so that shouldn't be too long. I don't like riding in that crazy little Sissy Van in which the seating is so tiny my knees are in my face the whole trip. I figured it was only a short time, so I could handle it.

We arrived at the doctor's office just before 11 o'clock, I signed in and waited for the doctor.

While there, I remembered why doctors call us "patients." It takes great patience to wait for the doctor to call you into his office. My appointment was at 11 o'clock, and by 11:40, the nurse finally called me into his office.

I was worried because it was getting close to lunchtime, and I never want to be late for lunch.

I spent about a half-hour with the doctor while he checked my vitals and then said, "You're good. Everything seems excellent."

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I asked him, "Could I have that in writing with your signature?" I wanted someone in our house to know I was "good."

After making plans for my next appointment, we left and got back into that little Sissy Van on our way to lunch. It takes me as long to get into the Sissy Van as it does the doctor to examine me. Oh boy.

Finally, we were on our way to lunch. She wanted me to go with her to a diner she and her daughters discovered a little while back. I was all in for that, and we had a nice time eating lunch.

Then, back in the Sissy Van, and, as I had hoped, we would be on our way home. I was getting tired of kissing my knees in traveling.

"You know what," my wife said as we drove out of the parking lot. "I need to stop and pick up a piece of jewelry that's ready for me at the mall."

Looking at me, she said, "You don't mind if we stop there, do you? After all, we go right by it. It won't take long."

I was okay with that, but I wasn't going to go in because by the time I could get out of the Sissy Van, she could have gone in, picked up her jewelry, and come out. So I stayed in the Sissy Van.

She returned, and driving out of the parking lot, we passed one of her favorite stores. Something along the lines of Tuesday Morning, whatever that might be. And she said, "While we're here, I think I should go in and pick up some things I need for my craft room."

Again, I stayed in the Sissy Van, kissing my knees while waiting for her to return.

She got back into the van, and driving down the street, we stopped at one of her favorite thrift stores. I wouldn't say this out loud, but her favorite thrift store is the one she's shopping at the moment.

We continued visiting thrift stores for the rest of the afternoon, and I was trapped in that silly old Sissy Van.

Finally, we were within two blocks of our house, and I was afraid she would pass another thrift store I had no idea about.

We got home, and it took me some extra time to extricate myself from that Sissy Van. As I got out and stood up, my knees were wobbling, but I did reach the front door, got inside, and headed for my easy chair.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage brought all her shopping goods in from the Sissy Van and put them on the dining room table.

She looked at me with a big smile and said, "That was a wonderful day. Wasn't it?"

In thinking about my adventure I was reminded of what the Apostle Paul said. Ephesians 4:2-3, "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

This unity is something I work at with the help of the Holy Spirit.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that a shortage of batteries is slowing down the development of solar and wind power here in the U.S.? If so, what are we doing to ramp up battery production if anything?

-- J. Wilson, Chicago, IL

As the climate crisis worsens and public outcry can no longer be ignored, policymakers are tasked with ramping up the production of renewable energy. The Biden Administration has announced its desire to de-carbonize the grid by 2035. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), United States electricity production emits 25 percent of total greenhouse gas pollution, just behind transportation at 27 percent of the country's emissions. Renewable alternatives are starting to garner more support for both electricity production and manufacturing of zero-emission electric vehicles. With these potential solutions to the climate crisis, a new problem arises: Both rely on lithium batteries to store energy.

For the renewable energy industry to grow and ultimately take prominence, energy storage will be a critical piece to the puzzle. As critics point out, without an effective method to store energy, renewables like solar and wind are only good when the wind is blowing or the sun is shining. The most common way that energy is stored now is through the use of lithium batteries. Fluence, a global leader in energy storage technology, says that the cost of a lithium battery has begun to soar up to 20 percent higher than last year. This cost increase can be attributed to the increased price of the lithium and nickel needed to make the batteries, as well as bottlenecks in transport and labor.

Renewable energy projects are also reporting difficulties procuring lithium and nickel due to having to compete against the electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers. EV companies have proven to be a formidable competitor in the market due to their consistency and predictable ordering patterns which make them a favorite for battery manufacturers to work with.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is left to piece together a solution other than lithium batteries to achieve their lofty goals. One route they may take to avoid competition with EV producers is to use an alternative method of energy storage altogether. A Finnish company, Polar Night Energy, has developed a sand "battery" that is able to store heat in sand tanks up to 500 degrees Celsius, allowing that heat energy to be used later on. This is not to say that the future of American energy is sand, however it is a valuable example of how investing in innovative ideas can pay off in the form of creative solutions for the nation.

While we wait for the next big innovations, the DOE has identified a need for the U.S. to develop a domestic supply chain for energy storage and aims to put an emphasis on recycling lithium batteries. Presently only five percent of lithium batteries are being recycled globally; if the DOE is able to mandate battery recycling, then they hope that will bolster the domestic supply of lithium batteries while putting less stress on harvesting raw materials which will in turn bring the prices down.



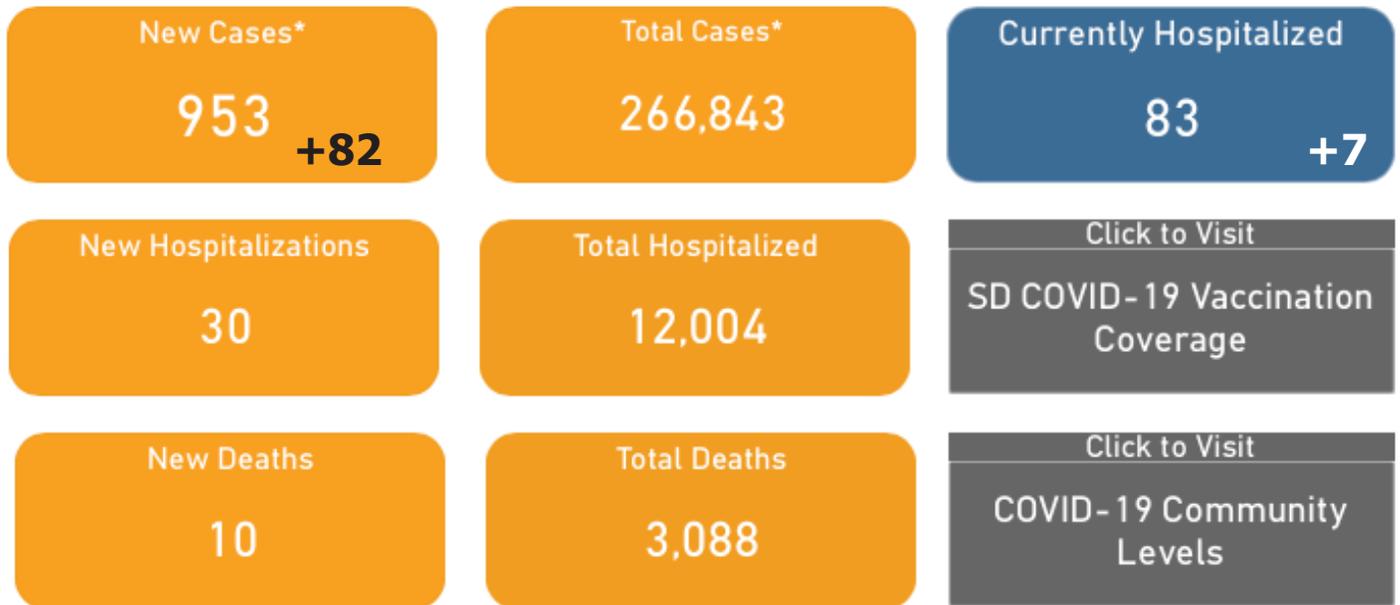
Limited battery storage capacity remains a bottleneck to the widespread application of solar and wind power. Credit:

Stephan Ridgway, FlickrCC.

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South Dakota COVID-19 Report



SD 2022/2023 Influenza Weekly Summary Week Ending November 12, 2022 (Week 45)

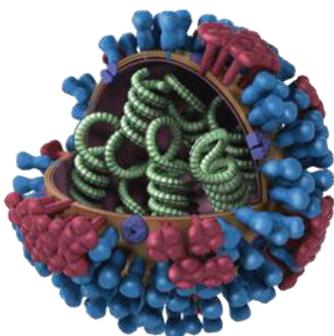
Provisional numbers, * Lab confirmed: PCR, Culture or DFA. The number of laboratories using rapid confirmatory tests has increased, which may account for some of the increase in confirmed cases observed this influenza season



Lab Confirmed Cases	Nov 6-12	Season to Date
Type A, H1	4	6
Type A, H3	5	20
Type A, Unspecified	248	493
Type B Unspecified	3	10
B Yamagata	0	0
B Victoria	0	0
Total*	260	529

Rapid Antigen Tests (40) sites reporting	Nov 6-12	Season to Date
Total Tested	605	2,710
Total Positive	97 (75A/22B)	312 (151A/161B)
% Rapid Antigen Tests Positive	16.03%	11.51%

	Nov 6-12	Season to Date
Hospitalizations	10	16
Deaths	0	0



3D Influenza Virus

SD Influenza Geographic: Local
SD Influenza Activity: Minimal

US Influenza Activity: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm>

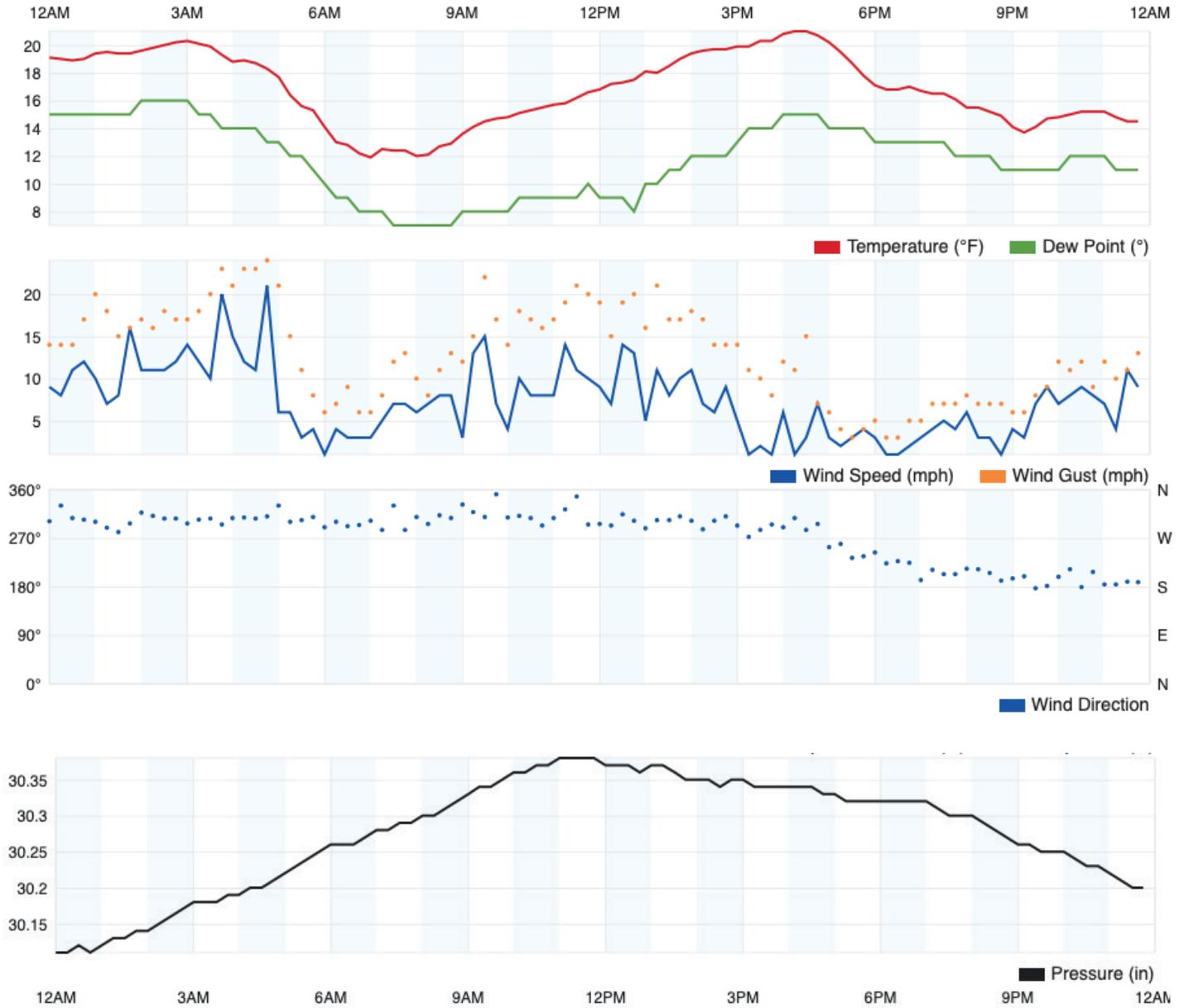
International Flu Activity: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/international/index.htm>

South Dakota Influenza information:
<http://doh.sd.gov/diseases/infectious/flu/>

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Increasing Clouds	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 30 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 27 °F	Low: 13 °F	High: 35 °F	Low: 15 °F	High: 37 °F



Warmer Today

November 20th, 2022

28-44°
Coolest across the Prairie Coteau,
warmest across central SD

Warming trend takes hold Tuesday through Saturday with highs in the 30s and 40s.

 weather.gov/aberndeen

Snow and ice will melt quickly this week as temperatures climb above freezing. Highs will be coolest east of the James Valley today and Monday before the warmer air filters in there, too, on Tuesday. Dry weather is expected through mid week.

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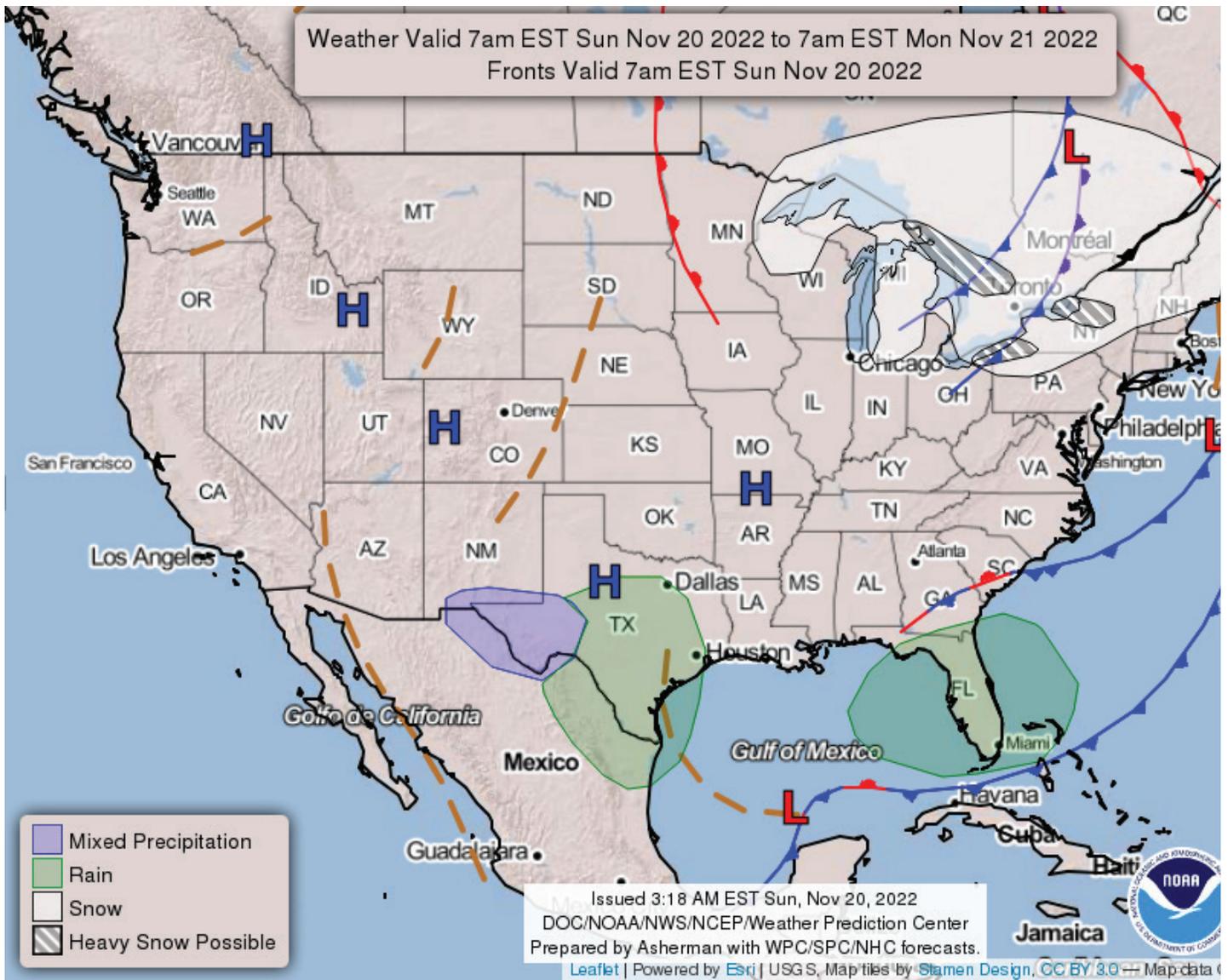
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 21.0 °F at 4:30 PM
Low Temp: 11.9 °F at 7:00 AM
Wind: 24 mph at 4:45 AM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 9 hours, 22 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 69 in 1962
Record Low: -12 in 1985
Average High: 40°F
Average Low: 17°F
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.53
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 21.00
Precip Year to Date: 16.50
Sunset Tonight: 4:59:22 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:38:04 AM



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Today in Weather History

November 20, 1975: A storm center located in Oklahoma on Tuesday, November 18th, moved northeastward across Kansas into Iowa and Wisconsin on Wednesday the 19th and Thursday the 20th. Light rain began in the eastern half South Dakota on the morning of the 19th. The rain changed to snow during the afternoon and continued through the evening of the 20th. The winds increased, and blizzard conditions were reached by 6 pm CST on Wednesday the 19th. The snow was driven by sustained winds 40 to 50 miles per hour, gusting to 75 mph on some occasions, which reduced visibility to less than one-half mile. Heavy snow ranging from six to fifteen inches fell over an area southeast of a line from Todd to Aurora to Grant County. Traffic came to a standstill by Wednesday evening the 19th. The snow abruptly ended on the night of the 20th, but winds diminished rather slowly that night. Storm total snowfalls included 9 inches at Clear Lake and 7 inches at Watertown.

November 20, 1977: The second blizzard of the month began very early on Saturday, November 19th and continued through most of Sunday, November 20th. Wind speeds exceeding 50 mph caused much blowing and drifting snow. Visibility was reduced to near zero. Most of the roads in the northern and western parts of the state were blocked. Snowfall amounts north of Milbank and Pierre to Ardmore exceeded five inches. Most of the counties in the northwest and a significant portion of those in the north-central parts of the state reported snowfall amounts exceeding ten inches. Some drifts reached 4 to 5 feet. The highest reported snowfall was 20 inches in Eagle Butte. An eastbound train from Milbank had six freight cars derailed near Albee, in Grant County as a result of the storm. Snowfall totals from this blizzard included; 20 inches at Eagle Butte; 14 inches at Leola; 12 inches at Timber Lake and Britton; 11 inches 4NNE Victor and at Mobridge; 10 inches at 6SE McIntosh, 4W Mellette, Sand Lake, and Ipswich; 9.3 inches in Aberdeen; 9 inches 4NW Onida, at Sisseton, and 2N Onaka; 8 inches at Selby; 7 inches at McLaughlin and Waubay; 6 inches at Conde and Faulkton; 5 inches at Summit and Webster; 4 inches at Pierre, Wilmot and Highmore; and 3 inches at Watertown, Clear Lake, Miller, 3NE Raymond, Redfield, and Wheaton. The 9 inches at Sisseton helped to contribute to the snowiest November on record for Sisseton, which recorded 27.5 inches for November 1977.

1900: An unusual tornado outbreak in the Lower Mississippi Valley resulted in 73 deaths and extensive damage across Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

1985: Kate intensified to a major Category 3 Hurricane and as she moved west of Key West, Florida with top winds of 115 mph and a minimum central pressure of 954 millibars or 28.17 inches of mercury. The next day Kate made landfall between Panama City and Apalachicola, Florida. Tides ran 8 to 10 feet above normal. Many power poles and lines were downed. Several roads were washed out.

2014: From the NWS Office in Buffalo, New York, "the epic November 17-19th 2014 lake effect event will be remembered as one of the most significant winter events in Buffalo's snowy history. Over 5 feet of snow fell over areas just east of Buffalo, with mere inches a few miles away to the north. There were 13 fatalities with this storm, hundreds of major roof collapses and structural failures, 1000s of stranded motorists, and scattered food and gas shortages due to impassable roads. Numerous trees also gave way due to the weight of the snow, causing isolated power outages. While this storm was impressive on its own, a second lake effect event on Nov-19-20 dropped another 1-4 foot of snow over nearly the same area and compounded rescue and recovery efforts. Storm totals from the two storms peaked at almost 7 feet, with many areas buried under 3-4 feet of dense snowpack by the end of the event."

2015: Season's first snow is Chicago's largest November snowfall in 120 years starting on November 20 and ending on the 21st. The season's first snowfall dropped as much as 17 inches across Chicago's northern suburbs, and the total of 11.2 inches at O'Hare International Airport made it the largest November snowfall in 120 years.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

REMEMBER ME!

"But I'm not that important to God. I have not accomplished anything with my life, and I'm too old now to do anything about it. I can't imagine that I will make any difference in God's scheme of things," he said. "How could any God love someone as worthless as me? I'm hopeless!"

It seems as though the writer of Psalm 106 felt the same way. "Remember me, O Lord, when You show favor to Your people, come to my aid when You save them." He felt alone, abandoned, forsaken - perhaps even worthless. He could not imagine God including him in His plan of redemption. "I'm excluded!" he cried. "No hope."

