

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Groton Community Calendar Sunday, Jan. 29

Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am-1pm, Community Center

Carnival of Silver Skates, 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

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

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



“You don't love someone for their looks, or their clothes, or for their fancy cars, but because they sing a song only you can hear.”

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

## Monday, Jan. 30

Senior Menu: Goulash, corn, garlic breadstick, baked apples.

School Breakfast: Egg bake.

School Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, green beans.

Girls Basketball vs. Florence/Henry at Florence: C game at 5 p.m. followed by JV and varsity.

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

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

## Tuesday, Jan. 31

Senior Menu: Ham, sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, tropical fruit, dinner roll.

School Breakfast: Pancake on a stick.

School Lunch: Tacos.

Boys Basketball at Langford: JV at 6 p.m. followed by Varsity.

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

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

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.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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# Groton Daily Independent

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## NSU Men's Basketball

### **Reede's Hot Hand Leads Wolves in Win over Peacocks**

Fayette, Iowa – The Northern State University men's basketball team led for just over 30 minutes of action in their 86-81 victory at Upper Iowa this afternoon. The Wolves shot 51.6% from the floor and out-rebounded their opponents 35-33, en route to their 17th victory of the 2022-23 season.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 86, UIU 81

Records: NSU 17-5 (13-3 NSIC), UIU 13-9 (10-6 NSIC)

Attendance: 273

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

- Northern took the lead at 11:08 in the first half and despite a brief tie game at the 8-minute mark led the rest of the way through
- The Wolves tallied 45 points in the first, holding a 12-point lead, and added 41 in the second
- The shot 51.6% from the floor, including 61.3% in the first half, 40.0% from the 3-point line, and 71.4% from the foul line
- In addition, the team tallied 23 points off the bench in large part by Josh Dilling with 19, as well as 26 points in the paint and 16 points off turnovers
- NSU added a game high 21 assists, 12 made 3-pointers, seven steals, and three blocks
- Augustin Reede led four in double figures with 23 points, followed by Dilling who was the leader off the bench

#### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Augustin Reede: 23 points, 87.5 field goal%, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal
- Josh Dilling: 19 points, 63.6 field goal%, 9 assists, 4 rebounds, 4 steals
- Sam Masten: 16 points, 54.5 field goal%, 6 assists, 5 rebounds, 2 steals
- Jordan Belka: 14 points, 6 rebounds, 2 assists

#### UP NEXT

Northern will host St. Cloud State and Minnesota Duluth for the annual I Hate Winter weekend to open February. Game times are set for 5:30 p.m. on Friday against the Huskies and 4 p.m. on Saturday versus the Bulldogs. Full I Hate Winter details can be found at [nsuwolves.com/IHW](http://nsuwolves.com/IHW).

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## NSU Wrestling

### No. 5 St. Cloud State Stumps No. 20 Northern State

Aberdeen, S.D. – The No. 20 Northern State University wrestling team struggled to get things going versus No. 5 St. Cloud State on Saturday afternoon. Kelby Hawkins grabbed the lone win for the Wolves from Wachs Arena, despite Northern battling to three decision losses by three points or less.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 3, SCSU 30

Records: NSU 8-4 (3-3 NSIC), SCSU 11-1 (4-1 NSIC)

Attendance: 512

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

- St. Cloud State went on a 21-0 run to open the dual notching four decision wins, one major decision, and one technical fall
- Teagan Block and Kolton Roth each had a chance to take down the No. 11 wrestler in their respective weights, however fell in a pair of hard fought decisions
- Kelby Hawkins battled against Bryce Dagele in the 174-pound bout, notching an 8-6 sudden victory win
- Hawkins trailed 4-2 following the first period and chipped away in the second; down 6-4 heading into the third
- The Groton native started the third on top and battled to earn both a penalty point and riding time point to force the first overtime
- It came down to the final seconds in the following match, as Sam Kruger ultimately fell to Bryce Fitzpatrick in the 4-3 decision
- The Huskies closed out the dual with a pair of decision wins at 197 and 285 pounds

#### MATCH RESULTS

	Match Summary	NSU	SCSU
125	#7 Paxton Creese (St. Cloud State) over Landen Fischer (Northern State) (MD 10-2)	0.0	4.0
133	#11 Sam Spencer (St. Cloud State) over Teagan Block (Northern State) (Dec 6-3)	0.0	3.0
141	#11 Alyeus Craig (St. Cloud State) over Kolton Roth (Northern State) (Dec 13-8)	0.0	3.0
149	#8 Joey Bianchini (St. Cloud State) over #7 Wyatt Turnquist (Northern State) (Dec 7-2)	0.0	3.0
157	Blake Legred (St. Cloud State) over Robert Coyle III (Northern State) (TF 15-0 5:56)	0.0	5.0
165	Anthony Herrera (St. Cloud State) over Chase Bloomquist (Northern State) (Dec 6-1)	0.0	3.0
174	Kelby Hawkins (Northern State) over Bryce Dagele (St. Cloud State) (SV-1 8-6)	3.0	0.0
184	Bryce Fitzpatrick (St. Cloud State) over Sam Kruger (Northern State) (Dec 4-3)	0.0	3.0
197	#10 Dominic Murphy (St. Cloud State) over #3 Cole Huss (Northern State) (Dec 11-4)	0.0	3.0
285	Elijah Novak (St. Cloud State) over Nathan Schauer (Northern State) (Dec 5-2)	0.0	3.0
		<b>Dual Meet Score</b>	<b>3.0 30.0</b>

#### UP NEXT

The Wolves will be back in action next Thursdays, February 2 against the Dragons. Northern State and MSU Moorhead will face off at 7 p.m. from Wachs Arena. The dual opens the I Hate Winter festivities for the weekend; for full I Hate Winter details visit [nsuwolves.com/IHW](http://nsuwolves.com/IHW).

# GDILIVE.COM

## 85th Annual Carnival of Silver Skates

Sunday, Jan. 29th, 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Broadcast for **FREE VIEWING** on **GDILIVE.COM**

sponsored by the **Carnival of Silver Skates Committee**

Internet Service for livestreaming provided free of charge from

**FREE  
VIEWING!**



**FREE  
VIEWING!**

### Letter to the Editor

Good Morning,

Just wanted to send you a quick message to keep up the great work with live-streaming the Groton games. It's been so fun to be able to watch the basketball games from home. It's a great service to provide for the community, thank you!

Jessica Morehouse



Position available for full-time Police Officer. Experience and SD Certification preferred. Salary negotiable DOE. Please send application and resume to the City of Groton, PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445. This position is open until filled. Applications may be found at <https://www.city.grotonsd.gov/forms/Application-ForCityEmployeePO.pdf>. For more information, please call 605-397-8422. Equal opportunity employer.

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## 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Carnival of Silver Skates

Sunday, January 29th—2:00 and 6:30  
Groton Ice Rink—west side of Groton

You are cordially invited to attend a great show performed by our local youth. This show will be sure to entertain through music, costumes, and skating talent.

**\* Skating Through the Decades \***

Admission:

13 & older—\$3.00

6-12—\$2.00

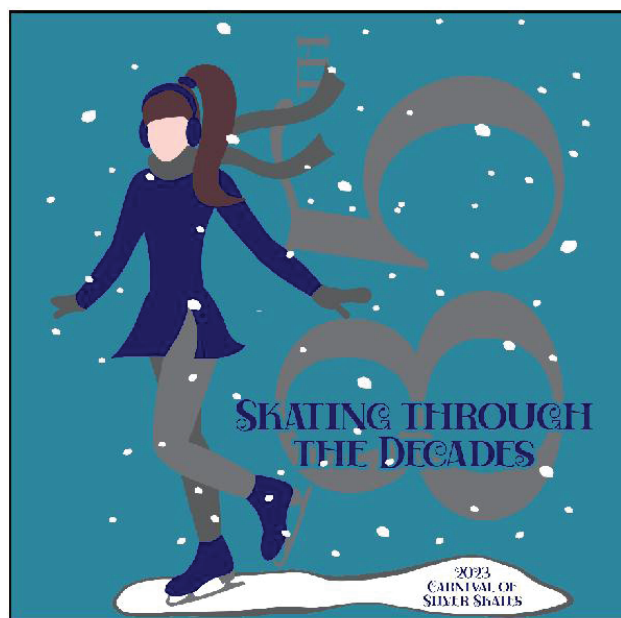
Parking:

-Provided around the rink and on the ice, or cozy up on the bleachers.

-Ice parking begins at 10 am, and again at 4:30 pm.

Check us out on Facebook at  
"Silver Skates"

WE HOPE TO  
SEE YOU THERE!



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## Higher Power Sports



➤ **FREE Event**

➤ **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

**Groton Fellowship of Christian Students**  
presents TWO motivational speakers,

**Tim Weidenbach & Deb Hadley**

➤ **Sunday,  
February 5<sup>th</sup>  
3:16pm**  
➤ **at the Groton  
Methodist  
Church**



### Tim's Character Coaching & Be Kind Talk:

Higher Power Sports supports & serves HS & College athletes, coaches & families throughout the Midwest. He focuses on leadership, perseverance, opportunity, integrity, loyalty & making an impact on the teams he serves. Tim shares a fun & inspiring message on how kindness is contagious & encourages acceptance.

### Deb's Overcoming Adversity Presentation:

Adversity is inevitable. Deb has had more than her share of loss. Often our students are caught off guard & lack the skill set to cope with hardships that come their way. Broken relationships, setbacks from COVID, bullying, lack of playing time, academic struggles, poor body image & low self-esteem, struggles at home &/or the death of loved ones, are some of the possibilities that can send the life of a student spiraling out of control. The goal of this seminar is to equip today's youth with the tools to help prepare them to handle the hardships that come their way & inspire them to turn their setbacks into opportunities to better their lives!

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# GROTON

# ROBOTICS



## Pancake Feed

Sponsored by Groton Lions Club

Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023



**10:00 AM—1:00 PM**



**Groton Community Center**

Pancakes, Sausage, Coffee, Milk and Juice

**FREE WILL DONATION!**

Proceeds will go to Groton Robotics

*Carnival of Silver Skates performing at 2:00pm & 6:30 pm!*

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Groton Area Boys Wrestling

### Four wrestlers place at Groton Tournament

Four Groton Area wrestlers placed at the Groton Invitational Tournament held Saturday. Korbin Kucker placed first at 12 pounds, Christian Ehresmann was second at 138 pounds, Cole Bisbee was second at 170 pounds and Walker Zoellner was third at 113 pounds. The Tigers placed seventh in a field of 16 teams.

**Team Scores:** 1 Faulkton Area- 161.0; 2 Warner/Northwestern- 117.0; 3 Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle- 114.0; 4 Watertown JV- 106.5; 5 Wessington Springs/Wolsey/Wessington- 105.5; 6 Potter County- 96.0; 7 Groton Area- 77.0; 8 Huron JV- 49.0; 9 Britton/Hecla- 45.0; 10 Clark/Willow Lake- 42.0; 11 Milbank JV- 40.0; 12 Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV- 35.0; 13 Lemon- 32.0; 14 Webster Area- 22.0; 15 Canistota- 13.0; 16 Doland- 6.0

#### **90-98: Noah Scepaniak (0-6)**

Champ. Round 1 - Tayten Kurkowski (Webster Area ) 10-12 won by fall over Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 0-6 (Fall 0:34)

Cons. Round 1 - Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 0-6 received a bye ( ) (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Lincoln Kilker (Britton/Hecla) 1-2 won by fall over Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 0-6 (Fall 0:24)

#### **106: Lincoln Krause (0-2)**

Champ. Round 1 - Easton Scheidt (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 12-14 won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 1:50)

Cons. Round 1 - Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye ( ) (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Lane Stuwe (Potter County) 19-18 won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:34)

#### **106: John Bisbee (2-8)**

Champ. Round 1 - Tanner Atkinson (Britton/Hecla) 8-11 won by fall over John Bisbee (Groton Area) 2-8 (Fall 0:58)

Cons. Round 1 - John Bisbee (Groton Area) 2-8 won by decision over Hayes Christensen (Wessington Springs/Wolsey/Wessington) 3-5 (Dec 5-2)

Cons. Round 2 - Cade Gaikowski (Clark/Willow Lake ) 19-9 won by fall over John Bisbee (Groton Area) 2-8 (Fall 0:35)

#### **113: Walker Zoellner (18-13) placed 3rd and scored 18.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 18-13 received a bye ( ) (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 18-13 won by fall over Jacob Giles (Milbank JV) 2-12 (Fall 2:40)

Semifinal - Kutler Swenson (Watertown JV) 12-6 won by decision over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 18-13 (Dec 9-5)

Cons. Semi - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 18-13 won by fall over Andrew Folk (Milbank JV) 2-11 (Fall 0:50)

3rd Place Match - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 18-13 won by fall over Kamryn Rhodes (Faulkton Area) 11-11 (Fall 1:36)

#### **120: Kellen Antonson (4-12)**

Champ. Round 1 - Kellen Antonson (Groton Area) 4-12 received a bye ( ) (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Ashton Hill (Wessington Springs/Wolsey/Wessington) 20-16 won by fall over Kellen Antonson (Groton Area) 4-12 (Fall 1:20)

Cons. Round 2 - Kellen Antonson (Groton Area) 4-12 received a bye ( ) (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Logan Foster (Clark/Willow Lake ) 8-15 won by decision over Kellen Antonson (Groton Area) 4-12 (Dec 7-4)



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## **132: Tristan McGannon (2-10)**

Champ. Round 1 - Tristan McGannon (Groton Area) 2-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Tyce Huber (Huron JV`) 3-6 won by fall over Tristan McGannon (Groton Area) 2-10 (Fall 4:12)

Cons. Round 2 - Tristan McGannon (Groton Area) 2-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Jack Conn (Canistota) 4-8 won by fall over Tristan McGannon (Groton Area) 2-10 (Fall 1:58)

132: Isaiah Scepaniak (2-12)

Champ. Round 1 - Aidyn Jorgenson (Watertown JV) 4-1 won by fall over Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 2-12 (Fall 0:51)

Cons. Round 1 - Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 2-12 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Jack Conn (Canistota) 4-8 won by fall over Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 2-12 (Fall 1:18)

## **138: Christian Ehresmann (20-3) placed 2nd and scored 19.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 20-3 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 20-3 won by fall over Trace Genzler (Potter County) 9-15 (Fall 1:37)

Semifinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 20-3 won by major decision over Clayton Dulany (Warner/Northwestern) 27-9 (MD 12-2)

1st Place Match - Tanner Frickson (Potter County) 29-9 won by decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 20-3 (Dec 6-5)

## **145: Easten Ekern (15-13) scored 4.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Easten Ekern (Groton Area) 15-13 won by fall over Zayne Winson (Huron JV`) 6-12 (Fall 0:31)

Quarterfinal - Beau Schilling (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 2-1 won by fall over Easten Ekern (Groton Area) 15-13 (Fall 2:22)

Cons. Round 2 - Easten Ekern (Groton Area) 15-13 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Ben Suther (Britton/Hecla) 15-10 won by fall over Easten Ekern (Groton Area) 15-13 (Fall 0:17)

## **152: Korbin Kucker (2-0) placed 1st and scored 20.0 team points.**

Quarterfinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 2-0 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 2-0 won by fall over Tyler Oines (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 10-14 (Fall 5:04)

1st Place Match - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 2-0 won by decision over Hayes Havlik (Wessington Springs/Wolsey/Wessington) 17-15 (Dec 1-0)

## **170: Cole Bisbee (14-10) placed 2nd and scored 16.0 team points.**

Quarterfinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 14-10 won by fall over Erick Alpizar (Huron JV`) 3-6 (Fall 4:24)

Semifinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 14-10 won by decision over Drake Mueller (Faulkton Area) 19-14 (Dec 6-5)

1st Place Match - Alex Pudwill (Warner/Northwestern) 24-10 won by decision over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 14-10 (Dec 5-2)

## **220: Gavin Englund (3-12)**

Quarterfinal - Carson Leonhardt (Faulkton Area) 15-14 won by fall over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 3-12 (Fall 1:27)

Cons. Round 1 - Hunter Reede (Milbank JV) 2-3 won by fall over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 3-12 (Fall 1:52)

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## Groton Area Girls Wrestling

### **All three Groton Area girl grapplers place at Groton Tournament**

All three girls placed at the Groton Wrestling Tournament, propelling the Tigers to a second place team finish behind Orgonville, 25-20. Jaycie Leir took first at 142 pounds, Liza Krueger was second at 106 pounds and Hollie Frost was second at 142 pounds.

#### **106: Liza Krueger (17-11) placed 2nd and scored 12.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 17-11 received a bye ( ) (Bye)

Round 2 - Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 17-11 won by fall over Kalee Tesman (Ortonville) 0-2 (Fall 1:05)

Round 3 - Juliana Weaver (Ortonville) 2-0 won by fall over Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 17-11 (Fall 1:23)

#### **142: Hollie Frost (2-15) placed 2nd and scored 2.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Hollie Frost (Groton Area) 2-15 won by fall over Jaycie Leir (Groton Area) 9-11 (Fall 1:51)

Round 2 - Jaycie Leir (Groton Area) 9-11 won by fall over Hollie Frost (Groton Area) 2-15 (Fall 0:19)

Round 3 - Jaycie Leir (Groton Area) 9-11 won by fall over Hollie Frost (Groton Area) 2-15 (Fall 2:56)

#### **142: Jaycie Leir (9-11) placed 1st and scored 6.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Hollie Frost (Groton Area) 2-15 won by fall over Jaycie Leir (Groton Area) 9-11 (Fall 1:51)

Round 2 - Jaycie Leir (Groton Area) 9-11 won by fall over Hollie Frost (Groton Area) 2-15 (Fall 0:19)

Round 3 - Jaycie Leir (Groton Area) 9-11 won by fall over Hollie Frost (Groton Area) 2-15 (Fall 2:56)

**Team Scores:** 1 Ortonville- 25.0; 2 Groton Area- 20.0; 3 Canistota- 6.0; 3 Lemmon/McIntosh- 6.0; 5 Britton/Hecla- 0.0; 5 Canton JV- 0.0; 5 Clark/Willow Lake- 0.0; 5 Huron JV - 0.0; 5 Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle- 0.0; 5 Potter County- 0.0; 5 Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV- 0.0; 5 Sully Buttes- 0.0; 5 Warner/Northwestern- 0.0; 5 Watertown JV- 0.0; 5 Webster Area- 0.0

# GDILIVE.COM

**Looking for sponsors for these upcoming games.**

**Deuel Boys and Girls JV**

**JH Boys Games with Aberdeen Christian on Feb. 6**

**North Central Boys JV Game**

**Elk Point-Jefferson Girls JV Game in Groton on Feb. 9**

**Redfield Girls JV and C games**

**Mobridge-Pollock Boys JV and Girls JV**

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## NSU Women's Basketball

### **Wolves Fall by Three at Upper Iowa**

Fayette, IA – The Northern State women's basketball team was unable to escape Dorman Memorial Gymnasium with a win on Saturday evening, dropping a closely contested game to Upper Iowa 63-60. Each team led by as many as eight points in the game, however the Peacocks were able to string together scoring runs at critical moments including a 6-0 run to end the game.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 60, UIU 63

Records: NSU 12-10 (7-9 NSIC), UIU 8-13 (4-12 NSIC)

Attendance: 148

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern State jumped out to an early 7-2 lead in the game's opening minutes with a pair of jumpers by Kailee Oliverson before Rianna Fillipi knocked down a 3-pointer from the left wing

Madelyn Bragg capitalized on a four point possession for the Wolves, putting down a turnaround jumper to push the lead to 13-5

The Wolves started the second quarter with a 17-9 lead, however Upper Iowa out-scored Northern 25-9 in the period and entered the halftime break with a 34-26 advantage

Northern State regrouped at the halftime break and put together a strong third quarter, out-scoring Upper Iowa 21-15 in the period and cutting the eight point halftime deficit down to only two points

Laurie Rogers made a free throw and a jumper while Oliverson added a jumper of her own for the Wolves as they started the second half by scoring the first five points and making five of their first eight shot attempts

Starting the fourth quarter trailing by two points, Fillipi, Rogers, and Oliverson were able to string together a 10-0 scoring run for Northern to go up 59-55 with 2:15 remaining; the scoring run and Peacock scoring drought spanned over five minutes of game time

Unfortunately, the four point lead was not large enough as UIU out-scored NSU 8-2 the final 1:26 of the contest to earn the win

Oliverson notched her third double-double of the season with 20 points and 14 rebounds; the outing was her sixth game of 20 or more points (third straight) and tied a career-high mark in rebounds

Rogers scored in double figures for the 14th time this season with 12 points and Fillipi reached double figures for the 11th time on the year with 13 points; Fillipi was also able to record a new career-high mark of three blocked shots in the contest

The Wolves shot 26-60 (43.3%) from the field compared to 23-64 (35.9%) for the Peacocks

#### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Kailee Oliverson: 20 points, 14 rebounds, 1 block, 1 steal

Rianna Fillipi: 13 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 blocks

Laurie Rogers: 12 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 steal

#### UP NEXT

The Northern State women's basketball team will return to NSIC North Division play next weekend as they host division leaders St. Cloud State and Minnesota Duluth for I Hate Winter weekend. The Wolves and Huskies are set for a 7:30 p.m. tip-off on Friday evening, and Northern will then close the weekend against the Bulldogs on Saturday with a 6 p.m. tip-off from Wachs Arena.

# GDILIVE.COM

## **Girls' Basketball vs. Florence-Henry at Florence** **Monday, Jan. 30, 2023**

C game starts at 5 p.m. followed by JV and Varsity  
**C and JV games sponsored by Lindsey and Tom Tietz**

### **followed by Varsity Games**

Sponsored by

Bary Keith at Harr Motors

Bierman Farm Service

Blocker Construction

Dacotah Bank

Groton Chamber of Commerce

Groton Ford

John Sieh Agency

Locke Electric

Spanier Harvesting & Trucking

Bahr Spray Foam

Thunder Seed with John Wheeting



Anyone wanting to sponsor a JV game, Call/Text Paul at 605-397-7460

### **Elk Point-Jefferson game to be made up, possibly Saturday**

Several games were cancelled at the DAK12-NEC Clash in Madison Saturday due to the weather impacting travel in the southern part of the state. One of those games was the Groton Area vs. Elk Point-Jefferson game. If officials can be found, that game will be played on Saturday, Feb. 4, at Elk Point-Jefferson with a C game at 1 p.m. followed by JV and Varsity. The final decision will be made Monday.

