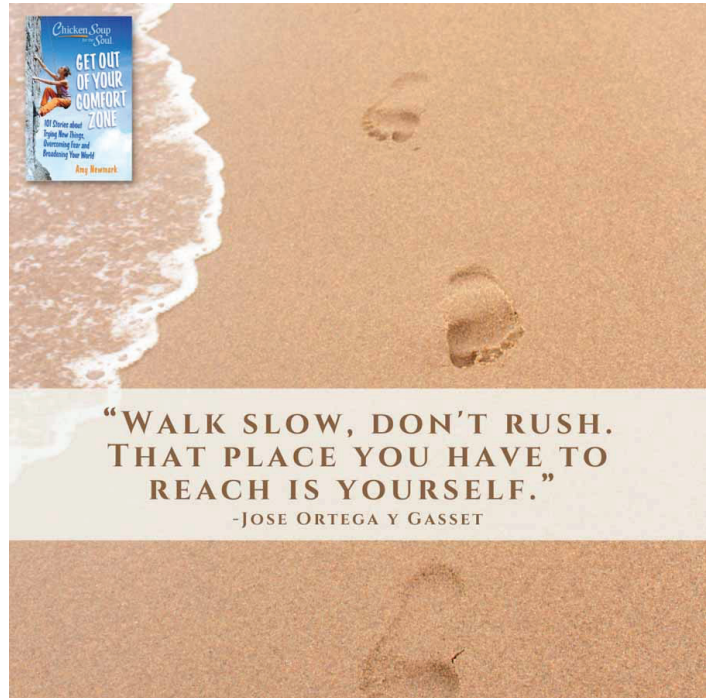


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Sunday, Aug. 6

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.

United Methodist: Worship with communion: 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 10:30 a.m. (Daniel and Karla Grenz will be speaking)

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.

State Jr. Legion Baseball Tournament in Lennox
Groton CM&A: Vacation Bible School (Keepers of the Kingdom), 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Monday, Aug. 7

Senior Menu: Turkey sub with lettuce, tomato and cheese, macaroni salad with peas, peaches, whole wheat bread.

The Pantry at Groton Community Center, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

School Supply Drive, Groton Community Center, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.; Sunday school meeting, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Vacation Bible School, 5:30 p.m.

Groton CM&A: Vacation Bible School (Keepers of the Kingdom), 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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

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

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The Perfect DOG

This search is gonna be ruff!

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
DAVID ABBINANTI

BOOK BY
JILL ABBINANTI

INSPIRED BY THE BOOK
"THE PERFECT DOG"
BY JOHN O'HURLEY

When: Thursday, August 10, 2023

Time: 1:00pm

Where: Groton Community Center – 109 N 3rd St

Entry Fee: \$0



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Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Defeats Martin

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion were triumphant over Post 240 8-4 on Saturday at the State American Junior Legion Baseball Tournament. Groton will play for fifth place today at 12:30 p.m.

Post 240 got on the board in the top of the first inning after Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion committed an error, Maddux Risse singled, and Gunner Watson doubled, each scoring one run.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion took the lead, 4-3, in the bottom of the fourth thanks to doubles by Korbin Kucker, and Nicholas Morris.

Brevin Fliehs earned the win for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The righty surrendered eight hits and four runs (three earned) over seven innings, striking out six and walking one. Shooter Frederick took the loss for Post 240. They went four innings, surrendering four runs (three earned) on four hits, striking out two and walking six.

Kucker and Morris each collected two hits for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Kucker went 2-for-2 at the plate as the infielder led the team with three runs batted in. Gavin Englund paced Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with two walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, accumulating seven walks for the game. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion turned two double plays in the game.

Risse, Gavin Risse, and Watson each collected two hits for Post 240. Risse and Watson were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in one run for Post 240.

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Post 240 4 - 8 Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion

📍 Home 📅 Saturday August 05, 2023

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
PST2	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	8	5
GRTN	0	0	1	3	1	3	X	8	8	2

BATTING

Post 240	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
H Risse (CF)	4	1	1	0	0	0
G Risse (2B)	4	0	2	0	0	1
R O'Neill (SS, P)	4	1	0	0	0	1
C Soderlin (1B)	3	0	0	0	0	2
S Frederick (P, SS)	2	1	0	0	0	1
M Risse (3B)	3	0	2	1	0	0
G Watson (LF)	3	0	2	1	0	0
L Noel (C)	3	0	0	0	0	1
J Risse (RF)	2	1	1	0	1	0
Totals	28	4	8	2	1	6

2B: J Risse, G Watson 2, **TB:** G Risse 2, H Risse, J Risse 2, M Risse 2, G Watson 4, **HBP:** S Frederick, **SB:** G Risse, **LOB:** 5

PITCHING

Post 240	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
S Frederick	4.0	4	4	3	6	2	0
R O'Neill	2.0	4	4	0	1	3	0
Totals	6.0	8	8	3	7	5	0

L: S Frederick, **P-S:** R O'Neill 49-27, S Frederick 104-49, **HBP:** R O'Neill 2, S Frederick 2, **BF:** R O'Neill 15, S Frederick 25

Groton Post 39 Jr.	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
B Flihs (P)	4	0	0	0	1	0
K Kucker (SS)	2	2	2	3	1	0
B Imrie (2B)	4	0	1	1	1	0
T Diegel (CF)	3	1	0	1	1	0
G Englund (1B)	2	0	0	0	2	1
N Morris (C)	4	1	2	2	0	1
C Simon (3B)	3	1	1	0	0	0
J Erdmann (LF)	4	1	1	0	0	2
C Mcinerney (RF)	2	2	1	0	1	0
K Flies (RF)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	29	8	8	7	7	5

2B: N Morris, K Kucker, C Mcinerney, **TB:** N Morris 3, C Simon, B Imrie, K Kucker 3, C Mcinerney 2, J Erdmann, **HBP:** T Diegel, C Simon, K Kucker 2, **SB:** B Imrie, K Kucker, C Mcinerney, **LOB:** 14

Groton Post 39 Jr.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
B Flihs	7.0	8	4	3	1	6	0
Totals	7.0	8	4	3	1	6	0

W: B Flihs, **P-S:** B Flihs 109-77, **HBP:** B Flihs, **BF:** B Flihs 30



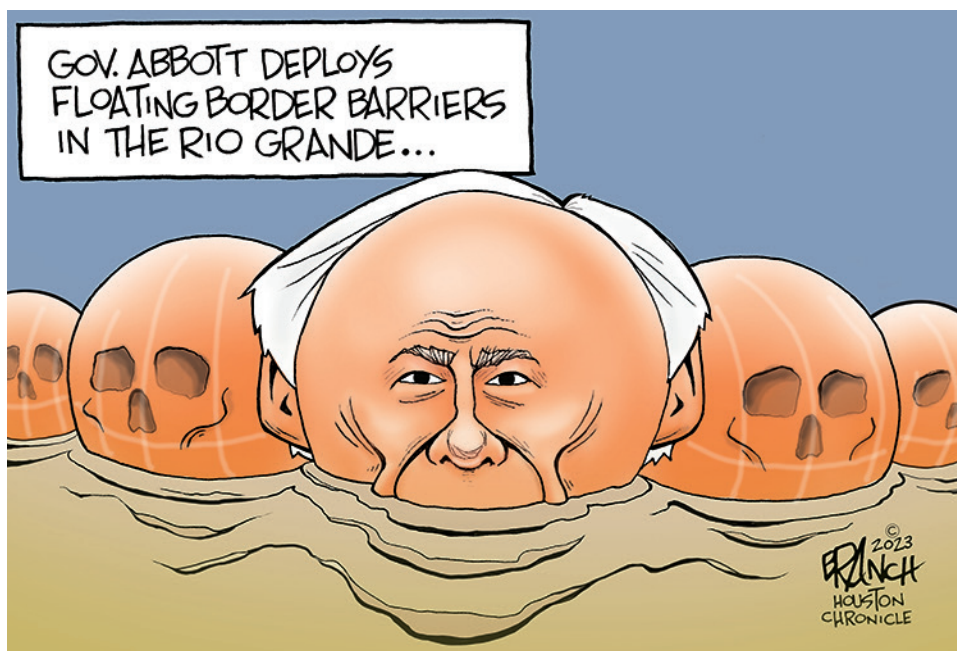
THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High
your dwelling,
no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.
For he will command his angels
concerning you
to guard you in all your ways...*

PSALM 91:9-11



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BIBLIE
TRIVIA
by Wilson Casey

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

2. Which book may be summarized as “Bad times do not change the nature of God”? *Judges, Job, Jeremiah, Jonah*

3. From 2 Chronicles 9:11, what are psalteries for singers? *Robes, Stringed instruments, Lyrics, Abodes*

4. In Revelation 6, what’s the name of the fourth horseman? *Death, Power, Brimstone, Terror*

5. From Ecclesiastes 3, there is a time to break down and a time to? *Plow, Climb, Rejoice, Build up*

6. Which of these was Abraham’s wife? *Rebekah, Martha, Sarah, Michal*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Job, 3) Stringed instruments, 4) Death, 5) Build up, 6) Sarah

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

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FLASH GORDON

DALE ARDEN

DR. HANS ZARKOV

ONCE HAILED AS HEROES, THEY NOW ROAM THE PLANET MONGO AS FUGITIVES... WANTED FOR A CRIME THEY DID NOT COMMIT.

THEIR ONLY HOPE...

...TO STAY ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO CLEAR THEIR NAMES!

FLASH GORDON

BY JIM KEEFE 8-20

FLASH AND HIS COMPANIONS ARE CARRIED FAR ABOVE PLANET MONGO'S SURFACE BY THE MYSTERIOUS HAWKWOMEN.

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?

TO KING VULTAN'S PALACE. YOU'LL BE SAFE THERE, BLUE EYES.

MEANWHILE... CAPTAIN DUROK...

JUDGING BY THE FOOTPRINTS, FLASH'S PARTY WAS ATTACKED BY A GIGANTIC CARNOSAUR.

IT'S NOT LIKELY THEY SURVIVED.

CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR.

WHO..?

I CHECKED OUT THE TREES, DUROK. HAWKPEOPLE WERE HERE.

LET'S PACK IT UP...

...THEY'RE PROBABLY NOT FAAAHHH!

I AM YOUR CAPTAIN... AND YOU WILL ADDRESS ME AS SUCH!

NOW BACK TO THE SHIP, THORNE.

WE LEAVE FOR VULTAN'S KINGDOM IMMEDIATELY.

THUD

YES... CAPTAIN.

NEXT: CITY IN THE CLOUDS!

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

SINK YOUR PRIDE AND PLAY SAFE IN MATCH PLAY WHEN YOUR OPPONENT IS IN BIG TROUBLE. THAT WILL PROTECT YOU AGAINST THE MENTAL ANGUISH OF FAILING TO CAPITALIZE ON A "GIFT." IT WILL ALSO GENERALLY WIN YOU THE HOLE.

HOWEVER WHEN YOU'RE IN TROUBLE AND YOUR OPPONENT IS IN GOOD SHAPE DON'T BE SCARED OF GOING FOR BROKE. YOU'D PROBABLY LOSE THE HOLE ANYWAY BUT WILL HAVE GOTTEN A PSYCHOLOGICAL EDGE IF YOUR "HERO" SHOT COMES OFF.



Learning the Signs That Lead to COPD

DEAR DR. ROACH: What signs and/or symptoms do you need for a doctor to determine whether you have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)? — R.K.

ANSWER: The diagnosis of COPD is suspected in people who are at risk for the disease and note one of two cardinal symptoms: cough or dyspnea. (A “symptom” is what a patient identifies by history, while a “sign” is noted on a physical exam. A cough can be both a symptom and a sign.) Dyspnea is usually described as shortness of breath, a sensation that a person can’t get enough air, like they have just run very fast. Some people with COPD may have very subtle symptoms.

Smoking is the biggest risk factor for COPD, but there are other causes, including other chemical exposures (industrial exposures and home cooking fires are less common now, but are historically important causes of COPD); scarring lung disease; and a genetic cause, a condition called alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency.

The diagnosis is confirmed most often by tests of lung function, which are breathing tests to look at the physiology of the lung and its ability to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide. Sometimes the diagnosis can be supported by an X-ray or CT scan, but pulmonary function testing is the best way to determine the severity of COPD.

We do have ways of slowing down lung decline in COPD, one way being smoking cessation for current smokers, but some of the medications we use also help reduce ongoing damage.

Is it true that Trulicity may cause serious side effects, including thyroid tumors and cancer, as well as pancreatitis? — J.R.

ANSWER: Dulaglutide (Trulicity), like semaglutide (Ozembic) and liraglutide (Victoza), are in a class of drugs called GLP-1 receptor agonists, which have several actions, such as increasing insulin release by the pancreas in response to meals. Initial studies on laboratory rats did show an increase in an unusual type of thyroid cancer, but studies have not yet shown an increased rate in humans. Still, people at an increased risk for this type of thyroid cancer (having a family history of medullary thyroid cancer or of multiple endocrine neoplasia, type 2A or 2B) are not recommended to take this medication.

Similarly, there are reports of pancreatitis in people taking this medication, but it isn’t clear whether the medicine is responsible for the pancreatitis. It’s unwise to use this class of medication in people with a history of pancreatitis.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 93 and in excellent health. I am taking atorvastatin daily. My cholesterol results are excellent. I am wondering if I should continue the statin. — B.F.

ANSWER: If you were started on a statin because of blockages in the arteries, especially if you had a heart attack or stroke, I recommend continuing it. If you have been on the medication to prevent a heart attack or stroke, I say it is up to you. If the medication is causing side effects, or if it really bothers you to take it, you can certainly stop.

However, I believe the atorvastatin continues to reduce your risk of heart attack and still gives you some benefit. There is no need to stop it simply because of your age.

Remember, your cholesterol results are excellent on the medicine and aren’t going to be as good if you stop it.

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

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Gal Gadot stars in "Heart of Stone."

Courtesy of Netflix

"Transformers: Rise of the Beasts" (PG-13) -- The seventh installment in the "Transformers" franchise is out now on streaming. Taking place in the 1990s before the events of the first "Transformers" transpired, Earth is in severe danger of being attacked by the planet-eating god Unicron after museum intern Elena discovers a key that calls out to Unicron and his army. Luckily, the key also calls out to the Autobot resistance, who wish to use it to return to their planet. However, with such a large threat looming over Earth, the

Autobots must first team up with humans for an action-packed fight against Unicron. "Rise of the Beasts" stars Anthony Ramos ("In the Heights") and Dominique Fishback ("Swarm") in lead roles, and features voices from Peter Dinklage, Michelle Yeoh and Pete Davidson. (Paramount+)

"Red, White & Royal Blue" (R) -- Fans of the successful LGBT romance novel by Casey McQuiston will be excited to hear that the film adaptation hits streaming on Aug. 11! Taylor Zakhar Perez plays Alex Claremont-Diaz, the son of the president of the United States, whose feud with Prince Henry (Nicholas Galitzine) begins to generate bad press. Alex is then forced by his president mother to play nice with Henry in front of the press as damage control, and the pair's silly disdain for each other morphs into a most unexpected love affair. But, as their relationship evolves, their love for each other must overcome their fear of being accepted by their families and the general public. (Prime Video)

"Heart of Stone" (PG-13) -- "Wonder Woman" Gal Gadot is back in another crime-fighting role. This time, she plays agent Rachel Stone, a spy in an organization called Charter that abides by strict rules -- no friends, no relationships, no political leanings. Rachel is tasked with protecting an object that is considered "The Heart" of the agency, their most powerful tool. But when the tool gets stolen by enemy forces, Rachel must lead the Charter team to regain The Heart before disastrous events strike the world. The developers of "Heart of Stone" envisioned this film to be a start of a franchise similar to the blockbuster "Mission: Impossible" movies, but it remains to be seen if this film has enough legs to pull off the success Netflix desires. Out on Aug. 11. (Netflix)

"Strange Planet" (TV-PG) -- Nathan W. Pyle's webcomic "Strange Planet" has been brought to life as a sci-fi comedy TV series! The adorable blue beings featured in the comic generated a huge fan base, with 6.6 million followers on Instagram, which propelled Pyle to eventually create a couple of graphic novels that became New York Times bestsellers. So, it only makes sense that a show was somewhere in the works all this time. Throughout the 10-episode season, viewers can follow these blue beings around their cotton-candy home world and enjoy the experiences that aren't too far off from our own here on Earth. Premieres on Aug. 9. (AppleTV+)

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1. Who was born Richard Starkey?
2. Name the artist who was only 12 years old when he wrote "Lucky Man."
3. Who wrote and released "I Call Your Name"?
4. Which artist wrote and released "Two Faces Have I"?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "Watching you play our favorite song, Shuttters down, headphones on, I want the world to know my pain."

Answers

1. Ringo Starr, drummer for the Beatles. He'd taken up drums as a child when he was in a sanitarium for tuberculosis for two years and was encouraged to play musical instruments for therapy. Today he's Sir Richard Starkey, having been knighted by Prince William for services to music in the U.K.
2. Greg Lake, of Emerson, Lake & Palmer. He wrote it after his mother bought him a guitar, and after he'd learned four chords.
3. John Lennon, in 1964. The best-ever version, hands down, was the cover by the Mamas & the Papas in 1966 on their debut album.
4. Lou Christie, in 1963.
5. "More Than Silence," by Boy George and Culture Club, in 2018. The song was released on their "Life" album, their sixth and the first since 1999.

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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{Wagner}



"I liked him better when he was a lightweight!"

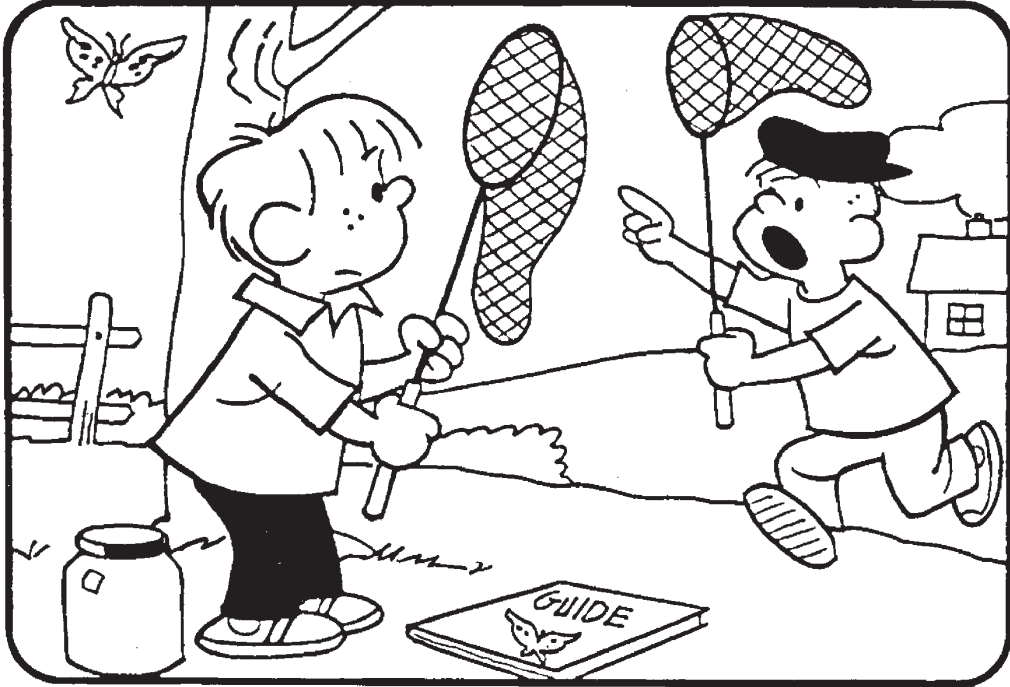
Just Like Cats & Dogs ^{by Dave T. Phipps}



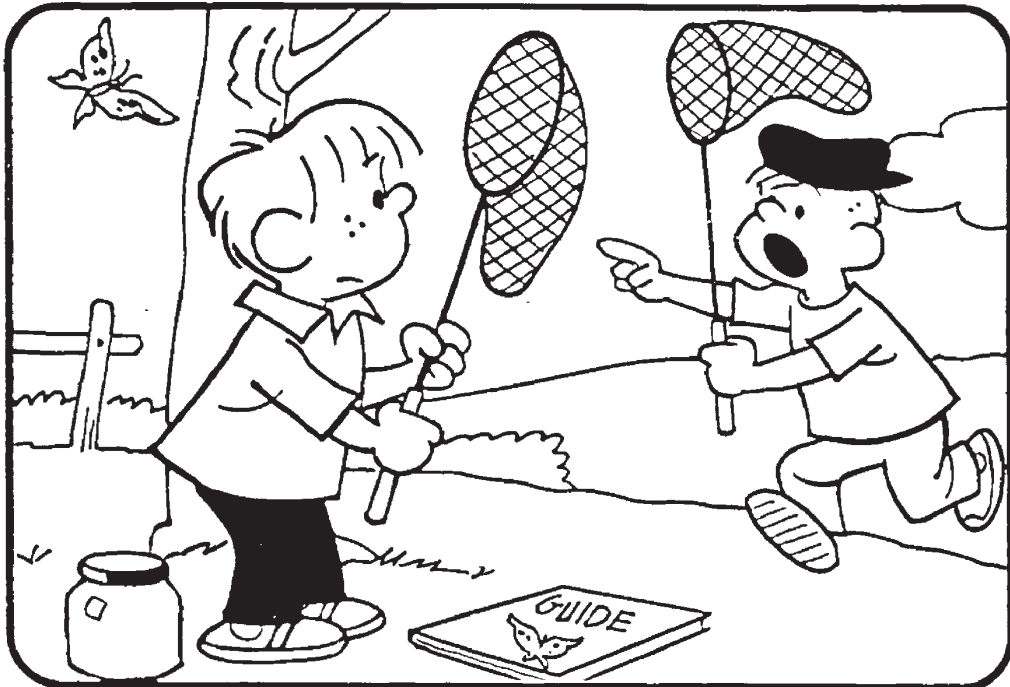
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Butterfly is moved. 2. Fence rail is missing. 3. Jar is smaller. 4. Net is different. 5. Arm is moved. 6. House is missing.

