

Groton Daily Independent

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"At the heart of every family tradition is a meaningful experience."

-Author Unknown

Groton Community Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 27

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 7 p.m.

UMC: UM Student Day; Conde Worship, 8:30 a.m.; coffee hour, 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, 9 a.m.; Zion Lutheran worship, 11 a.m.

Monday, Nov. 28

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, Mandarin oranges, cookie.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.
School Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, corn.
Noon: Senior Citizens Meet at the Groton Community Center with potluck dinner.

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

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

Tuesday, Nov. 29

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

School Breakfast: French toast.

School Lunch: Tacos, refried beans.

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

James Valley Telco Open House in Groton, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

UMC: Bible Study, 10 a.m.; Conde Advent Bible Study.

JH GBB hosts Redfield (7th at 6:15 p.m. followed by 8th grade game)

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

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

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Northern State Runs the Table in 42-Point Victory

Aberdeen, S.D. – The (RV) Northern State University men's basketball team defeated Presentation College Saturday evening, closing out their 2-0 weekend from the Dacotah Bank Classic. The Wolves scored a season high 101 points in the win, with nine total players notching points.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 101, PC 59

Records: NSU 5-2, PC 1-4

Attendance: 1711

HOW IT HAPPENED

· Northern led 55-28 at the half and added 46 points in the second, notching their eight program victory over the Saints since 2008

· The Wolves shot 45.5% from the floor, 39.4% from the 3-point line, and 90.0% from the foul line

· They tallied a game and season high 53 rebounds and 23 assists, 13 made 3-pointers, and four blocks, as well as nine steals

· NSU scored 38 points in the paint, 27 points off 21 offensive rebounds, 18 points off turnovers, and 43 points off the bench led by Michael Nhial with a career high 23

· Four Wolves scored in double figures and Nhial notched the first double-double of his career adding a team best 12 rebounds

· Josh Dilling and Sam Masten dished out a combined 17 assists in the game and five Wolves tallied five rebounds or more

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

· Michael Nhial: 23 points (career high), 12 rebounds (career high), 1 block, 1 steal

· Sam Masten: 21 points, 60.0 field goal%, 7 rebounds, 6 assists

· Jordan Belka: 16 points, 53.8 field goal%, 8 rebounds

· Augustin Reede: 12 points, 4-of-4 3-point field goals

· Josh Dilling: 11 assists (career high), 4 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals

UP NEXT

Northern State continues NSIC action next Thursday and Saturday with a split week versus UMary and Minot State. The Wolves host the Marauders at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday and travel to the Beavers at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

*Olive Grove's
6th Annual*

Christmas Tour of Homes & Holiday Party

**Charlie & Jenn Dirks
Tigh & Adrienne Flichs
Tom & Barb Paepke
Wage Memorial Library & City Office**

**SATURDAY,
DEC. 3, 2022**

**TOUR OF
HOMES
4-7 P.M.**

**HOLIDAY
PARTY
4-CLOSE**

Silent Basket Items

Bidding closes at 8:30 p.m.

Live Auction begins at 8:30 p.m.

Coffee, Apple Cider and Goodies at the Club House

A variety of snacks served.

**\$15 tickets available at
Lori's Pharmacy, Groton
Groton Ford**

**Hair & Company, Aberdeen
Olive Grove Golf Clubhouse**

**Come on out for a fun evening!
Support your local golf course!**

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Wolves Extend Winning Streak to Six in Victory Over Embry-Riddle

Daytona Beach, Fla. – The Northern State women's basketball rounded out their trip to the Sunshine State with a perfect 2-0 record at the Bahama House Shootout after defeating the hosts of Embry-Riddle by a score of 64-56 on Saturday afternoon. The Wolves extended their win streak to six games, the longest winning streak for the program since a 10-game win streak late in the 2017-18 season.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 64, ERAU 56

Records: NSU 6-1 (1-0 NSIC), ERAU 4-1 (1-0 SSC)

Attendance: 221

HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern State opened the game on a 9-2 scoring run, sparked by 3-pointers by Rachel Garvey and Rianna Fillipi

Laurie Rogers scored seven of Northern's first nine points in the second period as the Wolves built a 23-16 lead in the opening minutes of the quarter

After ERAU tied the game at 23-23 with 5:17 left in the second quarter, NSU closed the period on another 9-2 run to enter the halftime break with a 32-25 advantage; Kailee Oliverson scored the final four points of the half for the Wolves

The Eagles once again tied the game at 42-42 with 3:10 remaining in the third quarter, however the Wolves scored the final six points of the period to take a 48-42 lead into the final period

A 3-pointer by Garvey with 5:50 remaining in the game capped a 15-3 run for NSU that started in the closing minutes of the third quarter, giving the Wolves their largest lead of the game at 57-45

The Northern State defense held Embry-Riddle to 3-16 (18.75%) from the field in the fourth quarter, and the Eagles were held without a field goal the final 4:27 of the game

Northern forced 18 ERAU turnovers in the game, converting them into 22 points off turnovers

The Wolves out-scored the Eagles 34-20 in points in the paint

Rogers recorded her second consecutive double-double and third of the season, she also notched three

or more blocked shots in a game for the third time this season

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Kailee Oliverson: 19 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist

Rianna Fillipi: 16 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals

Laurie Rogers: 16 points, 11 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 blocks

UP NEXT

Northern State will return to conference play next week as the Wolves play host to UMary on Thursday evening. The Wolves and Marauders will tip-off at 5:30 p.m. in Wachs Arena.

**JVT/NVC HOLIDAY
OPEN HOUSES**

Groton - Tuesday, Nov. 29th 10am-4pm
Redfield - Wednesday, Nov. 30th 11am-2pm
Aberdeen - Thursday, Dec. 1st 10am-4pm

Door Prizes - Christmas Treats

Plus, register in stores or online at
nvc.net for the
12 Days of Christmas!

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Groton Legion Post Commander Bob Wegner presents the American Legion 60th year Service Award to Karen Wolter in honor of her late husband, Dale Wolter. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

**'TIS THE
SEASON TO
SHOP LOCAL**

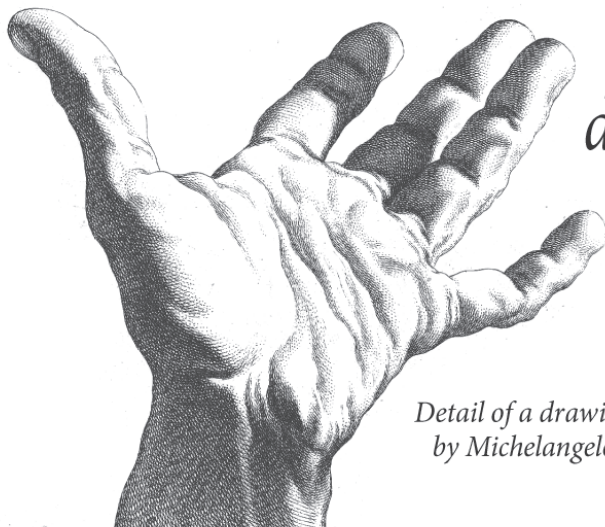
GROTON
Chamber Of Commerce





THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

For out of the heart come evil thoughts: murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.

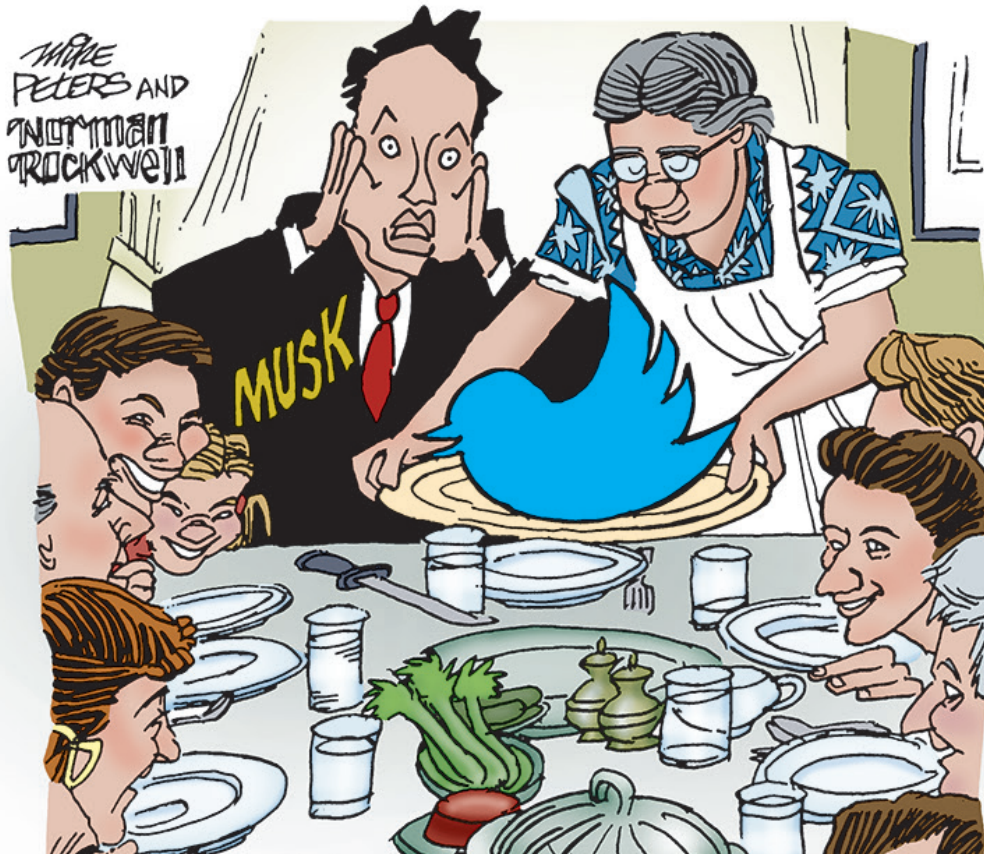


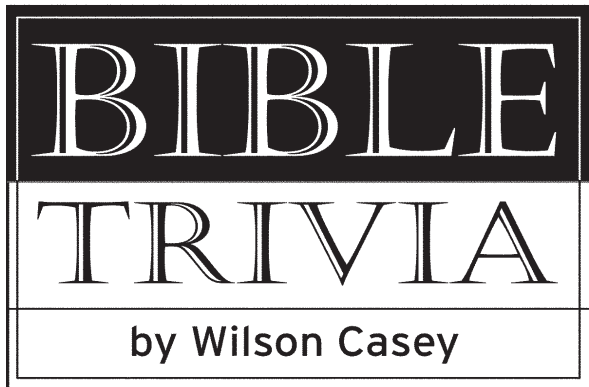
*Detail of a drawing
by Michelangelo*

MATTHEW 15:19, 20



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

2. What bread component did Jesus compare with the kingdom of heaven? *Yeast, Crust, Gluten, Wheat*

3. Which of the 12 tribes of Israel wasn't allotted any land? *Simeon, Dan, Asher, Levi*

4. Who removed a thorn from the lion's foot? *Benjamin, Job, Naphtali, Androcles*

5. How many books of the Bible (KJV) are credited to Moses? *3, 4, 5, 6*

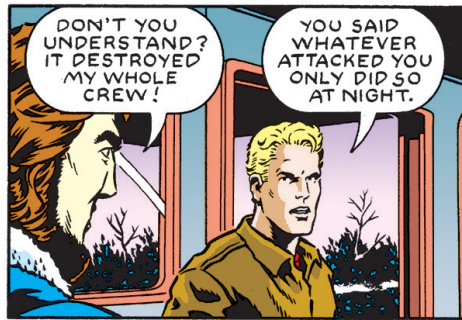
6. What was first to be released from Noah's Ark? *Gull, Dove, Raven, Serpent*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Yeast, 3) Levi, 4) Androcles, 5) Five, 6) Raven

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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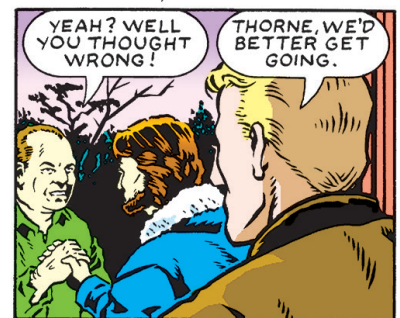


FLASH GORDON

BY JIM KEEFE

ANOTHER SURVIVOR OF THORNE'S DOOMED EXPEDITION IS FOUND.

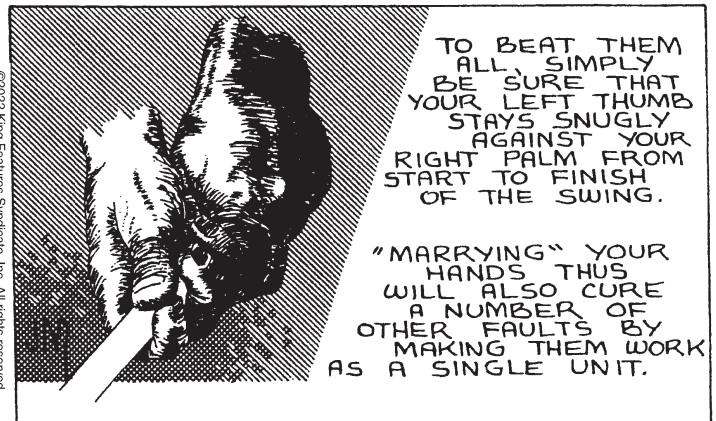
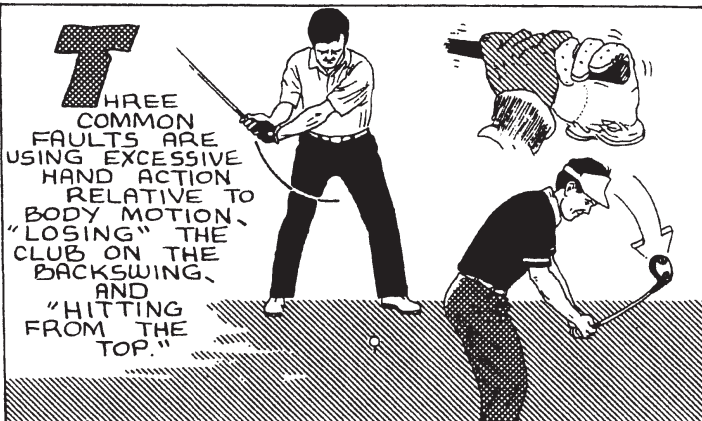
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11-27



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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Decade-Long High Lymphocyte Count Isn't a Cause for Concern

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a female and almost 75 years old. My vital signs are always normal, and I am active, but slightly overweight. I get quarterly blood draws, and every reading is in the normal range except for the lymphocytes. That count is higher, just outside the normal range (the lab's range is 850 to 3,900 cells/uL, and my absolute lymphocytes are 4,377 cells/uL).

This has occurred in the blood draws from the last two or three years, with the exception of one that was back in the normal range. About 12 years ago, after several abnormal results, I saw a hematologist, who reported nothing wrong after doing more extensive blood work. No reason could be given for it. I am concerned, but not obsessing over it. Is there any reason you can give for the slightly high lymphocyte count? — S.M.

ANSWER: Lymphocytes are one of the two major types of white blood cells found in the blood (the other are the granulocytes, the most common of which are the neutrophils). High levels of lymphocytes raise suspicion for serious blood disorders such as some leukemias, lymphomas and related blood diseases, but there are other causes. Acute stress can do it, but you have been living with this for many years. Not having a spleen causes high levels of lymphocytes, whether you are born without one or have it surgically removed. Chronic infection is another reason.

more sophisticated set of tests looking for blood disorders, and the fact that your level is the same after 12 years also supports my suspicion that this level is normal for you. Normal levels are generally defined as what is found in people without evidence of disease 95% of the time. So, by definition, 5% of normal people will have their result on any given lab fall outside of the normal range. Since yours is just outside of the normal range and, as I said, unchanged for years, I think you can relax your level of anxiety. Periodic blood tests do seem prudent, however, and further testing would be recommended in the event that the count starts getting higher or you develop any new symptoms.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 67-year-old male in relatively good health. I exercise regularly (four times a week). I have been taking medication for hypertension, which is getting much better since I started a plant-based diet three months ago.

About every three months or so for the last five years, there are two half-dollar-sized blood stains on my pillow coming from my right ear. I have no headaches, and my hearing is what it is for my age. My wife is concerned, but I am not. What do you think? — J.G.

ANSWER: I think your wife is wise to be concerned. This is not something I commonly encounter, and the answer is very likely to be found inside your ear through a clinical exam. I do sometimes see small infections in the ear that may bleed, and there are benign tumors of the ear canal and eardrum that may sometimes bleed as well. I have read about a very rare condition of an aneurysm bleeding from the ear. This has been going on a long time, so it's definitely worth an evaluation.

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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Moosa Mostafa, left, is Eugene Otinger and Jenna Ortega stars as the titular Wednesday Addams in "Wednesday." Courtesy of Netflix

"Wednesday" (TV-14) -- Out now is the new spinoff series based off "The Addams Family." Having generated buzz online for some time, the spinoff mainly focuses on the Addams' gothic daughter, Wednesday, and her coming of age. Jenna Ortega ("You" and "Jane the Virgin") plays Wednesday as she enrolls in the boarding school Nevermore Academy, placing her extremely out of her comfort zone. Little does Wednesday know that the adventures and sights she's bound to see in this academy make her the most pivotal person to attend it. Viewers will recognize Catherine Zeta-Jones, Luis Guzman and Fred Armisen as other kooky Addams family members. (Netflix)

"Limitless with Chris Hemsworth" (TV-14) -- After learning that he has a greater chance of developing Alzheimer's disease later in life, Chris Hemsworth (Thor in the "Thor" franchise) decided to embark on a physical and mental journey in order to learn how to live a better life for longer. In this six-episode series, he pushes his body to its limit by attempting extreme tasks, like walking on a crane 900 feet above the ground and going four days without food. You've never seen the actor more vulnerable than this, and his determination to increase his life's longevity is inspirational. Out now. (Disney+)

"The People We Hate at the Wedding" (R) -- When two American siblings, Alice and Paul, receive invitations to their half-sister's (Eloise's) wedding in London, they are reluctant to attend, mostly due to their great estrangement. Once there, their stark differences from Eloise, in combination with all three siblings' out-of-touch mother, couldn't be more uncomfortable. This catapults them into a series of events that establish Alice, Paul and their mother as those family members everyone can't help but loathe. This comedy film, out now, stars Kristen Bell, Ben Platt and Allison Janney. (Prime Video)

"Alone Together" (R) -- Written and directed by -- as well as starring -- Katie Holmes, this quaint romantic drama takes place in upstate New York during the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdowns. Two strangers, June and Charlie, accidentally end up at the same Airbnb, finding out that it was double booked. But, they make the most out of the coincidental situation and agree to spend the quarantine in the rental together. June and Charlie appear to be much different than each other but quickly begin to bond in ways they couldn't within their other relationships. Out now, "Alone Together" is the perfect date night, or late night, watch. And fun fact: Holmes' 16-year-old daughter, Suri Cruise, sings a rendition of "Blue Moon" by Richard Rogers and Lorenz Hart for the film. (Hulu)

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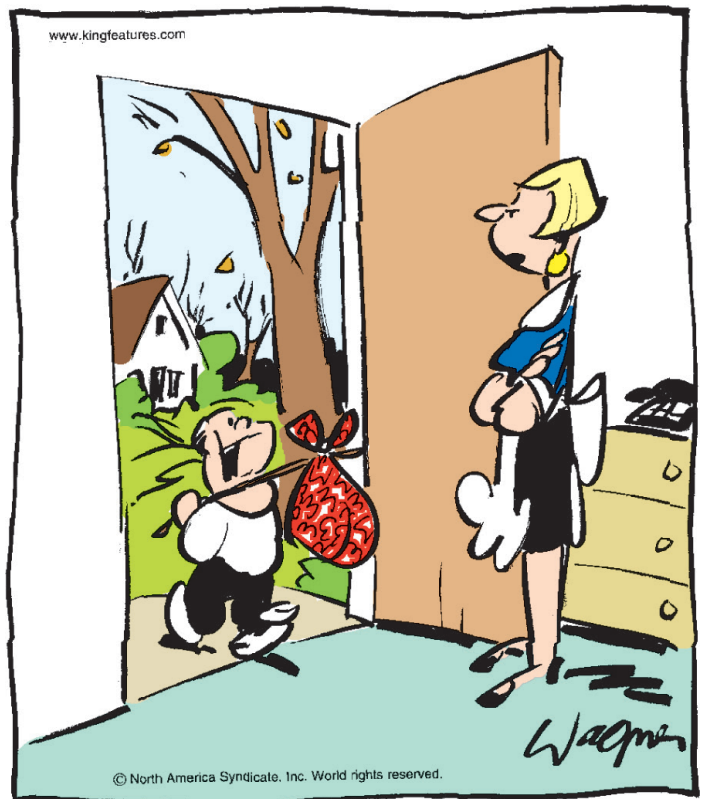
1. Which pop song was about the exploits of Manfred Albrecht Freiherr von Richthofen?
2. What was "Lady D'Arbanville" about?
3. Who wrote and released "Tell Her No"?
4. Which artist wrote the song "Woodstock"?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "I've built walls, A fortress deep and mighty, That none may penetrate."

Answers

1. "Snoopy vs. the Red Baron," by the Royal Guardsmen in 1966. Baron von Richthofen was credited with 80 air victories in 1917 but was himself shot down and killed in 1918.
2. Cat Stevens wrote the 1970 song when his girlfriend left on a modeling gig for a month. The song mentions a coffin; the girlfriend was justifiably upset and ended the relationship.
3. The Zombies, in 1965.
4. Joni Mitchell, in 1970. Mitchell herself did not actually attend the Woodstock festival after being told by her agent that it would be better for her career to appear on "The Dick Cavett Show" instead.
5. "I Am A Rock," by Simon & Garfunkel, in 1965. The song had different versions, with acoustic guitar and then electric. Then a red vinyl demo was released for radio stations, with mono on one side and stereo on the other.

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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{Wagner}



"I'll be back when the turkey runs out."

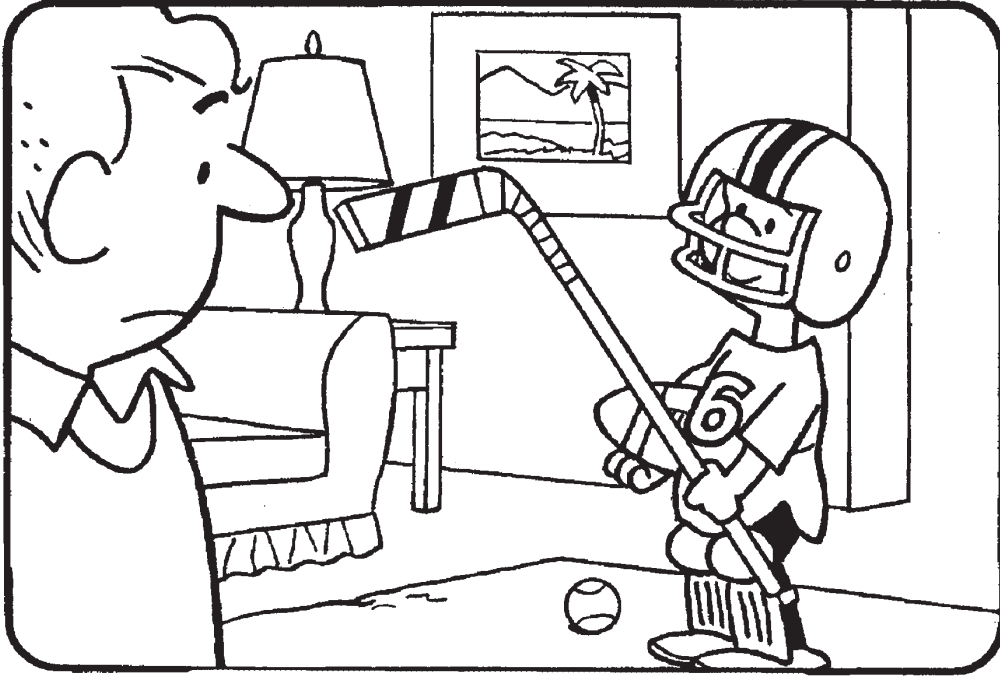
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

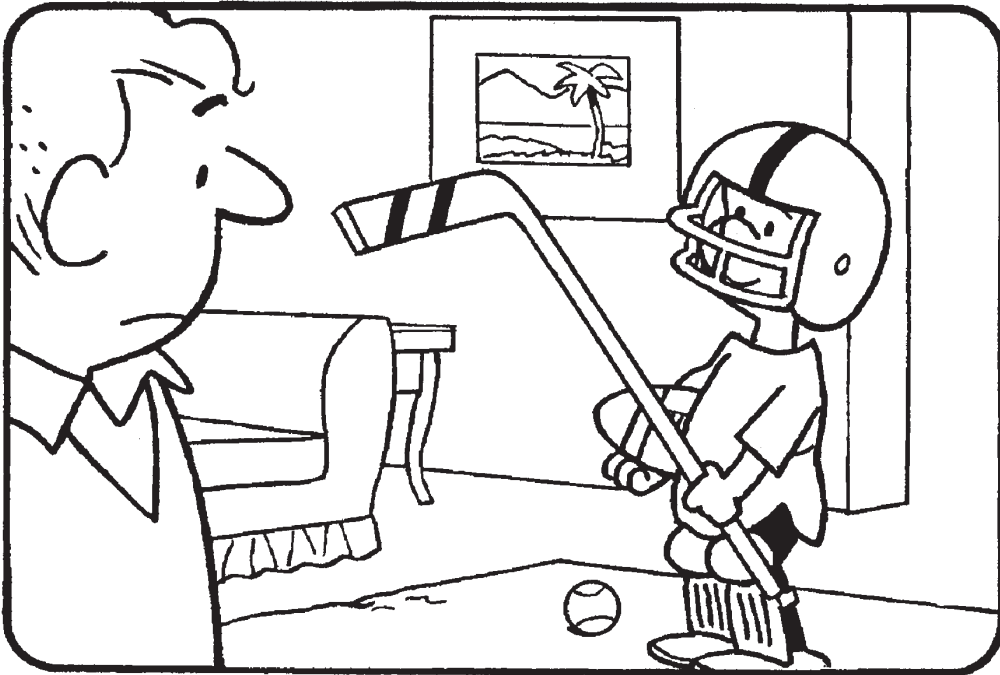


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Neckline is different. 2. Lamp is missing. 3. Table leg is different. 4. Tape is missing. 5. Stripes are missing. 6. Number is missing. 7. Ball is missing.