# GDILIVE.COM

## Boys' Basketball at Langford Area Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023

JV game at 6:30 p.m. followed by Varsity  
**JV sponsor is Kent & Darcy Muller**

### followed by Varsity Games

Sponsored by

Bary Keith at Harr Motors

Bierman Farm Service

Blocker Construction

Dacotah Bank

Groton Chamber of Commerce

Groton Ford

John Sieh Agency

Locke Electric

Spanier Harvesting & Trucking

Bahr Spray Foam

Thunder Seed with John Wheeting



Anyone wanting to sponsor a JV game, Call/Text Paul at 605-397-7460

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**Jacob Zak is high in the air for the control of the tip in the Northwestern game.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



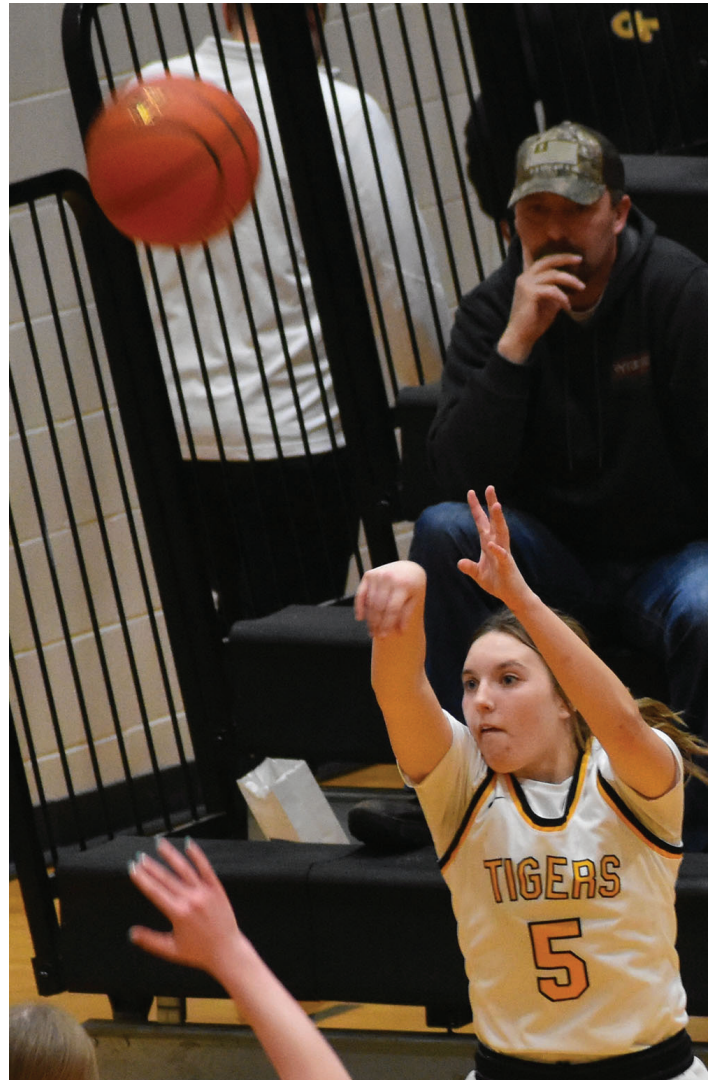
**Lane Tietz gets read to pass off the ball at the Northwestern game.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Jerica Locke has her eye on the ball for a potential steal opportunity.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Kennedy Hansen launches a three-pointer from the corner at the Northwestern game.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Sydney Leicht ties up Northwestern's Tara Blachford.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Faith Traphagen drives the baseline and gets the pass off to Brooke Gengerke.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Brooke Gengerke directs traffic during the Northwestern game.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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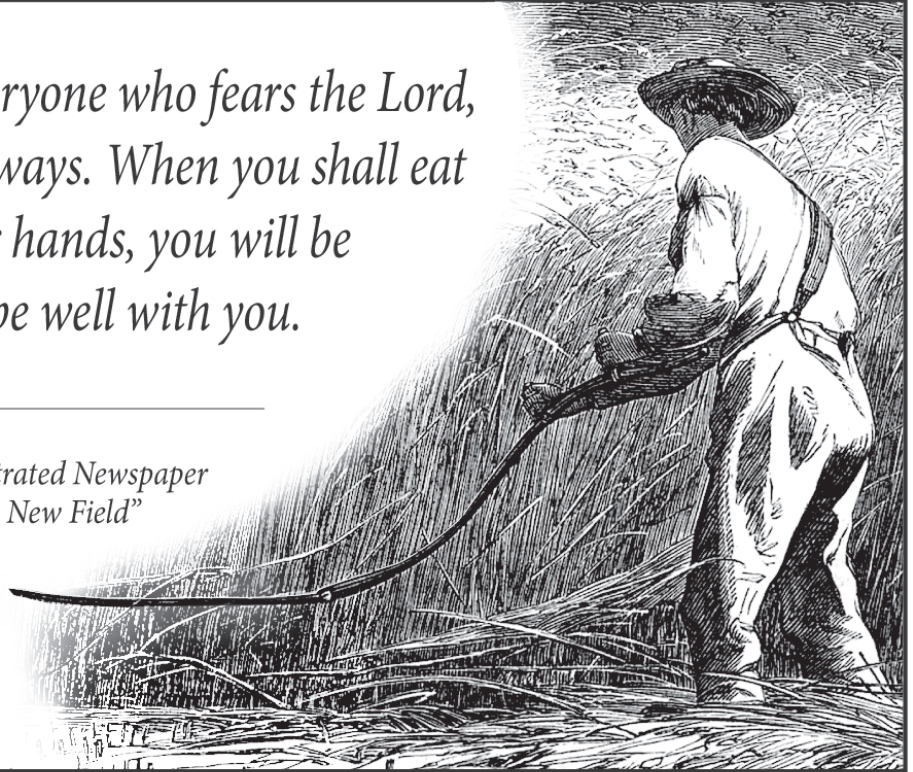


## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*How blessed is everyone who fears the Lord,  
who walks in His ways. When you shall eat  
of the fruit of your hands, you will be  
happy and it will be well with you.*

PSALM 128:1-3 

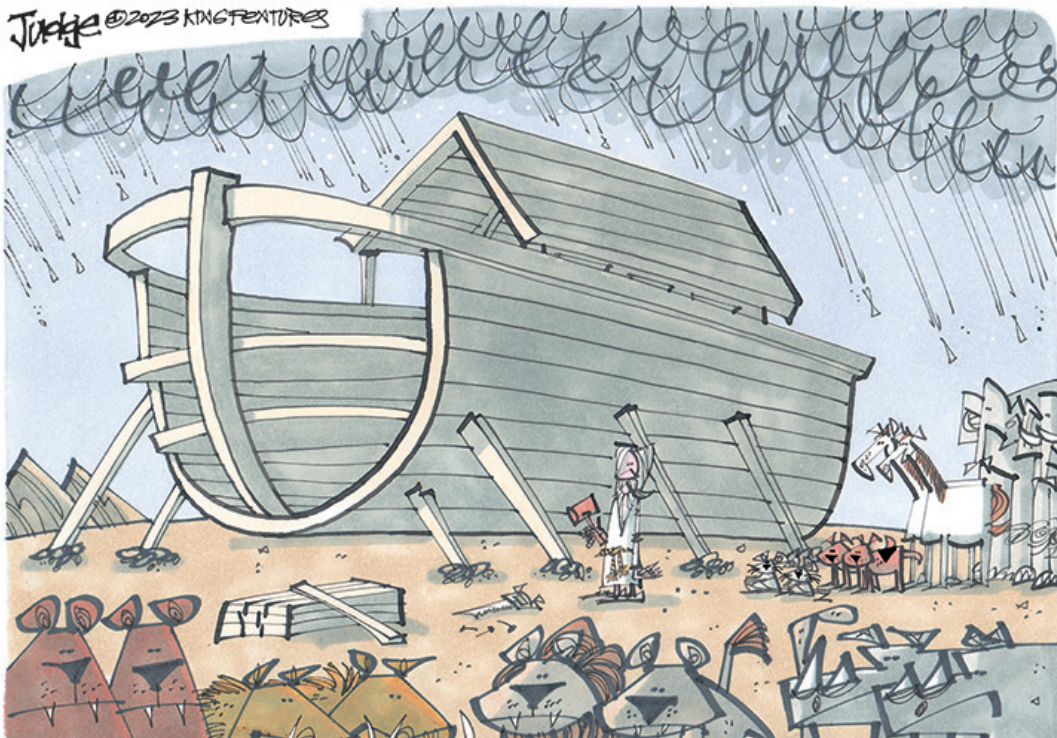
*Detail of Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper  
version of "The Veteran in a New Field"  
by Winslow Homer  
(1867)*

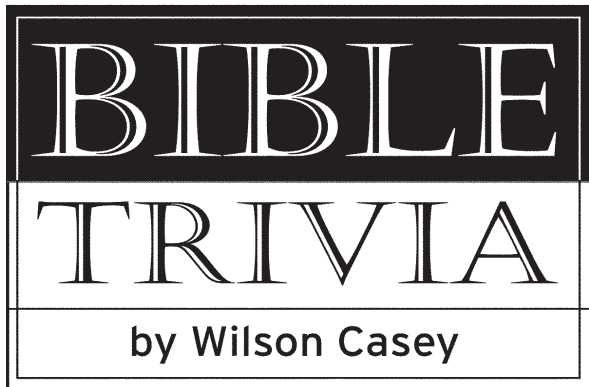


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### **GALIFORNIA'S LATEST PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT:**

**Judge** ©2023 KING FEATURES





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

2. From 2 Samuel, who commanded the rebel army when Absalom rebelled against David? *Arioch, Abner, Abishai, Amasa*

3. In the Old Testament, who said, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth"? *Noah, Isaiah, Samuel, Adam*

4. Who wrote most of the Proverbs? *David, Solomon, Paul, Isaiah*

5. What's the Sea of Galilee called in John 6? *Tiberias, Dead, Jordan, Geneva*

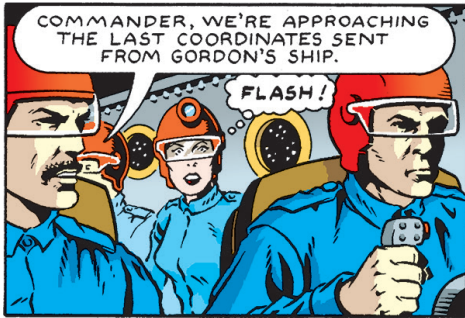
6. Who was the mate of Zipporah? *Hosea, Amos, Moses, Malachi*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Amasa, 3) Samuel (1 Samuel 3:9), 4) Solomon, 5) Tiberias, 6) Moses

*Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com).*

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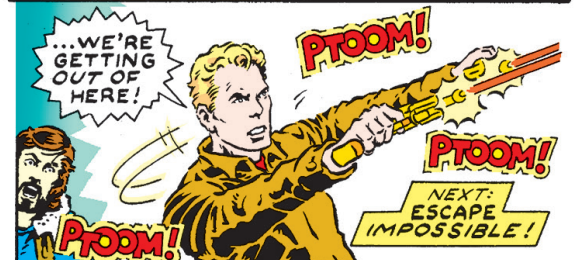
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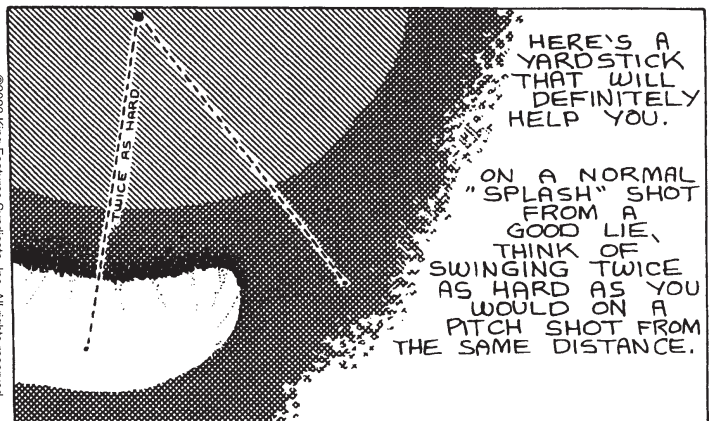
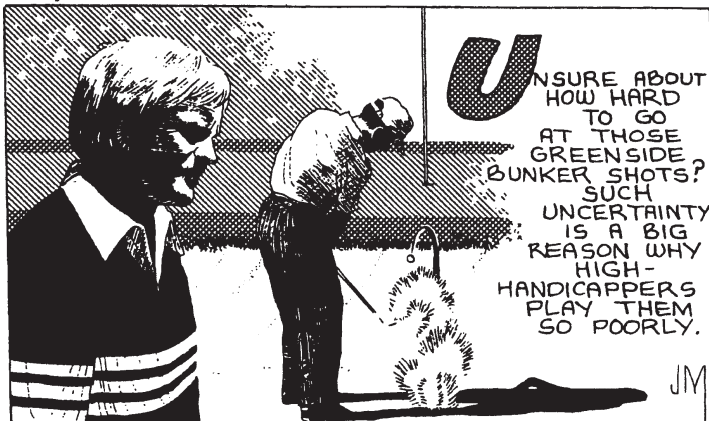
## FLASH GORDON

BY JIM KEEFE

FLASH AND THORNE HAVE UNWITTINGLY ENTERED INTO THE LAIR OF THE NIGHT CREATURES!



## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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## Case of Hot Flashes Yet to Be Resolved Despite Therapy

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I am 78; I had a hysterectomy in 1976 due to excessive vaginal bleeding, but I still have my ovaries. I have had hot flashes since undergoing menopause — they usually last three to five minutes, and I have them about every two hours around the clock (which obviously interferes with my sleep).

Over the last 28 years, I have tried Premarin (which gave me bad headaches), gabapentin, venlafaxine, Bellerger, melatonin, black cohosh, clonidine, DHEA, Pro-Gest cream (chamomile, hops and valerian root), progesterone and estrogen (together), avoiding caffeine, and eliminating dairy products. None of these has helped.

I would appreciate it if you could offer any suggestions. — *L.E.*

**ANSWER:** I'm sorry to hear of your difficulties. You have certainly tried about all the available therapies.

There are two additional ones you might want to consider: Megesterol is a hormonal therapy that is helpful for some women, but the fact that you haven't responded to estrogens and progestins is not promising. The other is called a stellate ganglion block. You can ask your physician about it.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** After a patient has had megadoses of IV and oral antibiotics, is there anything they should do to restore the balance in their body, such as eating probiotics or yogurt? Or is that all nonsense? — *N.W.*

**ANSWER:** The idea makes perfect sense: Antibiotics not only kill the bad bacteria that is infecting us, they also kill many of the healthy bacteria that help us with digestion and other functions. (The whole suite of healthy bacteria living in

Why not help the gut return to normal by giving it some healthy bacteria, such as those found in yogurt with live cultures, or specific probiotics, which are just the healthy bacteria?

The answer is that it has been very hard to prove that there is any benefit in doing so. In people with no symptoms after finishing an antibiotic course, there probably aren't any benefits.

At least one study showed what researchers called a "very severe disturbance" in the person's microbiome and actually slowed the return to a person's normal microbiome, which they had prior to antibiotics. Worse still, very rarely, infections have been transmitted through probiotics.

Symptoms after antibiotic therapy, especially diarrhea and fever, could indicate a very severe infection called *Clostridioides difficile* ("C. diff"), which does not respond to probiotics and usually needs powerful antibiotics to treat. Probiotics have not been found to prevent C. diff.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** Why are older patients always asked, "Have you ever fallen?" It is annoying, and I wish you would stop asking. — *L.M.B.*

**ANSWER:** Falls in older adults are a major cause of disability. Falls can lead to fractures, and fractures lead to poor movement, sometimes to a progressive decline.

A history of a fall is a major risk for future falls, so any person with a history of indoor falls should undergo a comprehensive evaluation as to why they fell and see what can be done to prevent future falls. This includes, of course, managing any chronic illness, but also correcting vision as much as possible; evaluating the home for risks such as poor lighting and area rugs; and evaluating gait and balance, with a referral to a physical therapist for exercises to improve these, and for assistive devices if necessary.

Falls may also be the first indication of a significant medical or neurological condition that may benefit from treatment. I'm sorry you find it annoying, but it's an important question.

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

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"The Last of Us" (TV-MA) -- Twenty years after a mutated fungal infection incites a pandemic across the U.S., a post-apocalyptic version of the country remains. Those who are infected with the Cordyceps fungus turn into violent creatures, deemed the "Infected," with initial symptoms occurring after two days. But 14-year-old Ellie discovers, after she's been infected for weeks, that she's somehow immune. A smuggler named Joel is then tasked with taking Ellie to a resistance group called the Fireflies so that they can study



**Bella Ramsey and Pedro Pascal star in "The Last of Us."**

Courtesy of HBO

Ellie's immunity further in order to actualize a vaccine. Pedro Pascal ("The Mandalorian") and Bella Ramsey ("Game of Thrones") star in this video-game-to-TV-series adaptation, which has received great acclaim by fans and critics since its release. The first three episodes are out now. (HBO Max)

"Kaleidoscope" (TV-MA) -- Netflix continues to push the envelope when it comes to creating interactive and innovative viewing experiences for its subscribers. In this new series out now, Leo Pap (Giancarlo Esposito) and his heist crew take on their most high-stakes job yet -- robbing \$7 billion from the secure vault in the headquarters of security firm SLS. For Leo, this job isn't just business. Roger, the CEO of SLS, is his former partner-in-crime who once betrayed him, and Leo's ready to watch Roger's empire come crashing down. With eight total episodes shuffled in a unique order for each viewer, this series can be watched 5,040 different ways, but each order ends with the same episode, "White," in which the nail-biting heist finally takes place. (Netflix)

"Wolf Pack" (NR) -- During a California wildfire, teens on a school bus are left terrified when the fire awakens a creature in the burning woods nearby. In the aftermath of the fire, four teens realize that they have bite marks on their bodies and begin to exhibit wolf-like characteristics. As they each grapple with these symptoms, Kristin Ramsey (Sarah Michelle Gellar) heads a task force that investigates these strange wildfires, inching closer to solving the mystery tying together the fires and the pack of teens scarred by them. The first episode of this supernatural drama is out on streaming now. (Paramount+)

"The Watchful Eye" (NR) -- This thriller series follows Elena, a live-in nanny who lands a new job in a building called the Greybourne. Elena cares for Jasper, the son of an architect named Matthew, after Jasper's mother recently passed away in a freak accident. Soon after Elena moves in, she begins having odd dreams, and other residents of the building start hinting about the terrors surrounding the Greybourne's history. The series has a similar tone to Netflix's "The Watcher" and features an array of fresh faces, as well as some Hollywood old-timers like Kelly Bishop ("Gilmore Girls"). The first two episodes are out now. (Freeform)

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1. Who wrote and released "Never Surrender"?
2. "Caribbean Queen" was also known under what other titles?
3. Which group released "Won't Get Fooled Again"?
4. Name the hit instrumental by the Surfaris.
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "Livin' alone, I think of all the friends I've known, But when I dial the telephone nobody's home."

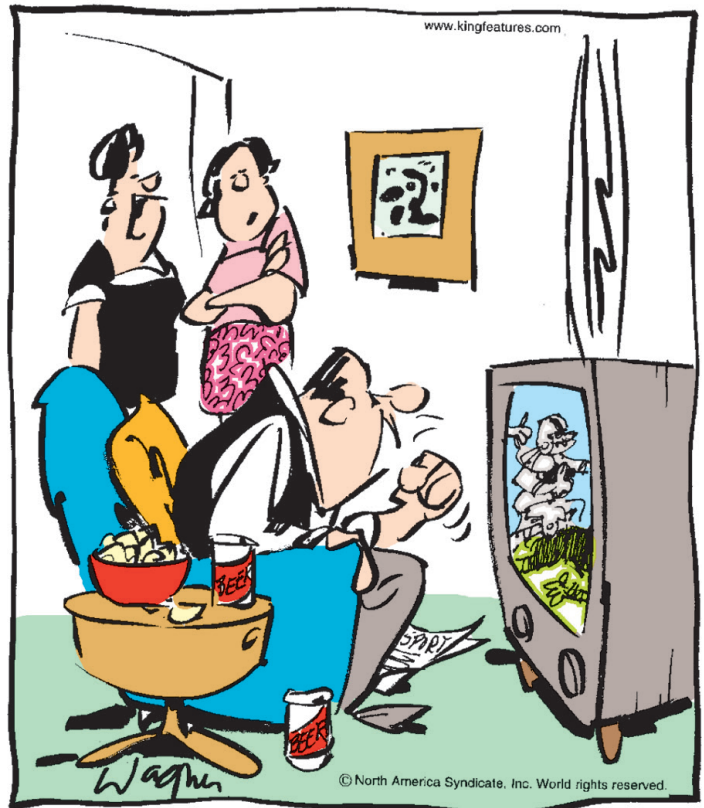
## Answers

1. Corey Hart, in 1985. The song won numerous awards and was used in both "Future Man" and "Stranger Things" television episodes.
2. Depending on where it was released, the 1984 song was also titled "African Queen" and "European Queen."
3. The Who, in 1971. The song was written by band member Peter Townsend. Over the years he penned over 100 songs for the group.
4. "Wipe Out," released in 1963. The song started as the B-side to "Surfer Joe," a song that never got much attention. "Wipe Out," on the other hand, has been used in 20 television shows and movies.
5. "All By Myself," by Eric Carmen in 1975. Singer-songwriter Carmen modeled the song after Rachmaninoff's second piano concerto (1901), which he mistakenly thought was free for the taking, in the public domain. The Rachmaninoff family let him know that, no, the song was legally protected and he had to pay them royalties.

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## GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner

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



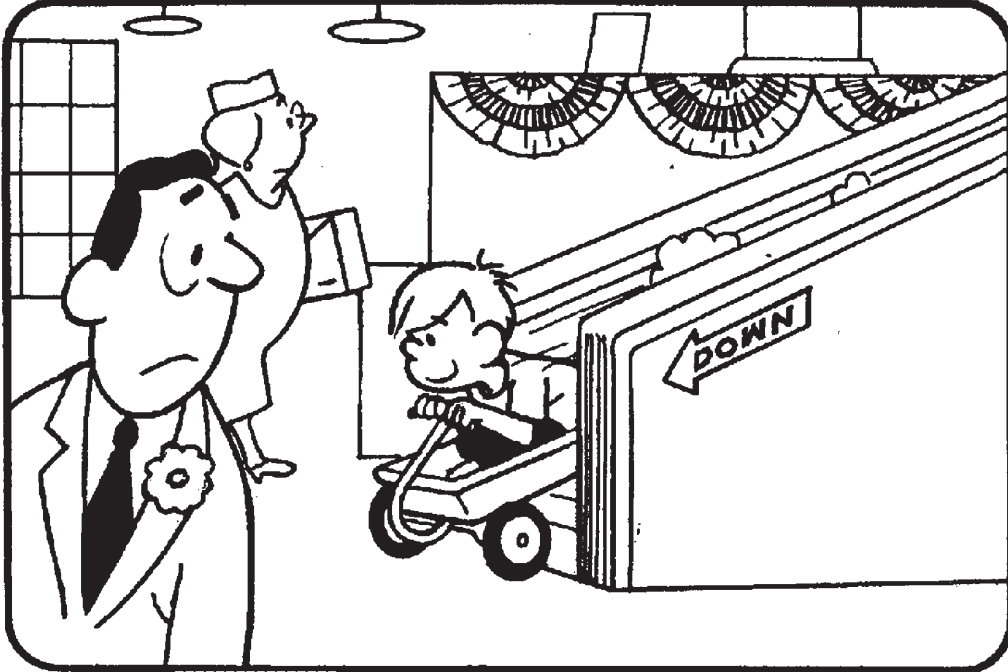
"We've lost communication until after the Super Bowl."

# Groton Daily Independent

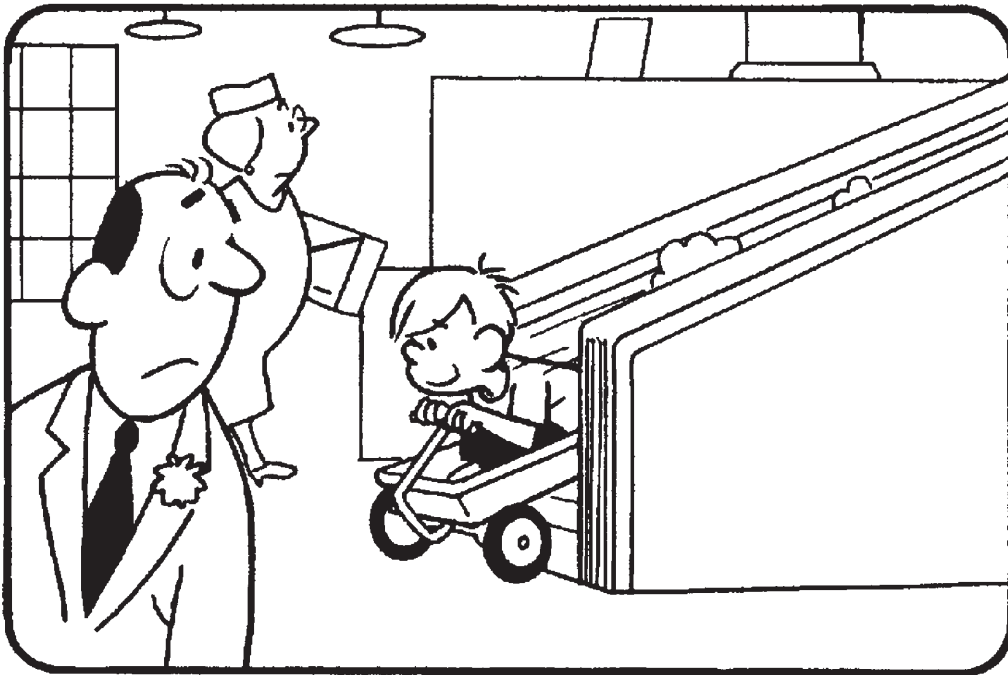
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Flower is smaller. 3. Package is moved. 4. Bunting is missing. 5. Handle is different. 6. Sign is missing.

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\* To store asparagus, trim the ends and wrap them in a few paper towels that you have dampened. Keep it in the fridge for two days max. This will keep it very fresh and tasty.

\* "To stretch your food dollar -- especially now that the weather is colder, and soups and stews are daily fare -- substitute peas, beans and lentils for meats whenever possible. Not only will this semi-vegetarian diet keep your food dollars down, it will make you healthier and it's a more eco-friendly diet." -- K.F. in Connecticut

\* If you add dried fruit or raisins to your batter for cakes or muffins, roll them or shake them in flour first. This will prevent them from sinking down to the bottom of the pan.

\* Bathroom fan reminder: When you leave your bathroom fan running excessively, you are pumping heat out of your house. Set a timer for 10 minutes maximum, and then turn it off.

