

# Groton Daily Independent

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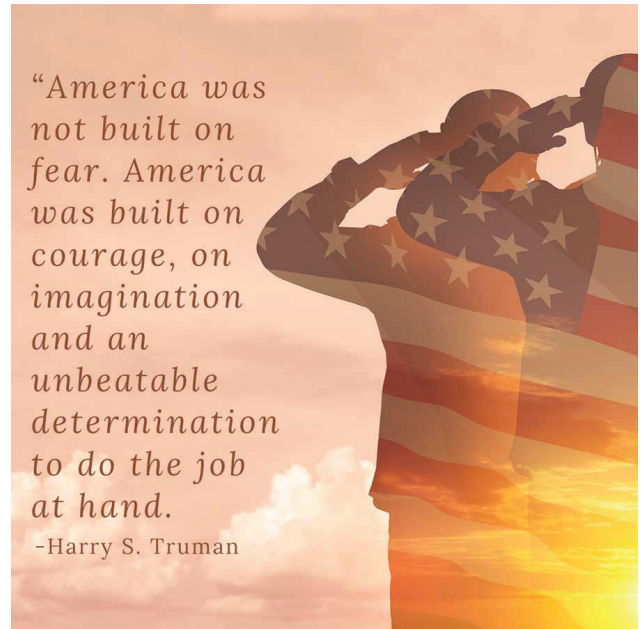
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## Monday, Sept. 11

Dress up day: Pajama Day at both schools.  
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.

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

**The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.**



## Tuesday, Sept. 12

Dress up day: Nursing Home at MS/HS, Inside Out Day at elementary  
Senior Menu: Goulash, 7 layer salad, garlic toast, mixed fruit.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Church Council, 6 p.m.  
The Pantry at Groton Community Center, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 209 N Main, open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Boys Golf at Redfield, 10 a.m.  
Junior High Football at Redfield, 4:30 p.m.  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

## Wednesday, Sept. 13

Dress up Day: Camo vs. Pink at MS/HS, Sports/Jersey Day at elementary  
Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff with noodles, green beans, Jell-O with fruit, whole wheat bread, ambrosia.  
St. John's Lutheran Bible Study, 2:45 pm.; Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 6 p.m.  
Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm  
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

**OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton**

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## The Bulletin by Newsweek

### World in Brief

Luis Rubiales says he will resign as president of the Spanish soccer federation following backlash over an unsolicited kiss with Women's World Cup winner Jennifer Hermoso.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has hailed the G20 summit in India as a success after participants refused to directly criticize Russia in its joint declaration. Lavrov claimed the "West's attempts to Ukrainize the summit agenda" had been thwarted.

Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic won the US Open Sunday, defeating Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 in the men's final. With this victory, he has matched Margaret Court's record for most all-time grand slam titles at 24.

The U.S. Geological Survey observatory in Hawaii has raised the level of alert concerning the Kilauea volcano to a red warning after it began erupting on Sunday afternoon.

Germany won the Basketball World Cup for the first time by beating Serbia 83-77 in Manila. The U.S. missed out on a medal after losing the third-place game 118-127 to Canada.

In the ongoing war in Ukraine, Brazilian President Lula da Silva has backtracked on his claim that his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin would not be arrested if he attends next year's G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro. The International Criminal Court has issued a warrant for Putin's arrest for alleged war crimes, and as a signatory of the Rome statute, Brazil is required to cooperate with ICC operations

### TALKING POINTS

"In a phony and probably rigged Wall Street Journal poll, coming out of nowhere to softened the mental incompetence blow that is so obvious with Crooked Joe Biden, they ask about my age and mentality. Where did that come from? A few years ago I was the only one to agree to a mental acuity test, & ACED IT. Now that the Globalists at Fox & the WSJ have failed to push their 3rd tier candidate to success, they do this. Well, I hereby challenge Rupert Murdoch & Sons, Biden, WSJ heads, to acuity tests!" Donald Trump said on Truth Social on concerns about his age and mental acuity.

"That's y'all's job to write whatever statement it needs to be. It's the NFL. You've got to show up week in and week out and be prepared. You don't see a lot of wins like this, so we're not going to get ahead of ourselves on this," Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott said after his team shut out the New York Giants 40-0 in the first Sunday Night football game of the season.

