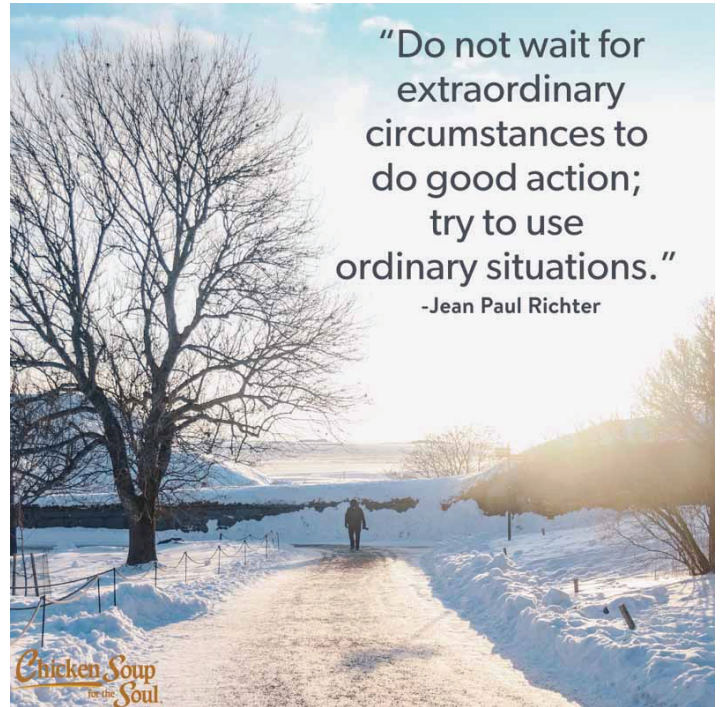


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“Do not wait for extraordinary circumstances to do good action; try to use ordinary situations.”

-Jean Paul Richter

## Groton Community Calendar

### Sunday, Jan. 15

Open Gym: Grades JK-8; 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.,  
Grades 6-12; 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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

United Methodist: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.

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

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

### Monday, Jan. 16

Senior Menu: Parmesan chicken breast, baked potato with sour cream, wild rice, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.

School Lunch: Taco salads.

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

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

Girls Basketball at Langford Area: JV game at 6 p.m. followed by varsity.

Middle School Wrestling at Redfield.

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

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

### Tuesday, Jan. 17

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, beets, chocolate cake, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: French toast.

School Lunch: Meatballs, mashed potatoes.

Middle School Wrestling at Aberdeen Civic Arena, 4 p.m.

Wrestling at Willow Lake with Clark/Willow Lake and Hamlin, 6 p.m.

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran; Groton Ministerial Meeting at UMC, 11 a.m.

United Methodist: Conde Ad Council.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

## **CLOSED:** 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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## NSU Women's Basketball

### **Fillipi and the Wolves Corral the Mustangs in 20-Point Road Victory**

Marshall, Minn. – The Northern State defense locked down the NSIC's top 3-point shooting team on Saturday afternoon, leading to an 82-62 victory at Southwest Minnesota State. A pair of big performances by Rianna Fillipi and Kailee Oliverson were key in handing the Mustangs their largest defeat of the season and largest home loss since NSU went into the R/A facility and won by 25 points on January 28, 2017.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 82, SMSU 62

Records: NSU 10-8 (5-7 NSIC), SMSU 11-6 (8-4 NSIC)

Attendance: 900

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

- An Alayna Benike 3-pointer capped a 7-0 scoring run for Northern State in the opening minutes of the game, the run allowed the Wolves to grab the early momentum to race out to a 21-13 lead after ten minutes of play
- A Morgan Fiedler jumper and Kailee Oliverson layup extended the NSU lead to 12 points (25-13) early in the second quarter, however Southwest out-scored Northern 11-4 the remainder of the period to cut the NSU lead to five points at the halftime break
- SMSU was able to bring the game within one point early in the second half, but Rianna Fillipi sparked an 11-0 scoring run to push the Northern lead back to double digits
- The Mustangs were momentarily within six points twice in the fourth quarter, but the Wolves put the game away with a 14-3 scoring run in the final 5:16 of game time
- Southwest Minnesota State entered the game as the top 3-point shooting team in the NSIC, shooting the ball 37.3 percent with 9.4 made 3-pointers per game; the Wolves held the Mustangs to a season low 21.4 percent on 6-28 shooting from deep in the contest
- Fillipi notched her third career double-double and first of the season with a career-high 25 points while tying a career-high with 12 rebounds
- Fillipi (25 points) and Oliverson (21 points) became the first Northern State duo to score 20 or more points in the same game since January 11, 2020, when Brianna Kusler (31 points) and Lexi Roe (29 points) did so in a victory at Bemidji State
- The Wolves held a +16 advantage on the boards, out-rebounding SMSU 44-28
- NSU held a 58-22 advantage in points in the paint, a 14-13 advantage in points off turnovers, and 12-6 advantage in bench points

#### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Rianna Fillipi: 25 points (career-high), 12 rebounds (tied career-high), 6 assists, 1 steal
- Kailee Oliverson: 21 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 block
- Laurie Rogers: 11 points, 7 rebounds, 2 blocks

#### UP NEXT

The Northern State women's basketball team returns to Aberdeen next weekend, welcoming Minnesota State and Concordia-St. Paul. The Wolves and Mavericks are set for a 7:30 p.m. tip-off on Friday evening, and Northern will then close out the weekend with a 6 p.m. tip-off against the Golden Bears on Saturday.

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## Ehresmann places first at Battler Invitational

Groton Area wrestlers took part in a double tournament at Gettysburg on Saturday. Three wrestlers took part in the Battler Invitational Tournament with Christian Ehresmann taking first, Cole Bisbee taking fourth and Walker Zoellner placing fifth.

The a bunch took part in the Potter County JV Invitational. There, Wyatt Hagen, Donavon Block and Easten Ekern all placed first, Gavin Englund placed second, Luke Gauer, John Bisbee, Kellen Antonson, Tristan McGannon, Isaiah Scepaniak and Noah Scepaniak all took third, and Gavin England placed fourth.

### **113: Walker Zoellner (12-8) placed 5th and scored 11.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Walker Zoellner (Groton) 12-8 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Walker Zoellner (Groton) 12-8 won by fall over Maxwell Anderson (Lemmon/McIntosh) 3-6 (Fall 1:31)

Semifinal - Nicholas Schlachter (Potter County) 16-6 won by major decision over Walker Zoellner (Groton) 12-8 (MD 9-0)

Cons. Semi - Joe Eaton (Newell) 9-6 won by decision over Walker Zoellner (Groton) 12-8 (Dec 6-0)

5th Place Match - Walker Zoellner (Groton) 12-8 won by decision over Witt Myers (Stanley County) 6-8 (Dec 5-4)

### **138: Christian Ehresmann (12-1) placed 1st and scored 29.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton) 12-1 won by fall over CJ Fitzsimmons (Deuel) 4-7 (Fall 3:18)

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton) 12-1 won by fall over Tripp Schrempp (CEB/Dupree) 5-7 (Fall 1:46)

Semifinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton) 12-1 won by fall over Clayton Dulany (Warner) 14-5 (Fall 1:29)

1st Place Match - Christian Ehresmann (Groton) 12-1 won by major decision over Brody Hoffman (South Border) 16-3 (MD 12-0)

### **170: Cole Bisbee (7-6) placed 4th and scored 16.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Cole Bisbee (Groton) 7-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Case Kolda (Stanley County) 12-10 won by decision over Cole Bisbee (Groton) 7-6 (Dec 8-6)

Cons. Round 2 - Cole Bisbee (Groton) 7-6 won by fall over Benjamin Van der Luit (Potter County) 3-8 (Fall 2:08)

Cons. Round 3 - Cole Bisbee (Groton) 7-6 won by fall over Braeden Johnson (Clark Willow Lake) 3-12 (Fall 4:16)

Cons. Semi - Cole Bisbee (Groton) 7-6 won by forfeit over Emmitt Maher (Lemmon/McIntosh) 7-9 (For.)

3rd Place Match - Alex Pudwill (Warner) 14-6 won by decision over Cole Bisbee (Groton) 7-6 (Dec 5-1)

## Potter County JV

### **JV 71-79: Luke Gauer's place is 3rd and has scored 8.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Luke Gauer (Groton) won by major decision over Dusty Bolden (Deuel) (Maj 15-7)

Round 2 - Gavin Mattson (Deuel) won by fall over Luke Gauer (Groton) (Fall 0:40)

Round 3 - Easton Rausch (Potter County) won by fall over Luke Gauer (Groton) (Fall 2:48)

### **JV 80-85: Wyatt Hagen's place is 1st and has scored 19.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Wyatt Hagen (Groton) won by fall over Zak Stewart (Sully Buttes) (Fall 0:45)

Round 2 - Wyatt Hagen (Groton) won by fall over Brock Mellendorf (Deuel) (Fall 2:10)

Round 3 - Wyatt Hagen (Groton) won by major decision over Karstyn Schlechter (Webster) (Maj 14-2)

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## **JV 82-88: Noah Scepaniak's place is 3rd and has scored 9.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Gage Landmark (Deuel) won by fall over Noah Scepaniak (Groton) (Fall 1:14)

Round 2 - Noah Scepaniak (Groton) won by fall over Garrett Lipp (Mobridge/Pollock) (Fall 0:45)

Round 3 - Maverick Clausen (Clark/Willow Lake) won by tech fall over Noah Scepaniak (Groton) (TF 17-2)

## **JV 95-98: Donavon Block's place is 1st and has scored 20.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Donavon Block (Groton) won by fall over Avery Williams (Sully Buttes) (Fall 2:17)

Round 2 - Donavon Block (Groton) won by fall over Spencer Schulte (Faulkton) (Fall 1:27)

Round 3 - Donavon Block (Groton) won by fall over Hunter Heezen (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey Wessington) (Fall 3:48)

## **JV 100-106: John Bisbee's place is 3rd and has scored 9.0 team points.**

Round 1 - John Bisbee (Groton) won by fall over Grason Finn (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey Wessington) (Fall 1:30)

Round 2 - Rayin Mansfield (Warner/Northwestern) won by fall over John Bisbee (Groton) (Fall 2:11)

Round 3 - Isaac Johnson (Clark/Willow Lake) won by fall over John Bisbee (Groton) (Fall 2:53)

## **JV 119-126: Kellen Antonson's place is 3rd and has scored 9.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Kellen Antonson (Groton) won by forfeit over Tucker Gruis (Sully Buttes) (FF)

Round 2 - Isaac Shepherd (Chamberlain) won by fall over Kellen Antonson (Groton) (Fall 2:53)

Round 3 - David Feez (Faith) won by fall over Kellen Antonson (Groton) (Fall 2:20)

## **JV 125-130: Tristan McGannon's place is 3rd and has scored 9.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Tristan McGannon (Groton) won by fall over Jace Traversie (CEB/Dupree) (Fall 0:57)

Round 2 - Jayden Tesch (Newell) won by fall over Tristan McGannon (Groton) (Fall 0:56)

Round 3 - Jake Wipf (Doland) won by fall over Tristan McGannon (Groton) (Fall 0:16)

## **JV 132-138 A: Isaiah Scepaniak's place is 3rd and has scored 9.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton) won by fall over Bryson Andrews (Mobridge/Pollock) (Fall 1:54)

Round 2 - Nathan Hubsch (Webster) won by fall over Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton) (Fall 2:55)

Round 3 - Kruse Brennan (Chamberlain) won by fall over Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton) (Fall 0:32)

## **JV 140-145 A: Nick Morris's place is 4th and has scored 5.0 team points.**

Round 2 - Nick Morris (Groton) won by fall over Gus Buchanan (Harding County) (Fall 4:15)

Round 3 - Nick Morris (Groton) won by fall over Judah Vaad (Chamberlain) (Fall 5:28)

Round 4 - Chisum Blum (Chamberlain) won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton) (Fall 3:22)

Round 5 - Jerrod Larsen (Chamberlain) won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton) (Fall 3:38)

## **JV 145-155: Easten Ekern's place is 1st and has scored 20.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Easten Ekern (Groton) won by fall over Carter Mosiman (Sully Buttes) (Fall 0:36)

Round 2 - Easten Ekern (Groton) won by fall over Austin Jensen (Potter County) (Fall 2:11)

Round 3 - Easten Ekern (Groton) won by fall over Coy Ludemann (Stanley County) (Fall 0:35)

## **JV 215-220: Gavin Englund's place is 2nd and has scored 4.0 team points.**

Round 2 - Wyatt Zeigler (Mobridge/Pollock) won by decision over Gavin Englund (Groton) (Dec 5-2)

Round 3 - Gavin Englund (Groton) won by fall over Jorey Clements (Newell) (Fall 1:55)



## NSU Men's Basketball

### Northern State Unable to Find a Groove in Saturday Loss

Marshall, Minn. – The Northern State University men's basketball team was unable to bounce back following last night's loss at Sioux Falls, dropping their Saturday contest as well to Southwest Minnesota State. The Wolves struggled to convert, scoring just 14 points in the paint and shooting a season low 33.9% from the floor.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 58, SMSU 67

Records: NSU 13-5 (9-3 NSIC), SMSU 11-6 (7-5 NSIC)

Attendance: 1098

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

- Southwest Minnesota State led 32-27 at the half and held that lead for all but a few minutes in the second
- Northern tallied a game high 13 made 3-pointers in the game, however Southwest was efficient shooting nearly 50.0% from the floor, and out-rebounded NSU 45-24
- The Wolves recorded 17 points off turnovers and added 14 assists, nine steals, and two blocks
- Jacksen Moni led three in double figures notching 19 points, while Jordan Belka tallied a team best eight rebounds to go along with his 16 points

#### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Jacksen Moni: 19 points, 66.7 field goal%, 6 rebounds, 3 steals
- Jordan Belka: 16 points, 8 rebounds
- Sam Masten: 11 points, 8 assists

#### UP NEXT

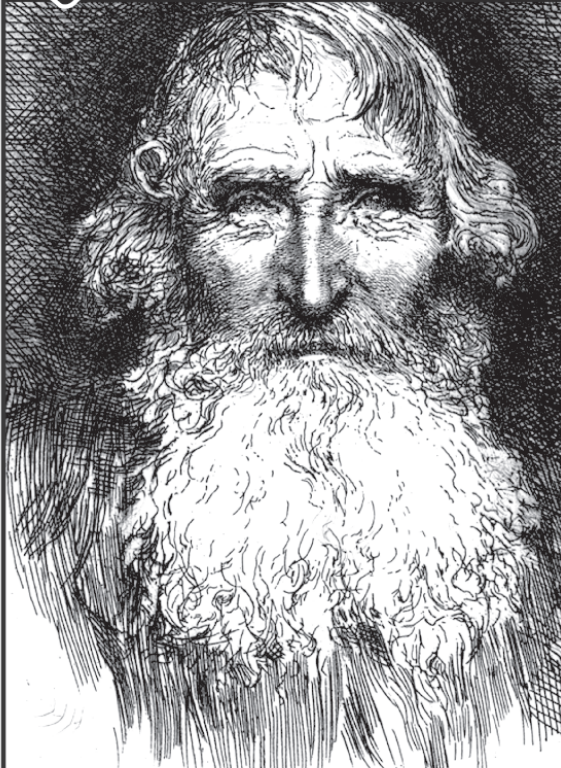
Northern State returns to Wachs Arena next Friday and Saturday against Minnesota State and Concordia-St. Paul. The contests are the first of the season where the men will play first. Tip-off is set for 5:30 p.m. on Friday versus the Mavericks and 4 p.m. on Saturday against the Golden Bears. Visit [nsuwolves.com/gameday](http://nsuwolves.com/gameday) for full game day promotions and information.

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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



*O God, You have taught me from my youth, and I still declare Your wondrous deeds. And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, your power to all who are to come.*

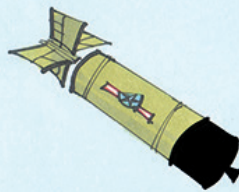
PSALM 71: 17, 18 

*Detail of "Bearded Man"  
by Hubert von Herkomer (1849-1914)*

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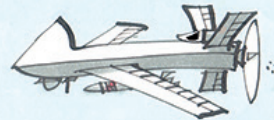
PICK THE  
ONE MOST  
FRIGHTENING  
TO THE  
TALIBAN...

U.S. BOMBS



KING  
FEATURES  
SYNDICATE

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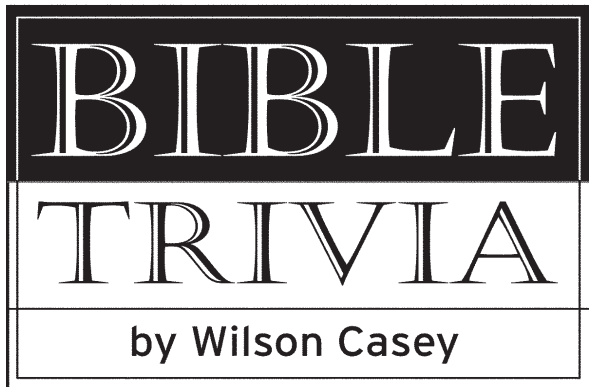


U.S. SOLDIERS



AFGHAN WOMEN  
WITH AN EDUCATION





1. Is the book of Joshua (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From John 3, who asked “How can a man be born who is old”? *Stephen, Nicodemus, Paul, Thomas*

3. What notoriously wicked woman married King Ahab? *Candace, Shiprah, Adah, Jezebel*

4. From Esther 5, who was the wife of Haman of Persia? *Naaman, Zeresh, Not named, Delilah*

5. Where were Adam and Eve married? *Heaven, Haran, Midian, Eden*

6. Who wrote the most of the Psalms? *Solomon, Moses, David, Micah*

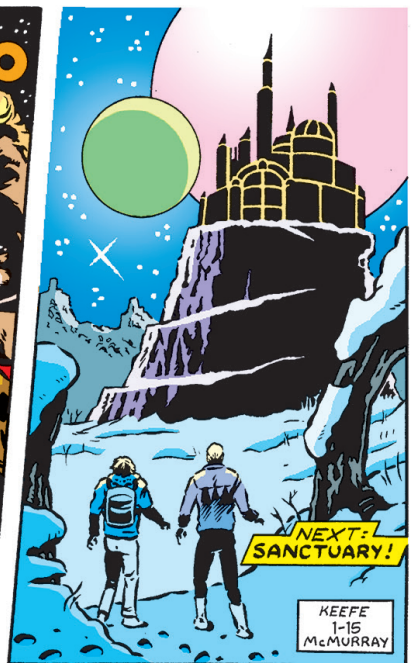
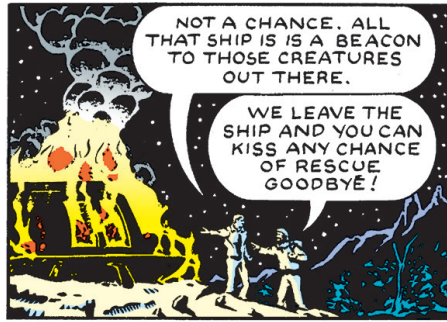
ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Nicodemus, 3) Jezebel, 4) Zeresh, 5) Eden, 6) David

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

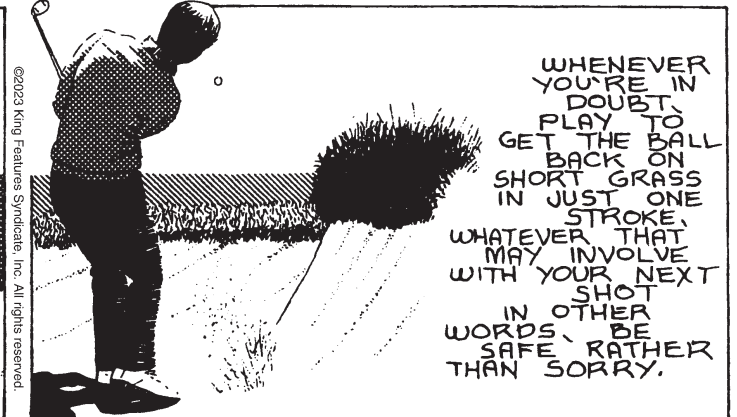
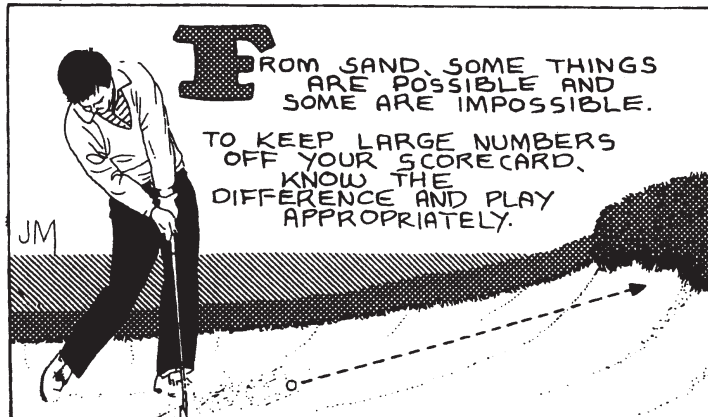


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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS







## Family History of Breast Cancer Prompts Man to Get Examined

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** My mother and both of her sisters had breast cancer in their 30s, with my mother eventually passing after her third bout at age 43. They all grew up in the same house that I grew up in. I'm now a 34-year-old father of three small children. I don't want to die early because I need to be around for them, but the generalized advice I'm seeing is that I don't need a cancer screening until my 40s.

**Am I overly sensitive, or am I missing something that I should potentially screen for? — M.M.**

**ANSWER:** With your mother and two aunts having breast cancer at such a young age, I would be concerned about an inheritable cancer gene such as BRCA1 and BRCA2. This gene may not have been identifiable at the time they had their cancers, as the first test became available in 1996. It is worth a discussion with a genetic counselor to consider testing for you.

Men with the BRCA1/2 genetic mutations are at risk to develop breast cancer themselves and are recommended to do monthly breast self-examinations starting at age 35, with a clinician exam yearly. A PSA test is also recommended for men who are positive for BRCA2 (and maybe for men with BRCA1), as men with these mutations are more at risk for prostate cancer at a younger age than average-risk men.

Although BRCA increases the risk of colon cancer, all men should get colorectal cancer screenings at age 45, regardless of BRCA status. Those with a strong family history of colon cancer

right time to begin screening.

I honor you for considering your family and expect you are doing as much as you can with your lifestyle to keep yourself healthy. A diet including plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables, with little to no processed meat, has been shown to reduce cancer risk as well as heart disease risk, which is still the major cause of death in industrial societies.

The most likely causes of death in men your age include motor vehicle accidents and suicide. These are not completely preventable, but driving safely, not texting while driving, never driving while intoxicated and seeking help with symptoms of depression go a long way at reducing your immediate risk so that you can continue to be there for your children.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I first tested positive for COVID eight days ago. Should I start Paxlovid now? — P.M.

**ANSWER:** This medicine has made a huge reduction in the number of people who get so sick from COVID that they need to be hospitalized, but only when used properly. This means it has to be used at the right time — ideally within 24 hours of getting sick and certainly within five days. It's not likely to be of any help to you eight days after symptom onset.