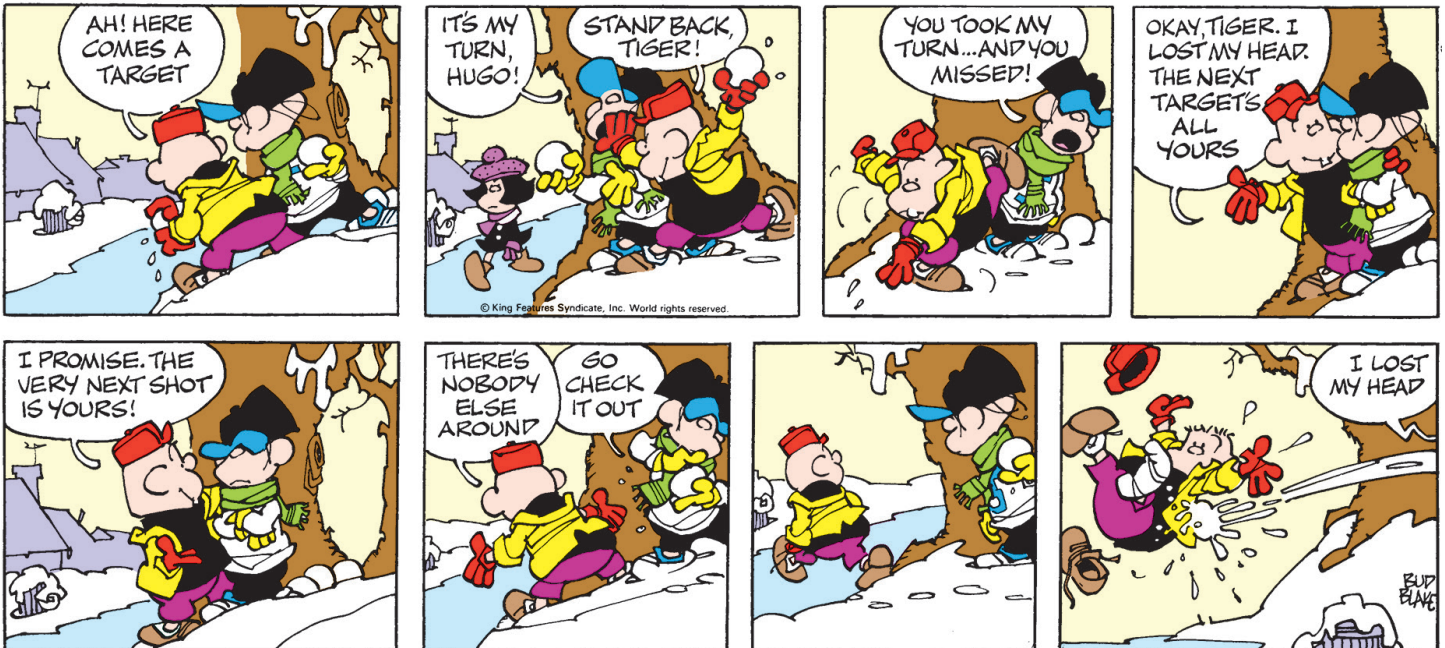
\* "Old pantyhose can be washed and cut up to use as stuffing for a toy. The same is true for other light materials. This can be a good way to get one more use out of something rather than putting it in the trash bin." -- P.L. in Pennsylvania

\* If your bathtub has a grainy or rough texture, try soaking the bath in vinegar, either by adding a large bottle to some water and plugging it up, or by laying down a towel and soaking it in vinegar. Scrub 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 Appear
- 5 Commotion
- 8 Online auction site
- 12 Actress Fisher
- 13 Part of DJIA
- 14 Dell
- 15 Youthful countenance
- 17 Laundry appliance
- 18 Soft leather
- 19 Columns of light
- 21 Pro votes
- 24 Numerical prefix
- 25 July's stone
- 28 It ain't worth a nickel
- 30 Prattle
- 33 "Life — cabaret ..."
- 34 Stuns, as a perp
- 35 "Bali —"
- 36 Chum
- 37 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
- 38 Wild guess
- 39 Run after K
- 41 For fear that
- 43 "No cheating!"
- 46 Eucalyptus eater
- 50 Thames town
- 51 Temporary mental fatigue
- 54 Dazzle

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			

- 55 Here, in Dijon
  - 56 Slangy suffix
  - 57 Skater Lipinski
  - 58 Muppet eagle
  - 59 Dance partner?
- DOWN**
- 1 Bloodline sharers
  - 2 Jacob's twin
  - 3 North Sea feeder
  - 4 "Help!"
  - 5 Oklahoma city
  - 6 Elmer, to Bugs
  - 7 Has bills
  - 8 Perrier rival
  - 9 Brawl that's broken up by a bouncer
  - 10 Oodles
  - 11 Desires
  - 16 Tina of "30 Rock"
  - 20 Colorations
  - 22 Wax-coated cheese
  - 23 Twine fiber
  - 25 Wardrobe malfunction
  - 26 "Suits" net-work
  - 27 Jim Bouton book
  - 29 Simple
  - 31 Small battery
  - 32 Clothing protector
  - 34 Writer Morrison
  - 38 Gems
  - 40 Food from heaven
  - 42 Enjoy Aspen
  - 43 Optimum
  - 44 Jazzy James
  - 45 Baseball stats
  - 47 Roundish 'do
  - 48 Lake bird
  - 49 Awestruck
  - 52 Nipper's co.
  - 53 Goal

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## — King Crossword —

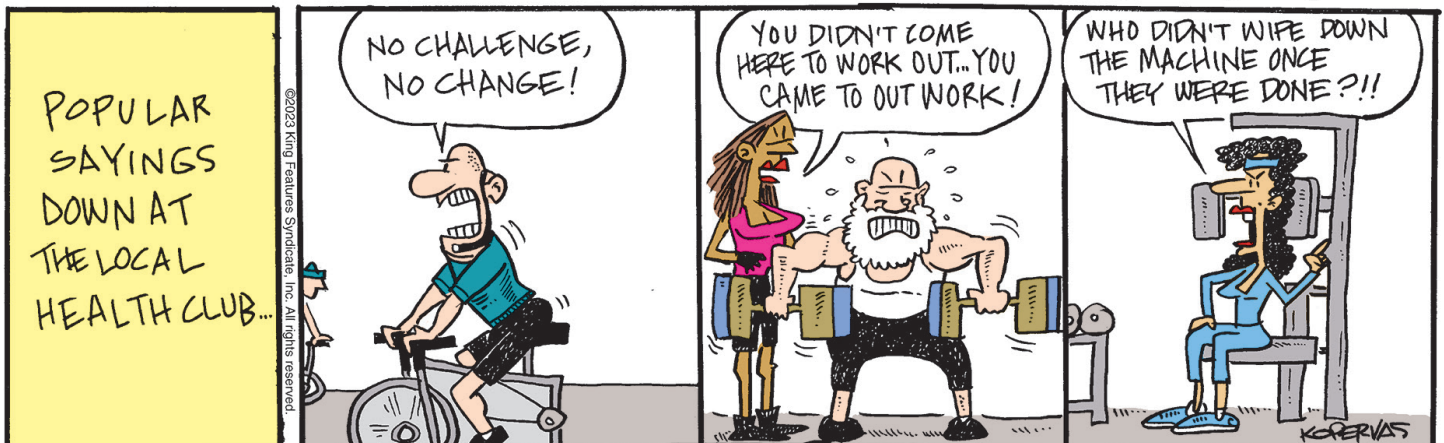
Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

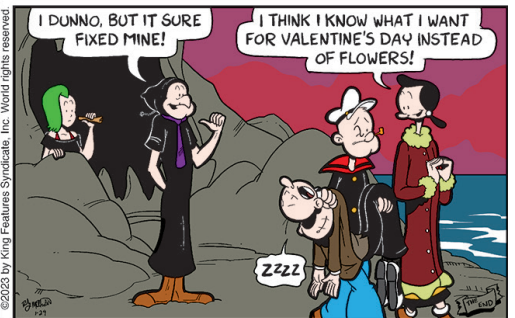
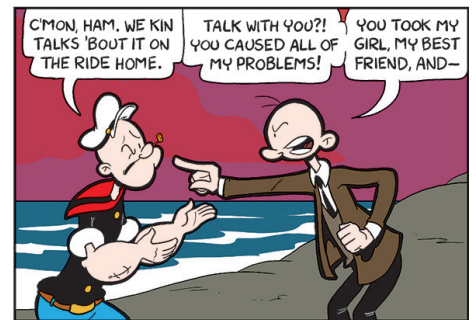
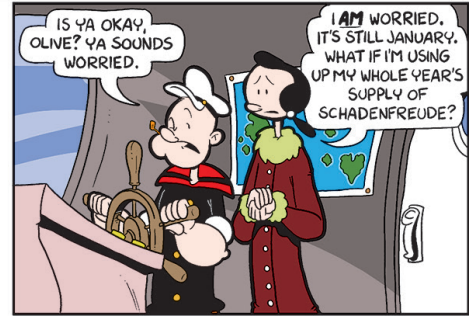
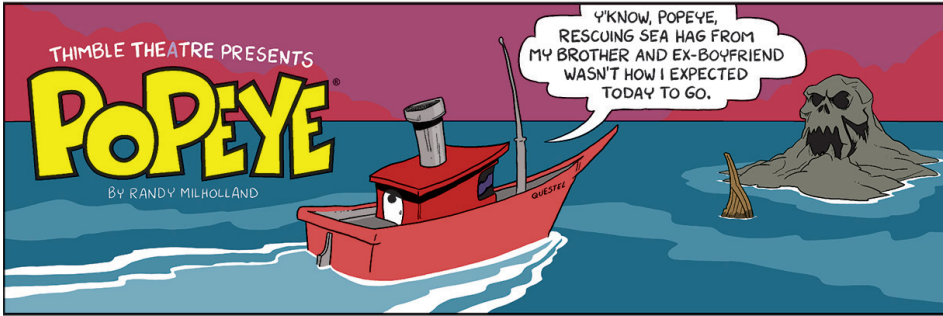
### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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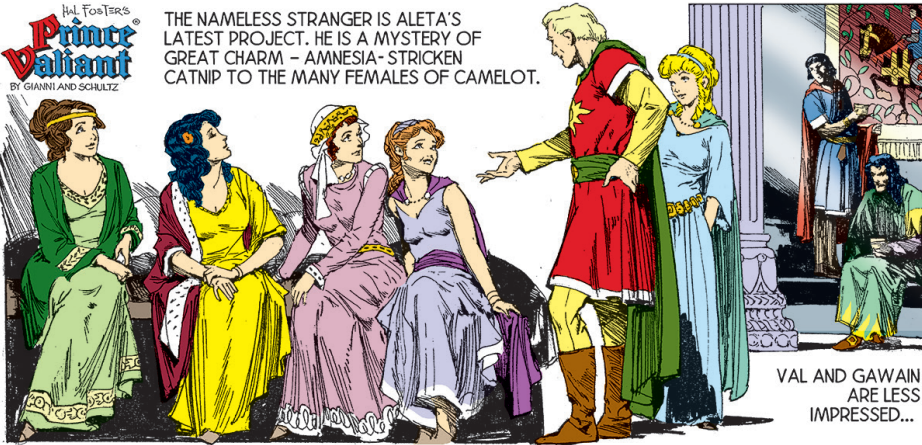


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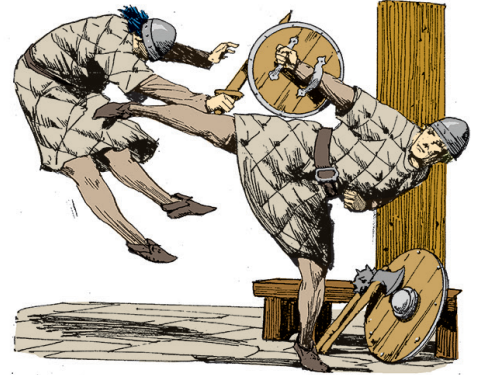
Hal FOSTER'S  
**Prince  
Valiant**  
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

THE NAMELESS STRANGER IS ALETA'S LATEST PROJECT. HE IS A MYSTERY OF GREAT CHARM - AMNESIA-STRICKEN CATNIP TO THE MANY FEMALES OF CAMELOT.



VAL AND GAWAIN ARE LESS IMPRESSED...

... ALTHOUGH THEY MUST ADMIT THAT HIS WAYS IN THE ART OF COMBAT ARE EFFECTIVE ...



... AND THEY CANNOT HELP BUT ADMIRE HIS EQUESTRIAN SKILLS. HE EVEN INTRODUCES A NEW RIDING COMPETITION, INVOLVING THE STRIKING OF A SMALL SPHERE WITH A POLE.

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FOR ALL THE ATTENTION, HE IS OUT OF PLACE, AND KNOWS NOT HOW TO RETURN HOME.

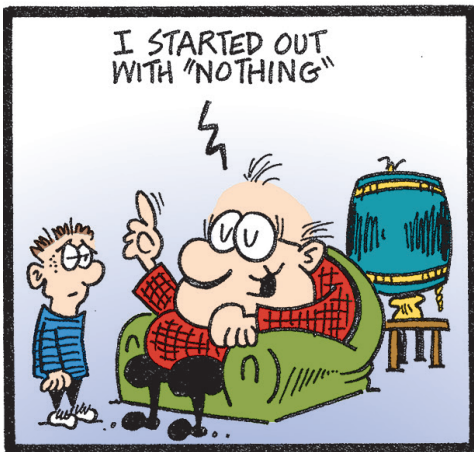
MEANWHILE, ANOTHER MYSTERY APPROACHES, IN THE FORM OF A HURRIED LITTLE MAN, CASTING FEARFUL GLANCES OVER HIS SHOULDER.



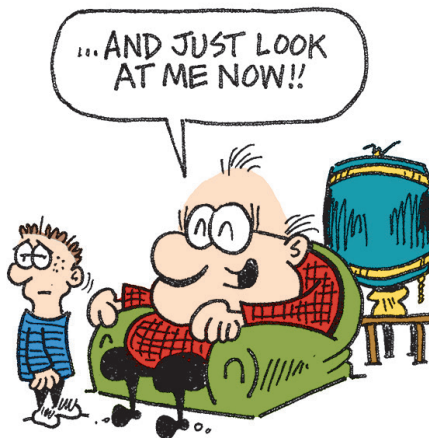
NEXT:  
Dom  
Foyat

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Ways to Train Your Brain

There are several "brain support" online programs out there, but many cost more than we'd like to pay.

Lumosity ([lumosity.com](https://lumosity.com)) comes in seven languages and has games that promote memory, attention, flexibility, problem-solving and more. After you sign up, you'll get three free games per day, and the Brain Performance Index monitors your progress. There is a subscription plan, of course, if you want access to more areas of the site, and you can pay by the month or the year. Test the free version first to see if you like it.

BrainHQ ([brainhq.com](https://brainhq.com)) is another cognitive training program that you can access online. Their exercises explore brain speed, memory, attention and more. And you can design your own program. Their goals are to help you think faster, focus better and remember more. You can try it out by subscribing to their email newsletters, which have free daily exercises to sample.

As for me, I've found books that don't cost much and are good at putting my brain through its paces on a daily basis. The New York Times series of puzzle books begins with the Monday editions, which are the easiest of the week. (The crossword puzzles get increasingly difficult as the week progresses.) I found the whole series of spiral-bound puzzle books (50 to a book) on Amazon.

Then there are the online jigsaw puzzles at [TheJigsawPuzzles.com](https://TheJigsawPuzzles.com). The puzzles (a new one every day) can be set in any number of ways, including the number of pieces in a puzzle. I've found that the 100-pieces level is plenty challenging when viewed on a computer monitor.

And then there is online chess, for those of us who used to play back in the day but would be embarrassed to lose to a small child now without serious brushing up of our skills. Try this for free at [www.chess.com](https://www.chess.com) and play against their computer.

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1. What award is presented to the NHL player who leads the league in points at the end of the regular season?

2. What Ohio State Buckeyes linebacker was selected in the second round of the 1986 NFL Draft by the New York Giants? (Hint: He's not salt.)

3. Who was named American League Manager of the Year in 2013, '16 and '22?

4. Name the Basketball Hall of Famer who was selected No. 1 overall by the Houston Comets in the inaugural WNBA Draft in 1997?

5. What stadium was home to the New York Jets from 1964-83?

6. Bob Beattie, U.S. Ski Team head coach from 1961-69, was cofounder of what international skiing circuit in 1966?

7. Offensive tackle Bubba Paris won three Super Bowls as a member of what team from 1983-90?



by Ryan A. Berenz

## Answers

1. The Art Ross Trophy.

2. Pepper Johnson.

3. Terry Francona.

4. Tina Thompson.

5. Shea Stadium.

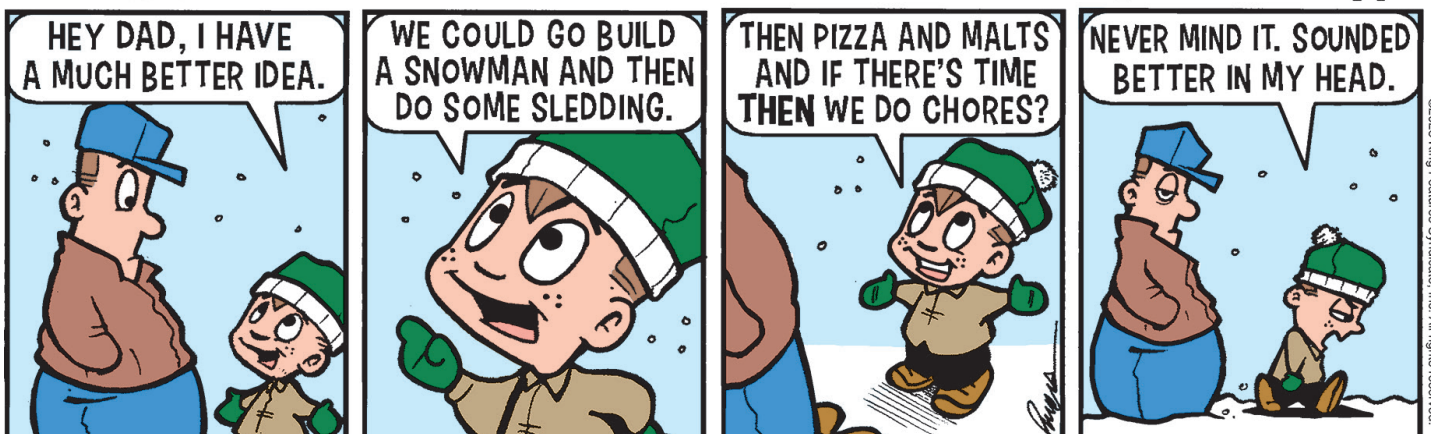
6. The Alpine Skiing World Cup.

7. The San Francisco 49ers.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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## Crying in the Car Is Never a Good Thing

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My Border Collie, Sugar, gets very anxious during car rides. She is not one of those dogs who likes to stick their head out of the window! Instead, she whimpers, cries, drools and paces around on the back seat. I'm very worried that she'll try to jump into my lap. How can I stop her crying? -- Wendy G., Atlanta

DEAR WENDY: Poor Sugar! Anxiety in pets is often tied to a distressing experience in their past. And her uncontrolled movement around the car is a safety issue.

Talk to Sugar's veterinarian about her behavior. They can provide advice and help determine if and when anti-anxiety medication should be given.

Adding a pet restraint system (like a doggie seat or seat belt) or kennel cage will keep Sugar from sliding around in the car and may help her feel more secure.

Next, help reduce Sugar's anxiety by helping her associate car rides with good things. This will take a little extra time and effort each day, but it's worth it.

-- With the car parked in the driveway, sit in the back seat with Sugar (in her seat or cage) for about five minutes. Give her a small treat and lots of praise when she does. Do this daily, without driving anywhere.

-- When Sugar regularly stays calm, shift to the driver's seat after sitting with her in the back seat.

-- Step up to the next level: Turn on the car, giving Sugar a treat when you do so. Put soothing music on the radio.

A trainer can be a good investment, as well. They'll work with Sugar (and often the vet) to make her car rides bearable, and maybe even enjoyable.

How does your pet stand car rides? Tell us about it at [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* In the 1800s, popcorn was often eaten as a cereal with milk and sugar.

\* Players of the video game "Call of Duty" have spent more hours thus engaged than the entire course of human existence.

\* There are more than 400 Scottish words for snow.

\* The longest surgical procedure in history, in which doctors separated a pair of Nepalese conjoined twins who were born with a shared brain cavity, took place in Singapore in 2001 and lasted 103 hours.

\* Cats born in May were once thought to be not

just poor rodent killers, but prone to bringing home snakes.

\* Valentine's Day weddings are apparently 18-36% more likely to end in divorce.

\* A Harvard study found that a person's IQ can drop by as much as 13 points when they are under financial stress, due in part to the amount of brain power used to think about such burdens that causes distraction.

\* Alexander the Great loved his horse, Bucephalus, so much that when it died in 326 B.C., he named the town of Bucephala for it.

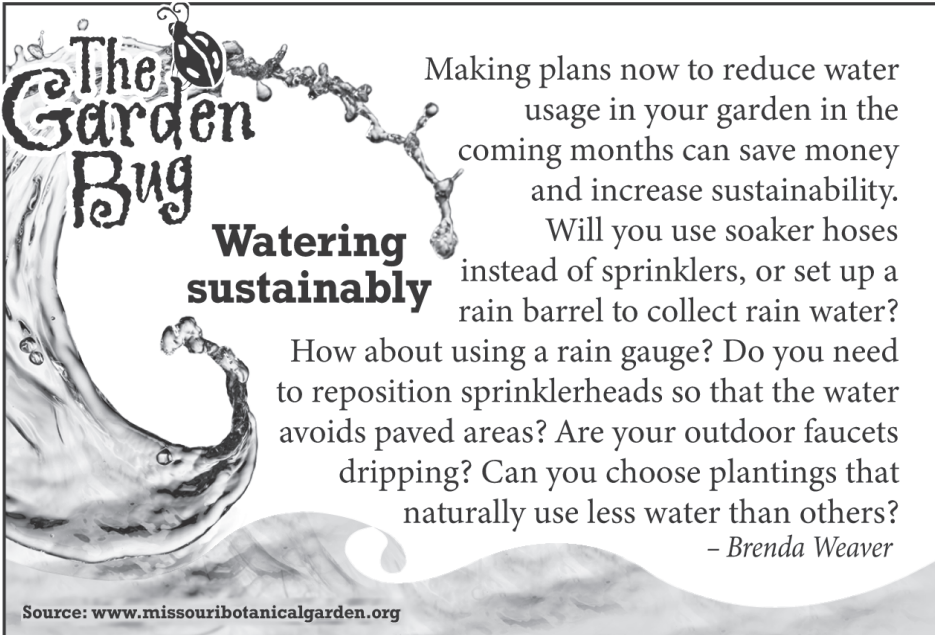
\* "Guerrilla grafting" is the illegal process of turning city-maintained sterile fruit trees into fruit producers by splicing compatible branches onto the sterile trees with branches from the fruiting trees.

\* When Indian police caught a thief who allegedly stole a gold chain from a woman on the street in Mumbai, the miscreant swallowed the object. An enema was subsequently administered at a hospital, but no results were achieved, until the man was force-fed over 40 bananas -- one of the best digestive food aids -- after which he was made to clean and disinfect the chain before relinquishing it.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can." -- Danny Kaye

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**The Garden Bug**

**Watering sustainably**

Making plans now to reduce water usage in your garden in the coming months can save money and increase sustainability. Will you use soaker hoses instead of sprinklers, or set up a rain barrel to collect rain water? How about using a rain gauge? Do you need to reposition sprinklerheads so that the water avoids paved areas? Are your outdoor faucets dripping? Can you choose plantings that naturally use less water than others?

— Brenda Weaver

Source: [www.missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org)





by Freddy Groves

## Get Your Free PACT Act Screening

As of the first week of 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs had screened 1 million veterans for exposure to toxins. As part of the PACT Act, signed last summer, they pulled out all the stops to get this done.

If you're one of the million who stepped up to get your screening, well done. If you haven't, don't let this opportunity pass by.

The PACT Act expands benefits for veterans who were exposed to toxins from Agent Orange and other chemicals, as well as from burn pits, Camp Lejeune water, radiation and others. The damage from those can take years to surface in your health.

You might have been turned down in the past if you filed a claim, but the PACT Act opens a big new door: You no longer have to prove that your illness was caused by toxic chemicals. It will be assumed that it was based on your service in that location. The PACT Act adds to the list of presumed medical conditions, called "presumptives."

If you've never received VA health care, you can still qualify for this screening. Call them. They're doing screenings at VA facilities across the country, and it takes about 10 minutes. It's better to get going with the VA now rather than wait until down the road when a health issue might crop up. Get the screening; get your information on file. Benefits will be backdated to the time the bill was signed, so don't delay.

Survivors of a veteran also might be eligible for the benefits -- either a monthly payment or a one-time payment -- for a surviving spouse, dependent child or dependent parents.

