

Groton Daily Independent

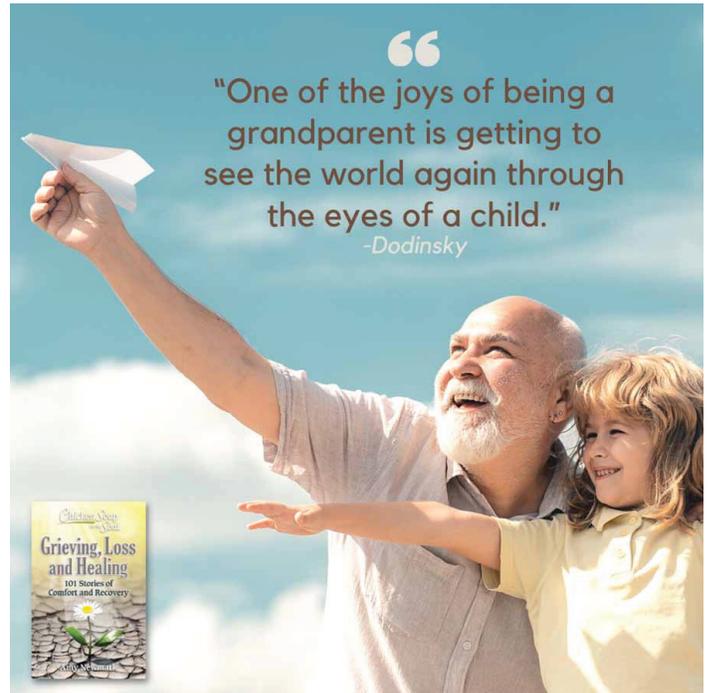
Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 1 of 85

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Aberdeen Community Concerts Ad](#)
- [3- Ken's Food Fair Help Wanted Ad](#)
- [4- Wolves Volleyball Sweeps South Dakota Mines](#)
- [5- Lawrence County Fatal Crash](#)
- [6- Groton Senior Citizens](#)
- [7- Minnesota Duluth Hands Northern State 2023 Home Opening Loss](#)
- [8- Groton girls soccer team tie with Sioux Falls Christian](#)
- [9- Boys Soccer team loses to James Valley Christian](#)
- [10- Community Transit Letter](#)
- [11- Sunday Extras](#)
- [29- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [30- Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [31- Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [32- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [34- EarthTalk - Preparing your Garden for next year](#)
- [35- SD SearchLight: Rapid City apartments would offset all their energy use with solar panels](#)
- [37- Weather Pages](#)
- [41- Daily Devotional](#)
- [42- 2023 Community Events](#)
- [43- Subscription Form](#)
- [44- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [45- News from the Associated Press](#)

Sunday, Sept. 10

St. John's Lutheran/Zion worship: St. John's at 9 a.m., Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., Zion at 11 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Rally Sunday. Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10:15 a.m.; choir, 7 p.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
United Methodist: Welcome Pastor Rob, Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Pot-

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



“
“One of the joys of being a grandparent is getting to see the world again through the eyes of a child.”
-Dodinsky

luck dinner, 11:30 a.m.

Youth Football at Warner, 6 p.m.

Airport Fly-In/Drive-In

Couples Sunflower Golf Tournament at Olive Grove

Doggie Day at the pool, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 11

Senior Menu: Breaded pork cutlet, scalloped potatoes, Harvard beets, blushing pears, whole wheat bread.

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

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

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

Cross Country at Webster, 2 p.m.

Junior High Volleyball hosts Mobridge-Pollock with 7th and 8th at 5 p.m.

School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

Homecoming Coronation, 7:30 p.m.

United Methodist: PEO Meeting (outside group), 7 p.m.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.
© 2023 Groton Daily Independent

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 2 of 85

BECOME A MEMBER!

OVER 85 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES



**Aberdeen
Community
Concert
Association**



**Vox Fortura:
International Pop-op Quartet**
Friday, September 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm



**Ireland's Greatest Showman feat.
David Shannon: Irish Tenor**
Monday, October 23, 2023 at 7:00 pm



The Starlets: Pop Female Trio
Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm



SD Jazz Festival Concert
Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 7:30 pm



**Shaun Johnson & The Big Band
Experience**
Thursday, April 25, 2024 - 7:00 pm

\$75 Adults | \$25 Students | \$155 Family/Grandparents

Concerts will be held in the Johnson Fine Arts Center Harvey & Cynthia Jewett Theater at Northern State University 1200 S. Jay Street.

ACCA Memberships can be purchased at Interior Design Concepts located at 21 N. Main Street or online at the ACCA website. All dates are subject to change. Check tickets for concert time.

WWW.ABERDEENCOMMUNITYCONCERTS.ORG



Full time shift supervisor opening at Ken's Food Fair, Groton SD.

Looking for a hard working self motivated individual with leadership skills and willing to take on responsibilities.

Pay will depend on experience. Benefits available will discuss at interview.

Apply at Ken's in Groton SD.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 4 of 85

Wolves Volleyball Sweeps South Dakota Mines

Spearfish, S.D. – The Northern State University volleyball team made it a 4-0 weekend from the Black Hills today with a 3-0 victory over South Dakota Mines. In total, the Wolves went 12-3 in single set action this weekend.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 3, MSUB 1
Records: NSU 5-1, MSUB 2-3
Attendance: 133

HOW IT HAPPENED

Despite the sweep, the two teams played three close sets with the Wolves recording 25-20, 26-24, and 25-17 victories

Northern hit .214 in the win, notching 40 kills, 37 assists, 64 digs, 11 blocks, and four aces

The Wolves defense held the Hardrockers to a .118 attack percentage, forcing 25 hitting errors

Natalia Szybinska was the lone offensive Wolf in double figures, recording 17 kills with a .385 attack percentage

Keri Walker tallied 32 assists and 12 digs, while Abby Meister and Morissen Samuels added 14 and 13 digs respectively

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Natalia Szybinska: 17 kills, .385 attack%, 2 digs

Keri Walker: 32 assists, 12 digs, 4 blocks

Morissen Samuels: 8 kills, 13 digs, 4 blocks

Abby Meister: 14 digs

UP NEXT

Northern opens their NSIC home slate next Friday and Saturday from Wachs Arena. Match start times are set for 6 p.m. on Friday against Minnesota Crookston and 2 p.m. on Saturday versus Bemidji State.

Lawrence County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash
Where: Hanna Road and Long Bow Road, 3 miles south of Cheyenne Crossing, S.D.
When: 7:08 p.m., Friday, September 8, 2023

Driver No. 1: Male, 30, Not injured
Vehicle No. 1: 2021 Polaris 925cc
Passenger: Male, 30, Not injured

Driver No. 2: Male, 35, Fatal injuries
Vehicle No. 2: 2013 Polaris Razor
Passenger No. 2: Male, 26, Serious non-life-threatening injuries

LAWRENCE COUNTY, S.D.- One person died Friday night in a crash 3 miles south of Cheyenne Crossing, S.D.

The names of the persons involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates a 2021 Polaris 925cc was towing a 2013 Polaris Razor that was inoperable. There was a 30-year-old male driver in the 925cc and a 30-year-old male passenger in the 925cc. There was a 35-year-old male in the driver's seat of the Razor and a 26-year-old male in the passenger seat of the Razor.

The 925cc and the Razor it was towing came around a left curve. The Razor left the roadway to the right, struck a tree, then rolled over down an embankment coming to rest on the passenger side of the Razor.

The 30-year-old male driver of the 2021 Polaris 925cc was not injured.

The 30-year-old male passenger of the 2021 Polaris 925cc was not injured.
He was not wearing a helmet.

The 35-year-old male driver of the 2013 Polaris Razor sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene.
He was not wearing a helmet

The 26-year-old male passenger of the 2013 Polaris Razor was taken to Monument Health Rapid City with serious non-life-threatening injuries.
He was not wearing a helmet.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 6 of 85

Groton Senior Citizens

August 14

Groton Seniors met with fourteen members. President Sarge Likness opened the meeting with the flag pledge. Minutes and treasurers report were read and accepted. A motion was made to get a coffee maker. It was seconded. Meeting was adjourned. Cards were played, The winners of each game were Pinochle- Bruce Shilhank, Whist- Tony Goldade, Canasta- Marilyn Thorson and Eunice McColister, Cribbage- Ruby Donovan. Door prizes were Ruby Donovan, Darlene Fischer, and Elda Stange. Lunch was served by Marilyn Thorson.

August 21

Nine members met to play cards. Cards were played. The winners of the games were Pinochle- Sarge Likness, Whist-Dick Donovan, Canasta- Eunice McColister and Pat Larson. Door prizes-Tony Goldade, David Kliensassor, and Elda Stange. Lunch was served by Eunice McColister.

August 28

Groton Seniors met for their pot luck dinner. Fourteen members attended. President led the flag pledge and a short meeting was held. We received money from Thrivent to be used for some projects \$150 will be used to buy food for the food pantry and a \$100 for the Transit in Groton motion made and seconded to pay in Groton motion made and seconded to pay for two Cribbage boards. President had the table prayer. After dinner bingo was played. Pat Larson won the black out. Cards were played after bingo. Door Prizes Pat Larson, Julie Shilhank and Elda Stange. Root beer and orange pop floats were served for lunch.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 7 of 85

Minnesota Duluth Hands Northern State 2023 Home Opening Loss

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University football team dropped their 2023 home opener to (RV) Minnesota Duluth Saturday evening, after a high scoring first half by the Bulldogs. The Wolves scored in three of the four quarters, however a 35 points deficit at the half was difficult to overcome.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 21, UMD 41

Records: NSU 0-2 (0-2 NSIC), UMD 2-0 (1-0 NSIC)

Attendance: 5128

HOW IT HAPPENED

Colton Hackel made the first start of his Northern State career, stepping in for an injured Anthony Vespo; Hackel ran for a game high 134 yards and passed for 224

The Bulldogs opened the contest with a bang, grabbing 21 points in the first quarter

Hackel and the Wolves tied the contest at 7-all with a rushing touchdown, however that was as close as the Wolves would get

Duluth knocked out back-to-back scores closing out the first quarter

Hackel brought the Wolves within seven early in the second quarter on his second rushing touchdown of the contest, as 8-yard attempt

UMD extended their lead in the second with two more scores, holding a 35-14 tilt at the half

Neither team broke through in the third and the Bulldogs tallied their sixth and final touchdown of the game early in the fourth; a 1-yard run by starting quarterback Kyle Walljasper

Dakota Larson tallied his touchdown in 665 days at just under six minutes in the fourth; the fourth touchdown of his career against the Bulldogs

The Wolves recorded a game leading 22 first downs, 224 yards passing, 395 yards of total offense, and 175 return yards in the contest, however four turnovers and a lack of early defensive stability led to their demise

The offense converted on 8-of-15 third downs, 0-of-5 fourth downs, and 3-of-5 scoring chances in the red-zone

The Bulldog offense converted on 6-of-9 third down attempts and scored each of the five times they entered the red-zone

Dewaylon Ingram was just a few yards short of notching his second 100-yard game of the 2023 season, leading the team with 98 total yards

Kegan Mountain made his Northern State debut and was an impactful player for the Wolves, racking up 163 kick return yards, averaging 27.2 yards per return with a 41-yard long

Drew Smook went 3-for-3 in PATs and Wade James averaged 58.5 yards per kickoff

Luke Gunderson led the defensive effort with eight tackles, including 2.0 tackles for a loss and the team's lone sack

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Colton Hackel: 224 yds passing, 134 yds rushing, 2 rushing TDs

Dewaylon Ingram: 98 yds receiving

Dakota Larson: 64 yds receiving, 1 TD

Luke Gunderson: 8 tackles, 2.0 TFL of 7 yds, 1.0 sack

Trey King: 7 tackles, 1 break-up

Kegan Mountain: 163 kick returns yds, 27.2 yds per return

UP NEXT

Northern State returns to Dacotah Bank Stadium next Saturday versus the University of Mary. Kick-off is set for 6 p.m. against the Marauders in the 2023 Ag Bowl.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 8 of 85

Groton girls soccer team tie with Sioux Falls Christian

Five soccer games were played across the state on Saturday with three of them being scoreless. One of them was Groton Area traveling to Sioux Falls Christian. It was the first scoreless game of the season in the Class A division. The next soccer game is Sept. 23 at Tea Area.

| # | Name | Season | | | | Seed Pts |
|---|---|--------|---|---|------|----------|
| | | W | L | T | PCT | PTS |
| 1 |  Tea Area | 5 | 1 | 0 | .833 | 44.833 |
| 2 |  Groton Area | 6 | 1 | 1 | .812 | 43.312 |
| 3 |  West Central | 6 | 2 | 0 | .750 | 42.625 |
| 4 |  Sioux Falls Christian | 5 | 3 | 1 | .611 | 42.562 |
| 5 |  Dakota Valley | 5 | 3 | 0 | .625 | 40.857 |
| 6 |  Vermillion | 3 | 4 | 0 | .429 | 39.429 |
| 7 |  St. Thomas More | 1 | 5 | 0 | .167 | 37.333 |
| 8 |  Garretson | 1 | 6 | 0 | .143 | 36.286 |
| 9 |  Belle Fourche | 0 | 8 | 0 | .000 | 35.750 |

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 9 of 85

Boys Soccer team loses to James Valley Christian

Earlier this week, Groton Area lost to James Valley Christian, 4-0, dropping the boys soccer team to ninth place in the state. The next action is set for Sept. 21 when James Valley Christian play in Groton.

| # | Name | Season | | | | Seed Pts |
|----|--|--------|---|---|------|----------|
| | | W | L | T | PCT | PTS |
| 1 |  Sioux Falls Christian | 9 | 0 | 1 | .950 | 45.750 |
| 2 |  Vermillion | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 41.800 |
| 3 |  Tea Area | 4 | 2 | 0 | .667 | 41.667 |
| 4 |  Belle Fourche | 4 | 3 | 0 | .571 | 41.571 |
| 5 |  Freeman Academy | 3 | 1 | 1 | .700 | 40.700 |
| 6 |  James Valley Christian | 2 | 4 | 0 | .333 | 39.667 |
| 7 |  St. Thomas More | 2 | 4 | 0 | .333 | 38.167 |
| 8 |  Dakota Valley | 0 | 3 | 1 | .125 | 37.375 |
| 9 |  Groton Area | 2 | 5 | 0 | .286 | 37.286 |
| 10 |  Hot Springs | 1 | 4 | 1 | .250 | 37.083 |
| 11 |  Custer | 2 | 3 | 1 | .417 | 36.700 |
| 12 |  West Central | 0 | 6 | 0 | .000 | 36.333 |

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 10 of 85



Groton Community Transit

P.O. Box 693
205 E. 2nd Ave.
Groton, SD 57445

Dear Groton family,

Thank you, Thank you, for your loyalty and support through all of these years! We appreciate everyone of you!!

Although we have tried our best to keep the expenses low, our operating costs have increased significantly due to global factors in recent times. After carefully reviewing the finances, we have made a tough decision of increasing our transportation prices.

The change will take effect on Oct. 1, 2023 our rides within the town of Groton will be \$2 per ride, \$4 roundtrip. And, medical rides to Aberdeen from Groton will be \$20 roundtrip. Until then, you can take benefit of the old prices. We will honor old prices till Sept. 30, 2023!

We also offer a discounted pass for \$30 which includes 22 one way rides within Groton area!

We are a non-profit transportation service for the needs of all age groups of people!

As always, thank you for your loyalty and we thank you for your understanding and continued support!

Sincerely,

Dam Hansen & Eugenia Strom

Groton Transit

Steve Smith, Sherry Koehler, Topper Tostad, Dick Kolker

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 11 of 85



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Do not let your adornment be merely outward – arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel – rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

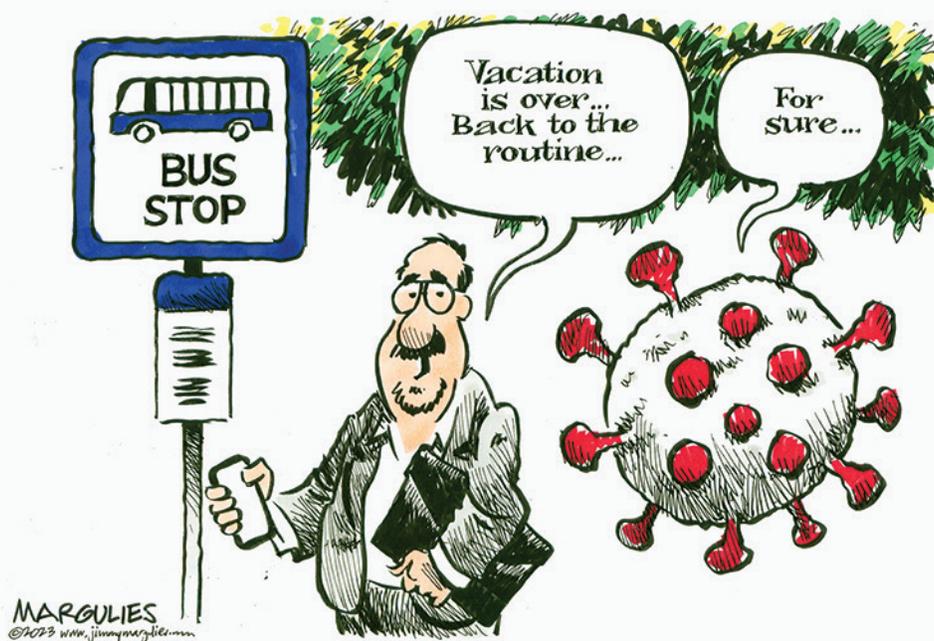
1 PETER 3: 3-4

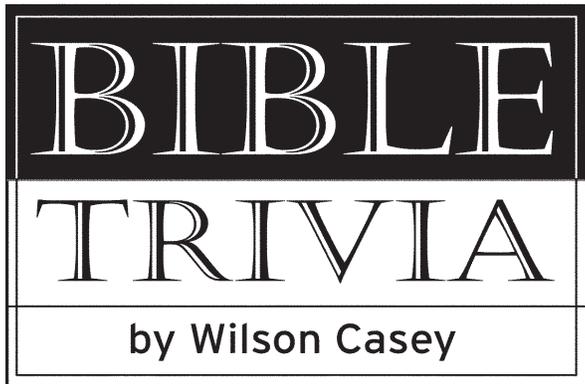


*Detail of "Madame Ginoux"
by Paul Gauguin (1888)*



© 2023 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.





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

2. In Revelation 8, what's the falling star called when the third angel sounded? *Armageddon, Wormwood, Rapture, Zabulon*

3. Who carried a letter from the king of Syria to the king of Israel? *Stephen, Naaman, John the Baptist, Delilah*

4. From 2 Chronicles 11, Rehoboam took 18 wives and how many "score" of concubines? *One, Two, Three, Four*

5. What name did the apostles give to Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus? *Barnabas, Cephas, Amos, Gideon*

6. In 2 Corinthians, who traveled to Corinth to help pick up an offering for needy saints? *Vitas, Timothy, Philemon, Titus*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Wormwood, 3) Naaman, 4) Three, 5) Barnabas, 6) Titus

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," now available in bookstores and online.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 13 of 85



FLASH GORDON

BY JIM KEEFE 9-10

HAVING FOUND REFUGE IN KING VULTAN'S PALACE, FLASH AND DALE BEGIN TO RELAX...
...UNAWARE THAT THEIR WHEREABOUTS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED!

YOU SEEM PREOCCUPIED.
WHAT IS IT... WHAT'S WRONG?

I... I'M JUST TIRED.
TIRED OF RUNNING.

OH, FLASH! KISS ME...
... HOLD ME IN YOUR ARMS.
I JUST WANT TO FORGET...
... IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT...

© 2023 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

I WANT TO PUT THIS NIGHTMARE BEHIND US...
... TO BE BACK ON EARTH.

OH, FLASH! KISS ME...
... HOLD ME IN YOUR ARMS.
I JUST WANT TO FORGET...
... IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT...

THE CRIMES YOU'VE COMMITTED, MISS ARDEN, CAN NOT SIMPLY BE FORGOTTEN!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

DUROK!

SHACKLE THEM SECURELY. THEN BRING ME THE FEMALE.

THE EARTHWOMAN AND I HAVE A PERSONAL MATTER TO DISCUSS.

NEXT: VENDETTA!

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

ONE WAY TO OBTAIN DISTANCE AT GOLF IS WITH A LONG, HIGH CARRY.

THAT'S USUALLY MY FIRST CHOICE BECAUSE OF THE CONTROL THIS TYPE OF SHOT PERMITS BOTH THROUGH THE AIR AND AS THE BALL LANDS.

© 2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

ANOTHER WAY TO GET DISTANCE IS WITH A LOW, BORING OR DRIVING TYPE OF SHOT, PARTICULARLY WHEN DRAWN FROM RIGHT TO LEFT TO PRODUCE MAXIMUM RUN.

THIS SECOND SHOT IS EASIER FOR MOST GOLFERS, BUT BOTH REQUIRE SOUND SWING MECHANICS.

© 2001 by King Features Syndicate Inc. World rights reserved.



Suspecting and Diagnosing Hereditary Hemochromatosis

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband was diagnosed with hemochromatosis 13 months before he died. I recommended that his blood relatives get tested so they can get treatment early, if necessary. Some doctors don't know to check ferritin levels to make a diagnosis in a person with a family history of hemochromatosis. — C.G.

ANSWER: Hereditary hemochromatosis (HHC) is a genetic disease of iron overload. In a person with HHC, the intestines absorb as much iron as they can all the time, even if the body doesn't need it, whereas a person without HHC will simply stop absorbing iron if it isn't necessary. The iron can go into and damage many organs, especially the liver, heart, bone marrow, hormone-producing glands and skin.

The diagnosis should be suspected in close relatives of an affected person. Although checking ferritin levels is useful in making the diagnosis, iron tests, total iron-binding capacity tests and hemoglobin tests should also be ordered. If the family member has a recognized genetic mutation, such as C282Y homozygote or C282Y/H63D compound heterozygote, those genetic tests may also be useful in making the diagnosis.

The diagnosis should even be suspected in people with vague symptoms, such as weakness and fatigue. I teach my students and residents to consider the possibility of iron overload, as it is common, easily tested for, and easily treated with phlebotomy (blood removal). Symptomatic HHC is more common at an earlier age in

considered in younger women.

A clinician should also consider iron overload in people with enlarged livers or abnormal liver enzymes, diabetes, changes in skin tone (bronze or gray), heart failure and some kinds of arthritis. Most people with these conditions do not have HHC, but initial testing is cheap and easy.

Treatment can be done by donating blood. My first patient with HHC donated over 100 units of blood before his blood levels came down to the target range.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am one of the people who cannot take statins because of muscle pain. My cardiologist suggested Praluent, and it works fine — no muscle pain as well as very low HDL and LDL cholesterol levels for over two years now.

However, I keep seeing articles about muscle pain and statins and never see Praluent referred to as an alternative. Why? — T.G.

ANSWER: Alirocumab (Praluent) is an antibody to a compound called PCSK9. This causes the liver to remove LDL cholesterol from the blood and lower the levels of this "bad" kind of cholesterol. In turn, this leads to a reduction in heart disease risk among those taking the medication. It does not cause muscle damage. PCSK9 inhibitors may be used alone or in combination with statins.

Unfortunately, the medication is expensive, about \$500 per month. It is most often used in people with known blockages in their heart, but some experts prescribe alirocumab in high-risk patients who do not have known blockages. Insurance coverage is not assured. Furthermore, it is given only as an injection, usually every two or four weeks.

PCSK9 inhibitors are an important tool in the fight against heart disease and are of special value in those at the highest risk or those who cannot tolerate a statin.

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.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 15 of 85



"Fast X" (PG-13) -- The 10th main installment in the "Fast & Furious" franchise hits streaming on Sept. 15 after bringing home \$719 million from the box office this summer. Jason Momoa makes his grand entrance into the franchise by playing Dante, son of Hernan Reyes (aka the central villain in the 2011 film "Fast Five"). Momoa's performance has been praised by critics as one of the strongest points of the film, along with the film's extravagant action sequences, of course. With the film ending on a cliffhanger (and two more films already slated for 2025 and on), the culmination of this longtime franchise is nowhere in sight. (Peacock)



Sinclair Daniel, left, and Ashleigh Murray star in "The Other Black Girl."

Courtesy of Hulu

"Love at First Sight" (PG-13) -- Netflix is pumping out the rom-coms this month! Starring Haley Lu Richardson ("The White Lotus") and Ben Hardy ("Bohemian Rhapsody"), this film follows Hadley and Oliver who coincidentally meet at John F. Kennedy Airport before their flight to London. Once they realize that they're also sitting next to each other on the same plane, Hadley and Oliver use this serendipitous moment as an opportunity to have their first date. But shortly after they arrive in London and Oliver gives Hadley his number, she drops her phone and immediately loses his information. Now Hadley and Oliver must grapple with their intense feelings, never knowing if they'll ever be able to find each other again. Premieres Sept. 15. (Netflix)

"The Other Black Girl" (TV-14) -- Based on the 2021 novel by Zakiya Dalila Harris, this new series cleverly takes on the challenging topic of racism in the workplace through a comedy-thriller lens. Being the only Black woman who works at Wagner Books, editorial assistant Nella becomes delighted when she finds out another Black woman, Hazel, was hired by her company. The two quickly build a friendship, until Nella starts receiving haunting messages to leave the company. As the workplace gains an increasingly sinister feel, Nella starts to suspect Hazel is attempting to sabotage her. Sinclair Daniel and Ashleigh Murray ("Riverdale") lead the series, with supporting roles played by Bellamy Young ("Scandal") and "Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" star Garcelle Beauvais. The 10-episode series drops Sept. 13. (Hulu)

"Inside" (R) -- Basically a one-man show, Willem Dafoe leads this psychological thriller where he plays an art thief named Nemo. Nemo disguises himself as a handyman to steal three art pieces by Egon Schiele from an art collector's New York penthouse, but as he attempts to leave, he sets off the apartment's alarm system and accidentally locks himself inside. Weeks pass with no food or water as Nemo repeatedly tries to escape from the apartment, resorting to an array of crazed methods to get out before his body and mind give up on him. More than anything, this film serves as a reminder of Dafoe's incredible acting prowess; he's one of the only actors captivating enough to take over the screen by himself for 105 minutes. Premieres Sept. 12. (Amazon Prime Video)

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 16 of 85



1. The Love Unlimited Orchestra was the band for which vocal artist?
2. Which doo-wop group released "Under the Boardwalk"?
3. Who released "Let the Little Girl Dance"?
4. Which group released "Cold as Ice"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I'm out of work, I'm out of my head, out of self-respect, I'm out of bread, I'm under loved, I'm underfed, I wanna go home."