The medicine is of most value to people who are at high risk of severe COVID. This includes people who are unvaccinated, people over 65 and people with high-risk conditions such as advanced HIV, organ transplantation or other severe problems with the immune system (including cancer chemotherapy and similar powerful drugs used for autoimmune diseases). Healthy, younger, vaccinated people with initial mild to moderate symptoms are at low risk for severe COVID (as of the time of this writing, with the omicron strains currently circulating) and do not benefit much from Paxlovid.

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

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"That '90s Show" (TV-14) -- Seventeen years after the series finale of "That '70s Show," fans can now travel back to the Forman home in Point Place, Wisconsin -- but this time, during the summer of 1995. Leia, the daughter of Eric and Donna from the original series, spends her summer vacation in her grandparents' home and befriends a few of the other teenagers in the neighborhood. As she builds her own tightknit group of friends, the kids start wreaking good ol' teenage havoc in the Forman basement, just as the original '70s

gang did before them. Debra Jo Rupp and Kurtwood Smith reprise their respective roles as the bubbly Kitty and the irritable Red, and some of the original cast (Topher Grace, Mila Kunis and Ashton Kutcher) make special appearances throughout the season. Out Jan. 19! (Netflix)

"The Sex Lives of College Girls" (TV-MA) -- A diverse group of four 18-year-old freshmen girls, Kimberly, Bela, Leighton and Whitney, get assigned to room together at Essex College in Vermont. Even though they all come from different backgrounds, the girls find themselves at a level playing field as they make their first ventures out into the "real world." Without parental supervision and with more freedom than they've ever had before, they attempt to navigate adulthood in the only way 18-year-olds know how: the occasional crash and burn. Created by Mindy Kaling and Justin Noble, this comedy series is full of great laughs and heartwarming moments, beautifully encapsulating the beginning years of adulthood. The first two seasons are out now! (HBO Max)

"Vengeance" (R) -- B.J. Novak stars as Ben Manalowitz, a journalist from New York who receives a call from Ty Shaw (Boyd Holbrook), the brother of one of his former hookups, Abby. Under the impression that Abby was Ben's girlfriend, Ty announces that Abby passed away due to a drug overdose and asks Ben to come to her funeral in Texas. After Ben arrives in Texas, Ty reveals that he firmly believes Abby was murdered. Receiving approval to write a story about Abby's death on his podcast, Ben attempts to figure out the true cause behind Abby's death, dealing with her wildly eccentric family each step of the way. This comedy thriller releases Jan. 17. (Prime Video)

"One Way" (R) -- Freddy Sullivan, son of crime boss Fred Sullivan Sr., gets himself into a sticky situation when he decides to swipe a bag full of cash and drugs from another crime boss. He plans to bring the money home to his daughter, but as he tries to escape, he's wounded by a gunshot to the stomach. Freddy manages to drag himself onto a bus heading from Los Angeles to the desert, hoping to hang on long enough to reach his destination and get the money to his family. Colson Baker, also known as Machine Gun Kelly, stars as Freddy in this high stakes thriller; Kevin Bacon, Drea de Matteo and Storm Reid co-star. Premieres Jan. 20. (Hulu)



**Mace Coronel stars as Jay Kelso and Callie Haverda is Leia Forman in "That '90s Show."**

Courtesy of Netflix

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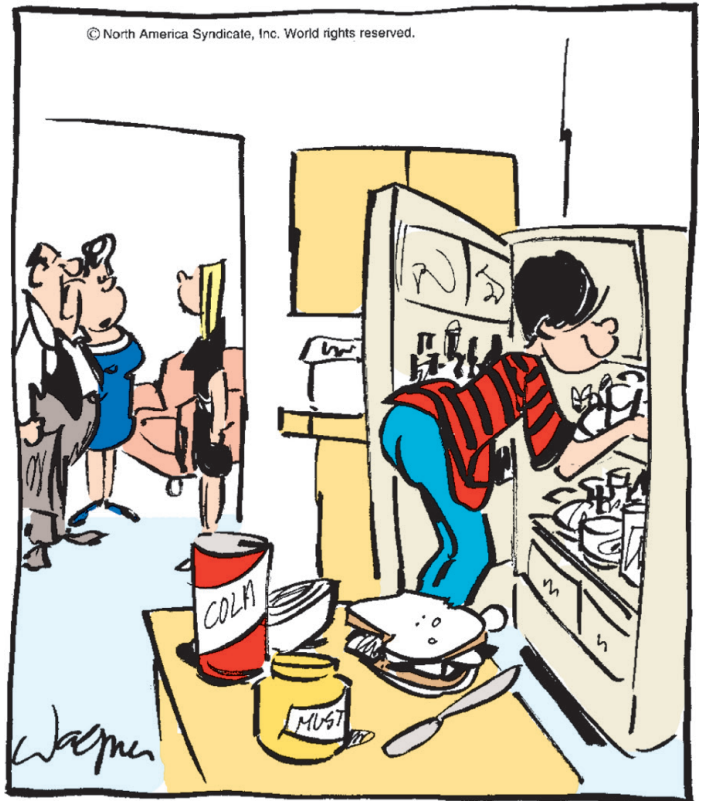


1. Who was the lead singer for The Crickets?
2. "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing (In Perfect Harmony)" ended up as advertising for which product?
3. Name the group that released "Our Day Will Come."
4. Which artist released the "One Man Dog" and "Walking Man" albums?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "Why can't you see what you're doing to me, When you don't believe a word I say?"

## Answers

1. Buddy Holly. Holly was releasing music under both his own name and anonymously with the group, working for two different record producers.
  2. Coca-Cola, in 1971. The original was a jingle called "True Love and Apple Pie," by a pair of British songwriters. In TV commercials, groups of people stood on a hill in Italy lip-synching the altered lyrics with and without references to the soft drink.
  3. Ruby & the Romantics, in 1963. In 2007 the group was inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame.
  4. James Taylor, in 1972 and 1974.
  5. "Suspicious Minds," by Elvis Presley in 1969. The song was originally written and released by Mark James, but it never got any attention until Presley released a cover the following year.
- (c) 2023 King Features Syndicate

## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>Wagner</sup>



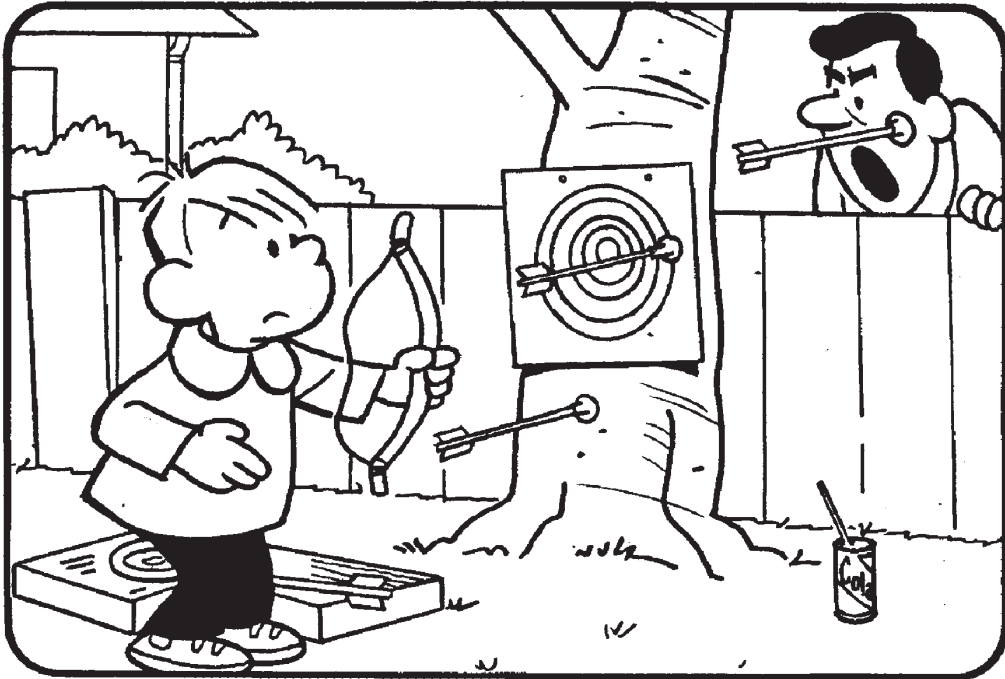
"Our friend? We thought he was your friend!"

## Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

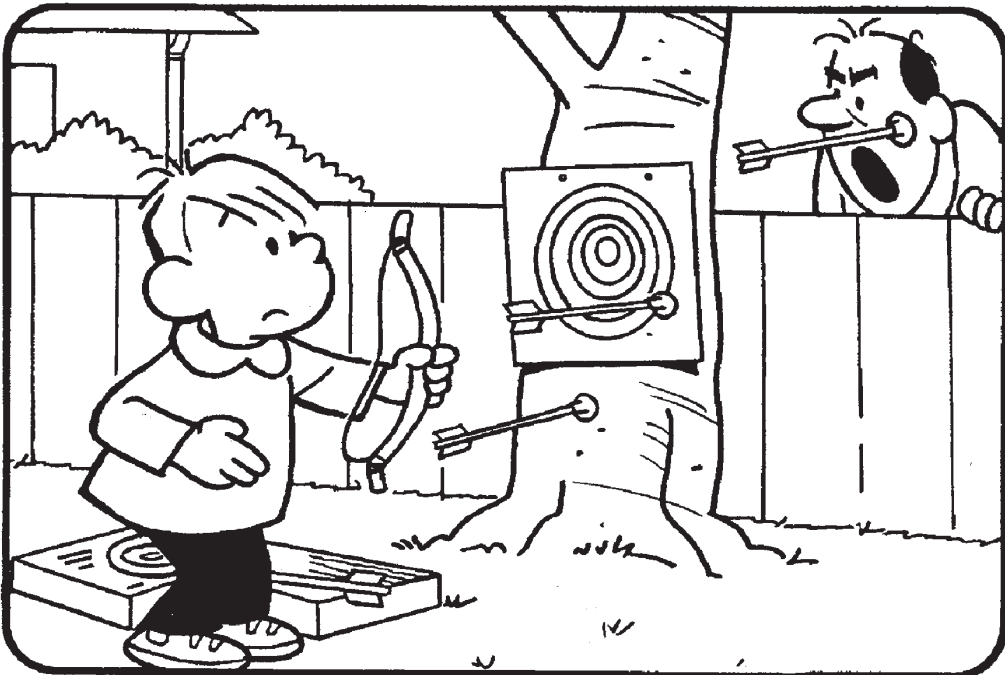


## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Fence board is moved. 2. Collar is different. 3. Bow string is different. 4. Arrow is moved. 5. Hair is different. 6. Can is missing.



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by  
Jo Ann  
Derson

\* Make ice cubes out of punch when you are entertaining. I like to make different combinations, which can be adapted for adult and child parties. One that I like very much is to make ice cubes from red fruit punch and then float them in lemonade. As the cubes melt, the mixture turns pinky-orange. -- I.F. in Missouri

\* Bring egg whites to room temperature before whipping. You will get better volume, and they will be more stable.

\* Ever make a delicious dinner that involves some stinky ingredients? This happens when I make broccoli cauliflower casserole, or pork and sauerkraut. No worries; you don't have to smell that smell all day. Just simmer a pan of vinegar on the stove while making foods that are odorous. The vinegar smell goes away quickly, taking with it any

other odors. All that's left is the smell of yummy. -- M.N. in South Carolina

\* Wash bath towels in cold water. It preserves color and still cleans them well. Add a clean, dry bath towel to smaller dryer loads to speed up drying time.

\* Turn down the maximum temperature on your family's water heater. You will do two things: One is to avoid accidental scalding, which is especially important if you have young children or seniors in your house. The other is to lower your electric bill, because the water heater will not have to work as hard to keep that big tank of water so hot. -- T.D. in New Mexico

\* Keep a few bandanas handy in cold weather. They can be used as a mouth/face cover to keep your nose from freezing. They are easy to store in a pocket, and easy to put on and remove.

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

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 **TIGER**

by **BUD BLAKE**



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Energy
- 4 Amtrak express
- 9 Sushi fish
- 12 Praise in verse
- 13 VIP on Air Force One
- 14 Tennis feat
- 15 Museum piece
- 17 Train lines (Abbr.)
- 18 Sprite
- 19 Holler
- 21 Word game with dice
- 24 Horseshoe site
- 25 Brit. record label
- 26 Not 'neath
- 28 Bolivian city
- 31 Wilson's predecessor
- 33 Observe
- 35 Castle
- 36 Caper
- 38 Music booster
- 40 GPS suggestion
- 41 Skip
- 43 Telethon array
- 45 Soft and weak
- 47 Kanga's kid
- 48 Use a shovel
- 49 Land in the Irish Sea

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		
57				58						59		

- 54 Oklahoma city
- 55 Beethoven's "Fuer — "
- 56 Kimono sash
- 57 Unruly group
- 58 Impudent
- 59 Tex- — cuisine
- 7 "The Addams Family" butler
- 8 Houston team
- 9 Picnic veggie
- 10 Beige
- 11 For fear that
- 16 Small barrel
- 20 Thy
- 21 Alpha follower
- 22 Muscat's land
- 23 Eloquent person's talent
- 27 Actor Stephen
- 29 Memory method
- 30 Stretches (out)
- 32 Marathoner's stat
- 34 Catherine, notably
- 37 Municipalities
- 39 "Nuts!
- 42 Inventor Nikola
- 44 Gut-punch reaction
- 45 Wax-coated cheese
- 46 Rover's pal
- 50 Fleur-de- —
- 51 Oft-tattooed word
- 52 Jurist Fortas
- 53 Kibosh

### DOWN

- 1 Pledge
- 2 Wedding words
- 3 Mal de —
- 4 Moon mission
- 5 Brewed beverages
- 6 JFK info

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## — King Crossword —

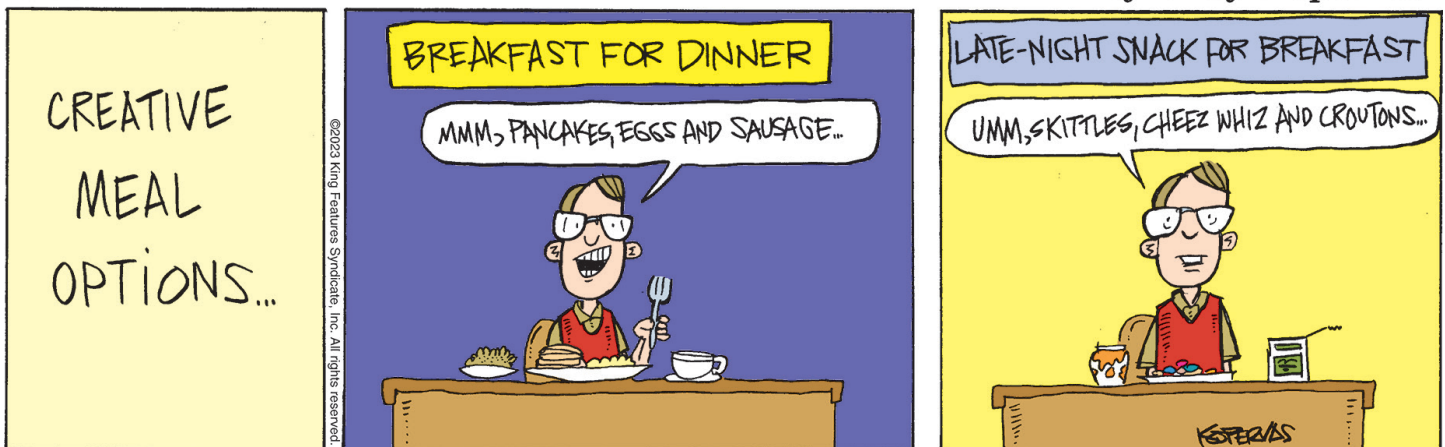
Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas





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**THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS**  
**POPEYE**  
BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

WAIT HERE, WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK. HEARD THAT BEFORE, I WON'T HOLD MY BREATH. WHAT'S THAT SPOSED TO—

... MEAN?

**Welcome to... Spinach Juice Springs!**  
(Now LEAVE! or ELSE!)  
—Susie!

**THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS "HAM AND DREGS" PART 3**  
HAM GRAVY, FRIEND OF CASTOR OYL AND EX-BOYFRIEND OF OLIVE, CONTINUES HIS QUEST TO PROVE HE'S BETTER THAN POPEYE BY BESTING THE SAILOR'S GREATEST FOES....

THAT'S SUSIE THE SEA NYMPH? SHE DOESN'T LOOK TOUGH. 'CUZ POPEYE'S A DOPE, OBSERVE. SUSIE! I'M HERE TO CHALLENGE YOU! HIGHLY UNLIKELY. YOU AND ME, LET'S GO! DUKES UP RIGHT NOW! MAYBE POPEYE'S SCARED TO FIGHT A BROAD, BUT I'M NOT! YOU'RE ACTUALLY SERIOUS.

SHE GAVE POPEYE A HARD TIME.

BUT TO SHOW I'M A GOOD SPORT, I'LL LET YOU TAKE THE FIRST PUNCH! MAKE IT COUNT!

WHY ARE YOU STEPPING ON MY FOOT?

**POW!**

**SPLAT**

SHE ACTUALLY TOOK TWO FREE PUNCHES, SO I KINDA WON THE MORAL VICTORY.

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## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

I RENAMED SOME OF MY COWS. WHY?

**BETSY** **SOY** **OAT** **ALMOND**

MILK JOKE. GROAN!

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

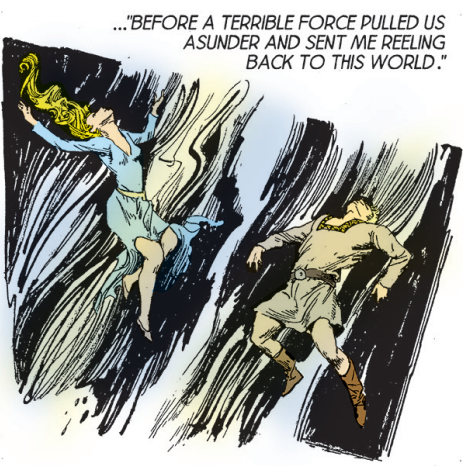
ALITA CONTINUES HER STORY: "I WAS DRAWN TOWARD CERTAIN DEATH IN THAT HORRIBLE NETHERWORLD. WHEN SUDDENLY A SHINING FIGURE LEAPT BEFORE ME ..."



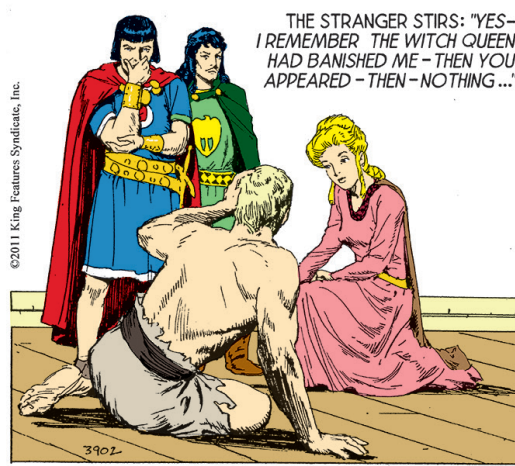
"THEN I WAS FALLING - FALLING - BUT THE HEROIC FIGURE CAUGHT ME WITH STRONG ARMS ..."



"... AND WITH ONE POWERFUL BLOW DESTROYED THE NIGHTMARE THAT DRAGGED ME FORWARD!"



"...BEFORE A TERRIBLE FORCE PULLED US ASUNDER AND SENT ME REELING BACK TO THIS WORLD."



THE STRANGER STIRS: "YES - I REMEMBER THE WITCH QUEEN HAD BANISHED ME - THEN YOU APPEARED - THEN - NOTHING ..."

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VAL SNIFFS. HE KNOWS HE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL, BUT SOMEHOW HE RESENTS BEING UPSTAGED BY ALITA'S DASHING RESCUER.

NEXT:  
**Alita commands**

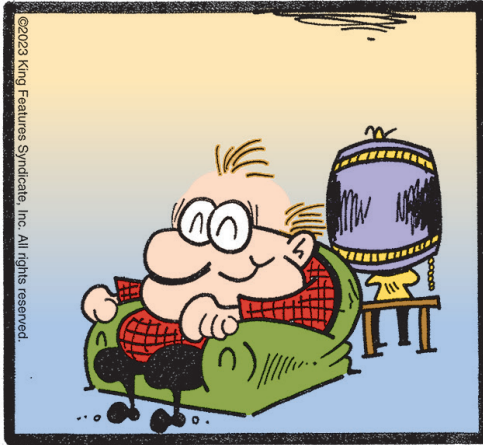
© 11-20-11

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



I DON'T SUFFER FROM LAZINESS.



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... I ENJOY EVERY MINUTE OF IT.

PICKERING

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Having a Pet Is Good for Us

The studies are clear: Owning a pet is good for us.

For those of us who stay home much of the time, having a pet can be a boon to our physical and mental health. Play with a cat, you get laughter and stress relief. Walk a dog, you get exercise. (And don't forget the social aspect when you meet up with other dog owners along the way.) Blood sugar levels even out and blood pressure goes down, per the studies.

On the other hand, those studies were written before the pandemic. Now we find that too many pet owners are having to relinquish their pets ... and those who would consider pet adoption are hesitant.

No matter how much we'd like to own a pet, there can be concerns that we need to consider before we adopt, and the big one is pet food.

In many areas, there have been difficulties keeping our pets fed. Ask neighbors who have pets if they've had trouble getting pet food over the past two years. Sometimes the manufacturers haven't kept up due to supply chain problems.

But there are options that might ease your worry. Learn about ordering pet food online and having it delivered to your door. It's also possible that your local food bank keeps a supply of pet food on hand. Meals on Wheels often delivers pet food. The animal shelter itself is sure to have a pet food bank. I searched for "free pet food pantries" near me and found dozens -- even a library and a church!

Take a look at Pets for the Elderly ([petsfortheelderly.org](https://petsfortheelderly.org)), especially the stories about seniors who've adopted pets. They work with 54 shelters in 32 states to help pet adopters over age 60.

If you still aren't sure, consider becoming a foster parent to one or more pets. You'll be able to try it out and see how the situation feels.

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1. What University of Illinois Fighting Illini football star scored a kickoff return touchdown, four rushing touchdowns and threw a touchdown pass in a 1924 game vs. the Michigan Wolverines?

2. Who compiled a 15-17 record as head coach of the Miami Dolphins from 2005-06?

3. The Mean Green is the nickname of what Conference USA school's athletic programs?

4. What baseball executive resigned from the Boston Red Sox on Halloween in 2005 and left Fenway Park wearing a gorilla suit to avoid reporters?

5. Name the filmmaker who directed the 2016 comedy "Everybody Wants Some!!", which was inspired by his time playing baseball for the Sam Houston State Bearkats in the early 1980s.

6. In the 1951 "Shot Heard 'Round the World" National League playoff game, the New York Giants' Bobby Thomson hit a walk-off home run against what Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher?