To learn more about the PACT Act, go to [www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits](http://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits). At that link you can apply online for disability compensation with Form 21-526EZ. You can also call them at 800-698-2411. Or call 800-827-1000 for help applying online. Look for Form 10-10EZ to apply for VA health care or to check the status of an application you already submitted.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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: Where is Mount Fuji located?
2. MOVIES: What is the material used in Captain America's shield?
3. MUSIC: Who wrote the lyrics to the 1961 "West Side Story" movie?
4. SCIENCE: Which color has the longest wavelength?
5. HISTORY: When did the United States outlaw child labor?
6. TELEVISION: Who played the leading role in the legal series "Ally McBeal"?
7. AD SLOGANS: Which fast-food chain tells customers that "We have the meats"?
8. LITERATURE: What is the setting for the "Divergent" novel series?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which animal represents the 2023 Chinese zodiac year?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of butterflies called?

### Answers

1. Japan.
2. Vibranium.
3. Stephen Sondheim.
4. Red.
5. 1938.
6. Calista Flockhart.
7. Arby's.
8. Chicago.
9. The rabbit.
10. A kaleidoscope.

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## Strengthening South Dakota Families

Family is everything. I grew up working our family farm and ranch with my parents and siblings. When my dad passed away, my siblings worked together to keep our family's dreams alive. My greatest joy in life has been watching my children grow up into incredible adults with a deep love of their country and an even deeper love for the Lord – and now they've started blessing me with grandchildren, too!

Every time I agree to a business deal, make an appointment, or sign a bill, I always ask myself how that decision will impact South Dakota for our kids and our grandkids. Every decision is filtered through the lens of family. And this legislative session, we are continuing to build stronger families in South Dakota.

The biggest way that we're doing that is by extending paid family leave opportunities across South Dakota. Three years ago, I brought legislation to offer paid family leave benefits to state employees for the very first time. Now, it's time for us to expand this benefit even more.

This year, together with legislators, I announced a two-part paid family leave initiative. First, we're going to allow state employees up to 12 weeks of leave when they have a new baby or adopted child, to take care of a sick family member, or to deal with a military deployment in the family. They'll receive 100% of their salary as they take the time they need to be with their families. We'll take out a state insurance policy to make this possible.

Then, we're going to create a path for private businesses to join our state's insurance group and offer these benefits to their employees, as well. This is going to make it much more affordable for private businesses and ensure that as many South Dakota families as possible have access to paid family leave. And the more businesses that join the pool, the lower the cost will be for everyone.

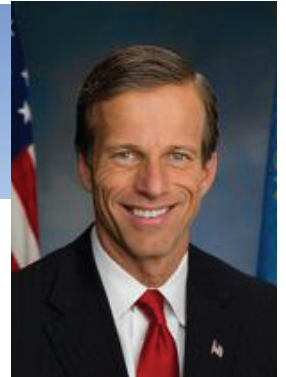
We're also creating a new educational opportunity for kids in the foster care system called the "Stronger Families Scholarship." Under this new initiative, any child in the foster care system will have the opportunity to receive up to \$4,000 in a scholarship to help them achieve their full potential, from kindergarten through 12th grade. This money can be used to pay tuition at a private school, pay for tutoring or teaching services, purchase curriculum, pay for standardized tests or AP exams, and more.

We'll strengthen families in other ways, like providing pregnancy and postpartum care for moms who are Medicaid recipients, supporting the cost of domestic adoptions for state employees, providing an additional \$38 million in grants to South Dakota childcare providers, and creating a new path to healthcare benefits for childcare employees.

When we provide these kinds of flexible options for families, we make it easier for them to make decisions in their day-to-day lives. We open opportunities for them to bond with their kids, find childcare or educational options, get into the career of their dreams, and more. By tackling these challenges, we will strengthen South Dakota's workforce, as well.

It all starts with stronger families. By continuing to focus on this, we will truly leave an even better South Dakota for our kids and grandkids.

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



## Finding Consensus in a Divided Government

Two years into the Biden administration, it's clear we need a course correction. We can't afford a repeat of the last two years of Democrats' one-party rule, which was characterized by reckless spending, high inflation, open borders, and rising crime. Fortunately, with a Republican majority in the House of Representatives, the Democrats' one-party control in Washington has ended, and both parties will have to work together to get anything across the finish line.

While divided government may sound like a recipe for gridlock, it's often proved to be the opposite. In recent history, periods of divided government have delivered the 1986 Reagan tax reform, 1996 welfare reform, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and a major reform of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in 2014. And there are a number of areas right now where I believe Republicans and Democrats can work together to find solutions.

A great place to start is the farm bill, which has a strong bipartisan history. As a longtime member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I've worked with both Democrat and Republican colleagues to shape policy that helps meet the needs of South Dakota farmers and ranchers and strengthens our nation's agriculture production. We also need to get to work on advancing trade agreements to expand markets for American products and services around the world, something the Biden administration has been slow to do.

There has also been a renewed and bipartisan interest in promoting transparency and accountability in Big Tech, including from President Biden. In recent years, I've worked on bipartisan legislation to reform existing laws that govern certain internet use, increase transparency, and improve due process for users concerning Big Tech platforms' content moderation practices. I will continue to find ways to advance these bills as Congress works to build consensus on these important issues.

Democrats and Republicans should also be able to agree that there must be accountability when it comes to spending taxpayer dollars. Recently, I launched an oversight initiative to ensure federal broadband funding is being used for its intended purpose of extending internet access to areas that currently lack it. There is also a critical need to conduct oversight of the IRS, especially given the agency's shaky record of handling taxpayer data and its recent record of subpar taxpayer services.

With our national debt soaring, Congress must also practice fiscal restraint. And one important way to promote fiscal responsibility is to restore an open process for funding the government that allows all the people's representatives to have input on spending bills and other legislation. The federal government must live within its means, just like every American household, business, or farm. And it shouldn't be placing the burden for reckless spending on hardworking middle-income families and small businesses by raising taxes. I hope Democrats will give fair consideration to extending the tax relief Republicans passed five years ago that benefits South Dakota families and businesses.

There's a great deal we can accomplish that would make real progress on issues facing the American people. To do this, we need a genuine attitude of compromise rather than the "my way or the highway" approach Democrats have taken these past few years with disastrous results. I'm eager to get to work, and I hope we can deliver a bipartisan record of accomplishment over the next two years.

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CONGRESSMAN

**DUSTY JOHNSON**

Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



## Looking Out for Cattle Country

I'm heading to the 65th Annual Black Hills Stock Show this weekend. It's one of my favorite events of the year – a midwestern city becomes a "slice of the Old West" – when cowboys and ranchers come from across the country. As I shake hands and greet folks, year after year, I'm reminded of the uphill battles our ranchers face every day. The next generation of ranchers needs positive change, and that's what I'm working on in Congress.

The beginning of 2020 and beyond brought a great deal of havoc to the cattle industry. Black swan event after black swan event made it harder for ranchers, packers, and grocers to keep up with demand. With short supply of meat in grocery stores, prices skyrocketed, causing stress on the American consumer. Even though there was short supply in the stores, packers were at capacity due to COVID-19 restrictions in the workplace. Ranchers suddenly had nowhere to sell their cattle – and if they could find a processor with space, the price the ranchers were getting was dismal.

Cattle country needs solutions – it needs options – more healthy competition and more slaughter capacity.

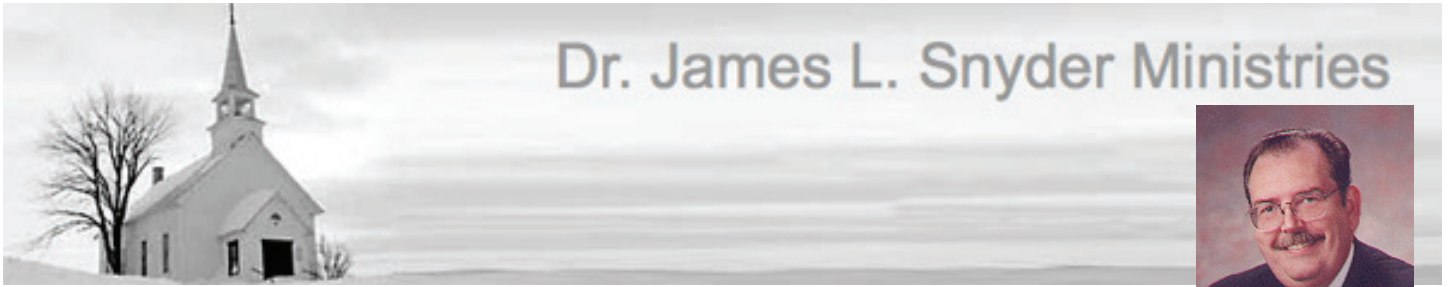
This week, I dropped two cattle-focused bills – the Butcher Block Act and A-PLUS Act – to do both of those things. Though the Butcher Block Act has been implemented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), it isn't law yet – eventually the funding for USDA's pilot program will run out without a long-term solution propping it up. I want to ensure the livestock industry will always have tools available to expand capacity and respond to market demand.

The Butcher Block Act helps new and expanded livestock or small meat processors by establishing a loan or grant program through USDA for construction and expansion. The cattle processing space is too concentrated – my bills give producers options of where to sell – making them less dependent on the big four. The A-PLUS Act revises the Packers and Stockyards Act to clarify that livestock auction owners may invest in small meat packers – putting small packers on equal footing with the big packers. Both bills will give ranchers more options and processors more shackle space to help meet the need of increasing the capacity by 5,000-6,000 head of cattle per day.

We know life is unpredictable. What we need is greater stability – not just for the ranchers, but for small packers, grocers, and consumers. That's what these bills will produce – stability. I'm looking forward to leading these bills in Congress and securing more wins for cattle country.

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## Sow a Thought Reap a Pie



One thing that has been burning in my life has been thoughts. Not that I don't have thoughts, but I'm not quite sure how to use them when I have them. Looking back over my life, it has been my thoughts that got me into trouble. I just never learn.

I was finishing up a little project in my office, and I couldn't help but think about The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's wonderful coconut cream pie. She makes a lot of pies, but this one has to be her best. It's been a long time since she baked a coconut cream pie.

Being a husband as long as I have been, over 50 years, I know it doesn't do any good for me to tell my wife what to do, particularly in the kitchen. My access to the kitchen has to be supervised by her.

How can I get her to bake her infamous and delicious coconut cream pie?

This thought took a whole bunch of other thoughts to come up with a good idea. I don't always come up with a good idea, but I thought I had done it this time. I needed to plant a thought in her mind concerning this coconut cream pie.

How I was going to do this demanded some more thought, then I came up with an idea.

We get spam callers about medicare benefits and my expiring auto warranty, so I come up with a little idea. The next time someone like this calls me, I will use it to plant a thought into my wife's head.

It didn't take long, and one of those spam calls came.

Somewhere in the conversation, they asked me a question, and I noticed The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was in the next room within hearing distance.

I inserted into the conversation, "And my wife bakes the most delicious coconut cream pie I have ever eaten." I mentioned it several times in the conversation, hoping I had planted some thought in someone's mind.

The expiring car warranty call came, and I used that as an opportunity to say, "You should taste the amazing coconut cream pie that my wife bakes. You would love it."

I even used it when some friends called me. I would say, "Do you remember my wife's delicious coconut cream pie?"

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This routine went on for a couple of weeks, and I hadn't noticed any difference with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I was beginning to feel that maybe my "sowing a thought" wasn't working. That thought in and of itself caused a little bit of despair on my side.

Giving this quite a bit of thought, I just couldn't come up with another scheme to entice her to bake coconut cream pie without knowing it was me.

I kept it up for several weeks, hoping that one little thought might take root. It was worth the trouble if I got one of her coconut cream pies at the end.

One day this past week, I had several appointments across town that would take up most of the day. So, I would be out of the house all that time, unable to sow any more thoughts.

It was a long and boring day, but finally, it was over, and I headed home. I pulled into the driveway, got out, and entered the house. As I entered, there was this familiar aroma that I really couldn't place at the time. It smelled delicious, but I didn't quite understand what it was.

My wife was in the kitchen, so I went into my office and sat at my desk to finish my day's task.

It wasn't long before The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to the doorway into my office with something in her hand. Then she said, "Look what I baked this morning. It's a coconut cream pie. For some reason, I kept thinking about my coconut cream pie I made a couple of years ago. I don't know why, but I just decided to bake this pie this morning." Then she smiled at me.

I smiled back at her and said, "When can I have a piece of that delicious pie?"

She brought me a piece, and I sat there enjoying every bite. I was beginning to think that my planting the thought would not work.

After finishing that pie, I began thinking, is this pie the result of me planting a thought, or did she just hear what I was saying and was trying to trick me?

I never will know which way it was. But then I got to thinking; maybe I will try this again to get my wife to do something in the future. I'm going to have to give this an awful lot of thought because it's very hard to fool The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Sometimes my thoughts get me into trouble and sometimes they don't. I can never tell which way any of thoughts will go.

I thought about what David said, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:22-24).

It is important for me to allow God to search me and know my thoughts and if there is any thing that offends God, I need to deal with regularly.

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Google has a huge amount of influence around the world. What are they doing to promote sustainability that drives real change?

-- P. Paulson, Alexandria, VA

Google's stance on sustainability has always been extremely positive, so much so that it has become an integral part of who they are as a company. As is stated on their official site page on sustainability, "We unify our practices, partnerships, and products around a single mission—to foster sustainability at scale." Thankfully this is not all talk. Google has adopted a number of changes to the way their search engine works, changes that put sustainability at the forefront of the average Google-user's mind.

Some of these new features include an automatic carbon footprint analyzer that chooses the greenest options for you, be it flights, hotels, driving routes or appliances. Incredibly, the analyzer is so advanced that it gathers information pertaining to a particular flight's carbon output per seat; a hotel's green practices (waste reduction, water conservation etc), and whether or not they are Green Key or EarthCheck Certified; the greenest and most cost-effective routes to drive; and even the cost-effectiveness and sustainability ratings of energy intensive appliances like water heaters and furnaces.

Now, all these features and services are great for the user, but what about big-picture sustainability?

At their Google Cloud Sustainability Summit, which occurred near the end of June 2022, Google announced that they would be launching a sustainability platform for their customers to use to boost their own sustainability initiatives. The platform would grant users access to the Google Earth Engine, a tool previously only accessible by scientists and nonprofit organizations. The aim is to give customers the ability to extrapolate how their company's actions affect not only their immediate marketplace, but the world around them.

Furthermore, Google has been using their research into artificial intelligence to optimize the efficiency of traffic lights. The research, which was piloted in Israel, managed to predict traffic conditions and improve traffic light timing so well that they saw a 10 to 20 per cent reduction in fuel consumption and intersection delay time. In the future, they hope to expand this operation into Rio de Janeiro, and hopefully further, should it continue to see success.

While Google has accomplished a great deal in their quest for a more sustainable future, their use of wording may be slightly misleading for some, in particular, their use of the term "carbon-neutral," especially as it pertains to one of their greatest achievements: Carbon Neutrality since 2007.

What most people don't realize is that carbon neutrality doesn't mean that the company in question produces no carbon, or that they remove the carbon they produced from the atmosphere; it means they are offsetting their carbon output by investing in green initiatives, purchasing green energy and taking other actions that purportedly reduce other carbon outputs by as much as or more than their own. By that definition, according to a report by Dezeen, Google has certainly been carbon neutral, but they have not been carbon net-zero (removing the carbon they produce from the atmosphere). In reality, the carbon that Google has produced since 2007 has accumulated to as much as 20 million tons!



**Google powers its energy-intensive data centers with some of the largest solar arrays in the world.**



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## South Dakota COVID-19 Report

New Cases\*

575  
**+111**

Total Cases\*

273,929

Currently Hospitalized

49  
**-8**

New Hospitalizations

39

Total Hospitalized

12,338

[Click to Visit](#)

SD COVID-19 Vaccination  
Coverage

New Deaths

4

Total Deaths

3,149

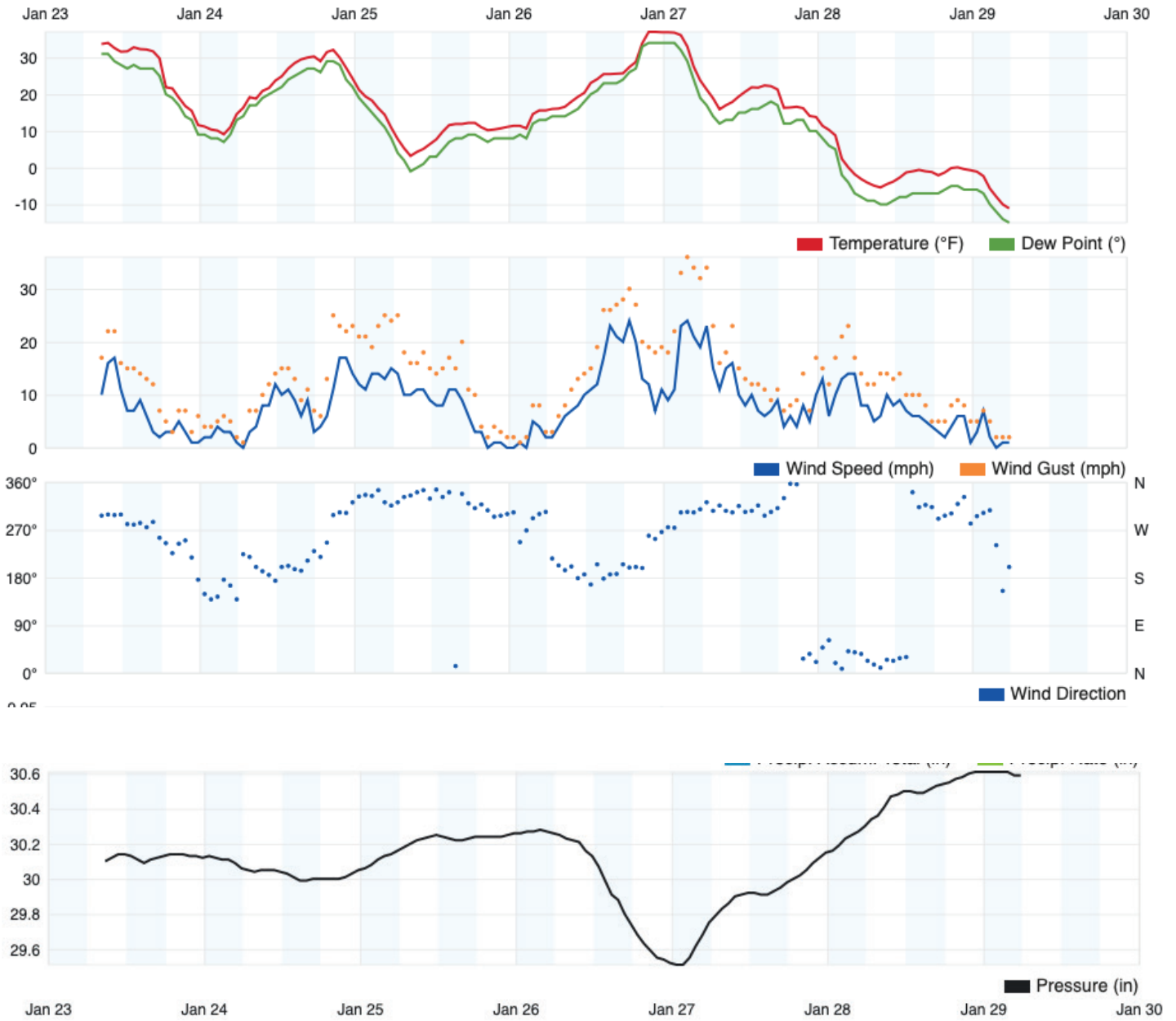
[Click to Visit](#)

COVID-19 Community  
Levels

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## Past Week's Groton Weather Graphs



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Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Cold	Partly Cloudy	Cold	Partly Cloudy	Cold	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 2 °F	Low: -19 °F	High: 2 °F	Low: -11 °F	High: 10 °F	Low: -9 °F	High: 11 °F



## Cold Continues...

January 29, 2023  
3:13 AM

	Maximum Temperature					Minimum Temperature					Minimum Wind Chill Forecast																	
	1/29	1/30	1/31	2/1	2/2	1/29	1/30	1/31	2/1	2/2	Sun						Mon						Tue					
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am
Aberdeen	3	4	10	13	15	-12	-18	-6	-8	-3	-26	-24	-14	-14	-20	-26	-30	-34	-35	-32	-18	-16	-25	-26	-24	-22	-21	-19
Britton	0	-1	7	10	10	-16	-21	-8	-4	-5	-30	-29	-21	-17	-25	-29	-34	-39	-39	-36	-26	-22	-28	-30	-28	-27	-26	-23
Eagle Butte	5	11	23	28	30	-4	-9	1	6	8	-18	-15	-14	-14	-17	-21	-21	-24	-25	-21	-11	-6	-11	-11	-12	-13	-12	-10
Eureka	2	5	13	15	18	-12	-17	-10	-5	-5	-26	-24	-19	-17	-22	-26	-29	-32	-34	-30	-16	-14	-21	-21	-22	-24	-24	-19
Gettysburg	4	7	18	20	19	-8	-14	-5	2	0	-21	-19	-17	-15	-19	-23	-27	-29	-31	-27	-14	-12	-19	-19	-19	-21	-21	-17
Kennebec	6	9	20	25	28	-6	-11	0	5	7	-17	-14	-11	-9	-8	-12	-18	-21	-25	-23	-10	-8	-17	-18	-17	-16	-16	-14
McIntosh	2	9	18	21	20	-14	-14	-4	4	3	-32	-25	-21	-17	-22	-25	-28	-28	-31	-28	-15	-8	-14	-16	-18	-19	-14	-13
Milbank	2	1	10	14	13	-14	-14	-3	-1	-2	-28	-24	-18	-16	-19	-23	-26	-29	-31	-29	-19	-19	-28	-28	-25	-24	-24	-21
Miller	4	6	16	19	20	-6	-13	0	4	3	-21	-19	-14	-12	-12	-19	-24	-28	-31	-26	-15	-14	-21	-19	-17	-18	-17	-15
Mobridge	6	10	20	22	21	-9	-13	-4	0	3	-23	-18	-13	-12	-18	-20	-24	-24	-26	-22	-11	-6	-13	-13	-14	-15	-14	-10
Murdo	7	11	25	29	32	-9	-9	3	9	11	-11	-11	-11	-8	-11	-13	-17	-19	-22	-19	-8	-5	-13	-14	-14	-14	-12	-11
Pierre	10	13	26	30	31	-2	-8	0	7	10	-12	-10	-7	-5	-9	-12	-14	-16	-21	-18	-6	-3	-10	-11	-11	-9	-9	-7
Redfield	4	4	12	14	15	-9	-17	-5	-3	-2	-24	-22	-15	-13	-17	-22	-26	-31	-33	-30	-16	-15	-25	-25	-23	-21	-21	-19
Sisseton	1	1	9	13	12	-8	-14	-2	-1	-5	-27	-25	-19	-18	-23	-27	-29	-33	-34	-31	-21	-18	-26	-25	-23	-23	-23	-19
Watertown	0	-1	8	13	13	-13	-18	-6	-2	-2	-28	-25	-20	-18	-22	-24	-27	-31	-34	-31	-21	-21	-30	-30	-29	-26	-25	-22
Webster	-2	-1	7	11	12	-14	-19	-7	-1	-2	-31	-28	-23	-21	-26	-29	-31	-36	-37	-34	-22	-23	-31	-31	-29	-27	-27	-24
Wheaton	0	0	6	9	9	-17	-17	-6	-4	-6	-29	-25	-19	-17	-21	-27	-28	-32	-33	-30	-19	-20	-26	-26	-24	-22	-23	-21



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Arctic air will dominate the forecast with wind chill values falling well below zero over the next few days. A moderating trend is expected later this week along with dry conditions.