Another man made a similar statement. This one was a thief hanging on a cross dying for his crimes. How interesting it is to note that he was hanging next to some One who had never committed any crimes but was dying for the crimes he - the thief - had committed. He had no time to turn over a new leaf and lead a better life. He could not go to the people he had wronged and ask for forgiveness or attend a religious ceremony for cleansing. He could not perform any good works - his hands were nailed to a cross. All he could do was to call on the name of the Lord and ask Jesus to "Remember me!" And, we too, must remember that no one is beyond the grace of God.

Although he was a thief condemned to die for his crimes, our Lord loved him just as much as He loves us. "Today," Jesus assured him, "you will be with Me in paradise."

God has no favorites. His love includes everyone.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for Your love that includes all of us no matter who we are or what we have done! Thank you that it is never too late because You are so loving. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Remember me, O Lord, when You show favor to Your people, come to my aid when You save them. Psalm 106:4



We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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2022-23 Community Events

- 07/21/2022: Pro Am Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/22/2022: Ferney Open Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start
07/24/2022: Moonlight Swim at the Swimming Pool 9-11pm for 9th grade to age 20
07/27/2022: Golf Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course 11a-1pm
08/05/2022: Wine on Nine at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm
08/12/2022: GHS Basketball Golf Tournament
No Date Set: Groton Firemen Summer Splash Day 4-5pm GHS Parking Lot
09/10/2022: Lions Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
09/11/2022: 6th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3-5pm
09/11/2022: Couples Sunflower Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10 a.m.
09/02-04: Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
10/01/2022: Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
10/07/2022: Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
10/31/2022: Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm (working day on or closest to Halloween)
10/31/2022: United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
11/13/2022: Snow Queen Contest
11/19/2022: Legion Post #39 Turkey Party 6:30pm (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
11/24/2022 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)
12/03/2022 Tour of Homes & Holiday Party at Olive Grove Golf Course
12/10/2022: Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-12pm
01/29/2023 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am-1pm, Community Center
01/29/2023 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
04/01/2023 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
04/22/2023 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
04/23/2023 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)
05/06/2023 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
05/29/2023 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
07/04/2023 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Registration, 10am Start (4th of July)
07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
09/09/2023 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
10/31/2023 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm (working day on or closest to Halloween)
10/31/2023 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
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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

04-11-21-27-31

(four, eleven, twenty-one, twenty-seven, thirty-one)

Estimated jackpot: \$182,000

Lotto America

09-16-19-32-48, Star Ball: 5, ASB: 3

(nine, sixteen, nineteen, thirty-two, forty-eight; Star Ball: five; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$30,440,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 259,000,000

Powerball

07-28-62-63-64, Powerball: 10, Power Play: 3

(seven, twenty-eight, sixty-two, sixty-three, sixty-four; Powerball: ten; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000,000

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

SDHSAA Playoff=

Class AA=

Consolation Champion=

Pierre def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-19, 25-18, 25-19

Seventh Place=

Huron def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-23, 25-19, 25-14

State Champion=

Harrisburg def. Sioux Falls Jefferson, 22-25, 25-23, 25-22, 25-23

Third Place=

Sioux Falls Washington def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 27-25, 21-25, 25-19, 25-18

Class A=

Consolation Champion=

Dakota Valley def. Platte-Geddes, 23-25, 25-17, 25-17, 17-25, 15-9

Seventh Place=

Wagner def. Belle Fourche, 25-17, 19-25, 25-17, 25-20

State Champion=

Sioux Falls Christian def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-14, 25-20, 23-25, 25-13

Third Place=

Elk Point-Jefferson def. Miller, 19-25, 25-21, 25-21, 25-22

Class B=

Consolation Champion=

Northwestern def. Castlewood, 25-22, 25-13, 25-11

Seventh Place=

Colman-Egan def. Freeman, 17-25, 25-22, 25-20, 25-16

State Champion=

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Warner def. Chester, 25-23, 25-16, 14-25, 26-24

Third Place=

Wolsey-Wessington def. Burke, 19-25, 25-9, 26-24, 26-24

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

Hawkins sparks Stephen F. Austin past South Dakota St, 93-82

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Nigel Hawkins came off the bench to score 25 points and spark Stephen F. Austin to a 93-82 win over South Dakota State on Saturday.

The Lumberjacks, who got 53 points and 18 rebounds from its bench, dominated the glass in earning the win, pulling down 33 rebounds, 11 off the offensive glass. South Dakota State managed just 16 boards, all but one off the defensive glass.

SFA (3-1) shot 31 of 55 from the field (56.4%) and knocked down 81.3% from the free throw line (26 of 32).

Hawkins converted 10 of 12 from the free throw line and grabbed six rebounds. Sadaidriene Hall was 6-for-6 from the line and finished with 14 points and seven boards off the bench. Jaylin Jackson-Posey and Latrell Jossell each added 12 points.

The Jackrabbits (2-3) hit 15 of 28 shots from beyond the 3-point arc to keep pace. Zeke Mayo knocked down 4 of 9 3-pointers and led South Dakota State with 24 points. Charlie Easley hit 6 of 9 from deep to add 22 points and Luke Appel added 11 points off the bench.

Day's 5 TD passes lead Northern Iowa's rout of South Dakota

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Theo Day threw five touchdown passes and ran for another score, leading Northern Iowa's 58-14 rout of South Dakota on Saturday.

The six total touchdowns — all in the first half — were Day's career high. He completed 21 of 30 passes for 280 yards. His touchdown passes were spread among five receivers. Sergio Morancy had four catches for 135 yards, including a 62-yard touchdown.

The Panthers (6-5, 5-3 Missouri Valley) had 593 yards of total offense.

South Dakota (3-8, 2-6) managed only 236 yards of total offense.

Northern Iowa's Matthew Cook made three field goals to establish the school and MVFC record for most career field goals with 67.

GOP picks Mortenson as majority leader in South Dakota House

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Republican Rep. Will Mortenson was elected Saturday to serve as majority leader in the South Dakota House of Representatives.

Mortenson, a Pierre attorney, defeated Scott Odenbach, of Spearfish, and Rebecca Reimer, of Oacoma. Mortenson said he hopes to unify the House members, 40% of whom are new to a GOP group with an overwhelming majority.

"I really don't think that division is nearly as pronounced as it was," he told KCCR radio. "I really feel like we've got one caucus we're going to speak in one strong voice. And the nice thing is any scars are years prior, not scars that we bear. We're looking forward not back."

Mortenson added that he wants to focus on inflation, upgrading prison infrastructure and "the issue of life and the protection of the unborn."

"These are big issues," he said. "They're important to people across the state. But that's true of every legislative session. And so we're gonna do our homework."

Republicans named Rep. Taylor Rehfeldt of Sioux Falls as assistant majority leader. Rep. Hugh Bartels of Watertown was elected to serve as speaker of the house and Rep. Mike Stevens of Yankton was selected as speaker pro tem.

Kyiv's mayor: Extraordinary, in extraordinarily tough times

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The body armor propped against a radiator, ready for use, the spent shell casing adding to clutter on his desk, the boxing memorabilia and the sign asking visitors to leave firearms at his door: All shout that this is the office of an extraordinary mayor, in extraordinarily difficult times.

Other, more personal touches fill out the picture: The book on a sideboard about British wartime leader Winston Churchill is signed "With best wishes" by the author, former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

And then there's the plastic toy figure of a muscular boxer, with clenched fist raised — a reminder of how physically imposing, fearsome even, Vitali Klitschko was in his world title-winning, opponent-pummeling heavyweight boxing prime.

That much hasn't changed. His handshake is crushingly firm, his gaze steely. But the pressures on the shoulders and on the time of the 51-year-old mayor of Ukraine's capital city are heavier now than they ever were when his fortunes were measured in three-minute rounds that ended with clangs of a bell.

"If I tried to explain to you all the challenges that I have, we (would) need weeks," Klitschko said.

As was also the case during his years as a professional prizefighter, the fight for survival he's engaged in now is primal. But it's more essential, too: To prevent power from going out entirely in his city of 3 million people, to ensure that families don't freeze in the cold that winter's onset is bringing, and to keep Ukraine's hyper-digital capital hooked up to the outside world.

All this in a horrifying war against an invader, Russia, seemingly intent on destroying all those things — with repeated barrages of missiles and exploding drones that have battered Ukraine's power grid and other key infrastructure.

"It's terror," Klitschko said, delivering the word like a punch in an Associated Press interview in his City Hall office on the invasion's 268th day.

"They (left) us freezing," he said. "Without electricity, without heating, without water."

Power still comes on — sometimes — but it can no longer be relied upon. In a city with ubiquitous wifi and where most anything could be done online, rolling hours-long electricity cuts are the horrid new norm for many. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says Russian strikes have damaged around half of Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

In blacked-out Kyiv restaurants, diners feel their way through meals in near-darkness, served by waiters carrying candles. Residents wake in the dead of night — if that's when it's their turn to get a few hours of power again — to shower and do laundry.

"Huge challenge," Klitschko said.

So what's the worst-case scenario? How much worse can it possibly get?

"I don't like to talk about that," he said. "But I have to be prepared."

Part of the answer is out of Klitschko's very large hands. How difficult life will become depends, in part, on how many more missiles Russian President Vladimir Putin has left in his arsenal to throw at Kyiv and other cities.

But on the plus side, based on the most recent strikes, fewer missiles and drones appear to be getting through the capital's air defenses, because they've been beefed up with Western-supplied systems to shoot down projectiles. On a surprise visit Saturday to Kyiv, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak came with more help, pledging 125 anti-aircraft guns and other defenses against exploding, Iran-supplied drones that Russia has used.

"It's much better than before. Definitely," Klitschko said. "But it's not enough. ... We need more to protect other cities."

Klitschko's guess is that Putin's strategy is to heap so much misery on Ukrainians that they give up fighting.

It won't work, the mayor predicted.

"After every rocket attack, I talk to the people, to simple civilians. They (are) not depressed," he said.

"They were angry, angry and ready to stay and defend our houses, our families and our future."

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A Ukrainian flag affixed to the wall behind his desk reinforced his argument: "Together to victory" and "We will win," soldiers wrote on it.

Driving home his point, Klitschko cited a message he said he'd received from a Kyiv soldier telling him that on his front line, there is "no heating, no water, no electricity, no services."

"We're fighting for every one of you. If you complain, think about our condition," Klitschko said, recalling the soldier's plea.

"It's a great answer," said the mayor.

China announces 1st COVID-19 death in almost 6 months

BEIJING (AP) — China on Sunday announced its first new death from COVID-19 in nearly half a year as strict new measures are imposed in Beijing and across the country to ward against new outbreaks.

The death of the 87-year-old Beijing man was the first reported by the National Health Commission since May 26, bringing the total death toll to 5,227. The previous death was reported in Shanghai, which underwent a major springtime surge in cases.

China on Sunday announced 24,215 new cases detected over the previous 24 hours, the vast majority of them asymptomatic.

While China has an overall vaccination rate of more than 92% having received at least one dose, that number is considerably lower among the elderly — particularly those over age 80 — where it falls to just 65%. The commission did not give details on the vaccination status of the latest deceased.

That vulnerability is considered one reason why China has mostly kept its borders closed and is sticking with its rigid "zero-COVID" policy that seeks to wipe out infections through lockdowns, quarantines, case tracing and mass testing, despite the impact on normal life and the economy and rising public anger at the authorities.

China says its tough approach has paid off in much lower numbers of cases and deaths than in other countries, such as the U.S.

With a population of 1.4 billion, China has officially reported just 286,197 cases since the virus was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019. That compares to 98.3 million cases and 1 million deaths for the U.S., with its population of 331.9 million, since the virus first appeared there in 2020.

China's figures have come under question, however, based on the ruling Communist Party's long-established reputation for manipulating statistics, the lack of outside scrutiny and a highly subjective criteria for determining cause of death.

Unlike in other countries, the deaths of patients who presented COVID-19 symptoms were often attributed to underlying conditions such as diabetes or heart disease, obscuring the real number of deaths from the virus and almost certainly leading to an undercount.

Critics pointed especially to this year's outbreak in Shanghai. The city of more than 25 million only reported about two dozen coronavirus deaths despite an outbreak that spanned more than two months and infected hundreds of thousands of people in the world's third-largest city.

China has also defied advice from the World Health Organization to adopt a more targeted prevention strategy. Beijing has resisted calls to cooperate fully with the investigation into the origin of the virus, angrily rejecting suggestions it may have leaked from a Wuhan lab, seeking to turn such accusations on the U.S. military instead.

In all cases, the party's instinct to use total control — even using routine testing information to limit people's movements — has won out, with only slight concessions made to criticisms aired on highly censored internet forums.

In response to the latest outrage, the central city of Zhengzhou said Sunday it will no longer require a negative COVID-19 test from infants under age 3 and other "special groups" seeking health care.

The announcement by the Zhengzhou city government came after a second child's death was blamed on overzealous anti-virus enforcement. The 4-month-old girl died after suffering vomiting and diarrhea while in quarantine at a hotel in Zhengzhou.

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Reports said it took her father 11 hours to get help after health care workers refused to provide assistance and she finally was sent to a hospital 100 kilometers (60 miles) away. Internet users expressed anger at “zero COVID” and demanded officials in Zhengzhou be punished for failing to help the public.

That follows an earlier outcry over a 3-year-old boy’s death from carbon monoxide poisoning in the northwest. His father blamed health workers in the city of Lanzhou, who he said tried to stop him from taking his son to a hospital.

Other cases include a pregnant woman who miscarried after she was refused entry to a hospital in the northwestern city of Xi’an and forced to sit outside in the cold for hours.

Clashes between authorities and residents fed up with restrictions have been reported in numerous cities despite tight controls on information. A new round of mass testing has been ordered in Huizhu district in the southern manufacturing hub of Guangzhou that has seen such frictions involving migrant workers shut out of their homes, the local government said on its official microblog Sunday.

Each such case brings promises from the party — most recently last week — that people in quarantine or who can’t show negative test results wouldn’t be blocked from getting emergency help.

Yet, the party has often found itself unable to rein in stringent and often unauthorized measures imposed by local officials who fear losing their jobs or facing prosecution if outbreaks occur in areas under their jurisdiction.

Nearly three years into the pandemic, while the rest of the world has largely opened up and the impact on the Chinese economy rises, Beijing has mostly kept its borders closed and discouraged travel even within the country.

In the capital Beijing, residents were told not to travel between city districts, and large numbers of restaurants, shops, malls, office buildings and apartment blocks have been closed or isolated. Local and international schools in urban districts of the city of 21 million have been moved online.

UN climate deal: Calamity cash, but no new emissions cuts

By SETH BORENSTEIN, SAMY MAGDY and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — For the first time, the nations of the world decided to help pay for the damage an overheating world is inflicting on poor countries, but they finished marathon climate talks on Sunday without further addressing the root cause of those disasters — the burning of fossil fuels.

The deal, gaveled around dawn in this Egyptian Red Sea resort city, establishes a fund for what negotiators call loss and damage.

It is a big win for poorer nations which have long called for cash — sometimes viewed as reparations — because they are often the victims of climate-worsened floods, droughts, heat waves, famines and storms despite having contributed little to the pollution that heats up the globe.

It is also long been called an issue of equity for nations hit by weather extremes and small island states that face an existential threat from rising seas.

“Three long decades and we have finally delivered climate justice,” said Seve Paeniu, the finance minister of Tuvalu. “We have finally responded to the call of hundreds of millions of people across the world to help them address loss and damage.”

Pakistan’s environment minister, Sherry Rehman, said the establishment of the fund “is not about dispensing charity.”

“It is clearly a down payment on the longer investment in our joint futures,” she said, speaking for a coalition of the world’s poorest nations.

Antigua and Barbuda’s Molwyn Joseph, who chairs the organization of small island states, described the agreement as a “win for our entire world.”

“We have shown those who have felt neglected that we hear you, we see you, and we are giving you the respect and care you deserve,” he said.

The deal followed a game of climate change chicken over fossil fuels.

Early Sunday morning, delegates approved the compensation fund but had not dealt with the conten-

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tious issues of an overall temperature goal, emissions cutting and the desire to target all fossil fuels for phase down. Through the wee hours of the night, the European Union and other nations fought back what they considered backsliding in the Egyptian presidency's overarching cover agreement and threatened to scuttle the rest of the process.

The package was revised again, removing most of the elements Europeans had objected to but added none of the heightened ambition they were hoping for.

"What we have in front of us is not enough of a step forward for people and planet," a disappointed Frans Timmermans, executive vice president of the European Union, told his fellow negotiators. "It does not bring enough added efforts from major emitters to increase and accelerate their emissions cuts.

"We have all fallen short in actions to avoid and minimize loss and damage," Timmermans said. "We should have done much more."

Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock likewise voiced frustration.

"It is more than frustrating to see overdue steps on mitigation and the phase-out of fossil energies being stonewalled by a number of large emitters and oil producers," she said.

The agreement includes a veiled reference to the benefits of natural gas as low emission energy, despite many nations calling for a phase down of natural gas, which does contribute to climate change.

While the new agreement doesn't ratchet up calls for reducing emissions, it does retain language to keep alive the global goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). The Egyptian presidency kept offering proposals that harkened back to 2015 Paris language which also mentioned a looser goal of 2 degrees. The world has already warmed 1.1 degrees (2 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times.

Nor does the deal expand on last year's call to phase down global use of "unabated coal" even though India and other countries pushed to include oil and natural gas in language from Glasgow. That too was the subject of last minute debate, especially upsetting Europeans.

Last year's climate talks president chided the summit leadership for knocking down his efforts to do more to cut emissions with a forceful listing of what was not done.

"We joined with many parties to propose a number of measures that would have contributed to this emissions peaking before 2025, as the science tells us is necessary. Not in this text," the United Kingdom's Alok Sharma said emphasizing the last part. "Clear follow through on the phase down of coal. Not in this text. A clear commitment to phase out all fossil fuels. Not in this text. And the energy text weakened in the final minutes."

And in his remarks to negotiators, U.N. climate chief Simon Stiell, who hails from Grenada, called on the world "to move away from fossil fuels, including coal oil and gas."

However, that fight was overshadowed by the historic compensation fund.

"Quite a few positives to celebrate amidst the gloom and doom" of not cutting emissions fast enough to limit warming to 1.5 degrees, said climate scientist Maarten van Aalst of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Center, which responds to climate disasters.

It's a reflection of what can be done when the poorest nations remain unified, said Alex Scott, a climate diplomacy expert at the think tank E3G.

"I think this is huge to have governments coming together to actually work out at least the first step of ... how to deal with the issue of loss and damage," Scott said. But like all climate financials, it is one thing to create a fund, it's another to get money flowing in and out, she said. The developed world still has not kept its 2009 pledge to spend \$100 billion a year in other climate aid — designed to help poor nations develop green energy and adapt to future warming.

Next year's talks will also see further negotiations to work out details of the new loss and damage fund, as well as review the world's efforts to meet the goals of the Paris accord, which scientists say are slipping out of reach.

According to the agreement, the fund would initially draw on contributions from developed countries and other private and public sources such as international financial institutions. While major emerging economies such as China wouldn't automatically have to contribute, that option remains on the table. This is a

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key demand by the European Union and the United States, who argue that China and other large polluters currently classified as developing countries have the financial clout and responsibility to pay their way.

The fund would be largely aimed at the most vulnerable nations, though there would be room for middle-income countries that are severely battered by climate disasters to get aid.

Martin Kaiser, the head of Greenpeace Germany, described the agreement on a loss and damage as a "small plaster on a huge, gaping wound."

"It's a scandal that the Egyptian COP presidency gave petrostates such as Saudi Arabia space to torpedo effective climate protection," he said.

Many climate campaigners are concerned that pushing for strong action to end fossil fuel use will be even harder at next year's meeting, which will be hosted in Dubai, located in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates.

VP Harris to visit front-line Philippine island in sea feud

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris will underscore America's commitment to defending treaty ally the Philippines with a visit that starts Sunday and involves flying to an island province facing the disputed South China Sea, where Washington has accused China of bullying smaller claimant nations.

After attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Thailand, Harris will fly Sunday night to Manila and on Monday meet President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for talks aimed at reinforcing Washington's oldest treaty alliance in Asia and strengthening economic ties, said a senior U.S. administration official, who was not identified according to practice, in an online briefing ahead of the visit.

Harris said her trip to Thailand was "quite successful" as she reiterated the U.S. commitment to the region Sunday afternoon at a roundtable discussion on climate change.

The panel of climate activists, civil society members and business leaders focused on clean energy and the threat climate change is posing to the Mekong River, which more than 60 million people in Southeast Asia use for food, water and transport. Harris announced the U.S. plans to provide up to \$20 million in funding for clean energy in the region via the Japan-U.S. Mekong Power Partnership.

Before her flight out, she stopped by a local market and perused a maze of shops, struck up conversations with shopkeepers and purchased Thai green curry paste.

On Tuesday she'll fly to Palawan province, which lies along the South China Sea, to meet fishermen, villagers, officials and the coast guard. Once there, she'll be the highest-ranking U.S. leader to visit the frontier island at the forefront of the long-seething territorial disputes involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

The Philippine coast guard is scheduled to welcome Harris on board one of its biggest patrol ships, the BRP Teresa Magbanua, in Palawan, where she is scheduled to deliver a speech, according to coast guard spokesperson Commodore Armand Balilo.

Harris will underscore the importance of international law, unimpeded commerce and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, the U.S. official said.

China can view the visit the way it wants, the official added in response to a question, but Washington's message is that the U.S., as a member of the Indo-Pacific, is engaged and committed to the security of its allies in the region.

Philippine Ambassador to Washington Jose Manuel Romualdez said Harris's trip to Palawan shows the level of America's support to an ally and concern over China's actions in the disputed sea.

"That's as obvious as you can get, that the message they're trying to impart to the Chinese is that 'we support our allies like the Philippines on these disputed islands,'" Romualdez told The Associated Press. "This visit is a significant step in showing how serious the United States views this situation now."

Washington and Beijing have long been on a collision course in the contested waters. While the U.S. lays no claims to the strategic waterway, where an estimated \$5 trillion in global trade transits each year, it has said that freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea is in America's national interest.