7. What university became the 11th member of the Big Ten Conference in 1990?



by Ryan A. Berenz

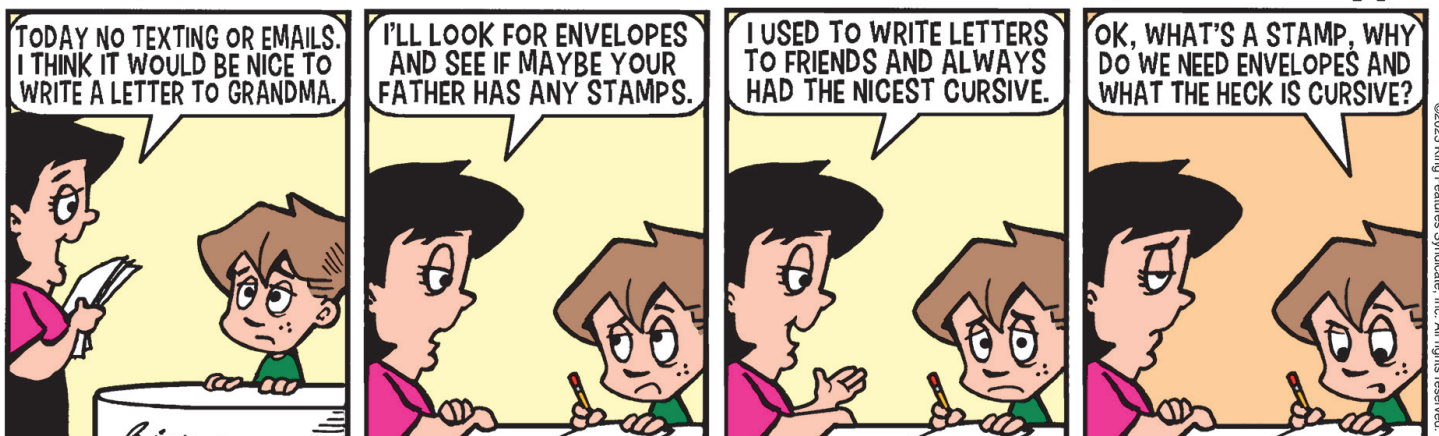
## Answers

1. Red Grange.
2. Nick Saban.
3. The University of North Texas.
4. Theo Epstein.
5. Richard Linklater.
6. Ralph Branca.
7. Penn State University.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## Emotional Support Animals Are a Lifelong Responsibility

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I am wondering how I can get an emotional support animal. I noticed a woman in the local pharmacy today whose dog wore a harness with "ESA" printed on it. Is there an organization that supplies these animals to people who need them?  
-- Curious in Daytona Beach

DEAR CURIOUS: You'll find many websites offering ESA certifications or advice on getting an ESA prescription from your doctor. But there is no single organization for ESAs, and there is not one group I know of that supplies them on request (certainly,

none that I would recommend).

At this time, the way to "get" an emotional support animal is to adopt or purchase a pet. You are solely responsible for the care and training of this animal -- dog, cat, rabbit or bird. It's part of your family. From there, you can designate your pet as an ESA by doing the following:

Ask your doctor or mental health professional for a letter stating that the presence of your pet is needed for your emotional health.

That's it. That's all that is needed to designate a pet as an ESA.

Now, keep in mind that an emotional support animal does not qualify for the same considerations as a service animal. While many stores allow ESAs on the premises (leashed and well-behaved), other businesses do not. Airlines will not accommodate them, for example.

The advantage of an ESA designation/prescription is in housing. Properties must waive pet restrictions and fees for owners of emotional support animals, under the Fair Housing Act.

The American Kennel Club has a more detailed article explaining the difference between ESAs and service animals here: [www.akc.org/expert-advice/news/everything-about-emotional-support-animals](http://www.akc.org/expert-advice/news/everything-about-emotional-support-animals).

Do you have an emotional support animal? Tell us about your experience at [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* Research has shown that girls and women who watched the TV series "The X-Files" were more likely to believe in the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and to encourage their own daughters and granddaughters to pursue careers in those fields -- something called "The Scully Effect" after the series' female main character, Dana Scully.

\* Pentheraphobia is the fear of your mother-in-law. There, folks, you now have an official name for it.

\* In 2006, actor William Shatner, beloved by "Star Trek" fans as Captain James Tiberius Kirk, sold his

kidney stone, complete with stent and string, to a casino for \$25,000. While Shatner retained "visitation rights," the complete proceeds were donated to Habitat for Humanity.

\* Whack, zoom, out of the way! A table tennis ball can travel off the paddle at a speed of 105.6 mph.

\* All of the world's pandas are technically owned by China. The country leases them to zoos in an act called panda diplomacy.

\* Ever dreamed of being a swashbuckling buccaneer? Try attending MIT, where after completing courses in pistol shooting, fencing, archery and sailing, undergraduates can earn a bona fide Pirate Certificate. (Note: For entertainment purposes only!)

\* On Dec. 19, 1881, Sir William Payne Gallwey, a retired conservative member of the British Parliament, died while out shooting on his estate, Thirkleby Park -- but not from a gunshot. Instead, Gallwey suffered a fall and landed on a turnip, sustaining serious internal injuries to which he succumbed a few days later.

\* Bananas get their curves by turning skyward as they grow, to absorb sunlight.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul." -- Samuel Ullman

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### The Garden Bug

#### Feeding birds in winter

Help your feathered neighbors by providing consistent food sources for them in the coldest months. Suet (an animal-fat mixture) is loved by nuthatches, woodpeckers, titmice, chickadees, cardinals, warblers, wrens and most insect-eating birds. Mealworms, cracked corn, nyger seed, peanuts and sunflower seeds are also good choices. - *Brenda Weaver*

Sources: [almanac.com](http://almanac.com), [birdwatchersdigest.com](http://birdwatchersdigest.com)





by Freddy Groves

## Helping Veterans in 2023

Recently retired or unemployed, at loose ends and wondering what your next steps should be? If you're looking for ways to help other veterans in your area, this year could be your most meaningful.

-- Is anyone building homes for veterans in your area? Are any organizations ready to break ground and start building in the spring? Do you have construction, plumbing or electrical skills? Even if you don't, there are jobs you can do to move the project along: reading blueprints and ordering materials,

supervising deliveries, providing overnight security, painting walls and trim and much more.

As a place to start, ask if the Habitat for Humanity near you is building a home for a veteran. You might end up as a Habitat employee in charge of volunteer resources or running a Habitat ReStore full of building materials.

-- Raise a service dog puppy. These little guys need to spend the first year of their lives in a loving environment to get them ready for their all-important service dog training. You'll get the pup ready by teaching him initial basic commands, keeping him healthy and getting him socialized out in public. At every step of the way you'll be giving the puppy what he'll need to help a veteran with PTSD, a physical disability or mental trauma.

Look around online for organizations in your area that are raising and training service dogs for veterans.

-- Volunteer on an Honor Flight. Keep an eye on the schedule in your area for the Honor Flights, those all-expenses-paid trips that take hundreds of veterans to Washington, D.C. They need volunteers for every trip to escort mostly elderly veterans to see all of their monuments and spend the day together. The 2023 schedule of trips will be up on the website in February ([www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org)). Look for the map on the list of hubs around the country.

Is 2023 going to be your year to help yourself by stepping up to help other veterans?

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## Wishing Well®

5	2	6	8	4	8	3	7	4	2	6	8	2
A	A	A	M	A	I	F	N	G	S	D	N	U
7	5	8	6	7	2	7	6	2	8	5	8	5
E	L	D	V	W	N	K	E	N	O	L	V	O
8	2	7	6	8	3	2	3	5	2	4	8	6
E	Y	N	N	R	O	O	R	W	U	R	M	T
5	8	7	4	7	6	7	2	8	2	5	3	7
F	A	O	I	W	U	L	T	T	L	O	G	E
3	7	3	7	4	3	6	3	4	5	2	3	2
I	D	V	G	N	E	R	O	T	R	O	T	O
7	6	2	4	6	8	4	5	4	3	6	3	4
E	E	K	O	C	T	D	L	A	H	A	E	Y
5	6	8	5	8	6	5	3	5	6	5	3	5
E	L	E	I	R	L	S	R	U	S	R	S	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: What is the second-longest river in North America?
2. MOVIES: Which 1973 movie advertised itself as a place “where nothing can possibly go wrong”?
3. GAMES: Which party game claims that it can “tie you up in knots”?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was the first to appoint an African American as a member of his Cabinet?
5. HISTORY: When was the Warsaw Pact between the Soviet Union and seven Eastern Bloc countries signed?
6. TELEVISION: Which TV game show often uses the phrase “Survey says ...”?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a female peacock called?
8. FOOD & DRINK: How many meals do Hobbits eat in a day, according to the movies?
9. ADVERTISING: Which product used a manicurist named Madge in its advertisements?
10. MEDICAL: What is a common name for the condition called septicemia?

### Answers

1. The Mississippi.
2. “Westworld.”
3. Twister.
4. Lyndon Johnson.
5. 1955.
6. “Family Feud.”
7. A peahen.
8. Seven.
9. Palmolive dishwashing liquid.
10. Blood poisoning.

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## Building the American Dream

South Dakota's economy has been thriving over the past few years, but even though our unemployment rate in 2022 was the lowest it's been in our state's history, we still have 23,000 open jobs in our state. These are growing pains, and we're tackling them head on. That is how we will continue to build and advance the American Dream.

Occupational licenses are a great place to start. My first year in office, I signed legislation that recognized occupational licenses for military spouses who moved to our state. Then I proposed and signed legislation to recognize the healthcare licenses of folks moving here from other states, helping us fill jobs. Now, we have an opportunity to finish the job we started by providing a path to recognize the licenses of nearly every profession in the state.

States with similar policies have seen workforce growth almost immediately. Arizona's workforce has grown by about 5,000 workers since their law was implemented, and thousands more are sure to come. That's the kind of drastic workforce boost that we need here in South Dakota.

I am working with legislators like Senator Jim Stalzer on this bill. He is leading this effort because he knows the lasting impact this will have on South Dakota's workforce. I want to thank him for his support.

The Governor's Office of Economic Development worked with partners to help facilitate \$1.7 billion in new economic investments in South Dakota over the last year, creating 2,400 new jobs. During my first term we delivered more economic investment in South Dakota than in the previous 10 years combined. That's the kind of success you only see in a state where government is limited, personal responsibility is central to everything, and the private sector is unleashed.

South Dakota continues to attract the careers of the future. Last year, we expanded Dakota State University's cyber research capabilities, which will bring 500 six-figure jobs to Sioux Falls. More importantly, it will allow future generations to pursue the career of their dreams right here in South Dakota. I promised to bring the next big industry to South Dakota – and this is it.

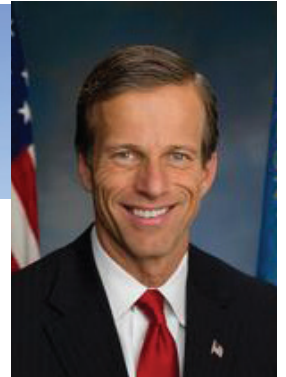
We also broke ground on Gevo's Net-Zero 1 Site, the largest economic development project in state history. The first billion-dollar investment in South Dakota will literally turn corn into jet fuel.

We aren't just bringing new businesses to South Dakota – our existing businesses are growing and thriving. Valley Queen in Milbank began a \$200 million expansion that will create an additional 140 jobs for the community. South Dakota's total milk production has risen 11% in the last year, and that will continue to increase with the completion of this project.

We were the only state to reject the additional elevated unemployment benefits offered by the federal government. Our people kept working, our unemployment rate remained low, our economy remained strong, and new businesses moved here. Now, our healthy unemployment trust fund balance gives us the opportunity to cut the unemployment tax, delivering an estimated \$18 million savings to South Dakota businesses.

When people move to South Dakota to join this record-breaking economy, they are literally pursuing happiness. They are choosing South Dakota to build the American Dream, and we need to be ready for them. We will do this by continuing to tackle our workforce challenges, inviting businesses and Freedom-loving Americans to join us, and providing a level playing field where everyone can succeed.

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



## Tax Relief, Not IRS Grief

Government can't create prosperity, but it can and should cultivate opportunity. Too often, government stifles opportunity and gets in the way of hardworking South Dakotans. Before Republican-led tax reform five years ago, the federal tax code was doing just that, leaving our economy stuck in neutral. Tax reform played a key role in reversing this sluggishness and fostering a healthy economic environment that promoted growth and opportunity for all. Fully preserving key elements of tax reform and stopping Democrats' reckless big-government policies are essential to restoring this economic strength.

Tax reform delivered on Republicans' promise of a pro-growth and pro-worker economy by modernizing the tax system with lower rates and simpler rules. Tax cuts meant South Dakotans, and all Americans in every income bracket, saw bigger paychecks. Businesses of all sizes, including farms and ranches, took advantage of lower rates and a simpler tax system by increasing investment in themselves and their employees. And by reducing our sky-high corporate tax rate, which until tax reform was the highest in the industrialized world, we made the United States a more competitive place to do business, bringing jobs and production back to America.

The effect of these reforms was that our economy was firing on all cylinders. Companies passed tax savings on to workers with increased paychecks and benefits. South Dakota utility companies lowered utility bills in our state. The national unemployment and poverty rates fell to record lows as the income gap narrowed, and lower- and middle-income Americans saw some of the greatest benefits. And the government has even collected record-high revenues while individual Americans are paying less in taxes.

Reversing key elements of tax reform, or allowing provisions to expire, as Democrats have suggested, would reduce opportunity and raise taxes on South Dakotans whose budgets are already strained by the historic inflation Democrats' reckless spending helped create. To make matters worse, at the beginning of this year, a series of Democrat-led tax hikes went into effect. These new and unnecessary tax hikes will drive energy bills even higher and lead to lower wages and depressed job growth.

In addition to new tax burdens on Americans, the Biden administration will move forward this year with plans to supersize the IRS. Under the Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act, the IRS was given \$80 billion – or almost six times its annual budget – to hire as many as 87,000 new agency employees. With more than half the funding going toward enforcement and just 4 percent going to improve the agency's lackluster customer service, I'm concerned the only real changes will be increased audits on middle-income families and small businesses.

Stopping this unnecessary expansion of government is a top Republican priority. When the Senate considered the Inflation Reduction Act in August, Republicans offered amendments – which Democrats unanimously rejected – that would have blocked the IRS expansion and protected small businesses and middle-income taxpayers from increased audits. In addition, I have introduced multiple bills to help rein in the IRS and add much-needed accountability. And the new Republican majority in the House has already made repealing IRS expansion one of its first orders of business in the new Congress.

More government is most often the problem, not the solution. When it comes to getting our economy moving again, bigger government, increased regulations, and higher taxes are definitely not the solution. Republicans know that the strength of the American economy is the working families, small business owners, farmers, and ranchers who work hard every day for a chance at their American dream. Tax reform helped create an economic environment that set people up for a more secure future. We should build on these successes and strive to provide more opportunity for South Dakotans, not less.

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CONGRESSMAN

**DUSTY JOHNSON**

Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



## Cracking Down on China

In week one of our House Republican Majority, we brought a number of bills to the House Floor to counter the threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party.

A huge win on our second day of voting was the overwhelming passage of H.Res. 11 to establish the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, which is commonly referred to as the "Select Committee on China." The Select Committee is prepared to investigate China's influence over our supply chain, COVID-19 origins, TikTok, China's purchases of American farmland, deceptive trade practices, and much more. We know China poses threats to our national security, food security, and economic security.

On Thursday, we voted on a bill (H.R.22) to prohibit the Biden Administration from selling oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to China. President Biden's decision to sell oil from our SPR amidst record-high gas prices and inflation has caused the SPR to be at the lowest level in fifty years. One of the recipients of our oil is the Chinese Communist Party, which now has the largest government-controlled oil reserve in the world. There's no reason, no excuse, to be selling oil from our reserves to our adversaries. H.R. 22 is a great first step, but I believe we should take it one step further—prohibiting oil sales from our SPR to companies that are headquartered in countries such as Russia, Belarus, Burma, China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria, and Venezuela.

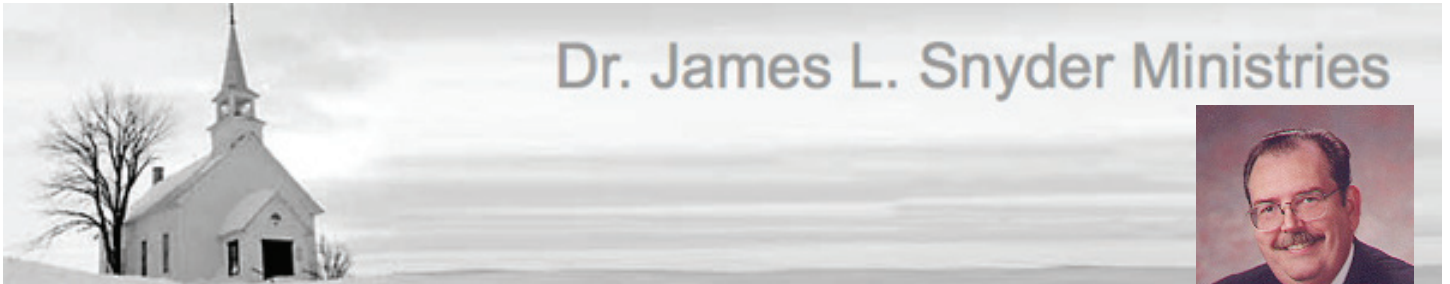
This Congress is off to a strong start in taking a stand against our adversaries. I'm looking forward to seeing what the Select Committee on China uncovers, getting some long-awaited answers, and action steps to protect America and our citizens from the threat of the Chinese Communist Party.

###



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## I Screamed for Ice Cream and Got in Trouble.

Trouble is not my middle name, although it sure could be; just ask The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

I try to keep out of trouble, but my definition differs from my wife's. What she considers to be trouble is just about everything I do. I will not ask her how I can keep from doing what I do. I don't need that trouble.

If I could remember some of the trouble I've been in it probably could help me keep out of some new trouble. But of course, my "new trouble" is something I've done before, many times, according to someone in our house.

My thought is, and I am unanimous in this, without trouble, there is no real life. If you don't get into some trouble, then something is wrong.

Sometimes, according to my experience, trouble is worth it.

Well, sometimes it's worth it.

One of my routines at night is to have a nice cold bowl of ice cream. I don't care what flavor it is because I've never had any ice cream that I didn't like. The one I like best is the one I'm eating at the time.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is very good at buying my ice cream and is always looking for coupons or BOGO, for which she is rather famous.

Not long ago, she came into the house excited and laughing, as I'd never seen her laugh before. It took a while for her to calm down, but when she did, I was able to find out what she was all excited about.

At the one store where she usually gets groceries, she found, much to her surprise, ice cream that was buy one and get two free. Of course, that sure made her day, but it also made my day as well.

I wonder if that was a mistake, but if it was, she took advantage of that ice cream sale.

She's very cautious with how much ice cream I should eat. When she came home with this bargain, I tried to explain that this meant I could have twice the amount of ice cream as before.

When I said that, the smile on her face quickly evaporated, and looking at me, she said, "It does not mean anything of the sort. You will eat what ice cream I give you, and that's all."

Well, you can't fault me for trying. If you don't try, how do you know something isn't going to work?

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I was happy that we had a nice supply of ice cream just in case of any emergency. One emergency that I was thinking of was an overwhelming hunger for ice cream. According to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, this is not an emergency.

I am banking on the fact that because we have so many boxes of ice cream, I could sneak a bowl while she wasn't home, and she wouldn't know about it. After all, with all those boxes, how in the world can you keep count?

One day while she was away for the day, I broke into the freezer and got a nice cold bowl of ice cream. It was one of the most delicious bowls of ice cream I've had in a long time.

Of course, I washed the dish and put it back into the cupboard to avoid leaving any evidence.

I was in my office doing a little bit of work when she came home, and within 10 minutes, I heard her yelling, "Did you sneak any ice cream from the freezer today?"

How she found out, I do not know. After all these years of marriage, I'm beginning to think she has a little ghost in the house keeping track of my movements. I can't prove it, but I'm starting to feel it.

Every night around 8 o'clock, she gets ice cream for the both of us. Mine in a bowl and hers in a cone. I wouldn't have it any other way.

One night after supper, I sat in the living room watching a little TV. I noticed the clock said 8 o'clock, the time for the ice cream. So I waited a few minutes, and still, no ice cream showed up.

She was busy in her craft room with some crafts, and I just thought she had forgotten what time it was. That always happens to me, but it rarely happens to her. She knows what time it is a half-hour before the time. Figure that out.

Thinking I could solve the problem, which was a ridiculous ploy on my part, I decided to tell her what time it was.

With my strongest outdoor voice, I yelled, "It's ice cream time. Yes, I'll have ice cream."

She came to the living room, looked at me, and said, "Did you hear that terrible noise just a few moments ago?"

Shaking her head she then turned around and walked back to her craft room, and to my disappointment, there was no ice cream that night. So I was tempted to go to the freezer and get my ice cream, but I wasn't sure what kind of trouble I was in that night.

David seemed to understand this when he wrote, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

No matter what my trouble is, because God is my refuge I have nothing to worry about.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail [jamesnyder51@gmail.com](mailto:jamesnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.jamesnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnyderministries.com).

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: The Endangered Species Act has been around for five decades. How successful has it been in protecting and restoring threatened and endangered species? – A.J. Munson, Bern, NC

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has been successful in preventing the extinction of hundreds of wildlife species and in promoting the recovery of thousands more since its inception in 1973. Some of the species that have been successfully recovered and removed from the list of threatened and endangered species include American alligators, bald eagles, peregrine falcons and humpback whales.

According to the Center of Biological Diversity, a leading U.S.-based non-profit with the simple mission of “saving life on Earth,” the ESA has protected more than 1,600 species in the U.S., preventing the extinction of 99 percent of the species listed under it. Without the ESA, at least 227 species would likely have gone extinct by now since the law’s passage in 1973. In addition, 110 species have seen tremendous recovery since being protected by the act.

The ESA also supports conservation outside the U.S., as the federal government uses the law to enforce the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), a global agreement between nations to regulate trade on species under threat. Examples of the ESA’s reach beyond U.S. borders is in helping save giant pandas as well as several species of tiger.

However, it’s important to note that the ESA has not been successful in all cases, and some species have not recovered as expected or have even gone extinct despite being protected under the Act, especially in more recent years. There are many factors that can affect the success or failure of species recovery efforts, including habitat loss, climate change, disease and human activities. But researchers from Columbia and Princeton concluded that one threat looms even larger: lack of adequate funding for conservation efforts.

Their October 2022 study found that, since 1985, ESA funding has decreased by almost 50 percent when measured on a per species basis. Furthermore, they uncovered that the average wait time for a species to be listed has almost doubled over the decades from 5.9 years during the 1990s to some 9.1 years more recently. The upshot is that by the time a species receives protection, it may have already reached extremely low population levels to the point where the ESA may be ineffective.

Overall, the ESA has played a crucial role in the conservation of threatened and endangered species in the U.S., and it continues to be a key tool for protecting and recovering these species. This groundbreaking piece of legislation, now in its 50th year, has done incredible things for American wildlife. It has protected species of plants and animals and brought them back to sustainable population numbers. However, a few success stories don’t make the act perfect. There is still work to be done to improve the ESA’s effectiveness and ensure that it can preserve the species that we all love and know today. .