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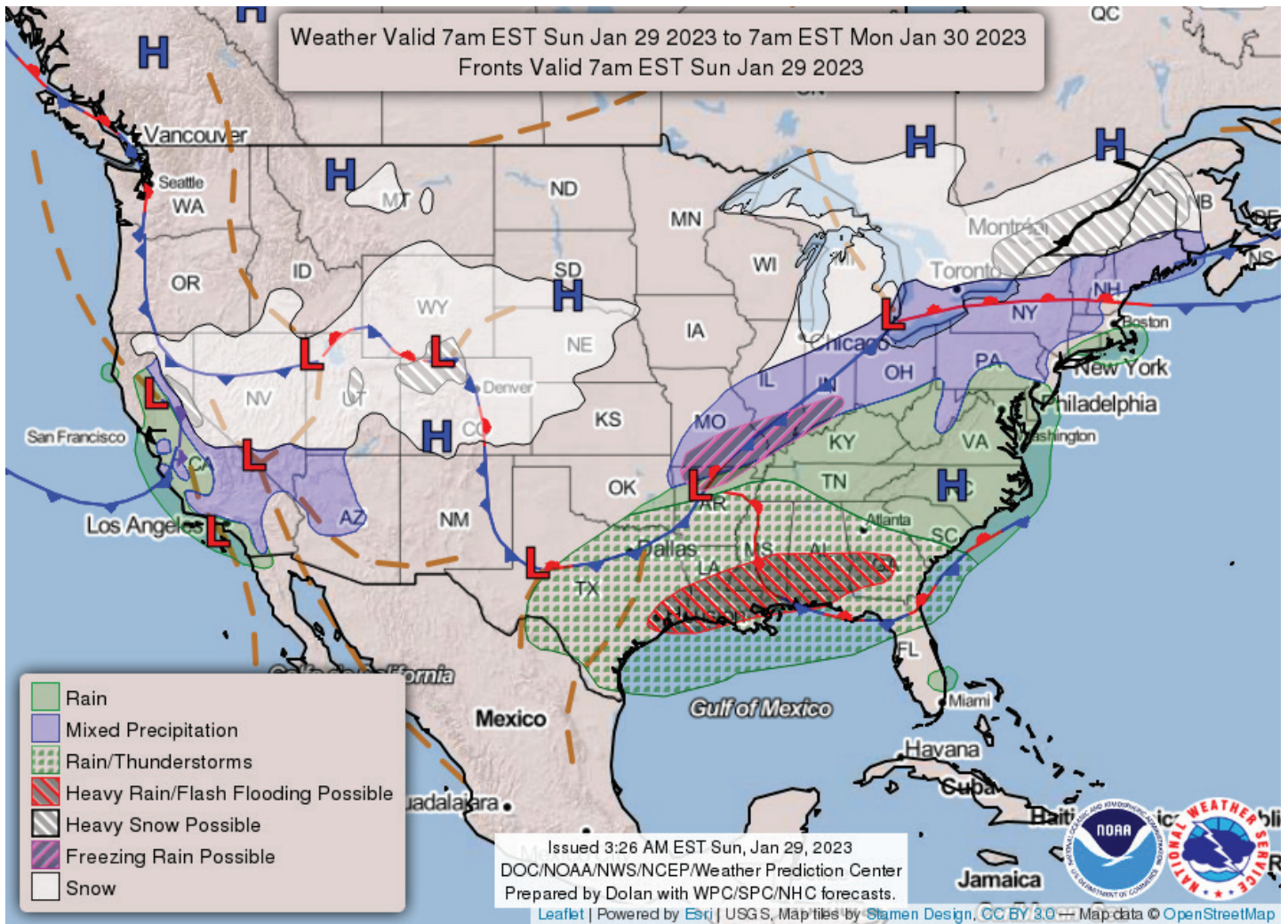
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 11.4 °F at Midnight**  
**Low Temp: -5.8 °F at 9:15 AM**  
**Wind: 23 mph at 4:45 AM**  
**Precip: : 0.00**

Day length: 9 hours, 41 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 58 in 1931  
Record Low: -32 in 1951  
Average High: 25  
Average Low: 2  
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.52  
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00  
Average Precip to date: 0.52  
Precip Year to Date: 0.00  
Sunset Tonight: 5:36:06 PM  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:53:47 AM



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## Today in Weather History

January 29, 2008: Arctic air combined with strong northwest winds of 20 to 40 mph to bring extreme wind chills to much of north-central and northeast South Dakota. The extreme wind chills began in the morning hours of January 29th across all of the area. The wind chills improved across north-central South Dakota by the evening and improved across northeast South Dakota during the morning hours of January 30th. The extreme wind chills ranged from 35 to 50 degrees below zero across the area. The extreme cold caused school delays and activity cancellations, along with much discomfort to people and livestock. On Monday, January 28th, the day before the extreme cold, a southerly flow brought very mild temperatures with some record highs set at several locations. Highs were in the 40s to the mid-50s across central and northeast South Dakota. When the Arctic front came through on January 28th, temperatures fell dramatically through the evening and early morning with below zero temperatures by Tuesday morning, January 29th. In fact, most locations across the area had a 40 to 55-degree temperature change from the 28th to the 29th.

1780 - On the coldest morning of a severe winter the mercury dipped to 16 degrees below zero at New York City, and reached 20 degrees below zero at Hartford CT. New York Harbor was frozen for five weeks, allowing a heavy cannon to be taken across the ice to fortify the British on Staten Island. (The Weather Channel)

1921: A small but intense windstorm resulted in the "Great Olympic Blowdown" in the Pacific Northwest. Hurricane-force winds funneled along the mountains downed vast expanses of Douglas fir trees, and the storm destroyed eight billion board feet of timber. Winds at North Head, WA, gusted to 113 mph. On January 31, 1921, the International News Services reported from Aberdeen, Washington, "It is reported that thousands of dollars in damage was done to buildings and storms in Aberdeen and Hoquiam. The wind velocity was estimated at from 125 to 150 miles an hour. Four steel smokestacks reaching almost 200 feet into the air were the first to collapse before the terrific onslaught of the gale. The giant chimneys crashed down on dwellings crushing them like houses of cardboard."

1947: On this date through the 30th, a fierce winter storm buried southern Wisconsin under two feet of snow. Strong northeasterly winds piled drifts up to 10 feet high in the Milwaukee area, shutting down the city for two days.

1983 - A series of Pacific coast storms finally came to an end. The storms, attributed in part to the ocean current, "El Nino," produced ocean swells 15 to 20 feet high which ravaged the beaches of southern California. Much of the damage was to homes of movie stars in the exclusive Malibu Colony. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A strong storm moving out of the Central Rockies spread snow across the north central states, with up to eight inches of snow in Wisconsin, and produced wind gusts to 64 mph at Goodland KS. A thunderstorm produced three inches of snow in forty-five minutes at Owing Mills MD. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Rain and snow were primarily confined to the northwestern U.S. An afternoon reading of 34 degrees at International Falls MN was a record high for the date. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Bitter cold air continued to pour into Alaska. At McGrath, temperature dipped to 63 degrees below zero. Strong winds blowing through the Alaska Range between Fairbanks and Anchorage produced a wind chill reading of 120 degrees below zero at Cantwell. (National Weather Summary)

2002: A major three-day winter storm blasted parts of Kansas and Missouri. A catastrophic ice storm occurred south of the snow area, with two inches of ice and snow accumulating in the Kansas City, Missouri area. Thousands of trees were felled by the storm, blocking roads, felling utility lines, and causing fires. Two "Bicentennial Trees," estimated at being over 200 years old, were badly damaged from this storm. After the 31st, 325,000 people were reported without power in Kansas City alone.

2008: A sharp cold front moved across Illinois during the day, producing a drastic temperature drop. Temperatures fell 20 to 40 degrees in just a couple of hours, with areas from Springfield, Illinois to St. Louis, Missouri seeing temperatures fall as much as 50 degrees between noon and 6 pm. Temperatures in the mid-60s in central Illinois at midday on the 29th had fallen to near zero by the next morning.

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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### HOW WE ARE SEEN

Among the many photos I have collected over the years is one of a bridge in Yosemite Falls. Actually, it is the picture of a bridge and its reflection in still waters. When viewed, it appears to become an oval with water in between two bridges. The top half of the photo is the actual bridge while the reflection in the water is an exact replica of the bridge. They both seem to be the same as if the water divides them. It's like the letter "u" on top of another "u."

Reflections are an interesting part of life. One psychologist believes that children who grow up without seeing their image in mirrors are at a disadvantage. He is convinced that they are unable to develop a picture of what they look like, who they are. As a result, they cannot develop their identity and become mentally healthy people. Although this argument is open to debate, what we see when we look into a mirror may be much more than an image of ourselves: it may be a reflection of our heart.

"As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man." Are we being encouraged to "look deep within ourselves" to discover who we are? Are we to sit and contemplate our identity? Are we to wonder who we are and where we are going without resolving the problem?

God's Word presents the best picture of who we are and where we are going. Without His Son, Jesus Christ, as our Savior and Lord, we are lost and have no identity. With Him, we have a new identity ☐ we are transformed into the image of Christ. We can become like Him

Prayer: Lord, may we see ourselves as You see us and change our ways through the power of Christ and become new creations and a member of the family of God. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man. Proverbs 27:19



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:  
01.27.23

4 43 46 47 61 22

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$31,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[GAME DETAILS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.28.23

1 24 34 37 52 9

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$34,470,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[GAME DETAILS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.28.23

2 5 35 38 45 9

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 31 Mins 52 Secs

[GAME DETAILS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.28.23

7 8 15 16 18

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

NEXT DRAW:

[GAME DETAILS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.28.23

47 51 53 62 63 16

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

NEXT DRAW:

[GAME DETAILS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.28.23

2 18 23 27 47 15

Power Play: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$613,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[GAME DETAILS](#)

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News from the  Associated Press

## Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL=

Aberdeen Christian 41, Waverly-South Shore 26  
Arlington 55, Tri-Valley 36  
Crazy Horse 46, Takini 43  
Edgemont 52, Hemingford, Neb. 30  
Elkton-Lake Benton 43, Great Plains Lutheran 30  
Faulkton 43, Hitchcock-Tulare 36  
Flandreau 52, Sioux Valley 47  
Herreid/Selby Area 48, Lemmon 32  
James Valley Christian 58, Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op 38  
Leola/Frederick 52, South Border, N.D. 29  
Marty Indian 60, Wakpala 30  
McCook Central/Montrose 63, Garretson 34  
Milbank 53, Dakota Valley 43  
Miller 56, Wessington Springs 44  
Mitchell 46, Rapid City Central 37  
Northwestern 64, Potter County 48  
Omaha Nation, Neb. 45, Lower Brule 43  
Parkston 73, Pine Ridge 42  
Rapid City Stevens 68, Huron 45  
Sioux Falls Jefferson 59, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 26  
Stanley County 45, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 33  
Sully Buttes 69, Warner 65, OT  
Vermillion 32, Luverne, Minn. 31  
Wyndmere-Lidgerwood, N.D. 42, Britton-Hecla 35

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS=

Ethan vs. Canton, ppd.  
Florence/Henry vs. Rapid City Christian, ppd.  
Jones County vs. Bennett County, ppd.  
New Underwood vs. Faith, ppd.  
Wagner vs. Viborg-Hurley, ppd.  
Wall vs. Lyman, ppd. to Feb 14th.  
Winner vs. Elk Point-Jefferson, ppd.  
Yankton vs. Douglas, ppd.

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL=

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 55, Stanley County 46  
Crow Creek 63, Dupree 38  
Dakota Valley 71, Clark/Willow Lake 50  
Dell Rapids 65, Aberdeen Roncalli 31  
Deubrook 77, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 42  
Elkton-Lake Benton 56, Great Plains Lutheran 51  
Flandreau 52, Sioux Valley 47  
Hemingford, Neb. 68, Edgemont 17

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Herreid/Selby Area 47, Lemmon 45  
Highmore-Harrold 52, Ipswich 38  
James Valley Christian 69, Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op 44  
Kimball/White Lake 55, Mitchell Christian 40  
Leola/Frederick 57, South Border, N.D. 50  
Lower Brule 70, Crazy Horse 49  
Madison 74, Tiospa Zina Tribal 48  
Mitchell 72, Rapid City Central 48  
Pierre 80, Harrisburg 60  
Rapid City Stevens 54, Huron 51  
Rapid City Stevens 68, Huron 45  
Sioux Falls Christian 48, Hamlin 46  
Sioux Falls Jefferson 63, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 60  
Takini 89, Flandreau Indian 54  
Tiospaye Topa 60, Wakpala 59  
Tri-Valley 68, Sisseton 31  
Warner 55, Sully Buttes 51  
Wessington Springs 66, Miller 55  
West Central 60, Webster 39  
Wolsey-Wessington 59, Hill City 50  
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS=  
Canton vs. Milbank, ppd.  
Dell Rapids St. Mary vs. Viborg-Hurley, ppd.  
Groton Area vs. Elk Point-Jefferson, ppd.  
Lennox vs. Deuel, ppd.  
Scotland vs. Baltic, ppd.  
Tea Area vs. Parkston, ppd.  
Vermillion vs. Redfield, ppd.  
Wall vs. Lyman, ppd. to Feb 14th.  
Yankton vs. Douglas, ppd.

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

## South Dakota defeats St. Thomas 81-67

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Tasos Kamateros had 20 points in South Dakota's 81-67 win over St. Thomas on Saturday night.

Kamateros also had nine rebounds for the Coyotes (10-12, 5-5 Summit League). Damani Hayes and Kruz Perrott-Hunt scored 13 points apiece.

The Tommies (14-10, 5-6) were led in scoring by Parker Bjorklund, who finished with 26 points, eight rebounds and two blocks. Andrew Rohde added 24 points for St. Thomas.

### NEXT UP

South Dakota plays Monday against Oral Roberts on the road, and St. Thomas visits Omaha on Thursday.

## Massner has 30, Western Illinois tops South Dakota St. in OT

MACOMB, Ill. (AP) — Trenton Massner's 30 points led Western Illinois over South Dakota State 81-73 in overtime on Saturday.

The score was tied at 69 for the last 1:28 of regulation then the Leathernecks outscored the Jackrabbits 12-4 in overtime.

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Massner also added nine rebounds and eight assists for the Leathernecks (14-8, 7-4 Summit League). Alec Rosner added 16 points and Quinlan Bennett scored 10.

Zeke Mayo finished with 27 points and six assists for the Jackrabbits (11-11, 6-4). Matt Dentlinger added 19 points, six rebounds and four assists for South Dakota State. Matthew Mims had 11 points.

## Djokovic beats Tsitsipas for 10th Australian Open, 22nd Slam

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Novak Djokovic was simply too good at the most crucial moments and claimed his 10th Australian Open championship and 22nd Grand Slam title overall by beating Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5) in the final at Rod Laver Arena on Sunday night.

The victory allows Djokovic to return to No. 1 in the ATP rankings.

The 35-year-old from Serbia did not compete in the Australian Open a year ago after being deported from the country because he was not vaccinated against COVID-19.

Government restrictions have eased since, and he was able to get a visa this time despite still not having gotten the shots against the illness caused by the coronavirus.

Now Djokovic has run his winning streak at the hard-court tournament to 28 matches.

His 10th trophy in Australia adds to the record he already held. His 22 major championships — which include seven from Wimbledon, three from the U.S. Open and two from the French Open — are tied with Rafael Nadal for the most by a man in the history of tennis.

He was superior throughout against Tsitsipas, but especially so in the two tiebreakers.

Djokovic took a 4-1 lead in the first and after it was 4-all, pulled off the last three points. He led 5-0 in the closing tiebreaker and, when it finished, he pointed to his temple then climbed into the stands, pumped his fist and jumped with his coach, Goran Ivanisevic, and other members of the entourage, before collapsing, crying.

Djokovic returned to the court, sat on his sideline bench, buried his face in a white towel and let some more tears flow.

Margaret Court, with 24, Serena Williams, with 23, and Steffi Graf, with 22, have the most championships among women.

This was also the 93rd ATP tour-level title for Djokovic, allowing him to break a tie with Nadal for the fourth-most. Jimmy Connors holds that mark, at 109.

Djokovic was participating in his 33rd major final, Tsitsipas in his second — and the 24-year-old from Greece's other one also ended in a loss to Djokovic, at the 2021 French Open.

A win for Tsitsipas would have allowed him to get to No. 1 for the first time, supplanting Carlos Alcaraz, who got there after winning the U.S. Open last September but sat out the Australian Open because of a leg injury.

Little doubt this is of no solace to Tsitsipas, but there is no shame in failing to defeat Djokovic in Melbourne. Challenging his dominion on those blue hard courts is every bit the monumental task that taking on Nadal on the red clay at Roland Garros is.

## UK leader fires party chairman over tax bill allegations

By MIKE FULLER and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak fired the chairman of the governing Conservative Party on Sunday for a "serious breach" of ethics rules in failing to come clean about a tax dispute.

Sunak had faced days of pressure to sack Nadhim Zahawi amid allegations he settled a multimillion-dollar unpaid tax bill while he was in charge of the country's Treasury.

The prime minister acted after a standards probe found Zahawi had breached the ministerial code of conduct. It said he had failed to disclose details of his dispute with tax authorities and the fact that he had paid a penalty.

In a letter to Zahawi, Sunak said he had been forced to act to keep his promise that his government

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"would have integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level."

Zahawi had acknowledged the tax dispute but argued his error was "careless and not deliberate."

In his response to Sunak, Zahawi pledged to support the prime minister as a backbench lawmaker and made no reference to the ethics inquiry. He attacked the media — which first revealed his whopping tax bill, reported at almost 5 million pounds (\$6.2 million) — and claimed some reporting did not reflect "legitimate scrutiny of public officials."

Zahawi headed the U.K. Treasury from July to September 2022 in the final months of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's tenure, and was appointed Conservative Party chairman when Sunak took office in October.

Sunak has vowed to restore order and integrity to government after three years of turmoil under predecessors Johnson — brought down by ethics scandals — and Liz Truss, who quit within weeks after her policies rocked the U.K. economy.

Last week he asked the government's standards adviser, Laurie Magnus, to investigate Zahawi's tax affairs and said he would wait for the results before acting.

In a report released Sunday, Magnus found Zahawi had shown "insufficient regard" for the requirement "to be honest, open and an exemplary leader through his own behavior" in public life.

The investigation into Zahawi by HMRC, the U.K.'s tax office, centered around the sale of some 27 million pounds (\$33.4 million) in shares in YouGov, an opinion polling firm he co-founded. The probe began in April 2021, but Zahawi did not declare it when he was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer more than a year later.

The Magnus report found there should have been an understanding from the outset that the matter was serious. It said this was not reflected in public statements given by Zahawi, until he confirmed on Jan. 21 that a settlement had been reached.

Zahawi said Sunday it had been "the privilege of my life" to serve in government. The 55-year-old, who came to Britain as a child refugee from Iraq, was vaccines minister in the first year of the coronavirus pandemic, and later served a nine-month stint as education minister.

The Zahawi episode was a test of the authority of Sunak, who is grappling with a staggering economy and a deeply divided Conservative Party. Standards inquiries are also underway into Johnson — over claims he secured a loan with the help of a Conservative donor who was later appointed chairman of the BBC — and Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab, who faces allegations he bullied staff.

The stories are fuel for opponents who accuse Sunak — a former investment banker who is married to the daughter of an Indian billionaire — of leading a government of the wealthy that is out of touch with the struggles of ordinary people.

Last year, it was revealed that his wife Akshata Murthy didn't pay U.K. tax on her overseas income, including 11.5 million pounds a year in dividends from Infosys, the Indian IT company founded by her father. The practice was legal, but it looked insensitive at best at a time when Sunak — who was then the U.K. Treasury chief — was raising taxes for millions of Britons.

Housing Secretary Michael Gove said Sunak had shown integrity in waiting for the facts before firing Zahawi.

"The electorate will have a chance to pass judgment," he told Times Radio. "I hope and believe that by the time of the next general election, people will have seen that Rishi Sunak is someone who is deeply moral, deeply public spirited, and committed, above all, to public service."

## Israeli police seal off home of Jerusalem synagogue attacker

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli police on Sunday sealed up the east Jerusalem home of a Palestinian attacker who killed seven people and wounded three outside a synagogue, one of several punitive measures approved by Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet overnight.

The move came following a deadly weekend in which seven people were killed and five others wounded in two separate shootings in Jerusalem, in one of the bloodiest months in the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem in several years. The measures threatened to further raise tensions and cast a cloud over

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a visit next week by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The weekend shootings followed a deadly Israeli raid in the West Bank on Thursday that killed nine Palestinians, most of them militants. In response, Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired a barrage of rockets into Israel, triggering a series of Israeli airstrikes in response. In all, 32 Palestinians have been killed in fighting this month.

Addressing the Cabinet on Sunday morning, Netanyahu said that "we sealed the home of the terrorist who carried out the horrendous attack in Jerusalem, and his home will be demolished."

"We are not seeking an escalation, but we are prepared for any scenario. Our answer to terrorism is a heavy hand and a strong, swift and precise response," he said.

The police on Sunday released footage of Israeli army engineers welding metal plates over the windows and welding the front door shut as part of the operation in response to Friday night's deadly shooting.

Police said the attacker, identified as a 21-year-old east Jerusalem resident, was killed in a shootout with officers after fleeing the scene in the predominantly ultra-Orthodox east Jerusalem settlement of Neve Yaakov.

On Saturday, a 13-year-old Palestinian boy opened fire elsewhere in east Jerusalem, wounding two Israeli men, paramedics said. The attacker was shot and hospitalized.

Funerals for the victims in Friday's shooting, the deadliest attack on Israelis since 2008, were scheduled to take place Sunday.

Netanyahu's Cabinet also said it plans a series of other punitive measures, including canceling social security benefits for the families of attackers, and would take steps to "strengthen the settlements" this week as part of the government's response to the weekend's attacks.

Netanyahu said that strengthening settlements in the occupied West Bank was aimed at "sending a message to the terrorists that seek to uproot us from our land that we are here to stay."

Israel captured the West Bank, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. It has built dozens of settlements, now home to more than 500,000 Jewish settlers, in the decades since.

Most of the international community considers the settlements an obstacle to peace with the Palestinians, who seek the West Bank as the heartland of a future independent state.

In Cairo, Blinken opened his Mideast tour on Sunday and was to speak with students at the American University in the city before holding talks with Egyptian officials on Monday. He was then scheduled to travel to Israel for the most critical leg of the visit for talks with Israeli and Palestinian officials.

## US skier Shiffrin leads slalom in pursuit of record 86th win

SPINDLERUV MLYN, Czech Republic (AP) — American skier Mikaela Shiffrin had what she called a "perfect run" to lead a women's World Cup slalom after the opening leg Sunday as she approached the all-time record for the most career wins with 86.

If Shiffrin wins the race, she matches Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark's best mark from the 1980s.

Shiffrin seemed to get wide on a few turns early in her run, but quickly regained control and was flawless on the middle and bottom sections.

The American built a big lead of 0.67 seconds over Lena Dürr of Germany. Croatian skier Zrinka Ljutic was 0.85 behind in third, while the rest of the field was more than a second off the pace.

"This was the perfect run, I think. I was aggressive everywhere and really good on my timing," Shiffrin said. "Even when I thought, maybe, I was a little bit late or something, I just could make the turn where I wanted and keep pushing. So that's exactly how I wanted to feel, so it's perfect."

Anna Swenn Larsson of Sweden was 1.03 behind in fourth, and Olympic slalom champion Petra Vlhová of Slovakia trailed by 1.54.

The second run starts 12.15 p.m. local time.

Racing at the resort near the Czech-Polish border where she had her World Cup debut as a 15-year-old almost 12 years ago, Shiffrin dominated a slalom on the same course Saturday, posting the fastest times in both runs for her career win 85.

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She surpassed the women's record held by her former teammate Lindsey Vonn last Tuesday. Vonn had 82 wins when she retired four years ago.

A victory Sunday would also see Shiffrin wrap up the season-long slalom title with two races to spare. Her closest challenger in the discipline standings, Wendy Holdener, had a costly mistake and the Swiss skier failed to qualify for the second run and won't score World Cup points.

It would mark yet another record for Shiffrin, making her the first woman to win seven season titles in slalom, surpassing Swiss standout Vreni Schneider, who won it six times in the 1980s and '90s.

## Iran says drone attack targets defense facility in Isfahan

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Bomb-carrying drones targeted an Iranian defense factory in the central city of Isfahan overnight, authorities said early Sunday, causing some damage at the plant amid heightened regional and international tensions engulfing the Islamic Republic.

The Iranian Defense Ministry offered no information on who it suspected carried out the attack, which came as a refinery fire separately broke out in the country's northwest and a 5.9 magnitude earthquake struck nearby, killing three people.

However, Tehran has been targeted in suspected Israeli drone strikes amid a shadow war with its Mideast rival as its nuclear deal with world powers collapsed. Meanwhile, tensions also remain high with neighboring Azerbaijan after a gunman attacked that country's embassy in Tehran, killing its security chief and wounding two others.

Details on the Isfahan attack, which happened around 11:30 p.m. Saturday, remained scarce. A Defense Ministry statement described three drones being launched at the facility, with two of them successfully shot down. A third apparently made it through to strike the building, causing "minor damage" to its roof and wounding no one, the ministry said.

Iranian state television's English-language arm, Press TV, aired mobile phone video apparently showing the moment that drone struck along the busy Imam Khomeini Expressway that heads northwest out of Isfahan, one of several ways for drivers to go to the holy city of Qom and Tehran, Iran's capital. A small crowd stood gathered, drawn by anti-aircraft fire, watching as an explosion and sparks struck a dark building.

"Oh my God! That was a drone, wasn't it?" the man filming shouts. "Yeah, it was a drone."

Those there fled after the strike.

That footage of the strike, as well as footage of the aftermath analyzed by The Associated Press, corresponded to a site on Minoo Street in northwestern Isfahan that's near a shopping center that includes a carpet and an electronics store.

Iranian defense and nuclear sites increasingly find themselves surrounded by commercial properties and residential neighborhoods as the country's cities sprawl ever outward. Some locations as well remain incredibly opaque about what they produce, with only a sign bearing a Defense Ministry or paramilitary Revolutionary Guard logo.

The Defense Ministry only called the site a "workshop," without elaborating on what it made. Isfahan, some 350 kilometers (215 miles) south of Tehran, is home to both a large air base built for its fleet of American-made F-14 fighter jets and its Nuclear Fuel Research and Production Center.