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by
Jo Ann
Derson

* "To help our children learn the placement of states, we glued a map to a piece of cardboard, then used a razor knife to cut each state out along its lines. This created a puzzle. It made learning the states fun, and we wrote the capitals on the backs, so we learned those, too." -- M.A. in Georgia

* Keep extra magazines in the car to read when you have to wait or while sitting in line at the bank or fast-food drive-through.

* "I love self-sticking notes to stay organized. I use them on my bathroom vanity mirror so that I can preplan my day in my head while getting ready." -- E.T. in Georgia

* "I purchased extra-large safety pins and used scraps of fabric to designate towels for family members. I wrote each of our names in washable ink on several 'tags,' which are then attached to our bathing towel. I can tell in an instant who has left his or her towel on the floor/bed/etc. And I am washing a lot less towels now." -- D.L. in Ohio

* "I had a few old mouse pads that were lying around. I used embroidery floss to stitch a few together, and I use them as a knee pad in the garden. The bonus is that it rolls up for storage!" -- A.C. in New Mexico

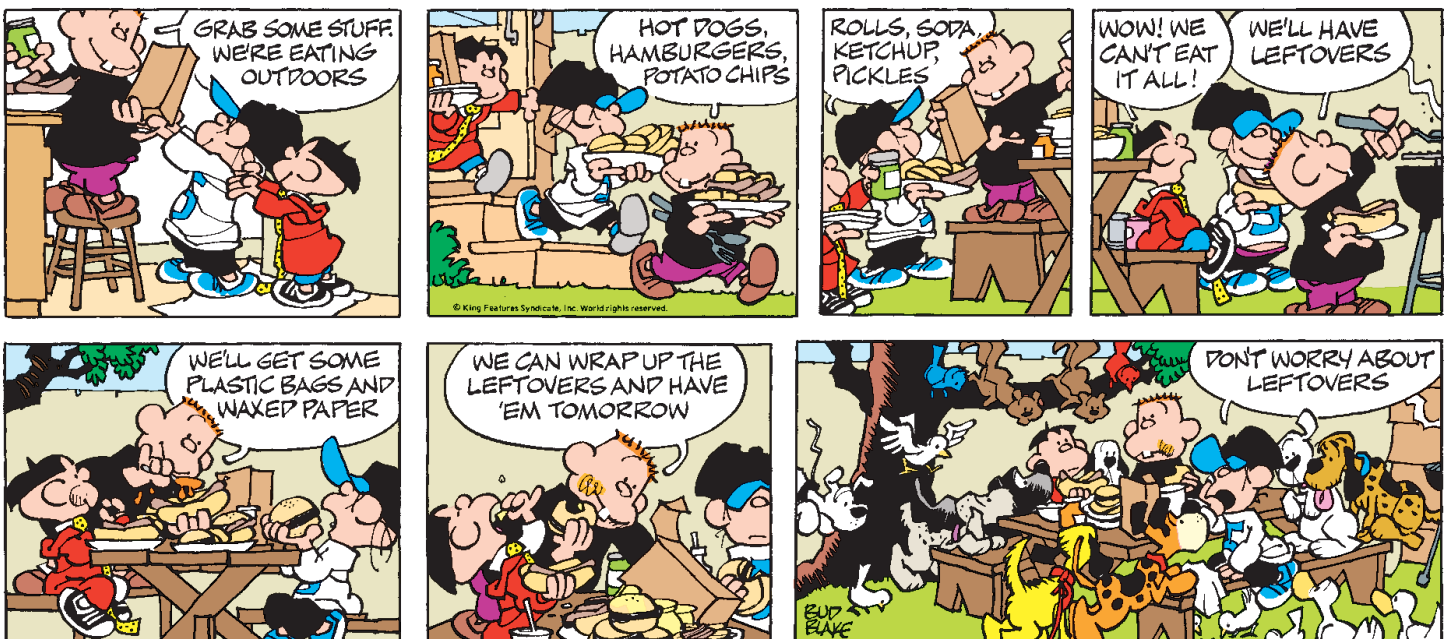
* Keep and wash thoroughly any vegetable or meat trays (discard broken ones or pierced ones). They can be used as paint tray for small projects around the house, or for the children.

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 Glasses, slangily
- 6 Acid type
- 11 "Cut that out!"
- 12 Alphas' opposites
- 14 He loved Roxane
- 15 Not certain
- 16 PC key
- 17 Blue Grotto isle
- 19 Hearty quaff
- 20 Floral rings
- 22 Vat
- 23 Peevish fit
- 24 Song of praise
- 26 Olympic skater Brian
- 28 "Certainly!"
- 30 Away from SSW
- 31 Mexican chili pepper
- 35 Labrador explorer
- 39 Nashville venue
- 40 "A spider!"
- 42 "— Breckinridge"
- 43 Fib
- 44 King of Judea
- 46 Taunting laugh
- 47 Captivate
- 49 Comic Ray

	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					

- 51 Bagel choice
- 52 Retaliate
- 53 Trusty horse
- 54 Dweebs
- 8 In medias —
- 9 Big lizard
- 10 Comedian George
- 11 Overcharge for tickets
- 13 Handle
- 18 Tavern
- 21 In a sneaky way
- 23 Fulton's power
- 25 — culpa
- 27 Business mag
- 29 Showed scorn
- 31 Fishing rods
- 32 Speaks one's mind
- 33 Chicken serving
- 34 "— the ramparts ..."
- 36 Manually
- 37 Arboreal apes
- 38 Western resort lake
- 41 Imam's holy book
- 44 Abode
- 45 Peace symbol
- 48 Astronaut Jemison
- 50 Mal de —

DOWN

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

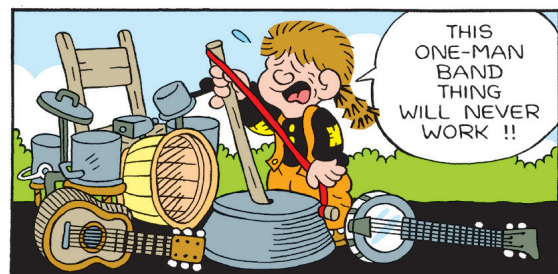
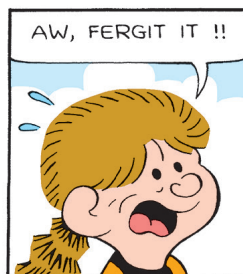
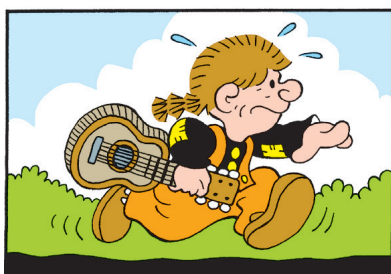
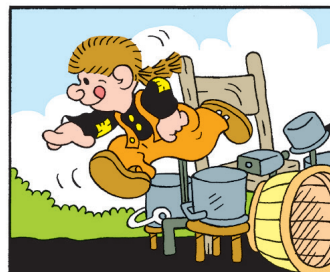
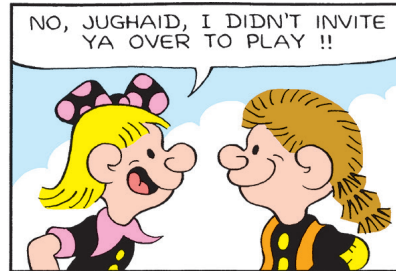
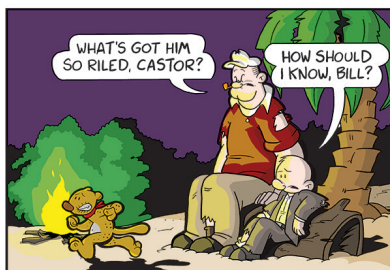
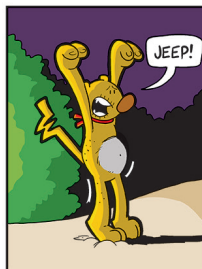
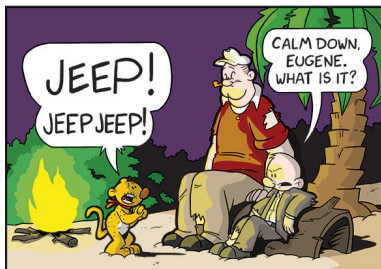
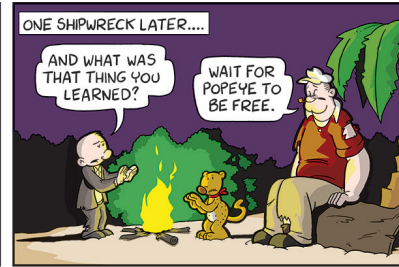
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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Hal Foster's
Prince Valiant
 BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

THE TRAIL OF LORD GRUNYARD'S ABDUCTORS HAS GONE COLD. BUT VAL IS NOT READY TO GIVE UP ON THE KIDNAPPED MAN. HE ORDERS THE BULK OF HIS COMPANY BACK TO CAMELOT AND TURNS TO GAWAIN: "RESTORING OUR FRIEND WILL NOT BE EASY - BUT TRAVELING LIGHT, WE MAY STEAL A MARCH ON OUR FOE."

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GAWAIN GRUMBLES A BIT AT THE INCONVENIENCE: "WHY DON'T WE JUST WAIT FOR A RANSOM DEMAND?" VAL'S ANSWER IS SENSIBLE: "IF ONE IS COMING, SURELY IT WILL BE SENT TO GRUNYARD'S ESTATE. WE RIDE NORTH TO LOCKBRAMBLE!"



DAYS PASS WITH NO INCIDENTS WORSE THAN WHAT MIGHT BE EXPECTED OF THE TIMES. THE DIRECTIONS OF THE FEW LOCALS ENCOUNTERED ALONG THE WAY HELP STEER THE KNIGHTS ON A TOLERABLY DIRECT PATH TO...

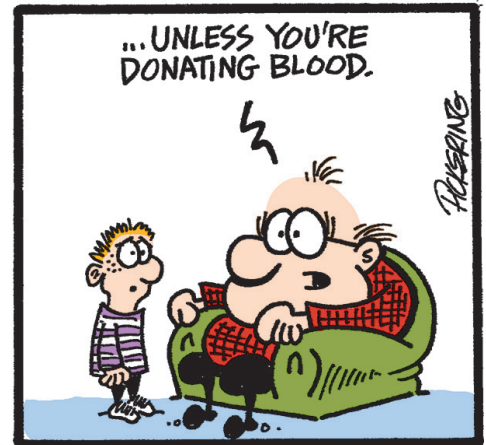
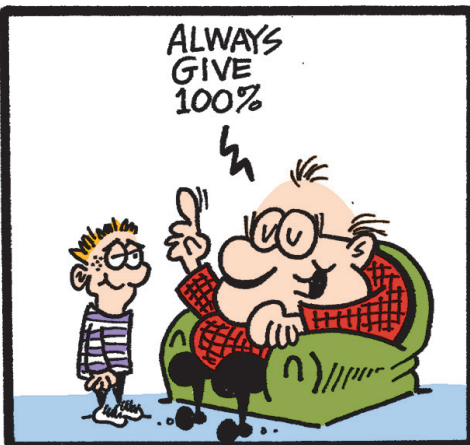
... LOCKBRAMBLE, HEREDITARY LAND OF THE GRUNYARDS. BUT IN WHAT A SAD, DESOLATE STATE THIS ISOLATED LAND SEEMS TO DWELL! THE FIRST SERFS ENCOUNTERED STARE AT THE STRANGERS WITH BITTER, RESENTFUL EYES.

NEXT: **Unhappy land**

3951

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Don't Get Caught Up in Survey Scams

The latest craze in senior scams is surveys. Thieves want to know our opinions about products and services, and we're happy to oblige -- especially when there's a lovely prize for us if we participate.

Who wouldn't want an expensive TV or a vacation just for answering a few survey questions?

We wouldn't, that's who. Because it's likely part of a scam.

Survey scams can show up in any number of formats, either a direct call to you or in an email or on social media.

Sometimes the information they're requesting is so innocent you can be lulled into believing it's not really a scam. For example: If you're asked for the name of your first pet, you'll be tempted to answer, because it's not your bank information.

However, that same mild question is very common and might have been asked when you signed up for a legitimate online account, such as your bank, as a means of verifying your identity. Knowing that "Fluffy" was your first cat, pieced together with the answers to other innocent questions, scammers can access your accounts when a profile about you is created.

Sometimes you'll be asked to qualify for a survey and the questions are more intrusive. Taken together, all your innocent answers can be sold as a package to other scammers.

Here are a few facts:

Once you talk to these scammers on the phone, the number of scam calls you receive will rise dramatically.

Once you participate in an online survey, you've opened yourself up to much more serious scams.

If you have to pay a fee, it's a scam.

The minute you click a suspect link in an email, it's possible that malware is installed on your computer.

If someone offers you anything of value for participating in a survey, it's likely a scam.

Really, why would anyone send you a TV for answering a few questions?

If you've been scammed, call the Federal Trade Commission at 877-382-4357.

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1. What Pro Football Hall of Famer was known as "Concrete Charlie" for his hard-hitting tackles?

2. Name the actor and comedian, best known for his role on TV's "M*A*S*H," who began hosting an LPGA golf tournament near Toledo, Ohio, in 1984.

3. Gyorgy Kolonics, a two-time Olympic gold medal winning canoeist, competed for what country?

4. Name the professional baseball league that was founded by New York lawyer William Shea in 1959 and disbanded in 1960 without playing a single game.

5. Name the businessman who purchased the NFL's New Orleans Saints in 1985 and the NBA's New Orleans Hornets (and later changed the nickname to Pelicans) in 2012.

6. What Italian cyclist, a gold medalist at the 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympics, died from injuries sustained in a crash at the 1995 Tour de France?

7. What Major League Baseball team was known as the "Gashouse Gang" for its success in the 1920s and '30s?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Chuck Bednarik.

2. Jamie Farr.

3. Hungary.

4. The Continental League of Professional Baseball Clubs (CL).

5. Tom Benson.

6. Fabio Casartelli.

7. The St. Louis Cardinals.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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Who's Liable When a Dog Bites a Dog Sitter?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have a sweet little mixed Terrier named Cookie who's devoted to me. He's not so devoted to other people, and he barks at strangers and other dogs. Recently, I had to take a business trip and could not bring Cookie with me. So I paid a local dog sitter to come and visit each day.

The sitter messaged me on the first day and said that he would not be continuing to take care of Cookie because my dog bit him when he tried to put on his halter. I had to scramble and call in favors for a family member to go and get Cookie for the week.

On top of this, the sitter wants me to pay his medical bill because he says it's my fault the dog bit him. I say the sitter inconvenienced me, and it's not my liability. What do you think? -- Carl in San Diego

DEAR CARL: Ouch! I'm sorry this happened to you, and to the sitter who was bitten. Situations like this can get complicated, especially when you weren't there to witness what happened.

Remain calm and try to get as much information from the sitter and from your relative as possible about what happened, and about Cookie's behavior while you were gone.

In California, courts have usually taken the view that, like dog groomers, pet sitters and walkers accept that there is a risk of being bitten by a dog in their line of work (www.sallymorinlaw.com/dog-bites/whos-liable-if-a-dog-bites-me-when-its-with-a-dog-sitter/). It seems like this is the case here, but I am not an attorney. If you feel that this situation is going to escalate into a lawsuit, consult an attorney before deciding what to do next.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

which protected against counterfeiting.

- * Auto manufacturer Volkswagen makes not just vehicles, but currywurst sausages.
- * Following his successful bladder stone surgery, the relieved English diarist Samuel Pepys celebrated the anniversary of the event every year after.
- * The first hot-air balloon flight, in 1783, took off with a sheep, a duck and a rooster on board, as it was unknown how the human body would react to flying at high altitudes. (They landed safely.)
- * A company in Poland makes dinnerware out of wheat bran.
- * Queen Elizabeth II visited the set of the TV series "Game of Thrones" but couldn't be seated on the throne due to an old rule that "the ruling monarch can't sit on a foreign throne."
- * While it's not the longest word in the English language, a study of 1.7 million samples of everyday English found that the longest word you're likely to encounter on a daily basis is "uncharacteristically."
- * Ants leave pheromone trails when they walk that serve as maps for other ants.

* Although Saturn is the second-largest planet in our solar system, it's also the lightest, and could float in water because it's basically a giant gas ball -- if we had a bathtub big enough to hold it.

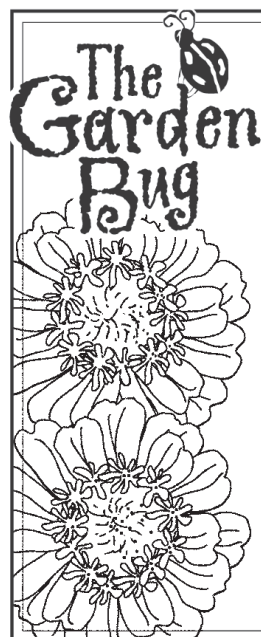
Thought for the Day: "Laws control the lesser man. Right conduct controls the greater one." -- Chinese proverb

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* In 2018, Nataraj Karate set a new Guinness World Record by stuffing 650 drinking straws in his mouth at once. He had to keep them there for at least 10 seconds to break the previous record.

* Human blood cells have different lifespans.

* Dollar bills weren't always green. Colonial money, for example, was tan with black or red ink. The Civil War government began using green ink to print paper money because it didn't fade or easily decompose,



Zinnias

Zinnias can be planted in late summer. They like hot weather, and will germinate easily. Plant your zinnia seeds 9" to 12" apart in well-drained soil located in full sun; after they sprout and grow taller, pinch off the new growth after the 2nd or 3rd true leaf set, as this promotes more branching and flowering. Watering at the base of the plants helps prevent diseases such as "leaf spot" from flourishing. The "Peter Pan" variety of zinnias is one of the fastest to start blooming, often in only six weeks from seed. - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.lsuagcenter.com



by Freddy Groves

How Can Scams Go on This Long?

A grandson collected his grandmother's survivor benefits for 30 years after her death.

How, one wonders, can that happen? Is no one checking to be sure those who receive benefits are still living?

In this case the survivor benefits, based on the woman's marriage to a veteran, kept going to her bank account. And the grandson kept spending the money, \$1,100 per month for 30 years. He pleaded guilty, as he should have, but was only charged with one count of stealing government property in a plea deal. For that he could get 10 years.

Then there was the woman who kept a scam going for 48 years after her mother died. Apparently no one at the Department of Veterans Affairs did the math and calculated how old the woman was. The daughter just kept signing checks and sending handwritten letters asking for address changes and saying she was unable to find her mother's Social Security number. She'll be required to pay back over \$400,000, but there's no jail sentence in this case. The daughter is now 76 years old.

If you want to do the right thing, after the death of a veteran or someone receiving survivor benefits, call the VA. Just call 800-827-1000. You might be eligible to receive benefits yourself, depending on the relationship. Or, if you delay and benefits have been sent out already, you'll need to make arrangements to send the money back. In the case of a disabled veteran, you also might be asked to return any equipment issued by the VA, such as wheelchairs.

It's the same with Social Security. Call them at 800-772-1213 to stop the payments.

Do the right thing ... before the authorities come knocking at your door. One thing to keep in mind: Even if the amount of money you steal is less than \$100, you could still go to jail for a year.

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Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of kangaroos called?
2. MOVIES: What kind of enchanted flower is featured in the animated film "Beauty and the Beast"?
3. GEOGRAPHY: How many pyramids are in the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt?
4. TELEVISION: What did the surgeons on the "M.A.S.H" TV drama call their tent home?
5. FOOD & DRINK: When was the first restaurant franchise of Kentucky Fried Chicken founded?
6. U.S. STATES: What is the capital of Vermont?
7. CHEMISTRY: What is the only letter that doesn't occur in the Periodic Table?
8. MYTHOLOGY: What is the Roman god equivalent of the Greek god Hermes?
9. LITERATURE: Which famous singer-songwriter won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2016?
10. MUSIC: Which country is the pop band ABBA from?

Answers

1. A mob.
2. A rose.
3. Three.
4. The Swamp.
5. 1952.
6. Montpelier.
7. J.
8. Mercury.
9. Bob Dylan.
10. Sweden.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Sturgis: The Fastest and Freest

South Dakotans are a proud people. We are proud of our upbringings, our small-town values, and our old-fashioned work ethic. There is one thing, though, that we South Dakotans are prouder of than anything else.

Freedom.

The Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is one of the most iconic celebrations of Freedom in the United States of America. It's a good thing it takes place every year in the Freest state in the nation!

For more than 80 years, late summer has brought thousands of motorcycles to the Black Hills of South Dakota. Bikers come from all over to experience the beauty and the Freedom of South Dakota. They hop on their bikes and explore this great open country through our open roads. These folks come here because they love their fast bikes and Freedom – and we love to have them here.

The 2023 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is just getting ramped up. From August 4th-13th events will be happening all over the Black Hills. I can't wait to be out there to say hey to all of the Freedom-loving folks in town for the ten-day affair.

For just over a month, our "Freedom Works Here" campaign has been recruiting hard working Americans to move their families to South Dakota. The momentum of this campaign has been incredible. We've had over 4,000 people apply to move to South Dakota, and over 800 are in the final stages of the process.

We aren't slowing down now. In fact, I recently made a special announcement that the "Freedom Works Here" campaign was about to get faster...up to 200 miles an hour faster.

The "Freedom Works Here" NASCAR stock car will be at the Sturgis Buffalo Chip during the Rally. Folks will be able to get a close look at the vehicle that will be racing to recruit workers to the Freest state in America.

To me, the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally has always been a symbol of our Freedom. That became even more true in 2020. In the midst of a pandemic, when some states were forcing businesses to shut down and cancelling any and every public event, we still held the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

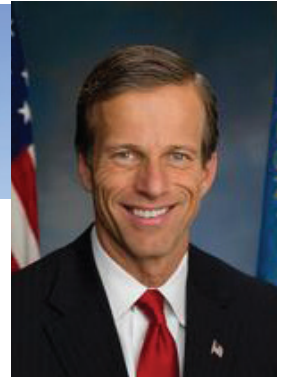
Sturgis went on without a hitch, completely shattering the media's pandemic narrative. The 2020 Rally made it clear that South Dakota was thriving without mandates and lockdowns – and Sturgis became a symbol of Freedom to the entire country.

This all led to the 2021 Rally being one of the biggest in history, with American flags waving constantly. I am looking forward to feeling that patriotic energy at this year's Rally.

South Dakota has become a beacon of Freedom for the nation – and the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is a part of that. With our economy growing faster than ever, and our people reaping the benefits, it's time for us to kick off the fastest and the Freest event in the United States of America.