China opposes U.S. Navy and Air Force patrols in the busy waterway, which Beijing claims virtually in

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its entirety. It has warned Washington not to meddle in what it says is a purely Asian territorial conflict — which has become a delicate front-line in the U.S.-China rivalry in the region and has long been feared as a potential flashpoint.

In July, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called on China to comply with a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated Beijing's vast territorial claims in the South China Sea and warned that Washington is obligated to defend treaty ally Philippines if its forces, vessels or aircraft come under attack in the disputed waters.

China has rejected the 2016 decision by an arbitration tribunal set up in The Hague under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea after the Philippine government complained in 2013 about China's increasingly aggressive actions in the disputed waters. Beijing did not participate in the arbitration, rejected its ruling as a sham and continues to defy it.

Harris' visit is the latest sign of the growing rapport between Washington and Manila under Marcos Jr., who took office in June after a landslide electoral victory.

America's relations with the Philippines entered a difficult period under Marcos' predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, who threatened to sever ties with Washington and expel visiting American forces, and once attempted to abrogate a major defense pact with the U.S. while nurturing cozy ties with China and Russia.

When President Joe Biden met Marcos Jr. for the first time in September in New York on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, he stressed the depth by which the U.S. regards its relations with the Philippines despite some headwinds.

"We've had some rocky times, but the fact is it's a critical, critical relationship, from our perspective. I hope you feel the same way," Biden said then. Marcos Jr. told him, "We are your partners. We are your allies. We are your friends."

The rapprochement came at a crucial time when the U.S. needed to build a deterrent presence amid growing security threats in the region, Romualdez said.

Philippine military chief of staff Lt. Gen. Bartolome Bacarro said last week that the U.S. wanted to construct military facilities in five more areas in the northern Philippines under a 2014 defense cooperation pact, which allows American forces to build warehouses and temporary living quarters within Philippine military camps.

The Philippines Constitution prohibits foreign military bases but at least two defense pacts allow temporary visits by American forces with their aircraft and Navy ships for joint military exercises, combat training and bracing to respond to natural disasters.

The northern Philippines is strategically located across a strait from Taiwan and could serve as a crucial outpost in case tensions worsen between China and the self-governed island.

Harris spoke briefly with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Saturday while heading into a closed-door meeting at APEC. When asked Sunday whether they discussed Taiwan or North Korea, she reiterated they talked about "keeping open lines of communication."

While aiming to deepen ties, the Biden administration has to contend with concerns by human rights groups over Marcos Jr. The Philippine leader has steadfastly defended the legacy of his father, a dictator who was ousted in a 1986 pro-democracy uprising amid human rights atrocities and plunder.

Harris also plans to meet Vice President Sara Duterte, daughter of Marcos' predecessor, who oversaw a deadly anti-drugs crackdown that left thousands of mostly poor suspects dead and sparked an International Criminal Court investigation as a possible crime against humanity. The vice president has defended her father's presidency.

Given the Biden administration's high-profile advocacy for democracy and human rights, its officials have said human rights were at the top of the agenda in each of their engagements with Marcos Jr. and his officials.

After her meeting Monday with Marcos Jr., Harris plans to meet civil society activists to demonstrate U.S. commitment and continued support for human rights and democratic resilience, the U.S. official said.

South Africa faces challenges in transition away from coal

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By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME Associated Press

MASAKHANE, South Africa (AP) — Living in the shadow of one of South Africa's largest coal-fired power stations, residents of Masakhane fear job losses if the facility is closed as the country moves to cleaner energy.

A significant polluter because it relies on coal to generate about 80% of its electricity, South Africa plans to reduce that to 59% by 2030 by phasing out some of its 15 coal-fired power stations and increasing its use of renewable energy. Its target is zero carbon emissions by 2050.

After receiving pledges of \$8.5 billion at last year's global climate summit in Scotland, South Africa's plan to transition away from coal was widely endorsed at the COP27 climate conference in Egypt where officials signed agreements for some parts of the loan funding.

The move from coal will be difficult for the continent's most developed economy. South African homes and businesses are already suffering daily scheduled power cuts — often more than seven hours a day — because the state-owned power utility, Eskom, cannot produce adequate supplies of electricity.

But the change has started. The Komati power station in Mpumalanga province has been decommissioned and \$497 million will be used to convert it into a plant using renewable sources and batteries, according to an announcement this month by the World Bank.

Masakhane township, also in Mpumalanga province, sits dramatically at the base of mountains of coal mined nearby and then burned at the Duvha power station.

Residents say they're worried that if the coal-fired plant is closed they'll lose jobs, a serious concern in a country where the unemployment rate is above 30%.

The 3,600 megawatts Duvha power station supplies jobs ranging from contract work at the plant to related employment in the transport and food industries.

Selby Mahlalela, 38, moved to Masakhane in 2006 and has had various maintenance jobs as a contract worker for the state-owned power utility Eskom.

"It is the one place that the majority of people from here rely on for job opportunities, despite them not being permanent workers. This happens a lot especially when there are shutdowns or maintenance work," said Mahlalela.

The transition remains a contentious issue, even within President Cyril Ramaphosa's Cabinet.

This week, Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe told lawmakers that the transition to cleaner energy should not happen at the cost of people's livelihoods and the country's energy security.

"I am one of the people who say we can have a transition. But that coal is not about just numbers, it is about human beings. It is (about) 10 towns in Mpumalanga," said Mantashe.

In one of those towns, Silindile Kheswa has found work with short-term contracts at the Duvha power station and said he fears the transition away from coal.

"Some of our brothers are involved in the trucking of coal, transporting it to various power stations," said Kheswa. "So if you are saying no more coal, that means we can't put food on the table."

Success or COP-out: How do this year's climate talks rate?

By FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — After two weeks of haggling, officials on Sunday cheered the end of this year's U.N. climate talks in Egypt, which resulted in the creation of a fund to help poor countries suffering under disasters driven by global warming.

Expectations had been low for major agreements to come out of the meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh, but the recent floods in Pakistan and Nigeria boosted calls for urgent aid now.

The geopolitical fallout from Russia's war in Ukraine and simmering U.S.-China tensions provided a difficult backdrop for the talks.

Here's a look at what was achieved, and what fell short, at the climate confab by the Red Sea:

LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND

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Countries around the world are already seeing the effects of climate change, from wilder weather to hotter summers and rising sea levels. Poor nations that have contributed least to the problem of greenhouse gas emissions are among the hardest hit. So there were cheers when the idea of a 'loss and damage' fund made it onto the official agenda of the talks for the first time.

Industrialized countries had long resisted such a fund, fearing it would put them on the hook for billions of dollars for the decades of they've been pumping carbon into the atmosphere. An unexpected offer Thursday from the European Union got the ball rolling and within 48 hours a deal was done. Details still need to be hammered out, but the most vulnerable nations can expect to get cash to cope with climate catastrophes in future.

FINANCE RULES

Donor countries have demanded that the money being channeled to poor nations needs to be aligned with the goals of the Paris accord.

Some developing countries have resisted this, fearing it would distract from discussions over the money rich nations have pledged — but so far not delivered — to help them adapt to climate change and reduce their emissions. Negotiators in Sharm el-Sheikh were unable to reach an agreement on the issue and it will now be taken up again in Dubai, next year.

KEEPING 1.5 ALIVE

Scientists warn that chances are slipping away to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) as laid out in the 2015 Paris agreement. Rather than declining, greenhouse gas emissions are still rising.

But there is some progress. Before Paris, the world was heading for 4.5 degrees Celsius of warming by the end of the century compared to pre-industrial times. Recent forecasts have that down to about 2.6 C, thanks to measures taken or firm commitments governments have already made.

Campaigners had hoped countries at the meeting in Egypt would encourage countries to set out more ambitious targets. They were disappointed.

Negotiators agreed to confirm the pledges made at last year's climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, but little else. There was no call for major developing world polluters like China and India to cut their emissions sooner.

PUTTING FOSSILS ON NOTICE

Last year's talks ended with an agreement to "phase down" the use of coal, the first time a fossil fuel has been explicitly named, shamed and given notice at the international level. India, which was unhappy about that move, this year made a surprise call for oil and gas to be phased down too, but the proposal didn't make the final cut.

Several pacts have been struck between rich and developing nations in recent months to hasten that shift toward clean energy, most recently a \$20 billion deal with Indonesia. However there was disappointment among environmentalists that the Sharm el-Sheikh meeting included "low-emission" energy — which some claim includes natural gas, a fossil fuel — in a resolution on the clean energy transition.

METHANE BUBBLING

Glasgow also saw a new alliance of countries including the United States come together and pledge to cut the amount of methane — a powerful greenhouse gas — released into the atmosphere by a third by 2030.

The list of countries supporting that pledge grew this year, to about 150. Even China said it would work to cut methane emissions.

RIGHT TO PROTEST

Human rights issues came to the fore at COP27 due to Egypt's history of repression and the high-profile case of imprisoned activist Alaa Abdel-Fattah. His fate was raised by numerous foreign leaders in meetings with their Egyptian counterparts, but the activists remains in jail. His family said he was "very very thin" after ending a hunger strike that prompted widespread concern for his health.

CARBON CREDITS

Long-running discussions about emissions trading rules failed to make much headway.

Climate campaigners criticized that existing loopholes in already weak rules for emissions trading mar-

kets could allow polluters to keep pumping carbon into the atmosphere while claiming they're meeting international targets — by simply paying others to offset their emissions.

Experts said current rules hamper transparency and important language on protecting human rights was watered down, prompting fears that Indigenous peoples in particular could suffer as a result of carbon markets, say by being forced to leave their ancestral lands to make way for forestry projects used to sell emissions offsets.

Musk restores Trump's Twitter account after online poll

By ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Elon Musk reinstated Donald Trump's account on Twitter on Saturday, reversing a ban that has kept the former president off the social media site since a pro-Trump mob attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, as Congress was poised to certify Joe Biden's election victory.

Musk made the announcement in the evening after holding a poll that asked Twitter users to click "yes" or "no" on whether Trump's account should be restored. The "yes" vote won, with 51.8%. Previously, Musk had said Twitter would establish new procedures and a "content moderation council" before making decisions to restore suspended accounts.

"The people have spoken. Trump will be reinstated. Vox Populi, Vox Dei," Musk tweeted, using a Latin phrase meaning "the voice of the people, the voice of God."

Shortly afterward Trump's account, which had earlier appeared as suspended, reappeared on the platform complete with his former tweets, more than 59,000 of them. His followers were gone, at least initially, but he quickly began regaining them. There were no new tweets from the account as of late Saturday, however.

Musk restored the account less than a month after the Tesla CEO took control of Twitter and four days after Trump announced his candidacy for the 2024 presidential race.

It is not clear whether Trump would actually return to Twitter. An irrepressible tweeter before he was banned, Trump has said in the past that he would not rejoin even if his account was reinstated. He has been relying on his own, much smaller social media site, Truth Social, which he launched after being blocked from Twitter.

And on Saturday, during a video speech to a Republican Jewish group meeting in Las Vegas, Trump said that he was aware of Musk's poll but that he saw "a lot of problems at Twitter."

"I hear we're getting a big vote to also go back on Twitter. I don't see it because I don't see any reason for it," Trump said. "It may make it, it may not make it," he added, apparently referring to Twitter's recent internal upheavals.

The prospect of restoring Trump's presence to the platform follows Musk's purchase last month of Twitter — an acquisition that has fanned widespread concern that the billionaire owner will allow purveyors of lies and misinformation to flourish on the site. Musk has frequently expressed his belief that Twitter had become too restrictive of freewheeling speech.

His efforts to reshape the site have been both swift and chaotic. Musk has fired many of the company's 7,500 full-time workers and an untold number of contractors who are responsible for content moderation and other crucial responsibilities. His demand that remaining employees pledge to "extremely hardcore" work triggered a wave of resignations, including hundreds of software engineers.

Users have reported seeing increased spam and scams on their feeds and in their direct messages, among other glitches, in the aftermath of the mass layoffs and worker exodus. Some programmers who were fired or resigned this week warned that Twitter may soon fray so badly it could actually crash.

Musk's online survey, posted on his own Twitter account, drew more than 15 million votes in the 24 hours in which it ran.

Musk conceded that the results were hardly scientific. "Bot & troll armies might be running out of steam soon," he tweeted Saturday morning. "Some interesting lessons to clean up future polls."

It's not the first time he's used Twitter polling to make business decisions. Last year he sold millions of shares of his Tesla stock after asking his followers whether he should.

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Democratic U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York responded to Musk's poll on Trump by tweeting video of the Jan. 6 insurrection. She tweeted Friday that when Trump was last on Twitter, it "was used to incite an insurrection, multiple people died, the Vice President of the United States was nearly assassinated, and hundreds were injured but I guess that's not enough for you to answer the question. Twitter poll it is."

Trump lost his access to Twitter two days after his supporters stormed the Capitol, soon after the former president had exhorted them to "fight like hell." Twitter dropped his account after Trump wrote a pair of tweets that the company said cast further doubts on the legitimacy of the presidential election and raised risks for the Biden presidential inauguration.

After the Jan. 6 attack, Trump was also kicked off Facebook and Instagram, which are owned by Meta Platforms, and Snapchat. His ability to post videos to his YouTube channel was also suspended. Facebook is set to reconsider Trump's suspension in January.

Throughout his tenure as president, Trump's use of social media posed a significant challenge to major social media platforms that sought to balance the public's interest in hearing from public officials with worries about misinformation, bigotry, harassment and incitement of violence.

But in a speech at an auto conference in May, Musk asserted that Twitter's ban of Trump was a "morally bad decision" and "foolish in the extreme."

Earlier this month, Musk, who completed the \$44 billion takeover of Twitter in late October, declared that the company wouldn't let anyone who had been kicked off the site return until Twitter had established procedures on how to do so, including forming a "content moderation council."

On Friday, Musk tweeted that the suspended Twitter accounts for the comedian Kathy Griffin, the Canadian psychologist Jordan Peterson and the conservative Christian news satire website Babylon Bee had been reinstated. He added that a decision on Trump had not yet been made. He also responded "no" when someone on Twitter asked him to reinstate the conspiracy theorist Alex Jones' account.

In a tweet Friday, the Tesla CEO described the company's new content policy as "freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach."

He explained that a tweet deemed to be "negative" or to include "hate" would be allowed on the site but would be visible only to users who specifically searched for it. Such tweets also would be "demonetized, so no ads or other revenue to Twitter," Musk said.

France star Karim Benzema out for World Cup with leg injury

By JEROME PUGMIRE AP Sports Writer

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — One month after raising the Ballon d'Or in triumph to crown his remarkable rise, Karim Benzema's dream of winning the World Cup is over before he has even played a game in Qatar.

Defending champion France's World Cup hopes took a huge blow with the news that its star striker Benzema is out of the tournament after tearing a muscle in his left thigh during training on Saturday.

"Karim Benzema is out of the World Cup," the French soccer federation (FFF) said. "After hurting the quadriceps on his left thigh the Real Madrid striker is forced to give up on taking part in the World Cup."

Benzema was participating in his first full training session with Les Bleus when he had to come off after feeling some pain in his left thigh, the FFF said.

"He went for an MRI scan in a hospital (clinic) in Doha, which unfortunately confirmed a tear," the FFF said, adding that he will need three weeks to recover.

Benzema addressed his fans after the news emerged.

"I've never given up in my life but tonight I have to think of the team, as I have always done," Benzema posted on his Instagram account. "So reason tells me to give my place to someone who can help our squad have a great World Cup. Thanks for all your messages of support."

France coach Didier Deschamps said: "I'm very sad for Karim who had made this World Cup a major objective,"

Benzema had hardly played at all in recent weeks — since winning the Ballon d'Or, he has played fewer

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than 30 minutes for Madrid — and this was his first full training session with France.

France faces Australia on Tuesday in Group D, then Denmark four days later and Tunisia on Nov. 30.

It is a crushing blow for Benzema, only the fifth Frenchman to win the Ballon d'Or award and the first since Zinedine Zidane, his idol, in 1998.

The hugely talented Benzema, who is of Algerian descent, came through Lyon's renowned youth academy and scored the first of his Champions League goals as an audaciously gifted 17-year-old. He's now fourth all-time with 86 goals.

Benzema was France's top scorer at the 2014 World Cup but did not play in France's victorious 2018 World Cup campaign because he was still exiled from the team for his alleged role in a sex-tape scandal with then-France teammate Mathieu Valbuena.

The fallout from that scandal led to a dramatic fall from grace for Benzema. He faced a nationwide deluge of vitriol and scathing criticism, including on the political level. It led to a long exclusion from the national team from Oct. 2015 until his recall by Deschamps in May last year.

With his relationship with Deschamps repaired, Benzema scored freely for France with 10 goals in 16 games since coming back to reach 37 overall, and he formed a great partnership with Kylian Mbappe.

He won the hearts of French fans and cemented his place in the affections of Madrid's equally demanding supporters. Benzema won five Champions League titles and has moved up to second place in Madrid's all-time scoring list with 329 goals.

At last year's European Championship, Benzema looked sharp and was France's top scorer with four goals.

Earlier this week Benzema gave reassuring news in an extract of an interview with L'Equipe's television channel, which was set to air on Sunday.

"I'm fine. I had a bit of pain but no tear and no serious injury. I could have played (for Madrid) but I wasn't at 100%," he told L'Equipe's TV channel this week.

Now Benzema joins the list of big names injured shortly before the World Cup — like Senegal's Sadio Mane and Germany's Timo Werner. Not to mention Benzema's own teammates, Paul Pogba, N'Gole Kante and Christopher Nkunku.

Deschamps has seen his squad riddled with injuries.

Nkunku was injured just minutes before the end of the team's training session on Tuesday evening and replaced in the squad by Randal Kolo Muani on Wednesday.

Deschamps is already missing midfielders Pogba and Kante, who helped France win the World Cup four years ago.

Deschamps has an anxious wait to see if his best central defender, Raphael Varane, is fit to face Australia — exactly a month since he limped off for Manchester United with a hamstring injury.

Fellow World Cup winner and central defender Presnel Kimpembe pulled out Monday after failing to sufficiently recover from a six-week layoff following a hamstring injury.

Even without Benzema, France still has a strong attack to face Australia. France is likely to start with Olivier Giroud as the central striker, flanked by 2018 World Cup star Mbappe and either Barcelona's Ousmane Dembele or veteran Antoine Griezmann.

Giroud has scored 49 goals for France, Griezmann has 42 and the 23-year-old Mbappe already has 28. Dembele has been in fine form for Spanish league leader Barcelona this season.

Deschamps has until Monday — the eve of the Australia game — to call up a replacement for Benzema to his 26-player squad. Monaco striker Wissam Ben Yedder, who has three international goals, could be an option.

But Deschamps already has ample forward backup with Bayern Munich winger Kingsley Coman, Marcus Thuram and Kolo Muani.

Benzema would have turned 35 the day after the World Cup final. If France reaches it, he won't be there to play in Qatar, just like four years ago in Russia.

George Lois, icon of ads and magazine covers, dead at 91

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By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — George Lois, the hard-selling, charismatic advertising man and designer who fashioned some of the most daring magazine images of the 1960s and popularized such catchphrases and brand names as “I Want My MTV” and “Lean Cuisine,” has died. He was 91.

Lois’ son, the photographer Luke Lois, said he died “peacefully” Friday at his home in Manhattan.

Nicknamed the “Golden Greek” and later (to his displeasure) an “Original Mad Man,” George Lois was among a wave of advertisers who launched the “Creative Revolution” that jolted Madison Avenue and the world beyond in the late 1950s and ‘60s. He was boastful and provocative, willing and able to offend, and was a master of finding just the right image or words to capture a moment or create a demand.

His Esquire magazine covers, from Muhammad Ali posing as the martyr Saint Sebastian to Andy Warhol sinking in a sea of Campbell’s tomato soup, defined the hyper spirit of the ‘60s as much as Norman Rockwell’s idealized drawings for the Saturday Evening Post summoned an earlier era. As an ad man, he devised breakthrough strategies for Xerox and Stouffer’s and helped an emerging music video channel in the 1980s by suggesting ads featuring Mick Jagger and other rock stars demanding, with mock-petulance, “I Want My MTV!”

Lois boiled it down to what he called the “Big Idea,” crystallizing “the unique virtues of a product and searing it into people’s minds.” He was inducted into numerous advertising and visual arts halls of fame, and in 2008 his Esquire work was added to the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art. Martin Scorsese, Tina Brown and Graydon Carter were among his admirers.

His legacy was vast, although the actual dimensions are disputed. His claims to developing the 1960s “I Want My Maypo” breakfast ads and to inspiring the creation of New York magazine have been widely contradicted. Some former Esquire colleagues would allege that he exaggerated his role at the expense of other contributors, such as Carl Fischer, who photographed many of the magazine’s famous covers. But his overpowering energy and confidence were well recorded.

In her memoir “Basic Black,” former USA Today publisher Cathie Black recalled bringing in Lois in the early 1980s to propose a new advertising approach for a publication that struggled at first over how to identify itself. Lois’ idea was to champion USA Today’s dual appeal as a newspaper and magazine, proposing the slogan, “A lot of people are saying USA Today is neither fish nor fowl. They’re right!” Before a gathering of the publication’s, including founder Al Neuharth, Lois gave an Oscar-worthy performance, Black wrote, “bounding in like a 6-foot-3 teenager hopped up on Red Bull.”

“He flung his jacket to the floor, tore off his tie, then flashed one prototype ad after another, prancing around the room and keeping up a running monologue sprinkled with jokes and profanity. It was epic, almost scary. I was thrilled. When he was finished, the room sat absolutely silent.” All eyes turned to Neuharth, who sat “absolutely still, his expression hidden behind his dark aviator glasses.” Neuharth paused, removed his glasses and smiled. “We’ve got it,” he said.

Lois’ longtime wife, Rosemary Lewandowski Lois, died in September. A son, Harry Joseph Lois, died in 1978.