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* Use silicone caulk to make non-skid beads on the bottom of your pet dishes. They will stay in one place instead of getting scooted all around the kitchen.

* Need a quick iron job but don't have the time to iron? Spray a clean kitchen towel with a mixture of water and a little fabric softener until damp. Pop it in the dryer with the item that's wrinkled. It shouldn't take more than 10 minutes to get all the wrinkles out and smell great to boot!

* While we're on ironing tips, here's a great one from T.C. in Alabama: "If you have mineral deposits on your iron, use a toothbrush and toothpaste (mild abrasive) to polish them off your iron's face. Rinse with water, and next time, use distilled water for steaming."

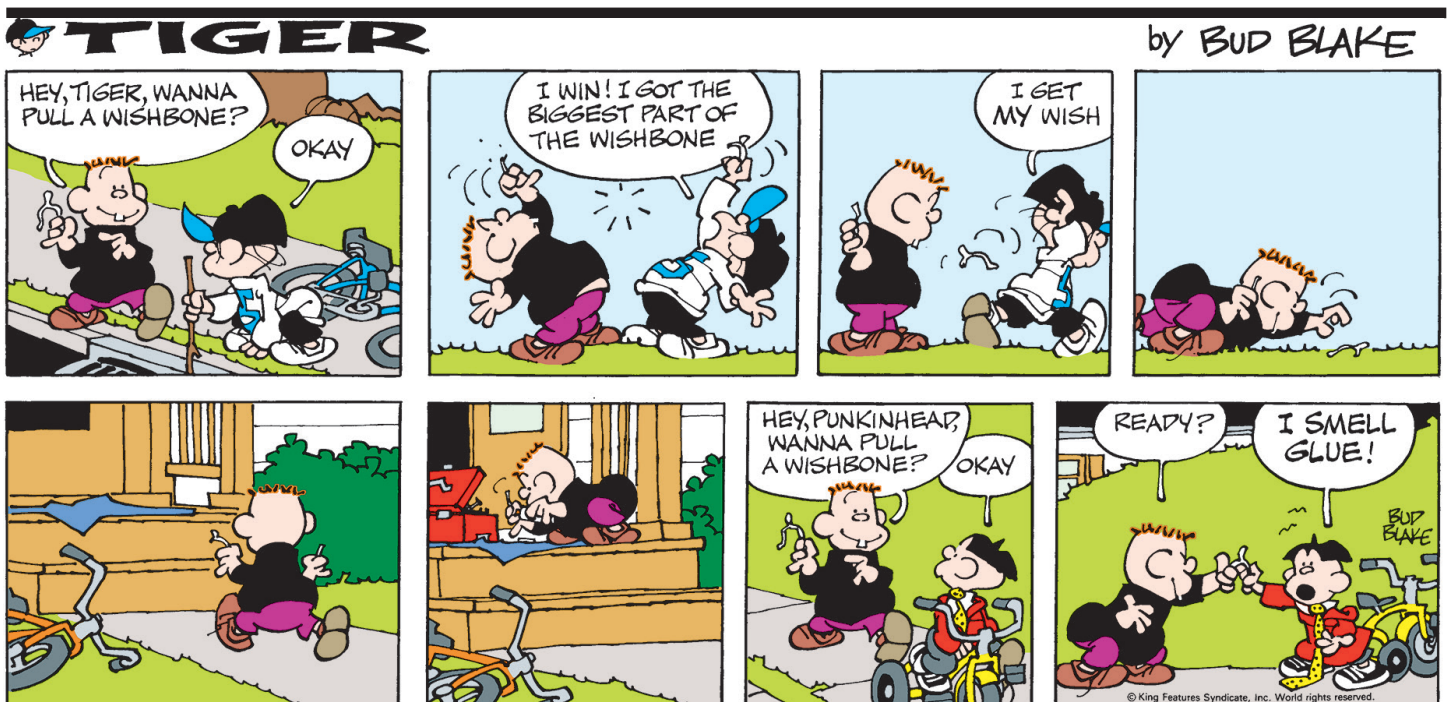
* "When driving a nail into a plaster wall, first put down a piece of tape at the spot where you will insert the nail. Tap the nail in right through the tape, then pull it away to discard. It often will keep the surrounding plaster from crumbling at the site of the nail." -- W.L. in Oregon

* When your cabinet door magnet locks are too strong, try putting a piece of tape over the magnet. It decreases the strength of the magnet.

* If you paint your radiators, make sure that the paint you use is intended to be heat-resistant. To get the best finish, paint while the radiator is warm.

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

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Asian desert
- 5 Weep loudly
- 9 Swiss peak
- 12 Mideast gulf
- 13 "Night" author
Wiesel
- 14 Life story
- 15 Pantheon
members
- 16 Quest
- 17 Director
Howard
- 18 Region
- 19 Texter's
"Wow!"
- 20 Full house,
e.g.
- 21 Dolphins' org.
- 23 Here (Fr.)
- 25 Used a hoe
- 28 Put a price on
- 32 Dole out
- 33 Stage
- 34 Show bad
posture
- 36 Creatures
- 37 Your
- 38 Ornate vase
- 39 Corn castoffs
- 42 Tavern
- 44 Party pooper
- 48 Small battery
- 49 Ireland
- 50 Theater box
- 51 Norm (Abbr.)
- 52 Swampy ter-
rain
- 53 Portent

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
18					19				20			
			21	22			23	24				
25	26	27					28			29	30	31
32									33			
34					35		36					
			37				38					
39	40	41			42	43			44	45	46	47
48					49				50			
51					52				53			
54					55				56			

- 54 That lady
- 55 River to the
Baltic
- 56 Get one's feet
wet?
- 7 Improvise
- 8 Allow
- 9 Start of a spell
- 10 King of the
jungle
- 11 Frogs' hang-
out
- 20 Everywhere
- 22 Command to
Fido
- 24 Prank
- 25 "Now, where
— I?"
- 26 Right angle
- 27 "Xanadu"
band
- 29 Cooking fuel
- 30 Ballpark fig.
- 31 — Moines
- 35 Cross
- 36 Stovetop fea-
ture
- 39 Mama — Elliot
- 40 Swearword
- 41 Commanded
- 43 Suffix for bil-
lion
- 45 "Arrivederci
—"
- 46 On in years
- 47 Actor
Hackman
- 49 Punk-rock
subgenre

DOWN

- 1 Quite enthusi-
astic
- 2 Bloodhound's
clue
- 3 Eliot's "Adam
—"
- 4 Important
details
- 5 Observe
- 6 Grad

— King Crossword —

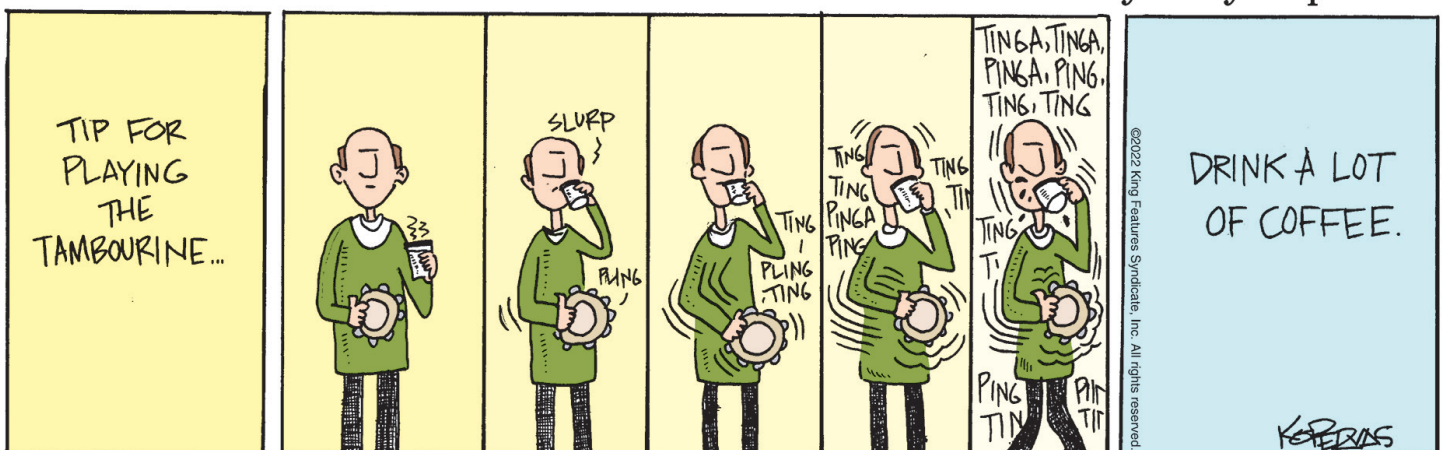
Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

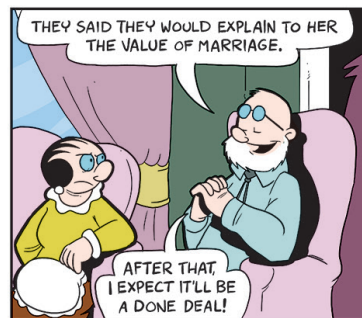
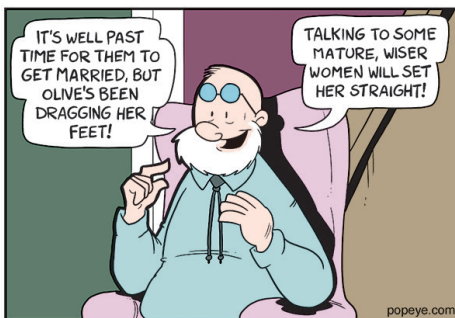
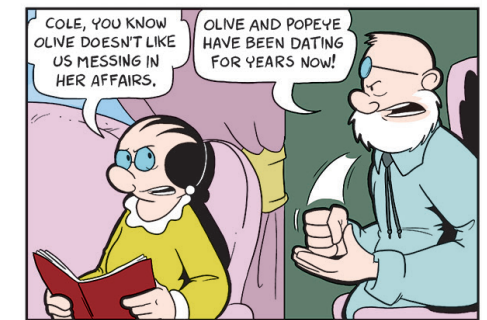
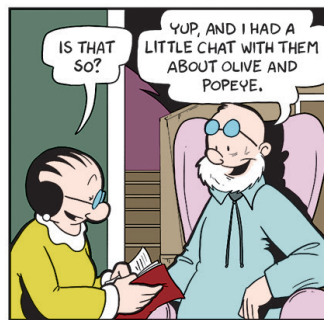
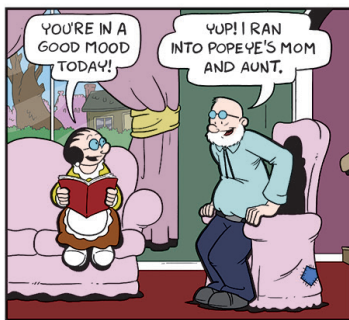
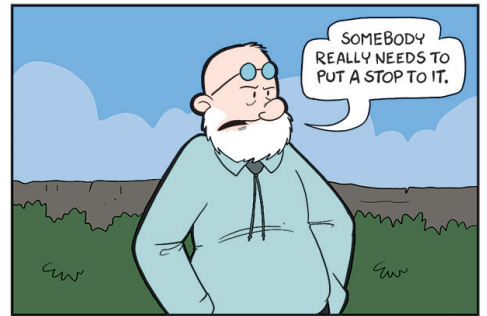
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



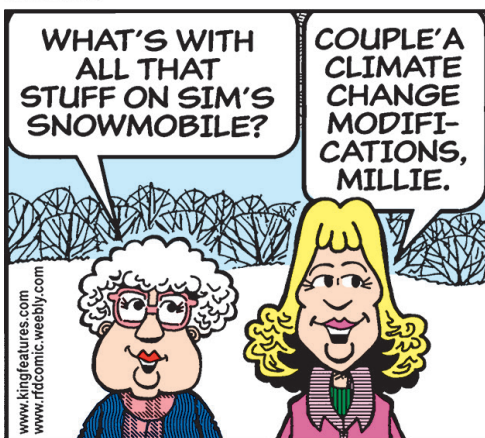
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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HAL FOSTER'S BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ
Prince Valiant

KAREN AND VALETA HAVE COME AS CALLED, AND HAVE DEFEATED MALDUBH.

BUT THE DARK WIFE'S EVIL CURSE CONTINUES. "MALDUBH'S DEATH DID NOT RETURN ALETA'S SOUL FROM WHATEVER DARK SPACE IT NOW INHABITS," SAYS MAEVE. "WE MUST TRY TO GUIDE IT HOME."



VAL IS PAST DOUBTING THE MYSTIC POWERS OF WOMEN, AND DOES NOT RESIST AS HE IS USHERED FROM THE BEDCHAMBER. "WE HAVE MUCH TO PREPARE," VALETA INFORMS HIM.



THEN HE WAITS OUTSIDE THE DOOR. CAN THAT REALLY BE HIS DAUGHTERS, CHANTING SOME OTHERWORDLY, GUTTURAL LANGUAGE?

KAREN OPENS THE DOOR: "YOU MAY ENTER, FATHER." HE DOES...

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... AND ALETA JUMPS INTO HIS ARMS. "HELLO, VAL! I'VE BEEN VERY, VERY FAR AWAY..."

NEXT: A stranger

Gianni 10-2-11

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

I FLUNKED MY MATH CLASS AGAIN.

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AGAIN?? ...HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU FAILED?

I DON'T KNOW... ... I LOST COUNT.

APR 2012

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Workout Goals for 2023?

We love our new exercise coach. This is the young student who used us as guinea pigs for a college class project, graduated and has now been hired by the senior center as our permanent workout guru. It's only been a month, and already we want to make him Employee of the Year.

Somehow he managed to convince the town to spend large dollars to outfit a space in the rec center dedicated to workout equipment for seniors. But we haven't just been turned loose with all that fancy new gear. Coach has required that we all have a personal session with him wherein he will instruct us on each machine and fill out our personal goal sheet with the weights and repetitions for each one. Periodically he will stalk through the room, instruct on posture, scrutinize someone's goal sheet and ensure the machine's weight is set correctly.

The bonus for us is that the cost per month is less than one-quarter the amount charged by the regular gyms in our area.

Is a gym workout in your plans for 2023? While you might not be lucky enough to have a personal coach and a brand-new dedicated-for-seniors exercise room at your rec center, you still might be able to join a gym near you.

Do you qualify for a low-cost SilverSneakers fitness membership through your Medicare advantage or supplemental plan? Many plans have this benefit (standard Medicare does not), and over 17,000 gyms across the country participate.

If you find a local gym (don't forget about the YMCA), ask whether a fitness expert will show you how each machine works and to generate an exercise plan for you. It's often included in the membership.

One bonus to signing up for a gym membership at this time of year is that gyms frequently offer discounts for the new year.

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1. At the 1956 Melbourne Summer Olympics, a violent water polo match dubbed "Blood in the Water" took place between what two countries' teams?

2. Basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar played airline copilot Roger Murdock in what 1980 comedy film?

3. Defensive end Ebenezer Ekuban, a 1999 first-round NFL Draft pick for the Dallas Cowboys, was the first NFL player born in what country?

4. What company, founded by Jim Jannard in 1975, is a leading manufacturer of sports visors, sunglasses, and ski and snowboard goggles?

5. CAM the Ram is the official mascot of what Mountain West Conference school's athletic teams?

6. Who became the first female acting head coach in NBA history when San Antonio Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich was ejected during a game in December 2020?

7. What driver was killed in a crash during the final practice session for the 2006 IndyCar Series season-opening race at Homestead-Miami Speedway?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Hungary and the Soviet Union.

2. "Airplane!"

3. Ghana.

4. Oakley.

5. Colorado State University.

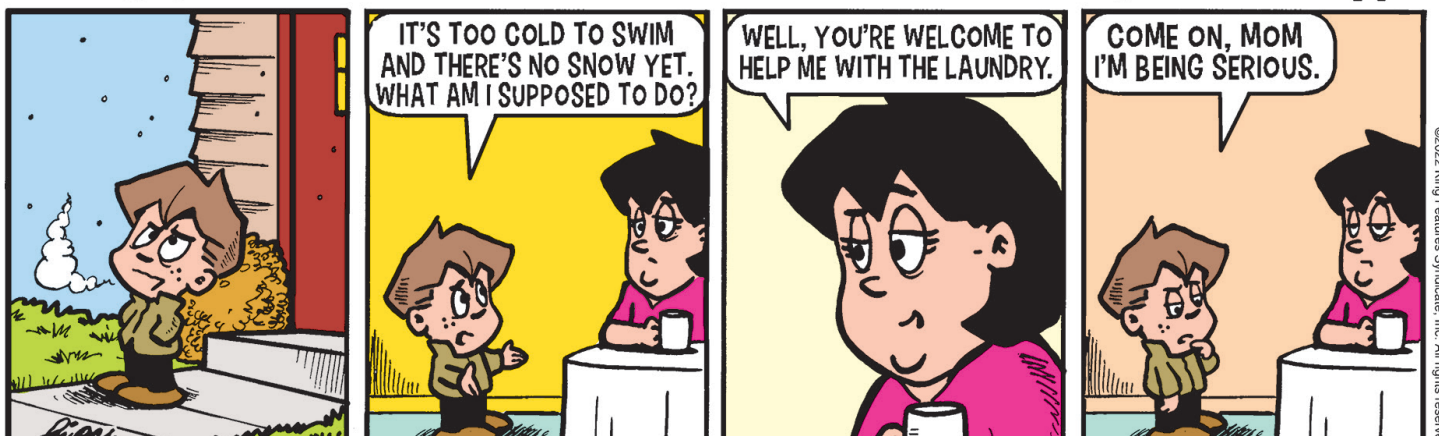
6. Becky Hammon.

7. Paul Dana.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





A Handful of Dog Treats Help the Medicine Go Down

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have a tip for the owner who is struggling to give their dog eye medicine. Our dog had cataract removal surgery earlier this year, and we've had to give him drops ever since. We've got it down! All you need are high-value treats given before, during and after the drops. Please feel free to share my suggestion. -- Jenny H. Asheville, North Carolina

DEAR JENNY: Many thanks for the advice! Making "medicine time" less stressful and more positive is so important for pets. Folks, Jenny recommended

a 100% meat dog treat, which is a great high-value snack. Look for a product like this in the pet store's fresh food aisle. Peanut butter is another fave among dogs. One of my dogs is a huge fan of Doritos. (I have to hide them.)

Here's some more tips for giving oral medication or drops to a dog or cat:

-- Work off some of your pet's energy beforehand. Take the dog for a walk or have your cat play with a toy.

-- Make sure the pet is held safely. Place the cat on your lap and cradle your arm around their body, placing your hand on their chest. Have the dog sit or lie down at your feet (or in your lap), facing forward or to the side.

-- Stay calm and positive. Give your pet a small treat while being encouraging and petting them.

-- Give the medication as quickly as possible. Don't force or rush the process, but gently open their mouth and pop the pill in as far back as possible, then rub the underside of their jaw and throat to encourage swallowing. If giving eyedrops, gently lift one eyelid and put in the drop, then repeat on the other side.

How do you give your pet their medication? Let us know at ask@pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* In the early 1990s, cyclists who doped at the Tour De France used so much erythropoietin that they had to exercise throughout the night to avoid having heart attacks in their sleep.

* Pringles once tried to evade a hefty tax payment by claiming their product wasn't potato chips.

* Do bears appreciate beauty like us humans? Some wildlife experts think so, as there have been many sightings of the animals sitting at scenic points and staring out at vistas of mountains, rivers, etc. They appear to have no other purpose there than enjoying

the view!

* Humans are more likely to die at around 11 a.m. than any other time of day.

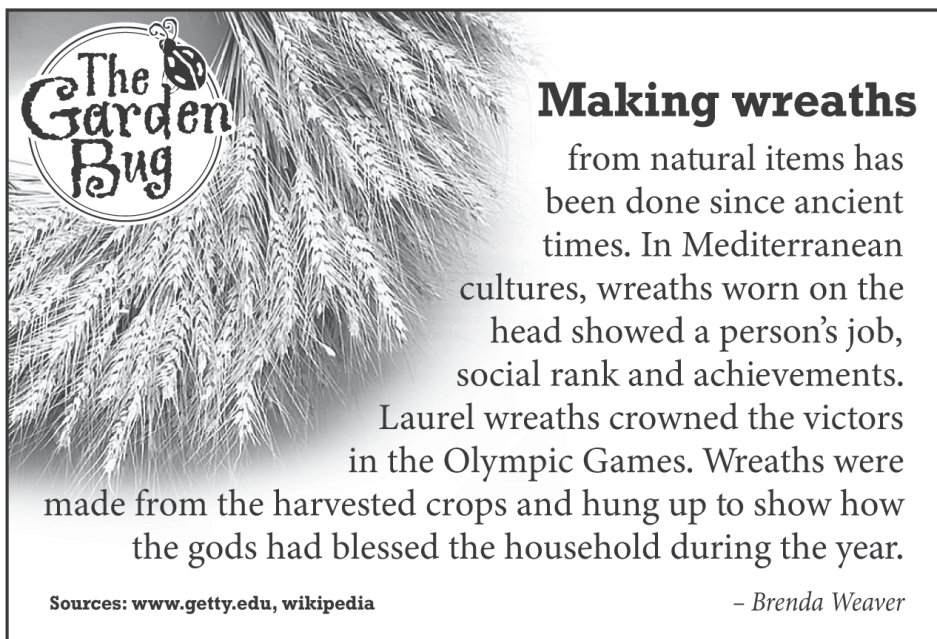
* Who needs Harry Potter? Not the city of Christchurch in New Zealand. Until 2021, the city paid Ian Brackenbury Channell \$16,000 a year to act as a state-appointed wizard. His duties? To perform "acts of wizardry and other wizard-like services" for two decades.

* In the first few centuries of the Christian Era, controversy over whether or not Jesus was divine at birth created political and social unrest that frequently resulted in full-scale warfare.

* Some DVD copies of "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" include a subtitle track called "Subtitles for People Who Don't Like the Film," comprised of lines from Shakespeare's "Henry IV Part 2" that vaguely match what the actors are saying.

Thought for the Day: "Few people know how to take a walk. The qualifications are endurance, plain clothes, old shoes, an eye for nature, good humor, vast curiosity, good speech, good silence and nothing too much." -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Making wreaths

from natural items has been done since ancient times. In Mediterranean cultures, wreaths worn on the head showed a person's job, social rank and achievements. Laurel wreaths crowned the victors in the Olympic Games. Wreaths were made from the harvested crops and hung up to show how the gods had blessed the household during the year.