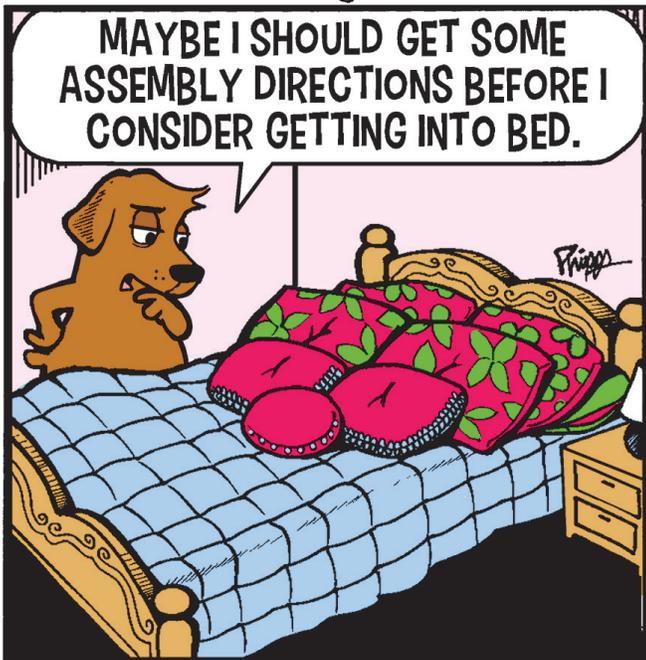
Answers

1. Barry White. The orchestra was a 40-piece mostly string group. They also backed up White's female trio, Love Unlimited. They were with White for the '70s decade and periodically released their own albums.
2. The Drifters, in 1964. The song climbed to No. 1 on the R&B chart and has since been covered by several artists, including the Rolling Stones (their cover went to No. 1 in Australia and South Africa).
3. Billy Bland, in 1960. Bland overheard another artist recording the song and gave suggestions about how it should be sung. Bland recorded it just that once ... and that is the version that was released.
4. Foreigner, in 1977.
5. "It Never Rains in Southern California," by Albert Hammond in 1972. The song was released on Hammond's debut album of the same name.

(c) 2023 King Features Syndicate

GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}

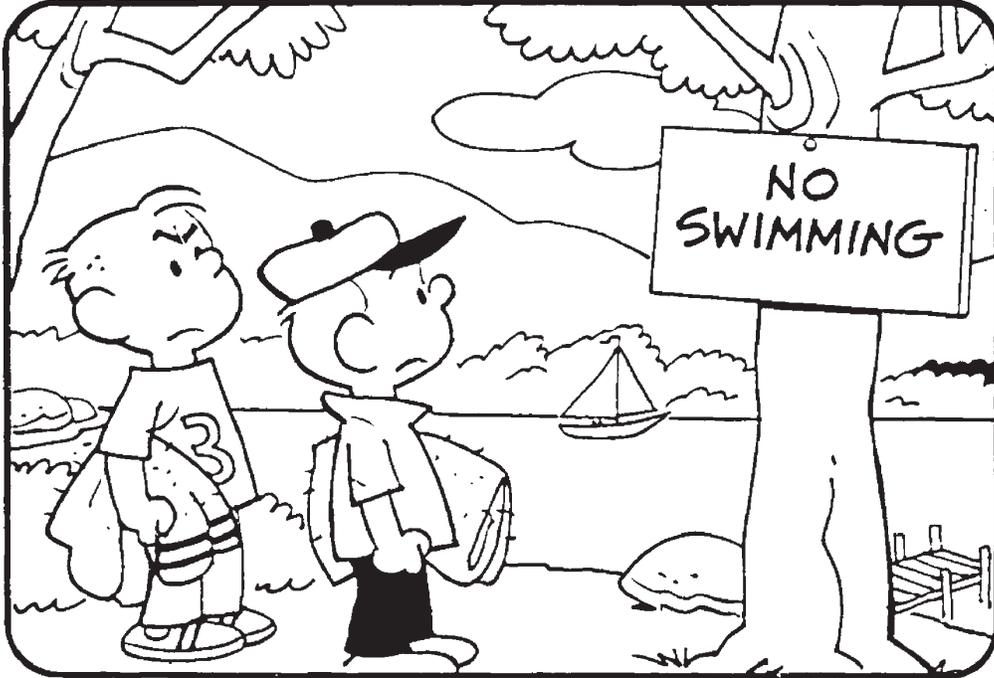
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



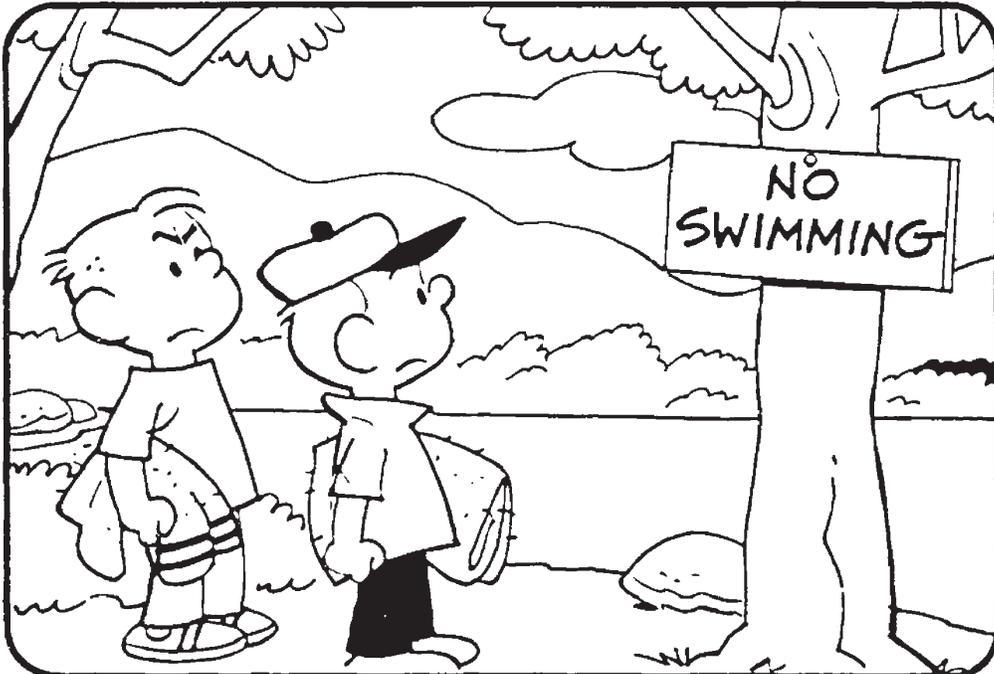
"I got so sentimental when I found one of your old ransom notes!"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Towel is smaller. 2. Number is missing. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Sailboat is missing. 5. Sign is smaller. 6. Dock is missing.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 18 of 85



* Be sure to comb the leftovers from back-to-school sales. Pick up supplies that will need to be replenished as the school years moves on. Also, there are many imaginative pencil cases that can double as travel jewelry and makeup bags. Often you can pick up several at a good price.

* "Just after Labor Day, our family starts to think about who will host holiday dinners and such. We do it in a lottery. Whoever just hosted is exempt if they want to be. The rest of those who'd like to host a holiday event put their names in a pot, and we pick out names. The events are the usuals, like Christmas and Thanksgiving, but also a cookie-making party and the children's party. It's better than one person always having to do it or always getting

to do it." -- E.D. in Massachusetts

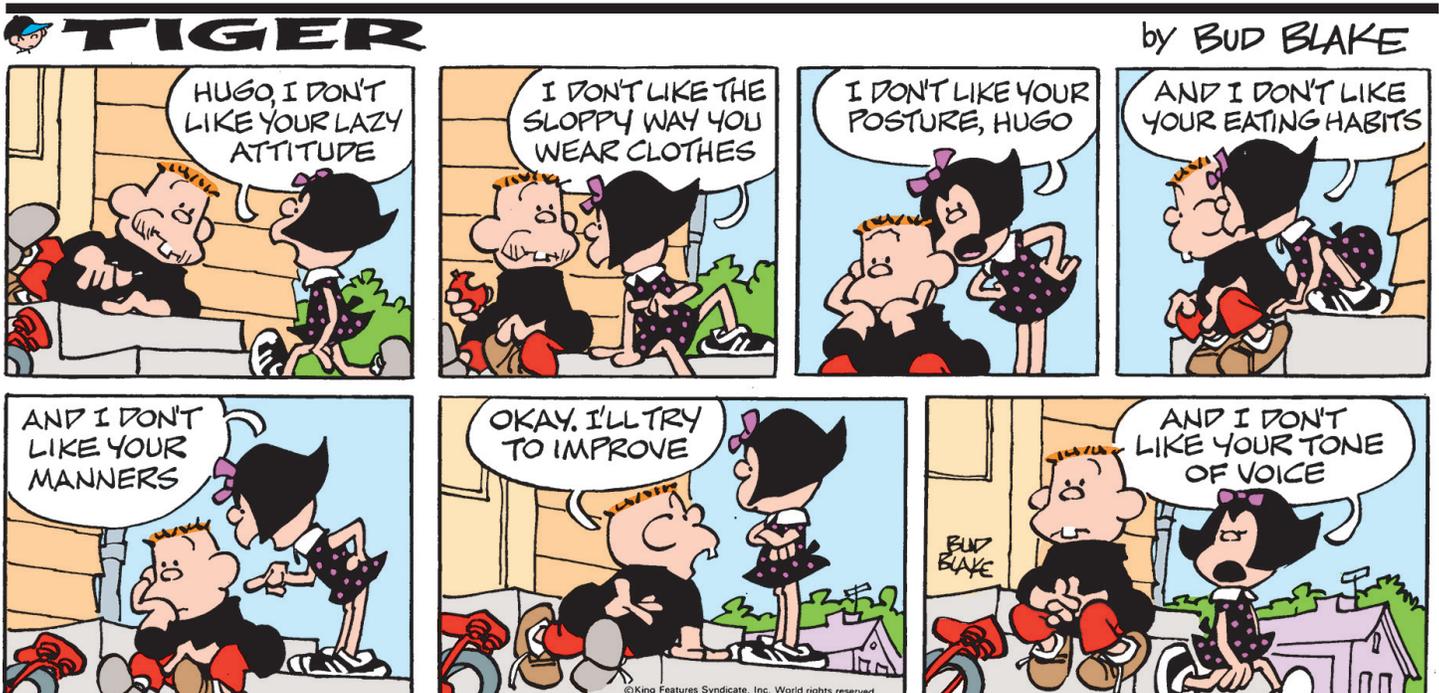
* If you are getting your outdoor furniture ready for storage, here's a great cleaning idea. Load it all in the back of a truck, take it to a self-serve car wash and clean with the pressure hoses. Let dry, and it's ready.

* "Dust books with a vacuum assist! I put the leg of a pantyhose over my vacuum wand and secure tightly. Then I dust my bookshelves, holding the wand close by to suck up the dust that gets disturbed. It's less messy, I think. I still dust from the top down." -- L.K. in Ohio

* To make your own disinfecting wipes, cut paper towels into four squares each. Saturate with a half alcohol, half water mix and store in a plastic freezer bag or a diaper wipe container. You can use these to clean telephones and doorknobs during cold and flu season.

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

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 19 of 85

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Stetson, e.g.
- 4 Big gulp
- 8 Miles away
- 12 Boxing legend
- 13 Galileo's birthplace
- 14 Tubular pasta
- 15 Comedy club razzers
- 17 Streetcar
- 18 Attack
- 19 Poem of praise
- 21 Old Ford model
- 22 Frenzied
- 26 Stupefies
- 29 AAA job
- 30 Archipelago unit (Abbr.)
- 31 Sacred bird of Egypt
- 32 Sushi fish
- 33 Nile queen, familiarly
- 34 Capitol Hill VIP
- 35 Passing craze
- 36 Sacred song
- 37 Browbeat
- 39 Indent key
- 40 Gallery display
- 41 High-flying battle
- 45 Rotate
- 48 Large land measures
- 50 Out of control

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

- 51 "Star Wars" royal
- 52 Sportscaster Cross
- 53 New Mexico resort
- 54 Bigfoot's cousin
- 55 Surpass
- 9 Tall tree
- 10 — loss
- 11 Brink
- 16 Curly-leaf cabbages
- 20 Morning moisture
- 23 Lean to one side
- 24 "Got it"
- 25 Coagulate
- 26 Plate
- 27 "... sting like —"
- 28 Galvanizing matter
- 29 Media mogul Turner
- 32 Terrestrial
- 33 Hooded snake
- 35 Supporting
- 36 Rum cocktail
- 38 Armored vehicles
- 39 Unspoken
- 42 Legal document
- 43 Aviation prefix
- 44 Answer an invite
- 45 Make lace
- 46 Hollywood's Thurman
- 47 Aussie hopper
- 49 Shoe width

DOWN

- 1 "Funny!"
- 2 Hearty quaffs
- 3 Twitches
- 4 Divides
- 5 Brandish
- 6 Medit. nation
- 7 Hybrid fuel
- 8 Ancient

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 21 of 85

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
POPEYE
BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

YOU'VE BEEN A BIT TOO SCRAPPY LATELY. CAN YOU PLEASE GO THE DAY WITHOUT HAVING A FIGHT?

OKAY, OLIVE. FER TODAY, I WONTSK FIGHTS NO ONE.

HEY, POPEYE. BLUTO'S TELLIN' EVERYBODY YOU'RE A COWARD.

IT AINTSK A FIGHT AS LONG AS THE BEATIN' IS ONE-SIDED!

ALRIGHT, BLUTO! I HEARS YA BEEN TALKIN' TRASH!

D'YA WANNA GO?!

HUH? GO WHERE?

UH, IS YA OKAY? I DUNNO...

I STARTED THE DAY OFF DOING ALL OF MY FAVORITE THINGS, LIKE SPREADING RUMORS ABOUT YOU AND BEATING GUYS TO A PULP.

BUT IT'S JUST NOT AS FUN AS USUAL. IT'S LIKE I'M IN A RUT.

I GIT IT. SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE YER JUSK GOIN' THROUGH THE MOTIONS, YER ALLOWED T' FEEL DOWN SOMETIMES.

JUSK KNOW THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE HAPPY T' LIFT YA UP.

POW!

YA KIN'T CALL ME A LIAR.

DON'T WORRY, I'VE GOT A LOT OF OTHER CHOICE NAMES.

BARNEY GOOGLE AND
SMUFFY SMITH

I GOT RELATIVES COMIN' T' VISIT, LO--I'LL BE BAKIN' UP A STORM THIS WEEK !!

HOWDY, LOWEEZY-- ENNY CHANCE YA GOT A LI'L CINNAMON I COULD BORRY ?

SORRY, ELVINEY, I JEST USED TH' LAST OF WHAT I HAD !!

DANG !! HOW 'BOUT SOME NUTMEG ?

ALL OUTTA THAT, TOO !!

SUGAR ?

SORRY !!

APPLES ? FLOUR ? BUTTER ?

NOPE, NOPE AN' NOPE !!

BUT YO'RE IN LUCK, ELVINEY-- I MADE TWO !!

JOHN ROSE

9-18

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 22 of 85

HAL FOSTER'S
Prince Valiant
BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

GAWAIN'S QUIET DISPLAY OF BOWMANSHIP HAS PUT THE ARROGANT ROGER DOWN A NOTCH. VAL TRIES NOT TO APPEAR AMUSED.

SIR ROGER CHOOSES TO IGNORE GAWAIN, AND RETURNS TO VALS COMMENTS: "WHAT WOULD LORD GRUNYARD KNOW OF OUR SITUATION HERE?"

"WE STRUGGLE DAILY TO KEEP HIS LAZY, WORTHLESS SERFS PRODUCTIVE, WHILE ALSO FIGHTING A CONSTANT BATTLE WITH GROWING HORDES OF BRIGANDS RAIDING HIS FORESTS AND FIELDS. WE SEND TRIBUTE TO CAMELOT! WHAT CARES GRUNYARD FURTHER?"

VAL NOTES TO HIMSELF: "ANOTHER REFERENCE TO BRIGANDS! PERHAPS THESE ROGUES WOULD BE WORTH INVESTIGATING." FINALLY, FULL OF ARCHERY, ROGER SIGNALS FOR VAL AND GAWAIN TO FOLLOW...

©2012 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

...AND LEADS THEM THROUGH A SUMPTUOUS, WELL-STOCKED GARDEN. BUT IN THE MIDST OF THIS FURTHER DISPLAY OF WEALTH, VAL NOTES SOMETHING OUT OF PLACE: A ROW OF UNFAMILIAR AND SICKLY SHRUBS.

TO VALS INTEREST, ROGER REMARKS: "BAH. THEY ARE BUT A HOBBY OF MINE AND OF NO CONCERN."

NEXT: Hal investigates

YEATES 7/15/12

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

NEVER LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH.

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

WHICH PART SHOULD I LOOK IN??

PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Food Prices

The Bureau of Labor Statistics issued a food prices report comparing this summer to the summer of 2022. While they acknowledge that prices of food are continuing to rise, they claim that the rate of that increase has slowed. They say that the cost of groceries went up only 4.9% from last year.

I'd like to know where, exactly, they do their shopping -- because I'll go there.

We can point the finger of blame in several directions, per the nightly news -- the war in Ukraine, wild-fires, droughts, avian flu -- but I point that finger in one additional direction: greed.

I have a thick stack of grocery receipts, batched by date, so it's easy to check the prices that I paid a month ago, six months ago, a year ago, etc. Along with a handy online calculator, I can see that one particular item I commonly buy rose in price from \$4.27 to \$5.95 just in the past several months. That equates to a 39% increase in price. It's not even a fancy cut of meat -- it's bread.

I have to wonder if the food companies don't watch the news and decide to see just how much we'll put up with, like the frog in the pan of increasingly heated water. How long before we jump out?

By "jump out," I mean refuse to buy. Granted, we can't avoid buying food, but we can refuse to pay for higher priced items. For example, I'm experimenting with a way to cut my grocery bill that is simply this: I buy whatever brand is the cheapest. If I want a can of beans, maybe the store brand is the cheapest, maybe it's a flavor I haven't tried before, maybe it's on sale. Whatever it is, I buy the cheapest.

Eventually the food companies will wise up and realize that we won't be held hostage by their high prices.

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 24 of 85

1. Actor, politician and former NFL player Alan Autry went by what name when he started three games at quarterback for the 1976 Green Bay Packers?

2. U.S. Olympian Flo Hyman won a silver medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Games playing in what team sport?

3. In Game 2 of the 1986 Stanley Cup Final, the Montreal Canadiens' Brian Skrudland scored the fastest overtime goal in NHL playoff history. How many seconds into overtime did he score?

4. What member of the minor league Omaha Cardinals set a world record for longest throw of a baseball at 445 feet, 10 inches in 1957?

5. Footballer Alessandro Faiolhe Amantino, who played nine games for Brazil's national team (2004-08), and played in Italy for Roma (2003-08) and Internazionale (2008-11), was better known by what name?

6. In 2022, what member of the Denver Nuggets became the first NBA player to have played with 13 different franchises?

7. What two Cleveland MLB pitchers were killed in a boating accident in Florida during spring training in 1993?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Carlos Brown.

2. Volleyball.

3. Nine.

4. Glen Gorbous.

5. Mancini.

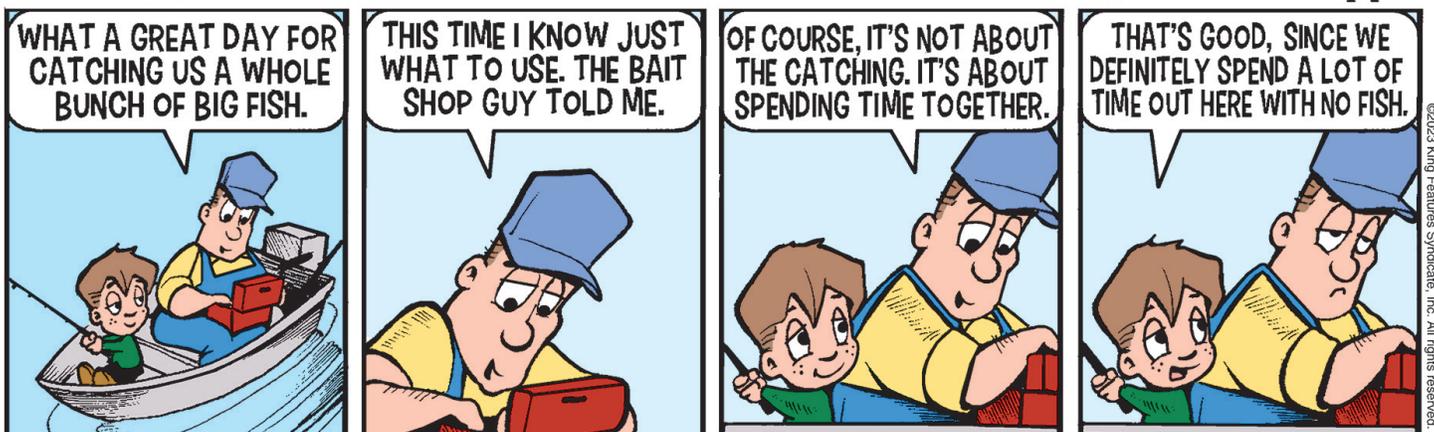
6. Ish Smith.

7. Steve Olin and Tim Crews.

(c) 2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





How Long Do Rabbits Live?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have a pet rabbit, Brownie, who is nearly 10 years old! He's a Holland Lop, I think. He doesn't do much at this age but sort of half-heartedly flop around his cage and the porch, then he settles onto the raised shelf in his cage and nibbles on carrots. He seems healthy, just slow. How much longer does he have left? Do you think he's lonely? -- Vicky R., Macon, Georgia

DEAR VICKY: First of all, wow! Ten years is quite a lifespan for a Holland Lop. It's a testament to how well you care for him.

While the average lifespan of this rabbit breed is six to eight years, I have heard of H-Lops reaching 10, 12 or even 16 years of age! Care and comfort are really important for rabbits at any age. They need a secure hutch, stable temperatures in summer and winter, fresh water always available, and good nutrition. They also need things to gnaw on so their front teeth don't grow too long, as well as plenty of fresh vegetables.

Introducing a new rabbit to the mix can be risky. They might not take to each other, and fighting with another rabbit can cause stress, which can be deadly.

It sounds like Brownie is doing really well for his age. I recommend checking in with his vet if you notice any changes in his behavior or ability to get around. It sounds like you're a little concerned that he isn't moving around as much. Contacting the vet within 48 hours is a good rule for any changes in behavior, diet or activity for rabbits and other small pets.

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

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* In 2003, a community in New Jersey experienced an animal-related electrical outage. Such occurrences were certainly not rare, but this incident was notable for being the first time an osprey was known to be involved -- or, rather, a fish: The bird had dropped its scaly prey on the power lines.

* Slovenia boasts a most impressive 28,000 wineries, amounting to one winery for every 75 persons in the country.

* Ever hear "things that go bump in the night" at your house? Before you call an exorcist, keep in mind that several cases of residential "paranormal activity" have actually turned out to be the result of carbon monoxide poisoning, which can cause hallucinations and feelings of dread.

* The Mamenchisaurus sinocanadorum dinosaur's neck measured 50 feet -- six times longer than that of a giraffe!

* When he was in his 50s, Steven Spielberg re-enrolled at California State, Long Beach to finish his B.A. degree three decades after dropping out. The school awarded him three course credits in paleontology for making "Jurassic Park."

* Japan's "gyoza cider" is a soda designed to taste like gyoza dumplings.

* In 2018, one of Stephen Hawking's older wheelchairs was auctioned off for \$387,000, with proceeds donated to his favorite charities.

* Basketball backboards were invented to keep overly enthusiastic fans from interfering with a game after some spectators, early in the sport's history, leaned over railings in an effort to deflect or catch the ball.

* New York-Presbyterian Hospital has created a Spotify playlist called "Songs to do CPR to," featuring hits by artists ranging from the Bee Gees to Justin Bieber.

Thought for the Day: "Every day we should hear at least one little song, read one good poem, see one exquisite picture and, if possible, speak a few sensible words."
-- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



- Planting new trees and shrubs in early fall will give them about two months to establish root systems before the ground freezes.
- Keeping all your plants, shrubs and trees well-watered throughout the fall keeps them unstressed as they approach dormancy.
- Walk around your garden, taking notes as you go. What worked well this year's growing season, and what didn't? Take photos, write in a journal or perhaps use a phone app to record your observations. Are there bare areas? Enough privacy from neighbors or roadways? Are your goals being met?

- Brenda Weaver

Source: naturespath.com



by Freddy Groves

Disability Claims Lost Since 2018

As far back as 2018 there have been technical problems with uploading disability claims on the Department of Veterans Affairs' website, except nobody knew. There were no indications at the time that anything was going awry. But those claims weren't received.

When you hit the SEND button, it didn't go. Your disability claim has likely been sitting in that internet "dead zone," neither moving forward nor backward, unseen.

But somehow they found them, 32,000 claims sitting there unprocessed since 2018.

Now, having found those 32,000 claims in the dead zone, the VA is sending out letters to all the affected veterans. The problem was first reported by Military.com, when the spouse of one of their former employees received the letter about the lost claims.

It brings up several questions:

Did veterans file alternate claims when they didn't hear back? Did they assume they'd been denied when they received no reply? Have the veterans, unfortunately, passed away? Do the surviving spouses know their veteran had filed? And are they due any money?

At this point you don't need to do anything, they say. All affected veterans whose claims were found stuck in the system will be notified and their claims hustled through. Claims benefits will be backdated to the "stuck" date.

Unless you decide to take charge of your situation and check it out. The VA's website gives this page of instructions to file disability claims: www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim. You can file your claim online, by mail using Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits (VA Form 21-526EZ), in person when you deliver your application to a VA regional office or with help from a Veterans Service Officer.