It's time for the 2023 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally!

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



No Relief from "Bidenomics"

Lately, the president has taken to touting his economic policies. With consumer prices up 16 percent since he took office, though, there's little for which he should be proud. In that time, inflation has cost the average South Dakota family \$895 per month. The president calls it "Bidenomics," but it's more like "Bidenflation," and it has only caused economic pain for a lot of Americans.

One year ago, Democrats passed what they would consider to be a key element of the Biden economic agenda, the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, which has proven to be little more than a reckless tax-and-spending spree that expanded the federal government and contributed little to nothing to bringing down inflation. Instead it focused on raising taxes, supersizing the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and spending lavishly on taxpayer subsidies for Democrats' Green-New-Deal priorities. The best that can be said of this bill is that it was less damaging than the president's first choice: a multi-trillion-dollar spending spree that included more tax hikes and new entitlement programs.

From the outset, it was questionable whether the Inflation Reduction Act would live up to Democrats' sales pitch, and it has not aged well. The bill's costs have ballooned. Its Green New Deal provisions were originally projected to cost an already staggering \$400 billion, but they are now expected to cost as much as \$1 trillion or more. And that's just one part of the bill. Democrats also promised the bill would reduce the deficit, but these new estimates suggest it could actually increase the deficit.

So, for all this spending, what are taxpayers getting in return? It's not an economy growing "from the middle out and the bottom up," like the president talks about often. In fact, 90 percent of the bill's green energy subsidies will go to companies with sales exceeding \$1 billion. And, it turns out, some of the biggest beneficiaries of these programs are not American companies, but companies based in foreign countries, including China.

Also included in this bill was nearly \$80 billion to expand the IRS, an amount six times greater than the agency's fiscal year 2022 budget. But, while the IRS has struggled to do as little as answer taxpayers' phone calls in recent years, only 4 percent of this new funding goes to improving taxpayer services, and more than half of it is earmarked for increased audits and other tax collection efforts.

Unfortunately, South Dakotans are all too familiar with the reality of the president's economic policies, which continue to strain family budgets month after month. Twelve months after one of their marquee legislative accomplishments, it's clear Democrats' priorities do not align with the American people's needs. I hope Democrats in Washington can finally acknowledge what common sense has told us all along: bigger government and higher taxes are not in the best interest of American families. Republicans will continue working to rein in wasteful, inflationary spending and pursue pro-growth policies that help working families, small businesses, farms, and ranches succeed.



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



Funding our Adversary's Economy?

BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, and MSCI, a top stock-market-index compiler, have been investing American retirement dollars in Chinese companies that strengthen China's military and pose security threats to America. Not just that, but more than 60 of these companies have been flagged by U.S. agencies for security or human-rights violations.

This means Americans have been funding our biggest adversary's growth for years. The same communist government that steals Americans' personal data from apps like TikTok, spies on our allies' imports and exports, and sets up CCP police stations in America. Those are just the tip of the iceberg.

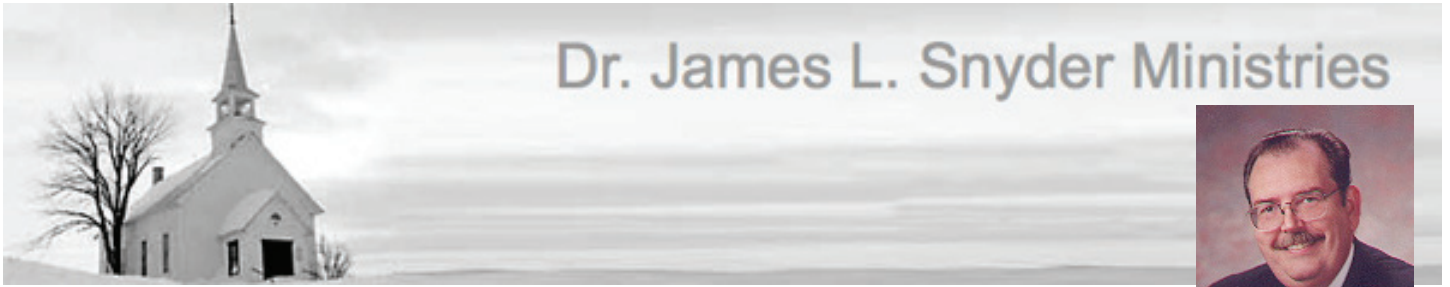
We've known it's a possibility that asset management firms have been investing in CCP-backed companies for a while and Congress has been working to bring clarity and accountability to these firms. Recently, the Select Committee on China launched an investigation into several venture capital firms for their funding of Chinese tech companies. In the Senate, a bill is being worked on to require American companies that invest abroad, especially in countries like China, to disclose certain investments. The bill would also create a panel to review and block these investments that are national security concerns, similar to how the Council on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) works.

MSCI and BlackRock manage a total of over \$22 trillion in assets. While these investments in Chinese companies can yield a high return, putting our national security at risk is not a wise trade. The means do not justify the ends.

The Select Committee on China expressed these concerns in a letter sent to BlackRock and MSCI earlier this week. We requested a full accounting of the investments in Chinese companies—the American people deserve to know where their dollars are going and the type of un-American behavior it's advancing. I hope the Select Committee receives a response soon so we can hold these firms accountable.

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Knowing Everything Is A Blessing And A Curse

If you ever spent more than five minutes with me, you would conclude that I do not know everything. I would agree 100%.

It is not bad that I don't know everything. I know today more than I knew ten years ago, if that is any consolation.

The thing that is surprising to me is that I do not know what I need to know when I need to know it.

Although I struggle with not knowing everything, I don't make it a priority in my life. I accept that I do not know everything, and if I can learn something new, I'm all for it.

This is not true for everyone in our house. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, according to my experience, knows just about everything. Even though I have known her for over 50 years, I still can't understand how she's reached that point.

It's been a blessing because when I can't do something, I ask her; she knows it, and more than that, she can explain it to me.

A few years ago, her vehicle broke down. I don't remember what was wrong with it, but we had it towed to the garage to fix. I took my wife to the garage with her vehicle.

When we got there, she walked in to talk to the mechanic. This was our first time at this repair shop, so we didn't know them, and they didn't know us. But The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage told him what was wrong with her vehicle and what he needed to do to fix it.

He looked at me, then back at her, and said, "Yes, ma'am. I'll take care of your vehicle."

When we went to pick up her vehicle, the mechanic said, "Ma'am, how did you know what was wrong with your vehicle and furthermore how did you know how to fix it?"

She went into a long explanation, and I just smiled.

When she finished explaining, he looked at her and asked, "Would you like a job here?"

It's good to have someone in the house who knows everything. Someone who knows what's wrong but, more importantly, someone who knows how to fix it.

That night around the dinner table, we chuckled at the day's events.

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Knowing everything can be a great blessing, but it can also be a curse.

When it comes to thrift store shops within a 100-mile radius of our home, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage knows them all and everything about them. She is a regular visitor to every one of them. Not only does she know them, but everybody knows her.

I know where all the McDonald's restaurants are, but that's my limit. After all, they do have Apple Fritters.

Monday this past week, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage went grocery shopping in the next town. When she got home, I could see she was very frustrated. I couldn't understand her frustration, and sometimes I'm cautious about asking.

So all I said was, "How was your shopping trip?"

"Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr."

I was concerned because I knew at this point she was frustrated about something.

"Do you know," she said as frustrated as I've ever seen her, "that there's a new thrift store just 5 miles from our house? That thrift store has been there for over a year, and I didn't know about it."

I was almost as shocked as she was because that did not seem real. How dare a thrift store shop open up without telling her? Nobody in the other thrift stores even mentioned it to her, which was strange.

How this information slipped by my wife is a mystery above my pay grade. It shows that even when you know everything, there is something you don't know.

I knew that the next several days were going to be difficult until she was able to go and visit that new thrift store shop. I was tempted to go along with her, but under the stress of the situation, I thought it was not a good idea.

I have a good idea very few times, and this was one of those times.

When she returned from visiting the new thrift store shop, her face was all aglow. There was a wonderful smile on her face while she carried a basket full of items from the store.

Looking at me, she said, "I had the most wonderful time at that new thrift store shop. It's a wonderful place and I got to know everybody there."

It certainly wasn't surprising to me. Now she knows all the thrift store shops in the area, for which she was very grateful.

If anybody wants to know what thrift store they should visit, my wife asks, "What are you looking for?" When they tell her, she then tells them which one to go to and how much they can expect to pay for that item.

I've learned that wisdom is a vital aspect of life. A Bible verse that says this is James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

When I recognize how short I am on knowledge, I then can come to God who is liberal in His giving of knowledge. My choice is, rely on my wisdom or the wisdom of God. That's the only wisdom I can trust.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is the widely publicized failure of Yellow Trucking actually an opportunity for the U.S. trucking industry to reduce its carbon footprint?

-- Jerry B., Washington, DC

While no one likes to see companies fail and people lose their livelihoods, some environmental advocates do see the recent collapse of Yellow Trucking as a way to force the industry down a greener path. After all, the transportation sector is the largest U.S. carbon dioxide (CO₂) polluter, generating 20 percent of all domestic emissions. The freight trucking sector alone is responsible for roughly half of that. Given the slowness of trucking to adopt greener fuels, drivetrains and operations, environmental advocates see a lot of low-hanging fruit for reducing transportation's carbon footprint.

What can trucking do to start becoming part of the solution to climate change? The obvious place to start is the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs). There is no reason the same technologies now so widespread for passenger cars can't be implemented at a scale for trucks, too. Indeed, Tesla is showing the way with the recent roll-out of its all-electric Semi, currently in use by a handful of major corporations and soon to be more common on U.S. highways. To that end, Tesla recently applied for \$100 million in grant funding to develop a recharging infrastructure for EV trucks traveling between Texas and California. Tesla isn't alone in trying to electrify trucking: At least 17 other manufacturers (e.g., BYD, Mercedes-Benz, Freightliner, Volvo, Tata) are competing for pieces of the EV truck pie.

Besides a wholesale move to EVs, there's a lot we can do to green the truck operations. Encouraging the use of alternative fuels such as natural gas and biodiesel where applicable is a no-brainer. Meanwhile, enhancing the aerodynamics of trucks and trailers can reduce fuel consumption and emissions. Installing technologies like side skirts, boat tails and better tires can make a big difference in fuel efficiency.

Another way to green trucking is to implement so-called "smart logistics"—using advanced technology for route planning and load optimization to reduce fuel consumption and emissions. Likewise, providing training to truck drivers on fuel-efficient driving practices and rewarding drivers for fuel-efficient behaviors can lead to significant fuel and emission savings. Employing real-time monitoring and data analytics to track fuel consumption, emissions and operational efficiency can help identify areas for improvement and further optimize trucking operations. And promoting freight consolidation and intermodal transportation—combining multiple "modes" like rail and truck—can reduce emissions by shifting some of the freight transport load to greener modes like rail, thus reducing the trucks on the road.

In 2022, the Biden administration unveiled stricter standards on emissions from trucks, vans and buses starting in the 2027 model year, the first update to clean air standards for heavy-duty vehicles in more than 20 years. Environmental advocates see this as a long time coming and still not enough—and the trucking industry is challenging the new regulations, claiming they are too onerous. We'll see how things shake out for the trucks of the near future when the dust settles in this fight over regulations.



Environmentalists are hopeful that the Tesla Semi is the first of many different types of electric trucks plying America's highways and byways in the near future. Credit: Steve Jurvetson, FlickrCC



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

COMMENTARY

Johnson subjects military funding to partisan politics, despite pledging otherwise

DANA HESS

How times have changed for the Republican Party.

It was once the party of law and order. Now Donald Trump, its top candidate for president, is facing his third recent indictment, this time for fomenting the overthrow of the very government he purportedly wants to lead.

It was once the party of business, but now another of its presidential candidates, Ron DeSantis, is noted for slapping down Disney, his state's biggest employer.

It was once known for its support of the armed forces, but now Alabama Sen. Tommy Tuberville has thrown the chain of command into disarray while he puts a hold on promotions as he tries to get military policies to conform to his sense of morality.

The small-government, low-tax days of the GOP seem to be over, replaced in the House of Representatives by issues favored by a small but vocal MAGA crowd. They pick culture battles that have little meaning, but serve to arouse party members as those issues play in a constant loop on Fox News.

That change in tradition can be found in South Dakota's own congressional delegation in the person of Dusty Johnson. In his column praising the military funding bill, Johnson said: "In recent years, we've seen a political ideology pushed on the military from COVID-19 to abortion. I want to be clear — I will always prioritize the mission of military readiness over partisan politics."

While Johnson wants to be clear, he has a little trouble being truthful. In the same column he lists as one of the features of the bill a ban on using taxpayer dollars to fund "distractions to military readiness, like critical race theory and drag shows." A Johnson news release praising the House passage of the NDAA notes it also ends "woke" training for "progressive climate change initiatives."

That must be a heck of a drag show if it gets in the way of military readiness. And no one wants to see our armed forces stumble over critical race theory on their way into battle.

Anyone who read Johnson's statement about political ideology would think that he was against mixing an issue like abortion with military funding. But there it is in his column, noting that the bill "prohibits taxpayer dollars to be used in allowing military members access to abortion services."

That's part of what has Tuberville in such a knot that he's using his power as a senator to hold up high-level promotions until there's a change in the military's abortion leave policy. That policy, instituted after the Supreme Court struck down *Roe v. Wade*, supports the travel of service members for "non-covered reproductive health care."

Like all employers, the military has to provide benefits to attract employees. One of those benefits is a recognition that members of the armed forces don't often get to choose where they live and some of those postings can be without the kind of medical care that they need. The military provides paid time off and reimburses travel costs for health care that a service member or dependent can't get at their duty station.








Let's hope that Tuberville and the House-passed NDAA can address abortion without somehow sinking a pretty decent health care perk for military personnel.

And let's hope that Johnson wakes up to the fact that it's hypocritical to blast playing politics with military funding all the while pushing the far-right talking points that are in the House version of the funding bill.

Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
70% → 30%					40%	20% 20%
Showers Likely then Chance T-storms	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Chance Showers	Slight Chance Showers then Slight Chance T-storms
High: 76 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 80 °F



NWS Aberdeen, SD

Rain Slowly Ending Today



Rain ending northwest to southeast today. Rain to linger over southeastern South Dakota into the evening hours

Probability of Precipitation Forecast

	8/6 Sun					
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm
Aberdeen	45	15	25	25	5	0
Britton	40	35	40	35	10	0
Brookings	85	85	75	55	30	25
Chamberlain	85	65	35	25	10	5
Clark	85	55	45	35	20	0
Eagle Butte	5	0	0	0	0	0
Ellendale	30	10	15	5	5	0
Eureka	10	5	5	0	0	0
Gettysburg	30	10	10	5	5	0
Huron	90	75	50	30	15	10
Kennebec	80	40	15	20	10	0
McIntosh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milbank	75	60	50	40	35	5
Miller	85	40	25	30	10	0
Mobridge	5	5	5	0	0	0
Murdo	30	15	10	0	5	0
Pierre	35	15	5	5	5	0
Redfield	80	35	25	35	10	0
Sisseton	55	45	45	50	20	0
Watertown	85	65	45	35	25	5
Webster	65	40	50	40	20	0
Wheaton	50	35	55	55	25	0

*Table values in %

Weather Outlook:

Today



70s

Rain ending

Monday



near 80°

Dry

The storm system responsible for the rain the last couple of days will exit across Iowa today, with rain ending over central South Dakota during the morning hours. Expect the rain to linger over southeastern South Dakota into the evening hours. Dry weather will settle in for Monday, with highs near 80 degrees.

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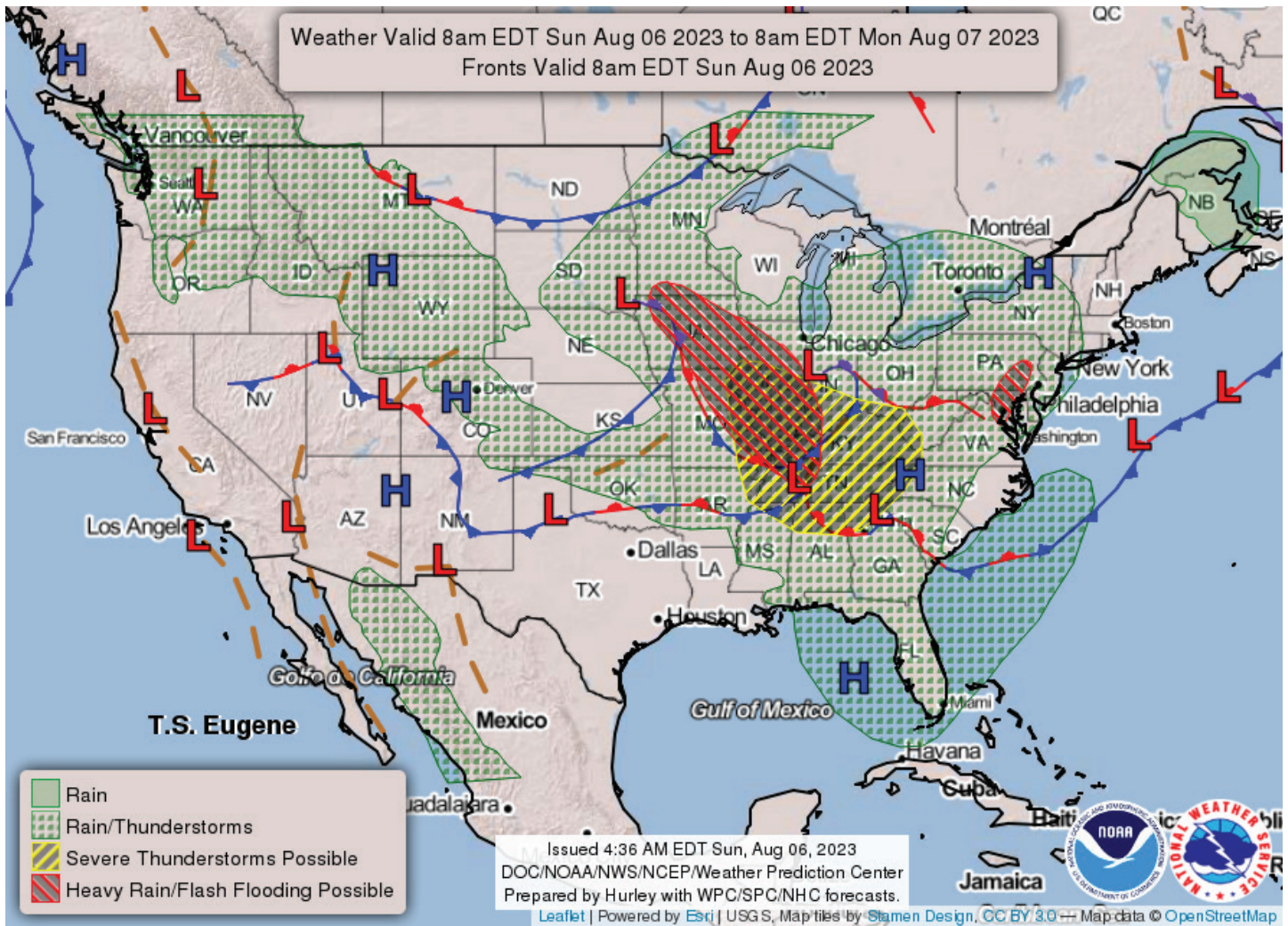
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 75 °F at 1:31 PM
Low Temp: 65 °F at 11:27 PM
Wind: 19 mph at 6:20 AM
Precip: : 1.95

Day length: 14 hours, 34 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 108 in 1941
Record Low: 44 in 1902
Average High: 84
Average Low: 59
Average Precip in Aug.: 0.44
Precip to date in Aug.: 2.07
Average Precip to date: 14.54
Precip Year to Date: 14.74
Sunset Tonight: 8:55:43 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:22:04 AM



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Today in Weather History

August 6, 1962: Wind damaged farm buildings and hail damaged crops over a large area. The area affected was northern Faulk, portions of Spink, Northern Clark, Codington, and Grant, along with Day County.

August 6, 1969: During the day and evening hours, two relatively large storms brought destructive weather to much of Minnesota. The northern storm area moved in from North Dakota between Fargo and Grand Forks. The southern storm rapidly developed north of Wadena. These two storms combined to cause twelve tornadoes, two vast areas of wind and hail damage, and one waterspout. The storms killed 15 people, injured 106, and caused 4.8 million dollars in property and public utility damage.

August 6, 1969: The first report of high winds was southeast of Piedmont with gusts of 65 to 70 mph estimated by a National Weather Service employee. Damage in that area included several downed trees and leveled gardens. As the storm moved east, large hail was reported. The first wind gust at Ellsworth AFB was 89 mph at 1918 MST on the northwest end of the runway. By 1925 MST, sustained winds were over 50 mph for nearly 10 minutes, and the peak gust was 114 mph. The sensor on the southeast end of the runway, 2.5 miles away, recorded a wind gust of 114 mph at 1929 MST. The damage on the base included several large trees blown over and snapped in half and roof damage to base housing units. A few tents set up on the taxiways for an air show were blown around, but not significantly damaged. A survey by base meteorologists indicated the main downburst winds hit over open prairie surrounding the runway, where there are no trees or structures. Also between 1920 and 1930 MST, a meteorology student estimated winds between 70 and 80 mph at Box Elder, where gardens were leveled, and wooden fences and roofs were damaged.

1890 - Thunderstorms left four inches of hail covering the ground in Adair County and Union County in Iowa. The hail drifted into six foot mounds, and in some places remained on the ground for twenty- six days. (The Weather Channel)

1918 - Unusually hot weather began to overspread the Atlantic Coast States, from the Carolinas to southern New England. The temperature soared to an all-time record high of 106 degrees at Washington D.C., and Cumberland and Keedysville hit 109 degrees to establish a state record for Maryland. Temperatures were above normal east of the Rockies that month, with readings much above normal in the Lower Missouri Valley. Omaha NE reached 110 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1959: Hurricane Dot crossed Kauai in the Hawaiian Islands producing sustained winds of 105 mph with gusts to 125 mph. Over 6 inches of rain fell with over 9 inches on the big island of Hawaii. The sugar cane crop on Kauai sustained \$2.7 million in damages.