Sources: www.getty.edu, wikipedia

- Brenda Weaver



Adaptive Sports

The Department of Veterans Affairs has given out \$16 million in grant money to organizations that provide adaptive sports opportunities to disabled veterans all over the country, thus relieving 13,000 veterans of the need to provide their own financing for their participation in the program. In the past eight years alone, that comes to \$100 million that's been granted.

by Freddy Groves

If you're in physical therapy (and enrolled in VA health care), take a look at the Sports4Vets Throwdown at www.blogs.va.gov/nvspse/throwdown. It's a competition for veterans of all ages and abilities to improve their fitness. Go to the "Click here to access the 2022 workouts" link for videos of weeks of adaptive exercises, broken down by wheelchair, modified mobility, visually impaired and upper extremity. Ask your physician or therapist if any of those workouts would be appropriate for you to increase your fitness.

The program focuses on archery, rock climbing, skiing, hunting, sky diving and Paralympic sports, with a bonus this year: CrossFit, sailing and scuba.

And there's more ... the National Veterans Wheelchair Games will be held in Portland, Oregon, next July, and registration for it will be open from Feb. 1 to April 5, 2023. There will be more than 500 veterans competing in 22 sports. Get information at wheelchairgames.org. If you're new to adaptive sports, scroll down and click on "Learn More" to see the list of benefits to becoming involved. Among other reasons, they list maintaining body weight, sleeping better and reducing anxiety and depression. Those alone might be worth the effort of joining an adaptive sport, but they also list controlling Type 2 diabetes and hypertension.

If you're age 55 or older, the National Veterans Golden Age Games might be for you, with over a dozen different sports, such as air rifle, basketball, golf, cycling and bowling.

If you do an online search for "@Sports4Vets, you'll find the VA's adaptive sports and arts Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter. Pay special attention to Facebook, as they've listed a number of programs and events that are coming up.

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Wishing Well®

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

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

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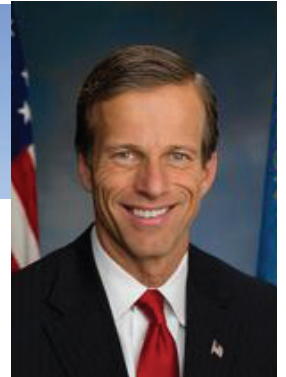
1. GEOGRAPHY: Which country is the most forested in the world?
2. HISTORY: When were tanks first introduced in war?
3. TELEVISION: What is the name of the Netflix sequel to the "Karate Kid" movies?
4. MUSIC: Which music prodigy was signed to a record deal at age 11?
5. ASTRONOMY: In which year will Halley's Comet reappear?
6. LAW: Which justice served on the Supreme Court for the longest?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of dogs did President Obama's family have in the White House?
8. FOOD & DRINK: Where did the first White Castle restaurant open?
9. ANATOMY: What is the rarest human blood type?
10. LITERATURE: What is Harry Potter's middle name?

Answers

1. Russia.
2. 1916, Battle of the Somme.
3. "Cobra Kai."
4. Stevie Wonder.
5. 2061.
6. William O. Douglas (36 years).
7. Portuguese water dogs.
8. Wichita, Kansas.
9. AB negative.
10. James.

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John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



The IRS Needs Accountability and Improvement

If there is a simpler and more effective way of doing something, that's how it should be done. Republicans put this principle into practice five years ago with our pro-growth tax reform that simplified the tax code, lowered rates, and reduced South Dakotans' tax bills. The fact that most South Dakotans were able to keep more of their hard-earned paychecks while the federal government has collected record-high revenues helps prove that the Republican plan worked.

President Biden and congressional Democrats have pursued a different approach, one that is all but certain to add new complexity and burdens for taxpayers, especially their experience with the IRS. Democrats recently passed the so-called "Inflation Reduction Act," which included an unprecedented and unnecessary \$80 billion in additional funding for the IRS, an amount six times greater than the agency's current budget. Democrats intend to use some of the funds to hire as many as 87,000 new IRS employees.

Although there are a number of ways to make the IRS more efficient and accountable, the agency's recent influx of cash is unlikely to do so given that more than half of the funding is directed toward enforcement, including audits, and only four percent goes toward improving customer service. If you made one of the 250 million phone calls to the IRS that employees failed to answer last year, or if you dealt with a delayed refund from the agency, you probably agree a stronger emphasis on customer service is warranted.

The lack of accountability for recent mismanagement of taxpayer data at the IRS is also greatly concerning. In the last two years alone, the IRS has inadvertently posted confidential information from 120,000 taxpayers on its website, destroyed 30 million unprocessed tax documents, and had troves of private tax information end up in the hands of the left-leaning news site ProPublica. These incidents are only a part of the mismanagement that has helped define the IRS in recent years, punctuated by little to no accountability from Democrats in Congress or the White House.

I'm skeptical that a supersized IRS won't exacerbate many of these problems while also increasing audits of middle-income Americans and small business owners. For these reasons, I recently introduced legislation with my Republican colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee to give Congress a direct say in how these funds are used. My bill freezes access to the funds – other than those dedicated to taxpayer services – until the IRS submits a coherent plan to Congress, which would be empowered to reject it. If the agency fails to meet deadlines, funding will be automatically rescinded. If there's one way to make a federal agency shape up, it's by tightening its purse strings.

Common-sense principles like efficiency, accountability, and responsiveness should guide improvements for taxpayers. To this end, Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and I crafted a bill that would require the IRS to meet certain customer service standards before the agency can hire new enforcement agents with these funds. And I worked with Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) on a bill to protect taxpayers earning less than \$400,000 per year from increased audits. Without the protection of law, ramped-up audits are sure to hit small businesses and middle-income taxpayers.

My Republican colleagues and I share a firm but simple view that the IRS needs to do better, not grow bigger. I will continue working to make measurable improvements to the IRS, hold the agency accountable for its actions, and ensure South Dakotans are able to keep more of their hard-earned paychecks without undue interference from bureaucratic red tape.

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



A Full Table

November is a month associated with many things—the last of our beautiful fall foliage, winter weather sets in, honoring our veterans, and celebrating Thanksgiving. At Thanksgiving, we gather around the table and celebrate things we're grateful for like our home, safety, freedoms, and our loved ones.

November is also National Adoption Month. During Thanksgiving, the blessing of adoption hits home for some even moreso. As families sit down at a table full of food, they look around at a table full of the ones they love, and some are present due to the blessing of adoption.

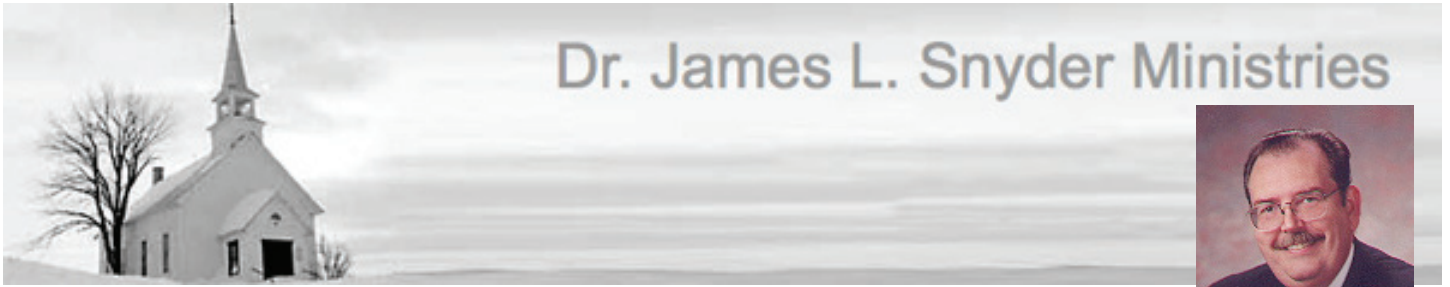
This year, I had the privilege of honoring the Enos family who were named South Dakota's Angels in Adoption honorees. The Enos family has six children, three of whom joined their family through adoption. Adoption is a blessing to both the children and the families – the Enos family story is no different. I am proud to support families like the Enos, and I'm truly thankful for what they have chosen to do.

For those who have an empty seat at the table, we remember the servicemen and women who are defending our freedoms. We are thankful for these individuals every day of the year as they serve, protecting us and our country.

I am thankful for my family, my wife and sons, friends, the great state of South Dakota, chocolate chip cookies, and the opportunity to serve in Congress for another term. Whether your table is surrounded by loved ones or they are there in spirit, I hope your home is filled with love and thankfulness. As Americans, we have much to be grateful for.

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If Only I Would Take Notes



As a writer, I always have a small notebook in my shirt pocket to take notes when I have an idea. I don't have too many ideas, so I want to write down any I get so I don't forget them. That has helped me out on many occasions.

There is one exception. When The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage talks to me, I fail to take notes about that conversation. You would think after being married as long as I have, I would know better.

I never think of it until she asks, "Do you remember what I told you this morning?" That always catches me off my guard, and I think she just may be doing this on purpose.

Usually, she says this after lunch, and I have no recollection of any morning conversations. But, because I don't remember, I get in deep trouble.

My confusion along this line is simple, is she saying this because it's true or because she knows I don't remember things? I believe that at this stage in our marriage, she has a good idea of what I can remember. Sorry to say, I don't.

Then I come in and have to face, "Do you remember what I told you this morning?"

Once, trying to get a step ahead, I said, "Yes, I do remember, and I'll get to it tomorrow." Thinking this will solve a problem, I smile and go about my business. But, boy, was I wrong.

I can never outmaneuver The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. When I said that, she replied, "Great, what are you going to do tomorrow?"

I knew I was backed into a corner and responded as cheerfully as possible, "I'm going to do tomorrow what you told me to do this morning."

I didn't get off on that one. I didn't think I would, but you never know until you try.

At my age, I'm not quite sure how the game is being played. I cannot tell if what she was telling me now is what she said to me in the morning. I think she plays me along this line, because if I forget something, then it's all on me.

I try to tell The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that, at my age, I'm too poor to pay attention. I tell her when I save up enough money, I will spend it on paying attention.

She never buys that. She looks at me, both hands on her hips, and says, "What have I told you about saying that?"

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If only I could remember, I could beat her at this game. I'm unsure if I'm forgetting or if it never actually happened. I have no viable proof.

One day I tried it out for myself to see if I could trick her. She came into my office, and I said, "Remember what I told you this morning?"

"Yes, I do," she said with a smirk, "here are the batteries you asked me to get at the store."

All I could do was say, "Thank you, my dear." I have no recollection of ever asking her to pick up any batteries for me at the store. If I did, I sure don't remember.

I have to give her credit on this one, she got me.

Turnaround is fair play, or so I thought, I came up with another idea.

The next time she said, "Remember what I told you this morning?" I looked at her and said, "Yes, my dear, and here are the donuts you asked me to get you this morning." I then handed her a box of doughnuts from the bakery.

She replied, "If you remember, I said, don't go nuts today."

I just can't win.

Of course, if I did get a notebook, I would have to buy a new one every week to keep up with her conversations with me. It might be worth the investment; it could keep me out of trouble.

One time she asked me, "Do I need to get you some hearing aids?"

I'm thinking more about getting a recorder to tape our conversations.. Unfortunately, I can't find one with that much memory to record her conversations.

I had one more ploy, at least a try. The next time she said, "Remember what I told you this morning?" Then, with my hands behind my back, I brought them forward with a bunch of flowers, gave them to her, and say, "Yes, my dear. Here are those flowers you requested."

What was the great pay-off for that time, I couldn't remember? She looked at those flowers and then looked at me and smiled and said, "Thank you." And that's all she said.

I racked my brain all day trying to figure out how in the world I was able to capture that one.

I may be learning to pay some attention; nobody knows how long this will last, at least me.

Reflecting on this I was reminded of one of my favorite Bible verses.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

My big failure is when I try to lean on my own understanding instead of trusting God. My trust in God will raise me above human understanding, which puts me on the right track. Also, my trust keeps me going in the right path.

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EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is there any proof that recent advances in air quality monitoring and the widespread sharing of the results have materially reduced air pollution?

-- Mitch B., New Haven, CT

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution kills upwards of seven million people annually around the world. Asthma, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and stroke are the most common afflictions associated with acute exposure.

Aside from human health risks, air pollution discolors the hues of the sky, creates acid rain and destroys ecosystems. The United Nations has included the improving of air quality in its Sustainable Development Goals, pushing policymakers in a growing number of cities around the world to take proactive steps to protect our shared "wild blue yonder."

But while public policy is an important tool in reducing air pollution, it has its limitations. For example, informed by traditional, static monitoring stations, most policies targeting cleaner skies have focused on outdoor spaces only, neglecting indoor areas where people congregate. However, in recent years advances in sensor technology have facilitated lower cost, mobile monitoring of air quality in outdoor and indoor environments. Nowadays we even have technologies that can track air pollution exposure of an individual using sensors that can be worn. This personalization of air quality data may encourage the design and synthesis of individual plans to reduce exposure, in turn keeping all of us healthier.

Air quality data that is accessible, shared in real time and amenable to public interpretation is an effective strategy for motivating individual behavior change and the development of actions that reduce air pollution. Research from the University of Queensland has shown that the sharing of real time data on air pollution has led to a reduction in fine particulate levels and associated mortalities.

In 2008, the U.S. embassy in Beijing began to publish hourly air quality reports on social media. These reports did wonders for air pollution awareness in China, prompting citizen action. Today, U.S. embassies share live air quality readings in OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries, of which there are 38. A study that compared pollution levels before and after U.S. embassies started sharing live air quality updates found that fine particulate levels declined annually by as much as four micrograms per cubic meter in each of the 38 countries.

The more people are informed on an issue, the less abstract it becomes. Crucial information is often trapped in elite circles of academia with no outlet to the person on the street. Providing the public with credible, real-time, accessible data on environmental issues is a first step toward establishing behaviors and actions that supplement policy efforts in support of a healthier planet. The more each of us knows about the potential harm in the air around us, the better able we are to protect ourselves and the environment at large. .



Researchers have found that the more people are exposed to air quality monitoring data, the more they will do to reduce air pollution. Credit: pexels.com..

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South Dakota COVID-19 Report

New Cases*

847 **-106**

Total Cases*

267,689

Currently Hospitalized

72 **-11**

New Hospitalizations

41

Total Hospitalized

12,045

[Click to Visit](#)

SD COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage

New Deaths

8

Total Deaths

3,096

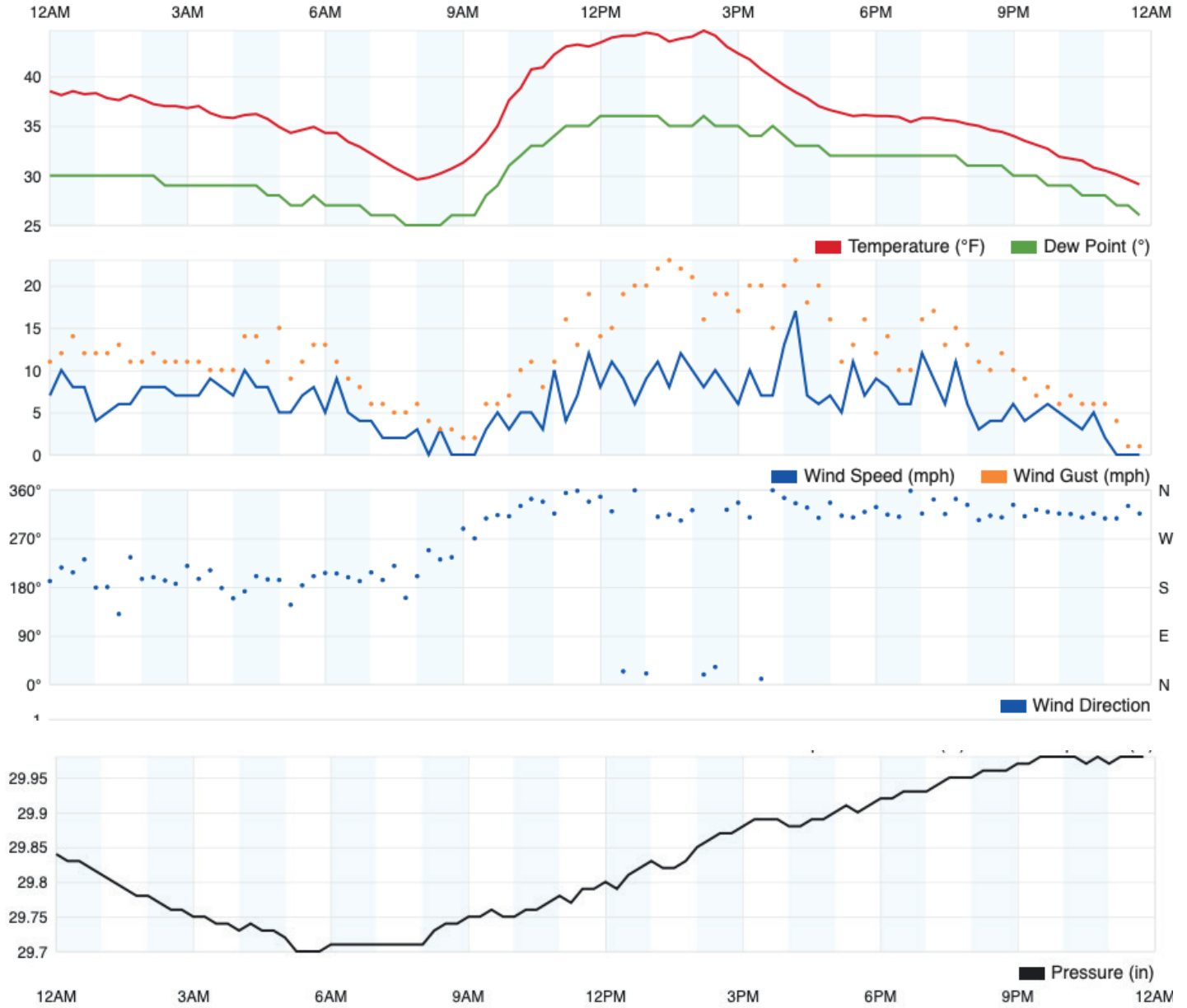
[Click to Visit](#)

COVID-19 Community Levels

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

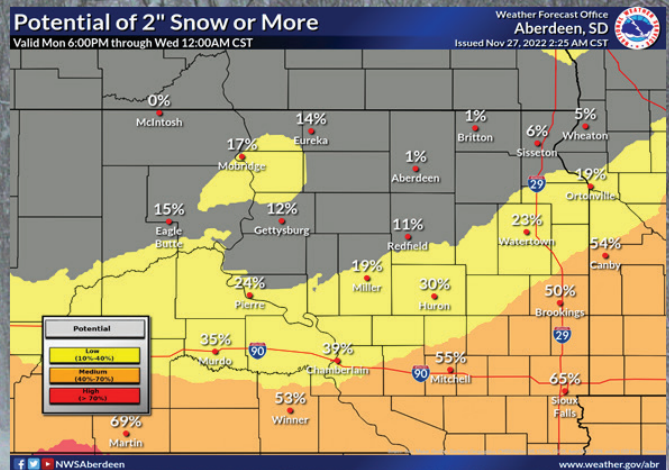
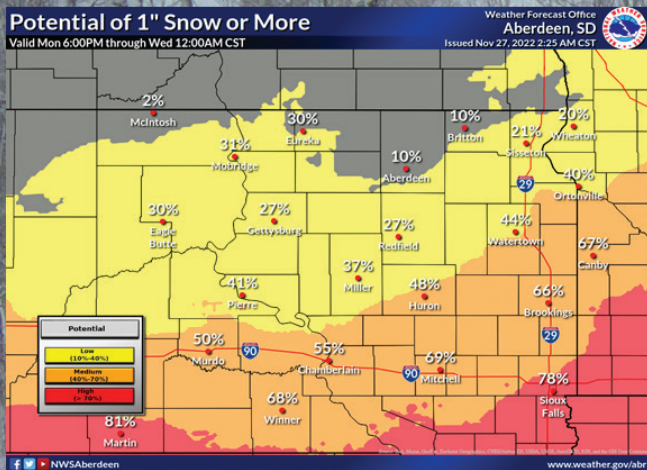


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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 37 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 36 °F	Low: 16 °F	High: 24 °F	Low: 8 °F	High: 18 °F

Accumulating Snow for Southern Areas Early This Week



- Highest chances for impactful accumulations mainly across southern/southeast SD. (Monday night - Tuesday)
- Minor/moderate travel impacts possible.
- Little, if any snow for northern areas.



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/abr

Graphic Created
11/27/2022 3:26 AM

A storm system moving across the region Monday night through Tuesday looks to bring accumulating snow to southern/southeastern South Dakota into Minnesota. The highest chances for impactful accumulations which could affect travel currently lie mainly south of the forecast area. Note, the highest chances for seeing 1"+ and 2"+ snowfall exists the further south you travel. In general, this looks like the type of system that could bring a swath of 3 to 5 inches of snow within the heaviest snowfall axis, which at this point appears to be across northern Nebraska, through southeast South Dakota and into Minnesota.

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Today in Weather History

November 27, 1960: An ice storm occurred from 40 miles on either side of a line from Pipestone to Brainerd, Minnesota. Power and communication lines were downed, leaving at least 22 communities isolated. Ice coating reported ranged from one half to three fourth of an inch at Lake Benton. Heavy snow fell in eastern North Dakota with blizzard conditions throughout the state. In South Dakota, this storm began as freezing rain on the 27th and remained largely as such in the southeast quarter of the state. The remainder of the experienced blizzard conditions with 5 to 10 inches of snow and winds gusting to 30 to 60 mph. These horrible caused extensive closing of schools and businesses, blocked highways, and disrupted telephone and power services. Slippery highways caused many auto accidents. Some loss of livestock was reported, such as 1,000 turkeys in Gettysburg. Restoration of telephone service alone was estimated to have cost \$210,000 and required up to three days after the storm.

November 27, 1983: A weekend storm that began with light snow on the 26th continued to gather strength, culminating in a blizzard that was accompanied by thunder and lightning during the evening hours on the 27th. The heaviest snowfall occurred from Marshall County SSE to Gregory County in South Dakota, with the heaviest snow falling as thunder snow showers. Snow amounts ranged from 4 to 18 inches. Strong winds up to 50 mph created near zero visibilities and difficult driving conditions as numerous roads drifted shut with up to eight-foot drifts. Numerous accidents ensued, with many people forced to stay overnight in their stranded vehicles. Airlines were forced to cancel all flights as airports were closed into midday on the 28th. Almost all schools and businesses were closed on the 28th and even on the 29th in many areas. Storm total snowfall amounts included 8 inches at Clark; 7 inches at Artichoke Lake, Bryant 1NE, Clear Lake, Victor 4 NNE, and Browns Valley; 6 inches at Wheaton, Wilmot, and Harrold 12 SSW; 5 inches at Kennebec, Sisseton, and Mellette 4W; 4 inches at Watertown, Highmore 1W, Murdo, Redfield, Waubay, Ashton 2S, and Britton; and 3 inches at Aberdeen, Castlewood, Columbia 8N, Onida 4NW, and Pierre.

November 27, 1994: Low pressure developed over eastern Colorado late Saturday the 26th and strengthened over Kansas early on the 27th. By late in the day on the 27th, the low pressure system had developed into the first winter storm for Minnesota. By the early morning hours of the 28th, a swath of snow in excess of 6 inches had blanketed much of southwest through central into northeast Minnesota.

Snowfalls of 6 inches or more occurred south of a line from Gunflint Lake in Cook County to near Ortonville in Big Stone County and along and north of a line from near Blue Earth in Faribault county to Red Wing in Goodhue county. The snow closed the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport for a short time on the 27th, and contributed to hundreds of accidents and at least three fatalities. The greatest snowfall was 14.1 inches in Duluth. In addition, very strong east winds gusted over 50 mph in Duluth causing blizzard conditions. The high winds brought waves in excess of 16 feet crashing against the Lake Superior shoreline in Duluth, covering the Duluth Canal Park Lake Walk with extensive debris. A buildup of ice and snow in combination with strong winds resulted in numerous downed power lines in southeast Minnesota. Widespread heavy snow fell over mostly the eastern half of South Dakota on November 27-28. Peak accumulations were 10 inches at Sioux Falls and 9 inches at Howard and near Canton. Damage resulted mainly from numerous minor traffic accidents. Storm snowfall amounts in this area included 8 inches at Eureka; 7 inches at Victor 4NNE, Leola, Onaka 2N, Roscoe, Faulkton, Columbia 8N, Aberdeen, and Selby; 6 inches at Redfield, Mellette 4W, Bryant 1NE, Blunt, Wheaton, and Raymond 3NE; 5 inches at Pollock, Miller, Milbank 2SSW, Ipswich, Harrold 12SSW, Eagle Butte, Clark, Artichoke Lake, and Onida 4NW; 4 inches at Mobridge, Timber Lake, McIntosh 6SE, Conde, Clear Lake, Pierre, and Ashton 2S; 3 inches at Sisseton, Webster, Waubay, Summit 1W, Presho 7NW, Kennebec, Highmore 1W, Gann Valley 4NW, Castlewood, Browns Valley, Watertown, and Wilmot.