That same instruction page says that it's taking 104 days to get a decision. You can also check the status of your claim from that page. Do that, just to make sure. And if you have trouble signing into your MyVA411 account, or creating one, you can call 800-698-2411 for help.

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 28 of 85

Wishing Well®

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

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.

©2023 King Features Syndicate



1. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to a giant sequoia tree named General Sherman?
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Is a rhinoceros an herbivore, omnivore or carnivore?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Which city in India is home to the Taj Mahal?
4. MOVIES: What is the title of the first James Bond movie?
5. TELEVISION: What was the product featured in the first TV advertisement?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which French fashion designer is credited with inventing the Little Black Dress?
7. FOOD & DRINK: What does it mean to julienne vegetables?
8. GOVERNMENT: What does the acronym GDP stand for in economic terms?
9. LITERATURE: What is the cat's name in Shakespeare's "Macbeth"?
10. SCIENCE: Who is considered the father of the atomic bomb?

Answers

1. California, Sequoia National Park.
2. An herbivore, a plant eater.
3. Agra.
4. "Dr. No."
5. Bulova watch.
6. Coco Chanel.
7. Cut into short, thin strips.
8. Gross domestic product.
9. Grimalkin.
10. J. Robert Oppenheimer.

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 29 of 85

South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Freedom Really Does Work Here

I launched the "Freedom Works Here" nationwide workforce recruitment campaign in June to tell South Dakota's story to America. South Dakota has seen unprecedented economic success over the last several

years. This resulted in us having one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation – but we still had open jobs to fill.

From the beginning, this campaign has been about filling job openings for South Dakota businesses. Our businesses are loving the results, and Americans are answering the call!

We've been telling our story to the entire nation, encouraging Freedom-loving Americans to move to the best state in the nation to live, work, and raise a family. Today, I'd like to tell a bit of a different story. I'd like to share the stories of the South Dakota businesses who have been able to thrive because of this campaign.

I've talked to businesses across South Dakota about their workforce struggles. Since the launch of this campaign, local businesses have seen an increase in out-of-state applicants, welcomed new employees from across the country, and eased the workforce shortages that used to hinder their success.

Cole-TAC in Rapid City, DemKota Ranch Beef in Aberdeen, and Journey Construction Group in Sioux Falls are just a few examples of all the businesses that have been hiring out-of-state workers to fill their open jobs.

"Where most politicians just say they are working on a problem, Governor Noem is actually doing something about it. Here at Cole-TAC, we have started to receive more and more applications from folks living out-of-state. They are all very well qualified, and it's clear that they are excited about the prospect of moving to South Dakota," said Cole-TAC President Dustin Coleman. "One of our applicants even said that Governor Noem's 'Freedom Works Here' TV commercials are the reason they looked into moving to and working in South Dakota. We are excited to start welcoming these folks to our great state."

"In addition to aggressively recruiting in our home state of South Dakota, DemKota Ranch beef routinely recruits teammates out-of-state. DemKota recruiters have visited Texas, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Indiana, Illinois, Arkansas, Florida, Colorado, and Missouri. We have hired teammates from all of these states," said DemKota Ranch Beef CEO Adam Bode. "In the last six weeks, DemKota has welcomed 82 out-of-state teammates and families into our company and community. DemKota Ranch Beef will continue to support our local cattle producers to competitively market their animals, where locker plants and large conglomerates fail to meet their needs."

"Journey Construction Group has already hired two employees from out-of-state just in the last few weeks – one from Alaska and one from Colorado. With our need for workers, we've been grateful to Governor Noem for her efforts to share South Dakota's story with the rest of the country," said Journey Construction Group CEO Randy Knecht. "The two positions that we have already filled are professional positions, meaning they are year-round jobs, rather than seasonal roles like many jobs in construction tend to be. We are excited to hire more workers from within and outside the state of South Dakota as our need for more workers will increase again this spring."

These businesses are proving that South Dakota's story inspires people. Folks want to move their families to a state that values Freedom – that still believes in the beauty of the American Dream.

In the three months since the campaign launched, the five TV ads have been viewed almost 700 million times. 6,501 of people have filled out the online job application, and 1,402 of those folks are in the final stages of moving to South Dakota.

In South Dakota we're showing America that Freedom really does work here.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



The Opportunity to Play

Like a lot of South Dakotans, I can't wait for Friday night lights in the fall. I enjoy being able to attend games and other sporting events around the state throughout the season. Friday night football, Dakota Relays, Legion baseball, and the Summit League tournament – they're all part of the sports heritage that we cherish and that we are proud to pass on to the next generation of South Dakota athletes.

College sports have a special place in South Dakota. Many South Dakotans continue following athletes from their hometown who keep playing in college or who go on to play professionally. I know the impact that college sports can have on athletes. My daughter ran cross country in college, and she was inducted into her college's hall of fame a few years ago. My dad played basketball for the University of Minnesota where he was lucky enough to get a scholarship that covered room and board. He was the team's MVP during his junior year and the high point man in a game at Madison Square Garden in 1940 – quite the journey for a small-town kid from South Dakota.

Sports have certainly changed a lot since my dad played for the Gophers. But one of the most significant changes for college sports came recently with rules that allow college athletes to benefit from their name, image, and likeness (NIL). For many athletes, this is a welcome development. But, while NIL presents new opportunities for student athletes, it also brings challenges and complexities for them to navigate.

I recently joined NCAA President Charlie Baker for a discussion with student athletes and administrators hosted by Augustana University in Sioux Falls. The student panel spoke to some of the complexities of NIL, the need for a level playing field, and their hope that college sports will remain focused on playing the game, and not just making money. Their personal insights will be helpful as conversations continue in Congress about a federal role in setting NIL standards.

In my view, we need to ensure there is continued competition between large and smaller schools. A uniform set of standards to replace the existing patchwork of state laws that sometimes advantage public colleges would ensure there is a level playing field for all college athletes and their schools, no matter their size. National standards should also protect student athletes from being taken advantage of by bad actors.

One solution I've proposed is the Athlete Opportunity and Taxpayer Integrity Act, a bipartisan bill that would prohibit outside organizations and collectives from writing contributions off their taxes that are being used to compensate athletes. Student athletes now stand to benefit from opportunities related to their own NIL, but taxpayers shouldn't be subsidizing such recruitment methods or payments.

As the new NIL era unfolds, it's important that we safeguard the things that make college sports uniquely great. I appreciate Augustana University for hosting this timely discussion and the student athletes for their insight. I'm looking forward to seeing South Dakota's athletes compete this fall, and I wish them the best of luck this season and with the opportunities ahead.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 31 of 85



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



Guest Weekly Column: Interning in the District Office By Avery Palsma

My experience as an intern in Congressman Johnson's district office has been full of new experiences, learning curves, and limitless opportunities. I have seen firsthand the impact Congressman Johnson and his staff have on everyday South Dakotans and all they do to lend a helping hand.

I've been able to engage with constituents, attend community and outreach events, build my knowledge of state and federal government, and most importantly learn from the Congressman and his team. I've seen them do everything from answering legislative questions to assisting constituents with a federal agency. I've helped district office staff assist constituents renew their passports, file overdue tax returns, and give awards to veterans. Seeing district staff make such a difference in people's lives is very rewarding. Interning in the state office has shown me that not only does Congressman Johnson give a voice to South Dakotans at the federal level but also helps make a difference in individual lives.

While the work being done in Washington, D.C. is important, I've learned that district work is just as important, if not more so. I had the privilege to attend multiple meetings with community leaders, upcoming and established businesses, and even visited the local zoo. I have seen Congressman Johnson interact with everyone from teenagers to veterans to executive directors. At each of these events, the passion and care Dusty and his staff hold for their state and people is evident.

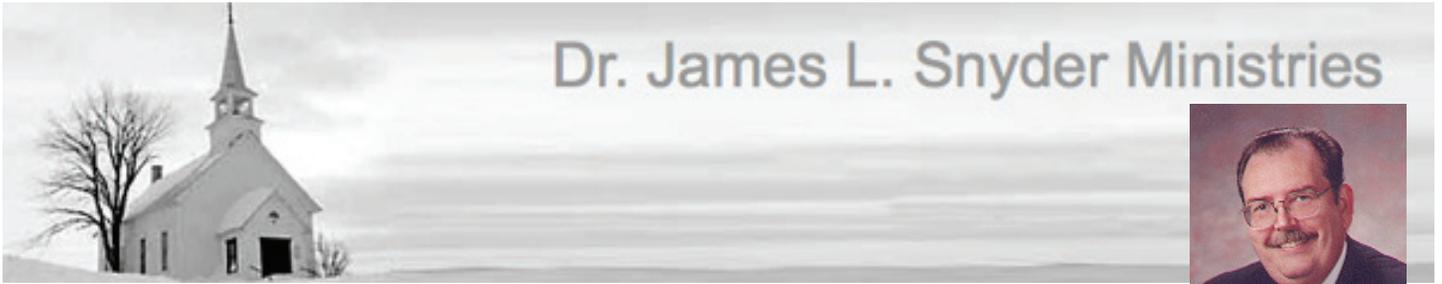
Throughout this internship, I met many wonderful people, helped others, and learned many different professional skills that I can use no matter which career I choose. I am grateful for this experience and appreciate all the work that Congressman Johnson and his staff have done for me and all of South Dakota.



Sioux Falls Office Intern Avery Palsma and Johnson

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 32 of 85



Why Do Some Cute Babies Grow Up Ugly

Our second great grand baby was born at the end of last year. Since then, it has been a delight to watch her grow.

I will not say she is the cutest baby in the world, but I haven't met any cuter. She was born cute, and I'm not sure what part of the family she got that.

Sometimes, when in the hospital, I walk by the maternity ward and look at all the new babies. Looking at them, I can see how cute everyone is. I have not found an ugly baby in the maternity ward yet.

The other day, I had to go to Walmart to pick up some items. Walking down the aisles, I saw a few babies pushed around in shopping carts. I looked at each one and smiled, noticing they were all very cute.

Walking down the last aisle was another baby in a shopping cart, and I stopped to look and smile. Then I did something I had not done before. I looked up to see the mother that was pushing the shopping cart. Boy, was I shocked.

I'm not an expert on ugly, but that mother was the ugliest mother I have ever seen. It got me thinking about that cute baby. Will she grow up to be as ugly as her mother?

I have never seen an ugly baby, so I had to ponder why some babies grow up ugly.

That evening, as I was getting ready for bed, I looked into my bathroom mirror. Staring back at me was one of the ugliest persons I have seen in a very long time. I was shocked. How in the world did I get so ugly? Was I born ugly?

The next day, I got out one of my old photo albums to look through it and see what I looked like as a baby. Sure enough, there were several baby pictures of me. You won't believe it, but I was a cute baby. I never gave that a thought before.

Growing up, I never thought of my parents as ugly. After all, they were my parents. I noticed some of my school friends had really ugly parents. I tried to keep their secret because I didn't want to embarrass them.

Looking through my photo album, I saw all those pictures from when I was a cute baby up to my wedding. I will not brag, but I was a cute little guy when I was young. After looking in the bathroom mirror, I wondered what happened to make me so ugly.

The only thing different in my life was that I got married. I'm not going to go there for obvious reasons.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 33 of 85

If a baby is born cute, why doesn't it stay cute for the rest of its life? What happened to me that I lost my cuteness, as I got older?

Following this thought about cuteness, I was in Walmart and happened to go down the aisle of beauty products. This is the first time I have looked in this aisle, so I was unsure what I was looking at. All of those products guaranteed that if I used them, I would look beautiful.

I don't want to look beautiful; I just want to look cute! [Sigh!]

I was tempted to get some of the products, but I didn't know where to start. Where does the journey back to cuteness start?

As I was looking at these products, one of the workers at Walmart came by and said, "Can I help you with anything?"

You do not know how tempted I was to ask her what I needed to restore my cuteness. I stuttered and said, "No, ma'am. I'm just looking for some products for my wife." That got me out of a sticky situation. My wife does not need anything to look cute; she has maintained it since I met her. I have been tempted many times to ask her her secret, but then I was afraid she would tell me.

Maybe when I was young, if I had paid more attention to my cuteness, I might have retained it much longer than I did. But nobody told me what to do along this line. I blame my parents who should have told me how to retain my cuteness. Maybe I can find a lawyer to help sue them for allowing me to become so ugly. How much is ugly worth?

I may have to settle with the fact that I'm just not cute. Maybe the secret is not to regain my cuteness but to slow down my ugliness.

If I'm as ugly as my mirror suggest, how in the world do people around me tolerate me? I'm not sure I could tolerate me. I don't have an inferiority complex, but I do have an exterior complex and I'm not sure what to do about it.

In my devotions recently, I read this verse. "And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you" (Isaiah 46:4).

That verse got me thinking about growing old. I don't need to worry about the past because God will carry me through everything. The secret to this is allowing God to be God and allowing Him to do what only He can do in my life.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What can I do this fall to ensure my garden looks its best next spring?

-- Jane B., Boston, MA

Preparing your garden in the fall is an important step to ensure it's in ideal condition for the next spring. Depending on the size and scope of your garden, you might have a lot to do...

Cleaning up and removing any dead plants, weeds and debris from your garden beds now helps prevent diseases and pests from overwintering. Prune any dead or overgrown branches from trees and shrubs. Also, trim back perennials and grasses to about 2-3 inches above the ground. Rather than discarding fallen leaves and garden debris, consider composting them to create nutrient-rich compost for future use.

If you have perennials that have become overcrowded, fall is a great time to divide and transplant them to rejuvenate the plants and improve their health. If you have tender perennials, shrubs or trees that are susceptible to winter damage, consider protecting them with burlap or other insulating materials.

Consider testing your soil to determine its nutrient and pH levels. This will help you know what soil amendments are needed. Based on results, add organic matter like compost, well-rotted manure or leaf mulch to improve soil structure and fertility. Incorporate these amendments into the top 6-8 inches of soil. And it's never too late to apply a 2-3 inch layer of mulch over your garden beds to help retain moisture, regulate soil and suppress weeds. Use organic mulch like wood chips, straw or shredded leaves.

Fall is the ideal time to plant spring-flowering bulbs like tulips, daffodils and crocuses. Follow planting depth and spacing guidelines for each type of bulb. Likewise, many perennial flowers and herbs—daylilies, peonies, lavender—can be planted in the fall so they have time to establish strong root systems before the growing season starts in the spring. Fall is also an excellent time to plant deciduous trees and shrubs because they can focus on root development without the energy demands of leaves. And if you're growing food crops that like cooler temperatures—broccoli, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, spinach, carrots—get them in the ground this fall for an early spring harvest.

Also, continue regular lawn care, including mowing, fertilizing and aerating. Fall is a good time for overseeding if your lawn needs it. Keep watering your garden as needed until the ground freezes. Plants still need water even as the weather cools down.

Most important, use the fall season to plan your garden for the next spring. Consider what new plants you want to add, any changes in design and any additional improvements. Address any pest or disease issues before winter. Prune and dispose of affected plant material, and consider applying appropriate treatments. If you have bare garden beds, consider planting cover crops like clover or rye to improve soil health and prevent erosion over the winter.

By taking these steps in the fall, you'll set the stage for a thriving garden in the spring. Proper preparation and care during the fall months will help your plants establish strong root systems and ensure they have the nutrients they need for vigorous growth when warmer weather arrives..



Preparing your garden in the fall is an important step to ensure it's in ideal condition for the next spring. Credit: Pexels.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Rapid City apartments would offset all their energy use with solar panels

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 2:53 PM

In what's being described as a rare project for South Dakota, a developer is planning a six-building apartment complex in Rapid City with enough solar panels to offset all of its energy use.

The housing will be available to those earning 60% or less than the average income in the area. The project — one of several around the country by Tennessee-based Elmington Capital Group — will cost about \$78 million, according to local company representative Ryan Tobin. About 70% of the money will come from federal, state or local government sources, including incentives for sustainable development.

"Being from South Dakota myself, I am very excited for this project," Tobin said of the Rapid City proposal. "We are responding to a housing need the city has identified."

That need was highlighted in a housing study commissioned by the Elevate Rapid City economic development group. The study identified a need for more than 1,300 rental units for people and households earning less than the median income in Rapid City.

The project, located at 1725 Camden Drive in eastern Rapid City, near a shopping area anchored by a Menards store, will feature 200 family units and 49 senior living units distributed across the six three-story buildings. The development is on 27.53 acres.

The site will contain 440 parking spaces, three communal patios, two community spaces, a playground, a dog park and walking trails.

In a partnership with RPG Energy Group, 15.5 acres of the development will feature a solar array with 3,600 panels that will produce enough electricity during the daytime and send enough extra energy to the grid to offset 100% of the development's electricity use. The complex will also have a battery system to store solar energy for peak-use periods.

Rather than supplying and measuring electricity for each individual unit within the complex, the energy company will supply power to the complex as a whole. The bill will be split evenly among residents.

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission approved that arrangement earlier this month.

However, Commissioner Chris Nelson said the solar panels would take up "a huge chunk of property within the city limits of Rapid City" and expressed reservations about the public money supporting the project.

Colton Cooper with RPG Energy Group said that while 15.5 acres in Rapid City sounds like a lot, the property itself has a substantial amount of hilly topography that would be very difficult to develop into much else.

Nelson replied, "Thank you, I appreciate the answer. I'm not sure I feel better about it knowing that I'm the taxpayer paying for all of this, but I do appreciate your answers. Thank you."

Ryan Tobin said about \$23 million of the \$78 million cost will be privately funded, with the rest coming from federal tax credits and state and local grants or loans. The funding package includes \$35 million from the federal low-income housing tax credit, and \$3.6 million from the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act incentives for solar energy.

Earlier this year, the South Dakota Legislature approved spending \$200 million on housing infrastructure development through grants and loans. Rapid City hopes to receive \$15 million of that, and Elmington Capital is requesting \$1.4 million of the city's share of the funding.

The project's preliminary subdivision plan and initial planned development overlay have been approved

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 36 of 85

by Rapid City officials.

Laura Jones, Elevate Rapid City's housing and community development manager, said in an emailed statement that the solar energy will help keep utility costs down.

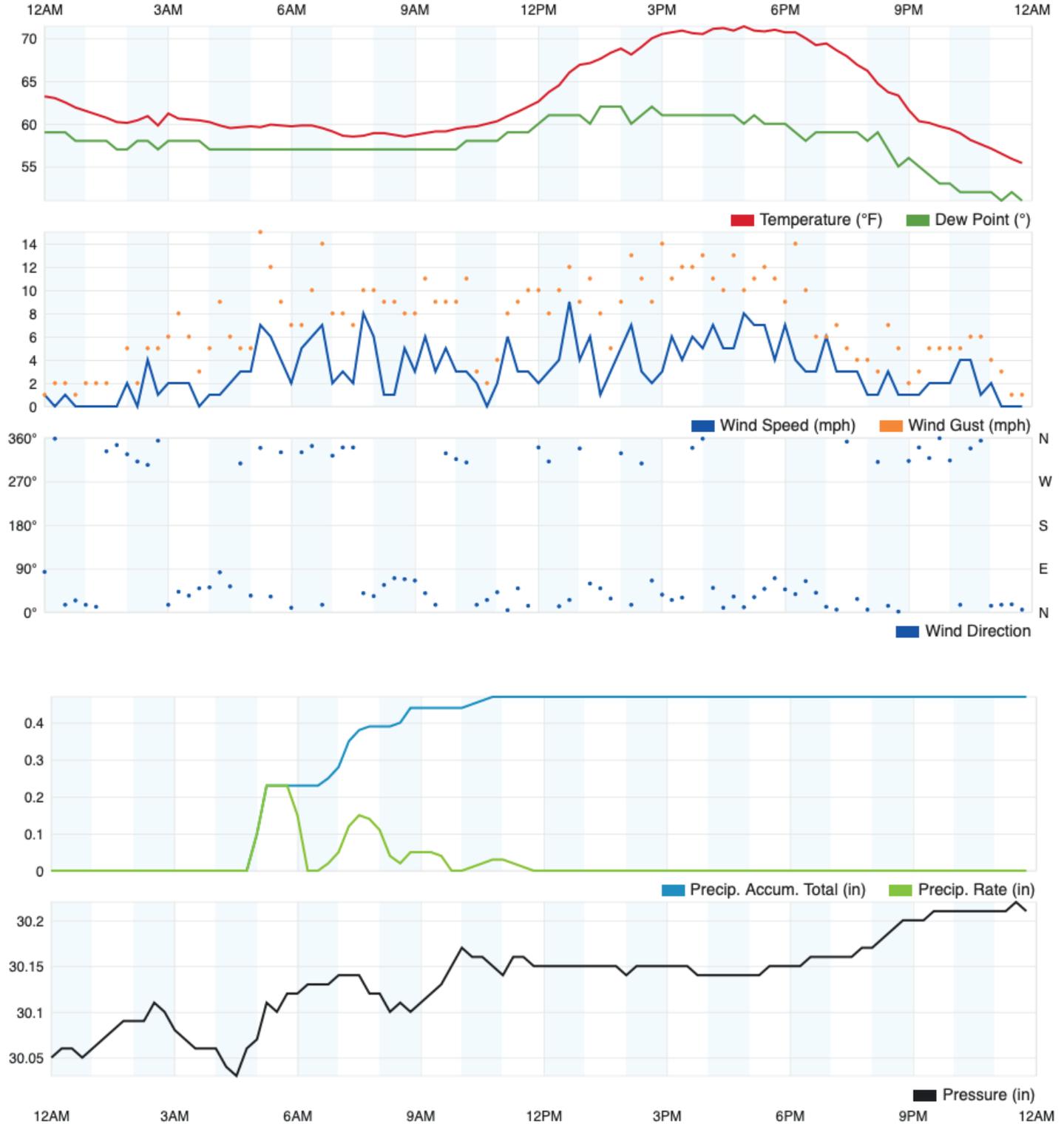
"And," she added, "it provides housing for seniors, who have been largely overlooked with recent construction."

Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 37 of 85

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 38 of 85

| Today | Tonight | Monday | Monday Night | Tuesday | Tuesday Night | Wednesday |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partly Sunny | Mostly Clear | Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms | Partly Cloudy | Sunny | Mostly Clear | Sunny |
| High: 72 °F | Low: 43 °F | High: 73 °F | Low: 45 °F | High: 69 °F | Low: 45 °F | High: 77 °F |



Sunday & Monday

September 10, 2023
4:19 AM

*Highs Today:
Upper 60s - Mid 70s
Showers & Weak Storms
South Central SD Today*

*Highs Monday:
Low & Mid 70s
Showers & Weak Storms
Northeast SD &
West Central MN*



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Seasonally mild for the next few days. A few showers and weak thunderstorms will move across western and south central South Dakota today, with additional showers and weak thunderstorms for northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota Monday afternoon.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 39 of 85

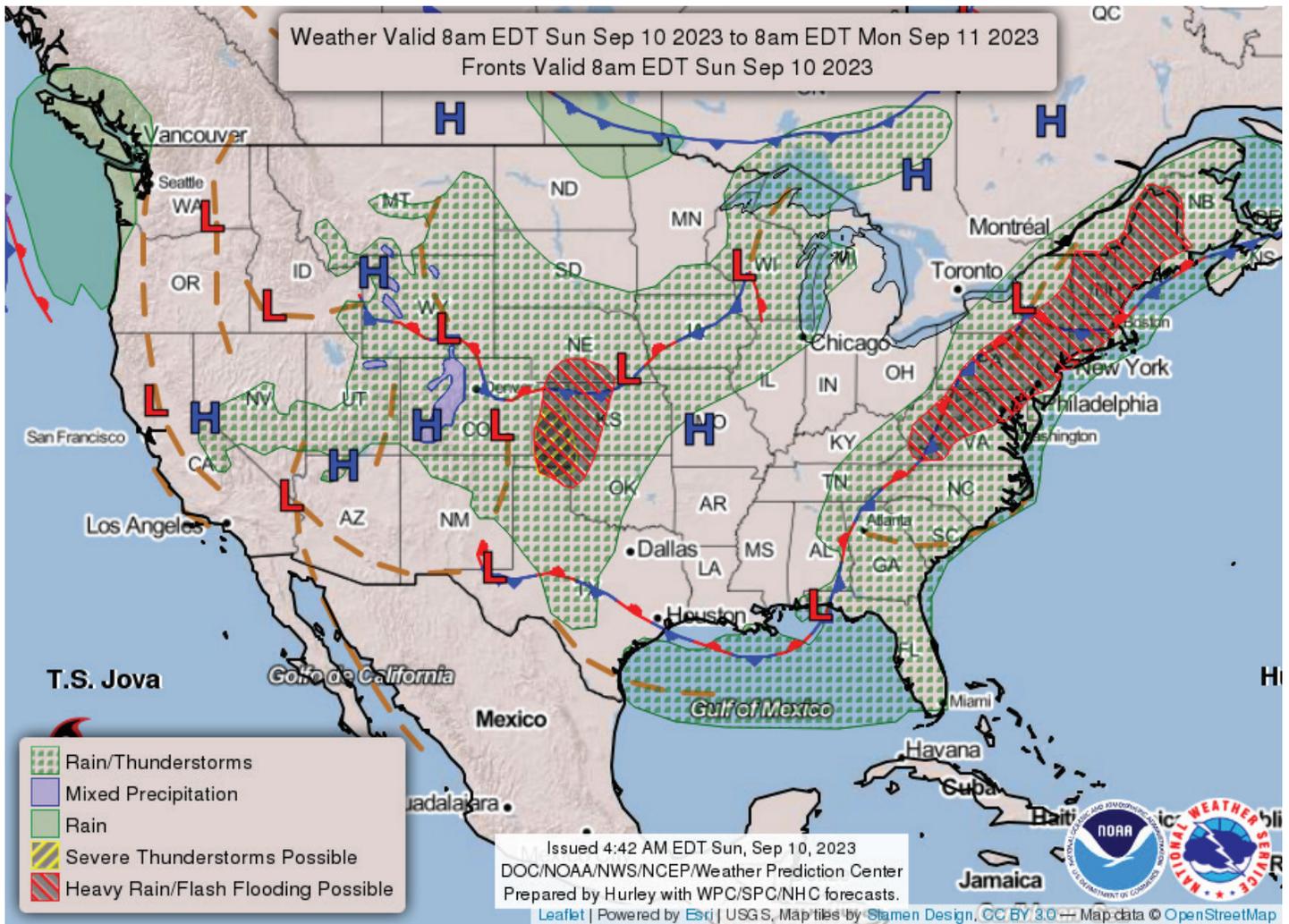
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 72 °F at 5:03 PM
Low Temp: 56 °F at 11:30 PM
Wind: 15 mph at 5:13 AM
Precip: : 0.47

Day length: 21 hours, 51 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 107 in 1931
Record Low: 27 in 1898
Average High: 77
Average Low: 49
Average Precip in Sept.: .68
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.57
Average Precip to date: 17.02
Precip Year to Date: 19.16
Sunset Tonight: 7:55:20 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:04:37 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 40 of 85

Today in Weather History

September 10, 1961: In Webster between 1 and 2 am, a large farm implement was destroyed by a lightning-caused fire. Many farm implements, three cars, two trucks, as well as merchandise, were lost. Nearby buildings suffered damage from fire. The torrential rains helped reduce the spread of the fire.