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).



**These peregrine falcon chicks might not have been born if their ancestors hadn’t been protected by the Endangered Species Act.** Credit: Teterin Oleg. Pexels.com.



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## South Dakota COVID-19 Report

New Cases\*

523 **+12**

Total Cases\*

272,890

Currently Hospitalized

52 **-2**

New Hospitalizations

14

Total Hospitalized

12,275

[Click to Visit](#)

[SD COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage](#)

New Deaths

9

Total Deaths

3,133

[Click to Visit](#)

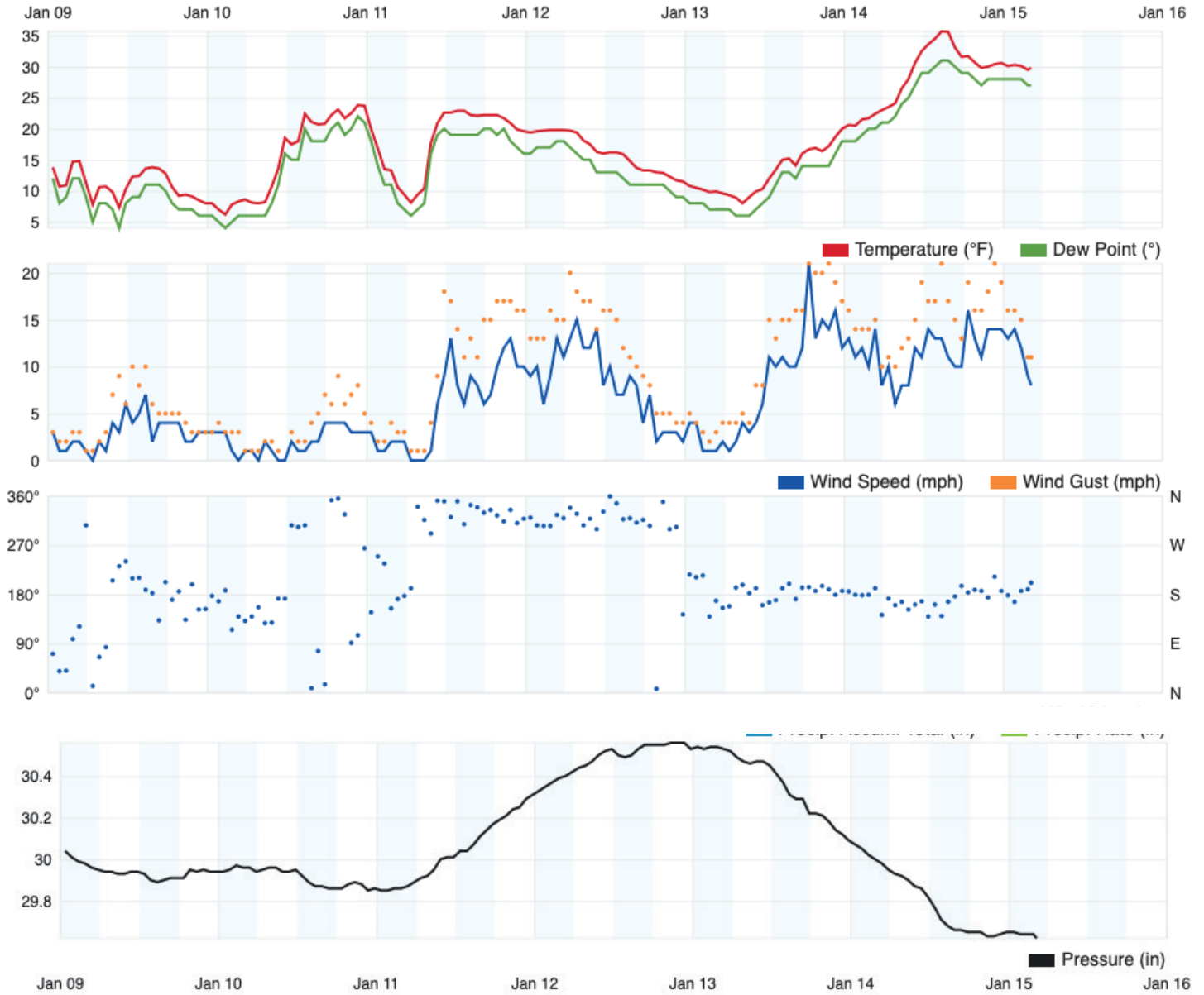
[COVID-19 Community Levels](#)

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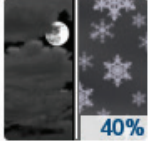

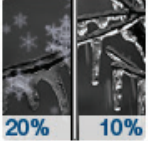



## Past Week's Groton Weather Graphs

January 9, 2023 - January 15, 2023

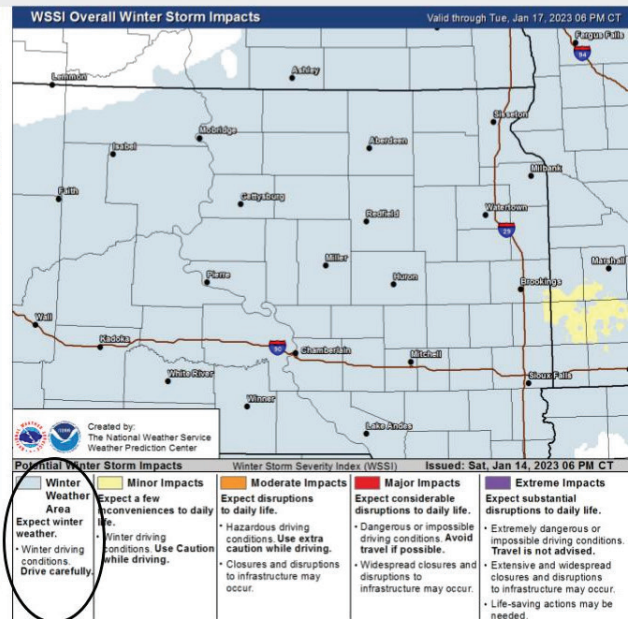
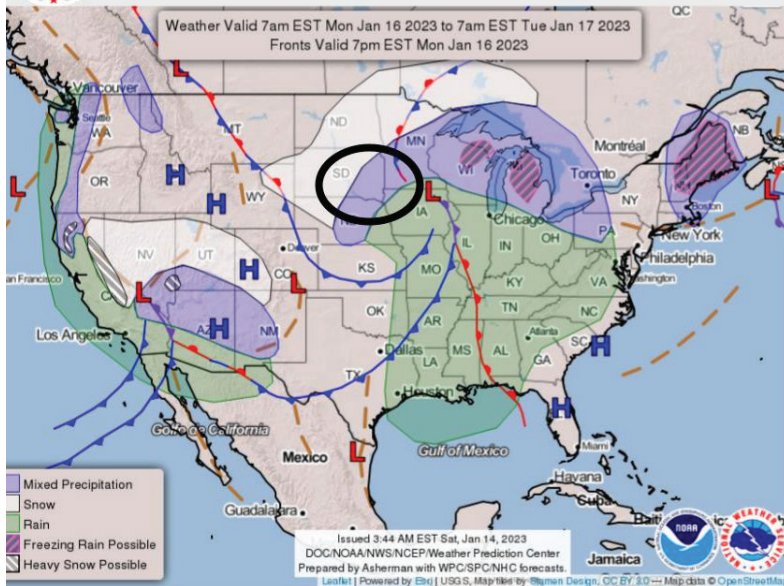


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Today	Tonight	M.L.King Day	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Snow	Snow Likely and Patchy Blowing Snow	Chance Wintry Mix then Slight Chance Freezing Drizzle	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
High: 32 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 29 °F	Low: 15 °F	High: 21 °F	Low: 9 °F	High: 19 °F

## Wintry Weather Expected Late Tonight/Overnight Through Tuesday Morning January 15, 2023 3:44 AM



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

A low pressure system moving across the central parts of the Midwest will push northeast tonight into Monday. This will bring a chance of light snow/light ice accumulations across the area as the precipitation wraps around the low.



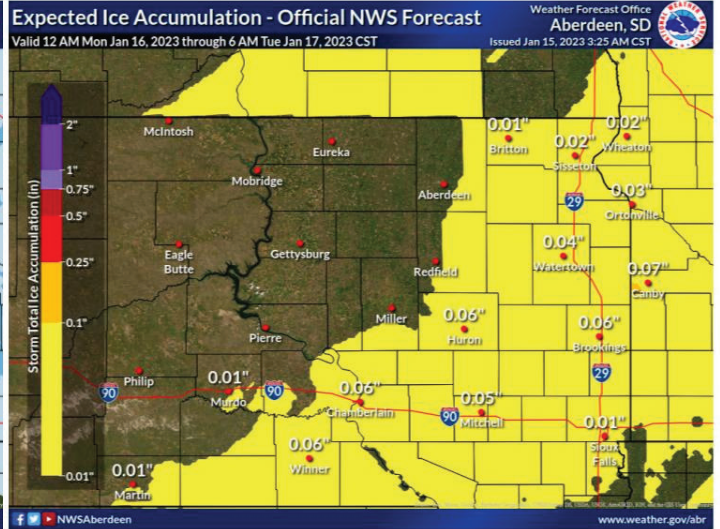
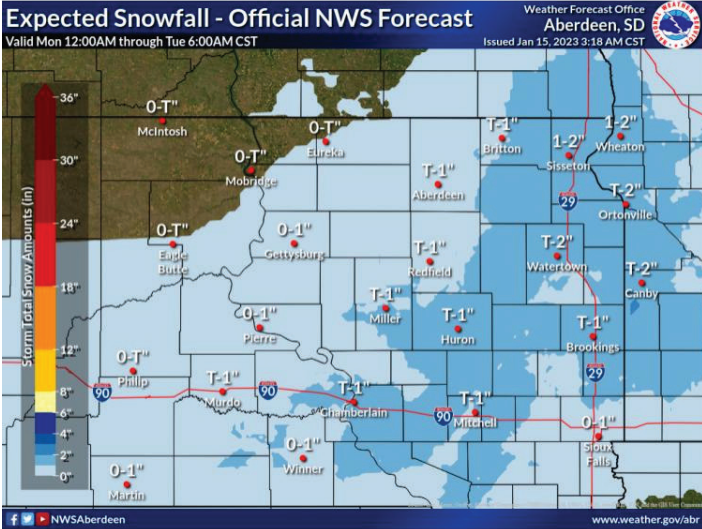
# Groton Daily Independent

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## Total Snow and Ice Amounts

January 15, 2023  
3:44 AM



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Snow totals for a trace up to two inches possible, with the higher amounts across northeastern through southeastern SD into western MN. Ice accumulations up to 0.04 of an inch in our coverage area

## Winter Weather Threats Timeline

Freezing Drizzle (Pink)

Light Snow (Blue)

Freezing Drizzle

	1/16 Mon								Weather Forecast				
	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm
<b>Aberdeen</b>		45%	60%	60%	35%	35%	20%	20%	5%	5%	5%	5%	0%
<b>Britton</b>		50%	70%	70%	55%	55%	35%	35%	15%	15%	10%	10%	5%
<b>Eagle Butte</b>	20%	30%	35%	35%	5%	5%	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Eureka</b>		30%	40%	40%	20%	20%	15%	15%	5%	5%	5%	5%	0%
<b>Gettysburg</b>	20%	40%	50%	50%	20%	20%	10%	10%	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Kennebec</b>	35%	45%	55%	55%	15%	15%	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>McIntosh</b>			15%	15%	5%	5%	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Milbank</b>	20%	65%	90%	90%	70%	70%	45%	45%	15%	15%	5%	5%	0%
<b>Miller</b>	30%	55%	70%	70%	35%	35%	15%	15%	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Mobridge</b>		25%	35%	35%	15%	15%	10%	10%	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Murdo</b>	35%	45%	55%	55%	10%	10%	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Pierre</b>	30%	45%	55%	55%	15%	15%	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Redfield</b>	20%	50%	70%	70%	40%	40%	20%	20%	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Sisseton</b>		60%	80%	80%	65%	65%	45%	45%	15%	15%	10%	10%	5%
<b>Watertown</b>	25%	65%	85%	85%	55%	55%	35%	35%	10%	10%	5%	5%	0%
<b>Webster</b>	20%	55%	75%	75%	50%	50%	35%	35%	10%	10%	5%	5%	0%
<b>Wheaton</b>		60%	80%	80%	65%	65%	45%	45%	20%	20%	10%	10%	5%



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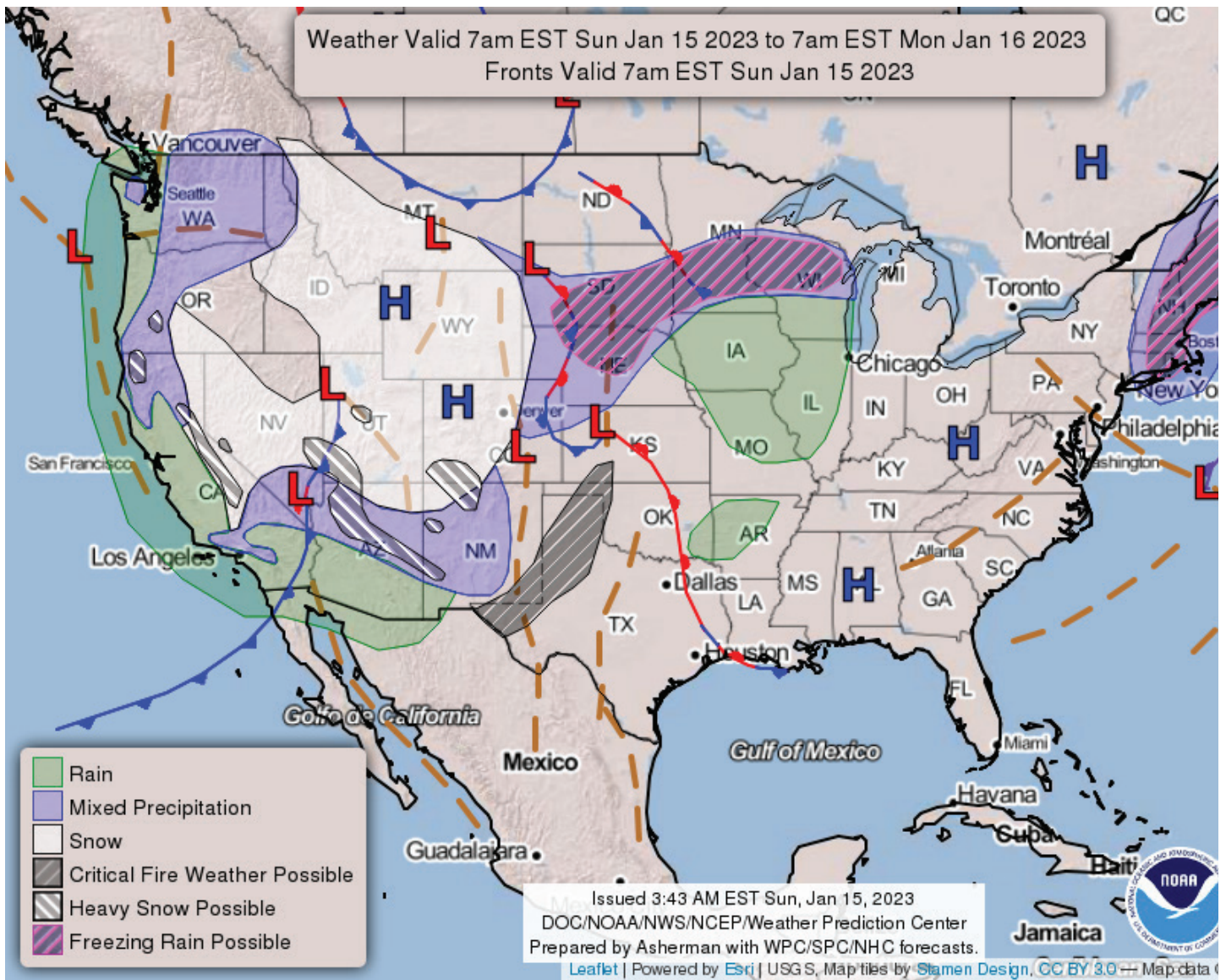
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 36 °F at 2:28 PM**  
**Low Temp: 20 °F at 12:51 AM**  
**Wind: 21 mph at 2:38 PM**  
**Precip: : 0.00**

Day length: 9 hours, 10 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 48 in 1942  
Record Low: -42 in 2009  
Average High: 23°F  
Average Low: 2°F  
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.30  
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00  
Average Precip to date: 0.30  
Precip Year to Date: 0.00  
Sunset Tonight: 5:16:58 PM  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:06:03 AM





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## Today in Weather History

January 15, 1982: Snowfall amounts of one to four inches and powerful northwest winds of 35 to 45 mph with gusts to 60 mph caused blizzard conditions with widespread drifting across much of South Dakota and Minnesota from the early morning of the 15th to mid-afternoon on the 16th. Wind chills were lowered to 50 to 80 degrees below zero, and visibilities were near zero across most areas. One death was attributed to exposure. There were numerous weather-related accidents. Some of the major accidents included; a truck blown off Interstate 90 near Murdo, injuring the driver, a truck blown off Highway 281, turned upside down in a ditch, and a truck slamming into a bridge on Interstate 90 near Murdo. The extreme cold killed numerous fruit trees at a nursery in Watertown.

January 15, 1985: Heavy snow fell in central and south-central South Dakota from the early evening of the 15th to around noon on the 16th, with areas around Pierre receiving up to 18 inches. Generally, 5 to 10 inches fell with numerous minor traffic accidents reported. Interstate 90 had a no travel advisory in a 95-mile stretch from Kimball to Murdo until the afternoon of the 16th due to low visibility and heavy drifting. Also, many schools and businesses were closed. Some snowfall amounts included 4 inches at Kennebec, 6 inches at Murdo, and 10 inches at Pierre.

January 15, 2009: An Arctic high pressure settled in on the morning of the 15th, bringing the region's coldest temperatures in many years. The combination of a fresh and deep snowpack, clear skies, and light winds allowed temperatures to fall to record levels at many locations on the 15th. Daytime highs remained well below zero across the area. This was one of the coldest days that most areas experienced since the early 1970s. The records were broken by 1 to as much as 7 degrees.

1852: In 1852, the long, cold winter froze the Susquehanna River in Maryland to a depth of 2 to 3 feet, preventing all ferry service. Railroad officials overcame this perplexing situation by laying tracks across the ice, with trestles for either bank's inclines. During the several weeks from January 15 to February 29, approximately 1,300 cars with a total weight of 10,000 tons were hauled across the river from Havre de Grace, Maryland, to Perryville, Maryland.

1932 - Up to two inches of snow whitened the Los Angeles basin of California. The Los Angeles Civic Center reported an inch of snow, and even the beaches of Santa Monica were whitened with snow, in what proved to be a record snowstorm for Los Angeles. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1952 - A six day snowstorm was in progress in the western U.S. The storm produced 44 inches of snow at Marlette Lake NV, 52 inches at Sun Valley ID, and 149 inches at Tahoe CA, establishing single storm records for each of those three states. In addition, 24 hour snowfall totals of 22 inches at the University of Nevada, and 26 inches at Arco ID, established records for those two states. The streamliner, 'City of San Francisco' was snowbound in the Sierra Nevada Range, near Donner Summit. (David Ludlum)

1967: The Green Bay Packers beat the Kansas City Chiefs, 35-10, in Super Bowl I at the Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles. From the weather station at the USC campus in downtown LA, the high temperature was 79 degrees, and the low was 51. There was a light west wind.

1972: In Flint, Michigan, the daytime temperature rose to only -3 degrees. This is the second coldest maximum temperature recorded in the city of Flint since 1921. Detroit's high temperature was zero.

1987 - A powerful storm over the Southern Plateau and the Southern Rockies produced 24 inches of snow at Colorado Springs CO, including 22 inches in 24 hours, a January record. High winds in the southwestern U.S. gusted to 65 mph in the Yosemite Valley of California. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A small storm over the Atlantic Ocean produced heavy snow along the coast of North Carolina. The five inch total at Wilmington NC was their third highest for any storm in January in 117 years of records. (National Weather Summary)

1989 - A storm in the northwestern U.S. produced up to 14 inches of snow in the Cascade Mountain Range. Light snow in the north central U.S. was just enough to push the snowfall total for January at Fargo ND past their previous all-time monthly record of 30.7 inches.

1990 - While one Pacific storm crossed the Central Rockies, another approached the west coast. The northern mountains of Utah were buried under 17 to 35 inches of snow while the mountains of southern Utah received another 12 to 16 inches. Eighteen cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 50s and 60s. Wichita KS reported a record high of 68 degrees. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### JUST BEFORE GIVING UP

Remember these words: "Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord."

The temptation to be jealous and envious of those who have more or better things than we do can become a distraction to those who struggle to live a righteous life. The teaching that is found in this verse has been introduced earlier in the Bible. It is not new and different. Rather, there is a preview of it in the Psalms: "Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong" (to gain the treasures and pleasures of this world). And again, "Trust in the Lord and do good; delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart" (if they are consistent with His character.) First, Scripture teaches us to fear God and see what happens.

Although not specifically stated in this proverb, we must never forget the fact that whatever the ungodly have, and the things they possess, are temporary. We have been conditioned to believe that the "things of this world" will bring happiness and hope, joy and satisfaction, pleasure and success, strength and security. But do they?

"Envy" is an interesting Hebrew word. It contains the idea that being envious will force us into action, to do more and work harder. However, that can be good. One can be envious of the sinful or the righteous. The choice is ours! And, both have different outcomes.

One translator provides an interesting interpretation: "Do not sinfully envy the temporal and momentary benefits that the sinful seem to enjoy, instead, set your heart upon zealously possessing the fear of the Lord."

If we are always zealous in our fear of the Lord and "set our hearts on things above, not on the things of this world" and "give the battle to the Lord," there can be little doubt about the outcome. The key is to "set" and "give" to the Lord.