November 27, 1701: Anders Celsius, the astronomer who invented the Celsius, often called the centigrade thermometer scale was born on this date.

November 27, 1898: A powerful storm, known as the "Portland Gale" impacted the coastal areas of New England on November 26 - 27, 1898. The storm formed when two areas of low pressures merged off the coast of New Jersey and traveled up the east coast. This storm produced hurricane force winds in Nantucket and sank more than 150 boats and ships.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

QUIET CHRISTIANS

For many years two neighbors rode the same train to work in downtown Chicago. George went to church regularly, and if pressed, would admit to being a Christian. But he never allowed being a Christian to interfere with his life. On the other hand, Will never went to church and had no use for godly things. As they rode the train each day, they discussed business strategies, sports, politics, religion, and current events. They rarely mentioned God.

One morning Will became violently ill and was rushed to the hospital. After a series of tests, his physician informed his wife that he would not live longer than a few days - if that long. Frightened, his wife said, "Perhaps we'd better call George and talk about God."

"George? Talk about God? Why George? He rarely mentioned God to me or that he knew Him. So, I doubt that he would be the right person to call," said Will. Without saying another word, he passed into eternity - lost.

When George heard the news, he was stunned and filled with guilt. There was nothing he could do for Will now but go to God and ask for forgiveness for not being a witness and promise to become faithful. The words of the Psalmist echoed loudly in his ears: "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!"

Unfortunately, the Kingdom of God is filled with too many citizens like George. They know the Lord from a distance but are unwilling to speak as His ambassadors. They believe that they have "theirs" and that's all that matters. But there is no denying that if indeed God has redeemed us, we will present Him faithfully to others!

Prayer: Lord, forgive us for our silence and refusal to be faithful in presenting Your message to the lost around us! Give us the courage to be light in this world of darkness. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so. Psalm 107:2a



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

06-10-12-18-32

(six, ten, twelve, eighteen, thirty-two)

Estimated jackpot: \$196,000

Lotto America

01-27-31-46-52, Star Ball: 7, ASB: 3

(one, twenty-seven, thirty-one, forty-six, fifty-two; Star Ball: seven; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$30,590,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 305,000,000

Powerball

15-30-47-50-51, Powerball: 3, Power Play: 10

(fifteen, thirty, forty-seven, fifty, fifty-one; Powerball: three; Power Play: ten)

Estimated jackpot: \$56,000,000

Coastal Carolina takes down South Dakota 66-59

CONWAY, S.C. (AP) — Jomaru Brown had 17 points in Coastal Carolina's 66-59 victory against South Dakota on Saturday.

Brown also added three steals for the Chanticleers (3-2). Essam Mostafa scored 14 points and added 12 rebounds. Henry Abraham was 5 of 9 shooting (3 for 5 from distance) to finish with 13 points.

The Coyotes (3-4) were led in scoring by Kruz Perrott-Hunt, who finished with 17 points and four assists. Mihai Carcoana added 13 points and seven rebounds for South Dakota. Paul Bruns also had 10 points and six rebounds.

Freidel's 13 help James Madison take down South Dakota State

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — Noah Freidel scored 13 points as James Madison beat South Dakota State 79-60 on Saturday.

Freidel was 5 of 13 shooting (3 for 8 from distance) for the Dukes (6-1). Alonzo Sule scored 11 points and added seven rebounds. Mezie Offurum shot 4 of 8 from the field and 2 for 3 from the line to finish with 10 points.

Zeke Mayo finished with 16 points for the Jackrabbits (3-4). William Kyle III added 15 points, seven rebounds and two blocks for South Dakota State. In addition, Charlie Easley finished with 11 points.

Italian rescuers search for missing in island landslide

By COLLEEN BARRY Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Rescuers dug through mud for a second day Sunday in the search for people believed lost in an enormous landslide on the Italian resort island of Ischia.

One body was recovered on Saturday and two families with children remained among the 11 missing in the port town of Casamicciola, feared buried under mud and debris that firefighters said was six meters (20 feet) deep in some places.

"Mud and water tend to fill every space," the spokesman for Italian firefighter, Luca Cari, told RAI state TV. "Our teams are searching with hope, even if it is very difficult."

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"Our biggest hope is that people identified as missing have found refuge with relatives and friends and have not advised of their position," he added.

The risks of landslides remained in the part of town furthest up the mountain, requiring search teams to enter by foot, he said.

Small bulldozers focused on clearing roads overnight to allow rescue vehicles to pass, while dive teams were brought in to check cars that had been pushed into the sea.

"We are continuing the search with our hearts broken, because among the missing are also minors," Giacomo Pascale, the mayor of the neighboring town of Lacco Ameno, told RAI.

Pope Francis expressed his closeness to the people of Ischia during the traditional Sunday blessing in St. Peter's Square. "I am praying for the victims, for those who are suffering and for those who are involved in the rescue," he said.

The Naples prefect, Claudio Palomba, on Sunday said the official number of missing was 11, while four people had been injured and 160 displaced from their homes, according to the LaPresse news agency. He said 15 homes had been overwhelmed by the stream of mud.

The massive landslide before dawn on Saturday was triggered by exceptional rainfall, and sent a mass of mud and debris hurtling down a mountainside toward the port of Casamicciola, collapsing buildings and sweeping vehicles into the sea. By Sunday, 164 people were left homeless by the events.

One widely circulated video showed a man, covered with mud, clinging to a shutter, chest-deep in muddy water.

The island received 126 millimeters (nearly five inches) of rain in six hours, the heaviest rainfall in 20 years, according to officials. Experts said the disaster was exacerbated by building in areas of high risk on the mountainous island.

"There is territory that cannot be occupied. You cannot change the use of a zone where there is water. The course of the water created this disaster," geologist Riccardo Caniparoli told RAI. "There are norms and laws that were not respected."

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni convened a Cabinet meeting for later Sunday to declare a state of emergency on the island. "The government expresses its closeness to the citizens, mayors and towns of the island of Ischia, and thanks the rescue workers searching for the victims," Meloni said in a statement.

At World Cup, US soccer scrubs Islamic emblem from Iran flag

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — The U.S. soccer federation is displaying Iran's national flag on social media without the emblem of the Islamic Republic, saying the move supports protesters in Iran ahead of the two nations' World Cup match Tuesday.

Iran's government reacted by accusing America of removing the name of God from their national flag.

The decision by the U.S. Soccer Federation adds yet-another political firestorm to the Middle East's first World Cup, one which organizers had hoped would be spared of off-the-field controversies.

It also comes as the U.S. faces Iran in a decisive World Cup match, which was already freighted by the decades of enmity between the two countries and the nationwide protests now challenging Tehran's theocratic government.

The U.S. Soccer Federation said in a statement Sunday that it decided to forego the official flag on social media accounts to show "support for the women in Iran fighting for basic human rights."

The Twitter account of the U.S. men's team displayed a banner with the squad's matches in the group stage, with the Iranian flag only bearing its green, white and red colors. The same could be seen in a post on its Facebook and Instagram accounts laying out the point totals so far in its group.

The U.S. Soccer Federation displayed the official Iranian flag in a graphic showing Group B standings on its website.

The absence of the emblem comes as monthslong demonstrations have challenged Iran's government since the Sept. 16 death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who had been detained by the country's morality

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police.

The protests have seen at least 450 people killed since they started, as well as over 18,000 arrested, according to Human Rights Activists in Iran, an advocacy group following the demonstrations.

Iran has not released casualty or arrest figures for months and alleges without providing evidence that the protests have been fomented by its enemies abroad, including the U.S.

Tehran also restricts press access and has detained over 63 reporters and photographers since the demonstrations began, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, making covering the unrest that much more difficult.

Iran's mission to the United Nations and its soccer federation did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press. As comments raged online, Iranian state television described the U.S. federation as "removing the symbol of Allah" from the Iranian flag.

Iran's semiofficial ISNA news agency quoted Safiollah Fagahanpour, an adviser to the Iranian Football Federation, saying that the "measures taken regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran flag are against the law" of FIFA competitions.

"They must be held responsible," Fagahanpour said. "Obviously they want to affect Iran's performance against the U.S by doing this."

The Islamic Republic emblem, designed in 1980, is four curves with a sword between them. It represents the Islamic saying: "There is no god but God." It also resembles a tulip or lotus.

At the top and the bottom of the flag, there are 22 inscriptions of "God is Great" as well, which honors the date on the Persian calendar when the Islamic Revolution took hold.

The flag has become a point of contention at the World Cup. Apparent pro-government supporters have waved it, shouting at those demonstrating over Amini's death. Others at matches have waved Iran's lion and sun flag, an emblem of its former ruler, the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

More security forces could be seen at Iran's last match against Wales. In the capital Tehran, anti-riot police — the same ones cracking down on protests — waved the Iranian flag after the Wales win, angering demonstrators.

Pockets of shelling across Ukraine as wintry warfare looms

By SAM MEDNICK and JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

KHERSON, Ukraine (AP) — Shelling by Russian forces struck several areas in eastern and southern Ukraine overnight as utility crews continued a scramble to restore power, water and heating following widespread strikes in recent weeks, officials said Sunday.

With persistent snowfall blanketing the capital, Kyiv, Sunday, analysts predicted that wintry weather — bringing with it frozen terrain and grueling fighting conditions — could have an increasing impact on the direction of the conflict that has raged since Russian forces invaded Ukraine more than nine months ago.

But for the moment, both sides were bogged down by heavy rain and muddy battlefield conditions in some areas, experts said.

After a blistering barrage of Russian artillery strikes on at least two occasions over the past two weeks, infrastructure teams in Ukraine were fanning out in around-the-clock deployments to restore key basic services as many Ukrainians dealt with only a few hours of electricity per day — if any.

Ukrenergo, the state power grid operator, said Sunday that electricity producers are now supplying about 80% of demand. That's an improvement from Saturday's 75%, the company says.

The Institute for the Study of War, a think tank that has been closely monitoring developments in Ukraine, said reporting from both sides indicated that heavy rain and mud have had an impact — but wider freezing expected along the front lines in coming days could play a role.

"It is unclear if either side is actively planning or preparing to resume major offensive or counter-offensive operations at that time, but the meteorological factors that have been hindering such operations will begin lifting," it said in a note published Saturday.

ISW said Russian forces were digging in further east of the city of Kherson, from which they were expelled

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by Ukrainian forces more than two weeks ago, and continued "routine artillery fire" across the Dnipro River.

In the eastern Donetsk region, five people were killed in shelling over the past day, according to governor Pavlo Kyrylenko. Overnight shelling was reported by regional leaders in the Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk areas to the west.

Kharkiv governor Oleh Syniehubov said one person was killed and three wounded in the northeastern region.

A day earlier, a long column of cars, vans and trucks caravanned away from the recently liberated city of Kherson after intense shelling in recent days and amid concerns more pummeling from the Russian forces nearby could loom again in coming days.

Galina Lugova, head of the city's military administration, said in an interview Sunday that evacuation trains had been lined up and bomb shelters set up in all city districts with stoves, beds, first aid kits and fire extinguishers.

"Everything you need," she said.

"We are preparing for a winter in difficult conditions, but we will do everything to make people safe," Lugova said. Her biggest worry, she said, was "shelling that intensifies every day. Shelling, shelling and shelling again."

On the roads out of the city, some residents felt they had no choice but to leave.

"The day before yesterday, artillery hit our house. Four flats burned down. Windows shattered," said Vitaliy Nadochiy, driving out with a terrier on his lap and a Ukrainian flag dangling from a sun visor. "We can't be there. There is no electricity, no water, heating. So we are leaving to go to my brother."

Mexican asylum seekers set their sights north — on Canada

By ZACHARY KAMEL Associated Press

MONTREAL (AP) — Pedro Meraz says living in Colima, Mexico, was like living in a war zone, with shootings, burning cars and dismembered bodies being left outside of schools.

When his wife Rocio Gonzalez, a 28-year-old lawyer who worked with abused women, began receiving death threats from a cartel and the local authorities ignored her pleas for assistance, they knew they had to leave.

"They knew where we lived and what car we drove," said Meraz, 41, who taught at The University of Colima, near the Pacific Coast and about 300 miles (485 kilometers) west of Mexico City. "Feeling that you are going to lose your life, or one of your daughters, I don't mind starting from scratch."

The family is part of a surge in the number of Mexicans who have requested asylum in Canada this year. Due to the relative ease of obtaining asylum in Canada compared to the U.S., visa-free travel between Mexico and Canada, and the threat of violence back home, more than 8,000 Mexican nationals have sought refugee status in 2022. That's almost five times as many as last year and more than twice as many as in 2019, the last year before the COVID-19 pandemic and the travel restrictions that accompanied it.

The vast majority of them are flying in to Montreal, which has many direct flights to and from Mexico.

Among them is Viviana Tapia Gonzalez, a human rights activist and mother of four from Aguascalientes, about 265 miles (425 kilometers) northwest of Mexico City, who said she left Mexico in January after being attacked by the military. She said her work with the families of missing and murdered women and girls made her a target.

"Death threats were constant," she said. "I thought it was the last option I had to be safe. I work for many causes and help many people. I did not want to stop helping, but I must also protect (and) take care of myself."

Tapia Gonzalez has been living in a Montreal women's shelter while awaiting a decision on her asylum claim, which she fears might get rejected.

If her claim is turned down, she wouldn't be alone.

In the first nine months of 2022, the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, an independent tribunal that investigates and decides asylum cases, finalized more than 2,700 claims by Mexican asylum seekers.

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Of those, 1,032 were accepted, 1,256 were rejected; and the remaining 400-plus were either abandoned, withdrawn, or had other outcomes, said Christian Tessier, an IRB spokesperson.

In Canada, claimants must meet the United Nations' definition of a "convention refugee," meaning they are outside of their home countries and have a well-founded fear that they would be persecuted if they returned based on their race, religion, political opinions, nationality or affiliation with a social group. Otherwise, they must prove that they need protection and can't safely return to their home countries without risking torture, cruel or unusual punishment, or death.

Despite the risk of rejection, though, the surge in Mexicans seeking refugee status in Canada persists.

The Welcome Collective, a Montreal-based charitable organization that provides essential goods to new asylum seekers, said half of the group's current clients came from Mexico — a 300% increase compared with earlier this year.

"They had to run away because of violence and other humanitarian reasons. To find a better place for their children," said Flavia Leiva, the group's volunteer and social outreach coordinator.

As for what is causing the increase in applicants, Leiva suggested that social media is playing a role.

"There have been YouTubers and some videos on TikTok talking about how easy it is to come to Canada," she said.

At least one YouTube video that was published 10 months ago and made for a Mexican audience explains the Canadian immigration process in Spanish and has more than 4 million views.

It has been harder for Mexicans to seek asylum in the U.S. since the start of the pandemic. A U.S. public health rule that suspends the right to seek asylum on the grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19 has fallen disproportionately hard on Mexicans. Title 42 authority has been used to expel migrants more than 2.4 million times since it was introduced in March 2020.

Further adding to Canada's allure is that Mexicans haven't needed a visa to travel to the country since the Canadian government lifted the requirement in late 2016.

Leiva also suggested that more Mexicans might be choosing to come to Canada instead of the United States because they think it's safer.

"In the U.S., they are put in cages, the conditions are not as good," Leiva said. "People do not feel safe or protected."

Meraz said he and his family decided that Canada would offer them the best chance to start over.

"My wife investigated the existence of international treaties to protect people who are at risk," he said.

He referenced Canadian policies and regulations protecting women and children in addition to the country's comparatively low crime rate.

"The U.S. was never in our minds, since there is a lot of violence ... attacks where many innocent people die," said Meraz. "Canada, statistically, has a very low rate of violence and its quality of life is much better than the USA."

He said his family chose Montreal instead of some other Canadian city because of logistics, though he's having second thoughts.

"If you were to ask me right now if I would choose another place, then maybe," said Meraz, noting that he and his family must now learn French.

Hayet Mohammed, who manages the French language program at Carrefour Solidarité Anjou, a nonprofit that helps newcomers settle in Quebec, said not only is obtaining refugee status easier in Canada, but there are plenty of resources for asylum seekers once they arrive.

"They can work as soon as they have their refugee status and are entitled to (French) courses given by the (Ministry of Immigration in Quebec) which gives them financial assistance and finally, there are many work opportunities, and they are not at risk of finding themselves unemployed," said Mohammed.

"Being a newcomer myself with my little family, there is no other country that gives immigrants so many facilities in terms of training, work and child benefits. All these things make people leave their countries of origin and come to make their lives here, thousands of miles away from their families," she said.

Protests of strict lockdown hit Shanghai, other China cities

By HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Protests against China's strict "zero-COVID" policies resurfaced in Shanghai and Beijing on Sunday afternoon, continuing a round of demonstrations that have spread across the country since a deadly apartment fire in the northwestern city of Urumqi led to questions over such rigid anti-virus measures.

Crowds stood and filmed as police started shoving at people who had gathered in on the same street in Shanghai where police had cleared hundreds away with force just hours before.

They shouted, "We don't want PCR tests, we want freedom!" according to a witness who did not want to be named for fear of retribution.

Since Friday people have held protests across China, where street demonstrations are extremely rare. But anger and frustration have flared over the deaths from a fire in an apartment building in Urumqi that the public believes was caused by excessive lockdown measures that delayed rescue.

A crowdsourced list on social media showed that there were demonstrations in 50 universities. Videos posted on social media that said they were filmed in Nanjing in the east, Guangzhou in the south, Beijing in the north and at least five other cities showed protesters tussling with police in white protective suits or dismantling barricades used to seal off neighborhoods. The Associated Press could not independently verify all the protests.

Online, videos from the scenes quickly emerged. Some of the most shared videos came from Shanghai, which had borne a devastating lockdown in spring in which people struggled to secure groceries and medicines and were forcefully taken into centralized quarantine.

In the dark early hours of Sunday, standing on the road named after a city in Xinjiang where at least 10 people had just died in an apartment fire, protesters chanted "Xi Jinping! Step down! CCP! Step down."

A protester who chanted with the crowd confirmed that people did shout for the removal of Xi Jinping, China's leader — words that many would never have thought would have been said in one of China's biggest cities.

Hundreds of protesters had gathered along a street in Shanghai starting around midnight on Saturday. They split into two different sections of Middle Urumqi Road. There was one group that was more calm and brought candles, flowers and signs honoring those who died in the apartment fire. The other, said a protester who declined to be named out of fear of arrest, was more active, shouting slogans and singing the national anthem.

The energy was encouraging, the protester said. People called for an official apology for deaths in the Urumqi fire. Others discussed the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre in which the ruling Communist Party had ordered troops to fire on student protesters. One ethnic Uyghur individual shared his experiences of discrimination and police violence.

"Everyone thinks that Chinese people are afraid to come out and protest, that they don't have any courage," said the protester who said it was his first time demonstrating. "Actually in my heart, I also thought of this. But then when I went there, I found that the environment was such that everyone was very brave."

At first the scene was peaceful. Around 3 a.m., it turned violent. Police started surrounding the protesters and broke up the first more active group before they came for the second that had brought flowers. The goal was to move people off the main street.

A protester who gave only his family name, Zhao, said one of his friends was beaten by police and two were pepper sprayed. He said police stomped his feet as he tried to stop them from taking his friend away. He lost his shoes in the process, and left the protest barefoot.

Zhao says protesters yelled slogans including "(We) do not want PCR (tests), but want freedom," in reference to the protest staged by a lone man in Beijing ahead of the 20th Communist Party congress in Beijing in October.

After three years of harsh lockdowns that have left people confined in their homes for weeks at a time, the Xinjiang fire appears to have finally broken through the Chinese public's ability to tolerate the harsh

measures.

China's approach to controlling COVID-19 with strict lockdowns and mass testing was hailed by its own citizens as minimizing deaths at a time when other countries were suffering devastating waves of infections. Xi had held up the approach as an example of the superiority of the Chinese system in comparison to the West and especially the U.S., which had politicized the use of masks and had difficulties enacting widespread lockdowns.

In recent weeks, that attitude has changed as tragedies under excessive enforcement of "zero COVID" have piled up.

In Shanghai hundreds of police stood in lines, forming clusters around protesters in a strategy to clear them out, protesters said. Through the effort of a few hours, the police broke apart the protesters into smaller groups, moving them out from Urumqi Road.

By 5 a.m. Sunday, the police had managed to clear the crowd.

The protester who declined to be named said that he saw multiple people being taken away, forced by police into vans, but could not identify them. A crowdsourced attempt online has so far identified six people being hauled away, based on images and videos from the night, as well as information by those who knew the detained. Among the detained is a young woman who is only known by her nickname "Little He."

Posters circulated online calling for further action in Shanghai and in Chengdu, a major city in China's southwest, on Sunday evening. Shanghai's protest called for the release of those taken away.

In Beijing, students at the nation's top college, Tsinghua University, held a demonstration Sunday afternoon in front of one of the school's cafeterias. Three young women had stood there initially with a simple message of condolence for the victims of the Urumqi apartment fire, according to a witness, who declined to be named out of fear of retribution.

Students shouted "freedom of speech" and sang the Internationale. The deputy party secretary of the school arrived at the protest, promising to hold a schoolwide discussion.

Meanwhile, two cities in China's northwest, where residents have been confined to their homes for up to four months, eased some anti-virus controls Sunday after public protests Friday.

Urumqi, where the fire occurred, is a city of 4.8 million people and capital of the Xinjiang region, as well as the smaller city of Korla were preparing to reopen markets and other businesses in areas deemed at low risk of virus transmission and to restart bus, train and airline service, state media reported.

Kidnappings, looting cited in Ethiopia's Tigray after truce

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Allies of Ethiopia's federal military are looting property and carrying out mass detentions in Tigray, according to eyewitnesses and aid workers.

The accounts raise fresh concern about alleged atrocities more than three weeks after the warring parties signed a truce that diplomats and others hoped would bring an end to suffering in the embattled region that's home to more than 5 million people.

Tigray is still largely cut off from the rest of Ethiopia, although aid deliveries into the region resumed after the Nov. 2 cease-fire deal signed in South Africa. There's limited or no access into the region for human rights researchers, making it difficult for journalists and others to obtain information from Tigray as Ethiopian forces continue to assert control of the region.

Eritrean troops and forces from the neighboring Ethiopian region of Amhara — who have been fighting on the side of Ethiopia's federal military in the Tigray conflict — have looted businesses, private properties, vehicles, and health clinics in Shire, a northwestern town that was captured from Tigray forces last month, two aid workers there told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because of safety concerns.

Several young people have been kidnapped by Eritrean troops in Shire, the aid workers said. One said he saw "more than 300" youths being rounded up by Ethiopian federal troops in several waves of mass detentions after the capture of Shire, home to a large number of internally displaced people.

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"There are different detention centers around the town," said the aid worker, who also noted that Ethiopian federal troops were arresting people believed to be "associated" with the Tigray People's Liberation Front, or TPLF, the political party whose leaders led the war against the federal government.

Civilians accused of aiding Tigray forces are being detained in the southern town of Alamata, according to a resident there who said Amhara forces had arrested several of his friends. A former regional official said Amhara forces are also carrying out "mass" arrests in the town of Korem, around 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of Alamata, and in surrounding rural areas.

Both the Alamata resident and the former regional official, like some others who spoke to AP, requested anonymity because of safety concerns as well as fear of reprisals.

The continuing presence of Eritrean troops in Tigray remains a sore point in the ongoing peace process, and the U.S. has called for their withdrawal from the region.

The military spokesman and government communications minister in Ethiopia didn't respond to a request for comment. Eritrea's embassy in Ethiopia also didn't respond.

Eritrea, which shares a border with Tigray, was not mentioned in the text of the cease-fire deal. The absence of Eritrea from cease-fire negotiations had raised questions about whether that country's repressive government, which has long considered Tigray authorities a threat, would respect the agreement.

A subsequent implementation accord, signed by military commanders in Kenya, states that the Tigray forces will disband their heavy weapons "concurrently with the withdrawal of foreign and non-(federal) forces from the region."

Yet aid officials, diplomats and others inside Tigray say Eritrean forces are still active in several areas of Tigray, hurting the peace process. Eritrean troops have been blamed for some of the conflict's worst abuses, including gang rapes.