1959 - A bucket survey showed that thunderstorms dropped 16.70 inches of rain on parts of Decatur County IA. The total was accepted as Iowa's 24 hour rainfall record. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Evening thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 100 mph at Winner SD damaging two hundred homes. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1987 - Afternoon thunderstorms deluged Milwaukee, WI, with 6.84 inches of rain, including more than five inches in two hours, breaking all previous rainfall records for the city. Floodwaters were four feet deep at the Milwaukee County Stadium, and floodwaters filled the basement of the main terminal at the airport. Flooding caused 5.9 million dollars damage, and claimed the life of one person. Death Valley, CA, reported a morning low of 97 degrees. A midday thunderstorm deluged Birmingham AL with nearly six inches of rain in one hour. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Pennsylvania and New York State. A cold front crossing the northwestern U.S. produced wind gusts to 66 mph at Livingston MT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from northwestern Texas to the Southern Appalachians, and in the northeastern U.S. There were 136 reports of large hail or damaging winds during the day and evening. Thunderstorms in the Southern Plains Region produced tennis ball size hail northwest of Buffalo OK, and wind gusts to 100 mph at Pampa TX. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Lord Moynihan was a brilliant, skillful and world-famous British surgeon. On one occasion after completing an operation before a gallery of doctors, a reporter asked, "How can you work so calmly with such a famous crowd of surgeons present?"

Thoughtfully he replied, "There are just three people in the operating room when I operate: the patient, myself, and God."

As he concluded his farewell speech, Moses told Joshua that the Lord would be with him: "Do not be afraid or discouraged; I will go ahead of you and be with you and never abandon you." We often forget that wherever we are, God is: He is the one Who created us, has a plan for us, and will purposefully work through us.

The opposite of being "discouraged" is to be "encouraged." "En" means "to give." When placed before the word courage, it becomes "to give courage to!" And, this is what God will do for us - constantly and continually. He will always give us the courage to face every challenge in life because He has promised that He will never forget us, forsake us, or fail us.

The question is not "Can we count on God to be faithful and give us courage?" The question is "Can God count on us to be faithful to Him in all He asks of us so He can give us courage?"

Prayer: Heavenly Father, may we sense Your presence and power wherever we are and whatever You call us to do. Give us Your courage to be faithful to You at all times. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: But the Lord your God himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy the nations living there, and you will take possession of their land. Deuteronomy 31:1-3



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)
- 01/31/2023-02/03/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Drop Off 6-9pm, Community Center
- 02/04/2023-02/05/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Sale 1-5pm, Community Center
- 02/25/2023 Littles and Me, Art Making 10-11:30am, Wage Memorial Library
- 03/25/2023 Spring Vendor Fair, 10am-3pm, Community Center
- 04/01/2023 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
- 04/06/2023 Groton Career Development Event
- 04/08/2023 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
- 04/22/2023 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 04/23/2023 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)
- 05/06/2023 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/29/2023 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/16/2023 SDSU Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament
- 06/17/2023 Groton Triathlon
- 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
- 08/10/2023 Family Fun Fest, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 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
- 10/14/2023 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 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
- 12/09/2023 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9-11am

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The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.04.23

11 30 45 52 56 20

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$1,550,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.05.23

1 36 38 41 43 5

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$7,430,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.05.23

18 24 27 43 44 7

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 15 Mins 14
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.05.23

7 12 22 27 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$20,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.05.23

14 25 37 57 67 16

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.05.23

18 42 44 62 65 23

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$145,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

1 of 2 Fargo officers wounded in ambush that killed another officer is leaving the hospital

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — One of two Fargo police officers wounded by a gunman who ambushed them and killed another officer last month has recovered enough to leave the hospital.

The Fargo Police Department said in a statement Saturday afternoon that Officer Andrew Dotas was expected to be released from the hospital later in the day. Dotas and Officer Tyler Hawes were both wounded when Mohamad Barakat opened fire on them as they responded to a routine traffic crash on July 14, officials said.

Fargo Police Officer Jake Wallin was killed and a bystander was also wounded in the attack before a fourth officer shot and killed Barakat.

The police department said Hawes is continuing his recovery, and the department “looks forward to announcing his release from Sanford Health in the future.”

Barakat, 37, had numerous guns, a homemade grenade and more than 1,800 rounds of ammunition with him in his car when he was killed. Authorities have said they fear he was planning a much bigger attack on one of the summer festivals occurring in Fargo at the time.

Authorities visited Barakat’s apartment at least twice in the years before the attack, where they noted he had a large number of weapons and a huge stockpile of ammunition, but they said it all had been obtained legally.

From high office to high security prison for ex-Pakistani PM Imran Khan after court sentencing

By ANJUM NAVEED and RIAZAT BUTT Associated Press

ATTOCK, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan’s former Prime Minister Imran Khan awoke Sunday as an inmate in a high-security prison after a court handed him a three-year jail sentence for corruption, a development that could end his future in politics.

The court ruled Saturday that national cricketing hero Khan, who was ousted in a no-confidence vote in April 2022 but remains the country’s leading opposition figure, had concealed assets after selling state gifts.

The prison sentence could bar him from politics under a law that prohibits people with a criminal conviction from holding or running for public office. He could also lose the chairmanship of the party he founded, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, or PTI.

Critics say efforts to put Khan behind bars are politically motivated and have intensified ahead of elections due to be held later this year.

They argue that Khan’s popularity and a large support base, combined with his ability to mobilize massive crowds, pose a threat to the ruling coalition and its backers in Pakistan’s powerful military that has been the final arbiter of the country’s politics since independence from Britain in 1947.

It’s the second time this year that Khan has been detained, joining other former Pakistani prime ministers who had been arrested and seen military interventions throughout the country’s political history.

But his current residence at the Attock prison is a far cry from his custodial conditions in May when he was taken to a well-appointed guesthouse on a police compound in Islamabad under a Supreme Court order. He was then allowed visitors and meetings with party colleagues.

Attock prison, in eastern Punjab province, is notorious for its harsh conditions and its inmates include convicted militants.

Authorities have further tightened security around the prison, which already has armed guards in watch-towers, by erecting barriers and blocking roads to keep people away. They have also instructed locals not to allow media onto their roofs to stop photographs and videos from leaking.

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One local, Muhammad Farooq Khattak, lamented the tough measures.

"Imran (Khan) is inside this prison," he said. "They have closed the roads so that nobody kidnaps him. I am a retired army employee so I know the sensitivity of the matter. There is no logic to closing this road. It's a big problem for us."

PTI lawyer Shoab Shaheen told The Associated Press that police at the prison refused entry to a legal team who went to see Khan. He said the party will file an appeal as there are "plenty of loopholes in the verdict."

In May, Khan's arrest on corruption charges caused a wave of violent protests that swept the country. Pakistan's Supreme Court days later ordered his release, saying his arrest was illegal.

Khan's calls for mass protests have so far failed to gain traction among his supporters with police making far fewer arrests than they did in May as people stayed off the streets.

Some of Khan's closest colleagues defected from his party after the May violence as authorities cracked down on the PTI, leaving him increasingly isolated.

Karachi-based analyst Tauseef Ahmed Khan, who is unrelated to the former premier, said the situation is difficult for Khan, but it doesn't necessarily herald the end of his political career.

"It all depends on his courage and patience," said Khan the analyst. "If he lacks both, it is simple and the end of the game for him. But otherwise he can come out as a great leader if he can bear the hardship of prison for a few years."

A deadline has arrived for Niger's junta to reinstate the president. Residents brace for what's next

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — The deadline has arrived Sunday for Niger's military junta to reinstate the country's ousted president, but the West Africa regional bloc that has threatened a military intervention faces prominent appeals to pursue more peaceful means.

Neighboring Nigeria's Senate on Saturday pushed back against the plan by the regional bloc known as ECOWAS, urging Nigeria's president, the bloc's current chair, to explore options other than the use of force. ECOWAS can still move ahead, as final decisions are taken by consensus by member states, but the warning on the eve of Sunday's deadline raised questions about the intervention's fate.

The threat of military intervention came in the wake of the Jul. 27 coup when mutinous soldiers installed their leader, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, as Niger's new head of state. Even as Tchiani asked for national and international support, fears swelled that the country's political crisis could hinder its fight against jihadists and boost Russia's influence in West Africa.

The coup adds another layer of complexity to the West Africa region that's struggling with military takeovers, Islamic extremism and a shift by some states toward Russia and its proxy, the Wagner mercenary group.

Algeria and Chad, non-ECOWAS neighbors with strong militaries in the region, both have said they oppose the use of force or won't intervene militarily, and neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso - both run by juntas - have said an intervention would be a "declaration of war" against them, too.

Niger's ousted President Mohamed Bazoum said he is held "hostage" by the mutinous soldiers. An ECOWAS delegation was unable to meet with Tchiani, who analysts have asserted led the coup to avoid being fired. Now the junta has reached out to Wagner for assistance while severing security ties with former colonizer France.

Hours before Sunday's deadline, hundreds of youth joined security forces in the darkened streets in Niger's capital, Niamey to stand guard at a dozen roundabouts until morning, checking cars for weapons and heeding the junta's call to watch out for foreign intervention and spies.

"I'm here to support the military. We are against (the regional bloc). We will fight to the end. We do not agree with what France is doing against us. We are done with colonization," said Ibrahim Nudirio, one of the residents on patrol.

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Some passing cars honked in support. Some people called for solidarity among African nations. It was not immediately clear on Sunday what ECOWAS will do next.

The regional bloc shouldn't have given the junta a one-week deadline to reinstate Bazoum but rather only up to 48 hours, said Peter Pham, former U.S. special envoy for West Africa's Sahel region and a distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council. "Now it's dragged out, which gives the junta time to entrench itself," he said.

The most favorable scenario for an intervention would be a force coming in with the help of those on the inside, he said.

The coup is a major blow to the United States and allies who saw Niger as the last major counterterrorism partner in the Sahel, a vast area south of the Sahara Desert where jihadists linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have been expanding their range and beginning to threaten coastal states like Benin, Ghana and Togo.

The United States, France and European countries have poured hundreds of millions of dollars of military assistance into Niger. France has 1,500 soldiers in the country, though their fate is now in question. The U.S. has 1,100 military personnel also in Niger where they operate an important drone base in the city of Agadez.

While Niger's coup leaders have claimed they acted because of growing insecurity, conflict incidents decreased by nearly 40% in the country compared to the previous six-month period, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data project. That's in contrast to surging attacks in Mali, which has kicked out French forces and partnered with Wagner, and Burkina Faso, which has gotten rid of French forces as well.

The uncertainty in Niger is worsening daily life for some 25 million people in one of the world's poorest countries. Food prices are rising after ECOWAS imposed economic and travel sanctions following the coup. Nigeria, which supplies up to 90% of the electricity in Niger, has cut off some of the supply.

Humanitarian groups in Niger have warned of "devastating effects" on the lives of over 4.4 million people needing aid.

Some of Niger's already struggling residents said military intervention is not the answer.

"Just to eat is a problem for us. So if there is a war, that won't fix anything," said Mohamed Noali, a Niamey resident patrolling the streets.

Train derailment kills at least 15, injures 50 in southern Pakistan, officials say

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP) — At least 15 passengers were killed and 50 more injured when a train derailed near the Pakistani town of Nawabshah in southern Sindh province, officials said Sunday.

The Hazara Express was on its way from Karachi to Rawalpindi when 10 cars derailed near the Sarhari railway station off Nawabshah, said senior railway officer Mahmoodur Rehman Lakho. Lakho is in charge of railways in the accident area.

Lakho said rescue crews took injured passengers to the nearby Peoples Hospital in Nawabshah.

Mohsin Sayal, another senior railway officer, said train traffic has been suspended on the main railway line as repair trains have been dispatched to the scene. Sayal said alternative travel arrangements and medical care will be made available for the train's passengers.

Train crashes often occurred on poorly maintained railways tracks in Pakistan where colonial-era communications and signal systems haven't been modernized and safety standards are poor.

Pope announces World Youth Day to return to Asia in 2027, urges young people 'not to be afraid'

NICOLE WINFIELD, BARRY HATTON and HELENA ALVES Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Pope Francis told young people on Sunday the Catholic Church needs them and urged them to follow their dreams as he wrapped up World Youth Day in Portugal with a massive open-air Mass and an announcement that the next edition would be held in Asia for the first time in three decades.

News that Seoul, South Korea would host World Youth Day in 2027 was a reflection of the continent's increasing importance to the Catholic Church, given the church is young and growing there whereas it is withering in traditionally Christian lands in Europe.

Francis made the announcement at the end of a Mass before an estimated 1.5 million pilgrims, many of whom camped out overnight on the Lisbon field so they could be in place for the grand finale of the Catholic festival. Joining them were some 700 bishops and 10,000 priests, the Vatican said.

Francis largely stuck to script Sunday but again skipped much of his prepared homily, continuing the improvisation that has characterized his five-day trip to Portugal to preside over the Lisbon edition of World Youth Day.

Early on in his 10-year papacy, Francis would frequently go rogue and ignore his pre-planned speeches, seemingly moved by the moment to engage directly with even huge crowds of people. In more recent years, he largely stuck to script especially when visiting places where Christians are a minority or where his audiences might not appreciate his informal style.

But in Lisbon, he's been back on comfortable turf, with many people who can easily follow his native Spanish and seem to appreciate his conversational way of communicating. They also seem to appreciate the massive turnout.

"I never thought that so many people would come," said Ana Garcia Prat, a 23-year-old Spanish pilgrim in Lisbon. "In my head, I never pictured a Mass with so many people from so many different countries."

On Sunday, Francis urged the young people to follow their dreams and not be afraid of failing, reprising a theme that St. John Paul II frequently repeated during his quarter century of World Youth Days.

"As young people, you want to change the world and it is good that you want to change the world and work for justice and peace," Francis said. "The Church and the world need you, the young, as much as the earth needs rain."

"Do not be afraid!" he said.

Francis gave a special shout-out to John Paul, recalling that he launched the World Youth Day events in the 1980s to inspire the next generation of Catholics. It was John Paul who presided over one of the largest-ever Youth Day gatherings, in Manila, Philippines in 1995, the last time the festival was held in Asia.

After Francis announced Seoul would host the 2027 edition, South Korean youths bearing a huge national flag jumped on the stage in glee. A half-century ago, Catholics represented about 1 percent of the South Korean population; today they represent 10 percent of the population of 50 million, and Vatican statistics show that more than 100,000 people are baptized every year.

Usually, faith festivals are held in August, the hottest month in South Korea. Even this year, there were calls to cut short a big international scout festival because of excessive heat.

Notably, Francis didn't promise to be in Seoul — he will be 90 in 2027. But he noted there will be an earlier occasion for a youth jamboree in 2025 when the Vatican hosts a Jubilee year expected to draw more than 30 million pilgrims to Rome.

Over the last few days, Francis has ditched speeches in favor of off-the-cuff conversations with young people and substituted a formal prayer for peace in Ukraine at the Fatima shrine, long associated with exhortations of peace and conversion in Russia. The Vatican later published part of the prayer on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

Responding to questions about whether the pope's health is the reason behind his ignored speeches, the Vatican spokesman, Matteo Bruni, said Francis is in good shape and isn't suffering any eyesight problems that might make reading his remarks difficult.

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The young people seemed thrilled with all that he's been saying. They braved a searing temperature of 38 degrees C (100 F) on Saturday to be in place for his evening vigil service.

They woke Sunday as the sun rose over the River Tagus. Many had slept on mats, cots and the bare ground to be in place for Francis' Mass, scheduled for early to avoid midday temperatures that were expected to hit 40 degrees C (104 F). Starting at dawn, a priest-DJ started spinning thumping reggae and Christian hymns from the sound system.

Francis' message this week has been one of inclusivity, insisting that "everyone, everyone, everyone" has a place in the church. That is consistent with his message that the church isn't a place of rigid rules where only the perfect can be let in, but rather a "field hospital" for wounded souls, where all are welcome.

Lisbon Cardinal Manuel Clemente said the pope wanted the event to be "open ... to everyone, showing the breadth of the Gospel, which excludes no one and is open to all."

"It's something really important in today's world to accept us as we are, and to know our place as Christians, and to validate it," said Doriane Kilundu, a 23-year-old pilgrim from the Democratic Republic of Congo. "We really support the message of the pope and we are happy to be here."

Kilundu said the experience of spending the night on the field, with 1.5 million other people of faith, was a first for her and other Congolese pilgrims.

"I'm in the company of young girls from my country that for the first time are confronted with people from other places, and to understand that we are one nation, and for us is beautiful," she said.

Overnight airstrikes kill three in Ukraine as Moscow airport halts flights after foiled drone attack

By The Associated Press undefined

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Three people have died during a night of air strikes and intense shelling across Ukraine, officials said Sunday, while Moscow's second-largest airport briefly suspended flights following a foiled drone attack near the Russian capital.

Two people were killed and four more were injured following a Russian air strike in Ukraine's Kharkiv region, said the head of the local regional military administration, Oleh Syniehubov.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that a guided bomb had hit a blood transfusion center in the area's Kupyan district late on August 5.

"This war crime alone says everything about Russian aggression," Zelenskyy wrote on social media. "Defeating terrorists is a matter of honor for everyone who values life."

A woman in her eighties was also killed by Ukrainian shelling in Russian-held Donetsk, the city's Moscow-appointed mayor Alexei Kulemzin said Sunday. Moscow's Vnukovo airport located 15 kilometers (nine miles) southwest of the Russian capital briefly suspended flights Sunday morning after a drone was shot down in the airspace around the city.

The drone was destroyed by air defense systems in the Podolsk region of the Moscow suburbs, the Russian defense ministry said.

Authorities in Ukraine, which generally avoids commenting on attacks on Russian soil, didn't say whether it launched the raid.

Flights were last halted at the airport on July 30, when two drones crashed into the Moscow City business district after being jammed by Russian air defenses.

The attack was one of four strikes on the Russian capital in the space of a month, spotlighting Moscow's vulnerability as Russia's war in Ukraine drags into its second year.

The attempted drone strike followed a night of heavy clashes across Ukraine. The Ukrainian air force reported Sunday that Russian forces had launched 70 attack drones and air and sea missiles overnight.

The bombardment reportedly included cruise missiles launched from aircraft over the Caspian Sea and Iranian-made Shahed-136/131 strike UAVs.

Serhiy Tyurin, deputy head of Ukraine's Khmelnytsky region military administration, said Sunday that Rus-

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sian missiles had damaged several buildings in the area, injuring one and sparking a fire in a warehouse. IN Ukraine's eastern Kupyan region, a 55-year-old man was hospitalized after missiles struck local houses and farm buildings. The attack also ignited a forest fire, officials said on social media.

In the Russian-held city of Donetsk, Ukrainian shelling also set alight the main building of the M. Tugan-Baranovsky University of Economics and Trade, said the Moscow-installed head of the illegally annexed Donetsk People's Republic, Denis Pushilin.

Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry said that the blaze caused the building's roof to collapse, but that there were no casualties.

Philippine military condemns Chinese coast guard's use of water cannon on its boat in disputed sea

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippine military on Sunday condemned a Chinese coast guard ship's "excessive and offensive" use of a water cannon to block a Filipino supply boat from delivering new troops, food, water and fuel to a Philippine-occupied shoal in the disputed South China Sea.

The tense confrontation on Saturday at the Second Thomas Shoal was the latest flare-up in the long-seething territorial conflicts involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei.

The disputes in the South China Sea, one of the world's busiest sea lanes, have long been regarded as an Asian flashpoint and a delicate fault line in the rivalry between the United States and China in the region. China claims ownership over virtually the entire strategic waterway despite international rulings that invalidated Beijing's vast territorial claims, such as that of 2016 by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, an international body based in The Hague; China rejects that ruling.

Philippine navy personnel on board two chartered supply boats were cruising toward Second Thomas, escorted by Philippine coast guard ships, when a Chinese coast guard ship approached and used a powerful water cannon to block the Filipinos from the shoal that China also claims, according to Philippine military and coast guard officials.

The Chinese ship's action was "in wanton disregard of the safety of the people on board" the Philippine navy-chartered boat and violated international law, including the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, said the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which did not say if any of its sailors were injured.

The "excessive and offensive actions against Philippine vessels" near the shoal prevented one of the two Filipino boats from unloading supplies needed by Filipino troops guarding the shoal onboard a long-marooned Philippine navy ship, the BRP Sierra Madre, the Philippine military said in a statement.

It called on the Chinese coast guard and China's central military commission "to act with prudence and be responsible in their actions to prevent miscalculations and accidents that will endanger people's lives."

Several countries expressed concern over the actions of the Chinese ship.

The United States immediately expressed support to the Philippines and renewed a warning that it's obliged to defend its longtime treaty ally when Filipino public vessels and forces come under an armed attack, including in the South China Sea.

The U.S. State Department said in a statement that "firing water cannons and employing unsafe blocking maneuvers, PRC ships interfered with the Philippines' lawful exercise of high seas freedom of navigation and jeopardized the safety of the Philippine vessels and crew." It used the acronym for the People's Republic of China.

It added that such actions are the latest by the PRC in the South China Sea and are a direct threat to "regional peace and stability."

Australia expressed its concern, describing the actions of the Chinese coast guard ship as "dangerous and destabilizing."

Japan said it supported the Philippines, adding that "the harassment and action, which infringe on lawful activities of the sea and endanger navigational safety," were "totally unacceptable."

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila did not immediately issue any reaction but has filed a large

number of diplomatic protests over increasingly hostile actions by China in recent years. Chinese government officials did not immediately comment on the incident.

China has long demanded that the Philippines withdraw its small contingent of naval forces and tow away the actively commissioned but crumbling BRP Sierra Madre. The navy ship was deliberately marooned on the shoal in 1999 and now serves as a fragile symbol of Manila's territorial claim to the atoll.

Chinese ships had blocked and shadowed navy vessels delivering food and other supplies to the Filipino sailors on the ship in the shoal, which Chinese coast guard ships and a swarm of Chinese fishing boats — suspected to be manned by militias — have surrounded for years.

While the U.S. lays no claims to the South China Sea, it has often lashed out at China's aggressive actions and deployed its warships and fighter jets in patrols and military exercises with regional allies to uphold freedom of navigation and overflight, which it says is in America's national interest.

China has warned the U.S. to stop meddling in what it calls a purely Asian dispute and has warned of unspecified repercussions.