Prayer: We admit, Father, that it is easy to be consumed with envy that will destroy us. We ask Your Spirit to guide us into paths of righteousness for Your Name's sake. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord. Proverbs 23:17



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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## 2023 Community Events

- 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)
- 03/25/2023 Spring Vendor Fair, 10am-3pm, Community Center
- 04/01/2023 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
- 04/01/2023 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
- 04/06/2023 Groton Career Development Event
- 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)
- 06/16/2023 – SDSU Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament
- 07/04/2023 – Couples Firecracker Golf Tournament
- 07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/26/2023 – GGA Burger Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 08/04/2023 – Wine on Nine 6pm
- 08/11/2023 – GHS Basketball Golf Tournament
- 09/09/2023 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/10/2023 – Couples Sunflower Golf Tournament
- 10/31/2023 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm (working day on or closest to Halloween)
- 10/31/2023 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
- 11/23/2023 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)
- 12/02/2023 – Tour of Homes & Holiday Party

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## The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.13.23

30 43 45 46 61 14

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$20,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[GAME DETAILS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.14.23

25 35 37 38 48 5

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$34,170,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[GAME DETAILS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.14.23

4 7 16 22 40 8

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 34 Mins 2 Secs

[GAME DETAILS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.14.23

2 10 17 27 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$20,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[GAME DETAILS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.14.23

17 19 31 33 64 13

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[GAME DETAILS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.14.23

24 26 39 47 57 23

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$416,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[GAME DETAILS](#)

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News from the  Associated Press

## Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL=

Aberdeen Christian 65, Leola/Frederick 44

Aberdeen Roncalli 67, Warner 61

Arlington 53, Sioux Falls Lutheran 28

Belle Fourche 71, Langford 44

Brandon Valley 55, Douglas 38

Canby, Minn. 69, Colman-Egan 63

Canistota 48, Canton 46

Chamberlain 58, Bon Homme 42

Chester 47, Freeman 38

Crazy Horse 93, Wakpala 67

Dawson-Boyd, Minn. 72, Deubrook 44

DeSmet 52, Pipestone, Minn. 40

Dell Rapids 76, Milbank 41

Flandreau Indian 77, Takini 53

Florence/Henry 67, Timber Lake 51

Freeman Academy/Marion 52, Scotland 44

Gayville-Volin 37, Burke 34

Harrisburg 45, Spearfish 44

Herreid/Selby Area 63, Faulkton 55

Highmore 43, Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op 40

Hill City 66, Sundance, Wyo. 24

Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. 58, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 33

Hitchcock-Tulare 62, Wessington Springs 53

Ipswich 59, Webster 50

James Valley Christian 67, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 40

Kimball/White Lake 43, Avon 35

Lower Brule 64, Castlewood 61

Luverne, Minn. 60, Estelline/Hendricks 50

Madison 70, Dell Rapids St. Mary 63

Menno 50, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 39

Minneota, Minn. 47, Elkton-Lake Benton 39

New Underwood 82, Oelrichs 27

Newell 51, Edgemont 39

Northwestern 64, Little Wound 43

Pine Ridge 70, Harding County 55

Rapid City Central 65, Thunder Basin, Wyo. 61

Rapid City Christian 78, Newcastle, Wyo. 21

Redfield 73, Sully Buttes 57

Sioux Falls Christian 75, Watertown 47

Sioux Falls Lincoln 76, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 59

Stanley County 48, Bennett County 20

Tea Area 68, Aberdeen Central 48

Wall 91, Lead-Deadwood 53

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Wolsey-Wessington 61, Sunshine Bible Academy 18  
Yankton 55, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 52, OT  
Jones County Tournament=  
Jones County 63, Colome 54  
Lyman 76, Kadoka Area 54

## GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL=

Aberdeen Central 50, Tea Area 46  
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 61, Menno 39  
Arlington 59, Centerville 55  
Britton-Hecla 45, Langford 29  
Burke 75, Gayville-Volin 35  
Canton 62, Canistota 49  
Chamberlain 51, Bon Homme 48  
Colman-Egan 48, Corsica/Stickney 37  
Crofton, Neb. 58, Lakota Tech 48  
Deubrook 58, Sioux Valley 57  
Dupree 61, Lemmon 40  
Elk Point-Jefferson 54, McLaughlin 19  
Florence/Henry 63, Parkston 42  
Great Plains Lutheran 55, North Central Co-Op 29  
Hamlin 62, West Lyon, Inwood, Iowa 36  
Hanson 49, Castlewood 42  
Harrisburg 57, Spearfish 52  
Hot Springs 31, Faith 15  
Howard 53, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 47  
Kadoka Area 69, Mitchell Christian 25  
Lennox 46, Hill City 35  
Leola/Frederick 31, Aberdeen Christian 17  
Lyman 64, Bennett County 34  
Madison 66, Chester 55  
Milbank 65, Dell Rapids 44  
Newcastle, Wyo. 57, Harding County 35  
Oelrichs 48, New Underwood 40  
Rapid City Christian 68, Campbell County, Wyo. 56  
Scotland 34, Freeman Academy/Marion 20  
Sioux Falls Christian 59, Watertown 34  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 65, Yankton 29  
St. Thomas More 54, Flandreau 34  
Takini 47, Flandreau Indian 46  
Thunder Basin, Wyo. 54, Rapid City Central 38  
Todd County 64, St. Francis Indian 44  
Vermillion 53, Wagner 52  
Viborg-Hurley 72, Wolsey-Wessington 52  
Wall 63, Lead-Deadwood 15  
Webster 46, Ipswich 28  
White River 62, Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. 55  
Jones County Tournament=  
Brandon Valley 50, Douglas 34

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



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## Dentlinger's 26 help S. Dakota St. beat South Dakota 82-64

By The Associated Press undefined

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Matt Dentlinger's 26 points helped South Dakota State defeat South Dakota 82-64 on Saturday night.

Dentlinger also contributed eight rebounds for the Jackrabbits (9-9, 4-2 Summit League). Zeke Mayo scored 19 points while going 6 of 19 from the floor, including 3 for 11 from distance, and 4 for 4 from the line, and added eight rebounds and six assists. Matthew Mims was 4-of-14 shooting (3 for 12 from distance) to finish with 13 points.

Paul Bruns led the Coyotes (8-10, 3-3) in scoring, finishing with 16 points. A.J. Plitzuweit added 10 points for South Dakota. Kruz Perrott-Hunt also put up 10 points.

NEXT UP

Both teams next play Thursday. South Dakota State hosts Omaha while South Dakota hosts Denver.

## Plane crashes during landing in Nepal resort town; 32 dead

By UPENDRA MAN SINGH and SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A regional passenger plane with 72 people on board crashed into a gorge while landing at a newly opened airport in the resort town of Pokhara in central Nepal on Sunday, killing at least 32, an official said.

Rescuers scoured the crash site near the Seti River, which is about 1.6 kilometers (nearly a mile) away from Pokhara International Airport, using ropes to pull out bodies from the wreckage, parts of which were hanging over the edge of the gorge. Some bodies, burned beyond recognition, were carried by firefighters to hospitals, where grief-stricken relatives had assembled.

Tek Bahadur K. C., a senior administrative officer in the Kaski district, said he expected rescue workers to find more bodies at the bottom of the gorge.

It was not immediately clear what caused the plane to crash.

The twin-engine ATR 72 aircraft, operated by Nepal's Yeti Airlines, was flying from the capital, Kathmandu, to Pokhara, a 27-minute flight. It was carrying 68 passengers including 15 foreign nationals, as well as four crew members, Nepal's Civil Aviation Authority said in a statement. The foreigners included five Indians, four Russians, two South Koreans, and one each from Ireland, Australia, Argentina and France.

The aviation authority said the aircraft last made contact with the airport from near Seti Gorge at 10:50 a.m. before crashing.

Images and videos shared on Twitter showed plumes of smoke billowing from the crash site as rescue workers, Nepali soldiers, and crowds of people gathered around the wreckage of the aircraft to find survivors. The aircraft's fuselage was split into multiple parts that were scattered down the gorge.

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, who rushed to the airport after the crash, set up a panel to investigate the accident.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it's still trying to confirm the fate of two South Korean passengers and has sent staff to the scene.

The type of plane involved, the ATR 72, has been used by several airlines around the world for short regional flights. Introduced in the late 1980s by a French and Italian partnership, the aircraft model has been involved in several deadly accidents over the years. In 2018, an ATR 72 operated by Iran's Aseman Airlines crashed in a foggy, mountainous region, killing all 65 aboard.

ATR identified the plane involved in Sunday's crash as an ATR 72-500 in a tweet. According to plane tracking data from flightradar24.com, the aircraft was 15 years old and "equipped with an old transponder with unreliable data." Yeti Airlines has a fleet of six ATR72-500 planes, company spokesperson Sudarshan Bartaula said.

Pokhara, located 200 kilometers (125 miles) west of Kathmandu, is the gateway to the Annapurna Circuit, a popular hiking trail in the Himalayas.

Pokhara International Airport began operations only two weeks ago. It was built with Chinese construc-

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tion and financial support. The Chinese ambassador to Nepal, Chen Song, said in a tweet he was "very shocked" to learn of the accident.

"At this difficult time, our thoughts are with Nepali people. I would like to express my deep condolences to the victims, and sincere sympathies to the bereaved families," he wrote.

Sunday's crash is Nepal's deadliest since March 2018, when a US-Bangla Airlines passenger plane from Bangladesh crashed on landing in Kathmandu, killing 49 of the 71 people aboard.

Nepal, home to eight of the world's 14 highest mountains, including Mount Everest, has a history of air crashes. According to the Flight Safety Foundation's Aviation Safety database, there have been 42 fatal plane crashes in Nepal since 1946.

Last year, 22 people died when a plane crashed on a mountainside in Nepal. In 2016, a Tara Air Twin Otter flying from Pokhara to Kathmandu crashed after takeoff, killing all 23 people aboard.

In 2012, an Agni Air plane flying from Pokhara to Jomsom crashed, killing 15 people. Six people survived. In 2014, a Nepal Airlines plane flying from Pokhara to Jumla crashed, killing all 18 on board.

In 1992, all 167 people aboard a Pakistan International Airlines plane were killed when it plowed into a hill as it tried to land in Kathmandu.

## South Korean president travels to UAE, seeks arms sales

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol received an honor guard welcome Sunday on a trip to the United Arab Emirates as he hopes to expand its military sales here.

Yoon's visit comes as South Korea conducts business deals worth billions of dollars and stations special forces troops to defend the UAE, an arrangement that drew criticism under his liberal predecessor. Now, however, it appears the conservative leader wants to double down on those military links even as tensions with neighboring Iran have already seen Tehran seize a South Korean oil tanker in 2021.

"I think that the situation in the Middle East is changing very rapidly when it comes to geopolitics," said June Park, a fellow with the International Strategy Forum at Schmidt Futures. "So Korea wants to make sure some of the strategic partnerships and the components ... with the UAE."

Yoon arrived at Qasr Al Watan palace in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. He was greeted by Emirati leader Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who took office in May after serving as the country's de facto ruler for years.

An honor guard of traditionally dressed Emiratis greeted Yoon and his wife, Kim Keon Hee. They twirled model Lee-Enfield rifles alongside troops on camelback and horseback. Inside, a military band played the South Korean and Emirati national anthems.

After the ceremony, Yonhap quoted Sheikh Mohammed as saying the UAE planned to invest \$30 billion in South Korea. "We decided to make the investment with confidence in the Republic of Korea that keeps its promises under all circumstances," he said.

The report did not elaborate.

While energy-hungry South Korea does rely on the Emirates for just under 10% of its crude oil supply, Seoul has struck a series of deals far beyond oil with this nation of seven sheikhdoms that closely tie the nation to Abu Dhabi. South Korea's trade with the UAE is into the billions of dollars worth of cars, material and other goods.

Before Yoon's trip, officials described the visit as seeking to solidify the ties already in place between the two countries.

"This visit will strengthen strategic cooperation with our brother country UAE in the four core cooperative sectors of nuclear power, energy, investment and defense," said Kim Sung-han, director of national security in Yoon's government.

On Saturday, South Korea's Yonhap news agency quoted an anonymous presidency official as also saying that an arms deal was planned.

"The atmosphere is extremely ripe for security or military cooperation between South Korea and the

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UAE involving the arms industry," the official said, according to Yonhap.

Already, South Korea reached a \$3.5 billion deal with the UAE in 2022 to sell the M-SAM, an advanced air defense system designed to intercept missiles at altitudes below 40 kilometers (25 miles). Emirati officials have grown increasingly concerned about protecting their airspace after being targeted in long-range drone attacks by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

While U.S. forces fired Patriot missiles for the first time in combat since the 2003 Iraq invasion to defend Abu Dhabi during those attacks, the Emiratis have been hedging their reliance on American military support since America's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan.

But South Korea's biggest project remains the Barakah nuclear power plant, Seoul's first attempt to build atomic reactors abroad. The \$20 billion facility, which ultimately will have four reactors, is in the UAE's western deserts near the Saudi border and one day will account for nearly a quarter of all of the Emirates' power needs.

It's also key to the UAE's plans to go carbon neutral by 2050, a pledge that takes on special importance as it prepares to host the United Nations COP28 climate negotiations beginning in November in Dubai.

Yoon likely wants to assure the Emiratis that South Korea wants to be in the running for lucrative maintenance contracts after his predecessor, President Moon Jae-in, had said Seoul wanted to move away from nuclear energy.

"The energy policy took on a 180 degree shift" after the election, said Park, the analyst. "So Korea is now for nuclear and I guess that the Yoon administration wants to make sure to the Emiratis that there is no concern regarding policy shifts or anything like that."

Then there's also the nuclear tensions with North Korea. Yoon, a former top prosecutor, became president in May on a promise to take a harder line on Pyongyang. Up until recent years, hundreds of North Korean laborers were believed to be working in the UAE and elsewhere in the Gulf Arab states, offering a cash stream to Pyongyang as it seeks to evade mounting sanctions over its nuclear program.

However, a crackdown has seen their numbers drastically drop as nations stopped renewing their visas. A recent U.N. expert report did note that high-end camera gear bought in the UAE ended up in North Korea, while another mentioned a North Korean national living in Dubai obtaining foreign currency through an online app by lying about his nationality.

The U.N. also said as recently as 2021 it had information about North Korean diplomats in Iran flying on Dubai-based long-haul carrier Emirates smuggling gold with them.

## A loving dad and his injured son pay war's costs in Ukraine

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

CHERNIHIV, Ukraine (AP) — In a Ukrainian hospital ward for wounded soldiers, where daylight barely penetrates, a father talks to his injured son for hours. Serhii Shumei, 64, never scolded Vitalii for choosing to go to war. Even now, despite the damage done to his son's brain by an exploding artillery shell, Serhii feels pride, not pity.

"I've been constantly with him in the last five months, beside him, beside him, beside him," says Serhii, a retired former soldier himself. "I'm not going anywhere. ... except for a smoke."

Vitalii, a 34-year-old long-range anti-aircraft missile commander, was wounded in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine that has become synonymous with horrific losses in ongoing fighting for both Ukraine and Russia. Quite how deadly isn't known — because neither side is saying. From the stream of wounded soldiers that are coming off frontlines to hospitals like the one where Vitalii lies, it's evident the costs are severe.

Both sides have poured troops and resources to capture or defend Donbas strongholds, fighting over months of grinding, attritional combat to what has largely become a bloody stalemate. After setbacks elsewhere in Ukraine for President Vladimir Putin's nearly 11-month invasion, Russia is looking for some sort of localized success in the Donbas, even if that just means taking control of a town or two pounded into rubble. Ukraine wants to make Russia's advances as costly as possible.



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The Donbas towns of Bakhmut and Soledar have been turned into hellscape as a result. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described them as “completely destroyed,” strewn with corpses and craters, and with “almost no life left.”

“This is what madness looks like,” Zelenskyy says.

Vitalii was wounded Aug. 25 on another section of the Donbas frontline, in Adviiivka, about 70 kilometers (45 miles) south of Bakhmut. The shell that struck his dugout set off other explosives. The blast tore a crater in Vitalii’s skull that is as deep and broad as half a melon. His brain injuries were so severe that doctors doubted he’d show signs of consciousness again.

Now, Vitalii sometimes seems aware of his surroundings. He blinks. He can swallow. But he’s largely immobile.

Serhii refuses to give up on him.

“We are seeing some progress, getting back on our feet. This is my opinion,” he says.

He spends hours at Vitalii’s bedside, sharing news from the battlefields, reciting from books, and reading out messages of support.

They’re sent by grateful Ukrainians who urge Vitalii to “Hold on to life! We really need you!” and say “You are strong! You will manage!”

Serhii says tears roll down Vitalii’s cheeks when he reads them to him. Other signs of improvement appeared in late December, when Vitalii started wiggling his toes, Serhii says. Vitalii also has started to frown, which Serhii interprets as meaning that his son is interested in what he’s reading to him.

And recently, Serhii says, another breakthrough: audible responses from Vitalii.

“I’ve started asking him ‘Do you know who I am?’ And he answered ‘Dad.’”

Another of Vitalii’s frequent visitors is Iryna Timofeyeva, a volunteer whose brainchild it was to collect messages of support.

“The love of the family, the attention of other people, very often helps the positive dynamics of the patient,” she says. “It is very important for the wounded that he is not alone. That is how he understands that he has to fight.”

Vitalii is, for now, alone in his ward, after other patients were transferred for rehabilitation elsewhere. But the beds around him are unlikely to stay empty for long, given the ferocity of the fighting in the Donbas. Vitalii’s hospital in Chernihiv, north of Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv, is among those where soldiers get long-term follow-up care after their wounds have been stabilized closer to the fronts.

Serhii feels that caring for his son is his contribution to the war effort.

“I will put him back on his feet. This is my dream,” he says.

Inclining to his son’s ear, he asks: “Ukraine will win, we will win, right?”

The answer is silence.

## WHO appeals to China to release more COVID-19 information

By JOE McDONALD Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The World Health Organization has appealed to China to keep releasing information about its wave of COVID-19 infections after the government announced nearly 60,000 deaths since early December following weeks of complaints it was failing to tell the world what was happening.

The announcement Saturday was the first official death toll since the ruling Communist Party abruptly dropped anti-virus restrictions in December despite a surge in infections that flooded hospitals. That left the WHO and other governments appealing for information, while the United States, South Korea and others imposed controls on visitors from China.

The government said 5,503 people died of respiratory failure caused by COVID-19 and there were 54,435 fatalities from cancer, heart disease and other ailments combined with COVID-19 between Dec. 8 and Jan. 12.

The announcement “allows for a better understanding of the epidemiological situation,” said a WHO statement. It said the WHO director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, talked by phone with Health

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Minister Ma Xiaowei.

"WHO requested that this type of detailed information continued to be shared with us and the public," the agency said.

The National Health Commission said only deaths in hospitals were counted, which means anyone who died at home wouldn't be included. It gave no indication when or whether it might release updated numbers.

A health official said the "national emergency peak has passed" based on an 83% decline in the daily number of people going to fever clinics from a Dec. 23 high.

The report would more than double China's official COVID-19 death toll to 10,775 since the disease was first detected in the central city of Wuhan in late 2019. China has counted only deaths from pneumonia or respiratory failure in its official toll, which excludes many fatalities that might be attributed to the virus in other countries.

Meanwhile, high-speed train service resumed Sunday between China's mainland and Hong Kong under restrictions that allow 5,000 passengers from each side to make the trip daily and require a negative virus test within the previous 48 hours.

The two sides are reopening travel links that were suspended under Beijing's "zero-COVID" strategy, which aimed to keep the virus out of China. Hong Kong imposed different but similarly severe restrictions that blocked most international travel.

Candice Zhong, a resident of the neighboring mainland city of Shenzhen who arrived in Hong Kong, said she planned to visit the city's two major theme parks.

"I want to come to Hong Kong to see what it's like now," Zhong said at the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway terminal. "I will go to Disneyland and Ocean Park."

## Miss USA R'Bonney Gabriel wins Miss Universe Competition

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — R'Bonney Gabriel, a fashion designer, model and sewing instructor from Texas who competition officials said is the first Filipino American to win Miss USA, was crowned Miss Universe on Saturday night.

Gabriel closed her eyes and clasped hands with runner-up Miss Venezuela, Amanda Dudamel, at the moment of the dramatic reveal of the winner, then beamed after her name was announced.

Thumping music rang out, and she was handed a bouquet of flowers, draped in the winner's sash and crowned with a tiara onstage at the 71st Miss Universe Competition, held in New Orleans.

The second runner-up was Miss Dominican Republic, Andreina Martinez.

In the Q&A at the last stage of the competition for the three finalists, Gabriel was asked how she would work to demonstrate Miss Universe is "an empowering and progressive organization" if she were to win.

"I would use it to be a transformational leader," she responded, citing her work using recycled materials in her fashion design and teaching sewing to survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence.

"It is so important to invest in others, invest in our community and use your unique talent to make a difference," Gabriel continued. "We all have something special, and when we plant those seeds to other people in our life, we transform them and we use that as a vehicle for change."

According to Miss Universe, Gabriel is a former high school volleyball player and graduate of the University of North Texas. A short bio posted on the organization's website said she is also CEO of her own sustainable clothing line.

Nearly 90 contestants from around the world took part in the competition, organizers said, involving "personal statements, in depth interviews and various categories including evening gown & swimwear."

Miss Curacao, Gabriela Dos Santos, and Miss Puerto Rico, Ashley Carino, rounded out the top five finalists. Last year's winner was Harnaaz Sandhu of India.

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## Lawrence rallies Jaguars from 27 down to beat Chargers 31-30

By MARK LONG AP Pro Football Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Trevor Lawrence's confidence somehow never wavered. Not after the first interception. Or the second. Or the third. Or even the fourth.

The generational quarterback simply delivered a generational comeback.

The No. 1 overall pick in the 2021 draft followed four interceptions with four touchdown passes — one of the most improbable turnarounds in NFL postseason history — and rallied the Jacksonville Jaguars to a 31-30 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers on Saturday night.

Lawrence engineered the winning drive, highlighted by Travis Etienne's 25-yard run on a fourth-and-1 play, and put the Jaguars in position for Riley Patterson's 36-yard field goal on the final play. It capped a 27-point comeback, the largest in franchise history and the third largest in playoff history.

"You couldn't write a crazier script," Lawrence said. "We said in the locker room that's kind of how our season's going. We're never out of the fight. ... I'm kind of speechless, honestly, just to see what belief can do and to see when a team believes in each other what you can accomplish."

Patterson's kick barely stayed inside the right upright and set off a raucous celebration for a franchise that had won a combined four games over the previous two years. The Jaguars (10-8) won their sixth consecutive game and fifth straight at home — all five in come-from-behind fashion.

Nonetheless, no one could have seen this one coming. Maybe not even Lawrence. But he was the steady hand in charge after a debacle of a first half. He finished 28-of-47 passing for 288 yards, a shocker considering the way he started.

Lawrence was downright dreadful to begin Jacksonville's first playoff game since losing in the 2017 AFC title game. He became the third quarterback in the Super Bowl era to throw four interceptions in the first half of a playoff game, joining Detroit's Gary Danielson and Denver's Craig Morton.

But he bounced back as well as anyone in NFL history. Jacksonville's comeback goes down in postseason lore behind only Buffalo's rally on Jan. 3, 1993 (32 points against Houston) and Indianapolis' on Jan. 4, 2014 (28 points against Kansas City).

"I didn't have a choice," Lawrence said. "These guys have sacrificed way too much for me to be the reason we lose an opportunity."

The Jaguars, who also turned the ball over when a punt hit Chris Claybrook's helmet, became the first team to win a playoff game with a turnover differential of minus-five or worse. Teams with that turnover deficit had been 0-19 in the Super Bowl era.

"Let me tell you something, man. I think from playing football, watching football, I know a lot of quarterbacks would've folded in that situation that he went through," Jaguars receiver Zay Jones said. "For him just to be as poised and composed as he was, it showed another side of who we have on this team. I mean, that guy right there, standing right there, that's a special man."

He wasn't early. Lawrence misfired on 12 of his first 16 throws and started getting booed long before halftime. His confidence seemed shot. His swagger appeared gone. All the progress he made in his first season with coach Doug Pederson looked like it would be flushed in the team's finale.