Tigray Television, a regional broadcaster based in the Tigrayan capital of Mekele, reported on Nov. 19 that Eritrean soldiers killed 63 civilians, including 10 children, in an area called Egela in central Tigray. That report cited witnesses including one who said affected communities were being prevented from burying their dead.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the importance of implementing the peace deal, "including the withdrawal of all foreign forces and the concurrent disarmament of the Tigray forces" in a phone call Monday, according to State Department spokesman Ned Price.

Four youths were killed by Eritrean forces in the northwestern Tigray town of Axum on Nov. 17, a humanitarian worker told the AP. "The killings have not stopped despite the peace deal ... and it is being carried out in Axum exclusively by Eritrean forces," the humanitarian worker said.

A statement from Tigray's communication bureau last week said Eritrea's military "continues committing horrific atrocities in Tigray." That statement charged that Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki "is bringing more units into Tigray though (he is) expected to withdraw his troops" following the cease-fire deal.

The brutal fighting, which spilled into the Amhara and Afar regions as Tigray forces pressed toward the federal capital last year, was renewed in August in Tigray after months of lull.

Tigray is in the grip of a dire humanitarian crisis after two years of restrictions on aid. These restrictions prompted a U.N. panel of experts to conclude that Ethiopia's government probably used "starvation as a method of warfare" against the region.

Ethiopian authorities have long denied targeting civilians in Tigray, saying their goal is to apprehend the region's rebellious leaders.

Despite the African Union-led cease-fire, basic services such as phone, electricity and banking are still switched off in most parts of Tigray. The U.S. estimates hundreds of thousands of people could have been killed in the war marked by abuses on all sides.

The cease-fire deal requires federal authorities to facilitate "unhindered humanitarian access" to Tigray. The World Food Program said Friday it had sent 96 trucks of food and fuel to Tigray since the agreement although access to parts of central and eastern Tigray remains "constrained."

Unhindered access into Tigray has not yet been granted despite the number of trucks going into the region, with several restrictions remaining in place, an aid worker said Friday. There are limits on the amount of

cash humanitarian organizations can take into Tigray, while checkpoints and military commanders impede the movements of aid workers within the region, the aid worker said.

Exploring a memory: Designer recreates a dress for Diana

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — This is a dress with a story, and Elizabeth Emanuel wants to tell it.

Shocking pink with a plunging, ruffled neckline and body-hugging shape, the gown was designed by Emanuel for Lady Diana Spencer to wear at a Buckingham Palace party a few days before her marriage to Prince Charles in 1981. It was a visual coming-out event for the future princess, until then largely known for her conservative sweater-and-pearls look.

"This was definitely not a wallflower dress," said Emanuel, who also designed Diana's wedding gown. "This was a dress to be seen in and celebrated."

It was also soon forgotten. In an era before smartphones put a camera in everyone's pocket and social media made private events public, the dress was mostly seen by the party guests, including Queen Elizabeth II, Princess Grace and Nancy Reagan, but no one else. Emanuel doesn't know where it is, or even if it still exists.

So she has recreated it, out of bolts of shiny, satin taffeta cut and stitched to match the dramatic sketches she made more than 40 years ago.

Acting on an idea that took shape during Britain's long coronavirus lockdowns, she did it for herself, for her archive. But also because she wanted to show another side of Diana, who Emanuel believes has been misrepresented by "The Crown," the popular Netflix series that has brought the story of the princess and her ill-fated marriage to a new generation.

A fan of the series' first three seasons, Emanuel said she found it hard to watch the last two because of the way Diana was depicted.

Creating a bespoke dress is a long process, requiring multiple fittings that give client and dressmaker lots of time to talk. And throughout the hours they spent together, Diana came across as a happy, vibrant young woman, not the shrinking girl "The Crown" portrays as being buffeted by events beyond her control, Emanuel said.

"She wasn't like that," Emanuel said. "She was always very upbeat. And, you know, I like to feel that we were close enough that if she was having huge issues that we might have been aware of it at the time, because those fittings are fairly intimate."

One of the things the series does right is retrace Diana's style journey, from the cardigans and bows she wore when she first stepped into the public eye, to frothy ballgowns with frills and flounces and finally to her becoming a global fashion icon in Versace, Dior and Chanel.

Diana grew up in the country, looking to her older sisters for fashion cues. This was a world of hunting, shooting and fishing, where Barbour coats and Wellington boots were everyday wear. It was a culture where no matter how much you cared about your appearance, you had to seem like you weren't trying too hard.

Diana brought that style sense with her when she moved to London after leaving school and soon became the archetype of the Sloane Ranger, the media name for the wealthy young people who lived near London's Sloane Square and cultivated the look of bohemian aristocrats.

She was, as former BBC royal reporter Michael Cole put it, "this Sloane Ranger with her sort of pie crust collars and Fair Isle sweaters and rather voluminous skirts. She was a product of the English countryside."

But after her engagement to the future King Charles III, she began to grow into the glamour of being a princess.

"It actually was a bit of an effort for her to adapt to that role," Cole said. "She did appreciate and came to understand the power of clothes, the power of image. It helped very much that she had good taste, and I think she had some good advisers."

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In other words, she evolved and learned how to use clothes to project a message.

And perhaps the journey began with the hot pink party gown.

After losing weight, Diana asked Emanuel, her former husband David, and their team to create a dress that would show off her new supermodel figure and transform her image for the celebrities and world leaders invited to the palace.

"She wanted something really spectacular and eye-catching to wear for that because the whole world was going to be there at that party," Emanuel said at her London studio.

"I think there was a message being sent with this dress, really. That she'd been previously known as Shy Di, but in this dress she definitely was no longer a Shy Di."

But for Emanuel, the project is about more than simply setting the record straight. It's about one friend remembering another and the helping hand the princess gave to her career.

There is something touching about the way she looks at this copy and adjusts it on a mannequin roughly as tall as Diana, plainly remembering her famous client.

She recreated a dress that belonged to the Diana she knew, who broke the mold, who was brave, who was ready to walk out on stage. And as she worked, Diana was in her head the whole time.

"As I'm looking at it, I'm imagining her face," Emanuel said. "The last time that we saw her in the dress was actually at that party and looking so radiant and fantastic. And then all these years later, you know, to recreate it again, it's kind of strange."

But that won't stop her from continuing to explore her memories. She embraced the process of making the dress, of holding a memory in her hand.

Emanuel now has plans to recreate the alternative wedding dress she made for Diana — a spare created in case the tabloids somehow managed to get a photo of the primary dress before the big day. But the dress never leaked, and the spare disappeared from public view.

"I want to see if I can do it right and to delve into all of those memories," she said. "I will have them. They'll be there. They won't just be figments of imagination or floating around digitally. They'll be real things that I can remember."

Hardship and hope: Winter, missile storms show Kyiv's mettle

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The play finishes. The actors take their bows. Then they let loose with wartime patriotic zeal. "Glory to Ukraine!" they shout. "Glory to the heroes!" the audience yells back, leaping to its feet.

The actors aren't done. More yells follow, X-rated ones, cursing all things Russian and vowing that Ukraine will survive. More cheers, more applause.

Bundled up against the cold, everyone then troops out of the dark, unheated theater, barely lit with emergency generators. They head back to the hard realities of Ukraine's capital — a once comfortably livable city of 3 million, now beginning a winter increasingly shorn of power and sometimes water, too, by Russian bombardments.

But hope, resilience and defiance? Kyiv has all those in abundance. And perhaps more so now than at any time since Russia invaded Ukraine nine months ago.

When Butch, her French bulldog, needs a walk and the electricity is out in the elevator of her Kyiv high-rise, Lesia Sazonenko and the dog take the stairs — all 17 flights, down and up. The maternity clinic executive tells herself the slog is for an essential cause: victory.

She has left a bag of candies, cookies, water and flashlights in the elevator for any neighbors who might get trapped in the blackouts, to sustain them until power returns.

"You will not get us down," she says. "We will prevail."

When Paris was freed from Nazi occupation in World War II, Gen. Charles de Gaulle delivered eternal words that could now also apply to Kyiv. "Paris outraged! Paris broken! Paris martyred! But Paris liberated!" the French leader said.

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Outrage at Russia is everywhere in Kyiv. The audience and actors at the Theater on Podil made that crystal clear at the performance of "Girl with a teddy bear," set in Soviet times and based on a book by 20th century Ukrainian author Viktor Domontovych. When pronouncing the word "Moscow," the actors spat it out and added a curse in Ukrainian. The audience applauded.

A straw doll and a bowl of pins next to a framed photo of Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Simona pizzeria in central Kyiv also speak of the city's anger. Plenty of customers clearly felt the cathartic need to vent; the doll is pin-stuck from head nearly to toe.

Not mentally but physically, Kyiv is also broken, with rolling power cuts now the norm. When water supplies were also knocked out this past week, residents lined up in the cold to fill plastic bottles at outdoor taps. Some collected rainwater from drainpipes.

Russia says its repeated salvos of cruise missiles and exploding drones on energy facilities are aimed at reducing Ukraine's ability to defend itself. But the civilian hardships they cause suggest the intention is also to martyrize minds, to torment Kyiv and other cities so Ukrainians surrender and sue for peace.

They had the opposite effect on 21-year-old Margina Daria.

The customer support worker and her boyfriend rode out the biggest Russian barrage yet, on Nov. 15, in a corridor in Kyiv. They figured that having walls on both sides would keep them safe from the more than 100 missiles and drones that Russia launched that day, knocking out power to 10 million people across the country. The lights in the corridor went out; the mobile network, too.

"There was no way to even tell our families that we were OK," she says. Yet one of her first reactions after the all-clear sounded was to cough up money for the war effort.

"Anger turned into donations to charities to defeat the enemy as soon as possible," she says. "I plan to stay in Kyiv, work, study and donate to the armed forces."

And what of the last word De Gaulle used of Paris: liberated? How does that fit wartime, wintertime Kyiv?

Well, the living was easier in the capital this summer, when bathers flocked to beaches on the Dnieper River. Russia, beaten back from the capital's outskirts in the opening stages of the Feb. 24 invasion, wasn't pounding Ukraine's power grid with the destructive regularity that is making life so tough now.

But Kyiv's mood was also more somber back then.

The southern port city of Mariupol had fallen in May when its last Ukrainian defenders surrendered after a gruesome siege. The first bodies of Ukrainian fighters killed at Mariupol's shattered Azovstal steelworks were being recovered. There had been, from a Ukrainian perspective, uplifting feats of military derring-do. But news from the battlefronts was otherwise largely unrelentingly grim. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was pleading for Western weapons as "a matter of life or death."

Now the cold and the dark and Moscow's bombing are turning winter into a weapon. And yet, even with the frost and the discomforts, there is also hope in the air. Kyiv feels liberated of some of its earlier anxieties.

Western weapons have enabled Ukraine to stem the tide militarily, with counteroffensives this autumn taking back swaths of previously Russian-occupied territory. Fewer Russian missiles appear to be reaching targets in Kyiv and elsewhere, with Western-supplied air-defense systems helping to shoot more of them down.

"It's much better than before. Definitely," says Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko.

In a Kyiv maternity clinic, Maryna Mandrygol went into labor as Ukrainian forces closed in on their biggest battlefield success of the war so far — the recapture this month of the southern city of Kherson.

Mandrygol, a Kherson customs officer, had fled the city's Russian occupation in April. All the while, she worried whether the stress of her escape — through six Russian checkpoints and fields that had been mined — would impact her then-unborn baby girl.

On Nov. 9, Mia was born pink and gorgeous. Mandrygol emerged from the delivery room with her bundle of love to the stunning news that Russian troops were retreating from her home city. Two days later, with Kherson back in Ukraine's hands, partying broke out in the city and in Kyiv's central Independence Square.

Mia's arrival and Kherson's liberation happening so close together seemed somehow fated — both were tangible new beginnings, rays of light in a future for Ukraine that is still clouded but perhaps not as dark

as it looked when Mia was conceived around the time of the invasion.

"The birth of a girl," says Mandrygol, "brings us peace and victory."

Kim's daughter appears again, heating up succession debate

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's daughter made a public appearance again, this time with missile scientists and more honorific titles as her father's "most beloved" or "precious" child. She's only about 10, but her new, bold photos are deepening the debate over whether she's being primed as a successor.

The daughter, believed to be Kim's second child named Ju Ae and about 9 or 10 years old, was first unveiled to the outside world last weekend in state media photos showing her observing the North's intercontinental ballistic missile launch the previous day with her parents and other older officials. The daughter wearing a white puffy coat and red shoes was shown walking hand-in-hand with Kim past a huge missile loaded on a launch truck and watching a soaring weapon.

On Sunday, the North's official Korean Central News Agency mentioned her for the second time, saying she and Kim took group photos with scientists, officials and others involved in what it called the test-launch of its Hwasong-17 ICBM.

KCNA described her as Kim's "most beloved" or "precious" child, a more honorific title than her previous description of "(Kim's) beloved" child on its Nov. 19 dispatch. State media-released photos showed the daughter in a long, black coat holding her father's arm as the two posed for a photo. Taking after her mother Ri Sol Ju, who wasn't visible in any of the photos Sunday, she had a more mature appearance than in her unveiling a week ago.

Some photos showed the pair standing in the middle of a line of uniformed soldiers before a massive missile atop a launch truck. Others showed Kim's daughter clapping her hands, exchanging handshakes with a soldier or talking to her father as people cheered in the background.

"This is certainly striking. The photograph of Kim Ju Ae standing alongside her father while being celebrated by technicians and scientists involved in the latest ICBM launch would support the idea that this is the start of her being positioned as a potential successor," said Ankit Panda, an expert with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"State media underscoring her father's love for her further underscores this, I think. Finally, both of her initial public appearances have been in the context of strategic nuclear weapons — the crown jewels of North Korea's national defense capabilities. That doesn't strike me as coincidental," Panda said.

After her first public appearance, South Korea's spy service told lawmakers that it assessed the girl pictured is Kim's second child, who is about 10 and whose name is Ju Ae. The National Intelligence Service said her looks matched information that she is taller and bigger than other girls of the same age. It also said that her unveiling appeared to reflect Kim's resolve to protect the security of North Korea's future generations in the face of a standoff with the United States.

South Korean media previously speculated Kim has three children — born in 2010, 2013 and 2017 — and that the first child is a son while the third is a daughter. The unveiled daughter is highly likely the child who retired NBA star Dennis Rodman saw during his 2013 trip to Pyongyang. After that visit, Rodman told the British newspaper The Guardian that he and Kim had a "relaxing time by the sea" with the leader's family and that he held Kim's baby daughter, named Ju Ae.

North Korea has made no mention of Kim's reported two other children. But speculation that his eldest child is a son has led some experts to question how a daughter can be Kim's successor given the deeply male-dominated, patriarchal nature of North Korean society. Kim is a third-generation member of the family that has run North Korea for more than seven decades, and his father and grandfather successively governed the country before he inherited power in late 2011.

"We've been told that Kim has three children, including possibly a son. If this is true, and if we assume that the male child — who has yet to be revealed — will be the heir, is Ju Ae truly Kim's most 'precious,'

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from a succession standpoint?" said Soo Kim, a security analyst at the California-based RAND Corporation. "I think it is too early to draw any conclusions."

She said that Kim Jong Un may think his daughter's unveiling is an effective distraction while conditioning Washington, Seoul and others to living with the North Korean nuclear threat as "the spectacle of Ju Ae appears to eclipse the intensifying gravity of North Korea's nuclear and missile threat." She added that by parading his daughter around, Kim Jong Un may also want to tell his people that nuclear weapons are the sole guarantor for the country's future.

In comments published by state media Sunday, Kim called the Hwasong-17 "the world's strongest strategic weapon" and said his country's ultimate goal is possessing "the world's most powerful strategic force."

Experts say the Hwasong-17 is North Korea's longest-range missile — designed to strike the mainland U.S. — but is still under development. Its launch was part of a barrage of missile tests that North Korea says were meant to issue a warning over U.S.-South Korean military drills that it views as an invasion rehearsal.

"Kim may be signaling to other North Korean elites that he is mentoring his daughter for a role in the leadership," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

"Giving her such an early and public start is unusual but reflects the historical and political significance Kim attaches to a nuclear missile that can reach the United States," he added.

Analyst Cheong Seong-Chang at the private Sejong Institute in South Korea said that Kim Jong Un cannot make his son his successor if he thinks he lacks leadership. Cheong said Kim may be preventing potential pushback for choosing a daughter as a fourth-generation leader, so he likely brought her to a successful ICBM launch event to help public loyalty toward him be carried on smoothly to his daughter.

"When a king has many children, it's natural for him to make his most beloved child as his successor," Cheong said. "Kim Ju Ae is expected to appear occasionally at Kim Jong Un's public events and take a succession training."

Revealing the young Ju Ae came as a huge surprise to foreign experts, as Kim Jong Un and his father Kim Jong Il were both first mentioned in state media dispatches after they became adults. Cheong, however, said Kim Jong Il had Kim Jong Un in mind as his heir when his son was 8 years old. Cheong cited his conversations with Kim Jong Un's aunt and her husband, who defected to the United States.

The fact that the South Korean spy agency said Ju Ae is about 10 years old despite reportedly being born in 2013 could be related to the country's age-calculating system that typically makes people's ages one or two years older.

Protests over China's COVID controls spread across country

By HUIZHONG WU and DAKE KANG Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Protests against China's pervasive anti-virus controls that have confined millions of people to their homes spread to Shanghai and other cities after complaints they might have worsened the death toll in an apartment fire in the northwest.

Shanghai police used pepper spray against about 300 protesters, according to a witness. They gathered Saturday night to mourn the deaths of at least 10 people in an apartment fire last week in Urumqi in the Xinjiang region in the northwest.

Videos posted on social media that said they were filmed in Nanjing in the east, Guangzhou in the south and at least five other cities showed protesters tussling with police in white protective suits or dismantling barricades used to seal off neighborhoods. Witnesses said a protest occurred in Urumqi, but The Associated Press was unable to confirm details of other videos.

President Xi Jinping's government faces mounting anger at its "zero-COVID" policy that has shut down access to areas throughout China in an attempt to isolate every case at a time when other governments are easing controls and trying to live with the virus.

That has kept China's infection rate lower than the United States and other countries. But the ruling Communist Party faces growing complaints about the economic and human cost as businesses close and families are isolated for weeks with limited access to food and medicine.

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Some protesters were shown in videos shouting for Xi to step down or the ruling party to give up power. Party leaders promised last month to make restrictions less disruptive by easing quarantine and other rules but said they were sticking to "zero-COVID." Meanwhile, an upsurge in infections that pushed daily cases above 30,000 for the first time has led local authorities to impose restrictions residents complain exceed what is allowed by the national government.

The fire deaths in Urumqi triggered an outpouring of angry questions online about whether firefighters who needed three hours to extinguish the blaze or victims trying to escape might have been obstructed by locked doors or other controls. Authorities denied that, but the disaster became a focal point for public anger about anti-disease restrictions, ruling party propaganda and censorship.

In Shanghai, protesters gathered at Middle Urumqi Road at midnight with flowers, candles and signs reading "Urumqi, November 24, those who died rest in peace," according to a participant who would give only his family name, Zhao.

Zhao said one of his friends was beaten by police and two were pepper-sprayed. He said police stomped on his feet as he tried to stop them from taking his friend away. He lost his shoes and left barefoot.

According to Zhao, protesters yelled slogans including "Xi Jinping, step down, Communist Party, step down," "Unlock Xinjiang, unlock China," "do not want PCR (tests), want freedom" and "press freedom."

Around 100 police stood in lines to prevent protesters from gathering or leaving, Zhao said. He said buses with more police arrived later.

Another protester, who gave only his family name, Xu, said there was a larger crowd of thousands of demonstrators, but police stood in the road and let them pass on the sidewalk.

Internet users posted videos and accounts on Chinese and foreign social media showing protests in Shanghai, Nanjing, Chengdu and Chongqing in the southwest and Urumqi and Korla in Xinjiang.

A video that said it was shot in Urumqi showed protesters chanting, "Remove the Communist Party! Remove Xi Jinping!"

Protests in Xinjiang are especially risky following a security crackdown against Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic minorities that has included mass detentions.

Most protesters in the videos were members of China's dominant Han ethnic group. A Uyghur woman in Urumqi said Uyghurs were too scared to take to the streets.

"Han Chinese people know they will not be punished if they speak against the lockdown," said the woman, who asked not to be identified by name for fear of retaliation. "Uyghurs are different. If we dare say such things, we will be taken to prison or to the camps."

Posts on Chinese social media were quickly deleted, which Beijing often does to suppress criticism it worries might serve as a rallying point for opposition to one-party rule.

People in some parts of Xinjiang have been confined to their homes since early August. Some complain they lack access to food and medicine and have posted appeals for help online.

In a possible attempt to placate the public, authorities on Saturday announced they had achieved "societal zero-COVID" and restrictions in Urumqi and Korla would be relaxed. The government said taxi, railway, bus and other public services that had been suspended for weeks would resume. State-owned China Southern Airlines announced it would resume flights from Urumqi to four Chinese cities starting Monday.

Social media users greeted news the disease was under control with disbelief and sarcasm. "Only China can achieve this speed," wrote one user on the Sina Weibo social media service.

Anger boiled over earlier after Urumqi city officials appeared to blame the deaths from Thursday night's fire on the apartment tower's residents.

"Some residents' ability to rescue themselves was too weak," said Li Wensheng, head of Urumqi's fire department, at a news conference.

Police announced the arrest of a 24-year-old woman on charges of spreading "untrue information" about the death toll online.

Late Friday, people in Urumqi marched largely peacefully in big puffy winter jackets in the cold winter night.

Videos of protests featured people holding the Chinese flag and shouting "Open up, open up." Some

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shouted and pushed against rows of men in the white protective suits.

Two Urumqi residents who declined to be named for fear of retribution said large-scale protests occurred Friday night. One of them said he had friends who participated.

The AP pinpointed the locations of two of the videos of the protests in different parts of Urumqi. In one video, police in face masks and hospital gowns faced off against shouting protesters. In another, one protester spoke to a crowd about their demands. It was unclear how widespread the protests were.

Xi has defended the strategy as an example of the superiority of the Chinese system compared with the United States and other Western countries, which politicized the use of face masks and had difficulties enacting widespread lockdowns.

But support for "zero-COVID" has cratered in recent months, as tragedies sparked public anger.

Last week, the government of the central city of Zhengzhou apologized for the death of a 4-month old girl who was in quarantine. Her father said his efforts to take her to a hospital were delayed after ambulance workers balked at helping them because he tested positive for the virus.

The Uyghur woman in Urumqi said she had been unable to leave her apartment since Aug. 8, and was not even allowed to open her window. On Friday, she and her neighbors defied the order, opening their windows and shouting in protest.

"No more lockdowns! No more lockdowns!" they screamed, according to the woman.

No. 3 Michigan beats Ohio State for 2nd straight year, 45-23

By MITCH STACY AP Sports Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — After Michigan beat Ohio State with stunning ease for the second straight year, Wolverines defensive back Mike Mike Sainristil grabbed a huge maize and blue flag and rushed with teammates to the block "O" in the middle of the Ohio Stadium turf.

Sainristil forcefully planted that flag in the 50-yard line, and then the Wolverines mugged for the cameras.

Ohio State players leaving the field barely looked their way.

Again, Michigan was the best team in The Game, this time by a score of 45-23.

Behind career-performance by J.J. McCarthy and Donovan Edwards, the Wolverines (12-0, 9-0, No. 3 CFP) advance to the Big Ten championship next Saturday against Purdue, with hopes for a second straight playoff appearance firmly in their control.

As for the Buckeyes (11-1, 8-1, No. 2 CFP), they'll have to hope they can back into the College Football Playoff after again crumbling in their most important game.

Jim Harbaugh and Michigan snapped an eight-game losing streak against their fiercest rivals last year with a cathartic 42-27 victory in the Big House. Now they have a two-game winning streak in The Game for the first time in 22 years.

"Could not be more proud," Harbaugh said. "Knew the team was focused and determined as they have been all season. This is a locker room of heroes."

Maybe the biggest hero was McCarthy, who threw three touchdown passes and ran for a score. Edwards busted the game open with two long fourth-quarter TD runs.

Playing almost the whole game without injured star running back Blake Corum (knee), Michigan was still able to beat Ohio State in Columbus for the first time since 2000.

McCarthy, the second-year quarterback who won the starting job from incumbent Cade McNamara early in the season, came up huge when Michigan needed it most. McCarthy passed for 263 yards and didn't commit a turnover.

"He was just on fire in every way — throwing the ball, running the ball," Harbaugh said. "So focused and determined. It was a team that was focused and determined."