September 10, 1975: Large hail up to the size of 2 inches in diameter damaged many acres of corn, flax, and millet fields during the evening. The area between Volga and Brookings received the most severe damage.

September 10, 1988: Lightning started fires in Todd County southwest of Mission that burned nearly 14,000 acres of grassland and 4000 acres of timber. The damages were more than 60,000 dollars.

1811: South Carolina was hit by a hurricane. The main highlight associated with the hurricane was a tornado that damaged downtown Charleston.

1919 - A hurricane struck the Florida Keys drowning more than 500 persons. (David Ludlum)

1960 - Hurricane Donna struck the Florida Keys, with winds gusting to 180 mph and a thirteen foot storm surge. The hurricane then moved north along the eastern coast of Florida and inundated Naples before moving out to sea. Hurricane Donna claimed fifty lives, injured 1800 others, and caused more than 300 million dollars damage. The Marathon/Tavernier area was almost completely destroyed, and in the Citrus Belt, most of the avacado crop was blown from the trees. Hurricane Donna wreaked havoc from Florida to Maine, with wind gusts to 100 mph along much of the coast. Hurricane Donna produced wind gusts to 121 mph at Charleston SC on the 11th, and wind gusts to 138 mph at Blue Hill Observatory MA on the 12th. The hurricane finally died over Maine two days later, producing more than five inches of rain over the state. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1961: On September 10th, the Television Infrared Observation Satellite observed an area of thunderstorms west-southwest of the Cape Verde Islands, suggesting a possible tropical cyclone. This storm is the first large tropical cyclone to be discovered on satellite imagery and would eventually become Hurricane Esther.

1987 - A late afternoon thunderstorm roared through Austin TX producing wind gusts to 81 mph, and 2.17 inches of rain in just sixty minutes. The high winds toppled six National Guard helicopters at the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport, and damaged or destroyed numerous other aircraft. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cool air sweeping into the north central U.S. brought snow to some of the higher elevations of Montana. The town of Kings Hill, southeast of Great Falls, was blanketed with six inches of snow. Tropical Storm Gilbert strengthened to a hurricane over the eastern Carribean. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Light snow fell in Montana overnight, with three inches reported at Fairfield. Billings MT reported a record low of 33 degrees. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S., with record highs of 86 degrees at Caribou ME and 90 degrees at Burlington VT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: Tropical Storm Frances made landfall near Matagorda Bay, TX, causing the worst coastal flooding and beach erosion since Hurricane Carla in 1961. The storm's heavy rains ended a drought in East Texas but caused severe river flooding in parts of Texas and Louisiana. The highest rainfall total noted was 21.10 inches at Terrytown in southeast Louisiana. A major disaster declaration was issued for Cameron, Jefferson, Lafourche, and Terrebonne parishes in Louisiana.

2017: Hurricane Irma crossed the Florida Keys as a Category 4 storm.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 41 of 85

Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

DOWN, BUT NOT OUT!

Packy East began his professional career as a lightweight boxer. He ended his career as one of the world's best-known ambassadors. What started in a ring ended on a stage.

Packy entered the ring in Cleveland, Ohio one evening for a boxing match he intended to win. It was not to be. At the end of the second round, he was knocked down and carried to his dressing room.

But that setback did not hinder him. It actually helped him and changed his life and career. He eventually became a comedian, traveled the world entertaining large audiences and was very generous with his time to visit American troops wherever they were stationed. He was not known as "Packy the Performer." He changed his name and was known as Bob Hope, the comedian.

It's not being knocked down that destroys us - it's staying down. When we are down, it is time to look up and to look out! We need to look up to God to see what He has in store for us and then look out into His world to see where He would have us serve Him.

Jesus said that "everything is possible if a person believes." He did not mean that anything was possible with "positive thinking." He did want us to know, however, that nothing is impossible for God to do in our lives if it is in keeping with His will for us.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to be open and alert to what is going on around us and discover what You would have us to do to serve and honor You. May we do Your will! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: "What do you mean, "If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes." Mark 9:23



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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 42 of 85

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
- 09/08/2023 Family Fun Fest 3:30-5:30pm
- 09/09/2023 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 09/09-10/2023 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
- 09/10/2023 Couples Sunflower Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
- 09/10/2023 Emmanuel Lutheran Church Sunday School Rally 9:00am
- 09/10/2023 7th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 4-6pm
- 09/15/2023 Homecoming Parade
- 10/13/2023 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
- 10/14/2023 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 10/31/2023 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 10/31/2023 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
- 11/23/2023 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
- 12/02/2023 Tour of Homes, Live & Silent Auctions at Olive Grove Golf Course 4pm-close
- 12/09/2023 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9-11am

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 43 of 85

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

- Black & White \$48.99/year
- Colored \$79.88/year
- Colored \$42.60/6 months
- E-Weekly* \$31.95/year

* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent

www.397news.com

Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

- 1 Month \$15.98
- 3 Months \$26.63
- 6 Months \$31.95
- 9 Months \$42.60
- 12 Months \$53.25

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

The following will be used for your log-in information.

E-mail _____

Password _____

Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

paypal.me/paperpaul



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 44 of 85



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.08.23

3 12 17 51 62 1

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$141,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.09.23

5 15 21 22 33 5

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$2,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.09.23

11 16 27 38 42 18

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 14 Hrs 43 Mins
DRAW: 46 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.09.23

4 14 31 34 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$39,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.09.23

33 38 42 64 65 20

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.09.23

11 19 29 63 68 25

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$522,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 45 of 85

News from the Associated Press

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Aberdeen Central 24, Sturgis Brown 14
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 54, Red Cloud 18
Harrisburg 41, Rapid City Stevens 13
Miller/Highmore-Harrold 38, Lead-Deadwood 26
Sioux Falls Lincoln 48, Sioux Falls Jefferson 0
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 35, Sioux Falls Washington 26

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Aberdeen Central def. Sturgis Brown, 25-8, 25-13, 25-7
Harrisburg def. Mitchell, 25-16, 25-13, 25-13
Miller def. Potter County, 25-10, 25-8, 26-24
Pierre T F Riggs High School def. Spearfish, 25-17, 25-27, 23-25, 25-14, 15-12
Watertown def. Brandon Valley, 25-27, 25-16, 25-19
Wessington Springs def. Gregory, 25-20, 25-10, 22-25, 25-8
Arlington Invite=
Burke def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 22-25, 25-22, 25-17
Burke def. Faulkton, 25-23, 25-20
Deubrook def. Faulkton, 25-21, 25-16
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Arlington, 25-9, 25-21
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Deubrook, 25-14, 25-21
Faulkton def. Arlington, 25-22, 23-25, 25-19
Faulkton def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-21, 25-19
Warner def. Arlington, 25-15, 25-14
Warner def. Burke, 25-12, 25-22
Warner def. Deubrook, 25-12, 25-9
Warner def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 18-25, 25-10, 25-19
Warner def. Faulkton, 25-10, 25-17
Big East Conference Tournament=
Beresford def. Parker, 27-25, 25-20, 25-20
Chester def. Baltic, 25-15, 25-19, 25-15
Garretson def. McCook Central/Montrose, 25-19, 25-15, 25-16
Sioux Valley def. Flandreau, 25-21, 25-22, 25-21
Mobridge-Pollock Invitational=
Mobridge-Pollock def. North Central Co-Op, 25-16, 25-22
Mobridge-Pollock def. Stanley County, 25-3, 25-19
Philip Invitational Tournament=
Faith def. White River, 25-14, 25-14
Lyman def. Highmore-Harrold, 23-25, 25-20, 25-19
Sully Buttes def. White River, 25-20, 25-23
White River def. Bennett County, 25-19, 25-21
White River def. Chamberlain, 17-25, 25-18, 25-19
Rapid City Volleyball Tournament=
Gold Bracket=

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 46 of 85

Quarterfinal=

Brookings def. Douglas, 25-23, 25-18

Dickinson, N.D. def. Custer, 25-14, 26-24

Rapid City Christian def. Belle Fourche, 25-11, 25-16

St. Thomas More def. Watford City, N.D., 25-19, 18-25, 25-16

Semifinal=

Brookings def. St. Thomas More, 25-11, 25-16

Dickinson, N.D. def. Rapid City Christian, 25-22, 25-22

Championship=

Brookings def. Dickinson, N.D., 25-17, 25-15

Silver Bracket=

Quarterfinal=

Hill City def. Kadoka Area, 25-11, 25-20

Hot Springs def. Lakota Tech, 25-16, 27-25

Rapid City Central def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-13, 25-12

Rapid City Stevens def. Red Cloud, 25-10, 25-15

Semifinal=

Rapid City Central def. Hot Springs, 25-21, 25-16

Rapid City Stevens def. Hill City, 25-11, 25-16

Championship=

Rapid City Stevens def. Rapid City Central, 25-21, 25-14

Southwest Minnesota Challenge=

Minneota, Minn. def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-13, 21-25, 15-11

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Perham, Minn., 25-15, 25-20

Wolsey Wessington Tournament=

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-9, 25-7

Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Marty Indian

Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-18, 23-25, 25-12

Wolsey-Wessington Tournament=

Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Leola-Frederick High School, 25-12, 25-15

Wolsey-Wessington def. Langford, 25-9, 25-7

Wolsey-Wessington def. Leola-Frederick High School, 25-16, 25-22

Wolsey-Wessington def. Sioux Falls Lutheran, 26-24, 25-23

Wolsey-Wessington def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-7, 25-10

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

Gronowski accounts for 3 TDs; defending national champion South Dakota St. beats Montana St. 20-16

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mark Gronowski accounted for three second-half touchdowns, including a 35-yard scoring pass to Griffin Wilde with 1:30 to play, and South Dakota State beat Montana State 20-16 Saturday night in a matchup of two of the top teams in the Football Championship Subdivision.

Gronowski completed 13 of 22 passes for 184 yards and two touchdowns and his 20-yard TD run to cap the opening drive of the second half that trimmed South Dakota State's deficit to 10-7. Brendan Hall, who made a 27-yard field goal in the first half, connected on kicks of 19 and 24 yards in the fourth quarter, the latter of which made it 16-13 with 2:04 remaining.

On the next play from scrimmage, Gronowski hit Graham Goering for a 40-yard gain into Montana State territory and then Wilde caught a screen pass at the line of scrimmage, broke a tackle and raced 35 yards for a touchdown that capped the scoring.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 47 of 85

Sean Chambers appeared to connect with Clevan Thomas Jr. in the back of the end zone for the winning touchdown, but the call was reversed after video replay review and South Dakota State, ranked No. 1 in the FCS and the defending national champions, held on for the win.

Tommy Mellott completed all his six passes for 34 yards and added 46 yards rushing for No. 3 Montana State before leaving the game with an apparent leg injury early in the third quarter. Chambers came on in relief and was 3-of-9 passing for 53 yards with an interception and added 20 carries for 90 yards, including a 2-yard TD that opened the scoring about 11 minutes into the game.

Aidan Bouman throws two touchdown passes and South Dakota shuts out St. Thomas (Minnesota) 24-0

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Aidan Bouman threw two touchdown passes, the South Dakota defense allowed just 166 yards, and the Coyotes blanked St. Thomas of Minnesota 24-0 on Saturday.

Bouman completed 16 of 28 passes for 203 yards with touchdowns of 30 yards to Jack Martens and 3 yards to JJ Galbreath.

Carter Bell had six receptions for 87 yards and Travis Theis led the Coyotes (1-1) with 51 yards rushing. Nate Thomas had a 25-yard touchdown run. Myles Harden and Stephen Hillis had eight tackles each to lead the defense.

Tak Tateoka completed 15 of 22 passes for 133 yards for the Tommies (1-1). He was sacked four times.

The teams last met 44 years ago in the first game at the DakotaDome, a 22-6 victory for the Coyotes.

St. Thomas coach Glenn Caruso was offensive coordinator at South Dakota in 2004 and 2005. His teams averaged 38 points per game, including 49.7 in 2005.

UK leader Sunak chides China after report a UK Parliament staffer is a suspected Beijing spy

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Rishi Sunak chastised China's premier on Sunday for "unacceptable" interference in British democracy, after a newspaper reported that a researcher in Parliament was arrested earlier this year on suspicion of spying for Beijing.

Sunak said he raised the issue with Premier LI Qiang when the two met at a Group of 20 summit in India. He told British broadcasters in New Delhi that he'd expressed "my very strong concerns about any interference in our parliamentary democracy, which is obviously unacceptable."

The two men met after the Metropolitan Police force confirmed that a man in his 20s and a man in his 30s were arrested in March under the Official Secrets Act. Neither has been charged and both were bailed until October pending further inquiries.

The Sunday Times reported that the younger man was a parliamentary researcher who worked with senior lawmakers from the governing Conservatives, including Alicia Kearns, who now heads the powerful Foreign Affairs Committee, and her predecessor in that role, Tom Tugendhat, who is now security minister. The newspaper said the suspect held a pass that allows full access to the Parliament buildings, issued to lawmakers, staff and journalists after security vetting.

Tensions between Britain and China have risen in recent years over accusations of economic subterfuge, human rights abuses and Beijing's crackdown on civil liberties in the former British colony of Hong Kong.

Britain's Conservatives are divided on how tough a line to take with Beijing and on how much access Chinese firms should have to the U.K. economy. More hawkish Tories want Beijing declared a threat, but Sunak has referred to China's growing power as a "challenge."

Former U.K. Conservative leader Iain Duncan Smith said news of the March arrests "gives the lie to the government's attempt not to see China as a systemic threat."

U.K. spy services have sounded ever-louder warnings about Beijing's covert activities. In November, the head of the MI5 domestic intelligence agency, Ken McCallum, said "the activities of the Chinese Commu-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 48 of 85

nist Party pose the most game-changing strategic challenge to the U.K." Foreign intelligence chief Richard Moore of MI6 said in July that China was his agency's "single most important strategic focus."

In January 2022, MI5 issued a rare public alert, saying a London-based lawyer was trying to "covertly interfere in U.K. politics" on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party. It alleged attorney Christine Lee was acting in coordination with the Chinese ruling party's United Front Work Department, an organization known to exert Chinese influence abroad.

An opposition Labour Party lawmaker, Barry Gardiner, received more than 500,000 pounds (\$685,000) from Lee between 2015 and 2020, mostly for office costs, and her son worked in Gardiner's office. Lee and the Chinese government both deny wrongdoing.

China has repeatedly criticized what it calls British interference in its internal affairs and denied meddling in the politics of foreign nations.

Sunak and Li met days after Foreign Secretary James Cleverly visited Beijing, the highest-level trip by a British politician to China for several years. Chinese President Xi Jinping did not attend the G20 meeting in India

Sunak defended his approach of cautious engagement, saying "there's no point carping from the sidelines – I'd rather be in there directly expressing my concerns, and that's what I did today."

Biden opens Vietnam visit by saying the two countries are 'critical partners' at a 'critical time'

By JOSH BOAK and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

HANOI (AP) — President Joe Biden opened a brief visit to Vietnam on Sunday by telling the country's leadership that the two nations have a chance to shape Indo-Pacific for decades to come.

Biden said he hoped progress could be made on climate, the economy and other issues during his 24-hour visit.

"Vietnam and the U.S. are critical partners at what I would argue is a very critical time," Biden told Nguyễn Phú Trọng, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, during the public portion of their meeting at party headquarters.

Trọng agreed that their meeting presented an "excellent opportunity" to expand bilateral ties. He thanked Biden for inviting him to visit Washington soon.

Vietnam is elevating its relationship with the U.S. to the status of being a comprehensive strategic partner, which one of Biden's top national security advisers said represents Vietnam's highest tier of international partnership.

Other countries that Vietnam has extended the designation to include China and Russia. Elevating the U.S. to the same status suggests that Vietnam wants to hedge its friendships as U.S. and European companies look for alternatives to Chinese factories.

Biden, who arrived in Hanoi on Sunday afternoon, said last month at a fundraiser in Salt Lake City that Vietnam doesn't want a defense alliance with the U.S., "but they want relationships because they want China to know that they're not alone" and can choose its own partners. The president decided to tack a visit to Vietnam on to his trip to India for the Group of 20 summit that wrapped up Sunday.

With China's economic slowdown and President Xi Jinping's consolidation of political power, Biden sees an opportunity to bring more nations — including Vietnam and Cambodia — into America's orbit.

"We find ourselves in a situation where all of these changes around the world are taking place," Biden explained last month about Vietnam. "We have an opportunity, if we're smart, to change the dynamic."

Biden was welcomed with a pomp-filled ceremony outside the mustard-colored Presidential Palace. Scores of schoolchildren lined the steps waving small U.S. and Vietnam flags and Biden watched from an elevated review stand as high-stepping members of the military marched past. The president waved to the children before he got into his limousine to go to Communist Party headquarters to meet with Trọng.

The president and Trọng expressed mutual happiness over seeing each other again after last meeting some eight years ago in Washington, said Biden, who was vice president at the time.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 49 of 85

Trong sought to flatter Biden, who faces persistent questions at home about being 80 years old and running for reelection next year.

"You have nary aged a day, and I would say you look even better than before," Trong said. "I would say every feature of you Mr. President is complementing your image." Biden chuckled in response.

Earlier Sunday, Jon Finer, Biden's chief deputy national security adviser, said the elevated status represents Vietnam's highest tier of international partnership.

"It's important to make clear that this is more than words," Finer told reporters aboard Biden's flight to Hanoi. "In a system like Vietnam, it's a signal to their entire government, their entire bureaucracy about the depth and cooperation and alignment with another country that is possible."

Finer noted a five-decade arc in U.S.-Vietnam relations, from conflict during the Vietnam War to normalization and Vietnam's status as a top trading partner that also shares Washington's concerns over security in the South China Sea.

"We will be deepening that relationship through this visit," he added.

Finer also addressed reports that Vietnam was pursuing a deal to buy weapons from Russia, even as it sought deeper ties to the United States. Finer acknowledged Vietnam's lengthy military relationship with Russia and said the U.S. continues to work with Vietnam and other countries with similar ties to Russia to try to limit their interactions with a nation the U.S. accuses of committing war crimes and violating international law with its aggression in Ukraine.

U.S. trade with Vietnam has already accelerated since 2019. But there are limits to how much further it can progress without improvements to the country's infrastructure, its workers' skills and its governance. Nor has increased trade automatically put the Vietnamese economy on an upward trajectory.

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said that the CEOs she talks with rank Vietnam highly as a place to diversify supply chains that before the pandemic had been overly dependent on China. Raimondo has been trying to broaden those supply chains through the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, an initiative Biden launched last year.

"Whether it's Vietnam or Malaysia, Indonesia, India, companies are really taking a hard look at those countries as places to do more business," Raimondo said. "It is also true that they need to improve their workforce, housing, infrastructure and, I'd say, transparency in government operations."

Vietnam's economic growth slipped during the first three months of 2023. Its exporters faced higher costs and weaker demand as high inflation worldwide has hurt the market for consumer goods.

Still, U.S. imports of Vietnamese goods have nearly doubled since 2019 to \$127 billion annually, according to the Census Bureau. It is unlikely that Vietnam, with its population of 100 million, can match the scale of Chinese manufacturing. In 2022, China, with 1.4 billion people, exported four times as many goods to the U.S. as did Vietnam.

There is also evidence that China is still central to the economies of many countries in the Indo-Pacific. A new analysis from the Peterson Institute of International Economics found that countries in IPEF received on average more than 30% of their imports from China and sent nearly 20% of their exports to China. This dependence has increased sharply since 2010.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan saw an opening to broaden the U.S. relationship with Vietnam when one of its top officials, Lê Hoài Trung, visited Washington on June 29.

After talking with Trung, Sullivan walked back to his office and decided after consulting with his team to issue a letter to the Vietnamese government proposing that the two countries take their trade and diplomatic relations to the highest possible level, according to an administration official who insisted on anonymity to discuss the details.

Sullivan picked the issue back up on July 13 while traveling with Biden in Helsinki, speaking by phone with Trọng, the general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

At a fundraiser at a barn in Maine a few weeks later, Biden went public with the deal.

"I've gotten a call from the head of Vietnam, desperately wants to meet me when I go to the G20," Biden said. "He wants to elevate us to a major partner, along with Russia and China. What do you think

that's about?"

Russian strikes on Ukraine kill 2 foreign aid workers and target Kyiv

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Two foreign aid workers were reportedly killed in eastern Ukraine on Sunday as Russian shelling hit a van carrying a team of four working with a Ukrainian NGO, while dozens of Russian drones targeted Kyiv and wounded at least one civilian.

The four volunteers from the Road to Relief NGO, which helps evacuate wounded people from front-line areas, were trapped inside the van as it flipped over and caught fire after being struck by shells near the town of Chasiv Yar, the organization said on its Instagram page.

Road to Relief said Canadian Anthony Ihnat died in the attack, while German medical volunteer Ruben Mawick and Swedish volunteer Johan Mathias Thyre were seriously injured.

Road to Relief added that it could not trace the whereabouts of the van's fourth passenger, Emma Igual, a Spanish national who was the organization's director. Hours later, Spain's Acting Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares told Spanish media that authorities in Madrid had received "verbal confirmation" of the 32-year-old Igual's death.

The volunteers were on their way to assess the needs of civilians on the outskirts of Bakhmut, Road to Relief said, in reference to the eastern town that saw the war's longest and bloodiest battle before falling to Moscow in May. Ukrainian forces have held on to Bakhmut's western suburbs and are pushing a counteroffensive in the area.

Also on Sunday, Ukraine's air force said it had brought down 26 out of 33 drones launched by Russia at the Ukrainian capital in the early hours. The head of Kyiv's military administration, Serhii Popko, said that debris from Iranian-made Shahed drones fell in several districts of the city and wounded at least one civilian. Popko said there was no risk to the person's life, and added that most of the wreckage fell in open ground, although one high-rise apartment was damaged.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko later said that one civilian was wounded in the city's historic center and received help on the spot.

The governor of the Kyiv region, which surrounds but does not include the capital, also reported that the drone strike damaged an unspecified infrastructure facility there. Ruslan Kravchenko added that private houses, a school, a kindergarten and local administration buildings were damaged elsewhere in the province.

Russia's Defense Ministry said in the early hours of Sunday that Moscow's forces earlier destroyed three U.S.-supplied Ukrainian speedboats that had been traveling toward Crimea. The claim could not be independently verified.

Vatican holds unprecedented beatification of Polish family of 9 killed for hiding Jews

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — In an unprecedented move, the Vatican on Sunday beatified a Polish family of nine — a married couple and their small children — who were executed by the Nazis during World War II for sheltering Jews.

During a ceremonious Mass in the village of Markowa, in southeastern Poland, papal envoy Cardinal Marcello Semeraro read out the Latin formula of the beatification of the Ulma family signed last month by Pope Francis.

A contemporary painting representing Jozef and a pregnant Wiktoria Ulma with their children was revealed near the altar. A procession brought relics taken from their grave to the altar. It is the first time that an entire family has been beatified.

At the Vatican, speaking to the public from a window in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis said the Ulmas "represented a ray of light in the darkness" of the war and should be a model for everyone in "doing good

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 51 of 85

and in the service of those in need.”

The pope then invited the crowd below to applaud the family, and he clapped his hands. Those gathered in Markowa watched Francis’ address on giant screens placed by the altar.

Last year, Francis pronounced the deeply Catholic Ulma family, including the child that Wiktorina Ulma was pregnant with, martyrs for the faith. The Ulmas were killed at home by German Nazi troops and by Nazi-controlled local police in the small hours of March 24, 1944, together with the eight Jews they were hiding at their home, after they were apparently betrayed.

Jożef Ulma, 44, was a farmer, Catholic activist and amateur photographer who documented family and village life. He lived with his 31-year-old wife Wiktorina; their daughters Stanisława, 7; Barbara, 6; Maria, 18 months; and sons Władysław, 5; Franciszek, 3; and Antoni, 2.

With them were killed 70-year-old Saul Goldman with his sons Baruch, Mechel, Joachim and Mojżesz, along with Golda Grunfeld and her sister Lea Didner with her little daughter Reszla, according to Poland’s state Institute of National Remembrance, IPN, which has meticulously documented the Ulmas’ story.

Giving the orders was Lt. Eilert Dieken, head of the regional Nazi military police. After the war he served in the police in Germany. Only one of his subordinates, Josef Kokott, was convicted in Poland over the killings, dying in prison in 1980. The suspected betrayer was Włodzimierz Les, a member of the Nazi-controlled local police. Poland’s wartime resistance sentenced him to death and executed him in September 1944, according to IPN.

The Catholic Church had faced a dilemma in beatifying Wiktorina’s unborn child and declaring it a martyr because, among other things, it had not been baptized, which is a requirement for beatification.

The Vatican’s Dicastery for the Causes of Saints issued a clarification saying the child was actually born during the horror of the killings and received “baptism by blood” of its martyred mother.

The clarification was issued Sept. 5 by Cardinal Semeraro, who is the prefect of the Vatican’s saint-making office.

Polish President Andrzej Duda along with the ruling party leader Jarosław Kaczyński and Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, as well as Poland’s chief rabbi, Michael Schudrich, attended the celebration in Markowa, and thousands of pilgrims came from across Poland to take part.

Poland’s conservative ruling party has been stressing family values and also the heroism of Poles during the war and the beatification ceremony was a welcome addition to its intense political campaigning ahead of the Oct. 15 parliamentary elections in which the Law and Justice party wants to win an unprecedented third term.