But Lawrence never gave up. He connected with Evan Engram, Marvin Jones, Zay Jones and Christian Kirk for touchdowns that increasingly raised the team's belief in its quarterback and its comeback.

Lawrence added one of the biggest plays when he jumped for a 2-point conversion with 5:25 to play that made it 30-28 — and put the Jaguars in position to win instead of tie.

Jacksonville's defense responded by sacking Justin Herbert and then forcing a punt. Lawrence took over from there, with a significant assist from Etienne — and Peterson's bold play call.

"I feel like the running back, when it gets to that point of the game, you're supposed to be the closer," Etienne said. "Coach believed in me on that fourth-and-1, to give me the ball. I had to make something happen for my teammates."

### CHARGERS COLLAPSE

Herbert threw for 273 yards and a touchdown without an interception, but the Chargers' offense was largely ineffective after a 62-yard TD drive that made it 24-0 midway through the second quarter. Los



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Angeles (10-8) finished with 320 yards of offense and 18 first downs, and it produced only three points on four second-half possessions.

"Anytime you're up 27-7 at halftime and you've got four takeaways, and you end up winning the takeaway margin (5-0), you know, it's gonna be a killer," Chargers coach Brandon Staley said. "I'm hurting for everybody in that locker room. ... We just didn't finish the game."

Staley surely will be questioned for being too conservative, both on defense and offense — he opted for a field goal on fourth-and-3 midway through the fourth quarter that Cameron Dicker missed — and for not trying to run the ball more. LA had 23 rushing attempts for 69 yards, a 2.9-yard average, while Herbert threw 43 times.

"I needed to perform better," Herbert said. "I've got to give them more than three points in the second half and so I feel horrible for the defense for the incredible effort they put up there today, but gotta be better as a team."

## KEY INJURIES

Chargers receiver DeAndre Carter and left tackle Jamaree Salyer left the game with ankle injuries. Chargers cornerback Michael Davis left with a pectoral muscle injury. Lawrence cut the tip of his left thumb in the fourth but wrapped it up and played on.

## UP NEXT

Chargers: Will have a tough offseason dealing with this loss. Staley could face questions about his job security.

Jaguars: Await their road divisional opponent, which likely will be top-seeded Kansas City next weekend. The Chiefs won their regular-season meeting.

## Storm-battered California gets more wind, rain and snow

By JOHN ANTCZAK Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Storm-battered California got more wind, rain and snow on Saturday, raising flooding concerns, causing power outages and making travel dangerous.

Bands of rain with gusty winds started in the north and spread south, with more storms expected to follow into early next week, the National Weather Service said.

More than 68,000 utility customers were without electricity Saturday morning, a number that was cut by more than half during the afternoon, according to [poweroutage.us](http://poweroutage.us).

Flood warnings were issued for the region north of San Francisco Bay, including Marin, Napa, Sonoma and Mendocino counties.

To the south, warnings were posted for parts of counties including San Mateo and Santa Cruz, where the tiny community of Felton Grove along the San Lorenzo River was ordered evacuated. An evacuation order also was issued for residents of the Wilton area in semirural southeastern Sacramento County. Authorities cited the threat of flooding from the Cosumnes River.

The swollen Salinas River swamped farmland in Monterey County, and to the east, flood warnings were in effect for Merced County in the agricultural Central Valley, where Gov. Gavin Newsom visited to take stock of storm problems.

"The reality is that this is just the eighth of what we anticipate will be nine atmospheric rivers — we're not done," Newsom said at a briefing with local leaders where he urged people to be vigilant about safety for the next 24 to 48 hours.

"This is happening all across California but I want to say ... you guys are disproportionately taking the brunt of it, and if you feel that way you're right," Newsom said.

President Joe Biden declared a major disaster in the state and ordered federal aid to supplement local recovery efforts in affected areas.

Slick roads, snow and whiteout conditions plagued highways through the Sierra Nevada.

The UC Berkeley Central Sierra Snow Lab tweeted Saturday morning that it received 21.3 inches (54

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centimeters) of snow in 24 hours and that its snowpack of about 10 feet (3 meters) was expected to grow several more feet by Monday.

A backcountry avalanche warning was issued for the central Sierra, including the greater Lake Tahoe area.

A series of atmospheric rivers has dumped rain and snow on California since late December, cutting power to thousands, swamping roads, unleashing debris flows, and triggering landslides.

At least 19 storm-related deaths have occurred, and a 5-year-old boy remained missing after being swept out of his mother's car by flood waters in San Luis Obispo County.

Half of the deaths have involved motorists, and some could have been prevented if drivers had heeded road closure signs, said Sean Duryee, acting commissioner of the California Highway Patrol, during a briefing by state and federal officials on Friday.

In Santa Barbara County, where a massive debris flow through the community of Montecito killed 23 people on Jan. 9, 2018, residents were told that new evacuations were not expected but that they should be prepared.

Montecito and adjacent areas were most recently ordered evacuated last Monday, the fifth anniversary of what is locally remembered as the "1/9 Debris Flow." But the community perched on foothills of coastal mountains escaped serious harm.

In a visit to Montecito on Friday, Newsom asked residents to exercise caution, and to heed warnings from public safety officials.

"I know how fatigued you all are," Newsom said. "Just maintain a little more vigilance over the course of the next weekend."

Dry days are in next week's forecast for California starting on Tuesday.

"Question will then become do we stay dry through the end of month?" the San Francisco Bay Area weather office wrote.

## Purdy's 4 TDs lead 49ers past Seahawks 41-23 in playoffs

By JOSH DUBOW AP Pro Football Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Brock Purdy got flushed out of the pocket, spun back the other direction and found a wide-open Elijah Mitchell for the score that put San Francisco in control for good.

Purdy answered another test and delivered another sterling performance in a remarkable rookie season that began as the final pick in the NFL draft.

Purdy threw three touchdown passes and ran for a fourth score in his playoff debut, leading the 49ers to a 41-23 victory over the Seattle Seahawks in a wild-card game on Saturday.

"Once the game started, it was just 11 on 11, I have to do my job, get it to the guys in space and go from there," Purdy said. "We didn't make it more than what it was. ... It wasn't, 'Oh my gosh it's the playoffs and we got to get all tense.' We just have to play our game."

Purdy picked up where he left off in the regular season for the 49ers (14-4) and showed few signs of playoff jitters by winning his sixth straight start since replacing an injured Jimmy Garoppolo early in a Week 13 win over Miami.

The Niners advanced to the divisional round where they will host either Minnesota, Tampa Bay or Dallas next weekend.

Purdy connected on a 3-yard pass to Christian McCaffrey in the first quarter, converted a 1-yard sneak in the third quarter and a 7-yard TD pass to Mitchell early in the fourth to make it 31-17.

The Niners broke it open when Deebo Samuel took a short pass from Purdy and raced in for a 74-yard score with help from a downfield block by Brandon Aiyuk.

Purdy threw for 332 yards — the second most ever for a rookie in the playoffs to Russell Wilson's 385 in a loss to Atlanta 10 years ago — and he became the first rookie QB ever to account for four TDs in a playoff game.

Purdy has lived up to the confidence his coaches and teammates have shown in him ever since he took over.

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"I felt that way from the beginning once he got in that game against Miami," coach Kyle Shanahan said. "We didn't have the luxury to sit there and worry about stuff the way the game was going. We just had to win the game and he's done a hell of a job. He's done it every time since. I have a lot of confidence in him."

The Seahawks (9-9) kept it close for most of three quarters before a strip sack by Charles Omenihu late in the third quarter spoiled a red zone drive.

Purdy then hit Jauan Jennings on a 33-yard pass to set up the TD pass to Mitchell that broke the game open. Purdy tied an NFL record for rookies set by Justin Herbert with his seventh straight game with multiple TD passes.

"He has showed us over and over again who he is and the type of player he is," linebacker Fred Warner said. "So I'm not surprised."

San Francisco piled on from there.

The loss brought a disappointing end to a surprising season for the Seahawks, who got into the playoffs on the final weekend in their first season after trading away Wilson.

Geno Smith stepped in admirably, throwing 30 TD passes in the regular season and keeping it close for a while in the playoff game thanks to a 50-yard TD pass to DK Metcalf in the first half.

Smith finished 25 for 35 for 253 yards, two TDs and one interception.

"I'm not at all satisfied," Smith said. "I don't feel good about what happened today. I feel like we we could have kept going. So for me, man, I just got to be better and I take this one personally."

The Niners raced out to a 10-0 lead after two possessions getting a field goal on the opening drive and then a 3-yard pass from Purdy to McCaffrey following McCaffrey's 68-yard run on the second possession.

But Seattle battled back with a 14-play drive capped by Kenneth Walker's 7-yard run and the deep pass to Metcalf.

## MOTIVATION

The Niners responded after Seattle safety Johnathan Abram grabbed and twisted Samuel's previously injured left ankle on a tackle early in the second half. Samuel stayed down to get his temper under control as his teammates rallied to his side.

The play angered the Niners, who responded by scoring the next 25 points to take control.

"At the end of the day, that turned our team up a notch and as you can see we went out there and made plays," Samuel said.

## BONEHEAD PLAY

The Seahawks took a 17-16 lead into the half thanks to a bonehead play by Niners safety Jimmie Ward. Smith scrambled 9 yards to his own 47 with 1 second left in the half, but Ward hit him late after he started sliding.

The 15-yard penalty moved the ball to the San Francisco 38 and Jason Myers made a 56-yard field goal to make it 17-16 at the half.

Seattle became the third team since the start of the 2000 postseason to lead at the half in a playoff game after trailing by at least 10 at the end of the first quarter.

## INJURIES

Seahawks: LB Darrell Taylor (neck stinger) left the game in the first half.

49ers: DE Samson Ebukam (ankle) left in the second half, but probably could have returned if the game had been closer.

## UP NEXT

Seahawks: The offseason.

49ers: The divisional round against Minnesota, Tampa Bay or Dallas.



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## As tornadoes hit, survivors hid in tubs, shipping container

By SHARON JOHNSON and BUTCH DILL Associated Press

MARBURY, Ala. (AP) — An Alabama engine mechanic took refuge in a shipping container as a tornado from a violent storm decimated his shop and killed two of his neighbors along its destructive path across Alabama and Georgia.

The harrowing stories of David Hollon and other survivors of Thursday's storm are emerging as residents comb through the wreckage wrought by tornadoes and blistering winds that have led to the deaths of at least nine people.

In Alabama's rural Autauga County, where at least seven people have died, Hollon and his workers saw a massive tornado churning toward them. They needed to get to shelter — immediately.

Hollon said they ran into a metal shipping container near the back of his garage because the container had been anchored to the floor with concrete. Once inside, Hollon began frantically dialing his neighbor on the phone. But as they heard the garage being ripped apart by the storm, the call kept going to voicemail.

The storm passed and they emerged, only to find the body of his neighbor in the street, he said. Another neighbor up the road had also died, a family member said.

"I guess we did a lot better than most. We got damage, but we're still here," Hollon, 52, said in an interview Saturday as he walked amidst the remains of his garage, stepping through a field littered with battered cars, shattered glass, snapped tree branches, splintered wood and other debris.

Leighea Johnson, a 54-year-old cafeteria worker who also lives in Autauga County, stood among the strewn remains of her trailer home. She pointed to a tall pile of rubble that she identified as her bedroom, bathroom and kitchen.

A swing set she had in her backyard was now across the street, mangled among some trees. Her outdoor trampoline had been wrapped around another set of trees in a neighbor's front yard.

"The trailer should be here, and now it's not," Johnson said, pointing to a slab covered in debris, "And it is all over the place now."

The storm brought powerful twisters and winds to Alabama and Georgia that uprooted trees, sent mobile homes airborne, derailed a freight train, flipped cars, cracked utility poles and downed power lines, leaving thousands without electricity. Suspected tornado damage was reported in at least 14 counties in Alabama and 14 counties in Georgia, according to the National Weather Service.

Autauga County officials said the tornado had winds of at least 136 mph (218 kph) and leveled damage consistent with an EF3, two steps below the most powerful category of twister. County authorities have said at least a dozen people were hospitalized and about 40 homes were destroyed or seriously damaged, including mobile homes that were launched into the air.

Residents described chaotic scenes as the storm spun toward them. People rushed into shelters, bathtubs and sheds as the winds bore down. In one case, a search crew found five people, trapped but unharmed, inside a storm shelter after a wall from a nearby house fell onto it.

Downtown Selma sustained severe damage before the worst of the weather moved across Georgia south of Atlanta. No deaths were reported in Selma.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp said the damage was felt across his state. Some of the worst reports emerged from Troup County near the Georgia-Alabama line, where more than 100 homes were hit.

Kemp said a state transportation department worker was killed while responding to storm damage. A 5-year-old child who was riding in a vehicle was killed by a falling tree in Georgia's Butts County, authorities said. At least 12 people were treated at a hospital in Spalding County, south of Atlanta, where the weather service confirmed at least two tornadoes struck.

Johnson, the cafeteria worker in Autauga County, said she was at work when she learned the storm would pass directly over her home. She quickly warned her daughter, who was with her 2-year-old grandson at home.

"I called my daughter and said, 'You do not have time to get out, you've got to get somewhere now,'" Johnson said, her voice cracking. "And she said, 'I'm getting in the tub. If the house is messed up I'll be

in the tub area.”

The call dropped. Johnson kept calling back. When she finally reconnected with her daughter, Johnson said she told her: “The house is gone, the house is gone.”

Her daughter and grandson had some cuts and bruises but were otherwise fine after a trip to the emergency room, Johnson said.

“I brought her home and tried not to let go of her after that,” Johnson said. “I lost a lot of things materialistically and I don’t have insurance but I don’t even care, because my child is all right.

“That’s really all that matters to me.”

## Iran hangs Iranian-British ex-defense official for spy claim

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran said Saturday it executed a former high-ranking defense ministry official and dual Iranian-British national, despite international warnings not to carry out the death sentence. The execution further escalated tensions with the West amid the nationwide anti-government protests shaking the Islamic Republic.

The hanging of Ali Reza Akbari, a close ally of top security official Ali Shamkhani, suggests an ongoing power struggle within Iran’s theocracy as it tries to contain the demonstrations over the September death of Mahsa Amini. It also harkened back to the mass purges of the military that immediately followed Iran’s 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Akbari’s hanging drew immediate anger from London, which along with the U.S. and others has sanctioned Iran over the protests and its supplying Russia with the bomb-carrying drones now targeting Ukraine.

“This was a callous and cowardly act, carried out by a barbaric regime with no respect for the human rights of their own people,” British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said.

Foreign Secretary James Cleverly summoned Iran’s chargé d’affaires in the United Kingdom and temporarily withdrew Britain’s ambassador from Tehran as Britain also sanctioned the Islamic Republic’s prosecutor-general.

“Our response to Iran is not limited to today,” he warned.

Iran similarly summoned the British ambassador after the execution.

Iran’s Mizan news agency, associated with the country’s judiciary, announced Akbari’s hanging without saying when it happened. However, there were rumors he had been executed days earlier.

Iran has alleged, without providing evidence, that Akbari served as a source for Britain’s Secret Intelligence Service, known popularly as MI6. A lengthy statement issued by Iran’s judiciary claimed Akbari received large sums of money, his British citizenship and other help in London for providing information to the intelligence service.

However, Iran long has accused those who travel abroad or have Western ties of spying, often using them as bargaining chips in negotiations.

Akbari, who ran a private think tank, is believed to have been arrested in 2019, but details of his case only emerged in recent weeks. Those accused of espionage and other crimes related to national security are usually tried behind closed doors, where rights groups say they do not choose their own lawyers and are not allowed to see evidence against them.

Iranian state television aired a highly edited video of Akbari discussing the allegations, footage that resembled other claimed confessions that activists have described as coerced confessions.

The BBC Farsi-language service aired an audio message from Akbari on Wednesday, in which he described being tortured.

“By using physiological and psychological methods, they broke my will, drove me to madness and forced me to do whatever they wanted,” Akbari said in the audio. “By the force of gun and death threats they made me confess to false and corrupt claims.”

Iran has not commented on the torture claims. However, the United Nations human rights chief has warned Iran against the “weaponization” of the death penalty as a means to put down the protests.

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U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken condemned Akbari's execution.

"We mourn with his loved ones and will continue to hold Iran accountable for its sham trials and politicized executions," Blinken said.

Robert Malley, the U.S. special envoy for Iran, said he was "horrified" by Akbari's execution.

"The Islamic Republic's unjust detentions, forced confessions, sham trials and politically motivated executions must end," he wrote online.

French President Emmanuel Macron also decried what he called "a heinous and barbaric act." German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock called the execution "a further inhuman act by the Iranian regime."

Iran is one of the world's top executioners. However, it wasn't immediately clear when the last time a former or current high-ranking defense official had been executed. In 1984, Iran executed its navy chief Adm. Baharam Afzali along with nine other military people on a charge of spying for the Soviet Union.

Iran's government for months has been trying to allege — without offering evidence — that foreign countries have fomented the unrest gripping the Islamic Republic since the death of 22-year-old Amini in September after her detention by the morality police. Protesters say they are angry over the collapse of the economy, heavy-handed policing and the entrenched power of the country's Islamic clergy.

For several years, Iran has been locked in a shadow war with the United States and Israel, marked by covert attacks on its disputed nuclear program. The killing of Iran's top nuclear scientist in 2020, which Iran blamed on Israel, indicated foreign intelligence services had made major inroads. Iran mentioned that scientist in discussing Akbari's case, though it's unclear what current information, if any, he would have had on him.

Akbari had previously led the implementation of a 1988 cease-fire between Iran and Iraq following their devastating eight-year war, working closely with U.N. observers. He served as a deputy defense minister under Shamkhani during reformist President Mohammad Khatami's administration, likely further making his credentials suspicious to hard-liners within Iran's theocracy.

Today, Shamkhani is the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran, the country's top security body, which Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei oversees. Akbari's audio message aired by the BBC Persian included him saying he was accused of obtaining top-secret information from Shamkhani "in exchange for a bottle of perfume and a shirt." However, it appears Shamkhani remains in his role.

The anti-government protests now shaking Iran are one of the biggest challenges to the Islamic Republic since the 1979 revolution.

At least 522 protesters have been killed and 19,400 people have been arrested, according to Human Rights Activists in Iran, a group that has been monitoring the unrest. Iranian authorities have not provided official figures on deaths or arrests.

Iran has executed four people after convicting them of charges linked to the protests in similarly criticized trials, including attacks on security forces.

## Buttigieg finds himself in the spotlight for better or worse

By ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's transportation secretary usually holds one of the most public-facing roles in any presidential administration. A core aspect of the Cabinet job is to travel the country, doling out millions of public dollars and attending ribbon-cutting ceremonies for new bridges and overpasses and ports.

Even by those standards, Pete Buttigieg has spent an inordinate amount of time in the national spotlight delivering the largesse of the big infrastructure and domestic spending bills. But at the same time, the 2020 Democratic presidential candidate and onetime mayor of South Bend, Indiana, also has been the public face of a string of transportation-related crises, all amid steady speculation about his future political prospects.

During the 40-year-old Buttigieg's tenure, there have been widespread global supply chain issues and logjams at major ports, multiple instances of mass flight cancellations by airlines and a narrowly avoided nationwide strike by railroad workers that was only averted by an eleventh-hour intervention from Congress.

The latest transportation mishap was the most high-profile yet.



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On Wednesday morning, a malfunction in an obscure and apparently obsolete internal system called the Notice to Air Missions, or NOTAM, forced the temporary grounding of all air traffic in the United States. The move touched off a cascading snarl that resulted in the cancellation of more than 1,300 flights and the delay of 9,000 more. It was the biggest shutdown of U.S. aviation since the attacks of Sept 11, 2001.

Faced with a historic system failure, Buttigieg appeared to lean into his role as the face of the beleaguered American transportation network.

Appearing Wednesday at a Transportation Research Board conference, Buttigieg jumped right into the airline debacle before anyone could ask.

He called it "another challenging day for U.S. aviation" and said his department was "now pivoting to understanding the cause of the issue."

"We're gonna own it," Buttigieg later told reporters.

Earlier that day, during an interview with CNN, Buttigieg offered a positive spin, saying that "part of what you saw this morning was an act of caution."

But he also acknowledged that the mishap had exposed a desperate need to modernize crucial and antiquated systems.

"We need to design a system that does not have these kinds of vulnerabilities," he said.

Buttigieg's challenges earn a special kind of sympathy from those who have sat in the same seat.

Ray LaHood, a former Republican congressman from Illinois who served as transportation secretary for four years under President Barack Obama, said he met with Buttigieg for 90 minutes shortly after Buttigieg was nominated by President Joe Biden.

"I told him, 'When you walk in the door and turn the lights on, there's going to be a crisis. And every day there'll be one or more,'" LaHood said. "When something goes wrong, you become the face of it."

In his two years on the job, Buttigieg has repeatedly criticized U.S. airlines for chronic cancellations and shoddy customer service — making Wednesday's debacle particularly awkward. It also highlighted the fact that the Federal Aviation Administration has been without a Senate-confirmed leader for nearly a year.

Stephen Dickson, a former Delta Airlines executive and appointee of President Donald Trump, resigned last March, midway through his five-year term. Biden's nominee, Denver International Airport CEO Phillip Washington, has seemingly stalled in the Senate, despite Democratic control of the chamber, over questions about Washington's qualifications and his involvement in a corruption investigation in California.

Similarly, another major part of Buttigieg's department, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, has been without a Senate-confirmed leader since last fall, when Steven Cliff resigned just three months after his confirmation to run the California Air Resources Board.

Robert Mann, an independent aviation industry consultant and former executive at American and Pan Am, said the vulnerabilities highlighted by the transportation issues far predate Buttigieg's tenure and run deep into the institutional fabric of the his department and many other large government agencies.

"We've had pipeline problems, we've had maritime problems. How much does the secretary actually control? None," Mann said. "Same with his predecessors as well."

But Republican politicians have been quick to pile on Buttigieg, perhaps seeking to damage the prospects of a young Democratic star who has already run for president once.

In the wake of the mass flight groundings, Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz — himself a former and potential future presidential candidate — led the public charge.

"The FAA's inability to keep an important safety system up and running is completely unacceptable and just the latest example of dysfunction within the Department of Transportation," said Cruz, one of 13 senators who voted against confirming Buttigieg. "This incident also highlights why the public needs a competent, proven leader with substantive aviation experience leading the FAA."

Cruz is expected to assume the role of the top Republican on the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, which has jurisdiction over aviation.

Rep. Sam Graves, the new chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said he expected a "prompt update on DOT's efforts to do right by the passengers it has wronged" and a full

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accounting of what happened.

"The FAA does not run on autopilot – it needs skilled, dedicated, and permanent leadership in positions across the agency," Graves, R-Mo., said in a statement. "The Biden Administration seems to think this lack of qualified leadership can go on indefinitely."

LaHood, a Republican who served in a Democratic administration, said he met with Buttigieg again after last year's midterm elections when it became clear Republicans would control the House.

LaHood's message: "Get ready because you are going to have a target on your back. ... You're a high-visibility Democrat who ran for president. When things happen, be prepared for Republicans to take potshots at you."