McCarthy's previous longest pass completion this season was 42 yards, but against the Buckeyes he threw three touchdown passes of at least 45 yards, the most scoring passes of 45 or more in the history of the 105-game series.

He connected on scoring passes of 69 and 75 yards to Cornelius Johnson in the first half, then hooked

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up with Colston Loveland in the second half for 45 yards and the freshman tight end's first career touchdown reception.

"I thought he did a good job of making some throws under pressure," said Ohio State defensive coordinator Jim Knowles, who was hired to fix the Buckeyes' defensive failings in last year's game. "Now we knew he could throw the ball. I just thought he played well when he had to."

On third-and-10 on the Ohio State 13 early in the fourth quarter, McCarthy was on the run from Zach Harrison when he lofted a pass to the end zone toward Ronnie Bell, who drew a pass interference call on safety Ronnie Hickman.

That put the ball on the Ohio State 2, and three plays later the 19-year-old quarterback from suburban Chicago bowled over a tackler for another touchdown and a 31-20 Michigan lead.

The Buckeyes settled for a Noah Ruggles field goal to get the score to 31-23.

Then Edwards put the game away for Michigan.

Corum's backup, who was playing with a heavily wrapped and an injured hand, raced through a hole in the right side and went 75 yards for a touchdown with 7:11 left.

After Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud was intercepted, Edwards was off again, pulling away for an 85-yard scoring run.

"This is not the outcome we all envisioned," Ohio State coach Ryan Day said. "I thought we had good preparation. I thought we were building toward playing really well."

THE TAKEAWAY

Michigan: McCarthy was the man. Edwards came up big late. And the Wolverines' defense made the stops they needed in the second half. The late runs by Edwards sucked the oxygen out of the Horseshoe.

Ohio State: Heisman hopeful Stroud was 31 for 48 for 349 yards and two interceptions, but Ohio State never got a running game going and settled for field goals in the red zone. The Buckeyes had opportunities but didn't take advantage.

"People are going to say I never won The Game, and I understand," said Stroud, a third-year player likely to enter the NFL draft. "People are going to say I never won the Big Ten championship, I understand. When it comes to that, I just have to eat it."

MILLER RETURNS

Former Ohio State offensive lineman Harry Miller was enthusiastically welcomed back when he ran out to be introduced as part of the Senior Day activities.

Miller revealed in a detailed Twitter post in March that he was retiring from football because of mental health issues that included suicidal thoughts. He explained the situation further during an appearance on NBC "Today" show.

The long-haired Miller got a great cheer from the crowd when he ran out wearing shorts and his No. 76 Ohio State jersey to hug Day and his mother Kris.

UP NEXT

Michigan: The Wolverines didn't play Purdue in the regular season.

Ohio State: The Buckeyes have to hope the CFP selection committee gives them a chance to play for a national title or it will be second consecutive disappointing trip to the Rose Bowl.

Argentina breathes collective sigh of relief after victory

By DANIEL POLITI Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Luciana Medina was so nervous that she could barely sleep the night before Saturday's match between Argentina and Mexico which could have all but knocked the soccer-mad South American country from the World Cup.

After the game, she couldn't stop smiling.

"I'm so proud. I truly loved the match," Medina, a 23-year-old communications student, said while wearing an Argentina jersey. "I'm so happy."

Argentines breathed a collective sigh of relief Saturday afternoon as the country obtained a decisive 2-0

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victory over Mexico dissipating doubts that had emerged about Lionel Messi's team after the shock loss against Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. That loss had sent the country almost into a state of national mourning.

"The whole week was very sad, everyone was very aggressive as well, as if they were lost, without knowing what to do," Medina said. "We were all very nervous."

María del Carmen Martínez, 60, said she was "very tense" when she arrived at a plaza in Buenos Aires to watch the match on giant screens.

"I'm happy now," the retail worker said with a smile. "It's as if the players finally woke up."

Manuel Gauto, 21, agreed he saw a different team on the field than the one that fell before Saudi Arabia.

"They rose to the occasion and put their hearts into it," Gauto said. "They have another attitude now."

The mood was completely different in Mexico City, where thousands had gathered in bars and plazas to follow the match only to be left disappointed by their team's performance.

The coach "gave away the game," complained Daniel Martínez minutes after the match ended. "We're completely destroyed, but this doesn't end here."

There were long periods of silence in Mexico City's Revolution Square as fans found few moments to celebrate.

"I'm crying out of emotion but also sadness," Lupita Díaz said. "I love soccer but Mexico is failing us now."

In Buenos Aires, the tension was almost palpable as thousands gathered on a hot summer day to watch the decisive game, and an eerie silence fell over the crowd throughout the first half as neither side obtained a goal and doubts once again crept in about the team long thought to be one of the favorites to win the World Cup.

"I went through a lot of emotions, first I was very nervous and anxious for the game to start and in the first half I saw that something was missing," Valeria Benítez, 24, said.

All that pent up energy made the crowd explode in jubilation when Messi scored the first goal.

"The planets aligned in the second half, I thought they played well, there was a strategy that was well thought out," Benítez said. "Let's hope this is only the beginning."

Karen Veliz, a 36-year-old accountant, went to watch the match with her family and friends, but found it hard to have fun at first.

"I was super, super nervous. It was only after they got the first goal that I could finally relax," she said.

Argentines had been eagerly awaiting the World Cup, counting on the tournament to shift the mood of a country that has been economically stagnant for years, is suffering one of the world's highest inflation rates and where close to four in 10 live in poverty.

Matías Stamm, a 26-year-old programmer, said he felt much lighter after what he described as "a very complicated week because we came from a very positive streak and then fell in the first game of the Cup."

Many fans were particularly frustrated at Tuesday's loss against Saudi Arabia, a match seemingly everyone expected Argentina to win, given the team's 36-game unbeaten streak leading up to the tournament.

"Winning games is super important to recover confidence," Stamm added. "We have to go with humility and calm because each game is a final."

For Ariel Rivera, a 37-year-old, software developer, said that Saturday's victory showed "there is still hope."

"Argentina has everything that it needs to be able to win," Rivera said. "I think we're going to go far."

Messi leads Argentina to 2-0 win over Mexico at World Cup

By STEVE DOUGLAS AP Sports Writer

LUSAIL, Qatar (AP) — Lionel Messi was almost in tears as he grabbed and shook his jersey in front of Argentina's celebrating fans, then blew a kiss and looked to the sky.

With one of the most important goals of his career, Messi led Argentina to a 2-0 victory over Mexico on Saturday to ignite his team's World Cup chances.

His dream of winning soccer's biggest prize in likely his last attempt is still alive.

"It's a weight off our shoulders," Messi said. "It gives us joy and peace of mind to start again."

Messi took a touch from Angel Di Maria's pass across the face of the area and drove a low shot from 25

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meters (yards) into the bottom corner to give Argentina the lead in the 64th minute.

His arms outstretched, he ran toward the team's supporters who were celebrating behind the goal and was soon mobbed by his teammates. He whirled his arms in an emotional response to scoring his 93rd — and perhaps most crucial — international goal.

Substitute Enzo Fernandez added a second goal in the 87th minute, ensuring Argentina bounced back from a 2-1 loss to Saudi Arabia that ranked as one of the World Cup's biggest ever upsets.

"We lived with discomfort and kept the defeat in the opening match in our minds," Messi said. "The days were very long.

"We were eager to have the chance to turn the situation around and luckily we won."

Argentina is second in Group C ahead of its last match against first-place Poland on Wednesday, and might need to win it to advance.

"We can't let our guard down now," Messi said. "All of our matches are finals now. We can't mess up."

It was an eighth World Cup goal for Messi, the same number scored in the tournament by rival Cristiano Ronaldo and also Diego Maradona — the Argentina great with whom he is so often compared.

For some, Messi needs to win the World Cup — the only major title missing from his collection — to join the ranks of Pele and Maradona as soccer's greatest ever players. Thanks to this win, it could still happen.

"We already know for many years he is the world's best player," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said. "Messi should enjoy this World Cup. All fans enjoy seeing him play."

Scaloni made five changes from the Saudi Arabia game in a bid to inject some more energy into the team but initially they made little difference in what proved to be a tense game lacking in quality. Argentina's build-up play was slow and Mexico had little problem snuffing out its opponent's attacks.

Messi was often seen walking around the field and mostly found himself with two defenders on him each time he got the ball. Frustration was starting to show on his face before the first half had even finished as he implored his teammates to relax.

Indeed, the goal Messi scored came from one of the first times he found himself in space.

Argentina's fans inside the 89,000-seat Lusail Stadium hugged each other. Some cried. Argentina defender Lisandro Martinez fell to the ground and appeared to bury his face in the turf.

"I don't think during the match he found many spaces in the last third of the field," Mexico coach Gerardo Martinez, an Argentine who led his native country from 2014-16, said of Messi. "But he only needs a few seconds to be the difference."

The momentum of the game changed completely and Mexico suddenly became ragged, with substitute striker Julian Alvarez proving much more effective for Argentina than Lautaro Martinez, the player he replaced.

Fernandez's goal was his first for Argentina and it was an excellent one. He feigned to go to his left before shifting the ball to his right foot and curling a shot high and beyond Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa.

Argentina's substitutes poured onto the field to join the celebrations at the same stadium where there was so much despair after the shocking loss to Saudi Arabia.

"We knew we had to win today, that another World Cup was starting for us," Messi said, "and we knew how to do it."

MEXICAN LONGEVITY

Mexico midfielder Andres Guardado became the sixth male player to feature at five World Cups. The 36-year-old follows two Mexicans — Antonio Carbajal and Rafa Marquez — as well as Lothar Matthaus, Cristiano Ronaldo and Messi. Guardado didn't last the first half, coming off in the 42nd minute because of injury.

GROUP PERMUTATIONS

Poland leads Argentina and Saudi Arabia by one point with one match to play. Mexico is last and will next face the Saudis.

Trump faulted for dinner with white nationalist, rapper Ye

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By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Donald Trump is renewing attention to his long history of turning a blind eye to bigotry after dining with a Holocaust-denying white nationalist and the rapper formerly known as Kanye West just days into his third campaign for the White House.

Trump had dinner Tuesday at his Mar-a-Lago club with West, who is now known as Ye, as well as Nick Fuentes, a far-right activist who has used his online platform to spew antisemitic and white nationalist rhetoric.

Ye, who says he, too, is running for president in 2024, has made his own series of antisemitic comments in recent weeks, leading to his suspension from social media platforms, his talent agency dropping him and companies like Adidas cutting ties with him. The sportswear manufacturer has also launched an investigation into his conduct.

In a statement from the White House, spokesman Andrew Bates said: "Bigotry, hate, and antisemitism have absolutely no place in America — including at Mar-A-Lago. Holocaust denial is repugnant and dangerous, and it must be forcefully condemned."

Trump, in a series of statements Friday, said he had "never met and knew nothing about" Fuentes before he arrived with Ye at his club. But Trump also did not acknowledge Fuentes' long history of racist and antisemitic remarks, nor did he denounce either man's defamatory statements.

Trump wrote of Ye on his social media platform that "we got along great, he expressed no anti-Semitism, & I appreciated all of the nice things he said about me on 'Tucker Carlson.'" He added, "Why wouldn't I agree to meet?"

The former president has a long history of failing to unequivocally condemn hate speech. During his 2016 campaign, Trump waffled when asked to denounce the KKK after he was endorsed by the group's former leader, saying in a televised interview that he didn't "know anything about David Duke." In 2017, in the aftermath of the deadly white supremacist protests in Charlottesville, Virginia, Trump was widely criticized for saying there was "blame on both sides" for the violence. And his rallies frequently feature inflammatory rhetoric from figures like U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., who spoke earlier this year at a far-right conference organized by Fuentes.

The latest episode, coming just one week after Trump launched his third run for the Republican nomination, also underscored how loosely controlled access to the former president remained, particularly without a traditional campaign operation in place.

Trump's Mar-a-Lago club came under intense scrutiny amid revelations that Trump was storing hundreds of documents with classified markings there — sparking a federal investigation. But the club — and the people it gave access to Trump — had long been a source of consternation among former White House aides.

Mar-a-Lago is not only Trump's home, but also a private club and event space. Paid members and their guests dine alongside him and often mingle with him; members of the public can book weddings, fundraisers and other events, and Trump often drops by.

Ye first shared details of the dinner in a video he posted to his Twitter account Thursday. Ye said he had traveled to Florida to ask Trump to be his 2024 running mate, and that the meeting had grown heated, with Trump "perturbed" by his request and Ye angered by Trump's criticism of his estranged wife, Kim Kardashian.

"When Trump started basically screaming at me at the table telling me I was gonna lose. I mean, has that ever worked for anyone in history, telling Ye that I'm going to lose?" Ye asked in the video. "You're talking to Ye!"

Ye also said Trump was "really impressed with Nick Fuentes," whom he described as "actually a loyalist" and said he'd asked Trump, "Why when you had the chance did you not free the January 6th-ers?" referring to the defendants who were alleged to have participated in the deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Trump released a series of statements Friday trying to explain the circumstances of the meeting.

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"Kanye West very much wanted to visit Mar-a-Lago. Our dinner meeting was intended to be Kanye and me only, but he arrived with a guest whom I had never met and knew nothing about," Trump said in his first statement released by his campaign.

Not long after, Trump took to his social media network to say that Ye and "three of his friends, whom I knew nothing about" had "unexpectedly showed up" at his club.

"We had dinner on Tuesday evening with many members present on the back patio. The dinner was quick and uneventful. They then left for the airport," he wrote.

Hours later he again posted, saying he had told Ye that he "should definitely not run for President," and that "any voters you may have should vote for TRUMP."

"Anyway, we got along great, he expressed no anti-Semitism, & I appreciated all of the nice things he said about me on 'Tucker Carlson.'" he added. "Why wouldn't I agree to meet? Also, I didn't know Nick Fuentes."

Fuentes, meanwhile, said after the trip that, while he couldn't rule out that Trump had heard of him, "I don't think he knew that I was me at the dinner."

"I didn't mean for my statements and my whole background to sort of become a public relations problem for the president," he added on his show.

The meeting drew immediate criticism from Trump critics as well as some supporters, including David Friedman, who served as Trump's ambassador to Israel.

"To my friend Donald Trump, you are better than this. Even a social visit from an antisemite like Kanye West and human scum like Nick Fuentes is unacceptable," Friedman wrote in a tweet. "I urge you to throw those bums out, disavow them and relegate them to the dustbin of history where they belong."

On Saturday, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a potential 2024 rival, also denounced antisemitism, without directly referencing the dinner or the president under whom he served.

"Anti-Semitism is a cancer," Pompeo wrote, adding: "We stand with the Jewish people in the fight against the world's oldest bigotry."

Biden, asked about the Trump dinner meeting while vacationing in Nantucket, Massachusetts, replied, "You don't want to hear what I think."

Civilians escape Kherson after Russian strikes on freed city

By SAM MEDNICK and JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

KHERSON, Ukraine (AP) — Fleeing shelling, civilians on Saturday streamed out of the southern Ukrainian city whose recapture they had celebrated just weeks earlier.

The exodus from Kherson came as Ukraine solemnly remembered a Stalin-era famine and sought to ensure that Russia's war in Ukraine doesn't deprive others worldwide of its vital food exports.

A line of trucks, vans and cars, some towing trailers or ferrying out pets and other belongings, stretched a kilometer or more on the outskirts of the city of Kherson.

Days of intensive shelling by Russian forces prompted a bittersweet exodus: Many civilians were happy that their city had been won back, but lamented that they couldn't stay.

"It is sad that we are leaving our home," said Yevhen Yankov, as a van he was in inched forward. "Now we are free, but we have to leave, because there is shelling, and there are dead among the population."

Poking her head out from the back, Svitlana Romanivna added: "We went through real hell. Our neighborhood was burning, it was a nightmare. Everything was in flames."

Emilie Fourrey, emergency project coordinator for aid group Doctors Without Borders in Ukraine, said an evacuation of 400 patients of Kherson's psychiatric hospital, which is situated near both an electrical plant and the frontline, had begun on Thursday and was set to continue in the coming days.

Ukraine in recent days has faced a blistering onslaught of Russian artillery fire and drone attacks, with the shelling especially intense in Kherson. Often the barrage has largely targeted infrastructure, though civilian casualties have been reported. Repair crews across the country were scrambling to restore heat, electricity and water services that were blasted into disrepair.

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Russia has ratcheted up its attacks on critical infrastructure after suffering battlefield setbacks. A prominent Russian nationalist said Saturday the Russian military doesn't have enough doctors, in what was a rare public admission of problems within the military.

In the capital Kyiv, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy oversaw a busy day of diplomacy, welcoming several European Union leaders for meetings and hosting an "International Summit on Food Security" to discuss food security and agricultural exports from the country. A deal brokered by the U.N. and Turkey has allowed for safe exports of Ukrainian grain in the Black Sea amid wartime disruptions that have affected traffic.

"The total amount we have raised for 'Grain from Ukraine' is already about \$150 million. The work continues," Zelenskyy said in his nightly TV address. "We are preparing up to 60 ships. All of us together do not just send Ukrainian agricultural products to those countries that suffer the most from the food crisis. We reaffirm that hunger should never again be used as a weapon."

The prime ministers of Belgium, Poland and Lithuania and the president of Hungary were on hand, many others participated by video. Zelenskyy said more than 20 countries supported the summit.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said Ukraine — despite its own financial straits — has allocated 900 million hryvna (\$24 million) to purchase corn for countries including Yemen, Sudan, Kenya and Nigeria.

Our food security summit was supported by more than 20 countries. The total amount we have raised for 'Grain from Ukraine' is already about 150 million US dollars. The work continues. We are preparing up to 60 ships. All of us together do not just send Ukrainian agricultural products to those countries that suffer the most from the food crisis. We reaffirm that hunger should never again be used as a weapon.

The reminder about food supplies was timely: Ukrainians were marking the 90th anniversary of the start of the "Holodomor," or Great Famine, which killed more than 3 million people over two years as the Soviet government under dictator Josef Stalin confiscated food and grain supplies and deported many Ukrainians.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz marked the commemoration by drawing parallels with the impact of the war on Ukraine on world markets. Exports from Ukraine have resumed under a U.N.-brokered deal but have still been far short of pre-war levels, driving up global prices.

"Today, we stand united in stating that hunger must never again be used as a weapon," Scholz said in a video message. "That is why we cannot tolerate what we are witnessing: The worst global food crisis in years with abhorrent consequences for millions of people — from Afghanistan to Madagascar, from the Sahel to the Horn of Africa."

He said Germany, with the U.N.'s World Food Program, will provide an additional 15 million euros for further grain shipments from Ukraine.

Scholz spoke as a cross-party group of lawmakers in Germany are seeking to pass a parliamentary resolution next week that would recognize the 1930s famine as "genocide."

Last year Ukraine and Russia provided around 30% of the world's exported wheat and barley, 20% of its corn, and over 50% of its sunflower oil, the U.N. has said.

In a post on the Telegram social network on Saturday, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said more than 3,000 specialists for a local utility continued to work "around the clock" and had succeeded in restoring heat to more than more than 90% of residential buildings. While about one-quarter of Kyiv residents remained without electricity, he said water serviced had been returned to all in the city.

The scramble to restore power came as Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo met Saturday with Zelenskyy in Kyiv.

"This might be a difficult winter," he said, alluding to Belgium's contributions of generators, and support for schools and hospitals in Ukraine, as well as military aid such as "fuel, machine guns, propelled artillery and so on."

"And by standing here, we hope that we provide you hope and resilience in fighting through this difficult period."

Biden, family hit Nantucket stores for some holiday shopping

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

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NANTUCKET, Mass. (AP) — President Joe Biden went holiday shopping on the Massachusetts resort island where he spends Thanksgiving, patronizing smaller independently owned stores on what the retail industry has called “Small Business Saturday.”

Biden, his wife, Jill, and daughter Ashley went from store to store on Main Street in downtown Nantucket, lingering at Polo Ralph Lauren, Murray’s Toggery Shop and The Black Dog, among other establishments.

The president’s son Hunter and his wife, Melissa, were also shopping with their 2-year-old son, Beau.

Biden emerged from The Black Dog holding a small brown paper shopping bag. The White House had no immediate comment on the president’s purchases.

The retail industry came up with the moniker to help independent and locally owned business gain a share of the holiday shopping rush and to counter the markdowns and deeper discounts larger corporate retailers offer to drum up business on the day after Thanksgiving, known as Black Friday.

As Biden went from store to store, a reporter asked what he thought about a dinner meeting former President Donald Trump recently had at his Florida home with Ye, the rapper formerly known as Kanye West, and Nick Fuentes, a white nationalist.

Both of Trump’s dinner guests have expressed anti-semitic views. Trump has said he did not know anything about Fuentes’ background.

“You don’t want to hear what I think,” Biden replied. Biden has said such views have no place in America. Biden also shopped in downtown Nantucket on Friday before the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

Whole Foods decision to pull lobster divides enviros, pols

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Environmental groups are once again at odds with politicians and fishermen in New England in the wake of a decision by high-end retail giant Whole Foods to stop selling Maine lobster.

Whole Foods recently said that it will stop selling lobster from the Gulf of Maine at hundreds of its stores around the country. The company cited decisions by a pair of sustainability organizations to take away their endorsements of the U.S. lobster fishing industry.

The organizations, Marine Stewardship Council and Seafood Watch, both cited concerns about risks to rare North Atlantic right whales from fishing gear. Entanglement in gear is one of the biggest threats to the whales.

The decision by Whole Foods was an “important action to protect the highly endangered” whale, said Virginia Carter, an associate with the Save America’s Wildlife Campaign at Environment America Research & Policy Center.

“With fewer than 340 North Atlantic right whales in existence, the species is swimming toward extinction unless things turn around,” Carter said.

Whole Foods said in a statement last week that it’s monitoring the situation and “committed to working with suppliers, fisheries, and environmental advocacy groups as it develops.”

The company’s decision to stop selling lobster drew immediate criticism in Maine, which is home to the U.S.’s largest lobster fishing industry. The state’s Gov. Janet Mills, a Democrat, and its four-member congressional delegation said in a statement that Marine Stewardship Council’s decision to suspend its certification of Gulf of Maine lobster came despite years of stewardship and protection of whales by Maine fishermen.

“Despite this, the Marine Stewardship Council, with retailers following suit, wrongly and blindly decided to follow the recommendations of misguided environmental groups rather than science,” Mills and the delegation said.

Whole Foods was not the first retailer to take lobster off the menu over sustainability concerns. Hello-Fresh, the meal kit company, was among numerous retailers to pledge to stop selling lobster in September after California-based Seafood Watch placed American and Canadian lobster fisheries on its “red list” of seafoods to avoid.

Venezuela’s gov, opponents resume talks; US eases sanction

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By REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Venezuela's government and its opposition on Saturday agreed to create a U.N.-managed fund to finance health, food and education programs for the poor, while the Biden administration eased some oil sanctions on the country in an effort to boost the newly restarted talks between the sides.

The agreement signed in Mexico City by representatives of President Nicolás Maduro and the opposition, including the faction backed by the United States and led by Juan Guaidó, marked the resumption of long-stalled negotiations meant to find a common path out of the South American country's complex crisis.

The U.S. government, in response, agreed to allow oil giant Chevron to pump Venezuelan oil.

The broad terms of the agreement for the United Nations-managed social fund were announced by the head of a group of Norwegian diplomats guiding the negotiations.

Venezuelan resources held in the international financial system will be directed to the fund, though neither side in the talks nor Norway's chief facilitator, Dag Nylander, said whether the U.S. or European governments have agreed to allow frozen assets to be funneled to the new mechanism.

"In line with UN norms and procedures, (the fund's) objective would be to support the implementation of social protection measures for the Venezuelan people," Nylander said. "The parties have identified a set of resources belonging to the Venezuelan state frozen in the international financial system to which it is possible to progressively access, understanding the need to obtain the authorizations and approvals" from foreign institutions and organizations.

A U.N. report published earlier this year estimated humanitarian needs at \$795 million to help about 5.2 million people in Venezuela through health, education, water and sanitation, food and other projects.

Under President Donald Trump, the U.S. ramped up economic sanctions against Venezuela and granted Guaidó authority to take control of bank accounts that Maduro's government has in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York or any other U.S.-insured banks.

Guaidó declared himself Venezuela's interim president in January 2019, arguing that his capacity as then-president of the country's National Assembly allowed him to form a transitional government because Maduro had been re-elected in a sham vote in late 2018. Dozens of countries, including the U.S., Canada and Colombia, recognized him as Venezuela's legitimate leader.

European banks also hold Venezuelan frozen assets.