The attack comes after Iran's Intelligence Ministry in July claimed to have broken up a plot to target sensitive sites around Isfahan. A segment aired on Iranian state TV in October included purported confessions by alleged members of Komala, a Kurdish opposition party that is exiled from Iran and now lives in Iraq, that they planned to target a military aerospace facility in Isfahan after being trained by Israel's Mossad intelligence service.

Activists say Iranian state TV has aired hundreds of coerced confessions over the last decade. Israeli officials declined to comment on the attack.

Separately, Iran's state TV said a fire broke out at an oil refinery in an industrial zone near the northwestern city of Tabriz. It said the cause was not yet known, as it showed footage of firefighters trying to

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extinguish the blaze. Tabriz is some 520 kilometers (325 miles) northwest of Tehran.

State TV also said the magnitude 5.9 earthquake killed three people and injured 816 others in rural areas in West Azerbaijan province, damaging buildings in many villages.

Iran's theocratic government faces challenges both at home and abroad as its nuclear program rapidly enriches uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels since the collapse of its atomic accord with world powers.

Nationwide protests have shaken the country since the September death of Mahsa Amini, a Kurdish-Iranian woman detained by the country's morality police. Its rial currency has plummeted to new lows against the U.S. dollar. Meanwhile, Iran continues to arm Russia with the bomb-carrying drone that Moscow uses in attacks in Ukraine on power plants and civilian targets.

Israel is suspected of launching a series of attacks on Iran, including an April 2021 assault on its underground Natanz nuclear facility that damaged its centrifuges. In 2020, Iran blamed Israel for a sophisticated attack that killed its top military nuclear scientist.

Israeli officials rarely acknowledge operations carried out by the country's secret military units or its Mossad intelligence agency. However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who recently re-entered the premiership, long has considered Iran to be the biggest threat his nation faces. The U.S. and Israel also just held their largest-ever military exercise amid the tensions with Iran.

Meanwhile, tensions remain high between Azerbaijan and Iran as Azerbaijan and Armenia have fought over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Iran also wants to maintain its 44-kilometer (27-mile) border with landlocked Armenia — something that could be threatened if Azerbaijan seizes new territory through warfare.

Iran in October launched a military exercise near the Azerbaijan border. Azerbaijan also maintains close ties to Israel, which has infuriated Iranian hard-liners, and has purchased Israeli-made drones for its military.

Anwar Gargash, a senior Emirati diplomat, warned online that the Isfahan attack represented one more event in the "dangerous escalation the region is witnessing." The United Arab Emirates was targeted in missile and drone attacks last year claimed by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

It "is not in the interest of the region and its future," Gargash wrote on Twitter. "Although the problems of the region are complex, there is no alternative to dialogue."

## Russians gone from Ukraine village, fear and hardship remain

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KALYNIVSKE, Ukraine (AP) — When night falls in Tatiana Trofimenko's village in southern Ukraine, she pours sunflower oil that aid groups gave her into a jar and seals it with a wick-fitted lid. A flick of a match, and the make-do candle is lit.

"This is our electricity," Trofimenko, 68, says.

It has been over 11 weeks since Ukrainian forces wrested back her village, Kalynivske, in Kherson province, from Russian occupation. But liberation has not diminished the hardship for residents, both those returning home and the ones who never left. In the peak of winter, the remote area not far from an active front line has no power or water. The sounds of war are never far.

Russian forces withdrew from the western side of the Dnieper River, which bisects the province, but remain in control of the eastern side. A near constant barrage of fire from only a few kilometers away, and the danger of leftover mines leaving many Ukrainians too scared to venture out, has rendered normalcy an elusive dream and cast a pall over their military's strategic victory.

Still, residents have slowly trickled back to Kalynivske, preferring to live without basic services, dependent on humanitarian aid and under the constant threat of bombardment than as displaced people elsewhere in their country. Staying is an act of defiance against the relentless Russian attacks intended to make the area unlivable, they say.

"This territory is liberated. I feel it," Trofimenko says. "Before, there were no people on the streets. They were empty. Some people evacuated, some people hid in their houses."

"When you go out on the street now, you see happy people walking around," she says.



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The Associated Press followed a United Nations humanitarian aid convoy into the village on Saturday, when blankets, solar lamps, jerrycans, bed linens and warm clothes were delivered to the local warehouse of a distribution center.

Russian forces captured Kherson province in the early days of the war. The majority of the nearly 1,000 residents in Kalynivske remained in their homes throughout the occupation. Most were too fragile or ill to leave, others did not have the means to escape.

Gennadiy Shaposhnikov lies on the sofa in a dark room, plates piled up beside him.

The 83-year old's advanced cancer is so painful it is hard for him to speak. When a mortar destroyed the back of his house, neighbors rushed to his rescue and patched it up with tarps. They still come by every day, to make sure he is fed and taken care of.

"Visit again, soon," is all he can muster to say to them.

Oleksandra Hryhoryna, 75, moved in with a neighbor when the missiles devastated her small house near the village center. Her frail figure steps over the spent shells and shrapnel that cover her front yard. She struggles up the pile of bricks, what remains of the stairs, leading to her front door.

She came to the aid distribution center pulling her bicycle and left with a bag full of tinned food, her main source of sustenance these days.

But it's the lack of electricity that is the major problem, Hryhoryna explains. "We are using handmade candles with oil and survive that way," she says.

The main road that leads to her home is littered with the remnants of the war, an eerie museum of what was and what everyone here hopes will never return. Destroyed Russian tanks rust away in the fields. Cylindrical anti-tank missiles gleam, embedded in grassy patches. Occasionally, there is the tail end of a cluster munition lodged into the earth.

Bright red signs emblazoned with a skull warn passersby not to get too close.

The Russians left empty ammunition boxes, trenches and tarp-covered tents during their rapid retreat. A jacket and, some kilometers away, men's underwear hangs on the bare branches. And with the Russians waging ongoing attacks to win back the lost ground in Kherson, it is sometimes hard for terrorized residents to feel as if the occupying forces ever left.

"I'm very afraid," says Trofimenko. "Even sometimes I'm screaming. I'm very, very scared. And I'm worried about us getting shelled again and for (the fighting) to start again. This is the most terrible thing that exists."

The deprivation suffered in the village is mirrored all over Kherson, from the provincial capital of the same name to the constellation of villages divided by tracts of farmland that surround it. Ukrainian troops reclaimed the territory west of the Dnieper River in November after a major counteroffensive led to a Russian troop withdrawal, hailed as one of the greatest Ukrainian victories of the 11-month war.

The U.N. ramped up assistance, supporting 133,000 individuals in Kherson with cash assistance, and 150,000 with food. Many villagers in Kalynivske say the food aid is the only reason they have something to eat.

"One of the biggest challenges is that the people who are there are the most vulnerable. It's mainly the elderly, many who have a certain kind of disability, people who could not leave the area, and are really reliant on aid organizations and local authorities who are working around the clock," says Saviano Abreu, a spokesperson for the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The shelling is constant.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry reports near daily incidents of shelling in Kherson city and surrounding villages, including rocket, artillery and mortar attacks. Most fall closer to the river banks nearer to the front line, but, that doesn't mean those living further away feel any safer. On Friday, a missile fell in the village of Kochubeivka, north of Kalynivske, killing one person.

"Kherson managed to resume most of the essential services, but the problem is the hostilities keep creating challenges to ensure they are sustained," Abreu says. "Since December, it's getting worse and worse. The number of attacks and hostilities there is only increasing."

Without electricity, there is no means to pump piped drinking water. Many line up to fetch well water,

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but a lot is needed to perform daily functions, residents complain.

To keep warm, many forage around the village for firewood. This is also not without danger.

"Before we could easily get wood from the forest, but now there are mines everywhere," says Oleksandr Zheihin, 47.

Everyone in Kalynivske knows the story of Nina Zvarech. The woman went looking for firewood in the forest and was killed when she stepped on a mine.

Her body lay there for over a month, her relatives too afraid to go and find her.

## Israel to 'strengthen' settlements after shooting attacks

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday announced a series of punitive steps against the Palestinians, including plans to beef up Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, in response to a pair of shooting attacks that killed seven Israelis and wounded five others.

The announcement cast a cloud over a visit next week by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and threatened to further raise tensions following one of the bloodiest months in the West Bank and east Jerusalem in several years.

Netanyahu's Security Cabinet, which is filled by hard-line politicians aligned with the West Bank settlement movement, approved the measures in the wake of a pair of shootings that included an attack outside an east Jerusalem synagogue on Friday night in which seven people were killed.

Netanyahu's office said the Security Cabinet agreed to seal off the attacker's home immediately ahead of its demolition. It also plans to cancel social security benefits for the families of attackers, make it easier for Israelis to get gun licenses and step up efforts to collect illegal weapons.

The announcement said that in response to public Palestinian celebrations over the attack, Israel would take new steps to "strengthen the settlements" this week. It gave no further details.

There was no immediate response from Washington. The Biden administration, which condemned the shooting, opposes settlement construction in east Jerusalem and the West Bank — lands sought by the Palestinians for a future state. The topic is likely to be high on the agenda as Blinken arrives Monday for talks with Israeli and Palestinian officials.

The weekend shootings followed a deadly Israeli raid in the West Bank on Thursday that killed nine Palestinians, most of them militants. In response, Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired a barrage of rockets into Israel, triggering a series of Israeli airstrikes in response. In all, 32 Palestinians have been killed in fighting this month.

Early Sunday, the Israeli military said that security guards in the West Bank settlement of Kedumim had shot a Palestinian who was armed with a handgun and released a photo of what it said was the weapon. There were no further details on the incident or the alleged attacker's condition.

It remains unclear whether the Israeli steps will be effective. The attackers in the weekend shootings, including a 13-year-old boy, both appear to have acted alone and were not part of organized militant groups.

In addition, Netanyahu could come under pressure from members of his government, a collection of religious and ultranationalist politicians, to take even tougher action. Such steps could risk triggering more violence and potentially drag in the Hamas militant group in Gaza.

"If it's even possible to put this violent genie back into the bottle, even for a little while, this would require the reinforcement and proper deployment of forces ... and carefully managing the crisis without being guided by the widespread calls for revenge," wrote Amos Harel, the defense affairs commentator for the Haaretz newspaper.

Friday's shooting, outside a synagogue in east Jerusalem on the Jewish Sabbath, left seven Israelis dead and three wounded before the gunman was killed by police. It was the deadliest attack on Israelis in 15 years.

Authorities published the names of four of the victims. They included 14-year-old Asher Natan; Eli Miz-

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rahi, 48, and his wife Natali, 45; and Rafael Ben Eliyahu, 56. Funerals for some victims were scheduled Saturday night.

Mourners lit memorial candles near the synagogue on Saturday evening, and in a sign of the charged atmosphere, a crowd assaulted an Israeli TV crew that came to the area, chanting "leftists go home."

Ella Sakovich, an aunt of Natali Mizrahi, said that her niece had been celebrating the Jewish Sabbath with her husband and his father when they heard gunfire outside on Friday night.

"While eating, she and her husband wanted to help and went out of the house to treat the wounded; they shot both of them," Sakovich said in a statement released by Hadassah Hospital, where Natali Mizrahi worked serving food to patients.

In response to the shooting, Israeli police beefed up activities throughout east Jerusalem and said they had arrested 42 people, including family members, who were connected to the shooter.

But later Saturday, a 13-year-old Palestinian boy opened fire elsewhere in east Jerusalem, wounding an Israeli man and his son, ages 47 and 23, paramedics said. Both were fully conscious and in moderate to serious condition in the hospital, the medics added.

As police rushed to the scene, two passers-by with licensed weapons shot and overpowered the 13-year-old attacker, police said. Police confiscated his handgun and took the wounded teen to a hospital.

Blinken is expected to arrive in Israel on Monday. The Biden administration condemned Friday night's shooting and has called for calm on all sides, but given few details on how it expects to promote these goals.

The attacks pose a pivotal test for Israel's new far-right government.

Both Palestinian attackers behind the shootings on Friday and Saturday came from east Jerusalem.

Palestinian residents of east Jerusalem hold permanent residency status, allowing them to work and move freely throughout Israel, but they suffer from subpar public services and are not allowed to vote in national elections.

Residency rights can be stripped if a Palestinian is found to live outside the city for an extended period or in certain security cases.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, along with the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in the 1967 Mideast war.

The Palestinians seek all three areas for a future independent state. Israel has annexed east Jerusalem in a step that is not internationally recognized and considers the entire city to be its undivided capital.

Israel's new firebrand minister of national security, Itamar Ben-Gvir, has presented himself as an enforcer of law and order and grabbed headlines for his promises to take even stronger action against the Palestinians.

Speaking to reporters at a hospital where victims were being treated, Ben-Gvir said he wanted the home of the gunman in Friday's attack to be sealed off immediately as a punitive measure and lashed out at Israel's attorney general for delaying his order.

Overhauling Israel's justice system, including the attorney general's office, has been at the top of the agenda of the new government, which says unelected judges and jurists have overwhelming powers.

The divisive issue helped fuel weekly protests by Israelis who say the sweeping proposed changes would weaken the Supreme Court and undermine democracy.

Tens of thousands of protesters gathered in the central city of Tel Aviv Saturday evening for a new protest. Some raised banners describing Netanyahu and Ben-Gvir as "a threat to world peace."

The marchers also held a moment of silence in memory of Jerusalem shooting victims.

The Palestinian leadership in the West Bank, meanwhile, upheld its decision to halt security coordination with Israel to protest the deadly raid in Jenin.

After a meeting headed by President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah, the Palestinian Authority called on international community and the U.S. administration to force Israel to halt its raids in the West Bank.

Last year, as the Israeli military intensified its arrest raids following a string of deadly Palestinian attacks within Israel, at least 150 Palestinians were killed in the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem. It was the highest annual death toll for more than a decade and a half. Over 30 people were killed in Palestinian attacks against Israelis last year, according to Israeli figures.

Israel says most of the dead were militants. But youths protesting the incursions and others not involved in the confrontations also have been killed.

## Memphis police disband unit that fatally beat Tyre Nichols

By ADRIAN SAINZ Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The Memphis police chief disbanded the city's so-called Scorpion unit on Saturday, citing a "cloud of dishonor" from newly released video that showed some of its officers beating Tyre Nichols to death after stopping the Black motorist.

Police Director Cerelyn "CJ" Davis acted a day after the harrowing video emerged, saying she listened to Nichols' relatives, community leaders and uninvolved officers in making the decision. Her announcement came as the nation and the city struggled to come to grips with the violence of the officers, who are also Black. The video renewed doubts about why fatal encounters with law enforcement keep happening despite repeated calls for change.

Protestors marching through downtown Memphis cheered when they heard the unit had been dissolved. One protestor said over a bullhorn that "the unit that killed Tyre has been permanently disbanded."

Referring to "the heinous actions of a few" that dishonored the unit, Davis contradicted an earlier statement that she would keep the unit. She said it was imperative that the department "take proactive steps in the healing process."

"It is in the best interest of all to permanently deactivate the Scorpion unit," she said in a statement. She said the officers currently assigned to it agreed "unreservedly."

The unit is composed of three teams of about 30 officers whose stated aim is to target violent offenders in areas beset by high crime. It had been inactive since Nichols' Jan. 7 arrest.

Scorpion stands for Street Crimes Operations to Restore Peace In Our Neighborhoods.

In an interview Friday with The Associated Press, Davis had said she would not shut down a unit if a few officers commit "some egregious act" and because she needed it to continue to work.

"The whole idea that the Scorpion unit is a bad unit, I just have a problem with that," Davis said then.

Davis became the first Black female chief in Memphis one year after George Floyd was killed at the hands of Minneapolis police. At the time, she was chief in Durham, North Carolina, and had called for sweeping police reform.

Ben Crump and Antonio Romanucci, lawyers for the Nichols family, said the move was "a decent and just decision."

"We must keep in mind that this is just the next step on this journey for justice and accountability, as clearly this misconduct is not restricted to these specialty units. It extends so much further," they said.

The five disgraced officers — Tadarrius Bean, Demetrius Haley, Desmond Mills Jr., Emmitt Martin III and Justin Smith — have been fired and charged with murder and other crimes in Nichols' death, which came three days after the arrest. They face up to 60 years in prison if convicted of second-degree murder.

The video images released Friday show police savagely beating the 29-year-old FedEx worker for three minutes while screaming profanities at him in an assault that the Nichols family legal team has likened to the infamous 1991 police beating of Los Angeles motorist Rodney King. Nichols calls out for his mother before his limp body is propped against a squad car and the officers exchange fist-bumps.

The video also left many unanswered questions about the traffic stop and about other law enforcement officers who stood by as Nichols lay motionless on the pavement.

"Nobody tried to stop anything. They have a duty to intervene, a duty to render care," Brenda Goss Andrews, president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, said in an interview after viewing the video.

She also was struck by the immediate aggression from officers as soon as they got out of the car: "It just went to 100. ... This was never a matter of de-escalation," Goss Andrews said, adding, "The young man never had a chance from the moment that he was stopped."

Davis has said other officers are under investigation, and Shelby County Sheriff Floyd Bonner said two

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deputies were relieved of duty without pay while their conduct is investigated.

Rodney Wells, Nichols' stepfather, said the family would "continue to seek justice" and those who failed to render aid are "just as culpable as the officers who threw the blows."

A Memphis police spokeswoman declined to comment on the other officers' conduct.

Cities nationwide had braced for demonstrations after the video emerged, but protests were scattered and nonviolent. Several dozen demonstrators in Memphis blocked the Interstate 55 bridge that carries traffic over the Mississippi River toward Arkansas. Protesters also blocked traffic in New York City, Los Angeles and Portland, Oregon.

Blake Ballin, the lawyer for Mills, told AP in a statement Saturday that the videos "produced as many questions as they have answers."

Some of those will focus on what Mills "knew and what he was able to see" and whether his actions "crossed the lines that were crossed by other officers during this incident," Ballin said.

Davis acknowledged that the police department has a supervisor shortage and said the lack of a supervisor in the arrest was a "major problem." City officials have pledged to provide more of them.

It's not clear why the traffic stop happened in the first place. One officer can be heard on video saying that Nichols wouldn't stop and then swerved as though he intended to hit the officer's car. The officer says that when Nichols pulled up to a red light, the officers jumped out.

But Davis said the department cannot substantiate the reason for the stop.

"We don't know what happened," she said, adding, "All we know is the amount of force that was applied in this situation was over the top."

After the first officer roughly pulls Nichols out of the car, Nichols can be heard saying, "I didn't do anything," as a group of officers begin to wrestle him to the ground.

One is heard yelling, "Tase him! Tase him!"

Nichols calmly says, "OK, I'm on the ground," and that he was just trying to go home. Moments later, he yells at them to "stop."

Nichols is then seen running as an officer fires a Taser. The officers start chasing Nichols.

Others are called, and a search ensues before Nichols is caught at another intersection. His mother's home, where he lived, was only a few houses away, and his family said he was trying to get there.

The officers beat him with a baton, and kick and punch him. The attack continues even after he collapses.

It takes more than 20 minutes afterward before any sort of medical attention is provided.

During the wait for an ambulance, officers joke and air grievances. They complain that a handheld radio was ruined, that someone lost a flashlight, that multiple officers were caught in the pepper spray used against Nichols.

Throughout the videos, they make claims about Nichols' behavior that are not supported by the footage or that the district attorney and other officials say did not happen. In one, an officer claims that during the initial traffic stop Nichols reached for the officer's gun and almost had his hand on the handle, something not shown in the video.

After Nichols is in handcuffs and leaning against a police car, several officers say he must have been high. Later one says no drugs were found in Nichols' car, and another immediately counters that he must have ditched something while running away.

During a speech Saturday in Harlem, the Rev. Al Sharpton said the beating was particularly egregious because the officers were Black, too.

"Your Blackness will not stop us from fighting you. These five cops not only disgraced their names, they disgraced our race," Sharpton said.

## Hamlin thankful, speaks publicly for 1st time in video

By JOHN WAWROW AP Sports Writer

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Damar Hamlin released a video Saturday in which he says he's thankful for the outpouring of support and vows to pay it back, marking the first time the Buffalo Bills safety has

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spoken publicly since he went into cardiac arrest and needed to be resuscitated on the field in Cincinnati on Jan. 2.

Noting he continues to make "much progress" in his recovery, Hamlin said now was "the right time" to speak since the Bills' season ended and because he needed time to recover and gather his thoughts.

"It was just a lot to process within my own self — mentally, physically, even spiritually. It's just been a lot to process," he said. "But I can't tell you how appreciative I am of all the love, all the support and everything that's just been coming in my way."

Hamlin then said he has come to peace with what happened on the field when he collapsed after making what appeared to be a routine tackle of Bengals wide receiver Tee Higgins, who struck Hamlin squarely in the chest.

"What happened to me on 'Monday Night Football,' I feel is a direct example of God using me as a vessel to share my passion and my love directly from my heart with the entire world," he said.

"And now I'm able to give to kids and communities all across the world who need it the most. And that's always been my dream," he added. "That's always been what I stood for and what I will continue to stand for."

Hamlin did not appear to have any trouble speaking during the 5 1/2-minute video titled: "Thank You: A message from Damar Hamlin" posted on his Instagram account.

The video opens with Hamlin walking into view, placing down a jacket and taking a seat in what appears to be one of the Bills team meeting rooms. The room is dimly lit with the word 'Bills' prominently displayed behind him.

Hamlin is wearing a white T-shirt with the name of his charitable foundation, Chasing Millions, printed on the front and with a gold chain with the initials "DM" hanging around his neck.

The Bills did not immediately respond to a message about when or where the video was filmed.

On Jan. 20, Hamlin's marketing representative Jordon Rooney said the 24-year-old player faces a long recovery while at the time still requiring oxygen and having his heart monitored regularly to ensure there are no setbacks.

Hamlin has been recovering at home since being released from the hospital on Jan. 11 to continue his rehabilitation with the Bills. He then began making regular visits to the team's facility and was healthy enough to attend the Bills' season-ending 27-10 loss to the Bengals in a divisional playoff game last weekend.

Hamlin spent a majority of the video providing thanks while listing his family, teammates, training staff, and the medical staff at both the University of Cincinnati Medical Center and Buffalo General Medical Center, where he split his recovery.

He thanked the Bengals and players from around the league for their support by "putting team allegiance aside."

"You put humanity above team loyalty. You showed the world unity over division," Hamlin said. "I'm not surprised by it, but I'm deeply grateful and I will be forever thankful and indebted to that."

He also thanked those who donated more than \$9 million to his charity over the past four weeks.

"While I'm so thankful to everybody, I know that it isn't enough just to be thankful. This is just the beginning of the impact that I wanted to have on the world," Hamlin said in closing the video by making a heart sign with his hands.

"I couldn't do this without any of this support and the love," he continued. "And I can't wait to continue to take y'all on this journey with me."

## Trump opens 2024 run, says he's 'more committed' than ever

By MEG KINNARD, HOLLY RAMER and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Former President Donald Trump kicked off his 2024 White House bid with stops Saturday in New Hampshire and South Carolina, events in early-voting states marking the first campaign appearances since announcing his latest run more than two months ago.

"Together we will complete the unfinished business of making America great again," Trump said at an

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evening event in Columbia to introduce his South Carolina leadership team.

Trump and his allies hope the events in states with enormous power in selecting the nominee will offer a show of force behind the former president after a sluggish start to his campaign that left many questioning his commitment to running again.

"They said, 'He's not doing rallies, he's not campaigning. Maybe he's lost that step,'" Trump said at the New Hampshire GOP's annual meeting in Salem, his first event.

But, he told the audience of party leaders, "I'm more angry now and I'm more committed now than I ever was." In South Carolina, he further dismissed the speculation by saying that "we have huge rallies planned, bigger than ever before."

While Trump has spent the months since he announced largely ensconced in his Florida club and at his nearby golf course, his aides insist they have been busy behind the scenes. His campaign opened a headquarters in Palm Beach, Florida, and has been hiring staff. And in recent weeks, backers have been reaching out to political operatives and elected officials to secure support for Trump at a critical point when other Republicans are preparing their own expected challenges.

In New Hampshire, Trump promoted his campaign agenda, including immigration and crime, and said his policies would be the opposite of President Joe Biden's. He cited the Democrats' move to change the election calendar, costing New Hampshire its leadoff primary spot, and accused Biden, a fifth-place finisher in New Hampshire in 2020, of "disgracefully trashing this beloved political tradition."

"I hope you're going to remember that during the general election," Trump told party members. Trump himself twice won the primary, but lost the state each time to Democrats.

Later in South Carolina, Trump said he planned to keep the state's presidential primary as the "first in the South" and called it "a very important state."

In his speech, he hurtled from criticism of Biden and Democrats to disparaging comments about transgender people, mockery of people promoting the use of electric stoves and electric cars, and reminiscing about efforts while serving as president to increase oil production, strike trade deals and crack down on migration at the U.S-Mexico border.