Lois, the son of Greek immigrants, was born in New York City in 1931 and would cite the racism of his Irish neighborhood for his drive “to awaken, to disturb, to protest.” He liked to say that a successful advertiser absorbed as many influences as possible, and he prided himself on his knowledge of everything from sports to ballet. He was a compulsive drawer and for much of his life made weekly visits to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

He enrolled in Pratt Institute, soon met his future wife and eloped with her before either had graduated. After serving in the Army during the Korean War, he joined the advertising and promotion department of CBS and in 1960 helped found the advertising agency Papert Koenig Lois. Two years later he was recruited by Esquire editor Harold Hayes and remained until 1972, the same year Hayes left.

Esquire was a prime venue for the so-called New Journalism of the 1960s, nonfiction stories with a literary approach, and the magazine would publish such celebrated pieces as Gay Talese’s portrait of Frank Sinatra and Tom Wolfe’s “The Last American Hero Is Junior Johnson. Yes!” But to read the words, you had to buy the magazine, and Lois’ covers launched countless conversations.

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For a cover story on "The New American Woman," he featured a naked model folded into a garbage can. A notorious 1970 cover showed a grinning Lt. William Calley, the serviceman later found guilty of murdering unarmed civilians in the My Lai Massacre, with his arms around a pair of Vietnamese children, two other kids behind him.

In the mid-1970s, Lois was among the public figures who led efforts to free the boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter from prison. Carter's conviction for murder was later overturned, and he was released in 1985. Lois also wrote several books and was featured in the 2014 documentary about Esquire, "Smiling Through the Apocalypse."

Interest in Lois was renewed through the popularity of the AMC series "Mad Men," but he was not flattered, writing in his book "Damn Good Advice" that the show was "nothing more than a soap opera set in a glamorous office where stylish fools hump their appreciative, coiffured secretaries, suck up martinis, and smoke themselves to death as they produce dumb, lifeless advertising."

"Besides," he added, "when I was in my 30s I was better looking than Don Draper."

No. 2 Ohio State holds off Terps 43-30, Michigan next

By NOAH TRISTER AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — C.J. Stroud and Ohio State have waited a year for this.

Now it's time to face Michigan — and after more struggles than usual this weekend, the Buckeyes and Wolverines will indeed be undefeated when they meet next weekend.

Dallan Hayden scored three touchdowns in the second half of No. 2 Ohio State's 43-30 victory over Maryland on Saturday. The Buckeyes and No. 3 Michigan cleared their final hurdles, and now Ohio State will try to avenge last season's loss to the Wolverines — its first in the series in a decade.

"We've been licking our wounds for 365 days, hearing all the laughing, everything that everybody's been saying," said Stroud, Ohio State's star quarterback. "I definitely think that we've been preparing for it, not only on the field but in the weight room as well."

Just before Ohio State (11-0, 8-0 Big Ten, No. 2 CFP) and Maryland (6-5, 3-5) kicked off, Michigan edged Illinois on a late field goal. The Buckeyes then had plenty of problems of their own against the Terrapins. Ohio State trailed 13-10 at halftime, and the Buckeyes were up just 33-30 when they turned the ball over on downs at the Maryland 42 with 6:36 remaining in the game.

Ohio State forced a three-and-out, however, and then the Buckeyes ran out most of the remaining time. Noah Ruggles kicked a 45-yard field goal with 42 seconds left, and Steele Chambers added a defensive touchdown with 9 seconds to play.

"We're never satisfied with a loss, obviously, but what you saw today is us go blow for blow with a team I consider to be one of the best in the country," Maryland coach Michael Locksley said.

Maryland quarterback Taulia Tagovailoa, whose fumble Chambers scored on, was injured on that play and walked off very slowly.

Hayden finished with 146 yards on 27 carries.

TreVeyon Henderson returned after missing Ohio State's previous two games while injured. He caught an early 31-yard touchdown pass from Stroud but managed only 19 yards on 11 carries.

"It got to the point where we just decided we weren't going to put him in anymore," coach Ryan Day said.

Day said Henderson had a great week of practice, and the team will keep evaluating him. Day is hopeful running back Miyan Williams will be back next week after leaving last weekend's game with a leg injury.

Tagovailoa completed his first 11 passes, and although the Terps settled for a couple field goals in the red zone early on, they went ahead 13-10 on a 1-yard TD catch by CJ Dippre with 3:52 left in the half.

This was a far cry from the previous two Ohio State-Maryland meetings, which the Buckeyes won 73-14 and 66-17 — although it wasn't quite as harrowing for them as their 52-51 overtime win over the Terps in 2018. That game also came the week before they faced Michigan.

A blocked punt set up an 8-yard touchdown run by Hayden and gave the Buckeyes a 17-13 advantage in the third.

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"I love the way we competed tonight, even though it wasn't pretty," Stroud said. "I don't think a lot of games today were pretty."

Hayden's second touchdown made it 27-13, but Maryland answered with Tagovailoa's 5-yard scoring run, plus a 2-point conversion. After another TD run by Hayden, Jakorian Bennett returned a blocked extra point all the way for two points, making the score 33-23.

Tagovailoa threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to Jeshawn Jones to trim the lead to three with 9:49 to go.

THE TAKEAWAY

Ohio State: This was the second-most points allowed by the Buckeyes this season, surpassed only in their 44-31 win over Penn State, but Ohio State escaped on the road and showed it has enough depth at running back no matter how healthy Henderson is next weekend.

Maryland: The Terps' improvement this year might not be reflected in their final record. They played Michigan tough in a 34-27 loss in September and were within a field goal of Ohio State with a minute remaining. It's their two losses prior to this one — to Wisconsin and Penn State by a combined 53-10 — that will leave a sour taste.

MILESTONE

Tagovailoa become Maryland's career leader with 7,316 yards passing. He passed Scott Milanovich (7,301) to take over the top spot.

He didn't sound too concerned about his late injury.

"My knee is good," he said. "Obviously, it's been bothering me the whole season but I think it just hit the ground real hard. I think it's just a bad bruise."

UP NEXT

Ohio State: The Buckeyes host Michigan next Saturday, with the winner advancing to the Big Ten title game.

Maryland: The Terrapins host Rutgers to end the regular season.

US defense chief: 'Tyranny and turmoil' in Russian invasion

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin warned Saturday Russia's invasion of Ukraine offers a preview of a world where nuclear-armed countries could threaten other nations and said Beijing, like Moscow, seeks a world where might makes right.

Austin made the remarks at the annual Halifax International Security Forum, which attracts defense and security officials from Western democracies.

"Russia's invasion offers a preview of a possible world of tyranny and turmoil that none of us would want to live in. And it's an invitation to an increasingly insecure world haunted by the shadow of nuclear proliferation," Austin said in a speech.

"Because (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's fellow autocrats are watching. And they could well conclude that getting nuclear weapons would give them a hunting license of their own. And that could drive a dangerous spiral of nuclear proliferation."

Austin dismissed Putin's claims that "modern Ukraine was entirely created by Russia," calling it a vision of "a world in which autocrats decide which countries are real and which countries can be snuffed out."

He added that the war "shows the whole world the dangers of disorder. That's the security challenge that we face. It's urgent, and it's historic.

But we're going to meet it. ... The basic principles of democracy are under siege around the world," he said.

U.S. President Joe Biden last month declared that the risk of nuclear "Armageddon" is at the highest level since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis; Russian officials have raised using tactical nuclear weapons after suffering massive setbacks in the nearly nine-month invasion of Ukraine.

While U.S. officials for months have warned of the prospect that Russia could use weapons of mass destruction in Ukraine in the face of battlefield setbacks, Biden administration officials have repeatedly

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said nothing has changed in U.S. intelligence assessments to suggest that Putin has imminent plans to deploy nuclear weapons.

CIA Director Bill Burns recently met with his Russian intelligence counterpart to warn of consequences if Russia were to deploy a nuclear weapon in Ukraine.

Austin said nuclear weapons need to be responsibly controlled, and not used to threaten the world.

"Ukraine faces a harsh winter. And as Russia's position on the battlefield erodes, Putin may resort again to profoundly irresponsible nuclear saber-rattling," he said

Austin also compared Russia to China, saying Beijing is trying to refashion both the region and the international system to suit its authoritarian preferences. He noted China's increasing military activities in the Taiwan Strait.

"Beijing, like Moscow, seeks a world where might makes right, where disputes are resolved by force, and where autocrats can stamp out the flame of freedom," he said.

Austin called Putin's invasion the worst crisis in security since the end of the Second World War and said the outcome "will help determine the course of global security in this young century," Austin said..

Austin said the deadly missile explosion in Poland this week is a consequence of Russian President Vladimir Putin's "war of choice" against Ukraine. "The tragic and troubling explosion in Poland this week reminded the whole world of the recklessness of Putin's war of choice," Austin said.

On Tuesday, two workers were killed when a projectile hit a grain-drying facility close to Poland's border with Ukraine. While the source of the missile is under investigation, NATO officials have said they suspect it was fired from a Ukrainian missile battery.

Officials from Poland, NATO and the United States have blamed Russia for the deaths in any case, saying a Ukrainian missile would not have misfired had the country not been forced to defend itself against heavy Russian attacks that day.

Russian officials have cast the conflict as a struggle against NATO — though Ukraine is not a NATO member even if it has been receiving aid from NATO member states.

Austin said NATO is a defensive alliance and poses no threat to Russia.

"Make no mistake: we will not be dragged into Putin's war of choice. But we will stand by Ukraine as it fights to defend itself. And we will defend every inch of NATO territory," Austin said.

A Polish investigation to determine the source of the missile and the circumstances of the explosion was launched with support from the U.S. and Ukrainian investigators joined the probe on Friday.

Andriy Yermak, head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, said in an interview broadcast live at the forum that "It's not right to say it's a Ukrainian rocket, or a Russian rocket, before the investigation is over."

In its 14th year, about 300 people gather each year at Halifax International Security Forum held at Halifax's Westin hotel, where about 13 Ukrainian refugees now work.

Virginia honors slain players in memorial service on campus

By HANK KURZ Jr. AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Thousands of people joined Virginia's football team, coaches and staff Saturday in honoring three players who were shot dead as they returned from a field trip last weekend.

Lavel Davis Jr., D'Sean Perry and Devin Chandler were remembered during a memorial service in Charlottesville as great teammates who wore constant smiles and sought to brighten the lives of those around them, from fellow players to other students and fans.

"Only time will reveal God's purpose in this adversity. ... Going forward I'm confident that all three are rejoicing in paradise, speaking good things on behalf of each of us in preparation for the time we will all be together again," first-year head coach Tony Elliott said.

To the family members and friends seated in the first two rows, Elliott added: "I am grateful for your willingness to share your family's gifts with all of us."

Athletic director Carla Williams shared stories she heard this week from family members of the players and said the tragedy "has pushed me to my limits."

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"We are better and will do better because we will make sure their legacies never fade at the University of Virginia," she vowed, telling the families, "We loved your sons."

The service at John Paul Jones Arena came on a day when the Cavaliers had been scheduled to play No. 23 Coastal Carolina, but opted instead to honor their fallen teammates as well as injured player Mike Hollins and another student who was shot.

Among the presenters was Grammy-winning gospel singer Cece Winans, who the school said asked to take part. She sang "Goodness of God."

Several Cavaliers took part. Placekicker Justin Duenkel offered an opening prayer, linebacker Hunter Stewart read the Langston Hughes poem "Life is Fine" and defensive end Jack Camper offered the closing prayer. In between, administrators and teammates of the slain men offered stories and reflections about their football brothers.

Perry was "destined to be great in everything he did," defensive tackle Aaron Faumui said. He added that Perry often reminded him that "life was more important than football."

In a letter to Chandler, who Williams referred to as "a dancing machine," Cody Brown told him that "you lit our lives up like a shining star in the sky" and said, "We love you so much and know you're smiling down on us from heaven."

Coach Marques Hagans said Davis was humble with a radiant smile and "determined to be a great example for his younger sister and brother."

Teammate Chico Bennett offered a message for Hollins and Marlee Morgan, the injured student, neither of whom was in attendance: "We love you. We got you. The journey begins."

Kicker Will Bettridge shared that once, on the sideline, Perry told him he was going to tell his child to play that position because kickers have so little to do.

"A piece of my life was taken from me and from the Cavaliers community," Bettridge said.

University president Jim Ryan said the shootings "changed our world" and while he and others will mourn the games that the students will never get to play, "we will find strength again together."

The players were killed last Sunday after a field trip to Washington, D.C. Former Virginia football player Christopher Darnell Jones Jr. is faces three counts of second-degree murder and other charges. The shootings set off a manhunt and 12-hour campus lockdown before Jones was apprehended.

The suspect was never mentioned during the nearly two-hour service.

Mourners were allowed in an hour before the scheduled start of the service and heard musical performances from school choral groups and the MLK Community Choir. Photos of the players as children and in action on the field scrolled across the video board.

Truck in North Carolina holiday parade crashes, kills girl

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A truck pulling a float for a holiday parade in North Carolina crashed Saturday, striking and killing a girl participating in the event, news outlets reported.

The driver who lost control of the vehicle and struck the child was arrested and charged with reckless driving and other offenses, the Raleigh Police Department said in a news release. Police identified the driver as Landen Christopher Glass, 20.

Witnesses told WTVD-TV that people attending the Raleigh Christmas Parade heard the pickup truck's driver screaming that he had lost control of the vehicle and couldn't stop it before the crash.

The girl struck by the truck was part of a dance troupe participating in the holiday parade, The News & Observer reported.

Olivia Bruce, a 14-year-old member of the dance troupe, told the newspaper that the truck almost hit her, too.

"We started dancing in the parade, and then all of a sudden, we just heard a lot of honking. And when we turned back, we saw the truck almost on our backs, so we turned away," Bruce said.

An eyewitness, Christine Barnes, told WRAL-TV that girls in the dance troupe couldn't hear the driver honking the truck's horn over the music playing. Adults were scrambling to get the children out of the

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truck's path, she added.

"The girls were just hysterical," Barnes said. "It was really traumatizing."

Barnes said the truck came within inches of hitting several other girls.

"The truck wasn't going that fast, but because the girls had no idea it was coming, they just couldn't get out of the way," she said.

Nobody else at the parade was injured in the collision.

The parade was cancelled after the crash. Police advised drivers and pedestrians to avoid the area.

Glass was one of three people in the vehicle towing the float at a low rate of speed, police said.

Investigators interviewed Glass, who was charged with misdemeanor death by motor vehicle, careless and reckless driving, using improper equipment, unsafe movement, and carrying a firearm in a parade.

The names and age of the girl wasn't immediately released.

"Our hearts go out to the family of the victim and those who witnessed this tragic incident," police said.

Raleigh Mayor Mary-Ann Baldwin expressed her condolences for the girl's family and friends.

"Today started off with such joy," the mayor tweeted. "My heart was so full. And now it aches for the young girl hit in a tragic accident on the parade route."

Massive snowfall buries cars, keeps falling in western NY

By CAROLYN THOMPSON Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Piles of snow, in some places taller than most people, buried parts of western and northern New York as a lake-effect storm pounded areas east of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario for a third straight day Saturday, with possibly even more to come.

Snowfall totals as high as 77 inches (196 centimeters) were reported in the Buffalo suburb of Orchard Park, home to the NFL's Buffalo Bills. Partway across the state, the town of Natural Bridge, near the Fort Drum Army base, reported just under 6 feet (1.8 meters).

The snowfall in some spots ranked among the highest ever recorded in the area, rivaling the eye-popping amounts that fell during similar storms in 2014 and 1945.

The snowfall totals, which began accumulating Thursday night in some spots, "would be on the order of historic not only for any time of year but for any part of the country," said National Weather Service meteorologist Frank Pereira, at NWS headquarters in College Park, Maryland.

The lake-effect storm, caused by cold air picking up moisture from warmer lakes, created narrow bands of windblown snow that dumped feet of snow in some communities, while leaving towns a short drive away relatively unscathed.

It wreaked havoc on some roadways, as trucks that took to smaller backroads to avoid a closure on parts of an interstate in the area ended up in mass gridlock that Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz described on social media as "tractor-trailer demo derby day."

It also wreaked havoc on the wedding plans of Robert Junge and Maria Szeglowski, who had picked this day for their nuptials after getting engaged exactly a year ago.

Their reception venue canceled, rescheduling for next week. The musician they hired for their church ceremony also couldn't make it, along with more than half of their expected 180 guests.

But they were determined, using one of two limos they rented to get the bride to the church, while Junge drove himself.

"Nothing was going to stop me from marrying her, no matter what," Junge, 35, of North Tonawanda, New York, told The Associated Press.

On the bright side, he said, the snow is "going to make for some beautiful pictures."

The snowfall forced the National Football League to move Sunday's game between the Bills and Cleveland Browns to Detroit.

Partial sunshine and a break from the snow came in some of the hardest-hit areas south of Buffalo's center Saturday as the snow bands shifted north.

Forecasters predicted several inches more could fall Saturday night into Sunday, although Pereira said

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different areas in the region were likely to be hit rather than totals increasing too much in the areas where the heaviest snows had already fallen.

Gov. Kathy Hochul deployed about 70 members of the National Guard to help with snow removal in some of the hardest-hit areas.

Poloncarz tweeted that two people in the Buffalo area died "associated with cardiac events related to exertion during shoveling/snow blowing."

The lake-effect has also dumped up to 2 feet (0.6 meters) of snow in some communities in Michigan south of Lake Superior and east of Lake Michigan.

A snowplow driver in the town of Hamlet, Indiana, was killed Friday when his plow slid off the pavement and rolled over, according to the Starke County Sheriff's Department. Hamlet is about 30 miles (48 kilometers) from Lake Michigan.

Buffalo has experience with dramatic lake-effect snowstorms, few worse than the one that struck in November 2014. That epic storm dumped 7 feet (2 meters) of snow on some communities over three days, collapsing roofs and trapping drivers in more than 100 vehicles on a lakeside stretch of the New York State Thruway.

No. 4 TCU still undefeated after game-ending FG at Baylor

By STEPHEN HAWKINS AP Sports Writer

WACO, Texas (AP) — Fourth-ranked TCU had players shuffling on and off the field as the final seconds were ticking off the clock. Kicker Griffin Kell was the last one to get into place.

"That looked like chaos, but we practice it every Thursday exactly like that," Frogs coach Sonny Dykes said.

And the Horned Frogs executed it perfectly to stay undefeated in what was no practice situation.

Kell kicked a 40-yard field goal on the game's final play, and TCU beat Baylor 29-28 on Saturday, scoring nine points in the final 2:07 to avoid another potential playoff-busting loss on the banks of the Brazos River.

Emari Demercardo scored on a 3-yard TD run to cap a 90-yard drive with 2:07 left to get the Frogs (11-0, 8-0 Big 12, No. 4 CFP) within 28-26, but he was unable to pull in a pass on the 2-point conversion attempt.

After kicking deep, TCU used all three of its timeouts while forcing a three-and-out, and it got the ball back at its 31 with 1:34 left. Max Duggan had two completions before converting one third down with a 12-yard run on a quarterback draw.

Demercardo was short of a clock-stopping first down on a run to the Baylor 23, going down in the center of the field with about 16 seconds left before the offensive and special teams units ran by each other. The ball was snapped at 3 seconds, and the kick by Kell, who earlier had an extra-point attempt clank off the upright, went through as time ran out.

"The great thing about that last drive, we were throwing all of our day one concepts," Duggan said. "We were throwing easy stuff that we practice and we can do with our eyes closed, and stuff that you believe in. ... So just going out there, being confident, believing it was going to happen, and Griff makes a huge kick for us."

TCU, which already had clinched a spot in the Big 12 championship game, hasn't been undefeated this deep in a season since 2010, when it finished 13-0 with a Rose Bowl victory and No. 2 national ranking.

When the Frogs played at McLane Stadium for the first time in 2014, after it first opened, they lost 61-58. That was their only loss that season, and they went on to share the Big 12 title with Baylor. They were the first two teams left out of the inaugural four-team College Football Playoff.

Baylor (6-5, 4-4) was coming off a 31-3 home loss to Kansas State a week earlier, but last year's Big 12 champions took a 28-20 lead after a pair of true freshmen scored TDs early in the fourth quarter: tight end Kelsey Johnson's 12-yard catch and Richard Reese's 1-yard run.

"It's a tough locker room," Baylor coach Dave Aranda said. "I told them that I wish that we, that I, could take the pain away."

Duggan was 24-of-35 passing for 327 yards and a touchdown, and he also ran for a score while leading

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the Frogs with 50 yards rushing on eight carries. Kendre Miller had a rushing TD in his 12th consecutive game, a 2-yarder early in the second quarter that tied it at 14 before he got hurt early in the second half.

TCU didn't lead until Duggan hit a wide-open Gunnar Henderson for a 26-yard touchdown with 5 1/2 minutes left in the third quarter, one play after the two had connected for 20 yards. It was 20-14 after Kell's missed PAT.

Baylor's Blake Shapen was 21-of-30 passing for 269 yards and a score, while Craig "Sqwirly" Williams ran for 112 yards. Monaray Baldwin had six catches for 123 yards, including a 74-yard gain on third-and-11 that set up Reese's TD with 9:47 left.

"For it to end that way really hurt," Williams said.

THE TAKEAWAY

TCU: Another comeback for the Frogs, who last month overcame double-digit deficits in the second half against Oklahoma State and Kansas State. They never faltered after several players dealt with flu-like symptoms during the week, and they finished the game without leading receiver Quentin Johnston and Miller.

Baylor: The Bears never really had much trouble moving the ball, piling up 501 total yards, 232 on the ground. On their opening drive, they had 56 yards rushing — twice as much Texas had the whole game against TCU a week earlier. But they missed a chance to take a halftime lead when Shapen's pass was intercepted in the end zone by Bud Clark with 4 seconds left.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

TCU will stay in the top four of the AP poll on Sunday, and should still be in the all-important top four of the new CFP rankings on Tuesday.

UP NEXT

TCU ends the regular season at home against Iowa State next Saturday.

Baylor is at Texas on Friday.