Last year, Buttigieg moved from Indiana to Traverse City, Michigan, hometown of his husband Chasten. Buttigieg said at the time it was primarily to be closer to Chasten's parents, who were helping to care for the couple's two young children. But the move to a longtime Democratic stronghold fueled speculation that Buttigieg was priming for his next campaign.

When Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., recently announced that she would not run for reelection, there was buzz that Buttigieg might run. But he was quick to knock down the speculation. He said he was "fully focused" on his Cabinet post and was "not seeking any other job."

The trials and tribulations of his current assignment have reached the point where White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre had to address questions on Wednesday about Biden's confidence in Buttigieg's performance.

Biden, she said, "respects the secretary and the work he has been doing."

## China reports 60,000 COVID-related deaths, says peak passed

By JOE McDONALD Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China on Saturday reported nearly 60,000 deaths in people who had COVID-19 since early December, offering hard numbers for an unprecedented surge that was apparent in overcrowded hospitals and packed crematoriums, even as the government released little data about the status of the pandemic for weeks.

Those numbers may still underestimate the toll, though the government said the "emergency peak" of its latest surge appears to have passed.

The toll included 5,503 deaths due to respiratory failure caused by COVID-19 and 54,435 fatalities from other ailments combined with COVID-19 since Dec. 8, the National Health Commission announced. It said those "deaths related to COVID" occurred in hospitals, which means anyone who died at home would not be included in the numbers.

The report would more than double China's official COVID-19 death toll to 10,775 since the disease was first detected in the central city of Wuhan in late 2019. China has counted only deaths from pneumonia or respiratory failure in its official COVID-19 death toll, a narrow definition that excludes many deaths that would be attributed to COVID-19 in much of the world.

China stopped reporting data on COVID-19 deaths and infections after abruptly lifting anti-virus controls in early December despite a surge in infections that began in October and has filled hospitals with feverish, wheezing patients. Hospitals in Beijing across the country have been overwhelmed with patients, and funeral homes and crematoriums have struggled to handle the dead.

The World Health Organization and other governments appealed for information after reports by city and provincial governments suggested as many as hundreds of millions of people in China might have contracted the virus.

Infection numbers now appear to be falling based on a decline in the number of patients visiting fever clinics, said a National Health Commission official, Jiao Yahui.

The daily number of people going to those clinics peaked at 2.9 million on Dec. 23 and had fallen by 83% to 477,000 on Thursday, according to Jiao.

"These data show the national emergency peak has passed," Jiao said at a news conference.

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Whether China truly has passed a COVID-19 peak is hard to assess, said Dr. Dale Bratzler, chief COVID officer at the University of Oklahoma and head of quality control at the university's hospital.

"That's difficult to know," Bratzler said. "China quarantined people indoors, there are many people unvaccinated, the people are vulnerable."

Dr. Albert Ko, an infectious disease physician and professor of public health at the Yale School of Public Health, said the number of COVID-19 deaths China is reporting may be a "significant underestimation" because of how they define them.

"They're using a very narrow case definition for (COVID) deaths," Ko said. "They have to have respiratory failure ... in order to be counted as a case you have to be at a place where they can say you fulfilled all the requirements, and that's at a hospital."

Hospitals in China, Ko said, are located mostly in large cities where COVID outbreaks have been reported, not in isolated rural areas.

"This is the Lunar New Year, people are traveling, going to the countryside where the population is vulnerable," Ko said. "We're really worried about what's going to happen in China as this outbreak moves to the countryside."

For nearly three years, China had kept its infection rate and deaths far lower than those of the United States and some other countries at the height of the pandemic with a "zero-COVID" strategy that aimed to isolate every case. That shut down access to some cities, kept millions of people at home and sparked angry protests.

Those rules were suddenly eased in early December after some of the largest shows of public dissent against the ruling Communist Party in more than 30 years. That set off new problems in a country that relies on domestically developed vaccines that are less reliable than others used globally, and where older people — those more susceptible to dying from the virus — are less likely to be vaccinated than the general population.

The Health Commission said the average age of people who died since Dec. 8 is 80.3 years, and 90.1% are aged 65 and above. It said more than 90% of people who died had cancer, heart or lung diseases or kidney problems.

"The number of elderly patients dying from illness is relatively large, which suggests that we should pay more attention to elderly patients and try our best to save their lives," said Jiao.

The United States, South Korea, Japan and several other countries have imposed virus testing and other controls on people arriving from China. Beijing retaliated on Wednesday by suspending issuance of new visas to travelers from South Korea and Japan.

This month, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said agency officials met with Chinese officials to underline the importance of sharing more details about COVID-19 issues, including hospitalization rates and genetic sequences.

## **In Alabama, tornadoes rattle historic civil rights community**

By AARON MORRISON AP National Writer

Zakiya Sankara-Jabar's cellphone buzzed relentlessly as a deadly storm system that spawned tornadoes throughout the U.S. South laid waste to relatives' homes and churches across a part of Alabama known as the Black Belt.

Text messages and calls from loved ones, many of them hysterical, provided her with devastating updates of Thursday's storms, which tore through her native Dallas County, including the history-steeped streets of Selma.

Family in the city synonymous with the civil rights movement saw their homes damaged, but they remained structurally sound. For those in Beloit, a nearby unincorporated town where Sankara-Jabar spent the first 20 years of her life, the damage was almost unfathomable.

"I have family who lost everything," she said Friday. "My great-aunt's house was leveled. I saw pictures and it's like the house was never even there."



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Sankara-Jabar's family has called this part of Alabama home for generations. Taking its name from the rich, dark soil, the Black Belt is a region all too familiar with hardship, both economic and social. Many of the civil rights movement's most important struggles took place in the area, including "Bloody Sunday," when nearly 58 years ago state troopers and deputized klansmen viciously attacked Black people marching nonviolently for voting rights across Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Nearly every year since the march, Selma and Dallas County have welcomed back hundreds to thousands of movement foot soldiers, tourists, politicians and activists who ceremonially cross the Pettus Bridge to commemorate the sacrifices of those who bled for democracy. But when the annual celebration is over, the Black Belt continues on as a working class region struggling to deal with gun violence and drug addiction, much like many U.S. communities, but with far fewer resources.

Dallas County, which includes Selma, is home to about 37,600 people, roughly 71% of them Black and 27% white. The county's median household income is \$35,000 and nearly one out of every three residents lives in poverty.

"Losing everything for somebody who was already working class and already poor financially is devastating," said Sankara-Jabar, a racial justice activist who now lives just outside of Washington, D.C.

Thursday's storm inflicted heavy damage on Selma, cutting a wide path through the downtown area, where brick buildings collapsed, oak trees were uprooted, cars were tossed onto their sides and power lines were left dangling. While Selma officials said no fatalities had been reported there, several people were seriously injured.

U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell, a native of Selma, said it was painful to see what the tornado had done to her beloved hometown.

"Coming across that Edmund Pettus Bridge and seeing just nothing — lights off — and as we were driving down Broad Street to see street after street after street being devastated, it was frankly heartbreaking for me and heart-wrenching for me," Sewell said Friday.

At the same time, she said, Selma is resilient.

"After all, we survived and thrived through civil rights and voting rights," she said.

The city is famed for its historic sites: Pettus Bridge, where the Selma-to-Montgomery march is commemorated; Brown Chapel AME Church, where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference worked with local activists during the Selma movement; and the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute, founded in 1991 and opened near the bridge.

"We ask that people keep Selma in their hearts right now, because it is the communities of color that have suffered the most in this particular storm," said Felecia Pettway, a member of the voting rights museum's board of directors. "We are really concerned about what happens next."

Pettway is also a development director for Legal Services Alabama, an organization that provides free civil legal advocacy for low-income residents. The organization's Selma office was damaged in the tornado.

A few blocks away from Brown Chapel AME Church, the starting point of the 1965 marches from Selma to Montgomery, homeowners boarded up blown-out windows and carried out salvageable belongings from homes with their roofs blown off.

Rachel Bonner, 77, was at home when the tornado struck, ripping the roof and sides away from her home.

Like many people over age 60 in this city, her life is intertwined with the region's history. She graduated from a historic school for Black students that stayed open as a public school until the 1970s.

"I marched in Selma and Wilcox County during the movement," Bonner said.

Pearlie Miller, who was at work during the storm, made her way home to check on her sisters. Her home was destroyed, but she is thankful her family is safe.

"God has been good to us. We've been blessed. That is how we are looking at it," she said. "Our entire family is safe. Our neighbors are safe and that's all that matters."

It is not hyperbole to consider Selma's downtown district hallowed ground. It's the place from which the late Amelia Boynton Robinson, a Selma voting rights strategist and civil rights movement matriarch, convinced King to get involved in the movement, hoping he would help nationalize the voting rights struggle. It's where the late Georgia congressman and voting rights icon John Lewis was beaten nearly to death by

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state troopers as he crossed the Pettus Bridge on March 7, 1965.

It's also where the first Black president and the first Black vice president have offered tributes to a civil rights movement that helped their ascensions to high office go from pipe dream to reality.

When the expected tens of thousands gather there this coming March for the annual Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee, the downtown will resemble a huge street festival. There will be music blaring and vendors selling food, T-shirts and other memorabilia.

But when the national political figures leave and the news media cameras disappear, Selma's high crime levels, pothole-covered streets, abandoned homes and vacant businesses will remain. The city famous for the voting rights struggle will still have to address its sagging voter turnout.

Adia Winfrey, executive director of Transform Alabama, a nonprofit that promotes civic engagement and voter participation, said the needs of the entire Black Belt in Alabama, not just Selma, are manifold and include water, sewage and educational infrastructure as well as child care, parental support and activities for young people.

"There are great people doing great work, but their capacity is limited," said Winfrey, who is also board secretary for the Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee.

"How do we leverage the excitement about the jubilee and interest in the history of Selma, to bring the resources to Selma?"

## UK to supply tanks; Russian missiles hit across Ukraine

By SYLVIA HUI and HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Saturday promised to provide tanks and artillery systems to Ukraine, amid renewed missile attacks by Moscow targeting multiple Ukrainian cities for the first time in nearly two weeks.

Nine people were killed and 64 others wounded in the southeastern city of Dnipro, where a Russian missile strike destroyed a section of an apartment building, said Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of the Ukrainian presidential office.

Infrastructure facilities were also hit in the western Lviv region and Ivano-Frankivsk regions, in the Odesa region on the Black Sea and in northeastern Kharkiv. Kyiv, the capital, was also targeted.

Sunak made the pledge to provide Challenger 2 tanks and other artillery systems after speaking to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Saturday, the British leader's Downing Street office said in a statement.

It didn't say when the tanks would be delivered or how many. British media have reported that four British Army Challenger 2 main battle tanks will be sent to Eastern Europe immediately, with eight more to follow shortly after, without citing sources.

Zelenskyy tweeted his thanks to Sunak on Saturday "for the decisions that will not only strengthen us on the battlefield, but also send the right signal to other partners."

Ukraine has for months sought to be supplied with heavier tanks, including the U.S. Abrams and the German Leopard 2 tanks, but Western leaders have been treading carefully.

The Czech Republic and Poland have provided Soviet-era T-72 tanks to Ukrainian forces. Poland has also expressed readiness to provide a company of Leopard tanks, but President Andrzej Duda stressed during his recent visit to the Ukrainian city of Lviv that the move would be possible only as an element in a larger international coalition of tank aid to Kyiv.

Earlier this month, France said it would send AMX-10 RC armored combat vehicles to Ukraine, designated "light tanks" in French. The U.S. and Germany announced the same week that they would send Bradley fighting vehicles and Marder armored personnel carriers, respectively, for the first time.

Sunak's announcement came as Russian forces fired missiles at Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine on Saturday in the first major barrage in days.

In Dnipro, rescuers were using a crane to try to evacuate people trapped in the apartment building's upper stories, some of whom were signaling with the flashlights on their mobile phones, Tymoshenko said

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on Telegram. He also said there were likely people under the rubble.

In the northeastern Kharkiv region, Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said two Russian missiles hit an infrastructure object again on Saturday afternoon, following a similar attack in the morning. In the city of Kharkiv, the subway suspended operations amid the attacks, according to its Telegram channel.

Another infrastructure facility was hit in the western Lviv region, according to Gov. Maksym Kozytskyi. Air defense systems were activated in other regions of Ukraine, as well, and as another round of air raid sirens sounded across the country in the afternoon, regional officials urged local residents to seek shelter.

Vitali Kim, governor of the southern Mykolaiv region, hinted in a Telegram post that some missiles have been intercepted over his province.

Military top commander Valeri Zaluzhny said that Russia fired 33 cruise missiles overall on Saturday, of which 21 were shot down.

Earlier in the day, explosions also rocked the capital, Kyiv. The blasts occurred before air sirens sounded, which is unusual. It's likely the explosions came ahead of the warning sirens because the attack was by ballistic missiles, which are faster than cruise missiles or drones.

According to Ukrainian air force spokesman Yuriy Ihnat, Russia attacked Kyiv with ballistic missiles flying from the north.

"The ballistics are not easy for us to detect and shoot down," he told local media. The warning about the missile threat was late because of the lack of radar data and information from other sources.

An infrastructure target was hit in the morning missile attack, according to Ukrainian officials.

Explosions were heard in the Dniprovskiy district, a residential area on the left bank of the Dnieper River, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said. Klitschko also said that fragments of a missile fell on a nonresidential area in the Holiivskiy district on the right bank, and a fire briefly broke out in a building there. No casualties have been reported so far.

This was the first attack on the Ukrainian capital since Jan. 1.

On Saturday morning, two Russian missiles hit Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. The strikes with S-300 missiles targeted "energy and industrial objects of Kharkiv and the (outlying) region," governor Syniehubov said. No casualties have been reported, but emergency power cuts in the city and other settlements of the region were possible, the official said.

In the city of Avdiivka in eastern Ukraine where fighting is most intense, three people were killed in Russian artillery attacks on Saturday, mayor Vitalii Barabash said. One person died in a rocket attack in Kryvyi Rih, in the Dnipropetrovsk region, Reznichenko said.

The attacks follow conflicting reports on the fate of the fiercely contested salt mining town of Soledar, in Ukraine's embattled east. Russia claims that its forces have captured the town, a development that would mark a rare victory for the Kremlin after a series of humiliating setbacks on the battlefield.

Ukrainian deputy defense minister Hanna Malyar said Saturday that the "fierce battles for Soledar are continuing."

Moscow has painted the battle for the town and the nearby city of Bakhmut as key to capturing the eastern region of the Donbas, which comprises of partially occupied Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and as a way to grind down the best Ukrainian forces and prevent them from launching counterattacks elsewhere.

But that cuts both ways, as Ukraine says its fierce defense of the eastern strongholds has helped tie up Russian forces. Western officials and analysts say the two towns' importance is more symbolic than strategic.

## India's 'RRR' an unlikely underdog in Hollywood awards race

By RYAN PEARSON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hollywood's awards season has found an unlikely underdog in "RRR."

S.S. Rajamouli's three-hour maximalist action epic is one of India's most expensive and top-grossing films of all time. It pairs two of the country's biggest stars, N.T. Rama Rao Jr. and Ram Charan, and topped Netflix streaming charts over the summer.

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It's been showered with praise from the likes of J.J. Abrams and Jessica Chastain. It won best original song at the Golden Globes for the exuberant "Naatu Naatu" and has five Critics Choice Awards nominations, including for best picture.

But the Academy Awards generally shun foreign films and over-the-top action movies in key categories. And "RRR" can't win the international feature film Oscar because India submitted Pan Nalin's much quieter "Chhello Show" instead. A nomination for best picture at the Oscars remains a long shot.

To give their film a final push, Rama Rao Jr. and Charan traveled to Los Angeles to walk the Globes grey carpet, mingle with the likes of Cate Blanchett at parties, and attend packed screenings for potential awards voters, including one at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood that featured a riotous dance party during the "Naatu Naatu" scene.

They sat down with The Associated Press for a joint interview to talk about their real-life bond, Rajamouli's discussions of a sequel, and building bridges between the world's film industries.

Responses have been edited for brevity and clarity.

AP: The movie was a big success when it opened in India but it's been a slow burn in terms of Western audiences catching on through word-of-mouth and watching it on Netflix. How have you experienced that?

RAMA RAO JR.: You really don't get to know what's actually happening in the audience's mind when people are watching movies on Netflix. But our breakthrough was when we saw Mr. Rajamouli have a screening at the TCL (in September). And the response — he got a standing ovation. I think that was the opening for how we started knowing that the West has taken "RRR" into their hearts. And I wish we both were there. But I think that was our first breakthrough — and the social media.

CHARAN: It's so satisfying to see every reaction. Everything we performed for has been appreciated. And the reactions were just priceless. Yeah, it was like a slow burn. But nevertheless, this is like another feather in the hat for us.

AP: Ram Charan, you were in production during at least part of that time on your next movie. How were you sort of staying in touch with your "RRR" brothers?

CHARAN: The "RRR" journey started in 2018, and this is 2023 now, and we are still in touch. I think we just took a consensual break that we needed time away from each other because we were so into each other.

RAMA RAO JR.: We were so into each other. Like in each other.

AP: Rajamouli's talking about a sequel, but you guys are both probably booked up?

CHARAN: No. We'd clear the calendar.

RAMA RAO JR.: We'll clear the calendar. But unfortunately we have no idea about it. We have no clue about "RRR 2" until he spoke about it. So if you interview him, you should actually get the clarity from him so that we know when it's starting, so that we can keep our calendar free.

AP: Was it something that had been discussed when the movie wrapped?

CHARAN: No. Nothing. We heard it for the first time when he was talking to you guys. I mean, we're not kidding on this. We never spoke about it.

RAMA RAO JR.: And he never tells us anything.

CHARAN: Yeah, everything is a surprise.

RAMA RAO JR.: I would say it's a bad thing. I hate surprises. Maybe Charan likes them.

CHARAN: He knows we clear the calendars whenever he calls us. He takes us for granted on that. (Laughs)

AP: The political message of the film and the timing of its release, how important is that to you?

CHARAN: I personally feel it was more about the brotherhood than the nationalism or the patriotism in the film. It was in the background. Obviously, it's the era that we have selected, the director has chosen had the sense of nationalism running under the water, like under the carpet. But what you actually see is a full-fledged fictional story.

RAMA RAO JR.: Bromance.

CHARAN: Bromance derived from two historic characters, legends. But end of the day, we're not playing part of the history. It is Mr. Rajamouli's interpretation and his fictional thoughts and writing with his father.



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RAMA RAO JR.: Rajamouli as such, I really don't think he makes movies because he wants to send out a message. For him, it's just storytelling and it's about making entertainment ... To tell this story, he's picked up a time frame where India was being ruled by the British Empire. Yeah, simple. So other than that, there was no message to it. But yes, it was more about two friends — their egos, their understanding of the world, each other, how they grew together, how they were apart, how they came together. How they went off, separated, and how they got back together and grew strength individually in their lives.

AP: And how much does that sort of "get together, push apart, come back together," mirror your own real-life relationship between the two of you?

RAMA RAO JR.: I think we never acted in the movie. I think we are that.

CHARAN: Yeah, but we never had such bad misunderstanding and separation where we were fighting. But yeah, we are very close. The characters we played have been very close. On all the good, good parts of the movie, it's pretty much what we also share in real life.

AP: What are the goals in terms of being in Hollywood? Do you want to star in, say, a Quentin Tarantino movie?

CHARAN: Absolutely. I mean, it's always there. Like I said, it was not part of our goal to come to LA, but we landed up here. So we are taking it as it goes. And of course, we want to experience the great directors of LA and Hollywood, and I want them to also experience us as actors and share some cultural ideas and stories between the East and the West. I would love to explore it, of course. And (Tarantino) is one of my favorite directors.

RAMA RAO JR.: We come from families which have been into the business for a very long time, but both of us, our entry into films was never planned. It was just very accidental. And accidentally, we are here today, talking about films in L.A. So, yeah, we are actors who I think with "RRR" we have crossed the boundaries of those imaginary lines of Eastern film industry, Western film industry. I think we've somewhat erased that. And it's a big good crossover. There's so much talent here. There's so much talent there. I think everybody should come together. "Avatar 2" is doing phenomenal numbers down in India. So did so did the "Avengers: Endgame." So I think it's high time we all have to collaborate and start making films for the global audiences.

CHARAN: We are waiting for the day when all the "woods" get burned and there's one global cinema.

AP: Was it weird that the way that most viewers experienced the film through the Hindi version on Netflix?

CHARAN: But fortunately, we dubbed all the languages. It was actually us.

RAMA RAO JR.: So Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, whatever — it was our voice. So we were happy that. But yes, I would say maybe it should have been out in Telugu as well. That's now, that's me being, being very, very, very emotional about being a Telugu person. But other than that, "RRR" resembles India and whatever language it is, I'm happy that it's reached out to the audiences.

AP: What have your family members said about this weird journey that you're on with "RRR"?

CHARAN: I think they are more happy than us.

RAMA RAO JR.: I wish my grandfather was alive to see this happen. Of course he's not there anymore. But the family has been very supportive, excited. Everybody's excited. Who wouldn't be?

## University: Student stabbed on bus because she is Asian

BLOOMINGTON, Indiana (AP) — A 56-year-old woman has been charged after an 18-year-old Indiana University student repeatedly was stabbed in the head on a public bus in an attack the school says was because the victim is Asian.

The victim told investigators she was standing and waiting for the exit doors to open on a Bloomington Transit bus Wednesday afternoon when another passenger began striking her in the head, Bloomington police said in a release.

Bus surveillance footage showed no interaction between the two women prior to the attack.

A witness who also was riding the bus followed the woman's attacker and contacted police, who later arrested Billie R. Davis of Bloomington. Davis has been charged with attempted murder and aggravated

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battery, according to court records.

The victim was treated at a hospital for multiple stab wounds. Her name was not released.

Court documents show Davis said the victim was targeted because of her race, according to WNDU-TV.

Citing court records, WRTV-TV reports that Davis told police she stabbed the woman multiple times in the head with a folding knife, because it "would be one less person to blow up our country."

Records did not list an attorney representing Davis.

"This week, Bloomington was sadly reminded that anti-Asian hate is real and can have painful impacts on individuals and our community," Indiana University Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Multicultural Affairs James Wimbush said in a statement. "No one should face harassment or violence due to their background, ethnicity or heritage. Instead, the Bloomington and IU communities are stronger because of the vast diversity of identities and perspectives that make up our campus and community culture."

Bloomington is in southern Indiana. Mayor John Hamilton called behavior like the bus attack "not acceptable" and said it will be "dealt with accordingly."

"We know when a racially motivated incident like this resonates throughout the community, it can leave us feeling less safe," Hamilton said in a statement Saturday. "We stand with the Asian community and all who feel threatened by this event."

In recent years, Asian Americans have increasingly been the target of racially motivated harassment and assaults, especially after the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

## Lisa Marie carved her musical path as she bore Elvis' legacy

By KRISTIN M. HALL AP Entertainment Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — She was dubbed a "rock princess," but Lisa Marie Presley staked her own musical claim as a singer-songwriter, allowing her to express herself apart from — but sometimes alongside — her megastar father.