Additionally, Beijing has criticized a recent agreement by the Philippines and the U.S., which are longtime treaty allies, allowing American forces access to additional Filipino military camps under a 2014 defense agreement.

China fears the access will provide Washington with military staging grounds and surveillance outposts in the northern Philippines across the sea from Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its territory, and in Philippine provinces facing the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety.

North Korean leader Kim tours weapons factories and vows to boost war readiness in face of tensions

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un toured the country's key weapons factories, including those producing artillery systems and launch vehicles for nuclear-capable ballistic missiles, and pledged to speed up efforts to advance his military's arms and war readiness, state media said Sunday.

Kim's three-day inspections through Saturday came as the United States and South Korea prepared for their next round of combined military exercises planned for later this month to counter the growing North Korean threat.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest level in years as the pace of North Korea's missile tests and the joint U.S.-South Korea military drills, which Kim portrays as invasion rehearsals, have both intensified in a tit-for-tat cycle.

Some experts say Kim's tour of the weapons factories could also be related to possible military cooperation with Moscow that may involve North Korean supplies of artillery and other ammunition as Russian President Vladimir Putin reaches out to other countries for support in the war in Ukraine.

During a visit to an unspecified factory producing large-caliber artillery systems, Kim stressed the facility's "important responsibility and duty" in further boosting his military's "war preparations," North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said.

Kim praised the factory's efforts to employ "scientific and technological measures" to improve the quality of shells, reduce processing times for propellant tubes and increase manufacturing speed. He also urged the factory to move ahead with development and large-scale production of new kinds of ammunition, the KCNA said.

Kim echoed the message in visits to two other factories, calling the delivery of launcher trucks designed to transport and fire ballistic missiles "a top priority" for the military and urging for the "rapid expansion" of production of more reliable engines for cruise missiles and drones.

North Korean photos showed Kim walking past huge launcher trucks designed for intercontinental ballistic missiles which recent tests indicated they could potentially reach the U.S. mainland. Other photos showed Kim firing scoped rifles during a visit to a small arms factory where he said soldiers' firearms need to be modernized, according to KCNA.

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In the face of deepening confrontations with Washington and Seoul, Kim has been trying to boost the visibility of his partnerships with Moscow and Beijing as he tries to break out of diplomatic isolation and insert himself into a united front against the United States.

His tour of the weapons factories comes after a giant military parade last month in North Korea's capital, Pyongyang, where Kim was joined by Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and a Chinese ruling party official while rolling out his most powerful missiles designed to target South Korea and the United States.

Shoigu's presence at the July 27 parade, which came after Kim took him on a tour of a domestic arms exhibition, demonstrated North Korea's support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine and added to suspicions the North was willing to supply arms to Russia to support its war efforts.

Cheong Seong Chang, an analyst at South Korea's Sejong Institute, said Kim's visits to the factories likely had a dual goal of encouraging the modernization of domestically produced weapons and examining artillery and other supplies that can possibly be exported to Russia.

Kim's comments at the artillery factory about improving the quality of shells and the need to develop new types of ammunition, which he described as key to the country's "national defense economic work," clearly communicate an intent for exports to Russia, Cheong said.

North Korea has been aligning with Russia over the war in Ukraine, insisting that the "hegemonic policy" of the U.S.-led West forced Moscow to take military action to protect its security interests. But Pyongyang has denied U.S. accusations that it has been providing arms to Russia to aid its fighting in Ukraine.

Cheong said Kim's comments at the factory about making missile-launch trucks could indicate that the North is seeing some progress in increasing the production of those vehicles, which would possibly improve the operational range of its ballistic weapons designed to target neighboring rivals and the U.S. mainland.

Crammed with tourists, Alaska's capital wonders what will happen as its magnificent glacier recedes

By BECKY BOHRER Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Thousands of tourists spill onto a boardwalk in Alaska's capital city every day from cruise ships towering over downtown. Vendors hawk shoreside trips and rows of buses stand ready to whisk visitors away, with many headed for the area's crown jewel: the Mendenhall Glacier.

A craggy expanse of gray, white and blue, the glacier gets swarmed by sightseeing helicopters and attracts visitors by kayak, canoe and foot. So many come to see the glacier and Juneau's other wonders that the city's immediate concern is how to manage them all as a record number are expected this year. Some residents flee to quieter places during the summer, and a deal between the city and cruise industry will limit how many ships arrive next year.

But climate change is melting the Mendenhall Glacier. It is receding so quickly that by 2050, it might no longer be visible from the visitor center it once loomed outside.

That's prompted another question Juneau is only now starting to contemplate: What happens then?

"We need to be thinking about our glaciers and the ability to view glaciers as they recede," said Alexandra Pierce, the city's tourism manager. There also needs to be a focus on reducing environmental impacts, she said. "People come to Alaska to see what they consider to be a pristine environment and it's our responsibility to preserve that for residents and visitors."

The glacier pours from rocky terrain between mountains into a lake dotted by stray icebergs. Its face retreated eight football fields between 2007 and 2021, according to estimates from University of Alaska Southeast researchers. Trail markers memorialize the glacier's backward march, showing where the ice once stood. Thickets of vegetation have grown in its wake.

While massive chunks have broken off, most ice loss has come from the thinning due to warming temperatures, said Eran Hood, a University of Alaska Southeast professor of environmental science. The Mendenhall has now largely receded from the lake that bears its name.

Scientists are trying to understand what the changes might mean for the ecosystem, including salmon habitat.

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There are uncertainties for tourism, too.

Most people enjoy the glacier from trails across Mendenhall Lake near the visitor center. Caves of dizzying blues that drew crowds several years ago have collapsed and pools of water now stand where one could once step from the rocks onto the ice.

Manoj Pillai, a cruise ship worker from India, took pictures from a popular overlook on a recent day off. "If the glacier is so beautiful now, how would it be, like, 10 or 20 years before? I just imagine that," he said.

Officials with the Tongass National Forest, under which the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area falls, are bracing for more visitors over the next 30 years even as they contemplate a future when the glacier slips from casual view.

The agency is proposing new trails and parking areas, an additional visitor center and public use cabins at a lakeside campground. Researchers do not expect the glacier to disappear completely for at least a century.

"We did talk about, 'Is it worth the investment in the facilities if the glacier does go out of sight?'" said Tristan Fluharty, the forest's Juneau district ranger. "Would we still get the same amount of visitation?"

A thundering waterfall that is a popular place for selfies, salmon runs, black bears and trails could continue attracting tourists when the glacier is not visible from the visitor center, but "the glacier is the big draw," he said.

Around 700,000 people are expected to visit this year, with about 1 million projected by 2050.

Other sites offer a cautionary tale. Annual visitation peaked in the 1990s at around 400,000 to the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center, southeast of Anchorage, with the Portage Glacier serving as a draw. But now, on clear days, a sliver of the glacier remains visible from the center, which was visited by about 30,000 people last year, said Brandon Raile, a spokesperson with the Chugach National Forest, which manages the site. Officials are discussing the center's future, he said.

"Where do we go with the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center?" Raile said. "How do we keep it relevant as we go forward when the original reason for it being put there is not really relevant anymore?"

At the Mendenhall, rangers talk to visitors about climate change. They aim to "inspire wonder and awe but also to inspire hope and action," said Laura Buchheit, the forest's Juneau deputy district ranger.

After pandemic-stunted seasons, about 1.6 million cruise passengers are expected in Juneau this year, during a season stretching from April through October.

The city, nestled in a rainforest, is one stop on what are generally week-long cruises to Alaska beginning in Seattle or Vancouver, British Columbia. Tourists can leave the docks and move up the side of a mountain in minutes via a popular tram, see bald eagles perch on light posts and enjoy a vibrant Alaska Native arts community.

On the busiest days, about 20,000 people, equal to two-thirds of the city's population, pour from the boats.

City leaders and major cruise lines agreed to a daily five-ship limit for next year. But critics worry that won't ease congestion if the vessels keep getting bigger. Some residents would like one day a week without ships. As many as seven ships a day have arrived this year.

Juneau Tours and Whale Watch is one of about two dozen companies with permits for services like transportation or guiding at the glacier. Serene Hutchinson, the company's general manager, said demand has been so high that she neared her allotment halfway through the season. Shuttle service to the glacier had to be suspended, but her business still offers limited tours that include the glacier, she said.

Other bus operators are reaching their limits, and tourism officials are encouraging visitors to see other sites or get to the glacier by different means.

Limits on visitation can benefit tour companies by improving the experience rather than having tourists "shoehorned" at the glacier, said Hutchinson, who doesn't worry about Juneau losing its luster as the glacier recedes.

"Alaska does the work for us, right?" she said. "All we have to do is just kind of get out of the way and

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let people look around and smell and breathe.”

Pierce, Juneau’s tourism manager, said discussions are just beginning around what a sustainable south-east Alaska tourism industry should look like.

In Sitka, home to a slumbering volcano, the number of cruise passengers on a day earlier this summer exceeded the town’s population of 8,400, overwhelming businesses, dragging down internet speeds and prompting officials to question how much tourism is too much.

Juneau plans to conduct a survey that could guide future growth, such as building trails for tourism companies.

Kerry Kirkpatrick, a Juneau resident of nearly 30 years, recalls when the Mendenhall’s face was “long across the water and high above our heads.” She called the glacier a national treasure for its accessibility and noted an irony in carbon-emitting helicopters and cruise ships chasing a melting glacier. She worries the current level of tourism isn’t sustainable.

As the Mendenhall recedes, plants and animals will need time to adjust, she said.

So will humans.

“There’s too many people on the planet wanting to do the same things,” Kirkpatrick said. “You don’t want to be the person who closes the door and says, you know, ‘I’m the last one in and you can’t come in.’ But we do have to have the ability to say, ‘No, no more.’”

6 months after a devastating earthquake, Turkey’s preparedness is still uncertain

By ROBERT BADENDIECK Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — Dust and rubble fill the street as an excavator tears off chunks of concrete from an old apartment building. Bystanders and former residents watch from afar as construction equipment tears down the structure. Among the bystanders is Ibrahim Ozaydin, 30, a former resident. He watches the demolition not with worry, but with relief, as his building was marked by officials as unsafe months ago.

Ozaydin and his family were shocked to learn that the municipality deemed his building uninhabitable. “We decided to build our own house,” he told The Associated Press as he watched his former home being torn down. “Instead of living in a poorly built house, let us take our own precautions.”

The sight of construction vehicles demolishing buildings became engrained in Turkish minds six months ago today, after a devastating 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Kahramanmaraş and 10 other provinces in southern Turkey on the morning of Feb. 6.

Over 50,000 people died, and hundreds of thousands were left homeless, sheltering in tents and other temporary accommodation. The International Labor Organization estimates that some 658,000 people were left jobless. As for the material cost, some 300,000 buildings were damaged. Survivors needed to be rescued, rubble to be cleared and buildings on the verge of collapse torn down.

Yet this latest demolition is taking place in Istanbul, Turkey’s largest metropolis, far away from the earthquake zone. This time the building wasn’t torn down as part of search-and-rescue efforts, but to prevent such harrowing scenes in the future.

The building was occupied only by Ozaydin and his extended family, who also owned a shop on the ground floor. The family managed to relocate their shop and build a new, sturdier house at a different location, but theirs is an exceptional story in a city where hundreds of thousands of buildings are at risk and property prices are soaring.

Istanbul lies atop a major fault line, one which experts warn could break at any moment. In a bid to prevent damage from any future quake, both the national government and local administrations are racing against time to alleviate the pain of the February quake while also preparing their cities for potential disasters in the future.

However, even preparedness can fall victim to political rivalry: the authorities in opposition-held Istanbul municipality and the national government in Ankara cannot agree on the exact number of buildings at risk of crumbling in the event of an earthquake. But both put the figure at hundreds of thousands.

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After the February tragedy, the Istanbul municipality headed by Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, a prominent figure in the opposition to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, earmarked for demolition 318 buildings housing over 10,000 people.

Bugra Gokce, an official with the Istanbul municipality overseeing the demolition, said, "We are identifying buildings at risk of collapse and fortifying others, all to reduce the potential loss of life."

During a heated election campaign right before his re-election to a third decade in power, Erdogan pledged to construct 319,000 new homes within the year. He attended many groundbreaking ceremonies as he persuaded voters that only he could rebuild lives and businesses.

"It's easy to say, 'we are building this many square meters atop a hill' or '5,000 residences are being built somewhere,'" adds Gokce, in an apparent jab at the national government's urban transformation programs. "We are also doing that. But if you're not also reducing the risk to existing buildings in the city, it is nothing more than urban expansion."

Both experts and Erdogan critics argue that the sheer scale of February's destruction was due to the president's weak enforcement of building codes amidst a construction boom that helped drive economic growth.

Ankara launched several programs aimed at inspecting damaged buildings both in and outside the 11 provinces hit by the earthquake. Meanwhile victims have been offered both financial aid and a chance to resettle in public housing projects built by the Housing Development Administration of Turkey, or TOKI.

Although many promises were made by both the ruling party and the opposition in the leadup to the elections in May, those still in the earthquake-affected provinces are demanding faster action.

Lawyer Mehmet Ali Gumus in Hatay province, one of the worst hit by the earthquake, told The Associated Press that people were starting to lose hope. He said there were no signs of reconstruction in Hatay, and that the emergency shelter situation in Antakya, Hatay's most populated city, was deteriorating by the day.

People are living in metal shipping containers and tents in sweltering heat that can reach up to 42 degrees Celsius (107 Fahrenheit) without any access to air conditioning. Residents must also contend with flies, snakes and other wildlife while living outdoors, according to Gumus.

Another health risk is the rubble from collapsed buildings, which is being dumped on farmland, shores, and even right outside encampments where survivors are staying. "Everyone around me says that we survived the earthquake, but they'll be dealing with cancer in 5-10 years because of the asbestos (from the rubble)," adds Gumus.

In a social media post on July 15, the Hatay governor's office stated that levels of asbestos in the rubble are safe and below the "regulatory limit." Results showing low amount of asbestos taken from samples collected in debris dumping grounds were also posted.

While Hatay residents deal with the elements and other environmental hazards, their future remains uncertain.

"There were concrete statements before the elections, but afterwards we stopped hearing anything concrete," continues Gumus, claiming that the government has not committed to securing new houses for victims or even to fortifying their existing residences. "Six months after the disaster we should be talking about newly built residences, not lines of people waiting for water," he adds.

Another Hatay resident, Bestami Coskuner, was leaving for the western province of Izmir because of the power cuts and water shortages in his hometown.

"Tap water is not potable, but people use it to wash. Pipes burst daily, and power is cut two or three times a day," Coskuner told The Associated Press. He said water was rationed, and some who drank from the tap came down with serious illnesses.

"You can't easily drink water. In a place where you can't easily drink water, how are you going to make any decisions? Even bottled water tastes bad in Hatay," he added.

Victims of the earthquake have already had to deal with the aftermath of a disaster, the worst cost of living crisis in decades, and a highly polarizing election. They'll have only had a brief break from politics as Turkey heads to hotly contested municipal elections in March. Erdogan, fresh off his victory in national

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Pam Stevens, who lost her 44-year-old son Adam to a drug overdose, lives a block from the Women's Health Center. She believes the program will unintendedly enable those who are addicted.

At a recent public hearing, she called the idea to locate a syringe service program at the long-time abortion clinic "an abomination."

"Let the Women's Health Center do what it's supposed to do: provide quality health care to women, not drug addicts needing needles," Stevens said.

Danni Dineen, who contracted hepatitis C from intravenous drug use, said a syringe service program she attended in the throes of her addiction was about more than getting access to needles. Addictions specialists built up a trust and rapport with her, and ultimately helped get her into treatment.

Without syringe service, "I honestly and truthfully do not believe that I'd be standing here before you today," said Dineen, a coordinator for city-run services for people struggling with substance use, mental health disorders and homelessness.

Syringe service programs operate by allowing people to exchange dirty syringes used to inject drugs for clean, sterile ones. They are CDC-recommended methods to curb the spread of infection and typically offer a range of services, including referrals to counseling and substance use disorder treatment.

Such programs exist nationwide, but they are not without critics, who say they don't do enough to prevent drug use. That's despite CDC research showing people with syringe service are more likely to recover.

West Virginia Health Right in Charleston offers a syringe service, but it is only a small component of the organization's services, which target underinsured populations. In 2022, for every 100 syringes given out by a program in the slightly smaller city of Morgantown, home to the state's flagship university, Health Right gave out fewer than one, according to state-collected data.

West Virginia Republican Gov. Jim Justice signed a law in 2021 requiring syringe providers to be licensed with the state and recipients to show proof of residency and return each needle after use.

The Charleston City Council followed with an ordinance requiring programs to collect at least 90% of the syringes distributed. Exchange programs violating the restrictions can be charged with a misdemeanor criminal offense, adding fines of \$500 to \$1,000 per offense. The programs also must be approved by the council and county commission.

The Women's Health Center is on Charleston's west side, an area that historically has seen the city's highest percentage of emergency overdose calls.

In the year since the abortion prohibition, executive director Katie Quinonez spearheaded the launch of the Women's Health Center of Maryland, a sister clinic directly across the state border. Charleston providers can refer people to the Maryland clinic and cover the procedure cost using its abortion fund.

Quinonez's staff looked to other areas where they could leverage their medical resources in West Virginia: "Looking at the data, harm reduction was at the top of the list."

Both practices "respect that people are the experts of what they need and what's best for their life, that the patient and their body is the most qualified clinician in the exam room," Quinonez said.

The program would operate under restrictions outlined in state and city code, but with some provisions attempting to make it more accessible, like allowing people without state-issued IDs to use letters from homeless shelters or rehab.

But some feel one program is more than enough, and the Women's Health Center is the last place they want to see another.

Phil Chatting, who described himself as a long-term volunteer at the anti-abortion crisis pregnancy center next to the Women's Health Center, said he believes the program would pose a danger to families going there for resources.

"Are we more interested in providing assistance to drug users than we are in protecting innocent bystanders?" said Chatting, who is listed as the center's principal officer in December 2022 nonprofit filings. "That user at some point in their life made a choice to willfully use a drug, as opposed to that mother who is simply attempting to provide for her family."

Anti-abortion sentiment, and the beliefs underlying it, are still prevalent, said Iris Sidikman, the Women's

Health Center harm reduction coordinator. During months of canvassing the neighborhood to discuss the proposal, one resident asked: "So, your clinic's going to be handing out needles and abortions?"

"That kind of comment shows to me that folks who didn't respect the abortion work that we are doing also don't respect the harm reduction work that we're doing," Sidikman said.

Ukrainians move to North Dakota for oil field jobs to help families facing war back home

By JACK DURA Associated Press

DICKINSON, N.D. (AP) — Maksym Bunchukov remembers hearing rockets explode in Zaporizhzhia as the war in Ukraine began.

"It was terrible," he said. He and his wife sent their adult daughter west to Lviv for safety and joined her later with their pets.

Now, about 18 months after the war broke out, Bunchukov is in North Dakota, like thousands of Ukrainians who came over a century ago.

He is one of 16 new arrivals who are part of a trade group's pilot effort through the Uniting for Ukraine humanitarian program to recruit refugees and migrants during a workforce shortage. Twelve more Ukrainians are scheduled to arrive by Aug. 15 as part of the North Dakota Petroleum Council's Bakken Global Recruitment of Oilfield Workers program.

Some workers want to bring their families to North Dakota while others hope to return to Ukraine.

"I will try to invite my wife, invite my daughter, invite my cat and invite my dog," Bunchukov told The Associated Press a week after his arrival.

The Bakken program has humanitarian and workforce missions, said Project Manager Brent Sanford, a former lieutenant governor who watched the Bakken oil rush unfold during his time as mayor of boomtown Watford City from 2010 to 2016.

The oil boom initially was met by an "organic workforce" of western North Dakotans with experience in oil field jobs elsewhere, but as the economy reeled from the Great Recession, thousands of people flocked to the Bakken oil field from other states and even other countries to fill high-wage jobs, Sanford said.

Technological advances for combining horizontal drilling and fracking — injecting high-pressure mixtures of water, sand and chemicals into rocks — made capturing the oil locked deep underground possible.

"People came by planes, trains and automobiles, every way possible from everywhere for the opportunity for work," Council President Ron Ness said. "They were upside down on their mortgage, their life or whatever, and they could reset in North Dakota."

But the 2015 downturn, coronavirus pandemic and other recent shocks probably led workers back to their home states, especially if moving meant returning to warmer and bigger cities, Sanford said. Workforce issues have become "very acute" in the last 10 months, Ness said.

Ness estimated there are roughly 2,500 jobs available in an oil field producing about 1.1 million barrels per day. Employers don't advertise for every individual job opening, but post once or twice for many open positions, he said.

An immigration law firm told Ness that Uniting for Ukraine would fit well for North Dakota given its Ukrainian heritage, similar climate and agrarian people, he said.

The program's sponsors, including company owners, managers and employees, agree to help Ukrainians find work, health care, schools for their children and safe and affordable housing.

About 160 Ukrainians have arrived in North Dakota, the majority in Bismarck, as part of Uniting for Ukraine, according to State Refugee Coordinator Holly Triska-Dally.

Applications from prospective sponsors from around the state have "gone up considerably" in recent months, likely due to more awareness but also Ukrainians who are "working and beginning to thrive" and filing to support their family, she said.

The two dozen or so Ukrainians might not seem like many arrivals on national or statewide scales, but they will make a significant difference for cities like Minot and Dickinson. The cities haven't traditionally

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been major resettlement hubs, but now "there's a strong likelihood" the workers' families will join them, adding to the economy and schools, Triska-Dally said.

Bunchukov, who had jobs in mechanics and furniture sales in Ukraine, works for road contractor Baranko Bros. Inc. He and other new arrivals have experience in Alaska's seafood industry. Others have worked on cruise ships or held different seasonal jobs. Because of those jobs, many workers already hold Social Security numbers and have studied English, Sanford said.

Dmytro Haiman, who said his English skills steered him toward the Bakken program, recalled sheltering with relatives in his grandmother's cellar as the war began and bombs fell on his hometown, Chernihiv. In the first months of the war he drove people west to safety and brought canned food, medicine and even generators to Chernihiv amid supply shortages.

He told the AP he expected to work in water transportation and hopes to earn enough money to help his family, "to help us to rebuild our country."

The Bakken program aims to recruit 100 workers by the end of 2023, and 400 after one year. Those 400 may not all be Ukrainians. Some will drive, start in shops or build roads, pads and fences, "everything from there up to well site operations," Ness said.