Day before FIFA World Cup, Qatar faces overcrowding troubles

By ISABEL DEBRE and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Authorities turned away thousands of fans Saturday night from a concert celebrating the World Cup beginning the next day in Qatar, revealing the challenges ahead for Doha as it tries to manage crowds in FIFA's most-compact tournament ever.

Disappointed fans took being turned away largely in stride. Outside the venue, Qatari police, security guards and others guided the thousands away with giant foam fingers, bullhorns and blinking traffic control wands.

But the overflowing concert comes before the rest of the 1.2 million fans expected at the tournament arrive in this tiny nation on the Arabian Peninsula.

And with Qatar deciding only Friday to ban beer sales from tournament stadiums, fan zones like the one on the corniche hosting the concert will be the only FIFA-associated area serving pints — meaning more fans could wind up there.

"We know that what the police say here goes," said a 30-year-old trucker from Mumbai, who declined to give his name for fear of reprisals. He and his friends had got a rare day off from Hamad Port to walk 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) to the fan zone before being turned away.

"We're sad to leave because it's too early," he added. "There's nothing we can do."

Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, which oversees the World Cup, said in a statement to The Associated Press it was "absolutely delighted" with the opening of the Fan Zone.

"The event reached its capacity of 40,000 people, ... a sign of its success and popularity," the committee said.

Qatar, home to 3 million people, will see its population swell as the tournament begins. It has spent over \$200 billion for improvements across this energy-rich country slightly larger than Jamaica.

That includes a vast new underground metro system that can whisk fans from the airport to matches. It has even closed schools for the month and urged residents to work from home.

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But AP journalists have seen pinch points where an overwhelming number of people can be bunched together even before the tournament begins.

In Doha's Souq Waqif, a major tourist destination, a walkway between outdoor restaurants quickly filled shoulder to shoulder Friday night. Its nearby metro station saw long lines, with some pushing and shoving between orderlies and those taking the train.

Saturday night, however, started much smoother as Friday is the mandatory day off for all workers in the country. Fewer people strolled the corniche as a massive fireworks show suddenly went off, illuminating Doha's glittering skyline to awed passersby.

Just after 8 p.m., however, crowds thronged the Fan Zone, hoping to attend a concert featuring Lebanese singer Myriam Fares and Colombian singer Maluma. But as hundreds squeezed inside a holding pen, thousands more waited outside the venue.

At one exit, the crowd tried to argue its way inside, with a few spectators slipping past guards. At an entrance, one security guard with a bullhorn pleaded with the crowd: "For your safety, please go back!"

AP journalists saw police on horseback at one point in the fan holding area, as well as one armored police vehicle parked outside nearby. Some attendees jumped over barriers and Qatari police at one point held back the crowd.

Still, some visitors stayed and waited, hoping for a chance to get in, like Ayman Awad, a geologist who flew to Qatar on Saturday from Sudan.

"I won't give up," Awad said. "I hope it doesn't stay this crowded."

Many foreign fans, aware of Qatar's restrictions on free speech, were wary of criticizing the host country as they waited. A group of Saudi tourists who expressed disappointment at the situation to an AP journalist later retracted their quotes for fear of wading into "politics."

The Fan Zone at Al Bidda Park plans other major concerts as well during the tournament. But it has taken on new prominence after Friday's decision to ban alcohol sales at stadiums: It will be one of the few places outside of hotel bars and private residences where fans can have a drink while partying in this conservative Islamic nation.

On Saturday night, a quick set of calls to several bars in Doha's West Bay, an area full of high-end hotels, found that all were fully booked the night before the tournament as the Fan Zone was shut.

Yet the real test will begin Sunday, as Ecuador faces Qatar in the opening match and the group stage follows behind — with the crowds to come.

Walker, Kemp campaign in Ga. together for the 1st time

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

SMYRNA, Ga. (AP) — Fresh off his commanding reelection, Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp on Saturday played the role of dutiful Republican soldier as he campaigned for the first time alongside Senate hopeful Herschel Walker after spending months steering clear of his ticket-mate.

The joint appearance reflects how important Kemp's broad coalition will be in determining whether Walker can unseat Sen. Raphael Warnock in a Dec. 6 runoff. The fact it occurred only now underscores the challenges that Walker, a celebrity athlete turned politician, has had appealing to many independents and moderate Republicans amid an intense focus on his rocky past.

"We cannot rest on our laurels, everyone," Kemp told a few hundred supporters standing in the parking lot of a gun store in suburban Atlanta, urging them to cast one more ballot in a midterm election year that was underwhelming for Republicans nationally.

Kemp was the top vote-getter in Georgia's general election, drawing 200,000 more votes in his matchup with Democratic challenger Stacey Abrams than Walker did in his challenge to Warnock. The result: Kemp defeated Abrams by 7.5 percentage points, while Walker trailed Warnock by about 36,000 votes or almost 1 percentage point. Warnock fell just shy of a majority, however, triggering the four-week runoff blitz.

The governor campaigned throughout the fall mostly for his own reelection, though he made appearances with several GOP nominees for lower statewide offices. All of them won without runoffs. The notable

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absence was always Walker, with Kemp sometimes avoiding even saying his name when reporters asked about the distance between the two campaigns. Kemp would often say only that he backed the "entire ticket."

Since securing a second term, Kemp has become more explicit in his support, even if still calculated. He's signed over his voter turnout operation to a Republican political action committee aligned with Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell and endorsed Walker anew in recent interviews. On Saturday, he pitched Walker as a fiscal and cultural conservative who would back tax cuts and support law enforcement and the military, and he repeated Republicans' principal attack on Warnock: That he votes with President Joe Biden "96% of the time."

"I know that Herschel Walker will fight for us," Kemp said. "He will go and fight for those values that we believe in here in our state."

Yet Kemp also used his brief time on stage as a personal victory lap, nodding to his coming second term and mentioning Abrams before he said anything about Walker or Warnock. "I've never been more optimistic about the future of our state, and we're going to keep our state moving in the right direction because we stopped Stacey and saved Georgia," he said.

Republicans see Kemp as a critical validator for Walker, especially since the Georgia runoff is now more locally focused because Democrats already have secured 50 seats and hold Vice President Kamala Harris's tie-breaking vote.

For much of the year, Walker and Republicans tried to nationalize the race because it was among the battlegrounds that would determine Senate control, as Georgia did two years ago with concurrent Senate runoffs won by Democrats Warnock and Sen. Jon Ossoff.

The strategy was partly about tying Warnock to Biden because of the president's lagging approval ratings and generationally high inflation. But it was also seen as a necessity because of some of Walker's liabilities.

Walker has on multiple occasions exaggerated his academic achievements, business success and philanthropic activities. He's faced accusations of violence against his first wife. During the campaign, he acknowledged multiple children he'd not previously talked about publicly, doing so only after media reports on their existence. In October, two women Walker once dated alleged that he encouraged and paid for their abortions despite his stance as a candidate for a national abortion ban with no exceptions.

Walker denies he ever paid for an abortion and has answered with a withering assault on Warnock, focusing in recent weeks on the poor living conditions at an Atlanta apartment building owned by a foundation of the Ebenezer Baptist Church where Warnock serves as senior pastor. Walker has used apparent eviction notices issued to some tenants and complaints by its residents to cast Warnock as a "hypocrite" and "wolf in sheep's clothing."

Still, the cumulative effect has fed Warnock's efforts to tag Walker as "not ready" and "not fit" for the Senate, and it's made Walker much less popular than Kemp, especially among independents and moderate Republicans. That's more concerning in an environment where the GOP can't use Senate control as the incentive for wary GOP-leaning voters to back Walker.

Walker's electoral shortcomings were especially acute in suburban Atlanta. While Walker ran about 5 points behind Kemp statewide, that gap was almost 7 points in Cobb County, where Saturday's rally was held, with similar gaps in several other metro area counties that are critical to Republicans' statewide coalition.

Indeed, an AP VoteCast survey of the general electorate found that 7 in 10 voters who backed Kemp said they did so enthusiastically, but only about half of Walker's voters said the same. Among Walker supporters, about 4 in 10 said they backed him with reservations and about 1 in 10 said they were opposing the other candidates.

Further, Kemp seems to have reaped benefits from having resisted former President Donald Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election results in Georgia and nationally. Only 29% of Georgia's voters said Kemp supports former President Trump too much, according to AP VoteCast, while 43% said that of Walker, who is a friend of Trump and is running with his endorsement.

"Brian Kemp is clearly the most popular Republican in Georgia, and he clearly has the most significant

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organization," said Josh Holmes, an influential Republican strategist in Washington and former chief of staff to McConnell.

Even Democrats concede the point, holding a press conference earlier Saturday featuring voters who said they voted for Kemp and Warnock.

Malaysia faces new crisis as poll delivers hung Parliament

By EILEEN NG Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia tumbled into fresh political turmoil Sunday after a tightly contested general election delivered a hung Parliament with no clear winner and a surprising surge of support for an Islamist party.

Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's reformist alliance secured the biggest gain with 82 out of 220 Parliamentary seats, but fell far short of a majority. Trailing close behind was former Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's Malay-based Perikatan Nasional, or National Alliance with 73 seats.

The alliance led by the United Malays National Organization, which ruled Malaysia since independence from Britain until 2018, fared worse than in the last polls with upsets in a number of seats in a clear sign of rejection from Malays, who opted for Muhyiddin's bloc. It won only 30 seats.

Among other key election losers was two-time former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who at 97 is leading a separate Malay movement.

Many rural Malays, who form two-thirds of Malaysia's 33 million people, which include large minorities of ethnic Chinese and Indians, fear they may lose their rights with greater pluralism. This, together with corruption in UMNO, has benefited Muhyiddin's bloc. Its ally, the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party, or PAS, emerged the key winner. It more than doubled its haul to 43 seats, making it the single largest party in the country. PAS, which touts Sharia, rules three states and has a strong Muslim base.

Mahathir lost his seat in northern Langkawi island in a shock defeat to Muhyiddin's bloc. Anwar, 75, won in northern Perak state.

"Malays who don't like UMNO swung to PAS, as they could never accept Harapan, which they perceived as too liberal and accommodating to non-Malays," said Oh Ei Sun of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs.

The outcome will now see horse-trading as both Muhyiddin and Anwar scramble to form the government. They will need support from two blocs on Borneo island that jointly hold 28 seats. Ironically, UMNO has also now become kingmaker.

Anwar told a news conference that he has obtained support in writing from lawmakers to obtain a simple majority. He said this will have to be submitted to the country's king, who will have the final say.

"We have obtained the majority ... majority means more than 111," he said.

Muhyiddin, meanwhile, said he had received a letter from the palace indicating his bloc may have been given preference to form a government over Anwar. He said he was confident he could form a stable government and is willing to work with anyone except Harapan.

UMNO leader Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said in a statement that his alliance accepted the results. He said the National Front is willing to set aside differences to ensure a stable government can be formed but gave no further details.

Polling for two federal seats has been postponed after the death of a candidate in one constituency and bad weather in another.

The economy and rising cost of living were chief concerns for voters, though many are apathetic due to political turmoil that has led to three prime ministers since 2018 polls.

Anger over government corruption had led to UMNO's shocking defeat in 2018 to Anwar's bloc that saw the first regime change since Malaysia's independence in 1957. The watershed polls had sparked hopes of reforms as once-powerful UMNO leaders were jailed or hauled to court for graft. But political guile and defections by Muhyiddin's party led to the government's collapse after 22 months.

UMNO bounced back as part of a new government with Muhyiddin's bloc, but infighting led to continuous turmoil.

New special counsel has long career confronting corruption

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The year was 2010 and the Justice Department's prestigious public integrity section was still recovering from a costly debacle over the withholding of exculpatory evidence in a case against Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens.

The crisis had caused then-Attorney General Eric Holder, in a remarkable move, to ask a judge to throw out all convictions against the Republican lawmaker.

In search of a new leader for the unit, the Justice Department turned to a war crimes prosecutor in The Hague who'd cut his teeth in New York prosecuting state and federal crimes, including the brutal beating of a Haitian immigrant by police. Jack Smith told The Associated Press in an interview that year that he'd read about the Stevens case and couldn't resist the chance to step in and run the section.

"I had a dream job and I had no desire to leave it, but opportunities like this don't come up very often," Smith said. "I left the dream job for a better one."

Now, Smith has a new position that, if not necessarily a dream job, nonetheless places him at the center of two of the most significant Justice Department investigations in years. As a newly named special counsel, Smith will be tasked with overseeing probes into the retention of classified documents at former President Donald Trump's Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago, as well as aspects of an investigation into efforts to overturn the 2020 election won by Democrat Joe Biden.

The investigations carry obvious political implications because they concern a former president and current White House hopeful — indeed, Attorney General Merrick Garland cited Trump's entry into the race this week, along with Biden's stated intention to run again, as reasons he acted now in appointing Smith on Friday.

Smith will presumably have to move swiftly to ensure his work concludes before the home stretch of the 2024 presidential election, given the Justice Department's historic interest in avoiding action that could be seen as interfering in the outcome of a race.

Colleagues who have worked with Smith describe him as hard-charging, fast-working and passionate, a prosecutor who operates free of political persuasion and who is relentless about his cases. He displays a similar style outside court, where he is a competitive athlete who has participated in triathlons all over the world.

"He's an exquisite lawyer and an exquisite prosecutor," said Lanny Breuer, who led the Justice Department's criminal division, which includes the public integrity section, at the time Smith was hired for the job. "He's not political at all. He's straight down the middle."

The Harvard-educated Smith spent his formative years in New York, where his cases included the prosecution of police officers involved in the broomstick sodomy of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima. While in New York, he once spent a weekend sleeping in the hallway of an apartment building so he could intercept a victim who was afraid to testify in a domestic violence case. The woman wound up taking the stand after what Smith said was a "long, long talk."

After a stint as a war crimes prosecutor, he rejoined the Justice Department to lead the public integrity section. During his tenure, the section pressed ahead with significant, but challenging, prosecutions against prominent public figures from both political parties.

Prosecutors scored a public corruption conviction against former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell, a Republican, but the case was later overturned by the Supreme Court. The section also prosecuted former Democratic vice presidential nominee John Edwards, but a jury acquitted him on one count and deadlocked on others and the Justice Department declined to try him again.

Although those two cases ultimately came up short, the section brought successful cases against a number of state officials charged with defrauding taxpayers as well as service members who defrauded the military. There were high-profile victories for the section, too.

Smith, for instance, led the unit when Arizona congressman Rick Renzi was convicted of corruption, a verdict that was left in place by the Supreme Court — though Trump pardoned the Republican before he

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left office. Former New York state Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver was indicted in 2015 on corruption charges, and was later sent to prison.

As chief, he also showed a willingness to walk away from cases when the evidence was insufficient, closing out some long-running investigations into political figures without charges. He told the AP in the same 2010 interview that "you have to be able to admit that if it's not there, it's not there."

In 2015, Smith became a federal prosecutor in Nashville and later served as acting chief of that office before heading to private practice and, more recently, as chief prosecutor for the special court in The Hague tasked with investigating war crimes in Kosovo.

Alan Tieger, a fellow war crimes prosecutor who has worked with Smith, described him as "both a guy imbued with old-fashioned ideals but who's relentless and driven and brilliant." He said Smith "brings that entire skill set to bear."

"You never see Jack dragging through a day," Tieger said. "He's full-on every day."

Yet even in a career of high-profile cases, the Trump investigations are likely to be closely watched, his actions dissected by the public not just through a legal lens but also for their political impact.

He will be responsible for assessing whether Trump or anyone else should be prosecuted. His decisions are to be given such great deference that, under the regulations, should the Justice Department reject any major investigative step or move that Smith wants to take, it would have to notify Congress at the end of the investigation.

In a statement Friday, Smith pledged to conduct the investigations "independently and in the best traditions of the Department of Justice."

"The pace of the investigations will not pause or flag under my watch," he said. "I will exercise independent judgement and will move the investigations forward expeditiously and thoroughly to whatever outcome the facts and the law dictate."

NC Democrats' parity in Congress delegation may be fleeting

By GARY D. ROBERTSON and HANNAH SCHOENBAUM Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Democrats celebrated winning what was billed as North Carolina's lone toss-up race for the U.S. House this month, as state Sen. Wiley Nickel's narrow victory over Republican Bo Hines in the 13th Congressional District helped weaken any national GOP midterm wave.

Nickel's win creates a 7-7 split in the state's delegation, marking the best showing for state Democrats after a decade of trailing the GOP in an otherwise closely divided state. Trial judges drew the latest district boundaries after redistricting litigation successfully blocked maps passed by the Republican-controlled legislature that could have whittled Democrats down to four seats.

"We're a 50-50 state — we should have a 7-to-7 delegation," Nickel told The Associated Press this week during a break in his congressional orientation in Washington. "When we have fair maps, we get fair results that reflect the choice of the voters."

But there's a good chance Nickel's Raleigh-area district and others will be dramatically altered for the 2024 elections, returning the advantage to Republicans.

A confluence of events opens the door for General Assembly Republicans to pass their preferred congressional map in 2023 and have it used the following year. A new GOP majority on the state Supreme Court likely will be more skeptical of legal challenges that allege excessive partisanship.

"Seven-seven does not reflect the will of the voters in North Carolina," House Speaker Tim Moore told reporters the day after the election. "So it should be something different. I don't know what that is. But at the end of the day ... let's trust the voters of this state."

Republicans hold eight of the state's 13 U.S. House districts through the year's end. Population growth gave North Carolina a 14th seat with the November election.

GOP legislators vehemently opposed a split opinion by the state Supreme Court last winter that struck down a more favorable map for their party by declaring the state constitution prohibited partisan gerrymandering of boundaries.

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State law required the judge-drawn map be used only for this year's races. Republicans will continue to have majorities in the state House and Senate next year comfortable enough to pass their favored map. Redistricting plans are not subject to Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper's veto stamp.

Most importantly, Republicans will have a 5-2 majority on the Supreme Court come January with victories by Trey Allen and Richard Dietz for seats currently held by registered Democrats.

The current 4-3 Democratic majority ruled that congressional and legislative maps approved by the General Assembly in November 2021 unlawfully gave Republicans outsized favoritism compared with Democrats. The three Republican justices who dissented wrote that the constitution doesn't expressly bar or limit partisan advantage in mapmaking.

The arrival of two more GOP justices makes it more likely — but not assured — that the court would uphold a future congressional map by the legislature while rejecting last year's landmark ruling that defined illegal partisan gerrymandering.

Senate leader Phil Berger said he expected the state would now move away from what he called the "judicial gerrymander" to "what would be, I think, a different drawing of the congressional maps."

It's too soon to say what the next congressional lines will look like. Plans approved by the legislature but never implemented would have positioned Republicans to win 10 of the state's 14 congressional seats.

Michael Bitzer, a political science professor at Catawba College in Salisbury, said Nickel would be a likely target for Republican lawmakers to place in a more GOP-friendly district.

Democratic state Sen. Jeff Jackson, who won the newly created 14th District seat covering portions of Mecklenburg and Gaston counties, and 6th District Democratic Rep. Kathy Manning of Greensboro, who won her third term, are also vulnerable, Bitzer said.

It's possible the state Supreme Court shift could be moot. Litigation involving the congressional map is before the U.S. Supreme Court and could result in state courts losing the ability to judge laws involving federal elections, including seat boundaries. Oral arguments are scheduled for next month in the case, in which lawyers for Berger and Moore argue the U.S. Constitution delegates "the Times, Places and Manner" of congressional elections solely to state legislatures.

"Even if they're unsuccessful in the U.S. Supreme Court, they now have a state Supreme Court that is most likely to be deferential to whatever the legislature comes up with, excusing any precedent" reached by the state justices, Bitzer said.

An analysis by Bitzer of federal statewide contests in North Carolina since 2008 show Republican candidates winning nearly 51% of the cumulative votes compared with 47% for Democrats. But the idea that a political party should be assured of seats aligned with their percentage support at the ballot box over time was shunned by authors of the state Supreme Court's prevailing and dissenting opinions last February.

Nickel said he's not worrying himself about what a future map looks like.

"We've got a huge opportunity to make some real bipartisan accomplishments in the next Congress, so that's really the focus," Nickel said. "At some point, they will draw new maps, but I'm optimistic that when that happens, we'll have a seat we can run in."

House GOP pushes Hunter Biden probe despite thin majority

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even with their threadbare House majority, Republicans doubled down this week on using their new power next year to investigate the Biden administration and, in particular, the president's son.

But the midterm results have emboldened a White House that has long prepared for this moment. Republicans secured much smaller margins than anticipated, and aides to President Joe Biden and other Democrats believe voters punished the GOP for its reliance on conspiracy theories and Donald Trump-fueled lies over the 2020 election.

They see it as validation for the administration's playbook for the midterms and going forward to focus on legislative achievements and continue them, in contrast to Trump-aligned candidates whose complaints

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about the president's son played to their most loyal supporters and were too far in the weeds for the average American. The Democrats retained control of the Senate, and the GOP's margin in the House is expected to be the slimmest majority in two decades.

"If you look back, we picked up seats in New York, New Jersey, California," said Mike DuHaime, a Republican strategist and public affairs executive. "These were not voters coming to the polls because they wanted Hunter Biden investigated — far from it. They were coming to the polls because they were upset about inflation. They're upset about gas prices. They're upset about what's going on with the war in Ukraine."

But House Republicans used their first news conference after clinching the majority to discuss presidential son Hunter Biden and the Justice Department, renewing long-held grievances about what they claim is a politicized law enforcement agency and a bombshell corruption case overlooked by Democrats and the media.

"From their first press conference, these congressional Republicans made clear that they're going to do one thing in this new Congress, which is investigations, and they're doing this for political payback for Biden's efforts on an agenda that helps working people," said Kyle Herrig, the founder of the Congressional Integrity Project, a newly relaunched, multimillion-dollar effort by Democratic strategists to counter the onslaught of House GOP probes.

Inside the White House, the counsel's office added staff months ago and beefed up its communication efforts, and staff members have been deep into researching and preparing for the onslaught. They've worked to try to identify their own vulnerabilities and plan effective responses. But anything the House seeks related to Hunter Biden, who is not a White House staffer, will come from his attorneys, who have declined to respond to the allegations.