While Trump remains the only declared 2024 presidential candidate, potential challengers, including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former Vice President Mike Pence and former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who was Trump's ambassador to the United Nations, are expected to get their campaigns underway in the coming months.

After his South Carolina speech, Trump told The Associated Press in an interview that it would be "a great act of disloyalty" if DeSantis opposed him in the primary and took credit for the governor's initial election.

"If he runs, that's fine. I'm way up in the polls," Trump said. "He's going to have to do what he wants to do, but he may run. I do think it would be a great act of disloyalty because, you know, I got him in. He had no chance. His political life was over."

He said he hasn't spoken to DeSantis in a long time.

Gov. Henry McMaster, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham and several members of the state's congressional delegation attended Trump's event at the Statehouse.

Trump's team has struggled to line up support from South Carolina lawmakers, even some who eagerly backed him before. Some have said that more than a year out from primary balloting is too early to make endorsements or that they are waiting to see who else enters the race. Others have said it is time for the party to move past Trump to a new generation of leadership.

South Carolina House Speaker Murrell Smith was among the legislative leaders awaiting Trump's arrival, although he said he was there not to make a formal endorsement but to welcome the former president to the state in his role as speaker.

Otherwise, dozens of supporters crammed into the ceremonial lobby between the state House and Senate, competing with reporters and camera crews for space among marble-topped tables and a life-sized bronze statue of former Vice President John C. Calhoun.

Dave Wilson, president of conservative Christian nonprofit Palmetto Family, said some conservative voters may have concerns about Trump's recent comments that Republicans who opposed abortion without

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exceptions had cost the party in the November elections.

"It gives pause to some folks within the conservative ranks of the Republican Party as to whether or not we need the process to work itself out," said Wilson, whose group hosted Pence for a speech in 2021.

But Gerri McDaniel, who worked on Trump's 2016 campaign, rejected the idea that voters were ready to move on from the former president. "Some of the media keep saying he's losing his support. No, he's not," she said. "It's only going to be greater than it was before because there are so many people who are angry about what's happening in Washington."

The South Carolina event was in some ways off-brand for a onetime reality television star who typically favors big rallies and has tried to cultivate an outsider image. Rallies are expensive, and Trump added new financial challenges when he decided to begin his campaign in November — far earlier than many had urged. That leaves him subject to strict fundraising regulations and bars him from using his well-funded leadership political action committee to pay for such events, which can cost several million dollars.

Trump's campaign, in its early stages, has already drawn controversy, most particularly when he had dinner with Holocaust-denying white nationalist Nick Fuentes and the rapper formerly known as Kanye West, who had made a series of antisemitic comments. Trump also was widely mocked for selling a series of digital trading cards that pictured him as a superhero, a cowboy and an astronaut, among others.

He is the subject of a series of criminal investigations, including one into the discovery of hundreds of documents with classified markings at his Florida club and whether he obstructed justice by refusing to return them, as well as state and federal examinations of his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election, which he lost to Biden.

Still, early polling shows he's a favorite to win his party's nomination.

"The gun is fired, and the campaign season has started," said Stephen Stepanek, outgoing chair of the New Hampshire Republican Party. Trump announced that Stepanek will serve as senior adviser for his campaign in the state.

## **In 67 minutes of video, brutality followed by nonchalance**

By MATT SEDENSKY AP National Writer

If you stumbled on the scene too late, you might have missed him there, bloodied and beaten.

The officers' demeanors seem untroubled and their work nonurgent as they mill at this quiet corner trading battle tales, a fist bump and a back pat. The police ranks have ballooned, but everyone seems to agree there's nothing to see here. They tie their boots and fret over their glasses and carp about knee pain, so you might have missed him there among the phalanx that towers above, the ones who wear a smile and spurt laughter and will go home safe.

Look past the men who punched, kicked, shocked, sprayed, dragged and now stand in seeming indifference. Let your eyes drift downward and the crumpled body comes into view. Hands behind his back, one shoe off, he writhes helplessly on the pavement. His screams seem to have ended, his cries for his mother have stopped and his voice has weakened so much his words are hard to discern.

"You can't go nowhere," the officer bent over him responds. "You can't go nowhere."

In harrowing video of this Memphis night, all eyes are drawn to the chaotic moments of brutality that preceded this and would leave another Black man dead at the hands of police. But alongside the attacks themselves the footage captures another excruciating reality: Minute after minute of officers' jocular nonchalance as Tyre Nichols lay critically hurt, their behavior seemingly affirming just how ordinary this sort of thing is.

"The cops who murdered Tyre Nichols are not some aberration. They're not an outlier," cultural critic Touré wrote on Twitter. "That's normal police procedure it's just usually they get away with it."

The 67 minutes of body camera and surveillance footage released in the case are a muddled and messy picture of the night that would lead to Nichols' death and murder charges for five officers, all also Black. The views are at times obscured and the story incomplete, but the video also offers stunning clarity of what happened.



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It starts at about 8:24 p.m. on a Saturday evening, Jan. 7. What roused officers to pull Nichols over is unseen, but for the routine traffic stop they claimed it was, the escalation appears to be immediate and baffling.

At least three officers surround Nichols' car as he is yanked from his blue sedan. At least one of them approaches with a gun extended. Nichols can be heard for the first time, saying "I didn't do anything," and is pushed to the ground. He voices compliance, repeating "all right" over and over as the officers scream and curse.

"Tase him! Tase him!" one officer barks.

He has been wrestled to the ground, but officers keep yelling for him to lay down, an order that seems to confuse Nichols, who is already lying on his right side. Still, he responds calmly, his voice cracking just a hint as he tries to appease them.

"You guys are really doing a lot right now," Nichols says. "I'm just trying to go home."

Nichols finally appears rattled as officers continue to shout for him to lie down.

"I am on the ground!" he yells back, before suddenly, he is up and has broken free.

From the time officers opened his car door, only a minute has passed.

Someone fires a stun gun as Nichols runs away. At least two officers go after him, but they give up after about 15 seconds. One officer pants as he radios in for backup and makes his way back to the street where Nichols' car is left.

About eight minutes later, word comes that the suspect was apprehended.

"I hope they stomp his ass," one officer says to another. "I hope they stomp his ass."

It's 8:33 p.m. now and officers have clustered at the corner of Castlegate and Bear Creek, less than a half-mile from where this started. Nichols' capture turns brutal with such speed that it's hard to comprehend.

From a security camera perched above, Nichols is seen lying in the street. Two officers pin him down as a third appears to kick him in the head once, then again.

"Mom! Mom!" he cries.

He's allowed to sit up, only to have an officer use his baton to beat him on his back. He wobbles up again, then absorbs a series of punches to the face and head. He's doused in pepper spray.

Nichols seems nearly unable to stand now. He is held up by officers as more blows land. Then, after about five minutes of attacks, he is dragged a short distance, his limp body propped against a car.

It's 8:38 p.m., just 14 minutes after the initial traffic stop. You can't see Nichols' face, but hospital photos released later will show his nose bent at an unnatural angle and his face bloodied and bruised, almost unrecognizable.

Nichols' moans have been silenced and the night's action has largely stopped. Left in its wake is the ever-growing number of officers who wander, chit-chat and, most of all, just stand by with such nonchalance you'd think nothing had ever happened. Paramedics arrive a few minutes later and, still, Nichols appears unattended to.

He was only a minute or two from the home he shared with his mother, RowVaughn Wells. The officers' voices capture them calling him "bitch," "bastard" and worse.

His mom knows the truth. He was 29 and imbued with California mellow, a FedEx worker, amateur photographer, skateboarder and "damn near perfect" mama's boy. He did no drugs, Wells said, and had no guns. He went out to take pictures of the sky and never made it home.

The footage runs more than 20 minutes more until an ambulance blocks the shot. Wells can't bear to watch it anyway.

## California shooting: 3 dead, 4 hurt in ritzy LA neighborhood

By RICHARD VOGEL Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Three people were killed and four others wounded in a shooting at a multimillion dollar short-term rental home in an upscale Los Angeles neighborhood early Saturday, police said.

The shooting occurred about 2:30 a.m. in the Beverly Crest neighborhood. This is at least the sixth mass

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shooting in California this month.

Sgt. Frank Preciado of the Los Angeles Police Department said earlier Saturday that the three people killed were inside a vehicle.

Two of the four victims were taken in private vehicles to area hospitals and two others were transported by ambulance, police spokesperson Sgt. Bruce Borihanh said. Two were in critical condition and two were in stable condition, Borihanh said. The ages and genders of the victims were not immediately released.

Investigators were trying to determine if there was a party at the rental home or what type of gathering was occurring, Borihanh said.

Borihanh said police have no information on suspects. With the shooting over, the block was sectioned off as investigators scoured for evidence.

The mid-century home is in Beverly Crest, a quiet neighborhood nestled in the Santa Monica Mountains where houses are large and expensive. The property, estimated at \$3 million, is on a cul-de-sac and described in online real estate platforms as modern and private with a pool and outdoor shower.

LAPD Officer Jader Chaves said the department did not know if the house had a history of noise or other party-related complaints.

The early Saturday morning shooting comes on top a massacre at a dance hall in a Los Angeles suburb last week that left 11 dead and nine wounded and shootings at two Half Moon Bay farms that left seven dead and one wounded.

Last Saturday, 72-year-old Huu Can Tran gunned down patrons at a ballroom dance hall in predominantly Asian Monterey Park, where tens of thousands attended Lunar New Year festivities earlier that evening. He drove to another dance hall but was thwarted by an employee. Many of the dead were in their 60s and 70s.

Tran later killed himself as police closed in on the van in which he sat.

On Monday, a man shot and killed four people at the mushroom farm where he worked, then drove to another farm where he had previously worked and killed three people there, authorities said. Chunli Zhao, 66, is in jail and faces murder charges in what police called a case of workplace violence.

The killings have dealt a blow to the state, which has some of the nation's toughest firearm laws and lowest rates of gun deaths.

For the third straight year, the U.S. in 2022 recorded over 600 mass shootings in which at least four people were killed or injured, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

## **NFL playoffs: Vegas believes some classics could be coming**

By DAVID BRANDT AP Sports Writer

If Vegas oddsmakers are correct — and there's a reason those casinos are huge and luxurious — then football fans are in for a treat this weekend.

The NFL's conference championship weekend is here: The Philadelphia Eagles will host the San Francisco 49ers for the NFC title while the Kansas City Chiefs host the Cincinnati Bengals in the AFC. Both games are Sunday.

The gambling odds are tight for both games, though both home teams have a slight edge. The Eagles are a 2 1/2-point favorite while the Chiefs are favored by 1 1/2 points, according to odds from FanDuel Sportsbook.

The winners will meet in the Super Bowl on Feb. 12 in Glendale, Arizona.

All four teams have legitimate reasons for confidence Sunday:

— Let's start with the Chiefs. Kansas City has arguably the top quarterback in the sport with Patrick Mahomes under center. He's battling a high ankle sprain that he suffered during last week's win against the Jaguars, but the All-Pro selection went through a full week of practice to prepare for the Bengals.

"It's about being a competitor," Mahomes said this week. "You want to be out there, especially in these games."

Mahomes gets a lot of the publicity, but he also has help. Tight end Travis Kelce is among the game's elite while defensive tackle Chris Jones had 15 1/2 sacks this season.

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— Now we move to the Bengals, who are coming to Kansas City with loads of hard-earned confidence. The two teams are playing for the fourth time in under 400 days and Cincinnati won the previous three meetings — all by three points.

Quarterback Joe Burrow has been at his best against Mahomes, including his comeback win in last year's AFC title game. He's coming off a season in which he set Bengals records for completions (414), pass attempts (606) and touchdown passes (35).

The Bengals haven't lost since Halloween, winning 10 straight.

— Over in the NFC, the Eagles and quarterback Jalen Hurts have had a dream season. Hurts is having a breakout, MVP-caliber year and it's hard to top the pass-catching duo of A.J. Brown and DeVonta Smith, who both easily topped 1,000 yards receiving. Linebacker Haason Reddick leads the defense with 16 sacks.

Also, the game is in Philadelphia. That's a place where fans can get a little — what's the polite word — enthusiastic?

Hurts is battling a sore throwing shoulder, but it didn't seem to be a problem in last week's dominant win against the Giants.

"I've felt better, but it doesn't really matter," Hurts said. "I've got to get it done."

— And finally, the 49ers. They have won 12 straight games, including seven in a row since rookie Brock Purdy, a seventh-round draft pick, took over at quarterback after Jimmy Garoppolo was injured.

Purdy is set for perhaps his toughest test yet Sunday, when he faces an Eagles defense that led the NFL with 70 sacks and must deal with an imposing road environment. But Purdy isn't easily rattled and the 49ers have a loaded roster that includes running back Christian McCaffrey and defensive end Nick Bosa.

Here are some other things to know during the postseason:

WHAT'S THE UPCOMING SCHEDULE?

SUNDAY

San Francisco 49ers at Philadelphia Eagles, 3 p.m. EST, Fox  
Cincinnati Bengals at Kansas City Chiefs, 6:30 p.m. EST, CBS

NO NEED FOR NEUTRAL

The AFC title game would have been played in Atlanta next weekend if the Buffalo Bills had beaten the Bengals, under a rule adjustment approved by NFL owners.

The league decided on the unique conference championship neutral site setting because the Bills (13-3) finished the season a half-game behind the Chiefs (14-3) after their game at Cincinnati was canceled on Jan. 2 when Bills safety Damar Hamlin went into cardiac arrest and had to be resuscitated on the field.

Hamlin has since been making a remarkable recovery and attended Sunday's game in Buffalo, waving to fans from a stadium suite.

In the end, all the Atlanta hypotheticals weren't needed. That's because the Bengals and Burrow are rolling. Cincinnati beat Buffalo 27-10 and is one win away from playing in a second straight Super Bowl.

"Better send those refunds," Burrow said, referring to the 50,000 or so tickets already sold for a game that will never be played.

WHAT'S FORMAT FOR PLAYOFFS?

This is the third straight year of the current playoff format, which included the top seven teams from both the AFC and the NFC.

The four division winners in both conferences automatically get the top four seeds, regardless of record, and then the top three teams with the best record that didn't win their division are the wild-card selections. That's why it's fairly common for a wild-card selection to have a better record — but worse playoff seeding — than a team that finished as a division winner.

The No. 1-seeded team in each conference gets a bye into the second round — that's the Chiefs and Eagles — while No. 2 hosts No. 7, No. 3 hosts No. 6 and No. 4 hosts No. 5 during the wild-card weekend.

The NFL re-seeds teams after each playoff round. That means no matter how the bracket started, the lowest-seeded team always travels to the highest-seeded team.

There are four rounds to the playoffs: The wild-card round was Jan. 14-16, the divisional round was last weekend, the conference championship games are this Sunday and the Super Bowl is scheduled for Feb.

12 in Glendale, Arizona, at the home stadium of the Arizona Cardinals.

## Tyre Nichols' brutal beating by police shown on video

By ADRIAN SAINZ Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Authorities released video footage Friday showing Tyre Nichols being beaten by five Memphis police officers who held the Black motorist down and repeatedly struck him with their fists, boots and batons as he screamed for his mother.

The video is filled with violent moments showing the officers, who are also Black, chasing and pummeling Nichols and leaving him on the pavement propped against a squad car as they fist-bump and celebrate their actions.

The footage emerged one day after the officers were charged with murder in Nichols' death. The chilling images of another Black man dying at the hands of police renewed tough questions about how fatal encounters with law enforcement continue even after repeated calls for change.

Protesters gathered for mostly peaceful demonstrations in multiple cities, including Memphis, where several dozen demonstrators blocked the Interstate 55 bridge that carries traffic over the Mississippi River toward Arkansas. Semitrucks were backed up for a distance. In Washington, dozens of protestors gathered in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House and near Black Lives Matter Plaza.

Other cities nationwide braced for demonstrations, but media outlets reported only scattered and non-violent protests. Demonstrators at times blocked traffic while they chanted slogans and marched through the streets of New York City, Los Angeles and Portland, Oregon.

The recording shows police savagely beating the 29-year-old FedEx worker for three minutes while screaming profanities at him throughout the attack. The Nichols family legal team has likened the assault to the infamous 1991 police beating of Los Angeles motorist Rodney King.

After the first officer roughly pulls Nichols out of a car, Nichols can be heard saying, "I didn't do anything," as a group of officers begins to wrestle him to the ground.

One officer is heard yelling, "Tase him! Tase him!"

Nichols calmly says, "OK, I'm on the ground."

"You guys are really doing a lot right now," Nichols says. "I'm just trying to go home."

"Stop, I'm not doing anything," he yells moments later.

Nichols can then be seen running as an officer fires a Taser at him. The officers then start chasing Nichols.

Other officers are called, and a search ensues before Nichols is caught at another intersection. The officers beat him with a baton, and kick and punch him.

Security camera footage shows three officers surrounding Nichols as he lies in the street cornered between police cars, with a fourth officer nearby.

Two officers hold Nichols to the ground as he moves about, and then the third appears to kick him in the head. Nichols slumps more fully onto the pavement with all three officers surrounding him. The same officer kicks him again.

The fourth officer then walks over, draws a baton and holds it up at shoulder level as two officers hold Nichols upright, as if he were sitting.

"I'm going to baton the f--- out you," one officer can be heard saying. His body camera shows him raise his baton while at least one other officer holds Nichols. The officer strikes Nichols on the back with the baton three times in a row.

The other officers then appear to hoist Nichols to his feet, with him flopping like a doll, barely able to stay upright.

An officer then punches him in the face, as the officer with the baton continues to menace him. Nichols stumbles and turns, still held up by two officers. The officer who punched him then walks around to Nichols' front and punches him four more times. Then Nichols collapses.

Two officers can then be seen atop Nichols on the ground, with a third nearby, for about 40 seconds. Three more officers then run up, and one can be seen kicking Nichols on the ground.

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As Nichols is slumped up against a car, not one of the officers renders aid. The body camera footage shows a first-person view of one of them reaching down and tying his shoe.

It takes more than 20 minutes after Nichols is beaten and on the pavement before any sort of medical attention is provided, even though two fire department officers arrived on the scene with medical equipment within 10 minutes.

Throughout the videos, officers make claims about Nichols' behavior that are not supported by the footage or that the district attorney and other officials have said did not happen. In one of the videos, an officer claims that during the initial traffic stop Nichols reached for his gun before fleeing and almost had his hand on the handle, which is not shown in the video.

After Nichols is in handcuffs and leaning against a police car, several officers say that he must have been high. Later an officer says no drugs were found in his car, and another officer immediately counters that Nichols must have ditched something while he was running away.

Authorities have not released an autopsy report, but they have said there appeared to be no justification for the traffic stop, and nothing of note was found in the car.

The video raised questions about the role and possible culpability of the other officers at the scene, in addition to the five who were charged. The footage shows a number of other officers standing around after the beating.

Memphis Police Director Cerelyn "CJ" Davis has said other officers are under investigation for their part in the arrest. Davis described the five officers' actions as "heinous, reckless and inhumane."

During the traffic stop, the video shows the officers were "already ramped up, at about a 10," she said. The officers were "aggressive, loud, using profane language and probably scared Mr. Nichols from the very beginning."

"Police are trained to understand that people might flee just because they are scared," said Geoffrey Alpert, a criminologist at the University of South Carolina who studies use of force.

Nichols' relatives urged supporters to protest peacefully.

"I don't want us burning up our city, tearing up the streets, because that's not what my son stood for," Nichols' mother, RowVaughn Wells, said Thursday. "If you guys are here for me and Tyre, then you will protest peacefully."

Christopher Taylor was one of the protesters at the Interstate 55 bridge on Friday. He said he watched the video. The Memphis native said it was horrible that the officers appeared to be laughing as they stood around after the beating.

"I cried," he said. "And that right there, as not only a father myself but I am also a son, my mother is still living, that could have been me."

Speaking at the White House, President Joe Biden said Friday that he was "very concerned" about the prospect of violence and called for protests to remain peaceful.

Biden said he spoke with Nichols' mother earlier in the day and told her that he was going to be "making a case" to Congress to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act "to get this under control." The legislation, which has been stalled, is meant to tackle police misconduct and excessive force and boost federal and state accountability efforts.

Court records showed that all five former officers — Tadarrius Bean, Demetrius Haley, Desmond Mills Jr., Emmitt Martin III and Justin Smith — were taken into custody.

The officers each face charges of second-degree murder, aggravated assault, aggravated kidnapping, official misconduct and official oppression. Four of the five officers had posted bond and been released from custody by Friday morning, according to court and jail records.

Second-degree murder is punishable by 15 to 60 years in prison under Tennessee law.

Shelby County Sheriff Floyd Bonner said in a statement late Friday that two deputies who appeared on the scene after the beating were relieved of duty pending the outcome of an internal investigation.

Patrick Yoes, the national president of the Fraternal Order of Police, condemned the alleged actions of the Memphis officers.

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"The event as described to us does not constitute legitimate police work or a traffic stop gone wrong. This is a criminal assault under the pretext of law," Yoes said in a statement.

As state and federal investigations continue, Davis promised the police department's "full and complete cooperation."

## How to fix a howitzer: US offers help line to Ukraine troops

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

A MILITARY BASE IN SOUTHEASTERN POLAND (AP) — On the front lines in Ukraine, a soldier was having trouble firing his 155 mm howitzer gun. So, he turned to a team of Americans on the other end of his phone line for help.

"What do I do?" he asked the U.S. military team member, far away at a base in southeastern Poland. "What are my options?"

Using phones and tablets to communicate in encrypted chatrooms, a rapidly growing group of U.S. and allied troops and contractors is providing real-time maintenance advice — usually speaking through interpreters — to Ukrainian troops on the battlefield.

In a quick response, the U.S. team member told the Ukrainian to remove the gun's breech at the rear of the howitzer and manually prime the firing pin so the gun could fire. He did it and it worked.

The exchange is part of an expanding U.S. military help line aimed at providing repair advice to Ukrainian forces in the heat of battle. As the U.S. and other allies send more and increasingly complex and high-tech weapons to Ukraine, demands are spiking. And since no U.S. or other NATO nations will send troops into the country to provide hands-on assistance — due to worries about being drawn into a direct conflict with Russia — they've turned to virtual chatrooms.

The U.S. soldier and other team members and leaders stationed at a base in Poland spoke last week to two reporters who were traveling with Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, when he visited the facility. Because of the sensitivity of the operation, the troops there spoke on condition of anonymity under guidelines set by the U.S. military. Reporters also agreed not to reveal the name or location of the base or take photos.

Fixing a howitzer, the repair team said, has been a frequent request from Ukrainian troops on the front lines. The need for help with weapons has been growing. Just a few months ago, there were just a bit more than 50 members of what they call the remote maintenance team. That will surge to 150 in the coming weeks, and the number of encrypted chat lines has more than tripled — from about 11 last fall to 38 now.

The team includes about 20 soldiers now, supplemented by civilians and contractors, but the military number may dip a bit, as more civilians come on board. And they expect it will continue to evolve as new sophisticated weapons are delivered to the Ukrainians, and new chatrooms set up to handle them.

"A lot of the times we'll get calls from right there on the firing line, so there'll be outgoing or incoming fire at the same time you're trying to help the forward maintainers troubleshoot the best they can," said a U.S. soldier who is part of the maintenance team. Sometimes, he said, the chat has to wait a bit until troops can get to a safer location.

A key problem, said one officer, is that Ukrainian troops are pushing the weapons to their limits — firing them at unprecedented rates and using them long after a U.S. service member would turn them in to be repaired or retired.

Holding up his tablet, the U.S. soldier showed photos of the barrel of a howitzer, its interior ridges nearly worn completely away.

"They're using these systems in ways that we didn't necessarily anticipate," said the officer, pointing to the tablet. "We're actually learning from them by seeing how much abuse these weapon systems can take, and where's the breaking point."

The Ukrainian troops are often reluctant to send the weapons back out of the country for repairs. They'd rather do it themselves, and in nearly all cases — U.S. officials estimated 99% of the time — the Ukrainians do the repair and continue on.

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Many of the chats are regularly scheduled with depot workers in Ukraine — like the one they call “Coffee Cup Guy,” because his chat has a coffee cup emoji. Other times they involve troops on the battlefield whose gun just blew apart, or whose vehicle stalled.

Sometimes video chats aren’t possible.

“A lot of times if they’re on the front line, they won’t do a video because sometimes (cell service) is a little spotty,” said a U.S. maintainer. “They’ll take pictures and send it to us through the chats and we sit there and diagnose it.”

There were times, he said, when they’ll get a picture of a broken howitzer, and the Ukrainian will say, “This Triple 7 just blew up — what do we do?”

And, in what he said was a remarkable new skill, the Ukrainians can now put the split weapon back together. “They couldn’t do titanium welding before, they can do it now,” said the U.S. soldier, adding that “something that was two days ago blown up is now back in play.”

Doling out advice over the chats means the U.S. experts have to diagnose the problem when something goes wrong, figure out how to fix it, then translate the steps into Ukrainian.