The workers will start in construction and other basic jobs starting at \$20 an hour and can rise quickly. They also can leave their jobs or the state while they're in the Uniting for Ukraine program, which grants "humanitarian parole" lasting two years with a goal of a longer path beyond, but that depends on the federal government, Sanford said.

Four translators help workers with forms, training and community acclimation, Sanford said. One employer has rented eight apartments for workers, while others are in extended-stay hotels until they can find apartments.

Glenn Baranko, president of the contractor building paths to drilling rigs and providing environmental services in the oil field, planned to assign jobs to five initial workers based on their skillsets.

The labor shortage led his company to hire a full-time recruiter, "but there's still a need," said Baranko, whose great-grandfather came to the area from Ukraine.

At a recent lunch for several workers hosted by the Ukrainian Cultural Institute in Dickinson, the new arrivals crowded around a map to point out their hometowns. The cooks laid out dishes of rice rolls, beet bread, deviled eggs and filled dumplings called perogies.

The institute preserves the area's Ukrainian heritage and has raised more than \$10,000 for humanitarian aid since the war began in February 2022, institute Executive Director Kate Kessel said.

Mannequins wearing traditional garb, displays of decorated eggs and a Ukrainian library fill the institute's space. A large banner bearing "Peace to Ukraine" stood over the people eating lunch at tables.

Ivan Sakivskyi, who works for Baranko, said he looks forward to opportunities for promotion, such as driving heavy equipment, and gaining new experience.

Though he doesn't plan to live long-term in the U.S., Sakivskyi said he would like to return for work after visiting loved ones in his home country.

"My heart and my soul" are in Ukraine. "It's my friends," the Odesa native said. "It's my family."

Simone Biles dazzles in her return from a 2-year layoff to dominate the US Classic

By WILL GRAVES AP National Writer

HOFFMAN ESTATES, Ill. (AP) — Simone Biles spent two years trying to distance herself from those strange days in Tokyo and all the outside noise that came along with it.

She dove into therapy and slowly — very slowly — returned to training even though she wavered on whether she was really up for a third Olympics and all of the pressure and expectations that come with it when you're considered the greatest of all time.

It wasn't until mid-spring that she committed to training seriously after talking about it over margaritas

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with her coaches. It wasn't until late June that she committed to Saturday night's U.S. Classic. And it wasn't until she stepped onto the podium and heard the shrieks of support and the sea of handmade signs that the noise she'd been grappling with for 732 days finally fell silent.

She was back in her safe space. Back in front of a crowd. Back in control. Back to being the Simone Biles — albeit a more mature, married, 26-year-old version — who has spent a decade redefining her sport.

Confidence growing with every rotation, Biles soared to victory in her first meet since the Tokyo Games. Her all-around score of 59.100 was five points better than runner-up Leann Wong. And made all the more remarkable by the fact she didn't really pour herself into preparing until after her wedding to Green Bay Packers safety Jonathan Owens in late April.

"I feel really good about where I am right now, mentally and physically," Biles said. "I still think there are some things to work on in my routines, but for the first meet back, I would say it went pretty well. I'm very shocked. Surprised."

She posted the best score on three of four events, turning what is typically a tune-up meet for the U.S. Championships into a showcase that she remains — when she's at or near her best — a singular force in her sport.

The only time she seemed out of place at the NOW Arena was when she was introduced. She scrambled from one side of the floor to the other, unsure of where she was supposed to go.

The moment passed. Minutes later she raised her hands and saluted the judges. Then it was the same as it ever was for the most decorated female gymnast in history.

Rocking a black-and-white bedazzled leotard and a silicone wedding band she bought from Amazon to wear while she competes, Biles electrified a packed house that roared with every spin, every flip, and yes, twist.

While she admitted she is still a little nervous while doing the twisting elements in her routines, she certainly looked comfortable during two hours that offered a taste of what could come in the run-up to Paris next summer.

Wearing No. 231 and sporting — at least before she began competing — a necklace bearing "Owens" in tribute to her husband, she seemed equal parts relaxed and energized.

She began on uneven bars, not far from a sign featuring a goat (a symbol for "Greatest of All Time") that read "Simone Freaking Biles." She wasn't perfect, nearly stalling near the end of her routine. She muscled up and stayed on and when she hit her dismount, she cut her eyes off to the side as if to say "sheesh."

Her score of 14.000 was the third best of the competition and a signal of things to come. She was as solid and steady as ever on balance beam, where she won a bronze in Tokyo after a week of uncertainty, a medal she's described as one of the sweetest of her career.

While never officially closed the door on Paris, at one point she was convinced her career was over. She's spent most of the last 24 months preparing for her wedding and planning the rest of her life.

Still, the lure of the gym tugged at her, though she's taking a more muted approach to her comeback than in 2018 or in the run-up to Tokyo in 2021.

At the moment, she's letting her gymnastics do most of the talking. And it spoke loud and clear.

She was dynamic on floor exercise, where her tumbling passes have long been showstoppers. While she and her coaches have tweaked her routines a bit to better take advantage of the sport's updated Code of Points, she still does some of the most challenging gymnastics in the sport typically with seemingly effortless ease.

Biles kept all three of her tumbling passes on the floor inbounds, something that was a problem at times in 2021. Her score of 14.900 included a start value of 6.8, a massive amount of difficult. No other athlete, many of whom grew up idolizing her, had a start value higher than 5.9.

She finished with a Yurchenko double-pike vault, a roundoff onto the table followed by two back flips with her hands clasped behind her knees. It's a vault she toyed with in 2021 hoping to pull off in Tokyo.

It never happened. It still might in Paris. She hopped a little bit after landing as the arena exploded, her 15.400 more than a full point better than any of the other 30+ athletes managed.

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The Classic is considered a warm-up of sorts. The U.S. Championships are later this month, with the world championships coming in October and the Olympics less than a year out.

She's trying not to get too far ahead. Making it a point to enjoy what she called the "little wins."

"I knew I could come back and hopefully have a shot," she said. "It's just about really taking care of my body right now. So that's what we're to. It's working."

There is plenty of time to refine things. To expand. To build. Biles' all-around score Saturday was higher than what she posted at the same meet in 2018. What followed back then was two years of historic dominance.

More may be on the way.

Hiroshima mayor calls nuclear deterrence 'folly' as city marks 78th anniversary of atomic bombing

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Hiroshima officials criticized growing support for nuclear weapons as a deterrent resulting from uneasiness over Russia's war in Ukraine and tensions in the Koreas, commenting Sunday as the city remembered the atomic bombing of 78 years ago.

The observance came two months after Hiroshima hosted a summit of the Group of 7 major industrial nations, at which G7 leaders visited the city's peace park and a museum dedicated to those who died in the world's first atomic attack.

The leaders issued a joint statement calling for the continued non-use of nuclear weapons, but they also justified having such arms to "serve defensive purposes, deter aggression and prevent war and coercion."

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui rejected that position in his peace address at the commemoration.

"Leaders around the world must confront the reality that nuclear threats now being voiced by certain policymakers reveal the folly of nuclear deterrence theory," he said. "They must immediately take concrete steps to lead us from the dangerous present toward our ideal world."

Hiroshima Gov. Hidehiko Yuzai questioned the growing calls for reinforced nuclear deterrence around the world, including in Japan, since Russia invaded Ukraine and warned of possible nuclear weapons use, while North Korea advances its missile and nuclear development.

"Believers of proactive nuclear deterrence, who say nuclear weapons are indispensable to maintain peace, are only delaying the progress toward nuclear disarmament," Yuzai said.

The atomic bomb dropped by the United States on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, destroyed the city, killing 140,000 people, and a second bomb dropped three days later on Nagasaki killed an additional 70,000. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, ending World War II and Japan's nearly half century of aggression in Asia.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who represents Hiroshima in parliament, has sought to highlight the G7 commitment to nuclear disarmament and a condemnation of Russia's threats to use atomic weapons. But he has been faulted by survivors for refusing to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon.

Arguing the pact is unworkable because no nuclear-armed state has signed, Kishida has pledged to serve as a bridge between nuclear and non-nuclear states and work for nuclear disarmament. His critics say it is a hollow promise because Japan relies on the U.S. nuclear umbrella for protection and has been rapidly expanding its military.

Japan, the United States and South Korea are stepping up security cooperation in response to a more assertive China and the growing nuclear and missile threats from North Korea. Washington and Seoul have agreed to strengthen their nuclear deterrence cooperation, and Japan also wants stronger protection by U.S. nuclear weapons.

Kishida, who also attended Sunday's ceremony, said the path toward a nuclear-free world has grown tougher because of rising tensions and conflicts. "But the situation makes it even more important for the world to regain the momentum," he said.

People at the ceremony observed a moment of silence with the sound of a peace bell at 8:15 a.m., the time when a U.S. B-29 dropped the bomb on the city. Hundreds of white doves, considered symbols of

elections last May, has vowed to take back the metropolitan cities he lost in 2019.

One of Erdogan's campaign strategies had been a focus on providing housing and aid in the earthquake regions. The government made sure to provide amenities, shelter, and financial aid for earthquake victims.

His perceived support for the victims was one of the factors that enabled Erdogan's party to hold on to power in most of the provinces hit by the earthquake, despite accusations of being responsible for the devastation with his lax enforcement of building codes and the perception of poor emergency response by the government.

Experts like professor Naci Gorur, a geologist and member of the Science Academy, have been warning of a potential earthquake in Istanbul and other provinces for years. He told the Associated Press that the "steps taken were far outweighed by those not taken," and that Istanbul is not ready for a potential earthquake with the current state of structures and building codes.

Gorur described the soil in the affected regions as causing buildings to "resonate," making it even more difficult for such structures to stay intact during earthquakes. The quake occurred in a seismically active area known as the East Anatolian fault zone, which has produced damaging earthquakes in the past, such as the 7.4 magnitude quake near Istanbul in 1999, in which an estimated 18,000 people died.

"We could have prepared the whole of Turkey for an earthquake, not just Istanbul, if we had started working with the ministry to make our at-risk provinces earthquake-resistant. If we had distanced ourselves from politics, if policies were not left to the whims of new administrations, and if there had been a serious budget and determination," said Gorur.

"I have no doubts as to government's good intentions, but if you are going to do something, do it properly. You don't rush things like these," he said, adding that instead of rushing permanent buildings, the government should have focused on maintaining temporary residences while conducting proper studies for the building of permanent structures which comply with "scientific principles."

As clinics pivot post-Roe, battle rages over syringe service in opioid-ravaged West Virginia

By LEAH WILLINGHAM Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Staff at Women's Health Center of West Virginia know what it's like to provide controversial health services that government officials have sought to ban or restrict.

The Charleston clinic was the state's only abortion provider for years until the state Legislature passed a near-total ban on the procedure last year. The clinic remained open, providing other reproductive care. Now it's trying to open a syringe service program for drug users, which is another contentious health service that has been regulated by Republican lawmakers in the deep red state.

The proposal, which is scheduled to go before Charleston City Council for a pivotal vote Monday, comes as abortion providers across the country are pivoting or expanding services post-Roe, often to other hard-to-access care for marginalized communities they say face stigma and barriers similar to abortion patients.

Some, like the Women's Health Center of West Virginia, have added gender-affirming services for transgender adults, like hormone therapy. Additionally, the West Virginia clinic and another in Oklahoma are incorporating harm reduction services, which work to mitigate co-occurring health impacts of intravenous drug use such as HIV.

The Charleston clinic already offers wound care, substance use disorder treatment referrals and opioid-overdose reversal drug training. But it faces an uphill battle in syringe service for West Virginia, the U.S. state with the highest rate of opioid overdoses. In 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared Charleston, the state capital, the scene of the country's "most concerning HIV outbreak" due to intravenous drug use.

Almost everyone in West Virginia has been impacted by addiction and loss in some way, and many people have firmly-held beliefs about the best way to treat addiction and those suffering from it, beliefs that often conflict despite shared experience.

peace, were released.

Many survivors of the bombings have lasting injuries and illnesses resulting from the explosions and radiation exposure and face discrimination in Japan.

As of March, 113,649 survivors, whose average age is now 85, are certified as eligible for government medical support, according to the Health and Welfare Ministry. But many others, including those who say they were victims of the "black rain" that fell outside the initially designated areas, are still without support.

The mayor urged Kishida's government to provide stronger support and address their wishes.

Aging survivors, known in Japan as hibakusha, continue to push for a nuclear arms ban and hope to persuade younger generations to join the movement. A group led by a number of young supporters, including those from Hiroshima, is seeking to have Japan's government sign the nuclear weapons ban treaty by 2030.

Rosenwald Schools helped educate Black students in segregated South. Could a national park follow?

By JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

ST. GEORGE, S.C. (AP) — As Ralph James settled into the restored, highbacked desk at the segregated school he attended in rural South Carolina, he remembered the old school bell, the cascading light through tall windows, the Christmas pageant and the basketball court just outside.

It was in schools like this one, and nearly 5,000 others built in the American South a century ago, that Black students largely ignored by whites in power gained an educational foundation through the generosity of a Jewish businessman who could soon be memorialized with a national park.

They are now called Rosenwald Schools in honor of Julius Rosenwald, a part-owner and eventual president of Sears, Roebuck and Co., who teamed up with African American educator and leader Booker T. Washington to create the program to share the expenses of schools for Black children with the community.

It was nothing short of revolutionary in a segregated place like South Carolina, where governments spent pennies to teach Black children and dollars on white students.

"Education has always been the key to success. Julius Rosenwald gave us that key," James said.

The 76-year-old retired municipal judge has made it his life's goal to restore his old school. In the past decade, James has secured more than \$2 million in grants, money from the state and gifts from corporations and others.

The payoff is near. South Carolina's governor is scheduled to visit the renovated Rosenwald School in St. George on Tuesday as it hosts a meeting for electric cooperatives. A grand opening is planned for September.

A nationwide movement is underway to tell the Rosenwald Schools story to more people. After a request from Congress, the National Park Service is studying how to create a national park to honor Rosenwald. A visitors center about his life would be in Chicago and the project may also include about five schools across the 15 Southern states that were home to the buildings.

Rosenwald gave \$20 million to his foundation to build schools and \$4 million more to other African American education and welfare causes. That would be worth about \$440 million today.

It was still less than half of the money Rosenwald donated in his life to other causes including Jewish charities, hospital construction, scientific research and war relief, according to a report from The Campaign To Create a Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park.

Rosenwald was the son of Jewish immigrants from Germany and saw in African Americans a chance to help another oppressed group willing to invest what little it could in its own future, said Dorothy Canter, a former Environmental Protection Agency scientist leading the national park effort. Canter was inspired to get involved after seeing a 2015 documentary on Rosenwald.

The Jewish community often saw in the Black community the same kind of violent repression they suffered in Europe, she said.

The Rosenwald Schools story is crucial to the modern success of the United States, and showing how different groups working together to create a better society when those in power did not want to help is

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an important lesson, Canter said.

"Where would the Civil Rights movement be? Where would John Lewis, Medgar Evers or Maya Angelou have gotten their education?" she said.

Education for Black children was an afterthought in the South in the generations after the end of slavery. More than 51% of South Carolina's population were classified as "negro" in the 1920 census. But in 1927, the state spent \$14.9 million on white students and \$1.7 million on Black students, according to the education superintendent's annual report to the Legislature.

The Rosenwald Fund helped build 481 schools in South Carolina. Only North Carolina (787) and Mississippi (557) had more.

Photographer Andrew Feiler, who is fascinated by Rosenwald's story, has taken photos of more than 100 Rosenwald schools and plans to be at the St. George event Tuesday. For him, Rosenwald's legacy is giving while you're living, as well as pioneering the modern idea of a matching grant by providing seed money and requiring community support.

"We often believe problems are intractable in modern America, especially those related to race," Feiler said. "But this partnership between African Americans and a Jewish businessman shows concerted, focused action really can make a difference."

About 500 Rosenwald Schools remain standing and roughly half are still in a condition to be used, according to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

A two-room Rosenwald School in Gifford, South Carolina, was built in 1920 but is barely upright today. It closed in 1958 and was taken over by a church that had donated the land. Community meetings, concerts and family reunions were held there, but ultimately it fell into disrepair.

Charlie Grant is trying to secure the money to restore the building but hasn't found the same support as St. George.

"I would hope to see it done in my lifetime. But if it's not, that's OK too," Grant said. "I always go back to scripture. There was a Moses and there was a Joshua. Maybe I'm moving in the steps of Moses and somebody will come along and catch the vision and represent Joshua."

Grant has a vision of the old school transformed into a community center with a small museum honoring Black gospel quartets: singing groups who crisscrossed the South during Jim Crow selling records with popular songs of hope and faith. The building is already on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

Other Rosenwald schools have been converted into senior centers, town halls, special event venues or restaurants. Many remain recognizable by the careful plans Rosenwald approved. Tall windows oriented to the east and west assured an abundance of natural light and ventilation in rural areas where electricity often didn't reach until after the Great Depression.

In St. George, the vision isn't just restoring the school, but providing a sense of the thriving African American neighborhood surrounding it during segregation. Businesses including a grocery store, barber shop and pool hall benefitted the Black community.

Inside the restored school, two classrooms look almost as they did 70 years ago. Another classroom is a public meeting room. The auditorium has been turned into a multipurpose space and will have exhibits detailing the school's history and hands-on science displays, James said.

"You can feel what it was like just like I did," he said.

Racist abuse by Mississippi officers reveals a culture of misconduct, residents say

By MICHAEL GOLDBERG Associated Press/Report for America
JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Monica Lee sat outside her parents' home, where a former Mississippi sheriff's deputy pummeled her son, who died hours later in the hospital.

It was a sweltering afternoon in Braxton — the same town where, in a separate episode, six white law enforcement officers tortured two other Black men in January, shaking seasoned federal prosecutors,

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ected officials and ordinary people to their core.

The officers, one of whom also was involved in the violent episode with Lee's son two years prior, pleaded guilty Thursday to a long list of federal civil rights charges.

Lee believes former Rankin County Deputy Hunter Elward is responsible for the 2021 death of her son, Damien Cameron, who was accused of vandalizing a neighbor's home while living with his grandparents. A grand jury declined to indict Elward and he was never convicted of a crime. The brazen acts of violence to which he would plead guilty two years later were made possible because of a police culture that has festered for years, Lee said.

Five deputies from the Rankin County Sheriff's Office, some of whom called themselves "the Goon Squad," and an officer from the Richland Police Department admitted to taking part in a racist assault against Michael Corey Jenkins and Eddie Terrel Parker. The men never thought their abusers would pay for their crimes.

"It's really a shock, but I enjoyed every moment of it," Parker said, recounting the former officers being led out of a federal courtroom in shackles.

Court documents unsealed by federal prosecutors suggest only some members of the Goon Squad participated in the raid. There are other Rankin County deputies "known to the United States Attorney," the documents say.

Lee, who spoke to The Associated Press the day after the guilty pleas, rejoiced that Elward is headed to federal prison. Elward's attorney did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

But even as Elward and the other deputies face accountability for their brutal crimes against Jenkins and Parker, she said, a culture of corruption and violence exists within the sheriff's office, which she worries will persist.

"They say one bad apple spoils the whole bunch," Lee said. "If they do it once, they'll do it again."

The charges follow an investigation by The Associated Press linking some of the deputies to at least four violent encounters with Black men since 2019 that left two dead and another with lasting injuries. Law enforcement officers are seldom charged for crimes committed on the job, and it is rarer still for them to plead guilty.

When a white neighbor complained Black people were staying with a white woman on Jan. 24, the officers went to the home and found Jenkins and Parker. They burst inside without a warrant and handcuffed the men. They beat and sexually assaulted the pair and shocked them with stun guns. They poured milk, alcohol and chocolate syrup over their faces and mocked them with racial slurs. Elward shoved a gun in Jenkins' mouth and fired, lacerating his tongue.

To cover up their crimes, they planted drugs on Jenkins.

"That behavior is taught," said the Rev. Ricky Sutton of Mount Carmel Ministries, a Rankin County church. "When I think about this culture, I just ask myself, how deep does it run?"

The behavior runs deep enough, Sutton said, that some Black people are afraid to spend time in Rankin County, a majority-white county just east of the state capital, Jackson, which is home to one of the highest percentages of Black residents of any major U.S. city.

As if channeling that fear as a tool to layer their physical abuse with maximum psychological terror, the officers warned Jenkins and Parker to stay out of Rankin County and go back to Jackson or "their side" of the Pearl River, court documents say.

The former officers who pleaded guilty included Elward, Christian Dedmon, Brett McAlpin, Jeffrey Middleton and Daniel Opdyke of the Rankin County Sheriff's Office, and Joshua Hartfield of the Richland Police Department.

The officers believed they could operate with impunity because of the negligence of Rankin County Sheriff Bryan Bailey, said Angela English, president of the Rankin County NAACP.

"It starts at the top, and I don't believe you regain our trust if the same people are running the show," English said.

Bailey has presided over a "code of blue" in which officers protect one another instead of citizens, Eng-

lish said.

Bailey, who said he was lied to by the officers, told reporters Thursday that he would not resign.

"The only thing I'm guilty of in this incident right here is trusting grown men that swore an oath to do their job correctly. I'm guilty of that. But the people of Rankin County elected me to do a job during good times and during bad times," Bailey said. "There've been times during this I want to hide under a rock because I'm ashamed and embarrassed about what they've done."

Keith Taylor, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and former New York police officer, said the mindsets of officers are often downstream of department culture.

"If you have a policing culture that tolerates all the -isms — sexism and racism and classism — if you have a department that allows for that kind of behavior to thrive, then it'll be exhibited by the officers on the street," Taylor said.

Had a better internal system been in place for conducting oversight, Lee said her son, Damien Cameron, would still be alive and the January episode would never have happened.

Jenkins and Parker, who aren't sure if they will ever return to the state for an extended period, took solace that at least one part of the justice system appears to have worked.

"We finally got justice knowing what we went through," Jenkins said. "They got what they deserved."

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan handed 3-year sentence and moved to high-security prison

By RIAZAT BUTT Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan was arrested Saturday after a court handed him a three-year jail sentence for corruption, a development that could end his future in politics.

The court ruled that Khan, who was ousted in a no-confidence vote in April 2022 but remains the country's leading opposition figure, had concealed assets after selling state gifts.