Rep. James Comer, incoming chairman of the House Oversight Committee, said there are "troubling questions" of the utmost importance about Hunter Biden's business dealings and one of the president's brothers, James Biden, that require deeper investigation. He said they were examining the president, too.

"Rooting out waste, fraud and abuse in the federal government is the primary mission of the Oversight Committee," said Comer, R-Ky. "As such, this investigation is a top priority."

Republican legislators promised a trove of new information this past week, but what they have presented so far has been a condensed review of a few years' worth of complaints about Hunter Biden's business dealings, going back to conspiracy theories raised by Trump.

Hunter Biden joined the board of the Ukrainian gas company Burisma in 2014, around the time his father, then vice president, was helping conduct the Obama administration's foreign policy with Ukraine. Senate Republicans have said the appointment may have posed a conflict of interest, but they did not present evidence that the hiring influenced U.S. policies, and they did not implicate Joe Biden in any wrongdoing.

Republican lawmakers and their staff for the past year have been analyzing messages and financial transactions found on a laptop that belonged to Hunter Biden. They long have discussed issuing congressional subpoenas to foreign entities that did business with him, and they recently brought on James Mandolfo, a former federal prosecutor, to assist with the investigation as general counsel for the Oversight Committee.

The difference now is that Republicans will have subpoena power to follow through.

"The Republicans are going to go ahead," said Tom Davis, a Republican lawyer who specializes in congressional investigations and legislative strategy. "I think their members are enthusiastic about going after this stuff ... there are a lot of unanswered questions. Look, the 40-year trend is parties under-investigate their own and over-investigate the other party. It didn't start here."

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre dismissed the GOP focus on investigations as "on-brand" thinking.

"They said they were going to fight inflation, they said they were going to make that a priority, then they get the majority and their top priority is actually not focusing on the American family, but focusing on the president's family," she said.

Even some newly elected Republicans are pushing back against the idea.

"The top priority is to deal with inflation and the cost of living. ... What I don't want to see is what we

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saw in the Trump administration, where Democrats went after the president and the administration incessantly," Rep.-elect Mike Lawler of New York said on CNN.

Hunter Biden's taxes and foreign business work are already under federal investigation, with a grand jury in Delaware hearing testimony in recent months.

While he never held a position on the presidential campaign or in the White House, his membership on the board of the Ukrainian energy company and his efforts to strike deals in China have long raised questions about whether he traded on his father's public service, including reported references in his emails to the "big guy."

Joe Biden has said he's never spoken to his son about his foreign business, and there are no indications that the federal investigation involves the president.

Trump and his supporters, meanwhile, have advanced a widely discredited theory that Biden pushed for the firing of Ukraine's top prosecutor to protect his son and Burisma from investigation. Biden did indeed press for the prosecutor's firing, but that was a reflection of the official position of not only the Obama administration but many Western countries and because the prosecutor was perceived as soft on corruption.

House Republicans also have signaled upcoming investigations into immigration, government spending and parents' rights. White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, Attorney General Merrick Garland and FBI Director Chris Wray have been put on notice as potential witnesses.

Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, incoming Judiciary Committee chairman, has long complained of what he says is a politicized Justice Department and the ongoing probes into Trump.

On Friday, Garland appointed a special counsel to oversee the Justice Department's investigation into the presence of classified documents at Trump's Florida estate as well as key aspects of a separate probe involving the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection and efforts to undo the 2020 election.

Trump, in a speech Friday night at his Mar-a-Lago estate, slammed the development as "the latest in a long series of witch hunts."

Of Joe and Hunter Biden, he asked, "Where's their special prosecutor?"

Matt Mackowiak, a Republican political strategist, said it's one thing if the investigations into Hunter Biden stick to corruption questions, but if it veers into the kind of mean-spirited messaging that has been floating around in far-right circles, "I don't know that the public will have much patience for that."

UK PM Sunak makes surprise trip to Kyiv, boosts defense aid

By JOHN LEICESTER and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak promised 125 anti-aircraft guns and other air-defense technology as he made an unannounced visit Saturday — his first — to Ukraine's snow-blanketed capital for talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The air-defense package, which Britain valued at 50 million pounds (\$60 million), comes as Russia has been pounding Ukraine's power grid and other key infrastructure from the air, causing widespread blackouts for millions of Ukrainians amid frigid weather.

The package includes radar and other technology to counter the Iran-supplied exploding drones that Russia has used against Ukrainian targets. It comes on top of a delivery of more than 1,000 anti-air missiles that Britain announced earlier this month.

The U.K. has been one of the staunchest Western backers of Ukraine's resistance to Russia's invasion. Speaking alongside Zelenskyy, Sunak noted that the U.K. has given 2.3 billion pounds (\$2.7 billion) in military aid and pledged: "We will do the same again next year."

"Your homes, your hospitals, your power stations are being destroyed," Sunak said in announcing the new air-defense package. "You and your people are paying a heavy price in blood."

Speaking through a translator, Zelenskyy said Russian strikes have damaged around half of Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

As snowflakes fell, Zelenskyy greeted Sunak at a presidential palace for their talks. He called the two

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countries "the strongest of allies." Walking in the snow, they also inspected captured Russian tanks and other destroyed and rusting military hardware used by the invasion forces that are displayed in a Kyiv square.

"With friends like you by our side, we are confident in our victory. Both of our nations know what it means to stand up for freedom," the Ukrainian leader said on Twitter.

Former U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who stepped down in July, won wide praise in Ukraine for his backing. Sunak is keen to reassure Ukraine's leaders that there will be no change of stance under his leadership, although when he was U.K. Treasury chief under Johnson he was considered resistant to demands for higher defense spending.

"The courage of the Ukrainian people is an inspiration to the world," Sunak said. "In years to come, we will tell our grandchildren of your story."

He pledged that Britain "will stand with you until Ukraine has won the peace and security it needs and deserves and then we will stand with you as you rebuild your great country."

Sunak also laid flowers at a memorial for the war dead, lit a candle at a memorial for victims of a deadly Soviet-era famine in Ukraine in the 1930s, and met first responders at a fire station, his office said.

Sunak's visit came in the wake of a major recent battlefield success for Ukraine: the recapture of the southern city of Kherson.

The restoration of rail connections brought further joy Saturday to Kherson's residents, who excitedly waited for the first train from Kyiv.

"This is the beginning of a new life," said 74-year-old Ludmila Olhouskaya, who didn't have anyone to meet off the train but went to the station to show support. "Or rather, the revival of a former one."

On the battlefield, Russian forces launched 10 airstrikes, 10 missile strikes and 42 rocket attacks on Ukraine in the last day, the General Staff of Ukraine's armed forces said Saturday.

In Kherson, the major southern city that Ukrainian forces recaptured more than a week ago, two Russian missiles struck an oil depot — the first time a depot was hit in the city since the Russians withdrew, according to firefighters at the scene. AP reporters said a huge fire and billowing black smoke.

"There was a strong explosion," said Valentyna Svyderska, who lives nearby. "We were scared, everyone was scared ... Because this is an army that is at war with the civilian population."

Local authorities were struggling to respond to the blaze, the firefighters said, because Russian forces took the city's fire trucks and ambulances when they retreated.

Russia is pressing an offensive in the eastern Donetsk region, and Ukraine reported heavy fighting around the city of Bakhmut, the town of Avdiivka and the village of Novopavlivka.

Russian forces claimed to have repelled a Ukrainian counteroffensive to take back the settlements of Pershotravneve, Kyslivka and Krokmalne in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv province.

Ukrainian forces said they killed or wounded scores of Russian soldiers during an attack on the village of Mykhailivka in the southern Kherson region, and the wounded were taken to hospitals in Crimea. The claim could not be independently verified.

Ukrainian forces also reported they conducted deadly strikes on the Kinburn Spit in Ukraine's southern Mykolaiv province, a key site for Russian electronic warfare.

Russia kept up its strikes on critical infrastructure, with a rocket attack overnight causing a fire at a key industrial facility in Ukraine's southern Zaporizhzhia region, according to the region's chief. Some parts of the regional capital of Zaporizhzhia were left without heat.

The head of Ukraine's biggest private energy firm told the BBC that Ukrainians who can afford it should consider leaving the country to relieve pressure on its war-damaged power system.

"If they can find an alternative place to stay for another three or four months, it will be very helpful to the system," said Maxim Timchenko, chief executive of DTEK. "If you consume less, then hospitals with injured soldiers will have a guaranteed power supply."

In Poland, a funeral was held Saturday for one of the two men who died when a missile landed there this week, according to the state news agency PAP. A military honor guard and Polish and Ukrainian rep-

representatives joined the man's family and members of the community.

NATO member Poland and the head of the military alliance have both said the missile strike in an eastern farming region appeared to be unintentional and was probably launched by air defenses in neighboring Ukraine. Russia had been bombarding Ukraine at the time.

The U.K. Ministry of Defense noted Saturday that Russia conducted its largest ever-debt issuance in a single day, raising \$13.6 billion on Wednesday. It said debt issuance is a key mechanism to sustain defense spending.

'We survived': Kherson comes alive after Russian withdrawal

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KHERSON, Ukraine (AP) — A week since the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson was liberated, residents can't escape reminders of the terrifying eight months they spent under Russian occupation.

People are missing. There are mines everywhere, closed shops and restaurants, a scarcity of electricity and water, and explosions day and night as Russian and Ukrainian forces battle just across the Dnieper River.

Despite the hardships, residents are expressing a mix of relief, optimism, and even joy — not least because of their regained freedom to express themselves at all.

"Even breathing became easier. Everything is different now," said Olena Smoliana, a pharmacist whose eyes shone with happiness as she recalled the day Ukrainian soldiers entered the city.

Kherson's population has dwindled to around 80,000 from its prewar level near 300,000, but the city is slowly coming alive. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy triumphantly walked the streets on Monday, hailing Russia's withdrawal — a humiliating defeat for Russian President Vladimir Putin — as the "beginning of the end of the war."

People are no longer afraid to leave home or worried that contact with Russian soldiers might lead to a prison or torture cell. They are gathering in city squares — adorned with blue-and-yellow ribbons on their bags and jackets — to recharge phones, collect water and to talk with neighbors and relatives.

"If we survived the occupation, we will survive this without any problems," said Yulia Nenadyschuk, 53, who had hunkered down at home with her husband, Oleksandr, since the Russian invasion began but now comes downtown every day.

The worst deprivation was the lack of freedom to be yourself, which was like being in a "cage," she said.

"You couldn't say anything out loud, you couldn't speak Ukrainian," said Oleksandr Nenadyschuk, 57. "We were constantly being watched, you couldn't even look around."

Residents of Kherson talk about the "silent terror" that defined their occupation, which was different than the devastating military sieges that turned other Ukrainian cities — such as Mariupol, Sievierodonetsk, and Lysychansk — to rubble.

Russian forces entered Kherson in the early days of the war from nearby Crimea, which Moscow illegally annexed in 2014, and quickly took over the city. The city was the only regional capital Moscow captured after the invasion began on Feb. 24.

People mostly communicate in Russian in Kherson. Early on in the war, some residents were tolerant of neighbors who sympathized with Russia, but there was a palpable shift during the occupation, said Smoliana, the pharmacist.

"I'm even ashamed to speak Russian," she said. "They oppressed us emotionally and physically."

Many people fled the city, but some just disappeared.

Khrystyna Yuldasheva, 18, works in a shop across the street from a building the Russian police used as a detention center and where Ukrainian officials are investigating allegations of torture and abuse.

"There is no one here anymore," she told a woman who recently came by looking for her son.

Other people sought to leave, but couldn't. "We tried to leave three times, but they closed all possible exits from the city," said Tetiana, 37, who didn't want to be identified by her last name.

While people were euphoric immediately after the Russian retreat, Kherson remains a city on hold. The

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Russian soldiers left a city devoid of basic infrastructure — water, electricity, transportation and communications.

Many shops, restaurants and hotels are still closed and many people are out of work. Residents were drawn downtown this past week by truckloads of food that arrived from Ukrainian supermarket chains or to take advantage of internet hotspots that were set up.

Russian products can still be found in small shops that survived through occupation. And the city is still adorned with banners touting Russian propaganda like “Ukrainians and Russians are a single nation,” or that encourage Ukrainians to get a Russian passport.

Some Ukrainians curse out loud when they walk past the remnants of war.

The humiliating Russian retreat did not end the sounds of war in Kherson. About 70% of the wider Kherson region is still in Russian hands. Explosions are heard regularly, although locals aren’t always sure whether they are from the mine-removal work or from clashing Russian and Ukrainian artillery.

On Saturday evening, two missiles struck an oil depot in Kherson — the first time a depot was hit in the city since the Russians withdrew, according to firefighters. Associated Press reporters saw a blazing fire and thick black smoke at the scene. Firefighters said the Russians stole firetrucks and ambulances as they retreated, leaving local authorities scrambling for resources to respond to attacks.

“There was a strong explosion,” said Valentyna Svyderska, who lives nearby. “We were scared, everyone was scared ... Because this is an army that is at war with the civilian population.”

Earlier in the day, people excitedly waited for the first train to arrive in Kherson since the early days of the invasion. Mykola Desytniakov, 56, hasn’t seen his wife since she left for Kyiv, Ukraine’s capital, with their two daughters in June.

Desytniakov stayed behind to take care of his ailing parents, he said, holding a single rose and peering anxiously over the platform.

“She will scold me, she doesn’t like flowers,” he said of his wife. “But I will give them to her anyway.”

Ludmila Olhouskaya didn’t have anyone to meet but went to the station anyway to show her support.

“This is the beginning of a new life,” the 74-year-old said, wiping off tears of joy. “Or rather, the revival of a former one.”

A major obstacle to bringing people back to Kherson, and to the rebuilding effort, will be clearing all the mines the Russians placed inside offices and around critical infrastructure, according to the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

“Demining is needed here to bring life back,” Mary Akopian, the deputy internal affairs minister, said. Kherson has a bigger problem with mines than any of the other cities Ukraine reclaimed from the Russians because it had been under occupation for the longest period, she said.

Akopian estimated it would take years to completely clear mines from the city and the surrounding province. Already, 25 people have died clearing mines and other explosives left behind.

Before retreating, Russian soldiers looted from stores and businesses — and even museums. The Ukrainian government estimates that 15,000 artifacts have been stolen from museums in the Kherson region and taken to Crimea, which itself was illegally annexed by Russia in 2014.

“There is, in fact, nothing there,” Kyrylo Tymoshenko, a senior official in Zelenskyy’s office, wrote after a trip to the Kherson region. “The Russians killed and mined and robbed all cities and towns.”

Despite the ongoing fighting nearby, people in Kherson feel confident enough about their safety to ignore air-raid warning sirens and gather in large numbers on the streets — to greet each other and to thank Ukrainian soldiers.

Like many residents, the Nenadyschuks do not wince when they hear the explosions in the distance, and they are loathe to complain about any other difficulty they face.

“We are holding on. We are waiting for victory. We won’t whine,” said Yulia Nenadyschuk. “All of Ukraine,” her husband added, “is in this state now.”

Tree of Life shooting survivors’ stories told in documentary

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By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

PITTSBURGH, Pa (AP) — Filmmaker Trish Adlesic was in Pittsburgh celebrating her father's 91st birthday on October 25, 2018. Two days later, a gunman walked into the nearby Tree of Life synagogue and killed 11 people in the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history.

"It shook me to my core," said Adlesic, who grew up 10 minutes away from the synagogue. "I was heartbroken."

The "Gasland" filmmaker had been living in New York with her family, but after the shooting decided to come back to Pittsburgh to "get to work." She'd stay there for the next three years, cultivating relationships with the survivors and families of the victims to make a film, "A Tree of Life: The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting," which is currently streaming on HBO Max.

Adlesic was wary of giving the story the "true crime" treatment, though. She'd been through trauma training and wanted to be sensitive with the subjects, who opened their homes to her and told her their stories.

"I wanted to really give agency to the family members and to the survivors to tell it the way they wanted," she said. "I was most interested in what they had to say and what we could learn from it. I really believed in weaving their voices together by asking them all the same questions. And I knew there would be a variety of responses because not everybody feels the same way about every subject that we're addressing in the film."

The film has taken on an even greater significance in recent months, amid growing incidents of anti-semitism in the United States and beyond. The Anti-Defamation League recorded 2,717 incidents of harassment, vandalism or violence targeting Jews in 2021 — the highest annual total since it began tracking these incidents in 1979.

The Daily Beast's critic Nick Schager called it "the documentary Kanye West needs to see." Ye, the rap superstar formerly known as Kanye West, drew widespread condemnation and lost business relationships after he voiced antisemitic stereotypes in interviews and social media, including a tweet that he would soon go "death con 3 on JEWISH PEOPLE."

"To be approaching 2023 and to see the alarming rate of antisemitic tropes and statements being made, it's just hard to believe," she said. "We have to look at what's going on and why this is happening. As Rabbi Jeffrey Myers says in the film: It starts with antisemitism. It's the moral decay of humanity and it branches out to every group who is affected by discrimination and identity based violence. And we need to intervene. We need to be attentive and vigilant. The only way that I felt we could approach it is by really hearing from those that have lived through this."

To help get the film over the finish line, Adlesic reached out to several prominent Pittsburgh natives, like Michael Keaton, to see if they might be able to help. Keaton, Mark Cuban and Billy Porter all came aboard as executive producers.

She emailed Cuban on a whim and less than 10 minutes later he responded with a grant to cover the editing costs.

"Several of my friends are Tree of Life members, others lost family members in the massacre," Cuban said. "I hoped this would be a small way to honor them."

"I'm hoping it sheds some light on this country's struggle against white supremacy and maybe sparks a dialogue about all of us standing strong together in this fight against hate," Keaton said in an email. "There's a swelling tide in this world of divisiveness and hatred. And so if this is a battle about racism, antisemitism, inequality, general hatred, well, it's not enough just to fight it, we've got to win it."

And Porter she knew grew up near the synagogue, but she had no idea just how close he was. Not only had he sung at Bar Mitzvahs at Tree of Life multiple times, but the Jewish Community Center was also a big help to his mother, when she was suffering from a degenerative condition and needed places to walk to keep herself active. The organization gave her a pass to use their facilities for free.

"Trish asked me because I'm famous and I'm from Pittsburgh," Porter said. "The fact that I'm associated for real with it, for real with the people. Just happened to be a part of it."

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But Porter, too, is feeling the urgency of this story.

"It's like we're all under attack," Porter said. "It's no longer acceptable to not be political. We need to engage. I think that's what this documentary does. And it's painful to watch, but you have to feel the pain, let it wash over you. We have work to do."

Porter added: "It's a reminder that love and forgiveness are the only path forward."

Adlesic was thrilled that these three "sons of Pittsburgh" supported the movie and that it's connecting with audiences thanks to the global platform of HBO.

"The response to the film is everything we could have hoped for," Adlesic said. "I really think that people are understanding the urgency and denouncing antisemitism and identity based violence by hearing their voices and then understanding the horrendous impact this type of vile violence has on people's lives."

EXPLAINER: What are special counsels and what do they do?

By ERIC TUCKER and MEG KINNARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The appointment of a special counsel to oversee the remainder of two significant investigations related to former President Donald Trump focuses fresh attention on the role such prosecutors have played in modern American history.

In this case, Attorney General Merrick Garland has turned to Jack Smith, a veteran war crimes prosecutor with a background in public corruption probes to lead investigations into the retention of classified documents at Trump's Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago, as well as key aspects of a separate probe involving the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection and efforts to undo the 2020 election.

A look at the origins of the special counsel, the position's powers and what to expect as Smith pursues his work:

WHAT EXACTLY IS A SPECIAL COUNSEL?

A special counsel is an attorney appointed to investigate, and possibly prosecute, a case in which the Justice Department perceives itself as having a conflict or where it's deemed to be in the public interest to have someone outside the government come in and take responsibility for a matter.

According to the Code of Federal Regulations, a special counsel must have "a reputation for integrity and impartial decisionmaking," as well as "an informed understanding of the criminal law and Department of Justice policies."

Though they're not subject to the day-to-day supervision of the Justice Department, special counsels must still comply with department regulations, policies and procedures. They also technically report to the attorney general — the one government official who can fire them.

The attorney general is entitled to seek explanations from a special counsel about any requested investigative or prosecutorial step, but under the regulations, is also expected to give great weight to the special counsel's views. In the event the attorney general rejects a move the special counsel wants to make, the Justice Department is to notify Congress at the end of the investigation.

WHAT POWERS DO THEY HAVE?

Special counsels are provided with a budget and can request a staff of attorneys, both inside the outside the department, if they need extra help. Smith is expected to inherit the months of work that's already been done by career prosecutors rather than start from scratch.

In addition to the ability to bring indictments, special counsels are vested with bread-and-butter law enforcement tools such as the power to issue subpoenas and search warrants. Robert Mueller, the former FBI director who as special counsel in the Trump administration led the investigation into possible coordination between Russia and the 2016 Trump campaign, issued more than 2,800 subpoenas and executed nearly 500 search-and-seizure warrants.

HOW DO INDEPENDENT COUNSELS DIFFER FROM SPECIAL COUNSELS?

Smith's position as special counsel differs in key ways from the work of independent counsels who used to operate outside the supervision of the Justice Department and who led significant investigations in the

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post-Watergate era into administrations of both political parties.

One such independent counsel was Lawrence E. Walsh, who during the "Iran Contra Affair" in President Ronald Reagan's second term was appointed to probe secret arms sales to Iran and the diversion of funds to rebel forces fighting the Nicaraguan government.

A decade later, independent counsel Ken Starr investigated fraudulent real estate deals involving a long-time associate of President Bill Clinton and first lady Hillary Clinton, delved into the removal of documents from the office of deputy White House counsel Vincent Foster after his suicide and assembled evidence of Clinton's sexual encounters with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. As a result, Clinton was impeached by the U.S. House but survived a Senate trial.

But amid concerns over the cost and sprawling nature of such probes, Congress in 1999 permitted the provision governing independent counsels to expire.

The Justice Department then created new special counsel regulations, designing a position with intentionally less autonomy for circumstances in which the department feels it has a conflict of interest or wants to avoid becoming excessively entangled in politically sticky matters — like the current Trump-related probes.