After the Mass, Duda, who is the ruling party’s ally, spoke to thank Francis for beatifying the Ulmas. He also stressed that the ceremony also had political dimension because it “told the truth about the Nazi German occupation” of Poland during the war. Poland’s government is seeking reparations from Germany for wartime damages, but Berlin says the matter is closed.

The Ulma beatification poses several new theological concepts about the Catholic Church’s ideas of saints and martyrs that also have implications for the pro-life movement because of the baby in the mother’s womb, said the Rev. Robert Gahl, a professor of ethics at the Catholic University of America and Rome’s Pontifical Holy Cross University.

Perhaps because the concept of “beatification of a fetus” could be weaponized by the pro-life movement, the Vatican apparently felt it necessary to state that the child was “born” at the moment the mother was executed.

By stating that the child was actually born, the Vatican also affirmed that the killers intended to kill the child out of hatred for the faith, a requirement for a martyrdom and beatification declaration, Gahl told The Associated Press.

After beatification, a miracle attributed to the Ulmas’ intercession would be necessary for their eventual canonization, as the church’s sainthood process is called.

Israel’s Yad Vashem Institute in 1995 recognized the Ulmas as Righteous Among Nations who gave their lives trying to save Jews during the Holocaust.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 52 of 85

In Poland, they are a symbol of the bravery of thousands of Poles who took the utmost risk while helping Jews. By the occupying Nazis' decree, any assistance to Jews was punished with summary execution. A Museum of Poles Saving Jews During World War II was opened in Markowa in 2016.

Poland was the first country to be invaded by Nazi Germany, on Sept. 1, 1939. Some 6 million of its citizens were killed during the war, half of them Jews.

G20 leaders pay respects at Gandhi memorial as they wrap up Indian summit and hand over to Brazil

By KRUTIKA PATHI and ADAM SCHRECK Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — G20 leaders paid their respects to Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi as their summit came to a close Sunday, a day after the group added a new member and reached agreement on a range of issues but softened language on Russia's war in Ukraine.

The Group of 20 rich and developing nations welcomed the African Union as a member — part of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive to uplift the Global South. And host India was also able to get the disparate group to sign off on a final statement despite pointed disagreements among powerful members, mostly centered on the European conflict.

India also unveiled an ambitious plan with the United States, the European Union and others to build a rail and shipping corridor linking it with the Middle East and Europe in a bid to strengthen economic growth and political cooperation.

With those major agenda items taken care of, the leaders shook hands Sunday and posed for photos with Modi at the Rajghat memorial site in New Delhi. Each received a shawl made of khadi, a handspun fabric that was promoted by Gandhi during India's independence movement against the British.

Some leaders — including British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and last year's G20 host President Joko Widodo of Indonesia — walked to the memorial barefoot in a customary show of respect. U.S. President Joe Biden and others wore slippers as they walked over wet ground spotted with puddles from heavy rain.

The leaders stood before wreaths placed around the memorial, which features an eternal flame and was draped with orange and yellow marigold garlands.

The one reserved for Modi identified him as prime minister of "Bharat" — an ancient Sanskrit name championed by his Hindu nationalist supporters that shot to prominence as the summit approached.

Earlier in the day, Sunak and his wife Akshata Murthy separately took time to visit and offer prayers at the Akshardham Temple, one of Delhi's most prominent Hindu houses of worship.

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva took over the G20 rotating presidency at the summit's end. He hopes to rebuild Brazil's standing after a period of international isolation under far-right former leader Jair Bolsonaro.

Brazil, home to the majority of the Amazon rainforest, will likely use its presidency to advocate for increased funds for environmental preservation, said Laerte Apolinário Júnior, a professor of international relations at the Pontifical Catholic University of Sao Paulo.

Lula has sought to move beyond the disputes over Ukraine, telling Indian news site Firstpost that the G20 wasn't the appropriate forum to discuss the war.

Brazil has proposed mediating in the conflict, but those efforts have largely been rebuffed, and its refusal to arm Ukraine has sparked criticism from Western countries.

Latin America's biggest democracy is also scheduled to assume the presidency of the BRICS group — composed of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — and host the UN's climate conference in 2025.

In the months leading up to the leaders' summit in New Delhi, India had been unable to find agreement on the wording about Ukraine, with Russia and China objecting even to language that they had agreed to at the 2022 G20 summit in Bali.

This year's final statement, released a day before the formal close of the summit, highlighted the "human suffering and negative added impacts of the war in Ukraine," but did not mention Russia's invasion directly.

Western leaders — who have pushed for a stronger rebuke of Russia's actions in past G20 meetings —

still called the consensus a success, and praised India's nimble balancing act.

Oleg Nikolenko, spokesman for Ukraine's foreign ministry, said his government was grateful to the countries that tried to include strong wording, but that the "G20 has nothing to be proud of," suggesting among other things that the war "in Ukraine," should have been referred to as the war "against Ukraine."

Though the Ukraine wording was not as strong as many Western leaders wanted, it could help bolster the West's position in the long run, said a senior EU official who only spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity to talk frankly about the discussions.

That's because Russia, China and all the developing countries in the group — including some that have been less critical of Russia — had signed off on every line, making it clear that "Russia is the cause of this war and Russia is the one that is prolonging it," the official said.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told reporters it was significant that Russia had signed on to the agreement that mentioned the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a news conference that thanks to the Global South "defending its legitimate interests, it was possible to prevent the success of the West's attempt to again 'Ukrainize' the entire agenda to the detriment of discussing the urgent problems of developing countries."

Lavrov added that "the Ukrainian crisis is mentioned (in the final G20 declaration), but exclusively in the context of the need to resolve all conflicts that exist in the world".

India had made directing more attention to addressing the needs of the developing world a focus of the summit, and organizers worked hard to keep it from being dominated by the war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed last year's G20 summit in Bali by video and stole the show with an in-person appearance at the gathering of leaders of the G7 rich democracies — all of whom are members of the G20 — in Hiroshima earlier this year. Modi made a point of not inviting Zelenskyy to participate in this year's event.

Also at the summit, India launched a global biofuel alliance with 19 countries including the U.S. and Brazil. The fuels, made from agricultural produce or organic waste, have gained popularity in recent decades as a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels.

The G20 includes Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the U.S and the EU. Spain holds a permanent guest seat.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping opted not to come this year, ensuring no tough face-to-face conversations with their American and European counterparts.

Families in Gaza have waited years to move into new homes. Political infighting is keeping them out

By ISSAM ADWAN Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli fighter jets bombed the Zorob family's two-story home in the Gaza Strip in 2019, leaving nothing but a pile of debris and despair.

Four years later, the 10-member family lives in a 20-square-meter (215-square-foot) hut covered with nylon sheets as they wait to move into a permanent home.

A sprawling housing project, part of a \$500-million Egyptian-funded renewal effort in Gaza, has raised hopes for hundreds of needy families like the Zorobs who have lost their homes in the conflict with Israel.

But weeks before the spotless white buildings are set to be completed, there is no word on who qualifies for the 1,400 apartments — or even how to apply for one, as Gaza's Hamas rulers and the rival, internationally recognized Palestinian Authority bicker over who will be in charge.

"No one cares," said 31-year-old Mohammed Zorob, blaming both sides for the delays. "They are sitting under air conditioners with their children and they don't care about us."

The Zorobs are among an estimated 2,000 families, or roughly 12,000 people, whose homes have been destroyed in fighting with Israel in recent years, according to Gaza's Housing Ministry. An additional 90,000

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 54 of 85

people live in damaged homes that have not been repaired, it said.

A sputtering economy weakened by an Israeli-Egyptian blockade, Hamas' international isolation and a lack of funding from the fatigued international community have all combined to hinder reconstruction efforts. But looming behind all of these problems has been the ongoing rivalry between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority.

In 2007, Hamas, an Islamic militant group that opposes Israel's existence, seized control of Gaza from the PA a year after winning parliamentary elections. The violent takeover left the PA in control only of semi-autonomous areas of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, even as it claims to be the legitimate international representative of both areas.

Israel considers Hamas a terrorist group and immediately imposed a blockade with Egypt in what it says is a measure to prevent Hamas from arming. The closure has devastated Gaza's economy and helped fuel four wars and numerous smaller rounds of violence. Repeated reconciliation attempts by Hamas and the PA have failed.

The project marks the first Egyptian-funded infrastructure project in the enclave following a series of Arab-funded developments meant to ease Gaza's housing crunch. Egypt, which often mediates between Israel and Hamas as well as between the rival Palestinian factions, announced the aid after an eight-day war in 2021.

Two senior Egyptian officials confirmed the Cairo government is working with the rival Palestinian factions on the project. They said Egypt has called on the sides to form a joint committee to oversee the distribution of homes, but little progress has been made.

"Unfortunately, each side wants to control the process," said one official, noting that the matter had come up in discussions during a recent visit to Egypt by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. "This is not a project for either Hamas or Fatah. It's for the Palestinian people."

Both Egyptian officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Jawad al-Agha, the deputy housing minister in Gaza's Hamas-led government, said his office has submitted a proposal to Egypt on how the apartments should be allocated. But he gave no details and said no decisions have been made, pending a meeting between the sides.

The PA's Housing Ministry in the West Bank did not return messages seeking comment.

The deadlock has left thousands of families in limbo. Most have been waiting for nearly a decade, after losing their homes during a 50-day war between Israel and Hamas in 2014.

The Zorob family home was struck during a 2019 battle between Israel and the Islamic Jihad militant group. Moments before the airstrike, Israel called the family and ordered them to evacuate. No one was hurt, but the home was destroyed.

The family said it has no connection to any militant group and does not know why their home was targeted.

Mohammed Zorob, father of a 2-month-old boy, said he had spent five years building an apartment on the second floor of the building. "Imagine spending five years of your life building your home, and in a blink of an eye, Israel targets the building," he said.

His father, Moneer, said conditions in their ramshackle home are intolerable. "I suffer the heat, humidity, and in the winter we suffer from water leaking into the house," he said. The one-room house in the family's front yard — made of concrete and nylon — includes a cramped kitchenette and small toilet.

Moneer's wife, Maha, said caring for a grown daughter with cancer has added to the difficulties. Her daughter has a weak immune system and must be kept away from relatives with even a common cold.

"Where can I isolate her while I have one room only?" she said.

Ibrahim Abrash, a former Cabinet minister and political writer, said international donor nations have become frustrated with the repeated cycles of violence and distracted by other crises, most notably the war in Ukraine.

But he said the ongoing fighting between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas remains a major obstacle to repairing Gaza.

"When donors, Egypt or others, grant money, the question is, 'Who is the legitimate Palestinian party

that can be trusted to supervise?" he said.

Hazem Isleem, a 42-year-old father of seven, echoes the disillusionment felt by many.

Working as a security guard at Gaza City's Shifa Hospital, Isleem had the harrowing experience of watching his own family come through the hospital gates. His 11-year-old daughter Farah lost a leg in the 2021 conflict that also destroyed their home. The family now lives in a rented apartment he can barely afford.

"Once word got out about these new housing units, I clung to hope. But that hope is turning into despair," he said.

Isleem said he has made frequent visits to the Housing Ministry, leaving each time with more questions than answers.

"We're living in a state of perpetual uncertainty," he said.

India forges compromise among divided world powers at the G20 summit in a diplomatic win for Modi

By SHEIKH SAALIQ and DAVID RISING Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi touted his country as well-placed to bridge gaps in the Group of 20 top economies and solve global problems, but many were skeptical ahead of the weekend's summit given grave divisions within the bloc over the Russia's war in Ukraine.

He was able to dispel those doubts, announcing a unanimous final agreement a day before the G20 summit ended Sunday that included language on the European war which both Russia and China signed off on.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said the group agreed to a "very strong" message. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called it a "success of Indian diplomacy," adding "many did not think that would be possible beforehand." And India's foreign minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, said the declaration "responds to the situation as it stands today."

The statement had softer wording than last year's G20 communique and failed to directly denounce Moscow. Instead, it cited a United Nations charter, saying "all states must refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against the territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state."

But all countries agreed on the declaration, allowing India to claim diplomatic success.

"This is the first declaration without a single footnote or a chair's summary," said Amitabh Kant, India's top G20 negotiator.

Some experts saw the agreement as a win for Russia, while others read it as an achievement for the West. But most concurred it was a foreign policy triumph for Modi as he pushes to increase India's influence on the world stage.

"India's statement embodies the voice of the emerging Global South" said Derek Grossman, an analyst focused on the Indo-Pacific at the RAND Corporation. "That is a coup for New Delhi, especially within the context of strategic competition against Beijing, helping it to become the leader of this bloc."

At the summit Modi also announced the group had agreed to add the African Union as a permanent member and made progress on other key issues important to the developing nations of the Global South.

"We are seeing the G20 finally come into its own as a truly global entity, and emerging from the shadow of the G7," said Michael Kugelman, director of the Wilson Center's South Asia Institute, referring to the Group of Seven major industrial nations.

"It's emerging as a successful case study of Western and non-Western powers and the Global South working together to pursue shared goals," he said.

The summit came at a time when Russia and China have been trying to put more emphasis on the more like-minded BRICS group — made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — which agreed at its summit last month to expand with six new members. Russian President Vladimir Putin and China's leader Xi Jinping skipped the G20 summit this year.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who took Putin's place at the summit, told reporters the "G20

is going through a crisis" and likened India's "absolute success" to an "internal reform."

"This was manifested in the significant activation of members of the Group of 20 from the Global South with the leading role of India, who, very clearly and persistently, sought to take into account their interests," Lavrov said.

Beijing has been seeking to rally the Global South around a China-centric bloc, and Xi's absence from the meetings meant that Modi and others were able to "promote their own ideas and goals," said Michael Schuman, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global China Hub.

With his diplomatic approach, Modi emerged as "probably the summit's big winner," and someone who is becoming an increasingly important player in international affairs, he said.

"Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi showed that he is a force in the developing world as well and has a different vision of the relationship between the developed and developing worlds that is not as confrontational," Schuman said.

A senior European Union official who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to speak candidly about the talks said it was important not to have ended the summit for the first time without a final communique.

"I think India's strong leadership has preserved the G20 and opened the space for Brazil in the next presidency to work on global issues," he told reporters in New Delhi.

Heading into the summit, Modi had argued that the developing countries should have more say, noting that they are disproportionately impacted by many crises including climate change, food shortages and rising energy prices.

Many see that India has laid the groundwork for Brazil and South Africa – both influential members of the Global South – to continue along the same path as they take the G20 presidency for next two years.

"With the world facing so many borderless challenges and shortages of multilateralism, that type of truly global cooperation is the need of the hour," Kugelman said.

Sri Lanka's president will appoint a committee to probe allegations of complicity in 2019 bombings

By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka's president said Sunday he will appoint a committee chaired by a retired Supreme Court judge to investigate allegations made in a British television report that the South Asian country's intelligence was complicit in the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings that killed 269 people.

The attacks, which included simultaneous suicide bombings, targeted three churches and three tourist hotels. The dead included 42 foreigners from 14 countries.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe's decision to appoint a committee headed by a judge to investigate claims that Sri Lankan intelligence had a hand in the bombings that were carried out by Islamic militants came under pressure from opposition lawmakers, religious leaders, activists as well as the victims' relatives. They say that previous probes failed to reveal the truth behind the bombings.

In a program broadcast Tuesday, Channel 4 interviewed a man who said had arranged a meeting between a local Islamic State-inspired group, National Thowheed Jamath, and a top state intelligence official loyal to former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to formulate a plot to create instability and enable Rajapaksa, a former senior defense official, to win the 2019 presidential election.

Rajapaksa was forced to resign in mid-2022 after mass protests over the country's worst economic crisis.

Rajapaksa on Thursday denied the allegations against him, saying that the claim that "a group of Islamic extremists launched suicide attacks in order to make me president is absurd."

Russia is turning to old ally North Korea to resupply its arsenal for the war in Ukraine

By The Associated Press undefined

After a year and a half of fighting in Ukraine, Russia needs to replenish its supplies of ammunition for what could be a long war of attrition. Along with ramping up its domestic arms production, Moscow is turning to an old ally with a vast arsenal — North Korea.

Estimates say the reclusive and isolated Asian country has tens of millions of artillery shells and rockets that could give a huge boost to the Russian army.

U.S. officials expect North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to visit Russia in the coming days to seal a possible deal on munitions transfer with President Vladimir Putin. That would be a remarkable reversal from the 1950-53 Korean War, when the Soviet Union provided the communist North with weapons and ammunition.

"We know that Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu has visited recently for artillery shells predominantly, and most likely that will be discussed between Putin and Kim Jong Un," said Alexander Gabuev, head of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center.

Shoigu became the first Russian defense chief to visit North Korea since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. Images of him at a military parade in the capital, Pyongyang, in July, alongside Kim and the medal-laden North Korean military brass, was a strong sign of a vigorous effort by Moscow to reach out to the North. Shoigu said that joint military drills were possible.

Asked about a possible visit by Kim and a deal that would see North Korean arms supplies to Russia, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov refused to comment.

But he emphasized that Moscow cherishes ties with Pyongyang, adding: "North Korea is our neighbor, and we will further develop our relations without looking back at other countries' opinion."

Kim made his first visit to Russia in 2019 and held talks with Putin that included pledges of closer cooperation but weren't followed by any visible breakthroughs.

While the bulk of the Korean People's Army arsenals are dated, their enormous size would offer the Russian military a potential key lifeline amid Europe's largest land conflict since World War II.

Hong Min, an analyst at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification, said that Russia could seek to establish North Korea as a "rear base" for its war efforts, providing a major flow of munitions.

"Russia is hoping that North Korea could swiftly establish support channels to provide it with war materials like ammunition, bombs and other supplies," Hong said.

The U.S. said North Korea sold some munitions to Russia's private military contractor, Wagner, in November. Both Russian and North Korean officials have denied that Pyongyang has shipped any weapons or munitions to Russia or intends to do so.

U.S. officials have cast Moscow's reach for North Korean weapons as a reflection of Russian military problems. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the quality of North Korean weapons was an "open question."

"It says a lot that Russia is having to turn to a country like North Korea to seek to bolster its defense capacity in a war that it expected be over in a week," Sullivan said.

Jon Finer, U.S. President Joe Biden's chief deputy national security adviser, told reporters on Sunday that buying weapons from Pyongyang "may be the best and may be the only option" open to Moscow as it tries to keep its war effort going. Finer made the remarks aboard Biden's flight from India to Vietnam.

While Washington has warned Pyongyang against sending weapons to Russia, which would violate a U.N. embargo on any arms shipments to and from North Korea, observers say there is little the U.S. could do in response.

They note that Moscow could share advanced nuclear, missile and submarine technology with Pyongyang in exchange for arms supplies, a move that could embolden Kim and raise major threats to regional security.

"The United States and its allies have limited policy options in addressing this new challenge," Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies said in an analysis.

While the North's enormous stockpiles could boost the Russian war effort, Moscow has imported drones

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 58 of 85

from another ally, Iran, that have played a significant role in the fighting.

Russia has used Shahed exploding drones to strike Ukraine's infrastructure for more than a year. After the initial surprise, Ukrainian air defenses have honed their skills in engaging them. But the cheap and simple drones that have a range exceeding 1,500 kilometers (930 miles) continue to inflict significant damage.

Russia reportedly has bought a production license from Iran and built its own factory to assemble the drones and churn out thousands of them a year. Iran is expected to initially provide the materials and technology, with the plant gradually shifting to domestically produced components.

Russian arms manufacturers have compensated for at least some of the equipment losses in the conflict and developed some new products, including satellite-guided gliding bombs and other precision weapons to fight back against Ukraine's summer counteroffensive.

Early in the war, broad use of drones by Ukraine inflicted heavy losses on Russian forces and played a significant role in Moscow's military setbacks. Russian officials acknowledged they hadn't paid enough attention to drones before the war and vowed to fill the gap quickly.

One type of mass-produced exploding drone that made a visible impact is the Lancet, capable of lurking over the battlefield before hitting its target. Cheap and compact, it has become prolific, allowing the Russian military to strike Ukrainian tanks and artillery systems on a wide scale.

Russia has increasingly used another new asset in recent months: gliding aerial bombs. With a pair of winglets and a satellite navigation module, old Soviet-made bombs have been transformed into highly efficient "smart" weapons. They have a range of up to 60 kilometers (37 miles) and allow the Russian air force to step up attacks on Ukrainian forces along the front line without putting warplanes at risk.

Russia has adapted 500-kilogram (1,100-pound) bombs, using them to fend off the Ukrainian counteroffensive. It has worked to design a similar conversion for a 1,500-kilogram (3,300-pound) bomb, reportedly using it for the first time this month. Transformed into a gliding bomb, it is reportedly precise to five meters (16 feet) and leaves a 15-meter (50-foot) crater — a powerful weapon against Ukrainian military assets.

Another addition to the Russian arsenal is the Vikhr anti-tank missile used by Russian helicopter gunships. It has an extended range that allows pilots to take out Ukrainian armor while staying out of reach of air defenses and has seen wide use during the summer.

"The use of attack aviation has posed a consistent challenge for Ukrainian forces throughout the counteroffensive," the Royal United Services Institute said in an analysis.

While developing new munitions, Russian manufacturers also bolstered production of tanks and other weapons, and the military has increasingly tapped its storage bases of thousands of armored vehicles dating to the Cold War. Some have been upgraded with protective shields and other equipment to increase their survivability.

Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy head of Russia's Security Council, has said Russia will produce 1,500 battle tanks in 2023.

"Conveyer belts of our military industrial complex are working in three shifts, and it will produce as many weapons as needed to efficiently protect the fatherland," he said.

Moroccan villagers mourn after earthquake brings destruction to their rural mountain home

By SAM METZ and AHMED HATEM Associated Press

MOULAY BRAHIM, Morocco (AP) — The ground shook with a force few had ever felt, thundering through the remote Moroccan village in the dark of night.

When the earthquake was over late Friday, the town carved into the Atlas Mountains lay in devastation, with possibly dozens dead, scores of homes crumpled and walls reduced to rubble. Soon crews were listening for desperate sounds of life within the ruins of Moulay Brahim.

A village of fewer than 3,000 people, Moulay Brahim attracted tourists and outdoor enthusiasts with its stunning vistas and proximity to Marrakech. Streets brimmed with small hotels and cafes overlooking

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 59 of 85

gorges and green valleys.

But after the 6.8-magnitude earthquake that killed more than 2,000 across Morocco, the scene in the village is bleak.

People in the poor rural community about 45 kilometers (28 miles) northeast of the quake epicenter live in homes made of clay brick and cinder block, many of which are no longer standing or safe to inhabit. Fallen walls exposed the innards of damaged homes, their rubble sliding down hills.

"We felt a huge shake like it was doomsday," resident Ayoub Toudite said. "Ten seconds and everything was gone."

Others, like 19-year-old student Abdelfattah El Akari, said the quake felt much longer, seeming to go on more than a minute. "The ground moved and homes cracked," he said.

Chaos and terror followed as frightened villagers sought safety in the streets. When they returned to their neighborhoods, some used bare hands to clear debris and start pulling out bodies, one after another. People gathered and cried outside a community health center as news trickled in of more deaths.

Search crews peered into crevices looking for more casualties or people in need of rescue following the biggest earthquake to hit the North African country in 120 years.

The majority of the deaths, at least 2,012 as of Saturday night, were in Marrakech and five provinces near the epicenter, with at least 2,059 more people injured, including 1,404 critically, the Interior Ministry reported.

Authorities in Moulay Brahim tempered expectations with warnings that many areas remained too fragile to enter while there were still risks of aftershocks that could collapse whatever remained standing. A minaret looming above Moulay Brahim was severely damaged and appeared at risk of toppling if nudged by another tremor.

Hours after the tragedy, with sunlight exposing the extent of the damage, a procession of hundreds accompanied more than a dozen blanket-covered bodies to the town square. Men knelt on rugs and prayed for the dead during a brief funeral before carrying the deceased to a hillside cemetery. According to Islamic custom, burial should happen quickly after death.

Distraught parents sobbed into phones to tell loved ones about losing their children.

Villagers erected a large tent in the square, traditionally used for joyous occasions like weddings. In the coming days, the space will serve a much more somber role as a shelter for those who no longer have homes.

Toudite and other villagers appealed for help.

"People are suffering here very much. We are in dire need of ambulances. Please send us ambulances to Moulay Brahim. The matter is urgent," Toudite implored Saturday. "Please save us."

The town also is in need of food and tents for people who have no place to go but the streets, he said.

The bulk of the town's economy depends on agriculture and tourism. Time will tell how soon visitors will return to a place that stood for centuries.

Moulay Brahim is named after a Moroccan Sufi saint who practiced a form of Islam valuing peace, love and tolerance, emphasizing inward meditation to reach a connection with God. The town's people speak a combination of Arabic and Tachelhit, Morocco's most widely spoken indigenous language.

Hassan Ait Belhaj, who owns several rental properties in Moulay Brahim, said the buildings weren't designed for such violent quakes and wondered how long it would take for the area to recover.

The Moroccan military deployed aircraft, helicopters and drones. Emergency services mobilized aid efforts to the hardest-hit areas, but roads leading to the mountain region around the epicenter were jammed with vehicles and blocked with fallen rocks, slowing rescue efforts.

Traversing the unpaved roads through the rugged High Atlas was difficult long before Friday's earthquake.

Along a steep highway crowded by ambulances, taxis and Red Cross workers, Labira Lahcen nursed a bandaged wound on his hand that was injured by falling debris. He pronounced himself lucky his injuries weren't more severe.

Doctors picked shards of debris out of people's feet and treated patients with surface wounds. The more critically injured were whisked away to a hospital near Marrakech, 60 kilometers (37 miles) to the north.

"Since the earthquake, we've worked almost continuously," Abdelhakim Ait Idan, a Moulay Brahim doctor, said Saturday afternoon, more than 14 hours after the quake violently rolled through the village.

When Hamza Lamghani felt the tremble, he and his family darted outside. Then the lights went out. People used cellphones as flashlights. When it seemed safe to move, Lamghani and his family found their home and neighborhood reduced to rubble.

Five of his closest childhood friends had perished, he said. Still in shock, he walked from the square filled with evacuees. "There's nothing to do but pray."

Afghanistan is the fastest-growing maker of methamphetamine, UN drug agency says

By RIAZAT BUTT Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghanistan is the world's fastest-growing maker of methamphetamine, a report from the United Nations drug agency said Sunday. The country is also a major opium producer and heroin source, even though the Taliban declared a war on narcotics after they returned to power in August 2021.