Presley, who died Thursday at 54, bore a heavy weight: The daughter of musical royalty, the face of the Elvis estate and fodder for tabloid gossip about her marriages.

There was no question music would be a center point of her life, starting when she was a child singing for her father, the King with the unmistakable voice.

"He's always been a huge influence on me my whole life always. It's the first thing I ever heard," she told The Associated Press in 2012.

As the sole heir of Elvis' estate, her early life was defined by the Elvis brand and her role building that legacy with her mother Priscilla. That often meant Elvis fans put their own feelings about her father and his music onto her and Priscilla.

Charles Hughes, an author and director of the Lynne & Henry Turley Memphis Center at Rhodes College in Memphis, noted that Presley faced sexism and racism in the tabloids — and among some Elvis fans — throughout her life, especially surrounding her relationship to another icon, Michael Jackson.

"There are very few people I can think of who had to do what she did ... being the Presleys' daughter, but being Michael Jackson's ex-wife and being a mother and being in the public eye as long and as complicatedly as she was," said Hughes.

She was 35 and a mother when her debut album "To Whom It May Concern" came out in 2003. The music was in the vein of the rock-pop sound influenced by Sheryl Crow, her sultry alto over distorted guitars and raw dark lyrics that hinted at her past relationships.

"The daring thing about her music, the daring thing about her recording career, the daring thing about her was her willingness to speak her truth," said Joe Levy, editor at large at Billboard. "The songs on those first two records are more challenging, more daring, and more exciting for their lyrics than for their music."

The album was well-received and certified gold, even though she didn't play publicly very much, and it hit No. 5 on the Billboard 200 chart. Her first single "Lights Out" reached a No. 18 peak on Billboard's Adult Pop Airplay. Over her career, she sold 836,000 albums, while her songs have drawn 9.5 million official streams in the U.S., according to Luminate.

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Hughes said he still regularly plays the "Lights Out" music video for his students when he teaches about Elvis.

"It is such a compelling and a complicated take on the legacy and on her role in it. It's not about him. I mean, it is, but it's really about her," said Hughes.

But doing press interviews in 2005 to promote her second album, "Now What," meant being subjected to an endless barrage of questions about Jackson and her third husband Nicolas Cage, rather than the music.

Author Steve Baltin, who interviewed her several times over her career, said within music circles Presley was able to be herself and be accepted for her own talent. During her career, she worked with Pink, T Bone Burnett, Linda Perry, Richard Hawley, Ed Harcourt and many more.

"She was very respected as a musician, and while everybody else saw her as Elvis' daughter, people in music loved her and they appreciated the fact that, one, she was talented, but two, she really supported music," said Baltin.

Her third album, "Storm & Grace," came out in 2012, after a period in which Presley had moved to England to work with British songwriters on what turned out to be a very American record. More bluesy and acoustic than her earlier records, the songs are full of melancholy and heartache.

On the song "Sticks and Stones," she addresses critics with scorching mimicry, singing "She's ain't just like her daddy/oh what a shame/She's got no talent of her own/it's just her name."

Baltin said Presley stopped trying to avoid the comparisons at that point in her career.

"That record, in particular, was the first time that she really started to accept who she was and accept all of her roots and how this played into her," said Baltin. "So I think it was the record that was most completely her because she wasn't trying to deny her past."

Songwriter and musician Clif Magness worked with Presley for about two years making the first record, saying she was excellent at writing "dark and quirky" lyrics. He said he rarely pried about who inspired which songs, but he recalled her writing a song about her dad called "Nobody Noticed It."

"It took about six months to get her to the point where she can be honest with herself and creative with her words and talk about her dad," he said. "So that was really special."

Presley's lyrics to "Lights Out" were written after she had come back from a visit to Graceland, said Magness, where her father and her grandparents are buried in the back lawn, along with extra space for other Presley family members. Years later, in 2020, her 27-year-old son Benjamin Keough was buried there as well.

"I noticed a space left/next to them there in Memphis/in the damn back lawn," she sings.

All roads lead back to Memphis for the Presleys and Lisa Marie will be interred there, too, something she foretold in her music decades ago.

## Thousands protest in Germany against coal mine expansion

By PHILIPP JENNE Associated Press

ERKELENZ, Germany (AP) — Thousands of people demonstrated in persistent rain on Saturday to protest the clearance and demolition of a village in western Germany that is due to make way for the expansion of a coal mine. There were standoffs with police as some protesters tried to reach the edge of the mine and the village itself.

Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg joined the demonstrators as they protested the clearance of Luetzerath, walking through the nearby village of Keyenberg and past muddy fields. Protesters chanted "Every village stays" and "You are not alone."

Organizers said about 35,000 people took part, while police put the figure at 15,000. On the sidelines of the protest, police said people broke through their barriers and some got into the Garzweiler coal mine.

Some who tried to get to the edge of the mine were pushed back. And German news agency dpa reported that police used water cannons and batons just outside Luetzerath itself, which is now fenced off, against hundreds of people who got that far. The situation calmed down after dark.

Some protesters have complained of what they say was undue force by police and about the size of the police response this week. Police, meanwhile, said some demonstrators had thrown fireworks at officers

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and damaged patrol cars.

Thunberg said the fate of Luetzerath and the expansion of the mine matters far beyond Germany.

In the global fight against climate change, "what everyone does matters," she told The Associated Press shortly before the protest. "And if one of the largest polluters, like Germany, and one of the biggest historical emitters of CO2 is doing something like this, then of course it affects more or less everyone — especially those most bearing the brunt of the climate crisis."

As the demonstration took place, the clearance of Luetzerath was well advanced.

The operation to evict climate activists holed up in the village kicked off on Wednesday morning. In the first three days of the operation, police said that about 470 people had left the site, 320 of them voluntarily.

They said on Friday afternoon that there were no longer any activists in the remaining buildings or on their roofs. They said Saturday they still had to tackle 15 "structures" such as tree houses and were trying to get into a tunnel in which two people were believed to be holed up, dpa reported. Work to demolish buildings was already underway.

Luetzerath has become a cause celebre for critics of Germany's climate efforts.

Environmentalists say bulldozing the village to expand the Garzweiler mine would result in huge amounts of greenhouse gas emissions. The government and utility company RWE argue the coal is needed to ensure Germany's energy security.

The regional and national governments, both of which include the environmentalist Green party, reached a deal with RWE last year allowing it to destroy the abandoned village in return for ending coal use by 2030, rather than 2038.

Some speakers at Saturday's demonstration assailed the Greens, whose leaders argue that the deal fulfills many of the environmentalists' demands and saved five other villages from demolition.

"It's very weird to see the German government, including the Green party, make deals and compromise with companies like RWE, with fossil fuel companies, when they should rather be held accountable for all the damage and destruction they have caused," Thunberg said.

"My message to the German government is that they should stop what's happening here immediately, stop the destruction, and ensure climate justice for everyone."

## More classified documents found at Biden's home by lawyers

By ZEKE MILLER AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawyers for President Joe Biden found more classified documents at his home in Wilmington, Delaware, than previously known, the White House acknowledged Saturday.

White House lawyer Richard Sauber said in a statement that a total of six pages of classified documents were found during a search of Biden's private library. The White House had said previously that only a single page was found there.

The latest disclosure is in addition to the discovery of documents found in December in Biden's garage and in November at his former offices at the Penn Biden Center in Washington, from his time as vice president. The apparent mishandling of classified documents and official records from the Obama administration is under investigation by a former U.S. attorney, Robert Hur, who was appointed as a special counsel on Thursday by Attorney General Merrick Garland.

Sauber said in a statement Saturday that Biden's personal lawyers, who did not have security clearances, stopped their search after finding the first page on Wednesday evening. Sauber found the remaining material Thursday, as he was facilitating their retrieval by the Department of Justice.

"While I was transferring it to the DOJ officials who accompanied me, five additional pages with classification markings were discovered among the material with it, for a total of six pages," Sauber said. "The DOJ officials with me immediately took possession of them."

Sauber has previously said that the White House was "confident that a thorough review will show that these documents were inadvertently misplaced, and the president and his lawyers acted promptly upon discovery of this mistake."

Sauber's statement did not explain why the White House waited two days to provide an updated ac-



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counting of the number of classified records. The White House is already facing scrutiny for waiting more than two months to acknowledge the discovery of the initial group of documents at the Biden office.

On Thursday, asked whether Biden could guarantee that additional classified documents would not turn up in a further search, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters, "You should assume that it's been completed, yes."

Sauber reiterated Saturday that the White House would cooperate with Hur's investigation.

Bob Bauer, the president's personal lawyer, said his legal team has "attempted to balance the importance of public transparency where appropriate with the established norms and limitations necessary to protect the investigation's integrity."

The Justice Department historically imposes a high legal bar before bringing criminal charges in cases involving the mishandling of classified information, with a requirement that someone intended to break the law as opposed to being merely careless or negligent in doing so. The primary statute governing the illegal removal and retention of classified documents makes it a crime to "knowingly" remove classified documents and store them in an unauthorized way.

The circumstances involving Biden, at least as so far known, differ from a separate investigation into the mishandling of classified documents at former President Donald Trump's private club and residence in Florida.

In Trump's case, special counsel Jack Smith is investigating whether anyone sought to obstruct their investigation into the retention of classified records at the Palm Beach estate. Justice Department officials have said Trump's representatives failed to fully comply with a subpoena that sought the return of classified records, prompting agents to return to the home with a search warrant so they could collect additional materials.

## Prince Harry: Memoir is about saving royals from themselves

LONDON (AP) — Prince Harry has said he had enough material for two memoirs, but that he held back because he didn't think his father and brother would "ever forgive" him.

In an interview with British newspaper The Telegraph published Saturday, he also said that releasing his memoir wasn't an attempt "to collapse the monarchy. This is about trying to save them from themselves."

"And I know that I will get crucified by numerous people for saying that," he said.

Harry's candid autobiography, "Spare," sold 1.4 million English-language copies on the first day it was published. Many of its revelations and accusations were splashed across the global media this week. In the book, the 38-year-old revealed how his grief at the death of his mother, Princess Diana, affected him, and saw Harry detail his resentment at being the "spare to the heir."

"It could have been two books, put it that way," Harry said in the interview. "But there are some things that have happened, especially between me and my brother, and to some extent between me and my father, that I just don't want the world to know. Because I don't think they would ever forgive me."

Harry also said in the interview that he worried about William's children, saying he felt "a responsibility knowing that out of those three children, at least one will end up like me, the spare. And that hurts, that worries me."

He said he felt this way despite William making it clear to him that "his kids are not my responsibility."

Buckingham Palace and Kensington Palace haven't commented on Harry's book or his string of media interviews to publicize it.

## Claim of mammoth bones brings treasure hunters to NYC river

By DEEPTI HAJELA Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Ask people what you might find buried in the muck at the bottom of New York City's East River and they'd likely say "mob boss" before thinking of mammoth bones.

But several groups of treasure hunters have taken to the waterway in recent weeks after hearing a guest

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on comedian Joe Rogan's podcast claim a boxcar's worth of potentially valuable prehistoric mammoth bones was dumped in the river in the 1940s.

Despite a lack of evidence to back up the story, treasure seekers using boats, diving apparatuses and technology like remote-operated cameras have gone searching, in hopes the murky waters are hiding woolly mammoth tusks.

"I think the chances are just as good as the lottery. And people buy those tickets every day," said Don Gann, 35, of North Arlington, New Jersey, a commercial diver who's been out on the water since early last week with his brother and two workers.

It all started when John Reeves, an Alaskan gold miner with a passion for fossils, came onto "The Joe Rogan Experience" for an episode that aired Dec. 30 to talk about his land, where he has personally uncovered numerous age-old bones and tusks. In the first half of the 20th century, under previous ownership, digging for gold unearthed a trove of prehistoric mammal remains.

Some of that material was brought to New York City decades ago to be handed over to the American Museum of Natural History. Reeves cited a draft of a report put together by three men, including one who worked at the museum, that included a reference to some fossils and bones deemed unsuitable for the museum being dumped into the river.

"I'm going to start a bone rush," Reeves told Rogan, before reading from the draft and giving out a location: East River Drive, which is now known as the FDR Drive, at around 65th Street.

"We'll see if anybody out there's got a sense of adventure," he said, later adding, "Let me tell you something about mammoth bones, mammoth tusks - they're extremely valuable."

After the episode aired, the American Museum of Natural History threw water as cold as the East River on the tale.

"We do not have any record of the disposal of these fossils in the East River, nor have we been able to find any record of this report in the museum's archives or other scientific sources," it said in a statement.

When reached by The Associated Press via telephone, Reeves refused to talk and instead told a reporter to read the pages of the draft he had posted on social media before hanging up. He didn't answer other calls and emails.

The pages posted on social media identify three men as the authors: Richard Osborne, an anthropologist; Robert Evander, who formerly worked in the American Museum of Natural History's paleontology department; and Robert Sattler, an archeologist with a consortium of Alaska Native tribes.

Reached by The Associated Press, Sattler said the story about the dumped bones came from Osborne, who died in 2005.

The document cited by Reeves was real, he said, and written in the mid-1990s. But it wasn't something intended for an academic journal. It was a starting point for something — maybe a book — based on Osborne's knowledge of a period in Alaska when mammoth remains were being discovered in plenty. Osborne's father worked at a company involved in the digging.

Sattler said Osborne spent time around the operation as a young man and probably heard the story about surplus bones being dumped in the river secondhand. Sattler said he didn't have any specifics beyond Osborne's recollections.

"He would have had some knowledge from somebody telling him that they dumped some excess material in the East River," he said.

Mammoth remains discovered in Alaska did wind up at the American Museum of Natural History, including some still on display today.

The section of the Manhattan shoreline where Reeves claimed the bones were dumped underwent major changes in the 1930s and 1940s, as the East River Drive, later renamed for President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was constructed on fill and pilings. The highway opened fully to drivers in 1942, raising questions about how someone would have dumped a huge trove of bones without disrupting traffic.

Gann said he's seen about two dozen other sets of fossil hunters in the time he's spent searching for mammoth remains out on the East River.

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Visibility in the East River is extremely poor, he said. On a good day, you can see maybe a foot in front of you. The current at the bottom is strong.

But the avid diver, who appeared in Discovery's "Sewer Divers," has a thing for searching out unusual finds — although mammoth bones are admittedly on a different scale than finding a Paul Revere spoon at an estate sale.

"I've hunted for weird artifacts my entire life, so this one, it just kind of fits into my repertoire," Gann said.

He and his crew haven't found anything, which he admits is disappointing, but it has spurred him to do some of his own digging into history. He's switched his sights to a location off of the southern part of Brooklyn, saying it would have been a more likely site for cargo to be dumped than the East River off Manhattan.

"If I find nothing, then I find nothing. I gave it an honest shot," Gann said.

## Taliban ban on female aid workers poses big dilemma for US

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For an idled worker at a Kabul-based aid group, Abaad, that helps abused Afghan women, frightened and often tearful calls are coming in, not only from her clients but also from her female colleagues.

A Dec. 24 order from the Taliban barring aid groups from employing women is paralyzing deliveries that help keep millions of Afghans alive, and threatening humanitarian services countrywide. As another result of the ban, thousands of women who work for such organizations across the war-battered country are facing the loss of income they desperately need to feed their own families.

The prohibition is posing one of the biggest policy challenges over Afghanistan for the United States and other countries since the U.S. military withdrawal in August 2021 opened the door for the Taliban takeover. Those nations face the difficult task of crafting an international response that neither further worsens the plight of millions of aid-dependent Afghans nor caves in to the Taliban's crackdown on women.

The United Nations estimates that 85% of nongovernmental aid organizations in Afghanistan have partially or fully shut down operations because of the ban, which is the Taliban's latest step to drive women from public life.

Abaad was among those suspending its work. Its female employees provided support and counseling to women who endured rape, beatings, forced marriages or other domestic abuse.

Female clients told the Abaad worker that without the group's help, they fear they will wind up on Kabul's streets. For the worker herself and for thousands like her across Afghanistan, they depend on their paychecks to survive in a broken economy where aid officials say 97% of the population is now in poverty or at risk of it.

One colleague told her she was contemplating suicide.

The aid worker and others interviewed expressed hope that the United States, the United Nations and others will stand by them and persuade the Taliban to relent on the ban.

"That's all we ask. They should find a solution, find a way to support people here in Afghanistan," she said. She spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of her safety.

Several leading global aid organizations that have suspended operations are urging U.N. aid agencies to do the same. They are asking the Biden administration to use its influence to ensure the international community stands firm.

The U.S. is the largest single humanitarian donor to Afghanistan. It also has an abiding interests in quelling security threats from extremist groups in Afghanistan, one of the tasks for which it hopes to maintain some limited relationship with the Taliban.

A U.S. official involved in the discussions predicted a final international response that falls somewhere between suspending all aid operations, which the official said would be inhumane and ineffective, and the other extreme of fully acquiescing to the Taliban ban.

One proposal being looked at in the administration is stopping all but lifesaving aid to Afghans, according

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to another U.S. official and nongovernmental officials familiar with the discussion.

The officials were not authorized to publicly discuss ongoing deliberations and they all spoke on condition of anonymity.

Aid group officials and analysts point to the difficulty of narrowing down what is lifesaving assistance, however. Food aid, certainly. But what about other forms of support such as maternal care, which has helped more than halve Afghanistan's maternal mortality rate since the 1990s?

Major nongovernmental aid organizations say that without female workers, it's impossible for them to effectively reach the women and children who make up 75% of those in need. That's because of Afghanistan's conservative customs and the Taliban's rules prohibiting contact between unrelated men and women.

"Our suspensions are operational necessities," said Anastasia Moran, senior officer for humanitarian policy at the International Rescue Committee. "It's not being punitive. It's not trying to withdraw services. It's not a negotiating tactic."

The Taliban crackdown is re-creating conditions from their first time in power in the mid-1990s, when successive edicts drove women out of schools, jobs, aid work and increasingly into their homes. Taliban leaders then ultimately ordered households to paint their windows black, so that no passersby could see the women inside. It left women and children in female-headed households little means to access money or help to stay alive.

The U.S. invasion that followed the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, ended that first era of Taliban rule. The Biden administration and aid groups all cite a determination to avoid a repeat of the fractured, rivalry-driven and often ad hoc international response to the Taliban abuses in the 1990s, including the crackdown then on women.

U.N. Security Council members met Friday behind closed doors to consider the international response, after 11 of the 15 member nations reiterated the council's demand for "unhindered access for humanitarian actors regardless of gender."

The humanitarian crisis brought on by the Taliban's ban comes at a politically sensitive moment for Biden, with Republicans now leading the House and pledging to investigate the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Rep. Michael McCaul, a foreign-policy veteran newly in charge of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, called the crackdown on women part of the "disastrous" consequences of the U.S. withdrawal. McCaul, R-Texas, said his committee will push for answers from administration officials on their handling of Afghanistan policy.

"This administration promised consequences if the Taliban revoked its promise to uphold the human rights of Afghan women and girls," McCaul said in a statement to The Associated Press. "Unfortunately, it is no surprise to see the Taliban violate this commitment, and now consequences must be swiftly delivered."

Almost all involved expressed hope that quiet diplomacy led by U.N. officials over the next few weeks could lead the Taliban to soften their stance, allowing female aid workers and aid organizations overall to resume their duties.

U.N. and other officials are meeting daily on the matter with the Taliban's most senior leaders in Kabul, who have access to the Taliban's supreme leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada, and his associates in the southern city of Kandahar, a U.S. official said.

Some caution the international community may face years of little influence over Afghanistan's rulers.

In the meantime, the mission for those assisting isolated, abused women was clear. said Masuda Sultan, an Afghan woman also working with the Abaad aid group.

"Our goal is to help these women," Sultan said, speaking from Dubai. "If they don't get help, they will die."



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## Today in History: JAN 15, Martin Luther King Jr. is born

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History:

Today is Sunday, Jan. 15, the 15th day of 2023. There are 350 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 15, 1929, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta.

On this date:

In 1559, England's Queen Elizabeth I was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1892, the original rules of basketball, devised by James Naismith, were published for the first time in Springfield, Massachusetts, where the game originated.

In 1919, in Boston, a tank containing an estimated 2.3 million gallons of molasses burst, sending the dark syrup coursing through the city's North End, killing 21 people.

In 1943, work was completed on the Pentagon, headquarters of the U.S. Department of War (now Defense).

In 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League defeated the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League 35-10 in the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game, known retroactively as Super Bowl I.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon announced the suspension of all U.S. offensive action in North Vietnam, citing progress in peace negotiations.

In 1974, the situation comedy "Happy Days" premiered on ABC-TV.

In 1978, two students at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Lisa Levy and Margaret Bowman, were slain in their sorority house. (Ted Bundy was later convicted of the crime and was sentenced to death. But he was executed for the rape and murder of a 12-year-old girl, which occurred 3 weeks after the sorority slayings.)

In 1981, the police drama series "Hill Street Blues" premiered on NBC.

In 1989, NATO, the Warsaw Pact and 12 other European countries adopted a human rights and security agreement in Vienna, Austria.

In 1993, a historic disarmament ceremony ended in Paris with the last of 125 countries signing a treaty banning chemical weapons.

In 2009, US Airways Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger ditched his Airbus 320 in the Hudson River after a flock of birds disabled both engines; all 155 people aboard survived.

Ten years ago: New York state enacted the nation's toughest gun restrictions and the first since the Connecticut school massacre, including an expanded assault-weapon ban and background checks for buying ammunition. Twin blasts ripped through a university campus in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, killing more than 80 people, most of them students, in the government-controlled part of the city.

Five years ago: Singer Dolores O'Riordan of the Irish rock band The Cranberries died at a London hotel at the age of 46; a coroner found that she had accidentally drowned in a bathtub after drinking. American women lost nine of their ten first-round matches on the opening day of the Australian Open; they included Venus Williams and U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens.

One year ago: A man held four hostages for hours at a Texas synagogue as he demanded the release of a Pakistani neuroscientist who was convicted of trying to kill U.S. Army officers in Afghanistan; one hostage was released and the other three fled as an FBI tactical team moved in and killed the hostage-taker, Malik Faisal Akram, a British citizen. A huge undersea volcanic eruption near the Pacific island nation of Tonga sent tsunami waves crashing across the shore as people fled to higher ground; three people died in Tonga and two in Peru after the tsunami crossed the ocean. Fashion designer Nino Cerruti, credited with revolutionizing menswear in the 1960s, died at 91.

Today's birthdays:

Actor Margaret O'Brien is 85. Actor Andrea Martin is 76. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Randy White is 70. Actor-director Mario Van Peebles is 66. Rock musician Adam Jones (Tool) is 58. Actor James

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Nesbitt is 58. Actor Chad Lowe is 55. Alt-country singer Will Oldham (aka Bonnie Prince Billy) is 53. Actor Regina King is 52. Actor Dorian Missick is 47. Actor Eddie Cahill is 45. Former NFL quarterback Drew Brees is 44. Rapper/reggaeton artist Pitbull is 42. Actor Victor Rasuk is 38. Actor Jessy Schram is 37. Electronic dance musician Skrillex is 35. Actor/singer Dove Cameron is 27. Singer-songwriter Grace VanderWaal (TV: "America's Got Talent") is 19.