Smith isn't even the first special counsel to deal with Trump-related matters.

Mueller was appointed in 2017 to investigate Russian election interference, a two-year probe that yielded criminal charges against 34 people, including several Trump associates, and three business entities. Mueller did not allege a criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia. Though Mueller reached no conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice, he also did not exonerate him.

Weeks before then-Attorney General William Barr left office, he gave John Durham, then the top federal prosecutor in Connecticut, the title of special counsel to ensure that he could continue investigating the origins of the Russia probe under new, Democratic Justice Department leadership.

WHO IS SPECIAL COUNSEL JACK SMITH?

He's a veteran prosecutor who for five years oversaw the Justice Department's public integrity section, which investigates wrongdoing by politicians and election crimes. He arrived in 2010, tasked with restoring a vaunted unit which had rocked by a scandal over the failure to produce exculpatory evidence in a prosecution of former Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens.

During his tenure in that job, the unit brought tough cases against prominent public figures of both political parties, including Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell (the Supreme Court ultimately threw out his public corruption conviction) and former Democratic vice presidential nominee John Edwards. A jury in that campaign finance case acquitted him on one count and deadlocked on all others.

He later led the U.S. attorney's office in Nashville before becoming vice president of litigation for a non-governmental healthcare provider. More recently, he's been a prosecutor for the special court in The Hague that investigates war crimes in Kosovo.

The Justice Department on Friday described Smith as a registered independent, an effort to blunt any attack of perceived political bias. Trump is a Republican, and Biden is a Democrat.

Outside of work, the hard-charging Smith is a competitive athlete who says he's participated in triathlons around the world.

Pope visits immigrant father's hometown for birthday party

By COLLEEN BARRY and GIANFRANCO STARA Associated Press

PORTACOMARO, Italy (AP) — Pope Francis made a rare personal getaway Saturday, returning to his father's birthplace in northern Italy for the first time since ascending the papacy to celebrate the 90th birthday of a second cousin who long knew him as simply "Giorgio."

Francis' two-day visit to his ancestral homeland underscored some of the keystones of his papacy, including the importance of honoring the elderly and the human toll of migration. The private visit Saturday will be followed by public one Sunday to celebrate Mass for the local faithful, where Francis could well reflect on his family's experience migrating to Argentina.

The pope's father, Mario Jose Francisco Bergoglio, and his paternal grandparents arrived in Buenos Aires

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on Jan. 25, 1929 to reach other relatives who had joined the tail end of a mass decades-long emigration from Italy that the pope has honored with two recent saints: St. Giovanni Batista Scalabrini and St. Artemide Zatti.

The future pope, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, was born nearly eight years later in Buenos Aires, after the elder Bergoglio met and married Regina Maria Sivori, whose family was also of Italian immigrant stock. Francis grew up speaking the Piedmont dialect of his paternal grandmother Rosa, who cared for him most days.

The elder Bergoglio was born in the town of Portacomaro, 10 kilometers (6 miles) east of Asti, an agricultural town that lost population not only to emigration abroad but also to nearby Turin as it became an industrial center.

Today, the town has 2,000 residents, but it numbered more than 2,700 a century ago, and dropped as low as 1,680 in the 1980s.

The pope's family emigrated after the peak, which saw 14 million Italians leave from 1876 to 1915 -- a movement that made Italy the biggest voluntary diaspora in the world, according to Lauren Braun-Strumfels, an associate professor of history at Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Often citing his own family story, Francis, now 85, has made the welcoming and integration of migrants a hallmark of his papacy, often facing criticism as Europe in general, and Italy in particular, are consumed with the debate over how to manage 21st century mass migration.

The pope has recognized the historic significance of the emigrant experience with the recent canonizations of St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini, an Italian bishop who founded an order to help Italian emigrants at the end of the 19th century, and Artemide Zatti, an Italian who emigrated to Argentina in the same period and dedicated his work to helping the sick.

He used the occasion to again denounce Europe's indifference toward migrants risking their lives to cross the Mediterranean Sea and what they hope will be better futures.

Francis began his visit to Portacomaro on Saturday with lunch at the home of a cousin, Carla Rabezzana. Photographs released by the Vatican showed Francis clearly enjoying himself, hugging Rabezzana and sitting at the head of the table. He later visited another cousin nearby, stopping at a nursing home along the way to greet and bless the guests.

"We have known each other forever," Rabezzana told the Corriere della Sera newspaper in the runup to the visit. "When I lived in Turin, Giorgio -- I always called him that -- came to stay because I had an extra room. That is how we maintained our relationship.

"We always would joke. When he told me he would come to celebrate my 90th birthday, I said it made my heart race. And in response I was told: 'Try not to die.' We burst out laughing."

The pope has many more third and fourth cousins still in the area.

"It was a large family, and in the area there are still many distant cousins," said Carlo Cerrato a former mayor of Portacomaro. He said it was a "big surprise" for everyone in the town when Francis was elected pope nearly a decade ago.

"Everyone knew there was a prelate who had become the cardinal of Buenos Aires, but it was something that the relatives knew, not everyone in town," Cerrato said.

After nearly 10 years as pope, Francis has yet to return to his own birthplace in Argentina. He hasn't really explained his reasons for staying away. He recently confirmed that if he were to resign as pope, he wouldn't go back to Buenos Aires to live but would remain in Rome.

Cristiano Ronaldo gambles on World Cup to restore reputation

By JAMES ROBSON AP Soccer Writer

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Not for the first time, Cristiano Ronaldo is trusting himself to deliver on the big stage. A man of seemingly boundless self-belief is struggling to accept the effects of age and banking on the World Cup to launch a glorious final act to his remarkable career.

His explosive interview with Piers Morgan this week has set the stage for a make-or-break few weeks for the 37-year-old Portugal forward and left him with little room to maneuver if it goes wrong.

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It's quite the gamble. But for Ronaldo, who has written his own story in a trophy-laden career, it's unlikely failure has even been considered.

He has very deliberately ensured the focus is on him in Qatar by waging a public war with Manchester United and putting himself on the market.

The question is whether it is a case of self-belief or self-delusion.

On the evidence of his performances on the field this season, reality has hit him hard. The burst of speed appears to have gone. The energy levels are not the same. And, perhaps most shockingly, that cutting edge just isn't there.

Of United's 21 games this season, Ronaldo has been involved in 16 of them and scored only three goals.

Two of those goals were against Moldovan club Sheriff FC in the Europa League — one a penalty. The other was a winner against Everton and marked the 700th of his club career.

Despite the milestone he achieved with that goal in the Premier League, those statistics provide little in the way of evidence that he is about to make an emphatic statement at the World Cup. But to hear him in that interview, it's clear Ronaldo believes he has been underused and ill-deployed by United manager Erik ten Hag.

The World Cup is his chance to prove that point, because if he carries his club form into the tournament it's hard to know where he will turn up next.

Even on the back of 24 goals last season he couldn't secure a move to one of Europe's leading clubs and there is little to suggest the picture has changed now. His willingness to call out his manager, owners and other players on international TV might make it hard for Ronaldo to attract suitors when the January transfer window opens.

Whether a challenge for the Golden Boot as top scorer in Qatar and a deep run for Portugal would change that remains to be seen. But it is surely his only chance of prolonging his career in elite soccer.

"Maybe it's good for Manchester and probably is good for me as well to have a new chapter," he told TalkTV.

The Premier League club responded by saying it had "initiated appropriate steps" following his actions. The termination of his contract is a possible outcome.

Even as a free agent, Ronaldo's reported salary of about 500,000 pounds (\$590,000) per week presents a considerable hurdle for other interested clubs. That's why it's so important for him to provide evidence he can still deliver at the highest level.

Yet Ronaldo's off-field actions have proved more noteworthy. None more so than that interview with Morgan, where he came across as a grumpy old man blaming just about everyone else for his failure to make himself the centerpoint of a team — and possibly a sport — that is moving forward without him.

"It's the new coaches that are coming around," he said. "They think they find the last Coca-Cola in the desert."

That analogy only fed the impression that he — a five-time Ballon d'Or winner who has won five Champions League titles and seven league titles in three different countries — is increasingly a player who is out of touch with the modern game.

Public safety accounts urge caution on Twitter after changes

By STEPHEN GROVES undefined

As Twitter became knotted with parody accounts and turmoil, Rachel Terlep, who runs an account for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources that intersperses cheeky banter with wildfire and weather warnings, watched with equal parts trepidation and fascination.

"It kind of feels like a supernova moment right now — a big, bright flash before it all goes away," she said.

So the department stepped into the fray, taking advantage of the moment with some of its signature humor. "Update: The Twitter wildfire is 44 billion acres and 0% contained," they posted.

But under the joke, it linked to a thread that gave helpful tips about how to review a handle to see if it's real. Some of the suggestions included looking at how old the account is and checking to see if the public safety agency's website links to the profile.

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It underscored the challenge for the people tasked with getting public safety information out to communities. Now, they don't only have to get information out quickly. On the new Twitter, they also have to convince people they are actually the authorities.

Government agencies, especially those tasked with sending messages during emergencies, have embraced Twitter for its efficiency and scope. Getting accurate information from authorities during disasters is often a matter of life or death. For example, the first reports this week of a deadly shooting at the University of Virginia came from the college's Twitter accounts that urged students to shelter in place.

Disasters also provide fertile ground for false information to spread online. Researchers like Jun Zhuang, a professor at the University of Buffalo who studies how false information spreads during natural disasters, say emergencies create a "perfect storm" for rumors, but that government accounts have also played a crucial role in battling them down.

During Hurricane Harvey in 2017, for example, an online rumor spread that officials were checking people's immigration status at storm shelters, potentially dissuading people from seeking safety there. However, crisis communication researchers have also found that the city's mayor reassured residents and helped the community pull together with a constant stream of Twitter messages.

Amid the slew of changes at one of the world's most influential social media platforms, the public information officers who operate government Twitter accounts are cautiously waiting out the turmoil and urging the public to verify that it really is their accounts appearing on timelines. While it's an issue they've always had to contend with, it's especially worrisome now as a proliferation of brand impersonations spreads across the platform and changes to verification take hold.

Darren Noak, who helps run an account for Austin-Travis County emergency medical services in Texas, said Twitter's blue checkmark has often been discussed among those who operate government Twitter accounts. The badge — up until a week ago — indicated an account was verified as a government entity, corporation, celebrity or journalist.

The AP reviewed dozens of government agencies responsible for responding to emergencies from the county to the national level, and none had received an official label — denoted by a gray checkmark — by Friday. Spoof accounts are a concern, Noak said, because they create "a real pain and a headache, especially in times of crisis and emergency."

Government accounts have long been a target of copycats. Fairfax County in Virginia had to quash fake school closures tweeted from a fraudulent account during a 2014 winter storm. And both the state of North Carolina and its city of Greensboro have had to compete with accounts appearing to speak for their governments.

It has become even harder in recent days to verify that an account is authentic.

In the span of a week, Twitter granted gray checkmark badges to official government accounts — then rescinded them. It next allowed users to receive a blue checkmark through its \$8 subscription services — then halted that offering after it spawned an infestation of imposter accounts. Over the weekend, Twitter laid off outsourced moderators who enforced rules against harmful content, further gutting its guardrails against misinformation.

Twitter hasn't responded to media requests for information since Musk took over, but its support account has posted: "To combat impersonation, we've added an 'Official' label to some accounts."

Twitter's changes could be deadly, warned Juliette Kayyem, a former homeland security adviser at the state and national levels who now teaches at Harvard's Kennedy School.

Twitter has become a go-to source of localized information in emergencies, she said. But imposter accounts could introduce a new level of misinformation — or disinformation when people intentionally try to cause harm — in urgent situations. When instructing the public how to respond, the right instructions — such as sheltering in place or evacuating a certain area — can be a matter of life or death.

"In a disaster where time is limited, the greatest way to limit harm is to provide accurate and timely information to communities about what they should do," Kayyem said. "Allowing others to claim expertise — it will cost lives."

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In the past, Kayyem had worked with Twitter to research how government agencies can communicate in emergencies. She said the leadership at Twitter's trust and safety department "thought long and hard" about its public service role. But Twitter has lost those high-level leaders responsible for cybersecurity, data privacy and complying with regulations.

Some agencies are pushing audiences to other venues for information.

Local government websites are often the best place to turn for accurate, up-to-date information in emergencies, said April Davis, who works as a public affairs officer and digital media strategist at the Oregon Department of Emergency Management. She, like many others at emergency management agencies, said her agency doesn't yet plan to change how it engages on Twitter, but also emphasized that it's not the best place to turn to in emergencies.

"If it goes away, then we'll migrate to another platform," said Derrec Becker, chief of public information at the South Carolina Emergency Management Division. "It is not the emergency alert system."

Twitter accounts for emergency management in Washington, South Carolina and Oregon provide public service information on preparing for disasters and weather alerts. They also tweet about evacuation and shelter orders.

Becker, who has cultivated the agency's sizeable Twitter following with a playful presence, said emergency alerts broadcast on TV, radio or cell phones are still the go-to methods for urgent warnings.

Shortly after Becker fielded questions from The Associated Press on his agency's plans Monday, the department tweeted: "Leave Twitter? Disasters are kind of our thing."

Biden at 80: A 'respector of fate' mulls 2nd White House bid

By CALVIN WOODWARD, ZEKE MILLER and NATHAN ELLGREN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — People in their 80s lead countries, create majestic art and perform feats of endurance, one even scaling Mount Everest. It's soon time for Joe Biden, 80 on Sunday, to decide whether he has one more mountain to climb — the one to a second term as president.

Questions swirl now about whether he's got what it takes to go for the summit again.

The oldest president in U.S. history, Biden hits his milestone birthday at a crossroads, as he and his family face a decision in the coming months on whether he should announce for reelection.

Biden aides and allies say he intends to run. Yet the president himself can sound equivocal. "My intention is that I run again," he said at a news conference this month. "But I'm a great respector of fate."

"We're going to have discussions about it," he said. Aides expect those conversations to pick up over the holidays, with no decision until 2023.

To observe Biden at work is to see a leader tap a storehouse of knowledge built up over a half century in public office as he draws on deep personal relationships at home and abroad, his mastery of policy and his familiarity with how Washington works. In short, the wisdom of the aged.

But to observe Biden is also to see him walk now often with a halting gait.

It is to see him take a pass on a formal dinner with other leaders without a real explanation, as happened on his trip abroad this past week. Some supporters wince when he speaks, hoping he gets through his remarks OK.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's decision, at age 82, to pull back from leadership and let a new generation rise may spill over into Biden's thinking and that of his party as Democrats weigh whether they want to go with a proven winner or turn to the energy of youth.

Among the questions Pelosi's move raises, said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, an authority on political communications at the University of Pennsylvania: "Even if one is highly competent and successful, is there a point at which one should step aside to give others the opportunity to lead?"

She said: "Pelosi's decision makes such questions more salient in the context of Biden's 2020 statement that he was the bridge to a new generation of leaders."

Biden's verbal flubs have been the stuff of legend throughout his five-decade political career, so sussing out the impact of age on his acuity is a game for "armchair gerontologists," as Dr. S. Jay Olshansky, an

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aging expert, puts it.

In the distorted mirrors of social media commentary, every slip is magnified into supposed proof of senility. A moment of silent reflection by Biden is presented as the president nodding off.

Yet some allies see Biden's blunders as an increasing vulnerability as he's grown older.

In an AP VoteCast survey of the electorate this month, fully 58% of voters said he does not have the mental capability to serve effectively as president. That was a grim picture of the present, not just looking ahead to another potential term.

Before the 2020 election, Olshansky, at the University of Illinois, Chicago, published a paper that predicted both Biden and Republican rival Donald Trump were bound to maintain their good health beyond the end of this presidential term.

Nothing has changed Olshansky's mind.

"While President Biden may chronologically be 80 years old, biologically he probably isn't," he said. "And biological age is far more important than chronological age."

Biden is already in the club of high achievers for people his age. Unlike 92% of people 75 and over in the U.S., he still has a job.

And he's been on a roll. The November elections produced the best result for a Democratic president's party in midterms in decades. The president also sealed consequential legislative victories in recent months, on climate, infrastructure, health care expansion, military aid to Ukraine and more.

Biden says he begins most days with an 8 a.m. workout.

"If I let it go for a week, I feel it," he told the "Smartless" podcast. "I used to be able to go for a week and nothing would change."

White House aides say Biden reads his briefing book deep into the night, holds intensive evening meetings with advisers and doesn't balk at scheduling requests that may have him out late, though rarely up early. Biden has been diagnosed with several common age-related health conditions, none causing serious problems.

Much of the leadership in the U.S. Congress is over 70, especially Democrats, and so were Biden's main rivals in the 2020 Democratic primaries and Trump.

Attribute that, in part, to increasing longevity.

"Life expectancy back around 1900 in the United States was about 50," Olshansky said, "and we added about 30 years" since.

In Cockeysville, Maryland, outside Baltimore, Nelson Hyman, 85, and his wife, Roz Hyman, 77, credit Biden with getting big things right and especially with appointing a strong team. To these Democrats, that adds up to an effective presidency that taps the value of age in a society that often doesn't.

"I've always felt the president is as good as the people that he appoints, and I think he's appointed some very, very good people, very competent people, and he uses them," said Roz, a retired counsellor in a psychiatric hospital.

"Now, are you going to ask me, is he going to be competent in two years? Who knows?"

Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center, said that when a perception takes hold in the public, any slipup can feed it, whether it is relevant or not.

When Biden tumbled on his bicycle in Delaware in June, the mishap fed the perception of a president not at the top of his game physically.

"Those of us that know a little about aging were pretty impressed by the fact that he was on his bicycle to begin with ... that you've got somebody who is really active and healthy for his age," said Olshansky. Instead, the focus was on his injury-free fall.

Biden at 80: A 'respector of fate' mulls 2nd White House bid

By CALVIN WOODWARD, ZEKE MILLER and NATHAN ELLGREN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — People in their 80s lead countries, create majestic art and perform feats of endurance. One entered the record books for scaling Mount Everest. It's soon time for Joe Biden, 80 on

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Sunday, to decide whether he has one more mountain to climb — the one to a second term as president. Questions swirl now, in his own party as well as broadly in the country, about whether he's got what it takes to go for the summit again.

The oldest president in U.S. history, Biden hits his milestone birthday at a personal crossroads as he and his family face a decision in the coming months on whether he should announce for reelection. He'd be 86 at the end of a potential second term.

Biden aides and allies all say he intends to run — and his team has begun quiet preparations for a campaign — but it has often been the president himself who has sounded the most equivocal. "My intention is that I run again," he said at a news conference this month. "But I'm a great respecter of fate."

"We're going to have discussions about it," he said. Aides expect those conversations to pick up in earnest over Thanksgiving and Christmas, with a decision not until well after New Year's.

Biden planned to celebrate his birthday at a family brunch in the White House on Sunday.

To observe Biden at work is to see a leader tap a storehouse of knowledge built up over a half century in public office as he draws on deep personal relationships at home and abroad, his mastery of policy and his familiarity with how Washington works or doesn't. In short, the wisdom of the aged.

"There is something to be said for experience," said Dartmouth College historian Matt Delmont as he noted the dozens of global leaders in their 80s.

But to observe Biden is also to see him walk now often with a halting gait, in contrast to his trotting on stage on election night 2020.

It is to see him take a pass on a formal dinner with other world leaders without a real explanation, as happened on his trip abroad this past week, when he twice spoke of visiting Colombia when he meant Cambodia. Some supporters wince when he speaks, hoping he gets through his remarks OK.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's decision, at age 82, to pull back from leadership and let a new generation rise may spill over into Biden's thinking and that of his party as Democrats weigh whether they want to go with a proven winner or turn to the energy of youth.

Among the questions Pelosi's move raises, said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, an authority on political communications at the University of Pennsylvania: "Even if one is highly competent and successful, is there a point at which one should step aside to give others the opportunity to lead just as others stepped aside to make it possible for you to do so?"

"Pelosi's decision makes such questions more salient in the context of Biden's 2020 statement that he was the bridge to a new generation of leaders."

Biden's verbal flubs have been the stuff of legend throughout his five-decade political career, so sussing out the impact of age on his acuity is a guessing game for "armchair gerontologists," as Dr. S. Jay Olshansky, an aging expert, puts it.

In the distorted mirrors of social media commentary, every slip is magnified into supposed proof of senility. A moment of silent reflection by Biden in a meeting is presented as the president nodding off. All of that went into Donald Trump's quiver of falsehoods when he announced Tuesday he will seek the presidency again.

Some allies see Biden's blunders as an increasing vulnerability in the eyes of voters as he's grown older.

In an AP VoteCast survey of the electorate this month, fully 58% of voters said he does not have the mental capability to serve effectively as president. That was a grim picture of his standing now, not just looking ahead to another potential term. Only 34% said he's a strong leader.

Those findings come alongside notably low approval ratings in league with Trump's at this point of their presidencies.

Two months before the 2020 election, Olshansky, at the University of Illinois, Chicago, published a paper that predicted both Biden and Trump were bound to maintain their good health beyond the end of this presidential term.

Based on a scientific team's evaluation of available medical records, family history and other information, the paper further concluded that both men are probably "super-agers," a subgroup of people who

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maintain their mental and physical functioning and tend to live longer than the average person their age.

Nothing has changed Olshansky's mind about either of them.

"While President Biden may chronologically be 80 years old, biologically he probably isn't," he said. "And biological age is far more important than chronological age." He calls Biden a "classic example of everything that's good about aging ... and so his age, I think, should be almost completely irrelevant."

Biden is already in the club of high achievers for people his age. Unlike 92% of people 75 and over in the U.S., he still has a job, not to mention a mightily demanding one.

And he's been on a roll. The November elections produced the best result for a Democratic president's party in midterms in decades — despite the poison pill of high inflation — as Democrats kept control of the Senate, narrowly lost the House in defiance of expectations of a rout, and won several competitive governors' races in key states.

The president also sealed a string of consequential legislative victories in recent months, on climate, infrastructure, health care expansion, military aid to Ukraine and more.