The United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crimes, which published the report, said meth in Afghanistan is mostly made from legally available substances or extracted from the ephedra plant, which grows in the wild.

The report called Afghanistan's meth manufacturing a growing threat to national and regional health and security because it could disrupt the synthetic drug market and fuel addiction. It said seizures of meth suspected to have come from Afghanistan have been reported from the European Union and east Africa.

Annual meth seizure totals from inside the country rose from less than 100 kilograms (220 pounds) in 2019 to nearly 2,700 kilograms (6,000 pounds) in 2021, suggesting increased production, the report said. But it couldn't give a value for the country's meth supply, the quantities being produced, nor its domestic usage, because it doesn't have the data.

Angela Me, the chief of the UNODC's Research and Trend Analysis Branch, told The Associated Press that making meth, especially in Afghanistan, had several advantages over heroin or cocaine production.

"You don't need to wait for something to grow," said Me. "You don't need land. You just need the cooks and the know-how. Meth labs are mobile, they're hidden. Afghanistan also has the ephedra plant, which is not found in the biggest meth-producing countries: Myanmar and Mexico. It's legal in Afghanistan and it grows everywhere. But you need a lot of it."

Me said it was too early to assess what impact the Taliban's drug crackdown has had on meth supplies.

A spokesperson for the Interior Ministry, Abdul Mateen Qani, told the AP that the Taliban-run government has prohibited the cultivation, production, sale and use of all intoxicants and narcotics in Afghanistan.

He said authorities have destroyed 644 factories and around 12,000 acres of land where prohibited narcotics were cultivated, processed or produced. There have been more than 5,000 raids in which 6,000 people have been arrested.

"We cannot claim 100% that it is finished because people can still do these activities in secret. It is not possible to bring it to zero in such a short time," said Qani. "But we have a four-year strategic plan that narcotics in general and meth in particular will be finished."

A U.N. report published in November said that opium cultivation since the Taliban takeover increased by 32% over the previous year, and that opium prices rose following authorities' announcement of a cultivation ban in April 2022. Farmers' income from opium sales tripled from \$425 million in 2021 to \$1.4 billion in 2022.

The 2022 report also said that the illicit drug market thrived as Afghanistan's economy sharply contracted, making people open to illegal cultivation and trafficking for their survival.

Afghans are dealing with drought, severe economic hardship and the continued consequences of decades of war and natural disasters.

The downturn, along with the halt of international financing that propped up the economy of the former Western-backed government, is driving people into poverty, hunger, and addiction.

An Afghan health official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak

to the media, said around 20,000 people are in hospitals for drug addiction, mostly to crystal meth. Of these patients, 350 are women. He said children are also being treated, but did not give the number nor their ages.

Biden, Modi and G20 allies unveil rail and shipping project linking India to Middle East and Europe

By AAMER MADHANI and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — President Joe Biden and his allies on Saturday announced plans to build a rail and shipping corridor linking India with the Middle East and Europe, an ambitious project aimed at fostering economic growth and political cooperation.

"This is a big deal," said Biden. "This is a really big deal."

The corridor, outlined at the annual Group of 20 summit of the world's top economies, would help boost trade, deliver energy resources and improve digital connectivity. It would include India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Israel and the European Union, said Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser.

Sullivan said the network reflected Biden's vision for "far reaching investments" that come from "effective American leadership" and a willingness to embrace other nations as partners. He said the enhanced infrastructure would boost economic growth, help bring countries in the Middle East together and establish that region as a hub for economic activity instead of as a "source of challenge, conflict or crisis" as it has been in recent history.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and other leaders from around the world participated in the announcement.

"Enhancing connectivity with all regions has been a key priority for India," said Modi, speaking through a translator. "We believe that connectivity is a means to not only increase mutual trade between different countries but also increase mutual trust."

The rail and shipping corridor would help physically tie together a vast stretch of the globe, improving digital connectivity and enabling more trade among countries, including with energy products such as hydrogen. Although White House officials did not set a timeline for its completion, the corridor would provide a physical and ideological alternative to China's own nation-spanning infrastructure program.

The White House gave no details on the project's cost or financing, though Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman mentioned a figure of \$20 billion during the announcement. It was unclear if that sum applied solely to the Saudi commitment.

After the announcement, Biden greeted the crown prince with a hearty handshake, a friendlier exchange than when they last met, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, just over a year ago. At that time, Biden, who had harshly criticized Prince Mohammed over the kingdom's human rights record, awkwardly greeted him with a fist bump, a moment roundly criticized by rights activists.

Von der Leyen described the project as a "green and digital bridge across continents and civilizations." She added that it includes cables to transmit electricity and data.

She also announced a "Trans-African Corridor" connecting the Angolan port of Lobito with landlocked areas of the continent: the Kananga province in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the copper-mining regions of Zambia.

Speaking of the African project, Biden called it a "game changing regional investment" and said "both of these are huge, huge steps forward."

Amos Hochstein, Biden's coordinator for global infrastructure and energy security, laid out a rough timeline for the project over the next year.

In the next 60 days, working groups will put together a fuller plan and set timelines. The first phase will involve identifying the areas that need investment and where physical infrastructure can be connected between countries. Hochstein said the plans can be put into place over the next year so that the project can move onto setting up finances and construction.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 62 of 85

Sullivan said the project started coming together after Biden visited Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in July 2022, where he emphasized a need for greater regional economic integration.

In January, the White House started having conversations with regional partners about the concept. By spring, maps and written assessments of existing rail infrastructure in the Middle East were being drafted. Sullivan, and senior White House aides Hochstein and Brett McGurk, traveled to Saudi Arabia in May to meet with their Indian, Saudi and UAE counterparts.

All sides have worked since then to finalize details of the agreement announced Saturday.

The parties also brought Israel and Jordan into the project. Saudi Arabia and Israel do not have diplomatic relations, though the White House has been pushing them toward normalizing relations.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu released a video statement calling the rail and shipping project a "breakthrough" that would transform the region. "It's a day of good news for all citizens of Israel, good news that leads us to a new era of regional integration and cooperation," he said.

Sullivan said the transportation project is not seen as a "precursor" to a potential normalization deal but he characterized Israel's inclusion as "significant."

"The participants in this effort are focused on practical outcomes that deliver for their people," Sullivan said. "And a corridor of this kind by dint of geography works best having Israel in as opposed to out and the countries participating prioritized that."

Biden participated in both G20 sessions on Saturday. He highlighted plans to push for more investments to address climate change, such as his own domestic incentives to encourage the use of renewable energy. He also argued that Russia's war in Ukraine is hurting many other nations, which have had to cope with greater food and energy costs as well as higher interest rate costs on their debt.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has been a regular presence at international summits, including last year's G20 in Indonesia, since Russia invaded his country more than 18 months ago, was not invited by Modi's government to this year's gathering.

Zelenskyy has used the high-profile gatherings to argue for continued economic and military support for his country. India is one of the most prominent U.S. allies that has largely stayed on the sidelines of the war, and has even dramatically increased its purchases of Russian oil.

Jon Finer, the White House principal deputy national security adviser, said the administration pushed for Zelenskyy's inclusion at the summit.

"Ultimately, it is not our decision," Finer said. "But you can expect that the United States and our other partners who are working with Ukraine so closely ... We'll make that case quite forcefully in the context of these conversations."

The summit communique, a joint statement agreed to by all participants, addressed the war, among other issues. It included language underlining the principle that states cannot use force to change borders, disavowed the use of nuclear weapons and called for a just peace based on the principles of the U.N. Charter. The communique also underscored that attacks on civilian infrastructure must end.

During the summit, Biden also discussed his request to Congress for additional funding for the World Bank that could generate more than \$25 billion in new lending for economic development.

The White House more broadly is trying to strengthen the G20 as an international forum, while Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin decided not to attend.

Biden has said he was disappointed by Xi's decision. Asked again about the Chinese leader's absence, Biden said Saturday that the summit "is going well" though "it would be nice to have him here."

Group sues after New Mexico governor suspends right to carry guns in Albuquerque in public

By SCOTT SONNER, GABE STERN and KEN RITTER Associated Press

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's emergency order suspending the right to carry firearms in public in and around Albuquerque drew an immediate court challenge from a gun-rights group Saturday, as legal scholars and advocates said they expected.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 63 of 85

The National Association for Gun Rights and Foster Haines, a member who lives in Albuquerque, filed documents in U.S. District Court in New Mexico suing Lujan Grisham and seeking an immediate block to the implementation of her order.

The challenge was expected, but even so, the governor's action Friday was an attempt to "move the debate," said Jessica Levinson, a law professor at Loyola Marymount's Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, after Lujan Grisham announced that she was temporarily suspending the right to carry firearms in her state's largest city and surrounding Bernalillo County.

The governor, a Democrat, said the 30-day suspension, enacted as an emergency public health measure, would apply in most public places, from city sidewalks to parks.

She said state police would be responsible for enforcing what amount to civil violations and carry a fine of up to \$5,000.

Bernalillo County District Attorney Sam Bregman, who once served as a Democratic party leader and was appointed by Lujan Grisham, on Saturday joined Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller and Police Chief Harold Medina saying they wouldn't enforce the order.

"As an officer of the court, I cannot and will not enforce something that is clearly unconstitutional," said Bregman, the top prosecutor in the Albuquerque area. "This office will continue to focus on criminals of any age that use guns in the commission of a crime."

Bernalillo County Sheriff John Allen said he was uneasy about how gun owners might respond.

"I am wary of placing my deputies in positions that could lead to civil liability conflicts," Allen said, "as well as the potential risks posed by prohibiting law-abiding citizens from their constitutional right to self-defense."

Medina noted that Albuquerque police made more than 200 arrests of suspects in killings in the last two years. Police spokesman Gilbert Gallegos said enforcing the order also could put Albuquerque police in a difficult position with a U.S. Department of Justice police reform settlement.

Lujan Grisham said she was was compelled to act following recent shootings including the death this week of an 11-year-old boy outside a minor league baseball stadium and gunfire last month that killed a 5-year-old girl who was asleep in a motor home. The governor also cited the shooting death in August of a 13-year-old girl in Taos County.

"No person, other than a law enforcement officer or licensed security officer, shall possess a firearm ... either openly or concealed," the governor's order states.

Levinson told The Associated Press Friday over the phone that Lujan Grisham would draw a court fight, saying the governor was "bumping up against the Second Amendment, no doubt about it."

"And we have a very conservative Supreme Court that is poised to expand Second Amendment rights," Levinson added.

Dudley Brown, founder and president of the Colorado-based gun-rights group, called the governor's action unconstitutional.

"She needs to be held accountable for stripping the God-given rights of millions away with the stroke of a pen," he said in a statement announcing the lawsuit and request for a restraining order. A court hearing was not immediately set.

The top Republican in the New Mexico Senate, Greg Baca of Belen, also denounced Lujan Grisham's order as an infringement on the gun rights of law-abiding citizens. Dan Lewis, who serves on the nonpartisan Albuquerque City Council, called the order an unconstitutional edict.

Lujan Grisham said gun owners still would be able to transport guns to private locations such as a gun range or gun store if the firearm is in a container or has a trigger lock or mechanism making it impossible to discharge.

The governor's order calls for monthly inspections of firearms dealers statewide to ensure compliance with gun laws and for the state Department of Health to compile a report on gunshot victims at hospitals that includes age, race, gender and ethnicity, along with the brand and caliber of firearm involved.

Levinson said she was not aware of any other governor taking a step as restrictive as Lujan Grisham. But she pointed to a proposal by California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, to amend the U.S. Constitu-

tion to harden federal gun laws.

"I don't think it will be a political loss for (Lujan Grisham) to be overturned," Levinson said. "She can say she did everything she could but was stopped by the courts."

Jacob Charles, a law professor at Pepperdine Caruso School of Law who studies the Second Amendment, noted that the Supreme Court, in the June 2022 Bruen case, expanded the right of law-abiding Americans to carry guns in public for self-defense.

He said that ruling takes away the ability to take into account arguments about a compelling government interest, like the gun violence that Lujan Grisham said prompted her order. Now, judges must solely rely on whether any similar historical examples exist.

"They can't assess whether or not this is going to reduce gun violence. They can't assess whether or not there are other alternatives that government could have done," Charles said. He later added, "What it means is that contemporary costs and benefits aren't part of the analysis."

Trump stops at a fraternity house on his way to Iowa-Iowa State football game, outdrawing his rivals

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Donald Trump stepped out of a fraternity house to the cheers of hundreds of Iowa State University students and tossed autographed footballs into the crowd.

"I guess the youth likes Trump," he said over the cheers of the students, speaking to the Right Side Broadcasting Network, which supports his candidacy.

Then, the former president entered a motorcade to head to a private stadium suite where he watched the school's annual football grudge match Saturday with the University of Iowa.

The pregame campus stop was a reminder of Trump's dominant position atop a crowded Republican field both in Iowa and nationally. Several of his rivals also attended the game, mingling with fans at pregame tailgates outside the stadium. But Trump got by far the most attention and hasn't paid a price yet for skipping the closer interactions with voters that are a cherished Iowa political tradition.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has struggled to position himself as a potent foe to Trump, came to Ames to attend the game with Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, who has not endorsed a candidate but often has appeared with DeSantis and his wife, Casey.

As he moved from one tailgate to another, DeSantis was flanked by fans cheering and waving campaign signs from a booth hosted by the pro-DeSantis Never Back Down super PAC.

"We're having a good time," DeSantis told reporters. "It's quite an atmosphere, probably a little bit more civilized than the Florida-Georgia game."

Trump has made a habit of visiting Iowa on the same day as DeSantis, whom Trump treats as his main threat. Their dynamic Saturday was similar to last month when Trump drew huge crowds to the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines while DeSantis addressed smaller audiences and hit the midway rides with his family.

At the Alpha Gamma Rho house, students tried to photograph Trump as he worked the crowd outside the red-brick fraternity house and flipped hamburgers at the grill.

There were some insults during the day. Some fans walking the streets made profane gestures at his motorcade as it moved through Ames.

Prop planes flew over the stadium carrying a banner that read, "Where's Melania?" The former first lady has been largely absent from the campaign so far.

And hired performers wearing inflatable costumes, one posing as Trump and the other infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci, held hands as they roamed the parking lot in face masks.

Also appearing before the game were candidates Doug Burgum, the North Dakota governor, and Asa Hutchinson, a former Arkansas governor, who greeted each other at a tailgate honoring veterans, where Sen. Joni Ernst camped out for most of the afternoon.

While fans showed up Saturday for football, not politics, voters have had the chance to see most can-

didates who regularly appear at Iowa cattle calls and meet-and-greets.

DeSantis is increasingly focused on winning or placing high in Iowa and says he's visited more than half of the state's 99 counties already.

Trump, meanwhile, had made only six visits to Iowa this year before Saturday. Still, his campaign has been working in his absence, promising a more disciplined, data-driven effort for the organizational-heavy caucuses than his first campaign in 2016, when he finished second to Ted Cruz.

Trump's campaign set up several booths around the parking lots, with his volunteers working to get fans to sign caucus pledge cards.

He sat at the game with Iowa casino powerhouse Gary Kirke, an influential Republican donor. Trump waved at fans from the window of a skybox, though he entertained visitors who were allowed in and out before he left the game during the third quarter.

Last week, Trump held a conference call with tens of thousands of Iowans. And he has done some face-to-face stops in Iowa with voters. In June, he handed out Dairy Queen "Blizzards" while also confessing aloud that he did not know what the soft-serve treats were.

There is no comparable example in Iowa political history to a former president running to reclaim his old office while also under indictment for more than 90 felony counts. But other high-profile candidates and strong front-runners have done the town halls and retail campaigning for which Iowa and other early primary states are well-known.

In 2007, then-Sen. Hillary Clinton entered the race for the 2008 Democratic nomination as a national celebrity and the party's heavy favorite in national polling. Drawing larger crowds, Clinton sought to meet the demand by holding smaller meetings with local activists before speaking to packed gyms and halls.

Clinton also attended party events with her lesser-known rivals to demonstrate her willingness to undergo the rigor that Iowans typically demand. Ultimately, she lost the 2008 caucus to then-Sen. Barack Obama, who eventually won the nomination and the White House.

Trump has foregone all but one such event in Iowa this year. The exception was the Iowa Republican Party Lincoln Dinner in July, a marquee event that helps to finance the caucus.

Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis apologize for 'pain' their letters on behalf of Danny Masterson caused

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis apologized Saturday for character letters the celebrity couple wrote on behalf of fellow "That '70s Show" actor Danny Masterson before he was sentenced for rape this week.

A judge in Los Angeles on Thursday sentenced Masterson to 30 years to life in prison for raping two women in 2003.

In a video posted on Instagram, Kutcher and Kunis said they were sorry for the pain they may have caused with the letters, which were made public Friday.

Kutcher said the letters that asked for leniency "were intended for the judge to read and not to undermine the testimony of the victims or retraumatize them in any way. We would never want to do that and we're sorry if that has taken place."

Kutcher said Masterson's family approached them after the actor was convicted in the rapes in May and asked them to write character letters describing "the person that we knew for 25 years." The letters were posted online by The Hollywood Reporter and other digital publications.

Masterson starred with Ashton Kutcher, Mila Kunis and Topher Grace in "That '70s Show" from 1998 until 2006.

He had reunited with Kutcher on the 2016 Netflix comedy "The Ranch," but was written off the show when the Los Angeles Police Department investigation was revealed the following year.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Charlene F. Olmedo handed down the sentence to Masterson, 47, after hearing statements from the women, and pleas for fairness from defense attorneys.

Kutcher described Masterson as a man who treated people "with decency, equality, and generosity," he

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 66 of 85

wrote in his letter dated July 27, 2023.

Kunis in her letter to Olmedo called Masterson "an outstanding role model and friend" and an "exceptional older brother figure."

Both rapes took place in Masterson's Hollywood-area home in 2003 when he was at the height of his fame on the Fox network sitcom "That '70s Show." The victims testified that Masterson drugged them before violently raping them.

Kunis said in the apology video that their letters did not mean to undermine the testimony of victims. "Our heart goes out to every single person who's ever been a victim of sexual assault, sexual abuse, or rape," she said.

Phoenix has set another heat record by hitting 110 degrees on 54 days this year

PHOENIX (AP) — How hot is it in Phoenix? In what has been the hottest summer ever measured, the sizzling city in the Sonoran Desert broke yet another record Saturday when temperatures topped 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 Celsius).

It was the 54th day this year that the official reading at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport made the mark, eclipsing the previous record of 53 days set in 2020.

Matt Salerno, a National Weather Service meteorologist, said the hot streak could reach 55 days.

"We do have one more day," he said.

An extreme heat warning remained in effect, with temperatures forecast at 111 F (43.9 C) on Sunday and 106 F (41.1 C) on Monday.

Salerno said Phoenix experienced the hottest three months since record-keeping began in 1895, including the hottest July and the second-hottest August.

The daily average temperature of 97 F (36.1 C) in June, July and August passed the previous record of 96.7 F (35.9 C) set three years ago.

The average daily temperature was 102.7 F (39.3 C) in July, Salerno said, and the daily average in August was 98.8 F (37.1 C).

In July, Phoenix also set a record with a 31-day streak of highs at or above 110 F (43.3 C). The previous record of 18 straight days was set in 1974.

The sweltering summer of 2023 has seen a historic heat wave stretching from Texas across New Mexico and Arizona and into California's desert.

Worldwide, last month was the hottest August ever recorded, according to the World Meteorological Organization. It was also the second hottest month measured, behind only July 2023. Scientists blame human-caused climate change with an extra push from a natural El Nino, which is a temporary warming of parts of the Pacific Ocean that changes weather around the globe.

As of Saturday, Phoenix has tallied 104 days this year with temperatures over 100 F (37.7 C), Salerno said. That's in line with the average of 111 triple-digit days every year between 1991 and 2020.

Maricopa County, home to Phoenix and the most populous county in Arizona, also appears headed toward an annual record for heat-associated deaths.

County public health officials have confirmed 194 heat-associated deaths this year as of Sept. 2. An additional 351 cases are under investigation.

Maricopa County confirmed 425 heat-related deaths in 2022.

Emotions run high for Virginia as the Cavaliers honor slain teammates ahead of first home game

By HANK KURZ Jr. AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Virginia played its first home football game in 10 months on Saturday and went in hoping to create a high point in what remains a long, emotional journey that started in a horrific way.

The day didn't end the way they wanted; James Madison went ahead on a touchdown pass with 55 seconds left and Virginia couldn't answer in a 36-35 heartbreaker.

"Unfortunately, the game of football, you know, it's not a game of deserve," coach Tony Elliott said. "It's about what you are and today, unfortunately, we didn't make enough plays. We weren't a disciplined enough football team to win. But we'll respond."

Tributes for three players slain in a shooting last November began Friday with a tree planting and the placement of a plaque to honor the three, as well as another player and a female student who were wounded. The victims were also honored before the game.

The tragedy took the lives of Devin Chandler, Lavel Davis Jr. and D'Sean Perry and caused the cancellation of Virginia's final two games last year. Instead, there were three funerals to attend, as well as vigils and a moving memorial service. Authorities just this week upgraded the murder charges against the former teammate accused in the attack.

More than two hours before kickoff Saturday, cheering fans lined the path the team walks to get to the locker room. Many later donned the orange "UVA STRONG" T-shirts given out to the first 35,000 fans to enter the stadium.

Fans were encouraged to be in their seats by 11:30 a.m. for a pregame ceremony, and they cheered loudly when the team emerged from the locker room. The players went through their normal stretching and pregame routine before heading back inside.

They returned and stood on the back line of the end zone to watch a 5-minute video tribute narrated by Samuel L. Jackson that left many fans in tears. Parachutists then dropped into the stadium, three carrying a banner bearing the jersey number of one of the players and the last one with a UVA STRONG banner.

Another video highlighting Virginia's football tradition ended showing plaques honoring the three that now hang under the pergola at the open end of the stadium, then the families were introduced on the field. The numbers of the three killed were revealed on the LED board at the other end of the stadium, where the announcer said they would remain permanently.

"I thought it was it was an awesome, awesome moment, done very, very well and, you know, set a great example for honoring the lives of young men who were who were lost to soon," Elliott said.

The Cavaliers acknowledged being emotional when they reconvened in the spring for 15 days of practice, especially when shooting survivor Mike Hollins was in uniform. Their first game back came last Saturday in Nashville, Tennessee, where they lost 49-13 to No. 9 Tennessee.

This game, though, was different. When the Cavaliers ran out of the stadium tunnel before kickoff, flames shot into the air on both sides of them. Hollins was the first one out, as he was last week. The team ran toward an end zone painted with the words "UVA STRONG" and the names and numbers of the three slain. Most knelt in prayer when they got there.

Hollins was the team's lone representative for the coin toss, and a moment of silence followed.

The end zone will remain painted to honor the three throughout the season. The Cavaliers wore helmet decals and those wearing jersey Nos. 1, 15 and 41 — the numbers of the three killed — had legacy patches on them. The visiting Dukes also wore helmet decals.

As Elliott, in his second year, has said numerous times since the killings, there is no playbook, no formula for how a program recovers, or for how individual players do.

"You've got to compartmentalize and be strategic with the hours in the day and know when you need to focus on football," Elliott said earlier in the week. "They've also got academics they've got to continue to focus on and then also spending the appropriate amount of time mentally preparing themselves for

the emotional roller coaster that they're going to have late in the week and then also on game day. And so it's a delicate balance."

In a statement she read at a news conference without taking questions, athletic director Carla Williams said, "We promised the family members that we would never forget their loved ones, and we will keep that promise."

Williams praised the Virginia players, several of whom considered transferring but chose to return for the opportunity to play in honor of their teammates.

"We love you because despite the adversity, you refuse to quit," Williams said. "The life lessons you're learning in these moments will carry you further than you could have ever imagined."

The players have said they will honor the memories of the players by showing up every day, giving their all and remembering that everything can be taken away in an instant. Results would be nice, too, but as Elliott builds his program, that's a tall order. The Cavaliers were 3-8 last season, his first as a head coach.

The Cavaliers and their fans won't be the only ones familiar with the emotional aspects of the weekend. James Madison had a star softball player take her own life last year.

"We enter a community still grieving and still healing, and we will be grieving alongside them on Saturday," athletic director Jeff Bourne said, noting that he, JMU president Jonathan Alger and Sun Belt Commissioner Keith Gill would be among those on the field for the pregame ceremony.

Bourne said he wants Dukes fans to be fierce and supportive of their team, while at the same time finding an "appropriate balance between competition and compassion by standing strong with UVA to offer our support for healing."

Powerful quake in Morocco kills more than 2,000 people and damages historic buildings in Marrakech

By SAM METZ and MOSA'AB ELSHAMY Associated Press

MARRAKECH, Morocco (AP) — A rare, powerful earthquake struck Morocco, sending people racing from their beds into the streets and toppling buildings in mountainous villages and ancient cities not built to withstand such force. More than 2,000 people were killed, and the toll was expected to rise as rescuers struggled Saturday to reach hard-hit remote areas.

The magnitude 6.8 quake, the biggest to hit the North African country in 120 years, sent people fleeing their homes in terror and disbelief late Friday. One man said dishes and wall hangings began raining down, and people were knocked off their feet. The quake brought down walls made from stone and masonry, covering whole communities with rubble.

The devastation gripped each town along the High Atlas' steep and winding switchbacks in similar ways: homes folding in on themselves and mothers and fathers crying as boys and helmet-clad police carried the dead through the streets.

Remote villages like those in the drought-stricken Ouargane Valley were largely cut off from the world when they lost electricity and cellphone service. By midday, people were outside mourning neighbors, surveying the damage on their camera phones and telling one another "May God save us."

Hamid Idsalah, a 72-year-old mountain guide, said he and many others remained alive but had little future to look forward to. That was true in the short-term — with remnants of his kitchen reduced to dust — and in the long-term — where he and many others lack the financial means to rebound.

"I can't reconstruct my home. I don't know what I'll do. Still, I'm alive, so I'll wait," he said as he walked through the desert oasis town overlooking red rock hills, packs of goats and a glistening salt lake. "I feel heartsick."