About 7 million people have left Venezuela amid a complex political and humanitarian crisis. Three-quarters of those who remain in the country live on less than \$1.90 a day, an international measure for extreme poverty.

About \$3 billion is expected to be progressively directed to the fund.

The dialogue formally began in September 2021, but Maduro's delegates walked away from negotiations in October 2021 after businessman Alex Saab was extradited on money laundering charges from Cape Verde to the U.S. Maduro conditioned a resumption on the release of Saab.

The Treasury Department on Saturday announced its decision to allow California-based Chevron to resume "limited" energy production in Venezuela after years of sanctions that have dramatically curtailed oil and gas profits that have flowed to Maduro's government.

The decision by the Biden administration is the latest step in the softening of hostile relations between the U.S. and Venezuelan governments. It came weeks after a major prisoner swap in which Venezuela freed seven imprisoned Americans in exchange for the U.S. freeing two nephews of Maduro's wife. Maduro released two other Americans in March.

Under the new policy, profits from the sale of energy would be directed to paying down debt owed to Chevron, rather than providing profits to Venezuela's state-run oil company Petroleos de Venezuela S.A., commonly known as PDVSA.

Treasury's move "brings added transparency to the Venezuelan oil sector," Chevron said in a statement. The company added that the decision "means Chevron can now commercialize the oil that is currently being produced from the company's Joint Venture assets. We are determined to remain a constructive presence in the country and to continue supporting social investment programs aimed at providing hu-

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manitarian relief.”

A senior U.S. administration official, briefing reporters about the U.S. action under the condition of anonymity, said that easing the sanctions was not connected to the administration’s efforts to boost global energy production in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and that the decision was not expected to impact global energy prices.

The agreement over the social fund is part of a broad agenda that is expected to advance in December, including the conditions for the presidential elections that are supposed to take place in 2024, the release of political prisoners and the withdrawal of decisions that bar many politicians from running for office.

The fund is a tangible result from a process that many see with skepticism after negotiations mediated by the international community in previous years failed to bring the sides to an agreement.

David Smilde, senior fellow at the Washington Office on Latin America and professor at Tulane University, said that after the long break in negotiations, “it is up to the two sides to show the exhausted Venezuelan population that they can actually address their needs and return the country to a functioning democracy.”

“However, this should be seen not as the end point of the negotiations but as a restart,” Smilde said. “The more important issues of justice and democracy are on the agenda for future meetings. Making progress will be difficult, but both sides have much to gain by rising to the occasion.”

Biden eases Venezuela sanctions as opposition talks resume

By ZEKE MILLER AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration on Saturday eased some oil sanctions on Venezuela in an effort to support newly restarted negotiations between President Nicolás Maduro’s government and its opposition.

The Treasury Department is allowing Chevron to resume “limited” energy production in Venezuela after years of sanctions that have dramatically curtailed oil and gas profits that have flowed to Maduro’s government. Earlier this year the Treasury Department again allowed the California-based Chevron and other U.S. companies to perform basic upkeep of wells it operates jointly with state-run oil giant PDVSA.

Under the new policy, profits from the sale of energy would be directed to paying down debt owed to Chevron, rather than providing profits to PDVSA.

Talks between the Maduro government and the “Unitary Platform” resumed in Mexico City on Saturday after more than a yearlong pause. It remained to be seen whether they would take a different course from previous rounds of negotiations that have not brought relief to the political stalemate in the country.

A senior U.S. administration official, briefing reporters about the U.S. action under the condition of anonymity, said that easing the sanctions was not connected to the administration’s efforts to boost global energy production in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and that the decision was not expected to impact global energy prices.

The official said the U.S. would closely monitor Maduro’s commitment to the talks and reserved the right to reimpose stricter sanctions or to continue to ease them depending on how the negotiations proceed.

“If Maduro again tries to use these negotiations to buy time to further consolidate his criminal dictatorship, the United States and our international partners must snap back the full force of our sanctions that brought his regime to the negotiating table in the first place,” said Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in a statement.

Chevron said the license granted by the U.S. means the company “can now commercialize the oil that is currently being produced” through the joint venture. “We are determined to remain a constructive presence in the country and to continue supporting social investment programs aimed at providing humanitarian relief.”

Mbappe scores 2, France reaches knockout stage of World Cup

By JEROME PUGMIRE AP Sports Writer

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — France advanced, and Kylian Mbappe got them there.

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The French became the first defending champions to reach the round of 16 at the World Cup since Brazil in 2006, beating Denmark 2-1 Saturday with Mbappe scoring both goals.

"Kylian is an extraordinary player. He has the ability to make the difference at any time no matter what the other team plans to contain him," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "In addition to his great ability he is totally invested in the team and he's made it an objective of his to win the World Cup."

Mbappe put his team in front in the 61st minute and then scored the winner with his right thigh in the 86th as Les Bleus became the first team at this year's tournament to advance from the group stage.

The France forward swapped passes with Theo Hernandez down the left flank and poked the ball past Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel for the first goal. He then jumped acrobatically to guide in the second after a cross from Antoine Griezmann — who adapted well in a midfield role and provided his 26th assist for the national team.

Denmark defender Andreas Christensen equalized for his team with a header in the 68th.

Mbappe scored four goals when France won the World Cup four years ago, including one in the final. He now has 31 goals for France, moving him one ahead of Just Fontaine — the all-time leading scorer at a single World Cup with 13 goals at the 1958 tournament.

He joined another France great, playmaker Zinedine Zidane, with 31 goals. Zidane scored twice in the final when France won its first World Cup against Brazil in 1998 and one goal when Les Bleus lost in the 2006 final to Italy on penalty kicks.

"There are different types of leaders," Deschamps said. "Mbappe's a leader, he sets the example with what he shows on the field."

France beat Australia 4-1 in its opening game while the Danes drew 0-0 with Tunisia. The Aussies beat Tunisia 1-0 earlier Saturday.

"We're in an ideal position. It makes you feel very calm to be qualified after two games," Deschamps said. "There's a strong chance we'll finish first in the group."

No other defending champion had made it out of the group stage since 2002 champion Brazil managed to advance four years later. Italy, Spain and Germany all were eliminated early four years after winning their titles.

The first time the French won the World Cup, they also went out early four years later.

With Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema missing from the tournament with a leg injury, Mbappe has taken charge. He has 14 goals in his past 12 games for France, including three so far in Qatar.

"Mbappe played a great match," Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand said. "He's a fantastic player, that's it."

The Danes beat France twice this year in the Nations League but looked tame in attack at Stadium 974 — on the rare occasions they even got near France's penalty area.

"We knew it would be a tough match. We had lost twice to them before," Griezmann said. "We worked hard and we worked well together. So it was a great win for us."

VARANE'S RETURN

Central defender Raphael Varane returned to France's defense for his first game since sustaining a hamstring injury playing for Manchester United on Oct. 11. The 2018 World Cup winner made his 88th international appearance and played 75 minutes before being replaced.

THURAM'S LEGACY

Forward Marcus Thuram came on in the second half as his father, Lilian Thuram, watched from the stands. The elder Thuram was a standout defender who helped France win its first World Cup in 1998.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The final Group D games are scheduled for Wednesday, when France will play Tunisia and Australia will face Denmark.

1 dead, up to 12 missing in landslide on Italian island

By COLLEEN BARRY Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Heavy rainfall triggered a massive landslide early Saturday on the southern Italian resort island of Ischia that destroyed buildings and swept parked cars into the sea, leaving at least one person

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dead and up to 12 missing.

The body of a woman was pulled from the mud, the Naples prefect Claudio Palomba, told a news conference.

With raining continuing to fall, rescuers were working gingerly with small bulldozers to pick through some six to seven meters (yards) of mud and detritus in the search for possible victims. Reinforcements arrived by ferry, including teams of sniffer dogs to help the search efforts.

The force of the mud sliding down the mountainside just before dawn was strong enough to send cars and buses onto beaches and into the sea at the port of Casamicciola, on the north end of the island, which lies off Naples.

The island received 126 millimeters (nearly five inches) of rain in six hours, the heaviest rainfall in 20 years, according to officials.

Streets were impassable and mayors on the island urged people to stay home. At least 100 people were reported stranded without electricity and water, and about 70 were housed in a community gymnasium.

There was early confusion over the death toll. Vice Premier Matteo Salvini initially said eight people were confirmed dead, followed by the interior minister saying that no deaths were confirmed, while 10 to 12 were missing.

"The situation is very complicated and very serious because probably some of those people are under the mud," Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi told RAI state TV from an emergency command center in Rome.

ANSA reported that at least 10 buildings collapsed. One family with a newborn that was previously reported missing was located and was receiving medical care, according to the Naples prefect.

Video from the island showed small bulldozers clearing roads, while residents used hoses to try to get mud out of their homes. One man, identified as Benjamin Iacono, told Sky TG24 that mud overwhelmed three adjacent shops that he owns, completely wiping out his inventory. He estimated damage at 100,000 euros to 150,000 euros (\$104,000 to \$156,000).

Firefighters and the Coast Guard were conducting search and rescues, initially hampered by strong winds that prevented helicopters and boats from reaching the island.

The densely populated mountainous island is a popular tourist destination for both its beaches and spas. A 4.0-magnitude quake on the island in 2017 killed two people, causing significant damage to the towns of Casamicciola and neighboring Lacco Ameno.

Sober or bright? Europe faces holidays during energy crunch

By COLLEEN BARRY Associated Press

VERONA, Italy (AP) — Early season merrymakers sipping mulled wine and shopping for holiday decorations packed the Verona Christmas market for its inaugural weekend. But beyond the wooden market stalls, the Italian city still has not decked out its granite-clad pedestrian streets with twinkling holiday lights as officials debate how bright to make the season during an energy crisis.

In cities across Europe, officials are wrestling with a choice as energy prices have gone up because of Russia's war in Ukraine: Dim Christmas lighting to send a message of energy conservation and solidarity with citizens squeezed by higher utility bills and inflation, while protecting public coffers. Or let the lights blaze in a message of defiance after two years of pandemic-suppressed Christmas seasons, illuminating cities with holiday cheer that retailers hope will loosen people's purse strings.

"If they take away the lights, they might as well turn off Christmas," said Estrella Puerto, who sells traditional Spanish mantillas, or women's veils, in a small store in Granada, Spain, and says Christmas decorations draw business.

Fewer lights are sparkling from the centerpiece tree at the famed Strasbourg Christmas market, which attracts 2 million people every year, as the French city seeks to reduce public energy consumption by 10% this year.

From Paris to London, city officials are limiting hours of holiday illumination, and many have switched to more energy-efficient LED lights or renewable energy sources. London's Oxford Street shopping district

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hopes to cut energy consumption by two-thirds by limiting the illumination of its lights to 3-11 p.m. and installing LED bulbs.

"Ecologically speaking, it's the only real solution," said Paris resident Marie Breguet, 26, as she strolled the Champs-Elysees, which is being lit up only until 11:45 p.m., instead of 2 a.m. as in Christmases past. "The war and energy squeeze is a reality. No one will be hurt with a little less of the illuminations this year."

It's lights out along Budapest's Andrassy Avenue, often referred to as Hungary's Champs-Elysees, which officials decided would not be bathed in more than 2 kilometers (1.5 miles) of white lights as in years past. Lighting also is being cut back on city landmarks, including bridges over the Danube River.

"Saving on decorative lighting is about the fact that we are living in times when we need every drop of energy," said Budapest's deputy mayor, Ambrus Kiss.

He doesn't think economizing on lighting will dissuade tourists from coming to the city, which holds two Christmas markets that attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

"I think it's an overblown debate," he said.

Festive lights, composed of LEDs this year, also will be dimmed from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. in the old city center of Brasov in central Romania and switched off elsewhere, officials said.

The crisis, largely spurred by Russia cutting off most natural gas to Europe, is sparking innovation. In the Italian mountain town of Borno, in Lombardy, cyclists on stationary bikes will provide power to the town's Christmas tree by fueling batteries with kinetic energy. Anyone can hop on, and the faster they pedal, the brighter the lights. No holiday lighting will be put up elsewhere in town to raise awareness about energy conservation, officials said.

In Italy, many cities traditionally light Christmas trees in public squares on Dec. 8, the Immaculate Conception holiday, still allowing time to come up with plans for festive street displays. Officials in the northern city of Verona are discussing limiting lighting to just a few key shopping streets and using the savings to help needy families.

"In Verona, the atmosphere is there anyway," said Giancarlo Peschiera, whose shop selling fur coats overlooks Verona's Piazza Bra, where officials on Saturday lit a huge shooting star arching from the Roman-era Arena amphitheater into the square.

The city also will put up a Christmas tree in the main piazza and a holiday cake maker has erected light-festooned trees in three other spots.

"We can do without the lights. There are the Christmas stalls, and shop windows are decked for the holidays," Peschiera said.

After two Christmases under COVID-19 restrictions, some are calling "bah humbug" on conservation efforts.

"It's not Christmas all year round," said Parisian Alice Betout, 39. "Why can't we just enjoy the festive season as normal, and do the (energy) savings the rest of the year?"

The holiday will shine brightly in Germany, where the year-end season is a major boost to retailers and restaurants. Emergency cutbacks announced this fall specifically exempted religious lighting, "in particular Christmas," even as environmental activists called for restraint.

"Many yards look like something out of an American Christmas film," grumbled Environmental Action Germany.

In Spain, the northwestern port city of Vigo is not letting the energy crisis get in the way of its tradition of staging the country's most extravagant Christmas light display. Ahead of other cities, Vigo switched on the light show Nov. 19 in what has become a significant tourist attraction.

Despite the central government urging cities to reduce illuminations, this year's installation is made up of 11 million LED lights across more than 400 streets — 30 more than last year and far more than any other Spanish city. In a small contribution to energy savings, they will remain on for one hour less each day.

The lights are Mayor Abel Caballero's pet project. "If we didn't celebrate Christmas, (Russian President Vladimir) Putin would win," he said.

Caballero says the economic return is vital, both for commerce and for businesses in Vigo. Hotels in the

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city and the surrounding area were completely full for the launch of the lighting and are expected to be close to 100% every week.

Germany's Christmas markets have crunched numbers that could make any lighting Grinch's heart grow at least three sizes.

The market exhibitor's association said a family Christmas market visit consumes less energy than staying home. A family of four spending an hour to cook dinner on an electric stove, streaming a two-hour film, running a video console and lighting the kids' rooms would use 0.711 kilowatt-hour per person vs. 0.1 to 0.2 kilowatt-hour per person to stroll a Christmas market.

"If people stay at home, they don't sit in the corner in the dark," said Frank Hakelberg, managing director of the German Showmen's Association. "The couch potatoes use more energy than when they are out at a Christmas market."

Judge denies bid for new trial in Whitmer kidnapping case

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — A federal judge has denied a new trial request by two men convicted of conspiring to kidnap Michigan's Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Lawyers for Adam Fox and Barry Croft Jr. alleged misconduct by a juror and unfairness by U.S. District Judge Robert Jonker following their conviction by a federal jury in August.

Jonker in a written ruling Friday shot down claims of juror misconduct and said he found "no constitutional violation and no credible evidence" to convene a new hearing.

Fox and Croft face up to life in prison when they're sentenced Dec. 28.

Whitmer, who was reelected Nov. 8 to a second term, was never physically harmed in the plot, which led to more than a dozen arrests in 2020.

Fox and Croft's first trial ended in a mistrial earlier this year when the jury was unable to come to a unanimous verdict. A motion for a third trial was filed in September.

Defense lawyers said a juror seated in the second trial was described by a co-worker as "far-left leaning," was eager to get on the jury and poised to convict before hearing evidence.

The defense team's investigator said he interviewed two co-workers who said they had heard about it but had no firsthand knowledge. A third person declined to speak to him in the parking lot.

The allegation first was raised early in the second trial. Jonker said he spoke privately to the juror, who denied saying that a vote to convict was already settled.

Separately, defense lawyers said the judge violated the rights of Fox and Croft by imposing a time limit on the cross-examination of a star government witness.

"Defendants have neither demonstrated that the jury verdict is 'against the manifest weight of the evidence' nor that a 'substantial legal error has occurred' such that the interests of justice demand a new trial," Jonker wrote in Friday's ruling.

Croft is from Bear, Delaware. Fox lived in the Grand Rapids area in western Michigan.

Two other men have pleaded guilty in the federal case, while two more were acquitted.

Three other men accused of supporting terrorism in the kidnapping plot were convicted in October in state court.

Joe Morrison; Morrison's father-in-law, Pete Musico; and Paul Bellar were found guilty of supplying "material support" for a terrorist act as members of a group known as the Wolverine Watchmen. They await sentencing on Dec. 15.

They held gun training in rural Jackson County with Fox who was disgusted with Whitmer and other officials and said he wanted to snatch her.

Nebraska signs Matt Rhule to 8-year deal as football coach

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

After six straight losing seasons and more than 20 years removed from its 1990s heyday, Nebraska is turning to Matt Rhule to rebuild its football program and make it competitive in the Big Ten Conference.

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Rhule signed an eight-year contract to be the Cornhuskers' next coach and will be introduced Monday at a news conference, the school announced Saturday.

The 47-year-old Rhule quickly turned around downtrodden programs at Temple and Baylor before leaving for the NFL to coach the Carolina Panthers. The Panthers fired him in October after he started his third season with four losses in five games.

"It is a tremendous honor to be chosen to lead the Nebraska football program," Rhule said in a statement. "When you think of great, tradition-rich programs in college football, Nebraska is right at the top of the list. The fan base is second to none, and I consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to coach in Memorial Stadium on Tom Osborne Field. My family and I are so grateful to become a part of the Husker Family, and we can't wait to get started."

Rhule was 11-27 with Carolina and left with about \$40 million remaining on the seven-year, guaranteed \$62 million contract he signed in 2020. The contract made Rhule the sixth-highest paid coach in the NFL when he signed in 2020, according to Forbes.

Nebraska said it would release details of Rhule's contract on Monday.

"It is a privilege to welcome Coach Matt Rhule, his wife, Julie, and their family to Nebraska," athletic director Trev Alberts said. "Coach Rhule has created a winning culture throughout his coaching career, and he will provide great leadership for the young men in our football program.

"Matt is detail-oriented, his teams are disciplined and play a physical brand of football. Matt also has the personality and relationship-building skills to build a great staff and excel in recruiting."

About an hour after Rhule's hiring was announced, wide receiver Trey Palmer announced on Instagram that he would declare for the NFL draft. Palmer, who transferred from LSU after last season, had three 150-yard games this year and set the Huskers' single-season record with 1,043 yards.

The Huskers are among eight Football Bowl Subdivision programs with at least 900 wins, and they have won or shared five national championships. The last one came in 1997 under Hall of Fame coach Tom Osborne.

Five coaches have come and gone since then, most recently the quarterback of that '97 team, Scott Frost.

Alberts fired Frost on Sept. 11 after the Huskers opened 1-2, with losses to Northwestern in Ireland and to Georgia Southern at home. They were 3-6 under interim coach Mickey Joseph and finished the season 4-8 following a 24-17 win at Iowa on Friday.

Nebraska was 16-31 in four-plus seasons under Frost, never finishing higher than fifth in the Big Ten West or going to a bowl.

In four seasons at Temple, Rhule coached the Owls to 28 wins. That included 26 from 2014-16. Temple was 10-4 in 2015 and reached the American Athletic Conference's inaugural championship game. In 2016, Rhule led the Owls to a 10-3 record and an AAC championship. The conference title was the first in 49 seasons for the Temple program, and the Owls reached bowl games in consecutive seasons for the first time in school history.

Rhule was named Baylor's coach in December 2016 in the wake of an investigation that found the private Baptist university had not responded adequately to allegations of sexual assault by players, resulting in the firing of Art Briles.

Rhule's trajectory was similar at Baylor, where he went from 1-11 in 2017 to 7-6 with a bowl game the next season. In his third and final season, Baylor was ranked in the top 10, played in the Big 12 championship game and finished 11-3 after a Sugar Bowl loss to Georgia.

Rhule's collegiate success provided him the opportunity to take over as the Carolina Panthers' head coach in 2020. He guided the Panthers to five wins in each of his first two seasons before this year's 1-4 start got him fired.

Rhule has ties to the Big Ten. He moved from New York City to State College, Pennsylvania, as a teenager. He played linebacker at Penn State from 1994-97 and began his coaching there as a volunteer assistant.

US nuclear waste repository begins filling new disposal area

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By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Workers at the nation's only underground nuclear waste repository have started using a newly mined disposal area at the underground facility in southern New Mexico.

Officials at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant made the announcement this week, saying the first containers of waste to be entombed in the new area came from Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee — one of the many labs and government sites across the country that package up waste and ship it to WIPP.

Known as Panel 8, the new area consists of seven separate rooms for placing special boxes and barrels packed with lab coats, rubber gloves, tools and debris contaminated with plutonium and other radioactive elements.

Each room measures 33 feet (10 meters) wide, 16 feet (4.9 meters) high and runs the length of a football field minus the end zones.

Carved out of an ancient salt formation about half a mile (0.8 kilometers) deep, the subterranean landfill located outside of Carlsbad received its first shipment in 1999. The idea is that the shifting salt will eventually entomb the radioactive waste left from decades of bomb-making and nuclear weapons research.

In 2014, a fire and separate radiation release forced a nearly three-year closure of the repository and a costly overhaul of the policies and procedures that govern WIPP and the nation's multibillion-dollar cleanup program for Cold War-era waste.

Operations had to be reduced after the repository reopened because areas of the facility were contaminated and airflow needed for mining and disposal operations was limited. Now, a multimillion-dollar project is underway to install a new ventilation system, and state regulators are considering a permit change that some critics have said could lead to expanded operations.

The state Environment Department's Hazardous Waste Bureau issued a plan this month aimed at ensuring the public has opportunities to comment on modifications or permit renewal applications.

Sean Dunagan, president and project manager of Nuclear Waste Partnership, the contractor that manages the repository, said in a statement that operations already have become more efficient with the new panel.

Creating a panel requires mining nearly 160,000 tons of salt, and it takes about 2 1/2 years to fill it with waste. For example, Panel 7 is filled with 20,056 containers, with most of them being 55-gallon (208-litre) drums.

'Normal thing to do': Japanese fans tidy up at World Cup

By STEPHEN WADE AP Sports Writer

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — The sight of Japanese fans at a World Cup bagging trash after a match — win or lose — always surprises non-Japanese. Japanese players are famous for doing the same in their team dressing room: hanging up towels, cleaning the floor, and even leaving a thank-you note.

The behavior is driving social media posts at the World Cup in Qatar, but it's nothing unusual for Japanese fans or players. They are simply doing what most people in Japan do — at home, at school, at work, or on streets from Tokyo to Osaka, Shizuoka to Sapporo.

"For Japanese people, this is just the normal thing to do," Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu said. "When you leave, you have to leave a place cleaner than it was before. That's the education we have been taught. That's the basic culture we have. For us, it's nothing special."

A spokeswoman for the Japanese Football Association said it's supplying 8,000 trash bags to help fans pick up after matches with "thank you" messages on the outside written in Arabic, Japanese, and English.

Barbara Holthus, a sociologist who has spent the last decade in Japan, said cleaning up after oneself is engrained in Japanese culture.

"You're always supposed to take your trash home in Japan, because there are no trash cans on the street," said Holthus, the deputy director of the German Institute for Japanese Studies. "You clean your classroom. From a very young age you learn you are responsible for the cleanliness of your own space."

Many Japanese elementary schools don't have janitors, so some of the clean-up work is left to the young students. Office workers often dedicate an hour to spruce up their areas.

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"It's partly cultural, but also the education structures have been training you for a long time to do that," Holthus added.

This is Japan's seventh straight World Cup, and their cleanliness began making news at their first World Cup in 1998 in France.

Prior to the 2020 Olympics, Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike cautioned that visiting fans would have to learn to clean up after themselves. However, the problem never materialized after fans from abroad were banned from attending the Games because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tokyo has few public trash receptacles. This keeps the streets cleaner, saves municipalities the costs of emptying trash cans, and keeps away vermin.

Midori Mayama, a Japanese reporter in Qatar for the World Cup, said that fans collecting rubbish was a non-story back home.

"Nobody in Japan would report on this," she said, noting the same clean-up happens at Japanese professional baseball games. "All of this is so normal."

It may be normal to Japanese, but Alberto Zaccheroni, an Italian who coached Japan from 2010 to 2014, said it's not how most teams act when they travel.

"Everywhere in the world players take their kit off and leave it on the floor in the changing room. Then the cleaning staff come and collect it," he said. "Not the Japanese players. They put all the shorts on top of the other, all the pairs of socks and all the jerseys."