Police moved quickly to take the former cricket star from his home in the eastern city of Lahore to the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, senior police officer Ali Nasir Rizvi said. Later Saturday, he was transferred to a high-security prison notorious for its harsh conditions.

Critics say efforts to put the divisive politician behind bars are politically motivated and have intensified ahead of general elections to be held later this year. They argue that Khan's popularity and a large support base, combined with his ability to mobilize massive crowds, pose a threat to the ruling coalition and its backers in Pakistan's powerful military that has been the final arbiter of the country's politics since independence from Britain in 1947.

This is the second time this year that Khan has been detained, joining other former Pakistani prime ministers who have been arrested and seen military interventions over the years. He has been slapped with more than 150 legal cases since his removal from office, including several on charges of corruption, terrorism and inciting people to violence over deadly protests after his arrest in May when his followers attacked government and military property across the country.

The prison sentence could bar Khan from politics ahead of this year's elections under a law that says people with a criminal conviction cannot hold or run for public office. His Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, or PTI, said it will challenge the decision.

Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb denied Khan's arrest had anything to do with upcoming elections and said Khan had been given every opportunity to defend himself against the asset concealment charges.

"Instead Imran Khan used the time to delay the court proceedings and went back and forth to the high court and supreme court to halt this case," she said.

Aurangzeb added that Khan has been "proven guilty of illegal practices, corruption, concealing assets and wrongly declaring wealth in tax returns."

PTI spokesman Rauf Hasan described the asset concealment trial as the "worst in history and tantamount to the murder of justice."

Khan's party released a video message showing him at his Lahore home behind a desk with the Pakistani

and PTI flags in the background. It wasn't immediately clear when the recording was made.

He told his supporters that he would be in jail by the time the message reached them and that they should not stay quietly in their homes.

"I am not doing this for my freedom," he said. "I am doing it for my nation, you, your children's future. If you don't stand up for your rights, you will live the life of slaves and slaves do not have a life."

He urged people to peacefully protest until they get their rights, namely a government of their choice through voting and "not the one like today's occupying power."

In Lahore, a group of pro-Khan lawyers reached his Zaman Park home and chanted slogans protesting his conviction and arrest. In the same city, supporters of a rival political party handed out sweets to celebrate the detention.

Khan was shifted Saturday evening to a high-security jail in Punjab's Attock district that is known for its harsh conditions. Its inmate population includes convicted militants and militants awaiting trial.

Khan is the seventh former prime minister to be arrested in Pakistan. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was arrested and hanged in 1979. The current prime minister's brother, Nawaz Sharif, who also served as prime minister, was arrested several times on corruption allegations.

Syrian baby born under earthquake rubble turns 6 months, happily surrounded by her adopted family

By GHAITH ALSAYED and BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

JINDERIS, Syria (AP) — A baby girl who was born under the rubble of her family home destroyed by the deadly earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria six months ago is in good health, loves her adopted family and likes to smile even to strangers.

The dark-haired baby Afraa survived 10 hours under the rubble after the Feb. 6 earthquake crushed to death her parents and four siblings in the northern Syrian town of Jinderis. When she was found, her umbilical cord was still connected to her mother.

Her story captivated the world at the time, and people from all over offered to adopt her.

After spending days at a hospital in north Syria, Afraa was released and handed over to her paternal aunt and her husband, who adopted her and are raising her along with their five daughters and two sons. Afraa was handed over to her aunt's family days after a DNA test was conducted to make sure the girl and her aunt are biologically related, her adopted father, Khalil al-Sawadi, said.

On Saturday, baby Afraa was enjoying herself, swinging on a red swing hanging from the ceiling while al-Sawadi pushed her back and forth.

"This girl is my daughter. She is exactly the same as my children," said al-Sawadi, sitting cross-legged with Afraa on his lap.

Al-Sawadi said he spends the day at an apartment he rented but at night the family goes to a tent settlement to spend the night, as his children are still traumatized by the earthquake which killed more than 50,000 people in southern Turkey and northern Syria.

According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, more than 4,500 deaths and 10,400 injuries were reported in northwest Syria due to the earthquakes. It estimated that 43% of the injured are women and girls while 20% of the injured are children aged five to 14 years old.

The devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck in the early hours of Feb. 6, followed by multiple aftershocks. Among the hardest hit areas was rebel-held northwestern Syria that is home to some 4.5 million people, many of whom have been displaced by the country's 12-year conflict that has killed half a million.

When Afraa grows up, Al-Sawadi says, he will tell her the story of how she was rescued and how her parents and siblings were killed in the devastating earthquake. He said that if he doesn't tell her, his wife or children will.

A day after the baby arrived at the hospital, officials there named her Aya — Arabic for "a sign from God." After her aunt's family adopted her, she was given a new name, Afraa, after her late mother.

Days after Afraa was born, her adopted mother gave birth to a daughter, Attaa. Since then she has been

breast-feeding both babies, al-Sawadi said.

"Afraa drinks milk and sleeps most of the day," al-Sawadi said.

Al-Sawadi said he has received several offers to live abroad, but he said he refused because he wants to stay in Syria, where Afraa's parents lived and were killed.

Afraa's biological father, Abdullah Turki Mleihan, was originally from Khsham, a village in eastern Deir el-Zour province, but left in 2014 after the Islamic State group captured the village, Saleh al-Badran, an uncle of Afraa's father, said earlier this month.

"We are very happy with her, because she reminds us of her parents and siblings," al-Sawadi said. "She looks very much like her father and her sister Nawara."

Prosecutors ask judge to issue protective order after Trump post appearing to promise revenge

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

The Justice Department has asked a federal judge overseeing the criminal case against former President Donald Trump in Washington to step in after he released a post online that appeared to promise revenge on anyone who goes after him.

Prosecutors on Friday requested that U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan issue a protective order concerning evidence in the case, a day after Trump pleaded not guilty to charges of trying to overturn his 2020 election loss and block the peaceful transition of power. The order, different from a "gag order," would limit what information Trump and his legal team could share publicly about the case brought by special counsel Jack Smith.

Chutkan on Saturday gave Trump's legal team until 5 p.m. Monday to respond to the government's request. Trump's legal team, which has indicated he would look to slow the case down despite prosecutors' pledge of a speedy trial, then filed a request to extend the response deadline to Thursday and to hold a hearing on the matter, saying it needed more time for discussion.

Chutkan swiftly denied that extension request Saturday evening, reaffirming that Trump must abide by Monday's deadline.

Protective orders are common in criminal cases, but prosecutors said it's "particularly important in this case" because Trump has posted on social media about "witnesses, judges, attorneys, and others associated with legal matters pending against him."

Prosecutors pointed specifically to a post on Trump's Truth Social platform from earlier Friday in which Trump wrote, in all capital letters, "If you go after me, I'm coming after you!"

Prosecutors said they are ready to hand over a "substantial" amount of evidence — "much of which includes sensitive and confidential information" — to Trump's legal team.

They told the judge that if Trump were to begin posting about grand jury transcripts or other evidence provided by the Justice Department, it could have a "harmful chilling effect on witnesses or adversely affect the fair administration of justice in this case."

Prosecutors' proposed protective order seeks to prevent Trump and his lawyers from disclosing materials provided by the government to anyone other than people on his legal team, possible witnesses, the witnesses' lawyers or others approved by the court. It would put stricter limits on "sensitive materials," which would include grand jury witness testimony and materials obtained through sealed search warrants.

A Trump spokesperson said in an emailed statement that the former president's post "is the definition of political speech," and was made in response to "dishonest special interest groups and Super PACs."

Chutkan, a former assistant public defender nominated to the bench by President Barack Obama, has been one of the toughest punishers of rioters who stormed the Capitol in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack, fueled by Trump's baseless claims of a stolen election.

The indictment unsealed this past week accuses Republican Trump of brazenly conspiring with allies to spread falsehoods and concoct schemes intended to overturn his election loss to Democrat Joe Biden as his legal challenges floundered in court.

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The indictment chronicles how Trump and his allies, in what Smith described as an attack on a “bedrock function of the U.S. government,” repeatedly lied about the results in the two months after he lost the election and pressured his vice president, Mike Pence, and state election officials to take action to help him cling to power.

Trump faces charges including conspiracy to defraud the U.S. and conspiracy to obstruct Congress’ certification of Biden’s electoral victory.

It’s the third criminal case brought this year against the the early front-runner in the 2024 Republican presidential primary. But it’s the first case to try to hold Trump responsible for his efforts to remain in power during the chaotic weeks between his election loss and the attack by his supporters on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Smith has also charged Trump in Florida federal court with illegally hoarding classified documents at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate and thwarting government efforts to get them back.

The magistrate judge in that case agreed to a protective order in June that prohibits Trump and his legal team from publicly disclosing evidence turned over to them by prosecutors without prior approval. Prosecutors are seeking another protective order in that case with more rules about the defense team’s handling of classified evidence.

After his court appearance on Thursday in the Washington case, Trump characterized the prosecution as a “persecution” designed to hurt his 2024 presidential campaign. His legal team has described it as an attack on his right to free speech and his right to challenge an election that he believed had been stolen.

On Saturday night to more than 1,000 attendees at the South Carolina Republican Party’s 56th annual Silver Elephant Gala, Trump kept up his attacks on Smith, sticking to his usual caricature of the prosecutor as “deranged” for pursuing charges against him.

Smith has said prosecutors will seek a “speedy trial” against Trump in the election case. Judge Chutkan has ordered the government to file a brief by Thursday proposing a trial date. The first court hearing in front of Chutkan is scheduled for Aug. 28.

Trump is already scheduled to stand trial in March in the New York case stemming from hush-money payments made during the 2016 campaign and in May in the classified documents case.

Russia promises retaliation after Ukrainian drones hit a Russian tanker in 2nd sea attack in a day

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Moscow promised retaliation Saturday after Ukrainian drones hit a Russian tanker in the Black Sea near Crimea late Friday, the second sea attack involving drones in one day.

Ukraine struck a major Russian port earlier on Friday.

Moscow strongly condemned what it sees as a Ukrainian “terrorist attack” on a civilian vessel in the Kerch Strait, said Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova.

“There can be no justification for such barbaric actions, they will not go unanswered and their authors and perpetrators will inevitably be punished,” she wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

As Kyiv’s naval capabilities grow, the Black Sea is becoming an increasingly important battleground in the war.

Three weeks ago, Moscow withdrew from a key export agreement that allowed Ukraine to ship millions of tons of grain across the Black Sea for sale on world markets. In the wake of that withdrawal, Russia carried out repeated strikes on Ukrainian ports, including Odesa.

An official with Ukraine’s Security Service confirmed to The Associated Press that the service was behind the attack on the tanker, which was transporting fuel for Russian forces. A sea drone, filled with 450 kilograms (992 pounds) of TNT, was used for the attack, added the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to give official statements.

“The Sig tanker ... suffered a hole in the engine room near the waterline on the starboard side, presumably as a result of a sea drone attack,” Russia’s Federal Agency for Marine and River Transport wrote on

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Telegram, adding that there were no casualties among the 11 crew members.

Vladimir Rogov, a Kremlin-installed official in Ukraine's partially occupied southern Zaporizhzhia region, said several members of the ship's crew were wounded because of broken glass.

Without specifying that Ukraine was responsible for the drone strike, Vasyl Malyuk, who leads Ukraine's Security Service, said that "such special operations are conducted in the territorial waters of Ukraine and are completely legal." Any such explosions, he said, are "an absolutely logical and effective step with regard to the enemy."

The attack briefly halted traffic on the Kerch Bridge, as well as ferry transport.

Tugboats were deployed to assist the tanker, which is under United States sanctions for helping provide jet fuel to Russian forces fighting in Syria, according to Russia's Tass news agency.

Ukraine's earlier strike on Novorossiysk halted maritime traffic for a few hours and marked the first time a commercial Russian port has been targeted in the nearly 18-month-old conflict. The port has a naval base, shipbuilding yards and an oil terminal, and is key for exports. It lies about 110 kilometers (about 60 miles) east of Crimea.

Shipping expert Jayendu Krishna told The Associated Press that the attacks left Russian shipping activity "largely unaffected." He believes that they may increase the risk of Russian attacks on Ukrainian ports rather than serving as a tool to put pressure on Russia to halt attacks and reinstate the grain deal.

"Every time anything happens to Russia, you see Putin in retaliation mode ... therefore, you may see further attacks on other parts of Ukraine," Krishna said.

"I think it will probably compound the effect and compound the risk in the Black Sea, rather than reducing it," he added. "It's very difficult for me to imagine that Russia will give in, unless and until their banks have smooth operations, and they're able to export their own cargo uninterruptedly."

A Telegram post on Saturday by Deputy Chair of Russia's Security Council Dmitry Medvedev implied that Russia would increase its attacks against Ukrainian ports in response to Kyiv's attacks on Russian ships in the Black Sea:

"Apparently, the strikes on Odesa, Izmail, and other places were not enough for them," he wrote.

In other developments, Russia's Defense Ministry said Saturday it captured a settlement in Ukraine's easternmost Luhansk region, most of which is occupied by Russia. "In the area of Kupiansk ... the settlement of Novoselivske was liberated," the ministry wrote on Telegram.

Elsewhere, a two-day summit on finding a peaceful settlement to the war kicked off in Saudi Arabia.

Senior officials from around 40 countries – but not Russia – will aim to agree key principles on how to end the conflict.

"It is very important because in such matters as food security, the fate of millions of people in Africa, Asia, and other parts of the world directly depends on how fast the world will be in implementing the Peace Formula," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said of the summit. "I am grateful to Saudi Arabia for this platform for negotiations."

The main Ukrainian envoy to the summit in Jeddah, chief Ukrainian presidential aide Andriy Yermak, spoke of the talks on Friday night in a television interview published on his Telegram account: "I expect that the conversation will be difficult, but behind us is truth, behind us goodness," he said.

Commenting on the talks in Saudi Arabia, Zakharova told Russian state media that the idea of making decisions on the conflict without the participation of Moscow was "absurd." Nevertheless, she said, delegates have "full scope for creativity" to discuss the issue.

New York City high school student charged with hate-motivated murder in killing of gay dancer

NEW YORK (AP) — Police have arrested a 17-year-old high school student on a hate-motivated murder charge in the fatal stabbing of a professional dancer during an altercation between two groups of friends at a New York City gas station last weekend.

Police took the teenager into custody Friday in connection with the killing of the 28-year-old O'Shae

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Sibley, who was gay. Authorities declined to release the defendant's name.

"Parents lost a child, a child, to something that was clearly a hate crime," Mayor Eric Adams, a former police captain, said Saturday during a news conference outside the Brooklyn gas station where Sibley was killed July 29.

The stabbing occurred after the two groups got into a confrontation at one of the gas pumps, where Sibley was dancing with his friends to a Beyoncé song. Authorities said Sibley's group was being taunted by the other group before the confrontation ended in violence.

Beyoncé would later pay tribute to Sibley on her website.

Security camera video showed the two groups arguing for a few minutes. Both sides had walked away when Sibley and a friend abruptly returned and again confronted one of the young men, who had stayed behind recording on his phone.

In the video, Sibley could be seen following the teen and then lunging at him before the two disappeared out of the camera's view. A moment later, he walks backward into view, checking his side, and then collapses to the sidewalk.

He was stabbed once in the left rib cage, according to Assistant Police Chief Joe Kenny.

"We can see on the video a heated verbal dispute quickly turns physical," he said.

"As they waited to refuel their vehicle, Mr. Sibley and his group began dancing to music that was being played in their car. At this point, a male called out to Mr. Sibley and his group demanding that they stop dancing," Kenny said. "As the group began to yell at Mr. Sibley and his friends, they began to call him derogatory names and use homophobic slurs against him."

The initial encounter lasted about four minutes, police said, when Sibley and four other men stopped to refuel while traveling home to New York City from New Jersey.

Authorities said the suspect arranged for his surrender through his attorney.

Lee Soulja Simmons, the executive director for the NYC Center for Black Pride, also spoke at the news conference.

"We wrestle with people within our community constantly facing discrimination — not just because you're Black but because you represent LGBT" communities, he said.

"The fact that he was doing nothing more but voguing and dancing here, he did not deserve to die in that way," Simmons said.

One of Sibley's friends who was there, Otis Pena, said in a Facebook video that Sibley was killed because he was gay, and "because he stood up for his friends."

One witness, Summy Ullah, said in interviews that the men complained that their behavior offended them as Muslims.

Some leaders of the area's Muslim community condemned the slaying.

"The weight of this loss is felt deeply, not just by the family and friends of O'Shae, but by all of us who value life, peace and justice," Soniya Ali, the executive director of the Muslim Community Center, said Saturday.

"As Muslims, we are committed to stand up for justice, even if it means standing against our own selves," she said. "We unequivocally condemn the unjust murder of O'Shae."

Sibley performed with the dance company Philadanco in his native Philadelphia and in New York, where he took classes with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Ailey Extension program.

Pilgrims brave scorching heat for pope's vigil in Lisbon after Francis ditches Fatima peace prayer

By NICOLE WINFIELD, BARRY HATTON and PIETRO DE CRISTOFARO Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — An estimated 1.5 million young people filled a field in the Portuguese capital Lisbon on Saturday for Pope Francis' World Youth Day vigil, braving scorching heat to secure a spot for the evening prayer and to camp out overnight for his final farewell Mass on Sunday morning.

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Francis made only brief remarks before them, however, and ditched his prepared speech for the fourth time in two days. Instead, the 86-year-old pontiff delivered a lively, 10-minute off-the-cuff chat in his native Spanish about journeying together and helping one another. "No fear, thanks, ciao!" he said at the end before aides pushed him in his wheelchair to the side of the stage.

Temperatures had soared to 38 Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) on Saturday in Lisbon and were forecast to top 40 C (104 F) on Sunday. The heat forced pilgrims to shelter under umbrellas and makeshift shades of plastic canvas sheets tied between trash bins in the otherwise exposed field on the edge of the River Tagus.

Crews blew misters at the pilgrims to try to cool them down as they made their way into the venue at the peak of the day's heat, many flying their national flags. They formed long lines to fill water bottles from what organizers said were more than 400 faucets around the field.

Smoke from a spate of wildfires that broke out around Portugal during a weekend spike in temperatures cast a haze over the sky as they arrived on foot from all around the city for one of the liturgical highlights of the Catholic youth festival. Citing local organizers, the Vatican said an estimated 1.5 million people were on hand.

Lan Young Modesta Cheong, a pilgrim from South Korea, said the heat was bad but her group made use of the trash bins to create shade.

"At first we were not so comfortable with it because is dirty and it maybe smelly but at a certain point it became our tent, it's kind of a miracle and for me it is a bit the spirit of World Youth Day," she said. "We started using a useless dirty thing to support us and use it to avoid the heat and all these difficulties."

Francis presided over the evening vigil after spending the morning at the Catholic shrine in Fatima.

There, he ditched his prepared speech and a prayer for peace. The prayer had been expected to be a highlight of Francis' visit to Fatima, given the shrine's century-old affiliation with exhortations of peace and conversion in Russia and the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Francis instead "prayed silently for peace, with pain," while meditating for a long period before a statue of the Virgin Mary, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said. And the Vatican later posted the prayer on the platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

An estimated 200,000 turned out for Francis' visit to Fatima, packing the central esplanade long before the red-tinted moon set and the sun rose. Nearby wildfires turned the sky smoky black and sent ash snowing down on the crowd.

"We are here with great joy," said Maria Florido, a 24-year-old Spaniard who also saw Francis in Lisbon. "We woke up very early to come here and see the pope ... and we're here with great enthusiasm."

The Fatima story dates back to 1917, when according to tradition, Portuguese siblings Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin Lucia said the Virgin Mary appeared to them six times and confided to them three secrets. The first two described an apocalyptic image of hell, foretold the end of World War I and the start of World War II, and portended the rise and fall of Soviet communism.

In 2000, the Vatican disclosed the long-awaited third secret, describing it as foretelling the May 13, 1981, assassination attempt against St. John Paul II in St. Peter's Square, which fell on the anniversary of the original vision.

According to later writings by Lucia, who became a nun and died in 2005, Russia would be converted and peace would reign if the pope and all the bishops of the world consecrated Russia to the "Immaculate Heart of Mary." Lucia later claimed that John Paul fulfilled that prophecy during a 1984 Mass, even though he never specified Russia in the prayer.

Vatican Media had said before the trip that Francis would pray for peace in Ukraine and the world while in Fatima. It seemed logical, given Francis had already consecrated both Russia and Ukraine to Mary in a prayer for peace following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, essentially fulfilling Sr. Lucia's exhortation.

In the prayer posted on the platform X by the @Pontifex account but not read aloud, Francis didn't name either country but consecrated the church and world, "especially those countries at war," to Mary. "Open paths where it seems that none exist," he wrote. "Loosen the tangles of self-centeredness and the snares of power."

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Fatima Bishop Jose Ornelas made a prayer for Ukraine explicit in his remarks. "We associate ourselves to Your Holiness' prayer for peace, for which this sanctuary is profoundly identified, thinking in particular of the war in Ukraine and so many other conflicts in the world," he said.

In explaining the changes, Vatican spokesman Bruni said Francis "always addresses firstly the people he meets, as a shepherd, and speaks accordingly." Francis often deviates from his prepared remarks, even more when speaking in his native Spanish. Bruni denied the changes had any other serious reason, including with his eyesight.

Francis has been hospitalized twice this year, including in June when he spent nine days in the hospital recovering from abdominal surgery to repair a hernia and remove scar tissue on his intestine. Saturday was perhaps the most grueling day of his five-day visit to Portugal, given the round-trip helicopter ride to Fatima and a planned prayer vigil that didn't begin until his usual bedtime in Rome.

Justice Department faces biggest test in its history with election conspiracy case against Trump

By COLLEEN LONG and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When the Justice Department was announcing the highest-profile prosecution in its history in Washington, Attorney General Merrick Garland was 100 miles away, meeting with local police in Philadelphia.

He stepped outside briefly to speak about how the decision to indict Donald Trump for conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election came from career prosecutors and was led by a special counsel committed to "accountability and independence."

In other words, this wasn't about politics.

Try as Garland might, though, there is no escaping the politics of the moment when the Justice Department of a president who is running for reelection is indicting his chief political rival, the front-runner for the Republican nomination.

And though he has distanced himself from the investigation since he appointed special counsel Jack Smith 10 months ago, Garland has the last word on matters related to the prosecution of Trump as long as he is the attorney general.