In historic Marrakech, people could be seen on state TV clustering in the streets, afraid to go back inside buildings that might still be unstable. The city's famous Koutoubia Mosque, built in the 12th century, was damaged, but the extent was not immediately clear. Its 69-meter (226-foot) minaret is known as the "roof of Marrakech." Moroccans also posted videos showing damage to parts of the famous red walls that surround the old city, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 69 of 85

At least 2,012 people died in the quake, mostly in Marrakech and five provinces near the epicenter, Morocco's Interior Ministry reported Saturday night. At least 2,059 more people were injured — 1,404 critically — the ministry said.

"The problem is that where destructive earthquakes are rare, buildings are simply not constructed robustly enough to cope with strong ground shaking, so many collapse, resulting in high casualties," said Bill McGuire, professor emeritus of geophysical and climate hazards at University College London.

In a sign of the huge scale of the disaster, Morocco's King Mohammed VI ordered the armed forces to mobilize specialized search and rescue teams and a surgical field hospital, according to a statement from the military.

The king said he would visit the hardest hit area Saturday, but despite an outpouring of offers of help from around the world, the Moroccan government had not formally asked for assistance, a step required before outside rescue crews could deploy.

The epicenter of Friday's tremor was near the town of Ighil in Al Haouz Province, roughly 70 kilometers (44 miles) south of Marrakech. Al Haouz is known for scenic villages and valleys tucked in the High Atlas Mountains.

Police, emergency vehicles and people fleeing in shared taxis spent hours traversing unpaved roads through the High Atlas in stop-and-go traffic, often exiting their cars to help clear giant boulders from routes known to be rugged and difficult long before Friday's earthquake. In Ijjoukak, a village in the area surrounding Toubkal, North Africa's tallest peak, residents estimated nearly 200 buildings had been leveled.

Couch cushions, electric cords and grapes were strewn in giant piles of rubble alongside dead sheep, houseplants and doors wedged between boulders. Relatives from the town and those who had driven from major cities cried while they wondered who to call as they reckoned with the aftermath and a lack of food and water.

"It felt like a bomb went off," 34-year-old Mohamed Messi said.

Morocco will observe three days of national mourning with flags at half-staff on all public facilities, the official news agency MAP reported.

World leaders offered to send in aid or rescue crews as condolences poured in from countries in Europe, the Middle East and the Group of 20 summit in India. The president of Turkey, which lost tens of thousands of people in a massive earthquake earlier this year, was among those proposing assistance. France and Germany, with large populations of people of Moroccan origin, also offered to help, and the leaders of both Ukraine and Russia expressed support for Moroccans.

In an exceptional move, neighboring rival Algeria offered to open its airspace to allow eventual humanitarian aid or medical evacuation flights to travel to and from Morocco. Algeria closed the airspace when its government severed diplomatic ties with Morocco in 2021 over a series of issues. The countries have a decadeslong dispute involving the territory of Western Sahara.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.8 when it hit at 11:11 p.m. (22:11 GMT), with shaking that lasted several seconds. The U.S. agency reported a magnitude 4.9 aftershock hit 19 minutes later. The collision of the African and Eurasian tectonic plates occurred at a relatively shallow depth, which makes a quake more dangerous.

Earthquakes are relatively rare in North Africa. Lahcen Mhanni, Head of the Seismic Monitoring and Warning Department at the National Institute of Geophysics, told 2M TV that the earthquake was the strongest ever recorded in the region.

In 1960, a magnitude 5.8 tremor struck near the Moroccan city of Agadir and caused thousands of deaths. That quake prompted changes in construction rules in Morocco, but many buildings, especially rural homes, are not built to withstand such tremors.

In 2004, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake near the Mediterranean coastal city of Al Hoceima left more than 600 dead.

Friday's quake was felt as far away as Portugal and Algeria, according to the Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere and Algeria's Civil Defense agency, which oversees emergency response.

Republican opposition to abortion threatens global HIV/AIDS program that has saved 25 million lives

By EVELYNE MUSAMBI, FARNOUSH AMIRI, CARA ANNA and ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The graves at the edge of the orphanage tell a story of despair. The rough planks in the cracked earth are painted with the names of children, most of them dead in the 1990s. That was before the HIV drugs arrived.

Today, the orphanage in Kenya's capital is a happier, more hopeful place for children with HIV. But a political fight taking place in the United States is threatening the program that helps to keep them and millions of others around the world alive.

The reason for the threat? Abortion.

The AIDS epidemic has killed more than 40 million people since the first recorded cases in 1981, tripling child mortality and carving decades off life expectancy in the hardest-hit areas of Africa, where the cost of treatment put it out of reach. Horrified, then-President George W. Bush and the U.S. Congress two decades ago created what is described as the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease.

The program, known as the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, partners with nonprofit groups to provide HIV/AIDS medication to millions around the world. It strengthens local and national health care systems, cares for children orphaned by AIDS and provides job training for people at risk.

Now, a few Republican lawmakers are endangering the stability of the program, which officials say has saved 25 million lives in 55 countries from Ukraine to Brazil to Indonesia. That includes the lives of 5.5 million infants born HIV-free.

At the Catholic-run Nairobi orphanage, program manager Paul Mulongo has a message for Washington. "Let them know that the lives of these children we are taking care of are purely in their hands," Mulongo says.

The issue of abortion has been a sensitive one since PEPFAR's inception in 2003. But each time the program came up for renewal in Congress, Republicans and Democrats were able to put aside partisan politics to support a program that's long been seen as the vanguard of global aid.

"Most eras in countries are measured by loss of life in war and famine and pandemic," said Tom Hart, president of the ONE Campaign, a nonpartisan organization that worked with Bush, a Republican, to create the program. "This era has been measured in lives saved." The campaign has published a letter from dozens of faith leaders to Congress calling PEPFAR "a story of medical miracles and mercy."

But the bipartisan support is cracking as the program is set to expire at the end of September. The trouble began in the spring, when the Heritage Foundation, an influential conservative Washington think tank, accused the Biden administration of using PEPFAR "to promote its domestic radical social agenda overseas."

The group pointed to new State Department language that called for PEPFAR to partner with organizations that advocate for "institutional reforms in law and policy regarding sexual, reproductive and economic rights of women." Conservatives argued that's code for trying to integrate abortion with HIV/AIDS prevention, a claim the administration has denied.

In language echoing the early, harsh years of the epidemic, Heritage called HIV/AIDS a "lifestyle disease" that should be suppressed by "education, moral suasion and legal sanctions." It recommended halving U.S. funding for PEPFAR, saying poor countries should bear more of the costs.

Shortly after that, U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, a longtime supporter of PEPFAR who wrote the bill reauthorizing it in 2018, said he would not move forward with reauthorization this time unless it barred nongovernmental organizations that used any funding to provide or promote abortion services. He said he came to this decision after having extensive conversations with stakeholders involved.

And the threat from the New Jersey Republican comes with weight: He chairs the U.S. House Foreign Affairs subcommittee with jurisdiction over the program's funding.

Because that proposal faces stiff opposition from congressional Democrats, Smith, with support from prominent anti-abortion groups, wants to cut PEPFAR's usual five-year funding to one year if that ban is

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 71 of 85

not included. He said that way the program would remain funded at its highest level — \$6.7 billion — while allowing lawmakers to annually to revisit contracts with partners they believe may support or provide abortion services.

The proposal would also include a measure that requires at least 10% of funds to be directed to NGOs like the Nairobi orphanage, which targets orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS.

"It's a false narrative that says that you can't do (the program) year by year as we try to protect the unborn child," Smith told The Associated Press.

But supporters of the program say that under existing U.S. law, partners are already prohibited from using its funding for abortion services. The head of PEPFAR, John Nkengasong, told the AP he knew of no instance of the program's money going directly or indirectly to fund abortion services.

He warned that any instability in the flow of U.S. funding for PEPFAR could have dangerous implications for health globally, including in the United States. The key to controlling AIDS, he said, is the assurance that infected people have a pill to take each day.

Without that, the virus could come back, "and about 20 million lives might be lost in the coming years," he said. "The fragile gains that we've achieved will be lost."

In Africa, many PEPFAR partners and recipients in largely conservative countries don't support abortion either because of religious beliefs. But the idea that the program reliant on the steady supply of HIV drugs could be subject to political winds is a cause for alarm.

"If PEPFAR goes, who is going to meet that cost?" asked Josephine Kaleebi, who leads an organization in Uganda that helped the program's first-ever recipient of HIV treatment medication.

"We are proud to say that the first recipient is alive," Kaleebi said.

The group, Reach Out Mbuya Community Health Initiative, was founded by members of Uganda's Catholic Church, which is against abortion. In the reception area, portraits of priests line the walls.

But Reach Out helps anyone who walks in needing HIV drugs, Kaleebi said. About 6,000 people are served, many of them "the extremely most vulnerable" from one of the poorest areas of the capital, Kampala.

Mark Dybul, who helped create and lead PEPFAR under Bush, warned that weakening PEPFAR would also hurt the diplomatic goodwill the U.S. has created in developing regions.

"It's no secret that we are in a geopolitical struggle for influence in Africa with Russia and China," he said. "And our biggest influence in many ways, visible and most impactful, is PEPFAR." A spokesperson for former president Bush declined comment.

In neighboring Kenya, Bernard Mwololo believes he is alive because of the drugs that PEPFAR provides. "Sometimes it's so crazy when you hear people saying that these HIV drugs should be bought by the local government," he said. "I am telling you, they can't manage it."

The 36-year-old, now an HIV activist, has lived most of his life at the Nairobi orphanage after his parents died of AIDS. He recalled arriving and learning that he could have hope. He was enrolled in a better school, was given a bicycle and ate balanced meals.

The number of children in sub-Saharan Africa newly orphaned by AIDS reached a peak of 1.6 million in 2004, the year that PEPFAR began its rollout of HIV drugs, researchers wrote in a defense of the program published by The Lancet medical journal last month. In 2021, the number of new orphans had dropped to 382,000.

Deaths of infants and young children from AIDS in the region have dropped by 80%.

Now the orphanage is transformed. Children dart around playing soccer or swing in the colorful play area. Some are among the 1.4 million children and adults living with HIV in Kenya, according to UNAIDS. More than 1 million have received free HIV drugs because of PEPFAR.

Stopping PEPFAR would be like committing "global genocide," said Mulongo, the orphanage program manager.

He recalled how helpless he felt watching children die before HIV drugs were readily available. Almost two decades ago, they would lose at least 30 children a month to AIDS.

Elsewhere in Nairobi, 16-year-old Idah Musimbi is part of a generation that has grown up without the

fear that an HIV diagnosis was a likely death sentence.

She displayed the pills that have given her a sense of normalcy. She contracted HIV at birth.

"I don't think I would live for long if these drugs stopped coming. My grandparents cannot afford to buy food every day, let alone these ARVs," she said.

Her grandfather David Shitika, a pastor, said he owes the lives of his granddaughter and her mother to PEPFAR. His daughter was diagnosed with HIV in 1995, when many people were dying.

"It was called the slimming killer disease," he said. "Nobody wanted to live with an infected person, and those who died were wrapped in nylon bags before burial" for fear of infection.

Now he hopes that the Republicans' threat to PEPFAR will fade, and that his granddaughter will go on to study law and achieve her dream of becoming a judge.

"I want to tell the American people, God bless you," Shitika said. "I do not know why you decided to help us."

Israeli army kills 16-year-old Palestinian in West Bank, claiming youths threw explosives

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli security forces on Saturday killed a 16-year-old Palestinian in a confrontation in the southern occupied West Bank, Palestinian health officials said, the latest violence to roil the territory during one of the most violent stretches of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in nearly two decades.

The death of Milad al-Rai brings to 185 the number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank so far this year by Israeli fire, including over 30 youths under the age of 18. This year's death toll in the West Bank and east Jerusalem has already overtaken that of 2022, which had been considered the deadliest year since the United Nations began tracking in 2005.

The Israeli military said that it unleashed tear gas and opened fire at a group of Palestinians outside the Al-Aroub refugee camp in the southern West Bank who had lobbed Molotov cocktails at troops across the way. It said it was aware that one of the Palestinians had been shot and said there were Israeli military casualties.

The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the Palestinian killed as 16-year-old Milad al-Rai and said he was struck in the back by bullets.

Nearly half of Palestinians killed in the violence this year have been affiliated with militant groups, according to a tally by The Associated Press. Israel says most of those killed were militants, but stone-throwing youths protesting the incursions as well as people not involved in the confrontations have also died.

Palestinian attacks against Israelis have spiked as the Israeli military intensifies its arrest raids in the West Bank. More than 30 people have been killed in Palestinian attacks against Israelis since the start of 2023.

Israel says the raids are meant to dismantle militant networks and thwart future attacks. Palestinians say the raids undermine their security forces, inspire more militancy and entrench Israeli control over lands they seek for a hoped-for future state.

Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war.

Artificial intelligence technology behind ChatGPT was built in Iowa — with a lot of water

By MATT O'BRIEN and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The cost of building an artificial intelligence product like ChatGPT can be hard to measure.

But one thing Microsoft-backed OpenAI needed for its technology was plenty of water, pulled from the watershed of the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers in central Iowa to cool a powerful supercomputer as it helped teach its AI systems how to mimic human writing.

As they race to capitalize on a craze for generative AI, leading tech developers including Microsoft, OpenAI and Google have acknowledged that growing demand for their AI tools carries hefty costs, from

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 73 of 85

expensive semiconductors to an increase in water consumption.

But they're often secretive about the specifics. Few people in Iowa knew about its status as a birthplace of OpenAI's most advanced large language model, GPT-4, before a top Microsoft executive said in a speech it "was literally made next to cornfields west of Des Moines."

Building a large language model requires analyzing patterns across a huge trove of human-written text. All of that computing takes a lot of electricity and generates a lot of heat. To keep it cool on hot days, data centers need to pump in water — often to a cooling tower outside its warehouse-sized buildings.

In its latest environmental report, Microsoft disclosed that its global water consumption spiked 34% from 2021 to 2022 (to nearly 1.7 billion gallons, or more than 2,500 Olympic-sized swimming pools), a sharp increase compared to previous years that outside researchers tie to its AI research.

"It's fair to say the majority of the growth is due to AI," including "its heavy investment in generative AI and partnership with OpenAI," said Shaolei Ren, a researcher at the University of California, Riverside who has been trying to calculate the environmental impact of generative AI products such as ChatGPT.

In a paper due to be published later this year, Ren's team estimates ChatGPT gulps up 500 milliliters of water (close to what's in a 16-ounce water bottle) every time you ask it a series of between 5 to 50 prompts or questions. The range varies depending on where its servers are located and the season. The estimate includes indirect water usage that the companies don't measure — such as to cool power plants that supply the data centers with electricity.

"Most people are not aware of the resource usage underlying ChatGPT," Ren said. "If you're not aware of the resource usage, then there's no way that we can help conserve the resources."

Google reported a 20% growth in water use in the same period, which Ren also largely attributes to its AI work. Google's spike wasn't uniform -- it was steady in Oregon where its water use has attracted public attention, while doubling outside Las Vegas. It was also thirsty in Iowa, drawing more potable water to its Council Bluffs data centers than anywhere else.

In response to questions from The Associated Press, Microsoft said in a statement this week that it is investing in research to measure AI's energy and carbon footprint "while working on ways to make large systems more efficient, in both training and application."

"We will continue to monitor our emissions, accelerate progress while increasing our use of clean energy to power data centers, purchasing renewable energy, and other efforts to meet our sustainability goals of being carbon negative, water positive and zero waste by 2030," the company's statement said.

OpenAI echoed those comments in its own statement Friday, saying it's giving "considerable thought" to the best use of computing power.

"We recognize training large models can be energy and water-intensive" and work to improve efficiencies, it said.

Microsoft made its first \$1 billion investment in San Francisco-based OpenAI in 2019, more than two years before the startup introduced ChatGPT and sparked worldwide fascination with AI advancements. As part of the deal, the software giant would supply computing power needed to train the AI models.

To do at least some of that work, the two companies looked to West Des Moines, Iowa, a city of 68,000 people where Microsoft has been amassing data centers to power its cloud computing services for more than a decade. Its fourth and fifth data centers are due to open there later this year.

"They're building them as fast as they can," said Steve Gaer, who was the city's mayor when Microsoft came to town. Gaer said the company was attracted to the city's commitment to building public infrastructure and contributed a "staggering" sum of money through tax payments that support that investment.

"But, you know, they were pretty secretive on what they're doing out there," he added.

Microsoft first said it was developing one of the world's most powerful supercomputers for OpenAI in 2020, declining to reveal its location to AP at the time but describing it as a "single system" with more than 285,000 cores of conventional semiconductors, and 10,000 graphics processors — a kind of chip that's become crucial to AI workloads.

Experts have said it can make sense to "pretrain" an AI model at a single location because of the large

amounts of data that need to be transferred between computing cores.

It wasn't until late May that Microsoft's president, Brad Smith, disclosed that it had built its "advanced AI supercomputing data center" in Iowa, exclusively to enable OpenAI to train what has become its fourth-generation model, GPT-4. The model now powers premium versions of ChatGPT and some of Microsoft's own products and has accelerated a debate about containing AI's societal risks.

"It was made by these extraordinary engineers in California, but it was really made in Iowa," Smith said.

In some ways, West Des Moines is a relatively efficient place to train a powerful AI system, especially compared to Microsoft's data centers in Arizona that consume far more water for the same computing demand.

"So if you are developing AI models within Microsoft, then you should schedule your training in Iowa instead of in Arizona," Ren said. "In terms of training, there's no difference. In terms of water consumption or energy consumption, there's a big difference."

For much of the year, Iowa's weather is cool enough for Microsoft to use outside air to keep the super-computer running properly and vent heat out of the building. Only when the temperature exceeds 29.3 degrees Celsius (about 85 degrees Fahrenheit) does it withdraw water, the company has said in a public disclosure.

That can still be a lot of water, especially in the summer. In July 2022, the month before OpenAI says it completed its training of GPT-4, Microsoft pumped in about 11.5 million gallons of water to its cluster of Iowa data centers, according to the West Des Moines Water Works. That amounted to about 6% of all the water used in the district, which also supplies drinking water to the city's residents.

In 2022, a document from the West Des Moines Water Works said it and the city government "will only consider future data center projects" from Microsoft if those projects can "demonstrate and implement technology to significantly reduce peak water usage from the current levels" to preserve the water supply for residential and other commercial needs.

Microsoft said Thursday it is working directly with the water works to address its feedback. In a written statement, the water works said the company has been a good partner and has been working with local officials to reduce its water footprint while still meeting its needs.

Most of West Maui will welcome back visitors next month under a new wildfire emergency proclamation

HONOLULU (AP) — Most of West Maui will officially reopen to travelers Oct. 8 under a new wildfire emergency proclamation signed on Friday by Hawaii Gov. Josh Green.

Nonessential travel to much of the island's western coastline has been strongly discouraged since devastating wildfires killed at least 115 people in the historic town of Lahaina last month.

State tourism officials initially urged travelers to stay away from Maui so residents and agencies could focus on emergency response efforts and supporting those displaced by the fires. In mid-August, officials began encouraging tourists to return to other parts of Maui, avoiding the burn zone and spending money to help the region recover.

On Thursday, Green told a meeting of the state Council on Revenues that he expected authorities to reopen most of West Maui to travelers in October, with the exception of the fire-damaged neighborhoods. The area, which includes beach resorts in Kaanapali, north of historic Lahaina, has 11,000 hotel rooms. That's half Maui's total.

In the emergency proclamation signed Friday, the governor said the previous guidance that strongly discouraged nonessential travel to West Maui will be discontinued Oct. 8.

Tourism is a major economic driver in Hawaii, and the wildfire disaster prompted state officials to lower their 2023 economic growth prediction for the entire state to 1.1%, down from 1.8%.

The number of visitors arriving on Maui sank about 70% after the Aug. 8 fire, down to 2,000 a day, and only half of the available hotel rooms there are occupied, said Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association president Mufi Hannemann. Airlines have begun offering steep discounts on flights to Hawaii, and some

resorts have slashed room rates by 20% or are offering a fifth night free.

Rescue begins of ailing US researcher stuck 3,000 feet inside a Turkish cave, Turkish officials say

TASELI PLATEAU, Turkey (AP) — Rescue teams began the arduous process Saturday of extricating an American researcher who became seriously ill while he was 1,000 meters (3,000 feet) below the entrance of a cave in Turkey, officials said.

It could take days to bring Mark Dickey to the surface since rescuers anticipate he will have to stop and rest frequently at camps set up along the way as they pull his stretcher through the narrow passages.

"This afternoon, the operation to move him from his camp at 1040 meters to the camp at 700 meters began," Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate, AFAD, told The Associated Press.

The 40-year-old experienced caver began vomiting on Sept. 2 because of stomach bleeding while on an expedition with a handful of others in the Morca cave in southern Turkey's Taurus Mountains.

Rescuers from across Europe rushed to the cave to help Dickey and to extract him, including one Hungarian doctor who treated him inside the cave on Sept. 3. Doctors gave Dickey IV fluids and 4 liters (1 gallon) of blood inside the cave, officials said. Teams comprised of a doctor and three or four others take turns staying with the American at all times.

There are 190 personnel from eight countries assisting in the rescue effort, including doctors, paramedics and experienced cavers, Mersin Gov. Ali Hamza Pehlivan told media on Saturday. He said 153 of them were search and rescue experts.

"We have received information that his condition is getting better, thanks to medical intervention. He has been in stable condition as of yesterday," he said.

Speaking with the AP before rescue operations began, Recep Salci, head of AFAD's search and rescue department, said the rescue will depend on Dickey's condition.

"If he feels well, we will assist him, and he will come out (of the cave) fast. But if his condition worsens, we will have to bring him up on a stretcher." He said bringing Dickey up in a stretcher could take up to 10 days.

Yusuf Ogrenecek of the Speleological Federation of Turkey says that one of the most difficult tasks of cave rescue operations is widening the narrow cave passages to allow stretcher lines to pass through at low depths.

"Stretcher lines are labor intensive and require experienced cave rescuers working long hours," Ogrenecek said, adding that other difficult factors range from navigating through mud and water at low temperatures to the psychological toll of staying inside a cave for long periods of time.

In Rome, Federico Catania, the spokesman for Italy's National Alpine and Speleological Rescue, described the cave as one of the deepest in the world.

"The cave is made up of many vertical shafts, so many sections that are extremely vertical with few horizontal sections where (the) rescuers are setting up temporary camps," he said.

Turkish authorities made a video message available that showed Dickey standing and moving around on Thursday. While alert and talking, he said he was not "healed on the inside" and needed a lot of help to get out of the cave. He thanked the caving community and the Turkish government for their efforts to rescue him.

G20 agreement reflects sharp differences over Ukraine and the rising clout of the Global South

By ADAM SCHRECK and DAVID RISING Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — The Group of 20 top world economies added the African Union as a member at their annual summit Saturday, and host India was able to get the disparate group to sign off on a final statement, but only after softening language on the contentious issue of Russia's war in Ukraine.

In the months leading up to the leaders' summit in New Delhi, India had been unable to find agreement

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 76 of 85

on the wording about Ukraine, with Russia and China objecting even to language that they had agreed to last year at the G20 summit in Bali.

The final statement, released a day before the formal close of the summit, highlighted the "human suffering and negative added impacts of the war in Ukraine," but did not mention Russia's invasion.

It cited the U.N. charter, saying "all states must refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against the territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state. The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible."

By contrast, the Bali declaration had cited a U.N. resolution condemning "the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine," and said "most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine."

Nazia Hussain, an associate research fellow at Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, said the statement showed a "softening of the language on the war in Ukraine."

"However, for New Delhi, getting out a joint statement with some reference to Ukraine, or a joint statement at all especially with both the United States and its western allies as well as China and Russia toughening their stance on the war, is a win."

Many had been skeptical that there would be a final communique, which would have been the first time one was not released and have been a blow to the prestige of the G20.

Western delegations applauded the agreement, with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz calling it a "success of Indian diplomacy." He told reporters it was significant that in the end Russia had "given up its resistance" and signed on to the agreement that mentioned the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

A senior European Union official, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to be candid about the discussions, said the EU had not given up any of its position, and the fact that Russia had signed on to the agreement was important.

"The option we have is text or no text, and I think it's better text," he said. "At least if they don't implement, we know once more that we cannot rely on them."

Russian negotiator Svetlana Lukash described the discussions on the Ukraine-related part of the final statement as "very difficult," adding that the agreed text had a "balanced view" of the situation., Russian media reported.

She said Ukraine wasn't the only point of contention in reaching a statement, and charged that Western powers had tried to enforce the idea that "it's the Ukrainian conflict that provokes all the crises in the world now."

By contrast, there was widespread support for adding the AU to the G20, making it the second regional bloc to become a permanent member after the EU and adding momentum to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive to give a greater voice to the Global South.

The continent was thrust into the spotlight as well by the earthquake in Morocco, which happened while most of the delegates gathered in New Delhi were asleep. Modi offered condolences and support in his opening remarks.

"The entire world community is with Morocco in this difficult time and we are ready to provide them all possible assistance," he said.

He told leaders they must find "concrete solutions" to the widespread challenges that he said stemmed from the "ups and downs in the global economy, the north and the south divide, the chasm between the east and the west," and other issues like terrorism, cybersecurity, health and water security.

Modi addressed the delegates from behind a nameplate that listed his country not as India but as "Bharat," an ancient Sanskrit name championed by his Hindu nationalist supporters.

India had made directing more attention to addressing the needs of the developing world a focus of the summit. at the summit — though it proved impossible to decouple many issues, such as food and energy security, from the war in Ukraine.

The summit came just days after Russian President Vladimir Putin said a landmark deal brokered by the U.N. and Turkey allowing Ukraine to export grain safely through the Black Sea will not be restored until Western nations meet his demands on Russia's own agricultural exports.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 77 of 85

The G20 urged the resumption of grain, foodstuffs and fertilizer shipments from Russia and Ukraine, saying it was necessary to feed people in Africa and other parts of the developing world.

Russia has been attacking Ukrainian port facilities, and the G20 in its final statement also called for an end to attacks on infrastructure related to the grain exports, and expressed "deep concern" about the effect of conflicts on civilians.

The G20 includes Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. Spain holds a permanent guest seat.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and China's leader Xi Jinping opted not to come this year, ensuring no tough face-to-face conversations with their American and European counterparts.

Participants arriving in the Indian capital were greeted by streets cleared of traffic, and graced with fresh flowers and seemingly endless posters featuring slogans and Modi's face. Security was intensely tight, with most journalists and the public kept far from the summit venue.