Judge to decide on Florida face-biter insanity plea

By TERRY SPENCER Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A former college student who randomly killed a Florida couple in their garage six years ago and then chewed on one victim's face finally goes on trial Monday, with a judge deciding whether he goes to prison for life or to a mental hospital.

Austin Harrouff, 25, has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to two counts of first-degree murder and other charges for his August 2016 slayings of John Stevens, a 59-year-old landscaper, and his 53-year-old wife, Michelle Mishcon Stevens, who had retired after working in finance.

The former Florida State University student has waived a jury trial, meaning Circuit Judge Sherwood Bauer will decide whether Harrouff was insane when he killed the couple, and seriously injured the neighbor who came to their aid.

The trial has been delayed by the pandemic, legal wranglings and Harrouff's recovery from critical injuries suffered while drinking a chemical during the attack. It will be in Stuart, an hour drive north of West Palm Beach, and last about three weeks.

Prosecutor Brandon White did not respond to a call and email seeking comment. Harrouff's lead attorney, Robert Watson, declined comment.

Under Florida law, defendants are presumed sane. For Harrouff's defense to succeed, Watson must show that he had a severe mental breakdown that prevented him from understanding his actions or that they were wrong by "clear and convincing evidence." Harrouff has said he was fleeing a demon when he attacked the couple.

If convicted, Harrouff will be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole; prosecutors waived the death penalty.

If Harrouff is ruled insane, Bauer will commit him to a secure mental hospital until doctors and a judge agree that he is no longer dangerous. That would also effectively be a life sentence, said Craig Trocino, a University of Miami law professor, because "it's highly unlikely" that doctors and a judge would risk releasing a killer as notorious as Harrouff.

Two mental health experts, one hired by prosecutors and one by the defense, examined Harrouff and found that he suffered an acute psychotic episode during the attack. They also found that he couldn't distinguish between right and wrong.

Prosecutors then hired a second expert who said Harrouff was sane, but recently withdrew him saying

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he has serious health issues. They now have a third expert who believes Harrouff was on a drug that didn't appear in post-arrest tests, but has not examined him.

Lea Johnston, a University of Florida law professor, said that only about 1% of felony defendants try an insanity defense because the bar to succeed is so high. About a quarter of those succeed, usually in a pretrial deal where prosecutors agree that the defendant's mental illness meets the standard.

She said for insanity defenses that reach trial, defendants who waive a jury have the most success. Judges understand the system, she said, while jurors often worry that defendants acquitted by reason of insanity will be released sooner. They also may question whether treatment at a mental hospital works.

"There is decades of research showing that (the public) is biased against the insanity defense and it is widely misunderstood," she said.

Harrouff's attack made national headlines because of its brutality and randomness; he did not know the victims. He was a 19-year-old with no criminal record — a former high school football player and wrestler who was studying exercise science. He stripped nearly naked and attacked the couple in their open garage with tools that he found there. When police arrived, Harrouff was biting chunks off John Stevens' face.

It took several officers, an electric stun gun and a police dog to subdue Harrouff. Officers didn't shoot him because they feared hitting Stevens.

Harrouff nearly died from chemicals he drank in the garage, which burned his digestive system.

Investigators found he purchased some hallucinogenic mushrooms a few days before the attack, but friends said he destroyed them and no trace was found in his blood. He also did Google searches for "how to know if you are going crazy."

Harrouff's parents, who are divorced, and others said he had acted strangely for weeks. His parents had set up an appointment for him to be evaluated, but the attack occurred first.

His father, Wade Harrouff, told TV psychologist Phil McGraw that on the night of the slayings his son left a restaurant where they had been eating without explanation. He walked two miles (three kilometers) to his mother's house and tried to drink cooking oil. Mina Harrouff stopped him, but he poured the oil into a bowl with Parmesan cheese and ate it.

She brought him back to the restaurant. Wade Harrouff, a dentist, told McGraw he grabbed his son and said, "What is wrong with you?" He said his son raised his fist, but Wade Harrouff's girlfriend told him to stop and he left.

The restaurant's security video shows Austin Harrouff calmly exiting about 45 minutes before the attack. His mother, before knowing of the attack, called 911 and told the dispatcher her son seemed delusional, claiming to have superpowers and that demons were in her house.

But it was too late — Harrouff walked or ran the four miles (six kilometers) to the Stevens' home.

Austin Harrouff told McGraw he was escaping a demon he called Daniel and only has vague recollections of the slayings.

He said he encountered Michelle Stevens in the couple's garage. She screamed, and "then it's a blur."

"I don't remember what she said — I just remember being yelled at," Harrouff said. He said he grabbed a machete, but doesn't remember why he killed her and her husband.

"It's like it happened, but I wasn't aware of it," Harrouff said.

Taiwan president resigns as party leader after election loss

By HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen resigned as head of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party following local election losses on Saturday in which voters chose the opposition Nationalist party in several major races across the self-ruled island.

Concerns about threats from rival China, which claims Taiwan as its territory, took a backseat to more local issues in the elections.

Tsai had spoken out many times about "opposing China and defending Taiwan" in the course of campaigning for her party. But the party's candidate Chen Shih-chung, who lost his battle for mayor of Taipei,

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only raised the issue of the Chinese Communist Party's threat a few times before he quickly switched back to local issues as there was little interest.

Tsai offered her resignation on Saturday evening, a tradition after a major loss, in a short speech in which she also thanked supporters.

"I must shoulder all the responsibility," she said. "Faced with a result like this, there are many areas that we must deeply review."

While international observers and the ruling party have attempted to link the elections to the long-term existential threat that is Taiwan's neighbor, many local experts do not think China had a large role to play this time around.

"The international community has raised the stakes too high. They've raised a local election to this international level, and Taiwan's survival," said Yeh-lih Wang, a political science professor at National Taiwan University.

During campaigning, there were few mentions of the large-scale military exercises targeting Taiwan that China held in August in reaction to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit.

"So I think if you can't even raise this issue in Taipei, you don't even need to consider it in cities in the south," Wang said.

Candidates from the Nationalist party won the mayoral seat in Taipei, Taiwan's capital, as well as in Taoyuan, Taichung and New Taipei city.

Taiwanese were picking mayors, city council members and other local leaders in all 13 counties and in nine cities. There was also a referendum to lower the voting age from 20 to 18, which was defeated, according to local media.

Chiang Wan-an, the new Taipei mayor, declared victory Saturday night in a large rally. "I will let the world see Taipei's greatness," he said.

Not all votes had been formally counted by the time of his speech, but Chiang and the other candidates' numerical lead allowed them to declare victory.

Kao Hung-an, a candidate in the relatively new Taiwan People's Party, won the mayoral seat in Hsinchu, home to many of Taiwan's semi-conductor companies.

Campaigns had resolutely focused on the local: air pollution in the central city of Taichung, traffic snarls in Taipei's tech hub Nangang, and the island's COVID-19 vaccine purchasing strategies, which had left the island in short supply during an outbreak last year.

The defeat for the ruling DPP may be partly due to how it handled the pandemic.

"The public has some dissatisfaction with the DPP on this, even though Taiwan has done well relatively speaking in pandemic prevention," said Weihao Huang, a political science professor at National Sun Yat-sen University.

At an elementary school in New Taipei City, the city that surrounds Taipei, voters young and old came early despite the rain.

Yu Mei-zhu, 60, said she came to cast her ballot for the incumbent Mayor Hou You-yi. "I think he has done well, so I want to continue to support him. I believe in him, and that he can improve our environment in New Taipei City and our transportation infrastructure."

Tsai came out early Saturday morning to cast her ballot, catching many voters by surprise as her security and entourage swept through the school.

"If the DPP loses many county seats, then their ability to rule will face a very strong challenge," said You Ying-lung, chair at the Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation that regularly conducts public surveys on political issues.

The election results will in some ways also reflect the public's attitude toward the ruling party's performance in the last two years, You said.

Some felt apathetic to the local race. "It feels as if everyone is almost the same, from the policy standpoint," said 26-year-old Sean Tai, an employee at a hardware store.

Tai declined to say who he voted for, but wants someone who will raise Taipei's profile and bring better

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economic prospects while keeping the status quo with China. "We don't want to be completely sealed off. I really hope that Taiwan can be seen internationally," he said.

On outskirts of Doha, laborers watch World Cup they built

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Far from Doha's luxury hotels and sprawling new World Cup stadiums, scores of South Asian workers poured into a cricket ground in the city's sandy outskirts to enjoy the tournament they helped create.

Unlike the official FIFA fan zone near Doha's pristine corniche, this one has no \$14 beer or foreign tourists. There are few food options beyond deep-fried Indian snacks, scant soccer jerseys in the crowd and even fewer women.

Instead, the grassy pitch in Asian Town, a neighborhood of labor camps, is packed with migrant workers from some of the world's poorest countries. They power Qatar, one of the world's richest, and helped accomplish its multi-billion-dollar stadium-building effort.

Their treatment has been the controversial backstory of the 2022 World Cup, ever since Qatar won the bid to host the soccer championship. They can face low wages, inhospitable housing and long hours, often in the scorching heat.

But on Friday night as the Netherlands played Ecuador, the bleachers of the cricket stadium heaved with workers reveling on their one day off of the week.

The lucky ones scored a small number of World Cup match tickets that went on sale for just 40 riyals (\$10) — a special cheaper ticket category for Qatar residents. But for those who can't afford to go to gleaming stadiums, the giant screens in Asian Town have become a key glimpse into the tournament that has reshaped the tiny emirate.

"Who can afford to go? I keep 400 riyals (\$109) a month in my pocket," said Anmol Singh, an electrician, who sends the rest of his \$600 salary to his parents and grandparents in Bihar, eastern India. "I work to give it all to them."

Even if meager by Western standards, the salaries of migrant workers in Qatar and across the oil-rich sheikhdoms of the Persian Gulf often exceed what they could make back home and serve as lifelines for their families in India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Workers in the fan zone who spoke to an Associated Press journalist on Friday said they coveted their jobs in the country, which has strict laws on speech. The yearslong boycott of Qatar by four Arab nations also stoked nationalism among the migrant workforce that makes up some 85% of the country's population.

Kaplana Pahadi, a 21-year-old cleaner from Nepal, strolled through the crowded cricket stadium with three co-workers she called "my family."

Decked out in a maroon Qatar jersey, scarf and cap, she said she moved to the energy-rich emirate over four years ago to pay medical fees for her mother, who developed heart problems after her father's death. "She's always sick," she said. "I want to help her."

At half-time, the floodlit stadium became a riot of music and dance. A celebrity Indian emcee whipped up the crowds as Hindi pop blared.

Some men hoisted themselves up on the shoulders of their friends. Others jumped up and down with excitement. Most wore jeans and T-shirts, or cream shalwar kameez — a knee-length shirt with a pair of loose-fitting trousers common in South Asia.

Hundreds took out their phones to film the reverie, smiles spreading as women in LED-lit white dresses traipsed onstage.

It was a stark respite from the daily grind.

"These are people from companies doing hard work," said Imtiaz Malik, a 28-year-old IT worker from Pakistan, gesturing to the crowds of men. "But any kind of work is good."

He said he misses his family back in Lahore, Pakistan, and wishes he could hear their voices more often. Despite the difficulties, he said, Qatar has become his home, too.

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"This country is becoming better," he said.

The glaring spotlight of the World Cup has compelled Qatar to overhaul its labor system. The country scrapped the kafala system that tied workers' visas to their jobs and set a minimum wage of 1,000 riyals (\$275) a month, among other changes. Still, rights groups argue more needs to be done. Workers can face delayed wages and rack up debt paying exorbitant recruitment fees to land their jobs.

Imran Khan, 28, said many young men in his hometown of Kolkata, India, dream of working in Qatar. He left his parents and brothers behind to search for work in hospitality during the World Cup. But he has yet to find a job.

The competition is fierce and work harder to come by now that the tournament is underway, he said. In the meantime, he spends his days watching matches on the big screens at the cricket stadium next to the mall.

The fan zone allows Khan and legions of other migrant workers to enjoy the World Cup atmosphere just a short walk from their dormitories. It also means they're not taking the bus into downtown Doha, which is now filled with foreign fans watching games and celebrating.

"I can't explain the excitement," Khan said. "It's unreal."

Iran leader praises force tasked with quashing protests

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iran's supreme leader praised paramilitary volunteers tasked with quashing dissent on Saturday in a televised address as dozens of eye doctors warned that a rising number of demonstrators have been blinded by security forces during anti-government protests.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei addressed members of the Basij, the volunteer paramilitary wing of the elite Revolutionary Guard, and reiterated unsupported claims that protesters demonstrating countrywide are "tools" of the U.S. and its "mercenaries."

"(The) Basij should not forget that the main clash is with global hegemony," Khamenei said, referring to the U.S. The address marking Basij week in Iran echoed previous statements lambasting the protests as a foreign plot to destabilize Iran.

Extolling the military and social virtues of the Basij over the decades, Khamenei said the forces "sacrificed themselves in order to save people from a bunch of rioters and mercenaries," referring to the recent country-wide unrest. "They sacrificed themselves in order to confront oppression."

The Basij have taken a leading role in clamping down on demonstrations that began Sept. 17, ignited by the death of a young woman while in the custody of Iran's morality police. Her death sparked months of protests over the country's mandatory headscarf but quickly morphed into one of the greatest challenges to Iran's theocracy since the chaotic years after the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Protests continued Saturday at some universities in the capital Tehran and other cities, according to social media. Because of a severe country-wide crackdown by Iranian security forces, demonstrations have become more scattered. Protesters have also called for commercial strikes.

Khamenei's comments came a day after Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met with a group of Basij members and praised their efforts to maintain security, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

Iran's ferocious crackdown on dissent has drawn criticism, with at least 448 people killed and more than 18,000 arrested in the protests and the violent security force response that followed, according to Human Rights Activists in Iran, a group monitoring the demonstrations. Iran has not offered a death toll or a number of those arrested.

In a letter, 140 ophthalmologists raised concerns about a rising number of patients with severe eye injuries resulting from being shot with metal pellets and rubber bullets, according to pro-reform Iranian news site Sobhema and Iran International as well as other sites on social media. "Unfortunately in many cases the hit caused the loss of sight in one or both eyes," the letter, addressed to the head of the country's ophthalmologists association, said.

The doctors requested that the head of Iran's Ophthalmology Association pass on their concerns about the irreparable damage caused by security forces to the relevant authorities.

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It was the second letter from eye doctors expressing concerns about police brutality and the shooting of pellets and rubber bullets into the eyes of demonstrators and others. A previous letter was signed by over 200 ophthalmologists.

Last week, videos circulated on social media of law student Ghazal Ranjkesh in the southern city of Banda Abbas who lost an eye after being shot with a metal pellet on her way home from work.

New state voter fraud units finding few cases from midterms

By GARY FIELDS, ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE and SUDHIN THANAWALA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — State-level law enforcement units created after the 2020 presidential election to investigate voter fraud are looking into scattered complaints more than two weeks after the midterms but have provided no indication of systemic problems.

That's just what election experts had expected and led critics to suggest that the new units were more about politics than rooting out widespread abuses. Most election-related fraud cases already are investigated and prosecuted at the local level.

Florida, Georgia and Virginia created special state-level units after the 2020 election, all pushed by Republican governors, attorneys general or legislatures.

"I am not aware of any significant detection of fraud on Election Day, but that's not surprising," said Paul Smith, senior vice president of the Campaign Legal Center. "The whole concept of voter impersonation fraud is such a horribly exaggerated problem. It doesn't change the outcome of the election, it's a felony, you risk getting put in jail and you have a high possibility of getting caught. It's a rare phenomena."

The absence of widespread fraud is important because the lies surrounding the 2020 presidential election spread by former President Donald Trump and his allies have penetrated deeply into the Republican Party and eroded trust in elections. In the run-up to this year's elections, 45% of Republicans had little to no confidence that votes would be counted accurately.

An Associated Press investigation found there was no widespread fraud in Georgia or the five other battleground states where Trump disputed his 2020 loss, and so far there is no indication of that in this year's elections. Certification of the results is going smoothly in most states, with few complaints.

In Georgia, where Trump tried to pressure state officials to "find" enough votes to overturn his loss, a new law gives the state's top law enforcement agency, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, authority to initiate investigations of alleged election fraud without a request from election officials. The alleged violation would have to be significant enough to change or create doubt about the outcome of an election.

GBI spokesperson Nelly Miles said the agency has not initiated any investigations under the statute. The agency is assisting the secretary of state's office in an investigation of a breach of voting equipment in Coffee County in 2021, but that is its only recent election fraud investigation, she said in an email.

That breach, which came to light earlier this year, involved local officials in a county that voted for Trump by nearly 40 percentage points in 2020 and some high-profile supporters of the former president.

State Rep. Jasmine Clark, a Democrat who opposed the additional authority for the bureau, said the lack of investigations validates the criticism that the law was unnecessary. But she said just the prospect of a GBI investigation could intimidate people who want to serve as poll workers or take on some other role in the voting process.

"In this situation, there was no actual problem to be solved," Clark said. "This was a solution looking for a problem, and that's never the way that we should legislate."

Florida has been the most visible state, creating its Office of Election Crimes and Security amid much fanfare this year and keeping a pledge that Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis made in 2021 to combat unspecified election fraud.

The office is under the Florida Department of State. It reviews allegations and then tasks state law enforcement with pursuing violations.

DeSantis this summer announced the election unit had arrested 20 people for illegally voting in the 2020 election, when the state had 14.4 million registered voters. That was the first major election since a state

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constitutional amendment restored voting rights for felons, except for those convicted of murder or felony sex crimes or those who still owe fines, fees or restitution.

Court records show the 20 people were able to register to vote despite prior felony convictions, apparently leading them to believe they could legally cast ballots. At least part of the confusion stems from language in the voter registration forms that requires applicants to swear they are not a felon — or if they are, that they have had their rights restored. The forms do not inquire specifically about past convictions for murder and felony sexual assault.

One of the people charged, 56-year-old Robert Lee Wood, had his home surrounded early one morning by law enforcement officers who banged on his door and arrested him. He spent two days in jail. Wood's lawyer, Larry Davis, said his client did not think he was breaking the law because he was able to register to vote without issue. Davis called the law enforcement reaction "over the top" in this case.

Wood's case was dismissed by a Miami judge in late October on jurisdictional grounds, because it was brought by the Office of the Statewide Prosecutor rather than local prosecutors in Miami. The state is appealing the ruling.

Andrea Mercado, executive director of Florida Rising, an independent political activist organization focused on economic and racial justice in the state, said the disproportionate targeting of such would-be voters was sending a "chilling message to all returning citizens who want to register to vote." She said her group found that many of them were confused about the requirements.

"You have to go to 67 counties' websites and find their individual county processes to see if you have a fine or fee," she said. "It's a labyrinthian ordeal."

Weeks before the Nov. 8 election, the Office of Election Crimes and Security began notifying Florida counties of hundreds of registered voters who potentially were ineligible to vote because of prior convictions. In letters to the counties, state officials asked that election officials verify the information and then take action to prevent ineligible voters from casting ballots.

"We've heard stories about voters who are eligible to vote but have a criminal conviction in their past, and they are now scared to register and vote," said Michael Pernick, a voting rights attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He called it "deeply concerning."

A spokesman for the new office did not provide information related to any other actions it might have taken or investigations it might have underway related to this year's primary and general elections.

Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares announced he was forming his own Election Integrity Unit in September, saying it would "work to help restore confidence in our democratic process in the Commonwealth."

The formation of the unit came in a state where Republicans swept the three statewide offices in 2021 elections, including Miyares' defeat of a Democratic incumbent.

His spokeswoman, Victoria LaCivita, said in a written response to questions from The Associated Press that the office had received complaints connected to this month's elections, but she could not comment on whether any investigations had resulted.

In addition, "the EIU successfully got a demurrer and a motion to dismiss" an attempt to force the state to abandon its use of electronic voting machines to count ballots and institute a statewide hand count.

Miyares' office said he was not available for an interview, but in a letter to the editor in The Washington Post in October he stated there was no widespread fraud in Virginia or anywhere else during the 2020 election. He said his office already had jurisdiction in election-related issues but that he was restructuring it into a unit to work more cooperatively with the election community to allay any doubts about the fairness of elections.

Smith, of the Campaign Legal Center, said there are real issues related to election security, including protecting voters, poll workers and elections staff, and securing voting equipment. But he said Republican steps to boost what they often refer to as "election integrity" to combat voter fraud often are about something else.

"It's a myth that's created so they can justify making it harder for people to vote," he said.

Today in History: November 27, Moscone and Milk fatally shot

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By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Nov. 27, the 331st day of 2022. There are 34 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 27, 1978, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone (mah-SKOH'-nee) and City Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights activist, were shot to death inside City Hall by former supervisor Dan White. (White served five years for manslaughter; he took his own life in October 1985.)

On this date:

In 1901, the U.S. Army War College was established in Washington, D.C.

In 1924, Macy's first Thanksgiving Day parade — billed as a "Christmas Parade" — took place in New York.

In 1942, during World War II, the Vichy French navy scuttled its ships and submarines in Toulon (too-LOHN') to keep them out of the hands of German troops.

In 1962, the first Boeing 727 was rolled out at the company's Renton Plant near Seattle.

In 1970, Pope Paul VI, visiting the Philippines, was slightly wounded at the Manila airport by a dagger-wielding Bolivian painter disguised as a priest.

In 1973, the Senate voted 92-3 to confirm Gerald R. Ford as vice president, succeeding Spiro T. Agnew, who'd resigned.

In 1998, answering 81 questions put to him three weeks earlier, President Bill Clinton wrote the House Judiciary Committee that his testimony in the Monica Lewinsky affair was "not false and misleading."

In 2000, a day after George W. Bush was certified the winner of Florida's presidential vote, Al Gore laid out his case for letting the courts settle the nation's long-count election.

In 2003, President George W. Bush flew to Iraq under extraordinary secrecy and security to spend Thanksgiving with U.S. troops and thank them for "defending the American people from danger."

In 2008, Iraq's parliament approved a pact requiring all U.S. troops to be out of the country by Jan. 1, 2012.

In 2015, a gunman attacked a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs, Colorado, killing three people and injuring nine. (The prosecution of suspect Robert Dear stalled in state court, and then federal court, after he was repeatedly found mentally incompetent to stand trial.)

In 2020, President Donald Trump's legal team suffered another defeat as a federal appeals court in Philadelphia roundly rejected the campaign's latest effort to challenge Pennsylvania's election results; Judge Stephanos Bibas, a Trump appointee, wrote that "calling an election unfair does not make it so." Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, the Iranian scientist who founded that country's military nuclear program in the early 2000s, was killed in an attack on the outskirts of Tehran; Iran said Israel was responsible.

Ten years ago: U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice met privately with three Republican senators who had indicated they would block her possible nomination to be U.S. secretary of state; they said afterward that they were even more troubled by her initial explanation of the attack that killed four Americans in Benghazi, Libya. (The following month, Rice withdrew from consideration to be secretary of state.)

Five years ago: As he tried to bolster his support in the wake of a sexual harassment allegation, Minnesota Democratic Sen. Al Franken apologized to "everyone who has counted on me to be a champion for women." Authorities ordered a mass evacuation of people from an expanded danger zone around an erupting volcano on the Indonesian island of Bali; the eruption had closed the island's international airport, stranding tens of thousands of travelers. On Cyber Monday, the Echo Dot was the top-selling electronic item on Amazon, followed by the Fire TV.

One year ago: The new potentially more contagious omicron variant of the coronavirus popped up in more European countries, just days after being identified in South Africa, leaving governments around the world scrambling to stop the spread. Britain's health secretary said two people had tested positive in England; both cases were related to travel from southern Africa.

Today's Birthdays: Footwear designer Manolo Blahnik is 80. Academy Award-winning director Kathryn Bigelow is 71. TV host Bill Nye ("Bill Nye, the Science Guy") is 67. Actor William Fichtner (FIHK'-nuhr) is 66.

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Caroline Kennedy is 65. Academy Award-winning screenwriter Callie Khouri is 65. Rock musician Charlie Burchill (Simple Minds) is 63. Actor Michael Rispoli is 62. Jazz composer/big band leader Maria Schneider is 62. Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty is 62. Rock musician Charlie Benante (Anthrax) is 60. Rock musician Mike Bordin (Faith No More) is 60. Actor Fisher Stevens is 59. Actor Robin Givens is 58. Actor Michael Vartan is 54. Actor Elizabeth Marvel is 53. Rapper Scoob (DAS EFX) is 52. Actor Kirk Acevedo is 51. Rapper Twista is 50. Actor Jaleel White is 46. Actor Arjay Smith is 39. Actor Alison Pill is 37. Actor Lashana Lynch (TV: "Still Star-Crossed") is 35.