The Justice Department is facing its biggest test in history — navigating unprecedented conditions in American democracy while trying to fight back against relentless attacks on its own credibility and that of the U.S. election system. The success or failure of the case has the potential to affect the standing of the department for years to come.

"In grand terms this is a really huge historic moment for the Department of Justice," said Wendy Weiser, vice president for the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice.

President Joe Biden has sought to distance himself from the Justice Department to avoid any appearance of meddling when the agency is not only probing Trump, but also the president's son Hunter. But it's going to get more challenging for Biden, too. Anything he says about the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol from now on could complicate matters for prosecutors. And any trial is likely to take place against the backdrop of the 2024 presidential election.

The latest indictment is the third criminal case filed against Trump this year, but the first to try to hold him criminally responsible for his efforts to cling to power in the weeks between his election loss and the Capitol attack that stunned the world. He pleaded not guilty on Thursday before a federal magistrate judge and was ordered not to speak about the case with any potential witnesses.

Trump has said he did nothing wrong and has accused Smith of trying to thwart his chances of returning to the White House in 2024. Trump and other Republicans have railed against the investigation and the Justice Department in general, claiming a two-tiered system of justice that vilifies Trump and goes easy on Biden's son, who was accused of tax crimes after a yearslong probe.

"Another dark day in America as Joe Biden continues to weaponize his corrupt Department of Justice against his leading political opponent Donald J. Trump," said U.S. Rep Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y.

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Trump's own Justice Department was subject to complaints of politicization, drawing heavy criticism as the federal probe of Russia's 2016 election interference thrust prosecutors center stage and dragged out scandals that Trump seized on as proof of a "deep state" operating against him.

The release of the Russia report by special counsel Robert Mueller was colored by politics, with then-Attorney General William Barr issuing a four-page memo ahead of the report that was widely criticized as spinning the investigation's findings in favor of Trump. Mueller's actual report — two volumes and 448 pages — was far more nuanced and laid out in part how Trump directed others to influence or curtail the Russia investigation after the special counsel's appointment in May 2017.

On Nov. 9, 2020, as Trump began to suggest with no evidence there might be widespread voter fraud, Barr issued a directive pushing prosecutors to investigate any suspected instances. But by the waning days of the Trump administration Barr had turned against Trump, telling The Associated Press before he told the president that there had been no widespread election fraud.

Garland, a longtime federal appeals court judge who had been Barack Obama's choice for the U.S. Supreme Court but never got a hearing, was chosen by President Biden to be a stabilizing force. He promised to return the Justice Department to "normal," restoring its reputation for political independence and ensuring equal justice.

Throughout his career, Garland has been steeped in Justice Department procedures and norms, and as a judge his decisions were thorough but "judicially modest," said Jamie Gorelick, a lawyer who served as deputy attorney general in the 1990s and has been a Garland colleague and friend for decades.

"His view was, you do what you need to thoroughly and well and you don't reach, you don't do more than you have to do," she said.

While Garland hasn't been directly involved with the Trump case since naming Smith as special counsel, the indictment handed down Tuesday reflects a similar approach, she said. "It doesn't rely on crazy new theories. It does not try to do more when less would be more effective," she said.

Indeed, the indictment covered much of same ground that played out on live TV, or was unearthed in the House investigation into the Jan. 6 insurrection, where violent protesters beat and bloodied police officers, smashed through windows and occupied the Capitol for hours.

If Smith loses the case, the Justice Department could lose credibility, particularly as the barrage of Republican attacks against the department grows. If prosecutors win, a former president could see time behind bars. If Trump is reelected, he could undo the charges and has said he plans to "completely overhaul the federal Department of Justice and FBI," part of a larger effort by Trump to push more power toward the presidency.

"There are pieces now in play that the Justice Department is going to continue to take on for years to come," said Robert Sanders, a senior lecturer of national security at the University of New Haven. "The next 12 months are going to be a critical stage in the history of this nation."

Against that fraught backdrop, the broader work of the department goes on.

On the same day Trump was arraigned in Washington, federal prosecutors announced guilty pleas in a racist assault on two Black men who were brutalized during a home raid in Mississippi. And U.S. officials also announced the arrest of two U.S. Navy soldiers for spying for China in California.

Garland, during his Philadelphia visit, went almost immediately back to the community event he'd gone there to observe, chatting with police officers outside, as reporters shouted questions about the unprecedented indictment. But Garland wouldn't bite.

"I appointed Jack Smith special council to take on the ongoing investigation in order to underline the department's commitment to accountability and independence," he said. "Any questions about this matter will have to be answered by the filings made in the courtroom."

Big Ten grabs Oregon, Washington; Big 12 completes Pac-12 raid with Arizona, Arizona State and Utah

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Dealing a crushing combination to the Pac-12 on Friday, the Big Ten announced Oregon and Washington would be joining the conference next August, and the Big 12 completed its raid of the beleaguered league by adding Arizona, Arizona State and Utah.

The day began with hope and nine members for the Pac-12. It ended with the Pac-12 — with roots that date back a century and more NCAA championships than any other — down to four schools and facing extinction because it was unable to land a media rights agreement to match its competitors.

"Today's news is incredibly disappointing for student-athletes, fans, alumni and staff of the Pac-12 who cherish the over 100-year history, tradition and rivalries of the Conference of Champions," the conference said in a statement. "We remain focused on securing the best possible future for each of our member universities."

The super-conference era has arrived in college sports, and it has swallowed the Pac-12 — the conference that produced Jackie Robinson, John Elway, Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Barry Bonds.

After the Big Ten paved the way Friday morning for the Pacific Northwest rivals to join, the Ducks were first to make it official with a unanimous vote by the school's 13 trustees. The Big Ten a short time later said its presidents' council had voted to accept Oregon along with Washington and become an 18-team coast-to-coast conference, with four West Coast members.

"Our student-athletes will participate at the highest level of collegiate athletic competition, and our alumni, friends, and fans will be able to carry the spirit of Oregon across the country," Oregon President John Karl Scholz said.

The Big 12, meanwhile, had three more Pac-12 schools in its sights, a week after luring away Colorado.

Arizona's entry was approved Thursday night, but the Big 12's long-brewing expansion plan was far from complete.

Once it became apparent on Friday that Oregon and Washington were leaving the Pac-12, Arizona State and Utah didn't have much choice but to jump, too. The Big 12 presidents OK'd the Sun Devils and Utes, and soon after the conference made it official. The Big 12 will be a 16-team conference, spanning from Florida to Arizona, in the fall of 2024.

"We are thrilled to welcome Arizona, Arizona State and Utah to the Big 12," said Commissioner Brett Yormark, whose aggressive approach in his first year on the job has sent shock waves across major college sports. "The Conference is gaining three premier institutions both academically and athletically, and the entire Big 12 looks forward to working alongside their presidents, athletic directors, student-athletes and administrators."

Beyond this school year, the Pac-12 is down to: Stanford, California, Oregon State and Washington State.

The Big Ten's latest grab from its Rose Bowl partners comes a little more than a year after it landed Southern California and UCLA. The Big Ten will be the largest conference in major college sports, spanning 15 states from New Jersey to Washington.

"The Big Ten is a thriving conference with strong athletic and academic traditions, and we are excited and confident about competing at the highest level on a national stage," Washington President Ana Mari Cauce said.

Pac-12 leaders met early Friday to determine if its remaining schools would accept the potential media rights deal with Apple that Commissioner George Kliavkoff presented this week.

Two people with knowledge of the discussion between the Big Ten and Oregon said the Ducks were leaning toward staying in the Pac-12 late Thursday, boosting the possibility that others would stay put, too.

Instead, Oregon officials notified the Pac-12 early Friday they were still uncomfortable with the Apple deal and the school would be re-engaging with the Big Ten.

"We are disappointed with the recent decisions by some of our Pac-12 peers," Washington State President Kirk Schulz and athletic director Pat Chun said Friday before its Apple Cup rival announced it was

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leaving, "While we had hoped that our membership would remain together, this outcome was always a possibility, and we have been working diligently to determine what is next for Washington State athletics. We've prepared for numerous scenarios, including our current situation."

Former Big Ten Commissioner Kevin Warren had encouraged member schools to add Oregon and Washington after the conference landed the Los Angeles schools last summer, the blow that began the Pac-12's descent.

Less than two weeks ago, Big Ten Commissioner Tony Petitti said his presidents and chancellors wanted to him to focus on USC and UCLA's transition and not more expansion. Now, the Pac-12's two biggest remaining brands and perennial football powers are heading for a new home. Oregon's and Washington's closest new conference neighbor, — not including the L.A. schools — the University of Nebraska, will be more than a 1,600-mile drive away.

The Ducks and Huskies will receive a reduced payout, Scholz confirmed, compared to current Big Ten members and to USC and UCLA, which are projected to receive more than \$60 million each in media rights revenue from the league starting next year. A person familiar with the negotiations said the Ducks and Huskies would receive about \$30 million per year for its first six years in the conference, with annual escalators and the ability to draw on future payments.

Washington and Oregon were charter members of the Pacific Coast Conference in 1916, the organization that eventually became the Pac-8, then 10, then 12.

While the USC and UCLA decisions to leave started the Pac-12's demise, last fall's move by the Big 12 and Yormark to get an early extension of its media rights deals with ESPN and Fox was key.

That left a thin market for Kliavkoff and the Pac-12, which ended up with the streaming-heavy proposal with Apple that would have left its schools lagging behind a paywall and other Power Five conferences in revenue.

Less than a month before a football season kicks off that is expected to feature one of the strongest and most exciting group of Pac-12 teams in years, it very well might be the conference's last.

Mega Millions players spurned again as jackpot climbs to \$1.55 billion

By The Associated Press undefined

Another Mega Millions drawing, another night without a jackpot winner.

The numbers drawn Friday night were: 11, 30, 45, 52, 56 and the gold ball 20.

Because no one matched all six numbers and won the estimated \$1.35 billion jackpot, the top prize increased to \$1.55 billion for the next drawing Tuesday night.

There now have been 31 straight drawings without a jackpot winner. The last time someone won the Mega Millions jackpot was April 18.

The \$1.55 billion prize would be for a sole winner who chooses the annuity option with payment stretched over 30 years. Most winners opt for a lump-sum payment, which would be an estimated \$757.2 million on Tuesday.

A big slice of those winnings would go toward federal taxes, while many states also tax lottery payouts.

The jackpot is so hard to win because of the 1 in 302.6 million odds of matching the numbers on five white balls and a separate mega ball. The odds are better to win smaller prizes, which start at \$2.

Mega Millions is played in 45 states, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Vermont's flood-wracked capital city ponders a rebuild with one eye on climate change

By LISA RATHKE Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — A beloved bookstore in Vermont's small capital city moved across the street to a new spot farther from the Winooski River after an ice jam sent river water into the store in 1992. A nearby office supply and gift store did the same in 2011 because it liked a different space that came with a bonus: it was higher and farther from the river.

But their moves to higher ground weren't enough to save them from flooding after torrential rains in July caused what some saw as the state's worst natural disaster since a 1927 flood that killed dozens of people and caused widespread destruction. Some communities suffered more severe flood damage this year than when Tropical Storm Irene ravaged the small, mountainous state in 2011.

"I think most people in this area were very concerned about climate change, but we also were a little pretty much thought we were a little safer here because we had not really suffered the drastic events that some other parts of the country have," said Rob Kasow, co-owner of Bear Pond Books. "But I think now we've been a little disabused of the notion that Vermont is safe from climate change."

Now the mostly gutted shops, restaurants and businesses that lend downtown Montpelier its charm are considering where and how to rebuild in an era when extreme weather is occurring more often. Vermont's flooding was just one of several major flood events around the globe this summer that scientists have said are becoming more likely due to climate change.

"It's definitely going to happen again," said Lauren Oates of the Nature Conservancy of Vermont. "It's not a question of if, but when and how bad next time."

Two people died in the flooding. More than 4,000 homes and 800 businesses reported damage, though officials expect those numbers to rise as the damage is tallied.

Many communities in Vermont — small, rural and mountainous — grew up in valleys where the rivers were needed to move goods. Hundreds of years later, that means roads and waterways that often lie close to each other, State Climatologist Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux said.

"That's a piece that's not going to change soon," Dupigny-Giroux said. "But I think in terms of development, in terms of settlement, in terms of what do we do in relation to those roads and rivers is something we need to start thinking about really really closely so that we can be a little bit more proactive."

After Irene, Vermont spent heavily in rebuilding roads, bridges and other infrastructure to better withstand future floods. But much of July's rains fell elsewhere, and officials say more such work is needed around the state.

Oates, of the Nature Conservancy, said thoughtful planning is needed to simply give rivers more room to flood, too.

"A lot more still needs to be done if we're going to continue to have our towns and villages alongside our rivers to make sure we're all better prepared, to make sure our rivers have more space to move and release all of their potential energy as well as their volume," Oates said.

The storms dumped up to two months of rain in two days in Vermont, causing the river to overflow into basements and first floors of Montpelier businesses and homes, and covered the historic downtown in waist-high water. The rains ripped out blacktop and washed out dirt roads to cut off some areas while inundating communities in southern Vermont.

After the water receded in Montpelier, a city of 8,000, those in its creative and vibrant downtown found themselves taking stock after many had only recently started to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic. Some are still paying off loans that got them through that. Most did not have flood insurance.

At Bear Pond Books, scores of soaked books lay in mud, silt and debris on the floor after the flood. Volunteers and staff helped to pull the damaged books into a large pile and shovel out the mud. As at other businesses, the wall boards and flooring were removed to prevent mold.

After being hit by Irene and COVID-19, Kasow described the latest disaster as "sort of like a dull exhaustion." Retirement just keeps getting farther away, he said.

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"It does sap your energy to constantly have to rebuild every couple of years or reinvent or reinvest," Kasow said.

Many businesses said they planned to reduce their vulnerability to future floods by moving utilities upstairs and no longer using their basements for storage. Some may move to other spaces altogether.

That includes Jenny Sebold, owner of Rebel Heart clothing and gift store and Pink Shutter Flowers, who called it "devastating" to see her businesses gutted. Last week, she pulled out a last bit of insulation already bearing the black marks of mold and peered through a hole in the wall. She could see the river through another hole in the floor.

Glenn Sturgis, owner of Capitol Copy, lost about \$150,000 in equipment that he says would cost almost twice that to replace. At age 67, he had planned to sell the business next year. Now he's simply going to walk away.

He said he hopes funding is used to prevent or accommodate flooding rather than just to rebuild.

"I don't know how you do that with a city that's this age, and these buildings and it's right on the river," he said.

He and his wife shopped downtown all the time, loved having an independent bookstore and want the businesses to come back, he said. "And they'll be back but it's got to be getting hard for people that have had to go through this a number of times," he said.

The state has made \$20 million in grants available to businesses looking to rebuild, capped at \$20,000 each. Republican Gov. Scott said he knows that's not enough money to help everyone. The businesses aren't eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency funding but several fundraising events are planned and GoFundMe sites have appeared.

Experts warn that the recovery — filing paperwork and pursuing insurance, finding contractors — can be more stressful than the immediate response to the disaster.

Sebold is already feeling that stress as she tries to keep her floral design business going without a space.

"I'm doing like twenty times the amount of work to make a fraction of the money but I have to do all of it," she said. "And I need to fill out paperwork and I need to go to this meeting and I need to do insurance claims and I need to be ready when they say that that's happening. So it's like being a triage nurse but everyone's missing a limb and everyone is bleeding out at the same time."

McConnell is warmly embraced by Kentucky Republicans amid questions about his health

By BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

MAYFIELD, Ky. (AP) — U.S. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell received a rousing welcome from the party faithful Saturday at a high-profile home-state political gathering amid renewed scrutiny of his health after the 81-year-old lawmaker froze up midsentence during a recent Capitol Hill news conference.

"This is my 28th Fancy Farm, and I want to assure you it's not my last," McConnell said at the top of his breakfast speech before the annual picnic that is the traditional jumping off point for the fall campaign season in Kentucky. It was his only reference, however vague, to his health.

McConnell, who is widely regarded as the main architect of the GOP's rise to power in Kentucky, arrived to a prolonged standing ovation and promoted the candidacy of a protege running for governor this year.

Later at the Fancy Farm picnic, McConnell made a pitch for the GOP statewide ticket in November, which is led by Daniel Cameron, a former McConnell staffer who is the party's nominee for governor. McConnell slammed Democratic policies from Washington to Kentucky. He bemoaned high inflation pinching family budgets and Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear's restrictions during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

McConnell has been an annual fixture on the picnic stage in the tiny community of Fancy Farm, where he long has relished jousting with Democrats. Democrats in the crowd on Saturday greeted McConnell with cascades of boos and chanted "retire."

McConnell's health has drawn increased attention since he briefly left his own news conference in Washington on July 26 after stopping his remarks midsentence and staring off into space for several seconds.

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GOP colleagues standing behind him grabbed his elbows and escorted him back to his office. When he returned to answer questions, McConnell said he was "fine." Asked if he is still able to do his job, he said, "Yeah."

McConnell was out of the Senate for almost six weeks earlier this year after falling and hitting his head after a dinner event at a Washington hotel. He was hospitalized for several days, and his office later said he suffered a concussion and fractured a rib. His speech has sounded more halting in recent weeks, prompting questions among some of his colleagues about his health.

He has said he plans to serve his full term as Republican leader — he was elected to a two-year term in January and would be up for reelection to that post again after the 2024 elections. McConnell was first elected to the Senate in 1984 and has been the Republican leader since 2007. He would face reelection to the Senate in 2026.

At the breakfast event Saturday, McConnell did not delve into national issues or comment on former President Donald Trump's legal entanglements, and he did not meet with reporters afterward. In his nine-minute speech, McConnell accused Democrats of having "turned their backs on rural America."

McConnell also praised Cameron, the state's attorney general who is challenging Beshear in one of the nation's most closely watched elections this year. McConnell said he first met Cameron when Cameron was a student at the University of Louisville. Cameron went on to serve on McConnell's staff as legal counsel.

"I've watched him over the years," McConnell said. "And now you have. And you've seen his leadership skills, his ability to rally people together."

A rift between Trump and McConnell has reverberated in Kentucky, where both men are prolific vote-getters. The split grew after the senator publicly refuted Trump's claims that the 2020 presidential election was stolen, ending an uneasy partnership that had helped conservatives establish a firm majority on the Supreme Court.

McConnell has been mostly silent since then and has been loath to comment on any of the indictments of Trump this year. The two have found common cause again in the candidacy of Cameron, who was the beneficiary of Trump's endorsement during the hard-fought Republican primary for governor.

Today in History: Aug. 6, U.S. drops atom bomb on Hiroshima

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Aug. 6, the 218th day of 2023. There are 147 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 6, 1945, during World War II, the U.S. B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb code-named "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, Japan, resulting in an estimated 140,000 deaths.

On this date:

In 1806, the Holy Roman Empire went out of existence as Emperor Francis II abdicated.

In 1825, Upper Peru became the autonomous republic of Bolivia.

In 1942, Queen Wilhemina of the Netherlands became the first reigning queen to address a joint session of Congress, telling lawmakers that despite Nazi occupation, her people's motto remained, "No surrender."

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act.

In 1973, entertainer Stevie Wonder was seriously injured in a car accident in North Carolina.

In 1978, Pope Paul VI died at Castel Gandolfo at age 80.

In 1991, the World Wide Web made its public debut as a means of accessing webpages over the Internet.

In 1993, Louis Freeh won Senate confirmation to be FBI director.

In 2003, actor Arnold Schwarzenegger used an appearance on NBC's "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" to announce his bid to replace California Gov. Gray Davis.

In 2009, Sonia Sotomayor was confirmed as the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice by a Senate vote of 68-31.

In 2011, insurgents shot down a U.S. military helicopter during fighting in eastern Afghanistan, killing

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30 Americans, most of them belonging to the same elite Navy commando unit that had slain Osama bin Laden; seven Afghan commandos also died.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama said during an appearance on NBC's "The Tonight Show" that he was "disappointed" that Russia had granted temporary asylum to National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden, defying administration demands that the former government contractor be sent back to the U.S. to face espionage charges. U.S. Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan went on trial at Fort Hood, Texas, charged with killing 13 people and wounding 32 others in a 2009 attack. (Hasan, who admitted carrying out the attack, was convicted and sentenced to death.)

Five years ago: Twin Northern California wildfires grew to become the largest wildfire in state history, burning more than 440 square miles north of San Francisco. A set of U.S. sanctions against Iran that had been eased by the Obama administration under the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal went back into effect. Former Nevada governor and U.S. senator Paul Laxalt, who was a close ally to Ronald Reagan, died at the age of 96.

One year ago: Russian forces began an assault on two key cities in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region. They also kept up rocket and shelling attacks on other Ukrainian cities, including one close to Europe's largest nuclear power plant. Judith Durham, the Australian folk music icon who achieved global fame as the lead singer of The Seekers, died at age 79. Tony Boselli became the first Jacksonville Jaguars player inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame along with seven members of the Class of 2022, including Richard Seymour, LeRoy Butler and coach Dick Vermeil.

Today's Birthdays: Children's performer Ella Jenkins is 99. Actor-director Peter Bonerz is 85. Actor Louise Sorel is 83. Actor Michael Anderson Jr. is 80. Actor Ray Buktenica is 80. Actor Dorian Harewood is 73. Actor Catherine Hicks is 72. Rock singer Pat MacDonald (Timbuk 3) is 71. Actor Stephanie Kramer is 67. Actor Faith Prince is 66. R&B singer Randy DeBarge is 65. Actor Leland Orser is 63. Actor Michelle Yeoh is 61. Country singers Patsy and Peggy Lynn are 59. Basketball Hall of Famer David Robinson is 58. Actor Jeremy Ratchford is 58. Actor Benito Martinez is 55. Country singer Lisa Stewart is 55. Movie writer-director M. Night Shyamalan (SHAH'-mah-lahn) is 53. Actor Merrin Dungey is 52. Singer Geri Halliwell Horner is 51. Actor Jason O'Mara is 51. Actor Vera Farmiga is 50. Actor Ever Carradine is 49. Actor Soleil (soh-LAY') Moon Frye is 47. Actor Melissa George is 47. Rock singer Travis McCoy is 42. Actor Leslie Odom Jr. is 42. Actor Romola Garai is 41. U.S. Olympic and WNBA basketball star A'ja Wilson is 27.