Hundreds of Tibetan exiles held a protest far from the summit venue to condemn Chinese participation in the event and urge leaders to discuss Sino-Tibetan relations.

The G20 agenda featured issues critical to developing nations, including alternative fuels like hydrogen, resource efficiency, food security and developing a common framework for digital public infrastructure.

Human Rights Watch urged the G20 leaders not to let international disunity over Ukraine distract them at the summit from the other issues.

In addition, Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy director of the organization's Asia division, said members should not "shy away from openly discussing challenges like gender discrimination, racism and other entrenched barriers to equality, including with host India, where civil and political rights have sharply deteriorated under the Modi administration."

On Friday evening, before the meeting got formally underway, Modi met with U.S. President Joe Biden. White House aide Kurt Campbell told reporters afterward that there was an "undeniable warmth and confidence between the two leaders."

As India's regional rival China has become growingly assertive in the Asia-Pacific region, the U.S. has been seeking to strengthen ties with India and others.

The U.S., India, the EU and others unveiled ambitious plans Saturday to build a rail and shipping corridor linking India with the Middle East and Europe that aims to strengthen economic growth and political cooperation.

"This is a really big deal," Biden said.

UN atomic watchdog warns of threat to nuclear safety as fighting spikes near a plant in Ukraine

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The United Nations atomic watchdog warned of a potential threat to nuclear safety from a spike in fighting near Europe's largest nuclear power plant in Ukraine, whose forces continued pressing their counteroffensive on Saturday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said its experts deployed at the Russia-occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant reported hearing numerous explosions over the past week, in a possible indication of increased military activity in the region. There was no damage to the plant.

"I remain deeply concerned about the possible dangers facing the plant at this time of heightened military tension in the region," IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi warned in a statement issued late Friday.

He noted that the IAEA team was informed that staff at the nuclear power plant had been reduced temporarily to minimum levels due to concerns of more military activity in the area.

"Whatever happens in a conflict zone, wherever it may be, everybody would stand to lose from a nuclear

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 78 of 85

accident, and I urge that all necessary precautions must be taken to avoid it happening," Grossi said.

The IAEA has repeatedly expressed concern that the fighting could cause a potential radiation leak from the facility, which is one of the world's 10 biggest nuclear power stations. The plant's six reactors have been shut down for months, but it still needs power and qualified staff to operate crucial cooling systems and other safety features.

As Ukrainian forces pressed to expand their gains after recently capturing the village of Robotyne in the Zaporizhzhia region, the U.K. Defense Ministry noted in its latest report that Russia has brought in reinforcements to stymie the Ukrainian advances.

"It is highly likely that Russia has redeployed forces from other areas of the frontline to replace degraded units around Robotyne," it said. "These redeployments are likely limiting Russia's ability to carry out offensive operations of its own along other areas of the front line."

The Washington-based Institute for the Study of War noted that the Russian military has made notable changes to its command and control structure to "protect command infrastructure and improve information sharing."

Russian forces have continued their barrage across Ukraine. The regional authorities in the northeastern region of Sumy that borders Russia said that the latest Russian shelling left four people wounded, one of whom later died in a hospital.

The Kremlin reaffirmed Saturday that Russia will not extend a landmark deal allowing Ukraine to export grain safely through the Black Sea until the West fully meets Moscow's demands regarding its own agricultural exports.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov commented on reports that Western powers were allegedly discussing a deal that would allow the Russian Agricultural Bank to open a subsidiary that would be reconnected to the SWIFT payment system and meet other Russian demands. He said that Moscow expects the West to fulfill the original agreements to facilitate Russian agricultural exports that were reached in July 2022.

"For instance, they are now saying that the West is allegedly ready to promise to open SWIFT for a subsidiary of the Russian Agricultural Bank, but the thing is that the agreements envisage SWIFT access for the Russian Agricultural Bank, not its subsidiary," Peskov said in a conference call with reporters.

He added that "because they have already made a lot of promises, we considered ourselves entitled and obligated to wait first for the implementation before resuming the deal."

Russia refused to extend the deal in July, complaining that a parallel agreement promising to remove obstacles to Russian exports of food and fertilizer hadn't been honored. It said restrictions on shipping and insurance hampered its agricultural trade, though it has shipped record amounts of wheat since last year.

Ukraine and its Western allies have dismissed the Kremlin's demands as a ploy to advance its own interests.

On Saturday, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi arrived to Ukraine for an official visit and prayed at a church in the Kyiv suburb of Bucha, where some of the worst atrocities of Russia's war occurred early during the invasion.

"I am grateful to Japan for remaining our key partner in Asia and supporting Ukraine," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Speaking after talks with his Ukrainian counterpart, Hayashi pledged that "Japan will go hand in hand with Ukraine until peace returns to its beautiful land."

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said that while Japan cannot provide Ukraine with lethal weapons, it has "already demonstrated that it can do many other important things to improve our security."

Japan has given Ukraine more than \$7 billion in assistance since the start of the full-scale invasion. As part of its assistance, Tokyo provided two transformers to help Ukraine restore its energy systems after relentless Russian strikes, and donated 24 trucks to help Ukraine clear unexploded ordnance.

Updated COVID shots are coming. They're part of a trio of vaccines to block fall viruses

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Updated COVID-19 vaccines are coming soon, just in time to pair them with flu shots. And this fall, the first vaccines for another scary virus called RSV are rolling out to older adults and pregnant women.

Doctors hope enough people get vaccinated to help avert another "triple-demic" like last year when hospitals were overwhelmed with an early flu season, an onslaught of RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, and yet another winter coronavirus surge.

COVID-19 hospitalizations have been steadily increasing since late summer, although not nearly as much as this time last year, and RSV already is on the rise in parts of the Southeast.

Approval of updated COVID-19 shots is expected within days. They are among the tools the new director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says will help put the U.S. in "our strongest position yet" to avoid another chaotic respiratory season.

"There will be a lot of virus this winter. That's why we want to get ahead of it," CDC chief Dr. Mandy Cohen said.

Here is what you need to know about fall vaccinations:

WHY MORE COVID-19 SHOTS?

The ever-evolving coronavirus isn't going away. Similar to how flu shots are updated each year, the Food and Drug Administration gave COVID-19 vaccine makers a new recipe for this fall.

The updated shots have a single target, an omicron descendant named XBB.1.5. It's a big change. The COVID-19 vaccines offered since last year are combination shots targeting the original coronavirus strain and a much earlier omicron version, making them very outdated.

Pfizer, Moderna and Novavax all have brewed new supplies.

The FDA will soon decide if each company has met safety, effectiveness and quality standards. Then the CDC must sign off before vaccinations begin. A CDC advisory panel is set to meet Tuesday to make recommendations on how best to use the latest shots.

Earlier this month, European regulators authorized Pfizer's updated vaccine for this fall, for adults and children as young as 6 months.

WILL THEY BE EFFECTIVE ENOUGH?

Health officials are optimistic, barring a new mutant.

As expected, XBB.1.5 has faded away in the months it took to tweak the vaccine. Today, there is a soup of different coronavirus variants causing illness and the most common ones are fairly close relatives. Recent lab testing from vaccine makers and other research groups suggest the updated shots will offer crossover protection.

Earlier vaccinations or infections have continued to help prevent severe disease and death but protection wanes over time, especially against milder infections as the virus continually evolves. While the FDA did allow seniors and others at high risk to get an extra booster dose last spring, most Americans haven't had a vaccination in about a year.

"The best thing people can do to maintain a normal way of life is to continue to get their booster shots," said Duke University vaccine expert David Montefiori.

WHO ALSO NEEDS A FLU VACCINE?

The CDC urges a yearly flu shot for pretty much everyone ages 6 months and up. The best time is by the end of October.

Like with COVID-19, influenza can be especially dangerous to certain groups including the very young, older people and those with weak immune systems and lung or heart disease.

There are multiple kinds of flu vaccines to choose from, including a nasal spray version for certain younger people. More important, there are three shots specifically recommended for seniors to choose from because they are proven to do a better job revving up an older adult's immune system.

CAN I GET A FLU SHOT AND COVID-19 SHOT AT THE SAME TIME?

Yes.

The CDC says there is no difference in effectiveness or side effects if people get those vaccines simultaneously, although one in each arm might be more comfortable.

WHAT IS THIS NEW RSV VACCINE?

RSV is a cold-like nuisance for most people, and not as well-known as the flu. But RSV packs hospitals every winter and can be deadly for children under 5, the elderly and people with certain high-risk health problems. Most notorious for inflaming babies' tiny airways, leaving them wheezing, it's also a common cause of pneumonia in seniors.

RSV vaccines from GSK and Pfizer are approved for adults 60 and older. The CDC is advising seniors to ask their doctor if they should get the one-dose shot.

The FDA also has approved Pfizer's RSV vaccine to be given late in pregnancy so moms-to-be pass the protection to their newborns. CDC recommendations on that use are expected later this month.

Also still to come: advice on whether RSV vaccines should be given together with flu and COVID-19 shots.

WHAT ABOUT BABIES AND RSV?

There is one more new shot parents may hear about this fall: an injection of lab-made antibodies to guard babies from RSV.

That is different than a vaccine, which teaches the body to make its own infection-fighting antibodies, but is similarly protective.

The FDA recently approved Beyfortus, from Sanofi and AstraZeneca. The one-dose drug is recommended for all infants younger than 8 months before their first RSV season.

Can the NFL's 2020 QB draft class be among the best ever? The early results say yes

By JOE REEDY AP Sports Writer

Joe Burrow is not only the NFL's highest-paid quarterback, he is the leader of a draft class that in a short time is making a run to be one of the best.

The 2020 QB draft class has had one of its own in the Super Bowl the past two seasons — Burrow with the Cincinnati Bengals in 2021 and Jalen Hurts last season with the Philadelphia Eagles.

Burrow and Hurts are in the top five in The Associated Press ranking of quarterbacks.

The rest of the group also has its share of accomplishments.

Justin Herbert of the Los Angeles Chargers has the most passing yards by a player in his first three seasons, while Tua Tagovailoa helped lead the Miami Dolphins to their first playoff appearance since 2016.

With Jordan Love taking over in Green Bay, Sunday will mark the first time since 2012 that the top five selected quarterbacks in a draft class will start in a season opener.

"You've got a class where three of the six are the face of the NFL. We haven't seen a class this talented in a long time," said Amazon Prime Video analyst Ryan Fitzpatrick, who played 17 years in the league.

At least not since 2004, when the trio of Eli Manning, Ben Roethlisberger and Philip Rivers took the league by storm. All three have Hall of Fame-worthy resumes, and Manning and Roethlisberger own a pair of Super Bowl rings.

With its depth, though, the 2020 group could make a run at the greatest of all time, the Class of 1983. It is the only one with three Hall of Famers — John Elway, Dan Marino and Jim Kelly — and it has a combined 11 Super Bowl appearances.

It already has equaled the 1983ers by having two quarterbacks reach the Super Bowl within their first three years in the league (Marino and Tony Eason).

The 1983 group went 100-55 (including the playoffs) as starters in its first three seasons while the 2020 QBs are 100-71-1 going into Sunday's openers.

The one area where the current group has its predecessors beat is money. With Burrow agreeing to an NFL-record five-year, \$275 million extension Thursday, three of the four top-paid quarterbacks are from

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 81 of 85

the 2020 class, with Burrow, Herbert and Hurts all averaging at least \$51 million per season.

Burrow, the top pick in 2020, was tied for second in the league with 35 TD passes last season. He joined Andrew Luck as the only players with at least 75 touchdown passes (82) and 10 rushing scores in their first three seasons.

NBC Sports analyst Chris Simms thinks Burrow is the second-best quarterback coming into the season, behind Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes.

"He's got special qualities and leadership but also just the cool calm and clutchness to his game that is phenomenal. And he's a great thrower," Simms said.

Many consider Herbert to have the strongest arm in the group. He has 14,089 career passing yards, the most by a player in his first three seasons. His 94 touchdown passes are the second most.

With Kellen Moore taking over as the Chargers' offensive coordinator, Fitzpatrick thinks this might be the season that Herbert can lead LA to the next level.

"Maybe not a jump statistically because he's been so efficient, but in leading that team to more wins, getting them to the playoffs and doing some damage. I think we're just at the beginning of the greatness we're going to see with Herbert," Fitzpatrick said.

Tagovailoa led the league with a 105.5 passer rating last year. Until a three-game losing streak at the end of the season, he was on a stretch where he had won 14 of 17 starts.

Fitzpatrick, who was Tagovailoa's teammate in 2020, said the important thing to remember about Tagovailoa is the improvement he has made each year. That should continue with Tyreek Hill and Jaylen Waddle as his top receivers.

"That offense he's running now with Mike McDaniels is about being accurate and on time with the football. It's the catch and run," Fitzpatrick said. "It's why the 49ers are so good and efficient in what they do, and that's his strength. He's got an offense and a coach tailor-made to him, to his personality and the way he plays the game."

Many were surprised when the Eagles drafted Hurts in the second round and 53rd overall, but he has continued to prove skeptics wrong.

In his second season as the full-time starter, Hurts became the fourth quarterback ever with at least 3,000 passing yards (3,701), 20 touchdown passes (22) and 10 rushing touchdowns (13) in a single season. Simms and Fitzpatrick think Hurts is just scratching the surface of what he can do as a passer.

"I watched at the Super Bowl how far he's come as a passer. The pinpoint accuracy, making the right decisions and being able to lead his football team," Fitzpatrick said. "He was a couple of minutes away from being the MVP. He had maybe his best game of the year on the biggest stage."

Love finally gets his opportunity to show he can pick up the mantle from Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers and keep the Packers a contender in the NFC. Green Bay has one of the youngest rosters in the NFC, but Simms says it has perhaps the most talented group in the NFC North.

"I think he's got all the physical abilities to be a mainstay at quarterback for a long time," Simms said. "He's big, he throws well and his mechanics have improved. He was careful not to make mistakes his first few years, but now he's throwing lasers around the field."

Love is eager for his chance to show what he can do, beginning Sunday at Chicago.

"It's been awesome to see those guys. They've all kind of made their mark pretty early," he said. "They did a great job, but yeah I'm definitely excited to finally get my shot."

As Jacksonville shooting victims are eulogized, advocates call attention to anti-Black hate crimes

By NOREEN NASIR, AARON MORRISON and AISHA I. JEFFERSON Associated Press

The racist motivations of the white shooter who targeted and fatally shot Black people in Jacksonville, Florida, two weeks ago have revived concerns about the threat of hate violence and domestic terrorism against African Americans.

Most hate crime victims in the U.S. are Black, and that has been the case since the federal govern-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 82 of 85

ment began tracking such crimes decades ago. But national attention on the rate of Black victimization is heightened in the wake of mass casualty racist attacks, like those in recent years at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York, and a historic Black church in Charleston, South Carolina.

Now, as families in Jacksonville eulogize loved ones lost in a hail of bullets at a neighborhood discount store, activists across the nation are calling for better measures to counter the longstanding epidemic of hate violence against Black Americans.

"How many people have to die, before you get up, whether you're Republican or Democrat, and say we got to stop this," the Rev. Al Sharpton asked Friday as he eulogized Angela Carr, one of the victims of the gunman who shot down three Black people at a Dollar General store in Jacksonville on Aug. 26.

Funerals were held in Florida for two of the three victims on Friday, with the third planned for Saturday. Sharpton pointed to reports of neo-Nazi demonstrations in Orlando, seen just days after the Jacksonville shooting, as evidence that a climate of hate has been fomented in Florida and across the U.S.

"Look at the data," he said.

Anti-Black hate crimes peaked in 1996 at 42% of all hate crimes, then began a steady decline until 2020. June of that year was the worst month for anti-Black hate crimes since national record-keeping by the FBI began.

Brian Levin, director of the Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism at California State University, cautions that there are gaps in the agency's reports that can present a misleading picture of hate crimes in parts of the country. Florida, along with Virginia, Mississippi and Arkansas, had the lowest reporting rates of hate crimes to the FBI in 2021.

"We generally see increases in hate crimes in election years and around catalytic events," said Levin. "We're talking about almost 500 to 700 more hate crimes in an election year. Politics seems to be a catalyst."

Levin said there is substantial underreporting. Even with the FBI's revised reporting for 2021, the rate only captured 80% participation, he said.

"Imagine if we had even more," he said.

In 1990, Congress passed legislation that required the Justice Department to collect data on crimes motivated by race, religion, sexual orientation and ethnicity. The FBI does the data collecting through the Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

But after years of collection, the problem of hate-motivated violence has increased over the last decade. The number of hate crimes in the U.S. jumped up in 2021 from an already alarming increase in the previous year, according to FBI data released in March.

Among the 2021 victims, 64.5% were targeted due to their race, ethnicity or ancestry. Another 16% were targeted over their sexual orientation, and 14% of cases involved religious bias.

On Friday, leaders from more than 30 national civil rights organizations sent a letter to the White House requesting a meeting with the Biden administration to address hate-motivated violence. If convened, it would be the first such gathering since a "United We Stand" summit with the president and administration officials in September 2022.

This time, the groups said they want to discuss steps that federal agencies other than the Justice Department could take to increase awareness of hate crimes and identify ways communities can respond to hate and violent white supremacy. They also requested a report detailing the administration's progress since last year's summit.

"As we approach the one-year anniversary of this summit, the latest mass hate crime — in which three Black people were murdered at a store in Jacksonville, Florida — serves as a stark reminder of the repeated devastation that hate has on communities across the country," reads the letter signed by organizations such as The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc. and the Anti-Defamation League.

"Our communities are facing an unprecedented threat from the hate-filled forces that seek to divide our nation," the group wrote.

It was unclear Friday if the White House received or responded to the letter.

President Joe Biden spoke to reporters about the Jacksonville shooting last week, while he and first lady

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 83 of 85

Jill Biden were in Florida surveying the aftermath of Hurricane Idalia.

"We're still reeling from the shooting rampage, a terrorist attack driven by racial hatred and animus," Biden said. "Let me say this clearly: Hate will not prevail in America. Racism will not prevail in America. Domestic terrorism will not prevail in America."

In 2021, Biden signed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act to address the spike in anti-Asian hate crimes seen at the height of the coronavirus pandemic. Some advocates lament the lack of legislation specifically addressing the high rate of Black victimization, while others point to progress like the enactment of the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act last year. The law makes lynching a federal hate crime.

While it is the deadly, high-profile hate crimes, like the shooting at the Buffalo supermarket that killed 10 people last year, that get a lot of attention, there are far more incidents that never make national news. Use of the N-word on some social media websites spiked in the summer of 2020, just as social justice protests took place around the country in the wake of George Floyd's murder by police in Minneapolis.

Damon Hewitt, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, said his organization examines the toll violent hate has on Black people and other communities of color. Shortly before the pandemic, it launched the James Byrd Jr. Center to Stop Hate to support victims of hate incidents and destabilize white supremacist organizations and their infrastructures.

The center is named in recognition of Byrd, the Black man who was dragged to death by white supremacists 25 years ago in Jasper, Texas. Byrd's death is viewed as one of the most gruesome hate crimes in U.S. history.

"We also want to discredit not only their tactics but also their ideology, which we think is very important, because silence is the cousin of complicity," Hewitt said.

Many have noted how Black people seem to be encountering hate incidents while conducting everyday tasks such as jogging, grocery shopping or attending class on a college campus.

"We're not safe anywhere," Hewitt said. "So how can we have peace of mind? How can we pursue an American dream when America is always pursuing us?"

During a Thursday virtual press conference that referenced the Jacksonville shootings, the Rev. William Barber II, president of Repairers of the Breach, warned against hateful political rhetoric that he said fostered an environment for such an attack. He called out public officials "who are using the words of culture wars to attack Black history, to attack Black people," specifically naming Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has overseen several laws and policies that restrict the teaching of race in schools.

Barber said there was a "through line in history" of divisive rhetoric and hate, connecting policies and laws targeting Black people in the U.S. to incidents of violence in the last century.

"The power of life and death is in the tongue," he said.

DeSantis, a Republican candidate for president, has rejected suggestions that he did not condemn the Jacksonville shooting in the strongest terms and that he has more broadly ignored the concerns of Florida's Black community.

Sharpton said he attended Friday's funeral to be there for the victims' families and to not allow the media to so quickly move on from the tragedy.

"There's something that bothers me, that for two days maybe, the national media talked about Angela (Carr) and talked about the other two, and then went on to something else like their lives meant nothing," Sharpton said.

"I don't want you to feel this is a two-day story," he said. "This is a 400-year story."

Children in remote Alaska aim for carnival prizes, show off their winnings and launch fireworks

By TOM BRENNER and MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

AKIACHAK, Alaska (AP) — There's nothing more universal than kids enjoying themselves at a summer carnival, whether it's in the middle of a heat wave in New York City or in much cooler weather on the Alaska tundra.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 84 of 85

In mid-August, the children of Akiachak, Alaska, eagerly shelled out dollar after dollar hoping to win a stuffed animal when the village held its annual carnival before the start of school. Children stood in long lines waiting their turn to throw rings around soda bottles, roll a bowling ball to knock down pins, or throw darts.

Many children proudly displayed their prizes, including some wearing stuffed snakes around their necks — perhaps an odd prize choice in Alaska, which is “famous for its complete absence of snakes,” the Alaska Department of Fish and Game notes on its website. (For the record, the nation’s largest state has no lizards or freshwater turtles, either.)

Makeshift carnival booths were framed of wood and covered with a blue tarp to protect workers from the ever-present drizzle falling in the community on the west bank of the Kuskokwim River, about 400 miles (644 kilometers) west of Anchorage. There are almost 700 residents — a third of them children under the age of 10 — in the community that is accessible only by boat or plane in the warmer months.

In the winter, the frozen Kuskokwim River becomes an ice road, serving as a motorway to other nearby villages and Bethel, a hub community for southwest Alaska about 20 miles (32 kilometers) southwest of Akiachak.

Children on bikes and older kids and adults mostly on four-wheelers navigate the muddy streets or run through the village filled with dogs and few — if any — cats. And even though it was well past the Fourth of July, some boys seemed to have a never-ending supply of fireworks to keep things lively.

Today in History:

September 10, Clarence Thomas Supreme Court nomination hearings begin

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 10, the 253rd day of 2023. There are 112 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 10, 1991, the Senate Judiciary Committee opened hearings on the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court. The proceedings would become a watershed moment in the discussion of sexual harassment when Anita Hill, a law professor who had previously worked under Thomas, came forward with allegations against him.

On this date:

In 1608, John Smith was elected president of the Jamestown colony council in Virginia.

In 1813, an American naval force commanded by Oliver H. Perry defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. Afterward, Perry sent the message, “We have met the enemy and they are ours.”

In 1846, Elias Howe received a patent for his sewing machine.

In 1960, Hurricane Donna, a dangerous Category 4 storm eventually blamed for 364 deaths, struck the Florida Keys.

In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the University of Mississippi to admit James Meredith, a Black student.

In 1963, 20 Black students entered Alabama public schools following a standoff between federal authorities and Gov. George C. Wallace.

In 1979, four Puerto Rican nationalists imprisoned for a 1954 attack on the U.S. House of Representatives and a 1950 attempt on the life of President Harry S. Truman were freed from prison after being granted clemency by President Jimmy Carter.

In 1987, Pope John Paul II arrived in Miami, where he was welcomed by President Ronald Reagan and first lady Nancy Reagan as he began a 10-day tour of the United States.

In 1998, President Clinton met with members of his Cabinet to apologize, ask forgiveness and promise to improve as a person in the wake of the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

In 2005, cadaver dogs and boatloads of forensic workers fanned out across New Orleans to collect the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 078 ~ 85 of 85

corpses left behind by Hurricane Katrina; cleanup crews towed away abandoned cars and even began readying a hotel for reopening.

In 2015, New York State approved gradually raising the minimum wage for fast-food workers to \$15 an hour — the first time any state had set the minimum that high.

In 2016, John Hinckley Jr., the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan in 1981, was released from a Washington mental hospital for good. (Hinckley would be freed from all court oversight in June 2022.)

In 2017, Hurricane Irma, weakened slightly from Category 5 to Category 4, blew ashore on the Florida Keys with winds of 130 mph.

In 2018, Hurricane Florence exploded into a potentially catastrophic Category 4 hurricane as it closed in on North and South Carolina with winds up to 140 mph.

In 2022, King Charles III was officially proclaimed Britain's monarch in a pomp-filled ceremony two days after the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Greg Mullavey is 90. Jazz vibraphonist Roy Ayers is 83. Actor Tom Ligon is 83. Singer Danny Hutton (Three Dog Night) is 81. Singer Jose Feliciano is 78. Actor Judy Geeson is 75. Former Canadian first lady Margaret Trudeau is 75. Political commentator Bill O'Reilly is 74. Rock musician Joe Perry (Aerosmith) is 73. Country singer Rosie Flores is 73. Actor Amy Irving is 70. Sen. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo., is 69. Actor-director Clark Johnson is 69. Actor Kate Burton is 66. Movie director Chris Columbus is 65. Actor Colin Firth is 63. Rock singer-musician David Lowery (Cracker) is 63. Actor Sean O'Bryan is 60. Baseball Hall of Famer Randy Johnson is 60. Actor Raymond Cruz is 59. Rock singer-musician Miles Zuniga (Fastball) is 57. Actor Nina Repeta (NY'-nuh ruh-PEHT'-ah) is 56. Rapper Big Daddy Kane is 55. Movie director Guy Ritchie is 55. Actor Johnathon Schaech (shehk) is 54. Contemporary Christian singer Sara Groves is 51. Actor Ryan Phillippe (FIHL'-ih-pee) is 49. Actor Kyle Bornheimer is 48. Actor Jacob Young is 44. Rock musician Mikey Way (My Chemical Romance) is 43. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Timothy Goebel (GAY'-bul) is 43. Ballerina Misty Copeland is 41. MLB All-Star first-baseman Joey Votto (VAH'-toh) is 40. Rock musician Matthew Followill (Kings of Leon) is 39. Singer Ashley Monroe (Pistol Annies) is 37. MLB All-Star first-baseman Paul Goldschmidt is 36. Singer Sanjaya Malakar (san-JY'-uh MA'-luh-kar) ("American Idol") is 34. Actor Chandler Massey is 33. Actor Hannah Hodson is 32. Actor Gabriel Bateman is 19.