As they look to the future, they are planning to get some commercial, off-the-shelf translation goggles. That way, when they talk to each other they can skip the interpreters and just see the translation as they speak, making conversations easier and faster.

They also are hoping to build their diagnostic capabilities as the weapons systems get more complex, and expand the types and amount of spare parts they keep on hand. For example, they said the Patriot missile system the U.S. is sending to Ukraine will be a challenge, requiring more expertise in diagnosing and repairing problems.

The expanse of weapons and equipment they’re handling and questions they’re fielding were even too complicated for a digital spreadsheet — forcing the team to go low-tech. One wall in their maintenance office is lined with an array of old-fashioned, color-coded Post-it notes, to help them track the weapons and maintenance needs.

The team in Poland is part of an ever expanding logistical network that stretches across Europe. As more nations send their own versions of weapon systems, they are setting up teams to provide repair support in a variety of locations.

The nations and the manufacturing companies quickly put together manuals and technical data that can be translated and sent to the Ukrainians. They then set up stocks of spare parts and get them to locations near Ukraine’s borders, where they can be sent to the battlefield.

Just days before Milley visited the base, Ukrainians traveled to the Poland facility for parts. The visit gave U.S. soldiers a chance to meet someone from their chatrooms face-to-face and swap military patches.

“In the next video chat we had he was wearing our patches in his video,” the U.S. soldier said.

The hub for the growing logistical effort is at Lucius D. Clay Kaserne, the U.S. Army base in Wiesbaden, Germany.

There, in cubicles filling an expansive room, the international coalition coordinates the campaign to locate and identify far-flung equipment, weapons and spare parts in other countries that are needed in Ukraine. They then plan out deliveries — by sea, air and ground routes — to border locations where everything is loaded onto trucks or trains and moved to the war zone.

At least 17 nations have representatives in what’s called the International Donor Coordination Center. And as the amount and types of equipment grow, the center is working to better meld the donations from the U.S. and other nations.

“As we send more additional advanced equipment, like Strykers, like Bradleys, like tanks, of course that sustainment activity will have to increase,” said Douglas Bush, assistant Army secretary for acquisition. “I think the challenge is recognized. I think the Army knows how to do it.”

## Aryna Sabalenka wins 1st Grand Slam title at Australian Open

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

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MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — One point away from her first Grand Slam title, Aryna Sabalenka faulted. And then she faulted again. She grimaced. She yelled and turned her back to the court. She wiggled her shoulders and exhaled.

Clearly, this business of winning the Australian Open was not bound to happen without a bit of a struggle Saturday night. Sabalenka knew deep inside that would be the case. She also knew that all of the effort she put in, to overcome self-doubt and those dreaded double-faults, had to pay off eventually. Just had to.

And so, as she wasted a second match point by flubbing a forehand, and a third by again missing another, Sabalenka did her best to stay calm, something she used to find quite difficult. She hung in there until a fourth chance to close out Elena Rybakina presented itself — and this time, Sabalenka saw a forehand from her similarly powerful foe sail long. That was that. The championship belonged to Sabalenka via a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 comeback victory over Wimbledon winner Rybakina.

"The last game, yeah, of course, I was a little bit nervous. I (kept) telling myself, like, 'Nobody tells you that it's going to be easy.' You just have to work for it, work for it, 'til the last point," said Sabalenka, a 24-year-old from Belarus who is now 11-0 with two titles in 2023 and will rise to No. 2 in the WTA rankings on Monday.

"I'm super happy that I was able to handle all those emotions," she said, "and win this one."

The only set she has dropped all season was the opener on Saturday against Rybakina, who eliminated No. 1 Iga Swiatek in the fourth round.

It was telling that Sabalenka's remarks during the post-match ceremony were directed at her coach, Anton Dubrov, and her fitness trainer, Jason Stacy — she referred to them as "the craziest team on tour."

"We've been through a lot of, I would say, downs last year," said Sabalenka, who was appearing in her first major final and had been 0-3 in Slam semifinals until this week. "We worked so hard and you guys deserve this trophy. It's more about you than it's about me."

Well, she had a lot to do with it, of course. Those serves that produced 17 aces, helping erase the sting of seven double-faults. Those hammered groundstrokes and relentlessly aggressive style that produced 51 winners, 20 more than Rybakina's total. And, despite her go-for-broke shotmaking, somehow Sabalenka limited her unforced error count to 28. One more key statistic: Sabalenka managed to accrue 13 break points, converting three, including the one at 4-3 in the last set that put her ahead for good.

"She played really well today," said Rybakina, who has lost all four matches she's played against Sabalenka, all in three sets. "She was strong mentally, physically."

While the latter has long been a hallmark of her game, even Sabalenka acknowledges that the first has been an issue.

Her most glowing strength was also her most glaring shortfall: her serve. Capable of delivering aces, she also had a well-known problem with double-faulting, leading the tour in that category last year with nearly 400, including matches with more than 20.

After much prodding from her group, she agreed to undergo an overhaul of her mechanics last August. That, along with a commitment to trying to keep her emotions in check — she used to work with a sports psychologist but no longer, saying she relies on herself now — is really paying off.

"She didn't have great serve last year, but now she was super strong and she served well," said Rybakina, a 23-year-old who represents Kazakhstan. "For sure, I respect that. I know how much work it takes."

With seagulls squawking loudly while flying overhead at Rod Laver Arena, Rybakina and Sabalenka traded serious racket swings for nearly 2 1/2 hours.

The serves were big. So big. Rybakina's fastest arrived at 121 mph (195 kph), Sabalenka's at 119 mph (192 kph).

The points were over quickly. So quickly: Seven of the first 13 were aces.

Sabalenka had been broken just six times in 55 service games through the course of these two weeks, but Rybakina did it twice in the opening set.

And never again. Sabalenka resolved to take the initiative even more, and the payoff for her high-risk, high-reward attitude was too much for Rybakina to withstand over the last two sets.



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Sabalenka said ahead of time that she expected to feel some jitters. Which makes perfect sense for anyone: This was the most important match of her career.

At the end, when it mattered more than ever, Sabalenka was able to steady herself. After the final point, she dropped to her back on the court and stayed down for a bit, covering her face as her eyes welled with tears.

Quite a difference from a year ago at Melbourne Park, when Sabalenka departed after 15 double-faults in a fourth-round loss.

"I really feel right now that I really needed those tough losses to kind of understand myself a little bit better. It was like a preparation for me," Sabalenka said at her post-match news conference, her new trophy nearby and a glass of bubbly in her hand. "I actually feel happy that I lost those matches, so right now I can be a different player and just a different Aryna, you know?"

## Election-denying lawmakers hold key election oversight roles

By MARC LEVY and JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Republican lawmakers who have spread election conspiracy theories and falsely claimed that the 2020 presidential outcome was rigged are overseeing legislative committees charged with setting election policy in two major political battleground states.

Divided government in Pennsylvania and Arizona means that any voting restrictions those GOP legislators propose is likely to fail. Even so, the high-profile appointments give the lawmakers a platform to cast further doubt on the integrity of elections in states that will be pivotal in selecting the next president in 2024.

Awarding such plum positions to lawmakers who have repeated conspiracies and spread misinformation cuts against more than two years of evidence showing there were no widespread problems or fraud in the last presidential election. It also would appear to run counter to the message delivered in the November midterm elections, when voters rejected election-denying candidates running for top offices in presidential battleground states.

At the same time, many mainstream Republicans are trying to move past the lies told by former President Donald Trump and his allies about his loss to President Joe Biden.

"It is an issue that many Americans and many Pennsylvanians are tired of seeing litigated and relitigated over and over," said Pennsylvania state Sen. Amanda Cappalletti, the ranking Democrat on the Senate committee that handles election legislation. "I think we're all ready to move on, and we see from audit after audit that our elections are secure, they are fair and that people's votes are being counted."

Multiple reviews and audits in the six battleground states where Trump disputed his loss, as well as dozens of court rejections and repeated admonishments from officials in his own administration, have underscored that the 2020 presidential results were accurate. There was no widespread fraud or manipulation of voting machines that would have altered the result.

The legislative appointments in Pennsylvania and Arizona highlight the divide between the two major parties over election law. Already this year, Democratic-controlled legislatures are moving to expand access to voting and heighten penalties for intimidating voters and election workers, while many Republican-led states are aiming to pass further restrictions, a trend that accelerated after Trump's false claims about the 2020 election.

Democratic governors and legislative victories last fall will blunt the influence of Republicans who took steps or pushed rhetoric seeking to overturn the 2020 election.

But in Arizona and Pennsylvania, two lawmakers who dismiss the validity of that election — not to mention other elections since then — will have key positions of influence as the majority chairs of legislative committees that oversee election legislation.

In Arizona, Republican Sen. Wendy Rogers takes over the Senate Elections Committee after being appointed by an ally, Senate President Warren Petersen. He was one of two lawmakers who signed subpoenas that led to Senate Republicans' widely derided audit of the 2020 election.

Rogers, who has gained a national following for spreading conspiracy theories and questioning elections, has faced repeated ethics charges for her inflammatory rhetoric, support for white supremacists

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and conspiracy-filled social media posts.

She now will be a main gatekeeper for election and voting bills in Arizona, where election changes are a top priority for some Republican lawmakers. Some want to eliminate voting by mail and early voting options that are used by more than 80% of the state's voters.

She has scheduled a committee meeting for Monday to consider bills that would ban unmonitored drop boxes, prohibit drive-through voting or ballot pickup and impose what voting-rights advocates say are additional burdens on early voting.

In Pennsylvania, Republican Sen. Cris Dush takes over as chair of the Senate State Government Committee after pushing to block the state's electoral votes from going to Biden in 2020. Dush also mounted an election investigation that he hoped would use the Arizona-style audit as a model.

He was appointed by the Senate's ranking Republican, President Pro Tem Kim Ward, whose office explained Dush's appointment only by saying that seniority plays a role and that members have priority requests.

In the first weeks of this year's session, Dush has moved along measures to expand voter identification requirements and add a layer of post-election audits. Both are proposed constitutional amendments designed to bypass a governor's veto by going to voters for approval.

Dush said he also plans to develop legislation to require more security measures for drop boxes and ballots.

"I'm going to make a promise to the people of Pennsylvania: The things that I'm doing here as chair of State Government, it's going to be things that will be conducted in a fair, impartial manner," Dush said in an interview. "You know, we've just got to make sure that we can ensure the integrity of the vote and people aren't disenfranchised."

Arizona and Pennsylvania have newly elected Democratic governors who presumably would veto hard-line GOP bills opposed by Democrats.

Still, Democrats, county election officials and voting-rights advocates in both states want changes to election laws that, with Dush and Rogers in place, may never see the light of day.

Alex Gulotta, the Arizona director for the voting rights group All Voting is Local, said he anticipates the Legislature there will pass a lot of "bad elections bills." He said moderate Republican lawmakers who might have voted down problematic measures under a Republican governor now might let them pass because they know Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs will likely veto them.

"This is performative," Gulotta said. "This isn't substantive."

The question, he said, is whether Rogers and other Arizona lawmakers can cooperate on "small fixes" where there is consensus. That, he said, will take "real statesmanship."

Liz Avore, a senior adviser to the nonpartisan Voting Rights Lab, said the organization expects another busy period of lawmaking related to voting and elections ahead of the 2024 presidential vote, even as candidates who repeated Trump's lies about a stolen 2020 election lost bids for governor, secretary of state and attorney general in key battleground states.

Democratic and Republican-led states are often moving in opposite directions, but some bipartisan consensus has emerged around certain aspects of election law, such as restoring voting rights to felons and expanding early in-person voting, Avore said.

Republican proposals, such as expanding voter identification requirements, are popular and have majority support, as do some Democratic proposals to broaden access, said Christopher Borick, a political science professor and pollster at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

But to be successful with voters, Republicans need to mind the lessons from 2022. Denying the outcomes of fair elections, he said, "is a loser for the Republican Party. Straight up."

## 'He's close to us': Wheelchair users in Africa await pope

By JUSTIN KABUMBA, DENG MACHOL and CARA ANNA Associated Press

GOMA, Congo (AP) — When Pope Francis arrives in Congo and South Sudan next week, thousands of people will take special note of a gesture more grounded than the sign of the cross. Watching from their

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wheelchairs, they will relate to the way he uses his.

The pope, who began using a wheelchair last year, is visiting two countries where years of conflict have disabled many, and yet they are among the world's most difficult places to find accessibility and understanding. His visit is heartening Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

"We know that it's a suffering, but it also comforts us to see a grand personality like the pope using a wheelchair," said Paul Mitemberezi, a market vendor in Goma, at the heart of the eastern Congo region threatened by dozens of armed groups. "Sometimes it gives us the courage to hope that this isn't the end of the world and one can survive."

Mitemberezi, a Catholic and a father, has been disabled since he was 3 because of polio. He works to support his family because he can't imagine a life of begging. On the way to market, his three-wheeled chair crunches the stones of unpaved roads. Without a ramp at home, he must leave the brightly painted vehicle outdoors, at risk of theft.

Every morning, before he leaves for basketball practice, he makes sure the chair's still there before crawling out his front door. "It is my legs, which helps me to live," he said. He applies a bicycle pump to the wheels and is off, weaving through traffic of motorcycles and trucks.

Pope Francis is still adjusting to a life that Mitemberezi has long accepted. The pope was first seen publicly in a wheelchair in May, with an aide pushing it. The pope, at age 86, never propels himself. Sometimes he walks with a cane, but he uses the chair for longer distances and has a wheelchair lift to get on and off planes.

Francis has lamented how today's "throwaway culture" wrongly marginalizes disabled people. He makes it a point to visit places serving them during his foreign trips, and routinely spends time greeting wheelchair users at the end of his general audiences.

"No disability — temporary, acquired or permanent — can change the fact that we are all children of the one Father and enjoy the same dignity," Francis wrote in his annual message for the U.N. International Day of Persons with Disabilities in December. He said people with different abilities enrich the church and teach it to be more humane.

Such messages are warmly awaited by wheelchair users in South Sudan, where a five-year civil war killed hundreds of thousands of people. As in Congo, data is lacking on just how many people are disabled by conflict or other means.

While the road leading to the Vatican's embassy in the South Sudan capital, Juba, was paved by city authorities this month for ease of travel, residents who use wheelchairs said they have long gone without easy access to schools, health centers, toilets and other public facilities.

South Sudan, unlike Congo, is yet to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Both countries, however, face vast challenges including underfunded health systems, poor infrastructure and conflicts that leave many disabled people vulnerable as others flee. Even displacement camps and shelters often are not accessible, the United Nations has said, and wheelchairs are not always available.

Discrimination is another problem. "People see those who get around using a wheelchair as useless," said James Moses, who leads a local organization in South Sudan for disabled people and uses crutches after being wounded by a land mine.

He and others called on South Sudan's government to give them special consideration during the pope's visit, and they hope that Francis will advocate for them. "He's close to us," said Susan Samson, a wheelchair user and mother.

They hope they will have a chance to greet the pope at the airport with congratulatory messages and flowers. "Put us in front so the pope will see us," urged wheelchair user Seme Lado Michael.

The Vatican's ambassador to Congo, Archbishop Ettore Balestrero, said he believed the sight of a wheelchair-using pope could be a powerful teaching moment in a culture where disabilities are often viewed with suspicion and superstition.

Families often abandon their disabled children, he said.

Seeing someone like the pope suffer should make Francis more approachable for people during his visit,

Balestrero said. "They identify, in a way, even more with him."

## Online system to seek asylum in US is quickly overwhelmed

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — Hours before sunrise, migrants at one of Mexico's largest shelters wake up and go online, hoping to secure an appointment to try to seek asylum in the U.S. The daily ritual resembles a race for concert tickets when online sales begin for a major act, as about 100 people glide their thumbs over phone screens.

New appointments are available each day at 6 a.m., but migrants find themselves stymied by error messages from the U.S. government's CBPOne mobile app that's been overloaded since the Biden administration introduced it Jan. 12.

Many can't log in; others are able to enter their information and select a date, only to have the screen freeze at final confirmation. Some get a message saying they must be near a U.S. crossing, despite being in Mexico's largest border city.

At Embajadores de Jesus in Tijuana, only two of more than 1,000 migrants got appointments in the first two weeks, says director Gustavo Banda.

"We're going to continue trying, but it's a failure for us," Erlin Rodriguez of Honduras said after another fruitless run at an appointment for him, his wife and their two children one Sunday before dawn. "There's no hope."

Mareni Montiel of Mexico was elated to select a date and time for her two children — then didn't get a confirmation code. "Now I'm back to zero," said Montiel, 32, who has been waiting four months at the shelter, where the sound of roosters fill the crisp morning air at the end of a rough, dirt road.

CBPOne replaced an opaque patchwork of exemptions to a public health order known as Title 42 under which the U.S. government has denied migrants' rights to claim asylum since March 2020. People who have come from other countries find themselves in Mexico waiting for an exemption or policy change — unless they try to cross illegally into the U.S.

If it succeeds, CBPOne could be used by asylum-seekers even if Title 42 is lifted as a safe, orderly alternative to illegal entry, which reached the highest level ever recorded in the U.S. in December. It could also discourage large camps on Mexico's side of the border, where migrants cling to unrealistic hopes.

But a range of complaints have surfaced:

— Applications are available in English and Spanish only, languages many of the migrants don't speak. Guerline Jozef, executive director of the Haitian Bridge Alliance, said authorities failed to take "the most basic fact into account: the national language of Haiti is Haitian Creole." U.S. Customs and Border Protection says it plans a Creole version in February; it has not announced other languages.

— Some migrants, particularly with darker skin, say the app is rejecting required photos, blocking or delaying applications. CBP says it is aware of some technical issues, especially when new appointments are made available, but that users' phones may also contribute. It says a live photo is required for each login as a security measure.

The issue has hit Haitians hardest, said Felicia Rangel-Samponaro, director of The Sidewalk School, which assists migrants in Reynosa and Matamoros, across from Texas' Rio Grande Valley. Previously, about 80% of migrants admitted to seek asylum in the area were Haitian, Rangel-Samponaro said. On Friday, she counted 10 Black people among 270 admitted in Matamoros.

"We brought construction lights pointed at your face," she said. "Those pictures were still not able to go through. ... They can't get past the picture part."

— A requirement that migrants apply in northern and central Mexico doesn't always work. CBP notes the app won't work right if the locator function is switched off. It's also trying to determine if signals are bouncing off U.S. phone towers.

But not only is the app failing to recognize that some people are at the border, applicants outside the region have been able to circumvent the location requirement by using virtual private networks. The agency

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said it has found a fix for that and is updating the system.

— Some advocates are disappointed that there is no explicit special consideration for LGBTQ applicants. Migrants are asked if they have a physical or mental illness, disability, pregnancy, lack housing, face a threat of harm, or are under 21 years old or over 70.

Still, LGBTQ migrants are not disqualified. At Casa de Luz, a Tijuana shelter for about 50 LGBTQ migrants, four quickly got appointments. A transgender woman from El Salvador said she didn't check any boxes when asked about specific vulnerabilities.

The U.S. began blocking asylum-seekers under President Donald Trump on the grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19, though Title 42 is not applied uniformly and many deemed vulnerable are exempted.

Starting in President Joe Biden's first year in office until last week, CBP arranged exemptions through advocates, churches, attorneys and migrant shelters, without publicly identifying them or saying how many slots were available. The arrangement prompted allegations of favoritism and corruption. In December, CBP severed ties with one group that was charging Russians.

For CBP One to work, enough people must get appointments to discourage crossing the border illegally, said Leon Fresco, an immigration attorney and former aide to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat.

"If these appointments start dragging out to two or three or four months, it's going to be much harder to keep it going," he said. "If people aren't getting through, they won't use the program."

CBP, which schedules appointments up to two weeks out, declines to say how many people are getting in. But Enrique Lucero, director of migrant affairs for the city of Tijuana, said U.S. authorities are accepting 200 daily in San Diego, the largest border crossing. That's about the same as the previous system but well below the number of Ukrainians processed after Russia's invasion last year.

Josue Miranda, 30, has been staying at Embajadores de Jesus for five months and prefers the old system of working through advocacy groups. The shelter compiled an internal waiting list that moved slowly but allowed him to know where he stood. Banda, the shelter director, said 100 were getting selected every week.

Miranda packed his suitcases for him, his wife and their three children, believing his turn was imminent until the new online portal was introduced. Now, the Salvadoran migrant has no idea when, or if, his chance will come. Still, he plans to keep trying through CBP One.

"The problem is that the system is saturated and it's chaos," he said after another morning of failed attempts.

## Today in History: JAN 29, Prohibition launches

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Jan. 29, the 29th day of 2023. There are 336 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 29, 1936, the first inductees of baseball's Hall of Fame, including Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, were named in Cooperstown, New York.

On this date:

In 1820, King George III died at Windsor Castle at age 81; he was succeeded by his son, who became King George IV.

In 1919, the ratification of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which launched Prohibition, was certified by Acting Secretary of State Frank L. Polk.

In 1929, The Seeing Eye, a New Jersey-based school which trains guide dogs to assist the blind, was incorporated by Dorothy Harrison Eustis and Morris Frank.

In 1963, the first charter members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame were named in Canton, Ohio (they were enshrined when the Hall opened in September 1963). Poet Robert Frost died in Boston at age 88.

In 1964, Stanley Kubrick's nuclear war satire "Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and

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Love the Bomb" premiered in New York, Toronto and London.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter formally welcomed Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping (dung shah-oh-ping) to the White House, following the establishment of diplomatic relations.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan announced in a nationally broadcast message that he and Vice President George H.W. Bush would seek reelection in the fall.

In 1995, the San Francisco 49ers became the first team in NFL history to win five Super Bowl titles, beating the San Diego Chargers, 49-26, in Super Bowl XXIX.

In 1998, a bomb rocked an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, killing security guard Robert Sanderson and critically injuring nurse Emily Lyons. (The bomber, Eric Rudolph, was captured in May 2003 and is serving a life sentence.)

In 2002, in his first State of the Union address, President George W. Bush said terrorists were still threatening America — and he warned of "an axis of evil" consisting of North Korea, Iran and Iraq.

In 2007, Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro was euthanized because of medical complications eight months after his gruesome breakdown at the Preakness.

In 2020, world health officials expressed concern that the coronavirus was starting to spread between people outside China. A charter flight evacuating 195 Americans, including diplomats and their families, left the Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the new viral outbreak.

Ten years ago: BP PLC closed the book on the Justice Department's criminal probe of its role in the Deepwater Horizon disaster and Gulf of Mexico oil spill, with a U.S. judge agreeing to let the London-based oil giant plead guilty to manslaughter charges for the deaths of 11 rig workers and pay a record \$4 billion in penalties. The Senate overwhelmingly confirmed President Barack Obama's choice of five-term Sen. John Kerry to be secretary of state, 94-3.

Five years ago: FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, a target of frequent criticism and accusations of bias from President Donald Trump, abruptly stepped down from his position ahead of his planned retirement in the spring. The Cleveland Indians announced that they would remove the Chief Wahoo logo from their uniforms in the coming baseball season, after decades of protests and complaints that the grinning, red-faced caricature was racist.

One year ago: A winter storm lashed the Northeast with deep snow and wind gusts near hurricane force, causing coastal flooding and widespread power outages. Ash Barty won the Australian Open women's final in straight sets against Danielle Collins to end a 44-year drought for Aussies at their home Grand Slam tournament. Actor Howard Hesseman, who played a radio DJ on the sitcom "WKRP in Cincinnati" and a teacher on "Head of the Class," died in Los Angeles at 81.

Today's birthdays: Feminist author Germaine Greer is 84. Actor Katharine Ross is 83. Feminist author Robin Morgan is 82. Actor Tom Selleck is 78. R&B singer Bettye LaVette is 77. Actor Marc Singer is 75. Actor Ann Jillian is 73. Rock musician Louie Perez (Los Lobos) is 70. R&B singer Charlie Wilson is 70. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is 69. Actor Terry Kinney is 69. Country singer Irlene Mandrell is 67. Actor Diane Delano is 66. Actor Judy Norton (TV: "The Waltons") is 65. Rock musician Johnny Spampinato is 64. Olympic gold-medal diver Greg Louganis is 63. Rock musician David Baynton-Power (James) is 62. Rock musician Eddie Jackson (Queensryche) is 62. Actor Nicholas Turturro is 61. Rock singer-musician Roddy Frame (Aztec Camera) is 59. Actor-director Edward Burns is 55. Actor Sam Trammell is 54. Actor Heather Graham is 53. Former House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is 53. Actor Sharif Atkins is 48. Actor Sara Gilbert is 48. Actor Kelly Packard is 48. Actor Justin Hartley is 46. Actor Sam Jaeger is 46. Writer and TV personality Jedediah Bila is 44. Actor Andrew Keegan is 44. Actor Jason James Richter is 43. Blues musician Jonny Lang is 42. Pop-rock singer Adam Lambert (TV: "American Idol") is 41. Country singer Eric Paslay is 40.