Biden says he begins most days with an 8 a.m. workout, when he is usually joined by his personal trainer and physical therapist, Drew Contreras, if he doesn't ride his Peloton bike.

"If I let it go for a week, I feel it," he told the "Smartless" podcast recently. "I used to be able to go for a week and nothing would change."

White House aides say Biden reads his briefing book deep into the night, holds intensive evening meetings with advisers and has never balked at their scheduling requests that may have him out late, though rarely up early.

Yet his aides are deeply protective of the president, especially with his public schedule, which is lighter than those of Barack Obama and George W. Bush, both far younger in office. They've shielded him from formal interviews and, until recently, press conferences.

To his doubters, he says: "Watch me."

Biden has been diagnosed with several very common age-related health conditions, none causing him serious problems.

In his November 2021 summary of Biden's health after the president's first full physical in office, Dr. Kevin O'Connor noted Biden's gait had become somewhat stiffer, something doctors watch for in older patients as it could signal a fall risk.

But after testing, the doctor concluded it's mostly due to ongoing "wear and tear" arthritis of the spine, as well as compensation for a broken foot sustained a year earlier and the development of "mild peripheral neuropathy" or subtle damage to some sensory nerves in the feet.

Experts say age is not destiny; what matters is good health, fitness and functioning. Japanese climber Yuichiro Miura had enough of those attributes to make it to the top of Mount Everest in 2013 at age 80, setting a record that an 85-year-old Nepali man died trying to break in 2017.

Growing old is inexorable — at whatever pace, it comes.

It came at one pace for Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, for example, and it's coming at another for Pelosi, who is another institution in town.

"What's wrong with me?" Marshall asked upon his decision to retire from the Supreme Court at age 82, before answering: "I'm old. I'm getting old and coming apart." (He died two years later.)

At the same age, Pelosi buzzes Capitol hallways in high heels, outpacing much younger people. And her cognitive abilities have never been in question.

The knock against her was that she blocked the highest ambitions of generations of younger lawmakers before her decision this past week not to seek reelection as House Democratic leader when Republicans take control.

Supreme Court justices, shielded from the electorate and bosses, can grow as old in the job as they want and as fate allows — and they tend to stick around. Justice John Paul Stevens retired in 2010 at age 90, attributing his decision to a small stroke while reading his Citizens United dissent from the bench.

Ruth Bader Ginsberg, a hugely consequential 80-something, fell three years short of her goal to be as old as Stevens on the bench. She died in September 2020.

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In democracies, where voters are the boss, and in autocracies, where they're not, plenty of people in power soldier on in their advanced years, even if few are up there like former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who became the world's oldest leader at 92 and is running to get the office back, at 97.

Much of the leadership in the U.S. Congress is over 70, especially Democrats, and so were Biden's main rivals in the 2020 Democratic primaries and Trump.

Attribute that, in part, to increasing longevity.

"Life expectancy back around 1900 in the United States was about 50," Olshansky said, "and we added about 30 years" since.

In Cockeysville, Maryland, outside Baltimore, Nelson Hyman, 85, and his wife, Roz Hyman, 77, credit Biden with getting big things right and especially with appointing a strong team. To these Democrats, that adds up to an effective presidency that taps the value of age in a society that often doesn't.

"I've always felt the president is as good as the people that he appoints, and I think he's appointed some very, very good people, very competent people, and he uses them," said Roz, a retired counselor in a psychiatric hospital.

"Now, are you going to ask me, is he going to be competent in two years? Who knows? I don't know."

A president can only be conceptual, said Nelson, retired from an insurance career, "and the detail people will take care of the details." When Russia's Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine, he said, Biden stepped up, "spoke beautifully and strongly" and "has not been afraid to deal with Putin. Not at all."

They recalled seeing Ronald Reagan struggle in his second term, before he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's after he left office, and felt that he, too, had surrounded himself with competence, as much as they disagreed with his direction.

Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center, said Reagan posted major achievements even when his memory may have been slipping, in part because his aides were strong and accomplished and Reagan retained the values that informed his judgments.

That's true of many presidents, Biden included, she said. Trump, in contrast, preferred a team largely of acolytes.

But when a perception does take hold in the public, any slipup can feed it, whether it is relevant or not.

When Biden tumbled on his bicycle in Delaware in June, his foot or feet caught in the pedals' cages, the mishap fed the perception of a president not at the top of his game physically.

"Those of us that know a little about aging were pretty impressed by the fact that he was on his bicycle to begin with ... that you've got somebody who is really active and healthy for his age," said Olshansky. Instead, the focus was on his injury-free fall.

Ageism pops up in campaigns even when opposing candidates are both old themselves; witness Trump's references to "Sleepy Joe" in 2020 and Biden's characterization of Trump as "mentally deranged."

But it was particularly pronounced in the 2008 presidential contest between Obama, 47 in that fall's campaign, and Sen. John McCain, then 72.

When Obama misidentified the city he was in, the flub was attributed to a long day by a nation-trotting barnstormer, Jamieson said. When McCain did that, it was his age.

The Obama campaign exploited the age gap in what Jamieson said were underhanded ways. She noticed and, with her technical team, confirmed that in at least two ads, recordings of McCain had been slowed down to make him sound mentally feeble.

But the sharpest cracks about age came from McCain himself.

"Good evening, my fellow Americans," he said on "Saturday Night Live." "I ask you, what should we be looking for in our next president? Certainly someone who is very, very, very old."

Infantino scolds World Cup critics in extraordinary diatribe

By GRAHAM DUNBAR AP Sports Writer

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Gianni Infantino said he feels gay. That he feels like a woman. That he feels like a migrant worker. He lectured Europeans for criticizing Qatar's human rights record and defended the host

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country's last-minute decision to ban beer from World Cup stadiums.

The FIFA president delivered a one-hour tirade on the eve of the World Cup's opening match, and then spent about 45 minutes answering questions from media about the Qatari government's actions and a wide range of other topics.

"Today I feel Qatari," Infantino said Saturday at the start of his first news conference of the World Cup. "Today I feel Arab. Today I feel African. Today I feel gay. Today I feel disabled. Today I feel a migrant worker."

Infantino later shot back at one reporter who noticed he left women out of his unusual declaration.

"I feel like a woman," the FIFA president responded.

Qatar has faced a litany of criticism since 2010, when it was chosen by FIFA to host the biggest soccer tournament in the world.

Migrant laborers who built Qatar's World Cup stadiums often worked long hours under harsh conditions and were subjected to discrimination, wage theft and other abuses as their employers evaded accountability, London-based rights group Equidem said in a 75-page report released this month.

Infantino defended the country's immigration policy, and praised the government for bringing in migrants to work.

"We in Europe, we close our borders and we don't allow practically any worker from those countries, who earn obviously very low income, to work legally in our countries," Infantino said. "If Europe would really care about the destiny of these people, these young people, then Europe could also do as Qatar did.

"But give them some work. Give them some future. Give them some hope. But this moral-lesson giving, one-sided, it is just hypocrisy."

Qatar is governed by a hereditary emir who has absolute say over all governmental decisions and follows an ultraconservative form of Islam known as Wahhabism. In recent years, Qatar has been transformed following a natural gas boom in the 1990s, but it has faced pressure from within to stay true to its Islamic heritage and Bedouin roots.

Under heavy international scrutiny, Qatar has enacted a number of labor reforms in recent years that have been praised by Equidem and other rights groups. But advocates say abuses are still widespread and that workers have few avenues for redress.

Infantino, however, continued to hit the Qatari government's talking points of turning criticism back onto the West.

"What we Europeans have been doing for the past 3,000 years we should be apologizing for the next 3,000 years before we start giving moral lessons to people," said Infantino, who moved last year from Switzerland to live in Doha ahead of the World Cup.

In response to his comments, human rights group Amnesty International said Infantino was "brushing aside legitimate human rights criticisms" by dismissing the price paid by migrant workers to make the tournament possible and FIFA's responsibility for it.

"Demands for equality, dignity and compensation cannot be treated as some sort of culture war – they are universal human rights that FIFA has committed to respect in its own statutes," said Steve Cockburn, Amnesty's head of economic and social justice.

QATAR'S PUSHBACK

A televised speech by Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, on Oct. 25 marked a turning point in the country's approach to any criticism, claiming it had been "subjected to an unprecedented campaign that no host country has ever faced."

Since then, government ministers and senior World Cup organizing staff have dismissed some European criticism as racism, and calls to create a compensation fund for the families of migrant workers as a publicity stunt.

WHAT ABOUT EUROPE?

Qatar has often been criticized for laws that criminalize homosexuality, limit some freedoms for women and do not offer citizenship to migrants.

"How many gay people were prosecuted in Europe?" Infantino said, repeating previous comments that

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European countries had similar laws until recent generations. "Sorry, it was a process. We seem to forget."

He reminded that in one region of Switzerland, women got the right to vote only in the 1990s.

He also chided European and North American countries who he said did not open their borders to welcome soccer-playing girls and women that FIFA and Qatar worked to help leave Afghanistan last year.

Albania was the only country that stepped up, he said.

"ONE LOVE"

Seven of Europe's 13 teams at the World Cup said their captains will wear an anti-discrimination armband in games in defiance of a FIFA rule, taking part in a Dutch campaign called "One Love."

FIFA has declined to publicly comment significantly on that issue, or on the urging of European soccer federations for FIFA to support a compensation fund for the families of migrant workers.

The ripostes came Saturday.

FIFA now has its own armband designs, with more generic slogans, in partnership with various U.N. agencies. Armbands for the group games say: "FootballUnitesTheWorld," "SaveThePlanet," "ProtectChildren," and "ShareTheMeal."

At quarterfinal games, "NoDiscrimination" will be used.

Not good enough, the German soccer federation said a couple hours later, deciding to stay with the heart-shaped, multi-colored "One Love" armband logo.

FIFA also wants to create a legacy fund from its revenues tied to this year's World Cup — and will let its critics, or anyone who wants, to contribute.

"And those who invest a certain amount will be part of a board that can decide where the money goes," Infantino said.

Legacy funds from previous World Cups went directly to soccer in the host nation — \$100 million from FIFA to South Africa in 2010 and Brazil in 2014. Some money was spent on new vehicles for officials and even more opaque projects.

Two priorities this time for global projects are education and a "labor excellence hub" in partnership with the United Nations-backed International Labor Organization.

MEDIA JIBES

British media reports this week noted fans wearing England shirts and cheering outside the team hotel were people from India who lived and worked in Qatar.

It followed reports of Qatar's project to pay expenses for about 1,500 fans from the 31 visiting teams to travel to the World Cup, sing in the opening ceremony on Sunday and stay to post positive social media content about the host country.

It fed a long-standing narrative that Qatar pays people to be sports fans.

"You know what this is? This is racism. This is pure racism," Infantino said of the criticism about the England cheer squad. "Everyone in the world had a right to cheer for whom he wants."

Infantino spoke while knowing he will be unopposed for re-election as FIFA president in March.

"Unfortunately for some of you," he said to reporters Saturday, "it looks like I will be here for another four years."

Ohio's Intel project triggers housing fears in tight market

By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Intel's announcement earlier this year of a \$20 billion manufacturing operation bringing thousands of jobs to rural Ohio was greeted as an economic boon.

But behind that enthusiasm lurked a pressing question.

"Where are we putting everybody?" asked Melissa Humbert-Washington, vice president of programs and services at Homes for Families, which helps low-wage workers find housing in a region already suffering a major shortage.

Intel says its initial two computer chip factories will employ 3,000 people when the operation is up and running in 2025. The project is also expected to employ 7,000 construction workers. And none of that includes the hundreds of additional jobs as Intel suppliers move in, along with the expected boom in the

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service sector.

Such housing challenges are playing out across the country as companies increasingly come under fire for failing to consider the shelter needs of their new employees or the impact big developments will have on already tight housing markets.

Experts agree that years of underbuilding dating to the Great Recession of 2008 has caused widespread housing shortages. Nationally, the country is short about 1 million homes, according to Rob Dietz, senior economist at the National Association of Home Builders. The National Apartment Association estimates a rental shortage of about 600,000 units.

"We have underbuilt housing by millions of homes over the past 15 years," said Dennis Shea, executive director of the J. Ronald Terwilliger Center for Housing Policy. "So when a big company comes into a community that is supply constrained, the demand that they're going to inject ... is going to affect home prices and rental prices because there's more demand than supply."

For a big company's impact on housing, look no farther than Intel's own operations in Chandler, Arizona, which grew from a small agricultural city of about 30,000 in 1980 when the company built its first factory to a high-tech metropolis of 220,000 today. That was accompanied by tremendous housing growth, and today Chandler is running out of developable land, with nearly 95% of the area built out with residential, office, industrial and retail projects, according to the Greater Phoenix Economic Council.

Housing is also more expensive in Chandler, with a median home sale price of \$525,000 compared to \$455,000 in greater Phoenix, and median rents of \$2,027 compared to \$1,950 in Phoenix.

The challenge for areas like rural Ohio is that they don't have local employees to build or staff a large project, said Mark Stapp, director of the Center for Real Estate Theory and Practice at Arizona State University. There's neither the housing nor the infrastructure to accommodate the thousands of new arrivals, increasing housing prices and possibly forcing existing residents out.

"It's economic development. It's going to employ people. But you are probably going to have to bring a lot of people into the area," he said. And "those jobs require housing."

"If you don't recognize that and don't properly plan infrastructure, land use policies and manage that growth, it can be a big problem. The great opportunity turns into a big problem."

In central Ohio, the Intel site is rising on hundreds of acres of rural land once occupied by farm fields and modest homes where large business parks have also sprung up near major thoroughfares. The region has averaged about 8,200 building permits per year for both single-family and multi-unit buildings, even as job and population growth estimates predating the Intel project called for more than twice that, according to the Building Industry Association of Central Ohio.

"We're not building enough of anything," said the group's executive director Jon Melchi. Central Ohio, with about 2.4 million residents today, will grow to at least 3 million by 2050, the group said.

The central Ohio shortage includes the "missing middle" of workforce housing, or homes up to \$250,000, said Tre' Giller, CEO and president of Metro Development, one of Ohio's largest apartment developers. A recent Zillow search showed only about 570 listings for homes \$250,000 or less in the area.

The housing pressure is especially intense for low-wage workers. Central Ohio already has about 71,000 households considered "severely rent burdened" — families spending more than half their income on housing, said the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio. The region has only 34 affordable units available for every 100 low-rent households, it said.

The problem is even more severe in Licking County, home to the future Intel plants, where more than one in five renters are considered severely rent burdened.

Affordable housing is crucial for the low-wage workers who keep the economy running, from pre-school teachers to medical assistants, said COHIO executive director Amy Riegel. But housing also has to be viewed on a spectrum: Without enough higher-end properties to purchase, buyers will snap up rentals, which then shuts out workers of limited means.

"Housing is definitely an ecosystem," Riegel said. "If you add housing at one end, and don't take care of the other end, it has an impact and a ripple effect through the whole system."

On the Nov. 8 ballot, Columbus voters approved a \$200 million bond issue aimed at increasing the city's

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affordable housing stock for homeowners earning less than \$50,000 annually. "We simply do not have enough places for people to live," Mayor Andrew Ginther said in announcing the issue in July.

Janna Sharrett is grateful for her apartment in an affordable housing complex in suburban Columbus as the region braces for Intel's arrival and its real estate impact. The 60-year-old customer service rep works from home and earns just \$14.94 an hour. Her rent on the one-bedroom apartment she shares with her dog, Bella, and cat, Daisy, is \$695.

The \$6.5 million, 28-unit building where Sharrett lives was developed by Homeport, a Columbus-based nonprofit that works to expand affordable housing. Sharrett moved in two years ago seeking relief from a \$1,000 rent payment, and today isn't sure what she'd do without it.

She worries about the needs of people like herself as the region grows through projects such as Intel. "Rent is outrageous. Prices of homes are outrageous. And my income is not outrageous," Sharrett said.

Across the country, a growing number of companies are responding to housing concerns by rolling out ambitious plans for thousands of units of new housing — though efforts fall far short of actual needs.

In 2021, Amazon launched its \$2 billion Housing Equity Fund to create over 8,000 affordable homes across three regions where it operates: the Puget Sound in Washington state; Arlington, Virginia, and Nashville, Tennessee.

In 2019, Apple said it would commit \$2.5 billion toward easing California's housing crisis, one of a number of initiatives by high tech companies. This month Walt Disney World picked a developer to construct affordable housing on 80 acres of its land in Orange County, Florida.

Intel, too, looks forward to partnering with Ohio community leaders to prepare for the increased housing demand over the next few years, said Intel spokesperson Linda Qian, without providing details.

Experts say it's in Intel's best interest to contribute toward alleviating the region's housing shortage. Employers in greater Columbus already blame high worker turnover and reduced productivity on long commute times, according to a report by the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio.

"Without the housing product it can easily stifle the workforce needs of Intel and others," said Jamie Green, a Columbus-based planning consultant.

As the Intel project unfolds, it highlights the challenges ahead, said Leah Evans, president and CEO of Homeport, which developed Sharrett's affordable apartment complex.

"This just brought to light that for every one job you create, you've got a commute and you've got a housing unit" need, Evans said. "You have to be thinking about all those things."

Today in History: November 20, Elizabeth marries Philip

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Nov. 20, the 324th day of 2022. There are 41 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 20, 1947, Britain's future queen, Princess Elizabeth, married Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster Abbey.

On this date:

In 1789, New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

In 1945, 22 former Nazi officials went on trial before an international war crimes tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany. (Almost a year later, the International Military Tribunal sentenced 12 of the defendants to death; seven received prison sentences ranging from 10 years to life; three were acquitted.)

In 1952, President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower announced his selection of John Foster Dulles to be his secretary of state.

In 1967, the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Clock at the Commerce Department ticked past 200 million.

In 1969, the Nixon administration announced a halt to residential use of the pesticide DDT as part of a total phaseout. A group of American Indian activists began a 19-month occupation of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay.

In 1985, the first version of Microsoft's Windows operating system, Windows 1.0, was officially released.

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In 1992, fire seriously damaged Windsor Castle, the favorite weekend home of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II. In 1998, forty-six states embraced a \$206 billion settlement with cigarette makers over health costs for treating sick smokers.

In 2000, lawyers for Al Gore and George W. Bush battled before the Florida Supreme Court over whether the presidential election recount should be allowed to continue.

In 2003, Michael Jackson was booked on suspicion of child molestation in Santa Barbara, California. (Jackson was later acquitted at trial.) Record producer Phil Spector was charged with murder in the shooting death of an actor, Lana Clarkson, at his home in Alhambra (al-HAM'-bruh), California. (Spector's first trial ended with a hung jury in 2007; he was convicted of second-degree murder in 2009 and sentenced to 19 years to life in prison. He died in January 2021.)

In 2015, Jonathan Pollard, a former U.S. Navy intelligence analyst, was released from prison after 30 years behind bars for spying for Israel. (After five years of parole, Pollard moved to Israel in December 2020.)

In 2020, Georgia's Republican governor and its top elections official certified results showing Democrat Joe Biden won the state's presidential vote over President Donald Trump; the margin was less than 0.5%, allowing the Trump campaign to ask for a recount. A recount of the presidential election in Wisconsin's two most heavily Democratic counties began with the Trump campaign seeking unsuccessfully to discard tens of thousands of absentee ballots.

Ten years ago: Former boxing champion Hector "Macho" Camacho was shot while sitting in a car in his hometown of Bayamon, Puerto Rico. (Camacho died four days later after doctors removed him from life support.) "Elmo" puppeteer Kevin Clash resigned from "Sesame Street" amid allegations of sexually abusing underage boys, which Clash denied. Jack Taylor, a guard for the Grinnell College basketball team, shattered the NCAA scoring record with a 138-point performance as the Division III school beat Faith Baptist Bible, 179-104.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump announced that he was designating North Korea, which he called a "murderous regime," as a state sponsor of terror. CBS News suspended Charlie Rose, and PBS stopped distribution of his nightly interview show, after a Washington Post report carried accusations of sexual misconduct from eight women.

One year ago: Police and witnesses said about 80 people, some wearing ski masks and wielding crow-bars, ransacked a high-end department store in the San Francisco Bay Area, assaulting employees and stealing merchandise before fleeing in cars waiting outside. Tens of thousands of protesters, many from far-right groups, marched through Vienna after the Austrian government announced a nationwide lockdown to contain skyrocketing coronavirus infections; demonstrations against virus restrictions also took place in Switzerland, Croatia, Italy and Northern Ireland.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Estelle Parsons is 95. Comedian Dick Smothers is 84. President Joe Biden is 80. Singer Norman Greenbaum is 80. Actor Veronica Hamel is 79. Broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff is 76. Singer Joe Walsh is 75. Actor Richard Masur is 74. Opera singer Barbara Hendricks is 74. Former national security adviser John Bolton is 74. Actor Bo Derek is 66. Former NFL player Mark Gastineau is 66. Reggae musician Jimmy Brown (UB40) is 65. Actor Sean Young is 63. Pianist Jim Brickman is 61. Actor Ming-Na is 59. Actor Ned Vaughn is 58. Rapper Mike D (The Beastie Boys) is 57. Rapper Sen Dog (Cypress Hill) is 57. Actor Callie Thorne is 53. Actor Sabrina Lloyd is 52. Actor Joel McHale is 51. Actor Marisa Ryan is 48. Country singer Dierks (duhkr) Bentley is 47. Actor Joshua Gomez is 47. Actor Laura Harris is 46. Olympic gold medal gymnast Dominique Dawes is 46. Country singer Josh Turner is 45. Actor Nadine Velazquez (veh-LAHZ'-kehzh) is 44. Actor Jacob Pitts is 43. Actor Andrea Riseborough is 41. Actor Jeremy Jordan is 38. Actor Dan Byrd is 37. Actor Ashley Fink is 36. Rock musician Jared Followill (Kings of Leon) is 36. Actor Jaina Lee Ortiz is 36. Actor Cody Linley is 33. Pop musician Michael Clifford (5 Seconds to Summer) is 27.