### What to Watch in the Day Ahead

A series of commemorative ceremonies and gestures of remembrance are taking place across the U.S. to mark the 22nd anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001.

The Out & Equal Workplace Summit, the largest LGBTQ+ workplace equality-focused event in the world, kicks off today at Disney World in Orlando. The event will conclude on Thursday with the Oitie Awards Gala, honoring individuals and organizations who have fostered inclusivity.

Armenia and the U.S. will hold a joint military exercise to prepare forces for "participation in international peacekeeping missions.

More than 2,100 people have died after a 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck Morocco, according to the country's interior ministry. Many victims are said to have been trapped under buildings, with images online showing people in Marrakesh camping out in the open to escape further tremors.

Hurricane Lee has restrengthened into a Category 3 storm after it weakened from a Category 5 to a Category 2. The storm could intensify into a Category 4 later today, with East Coast states expected to face large swells and rip currents throughout the week.

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## 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.**

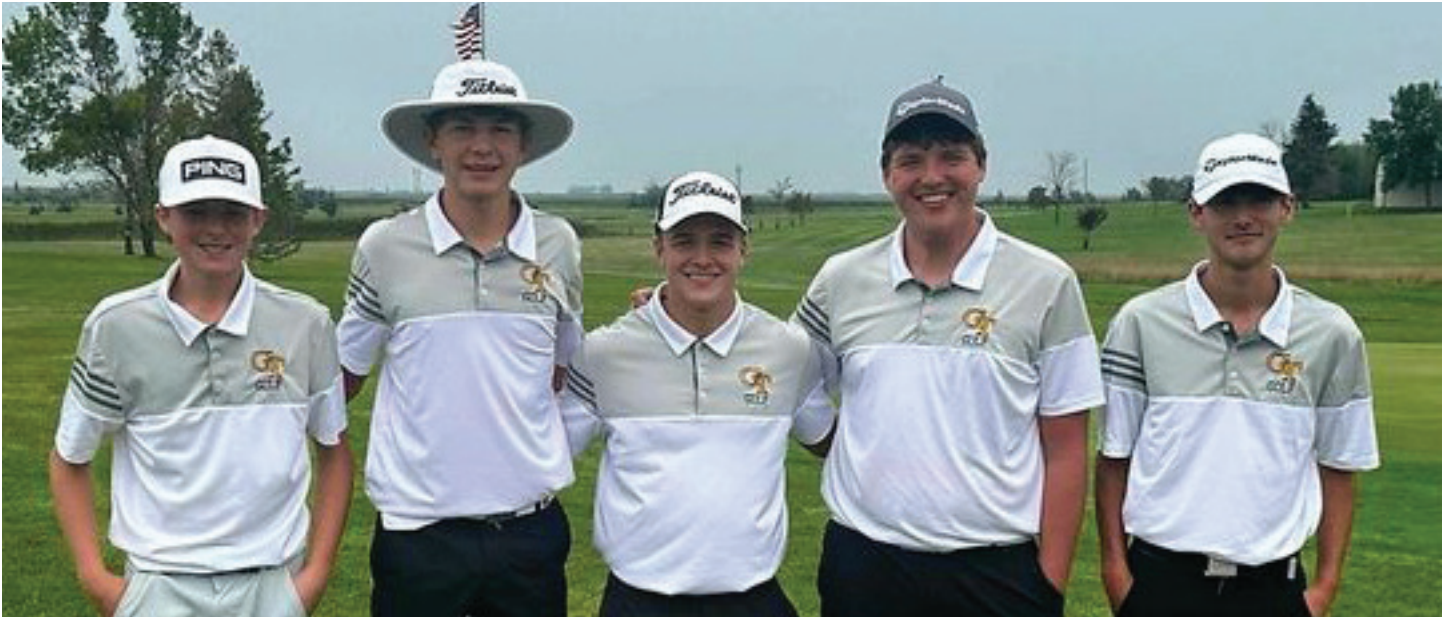
ACCA Memberships can be purchased at Interior Design Concepts located at 21 N. Main Street or online at the ACCA website. All dates are subject to change. Check tickets for concert time.

**WWW.ABERDEENCOMMUNITYCONCERTS.ORG**



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## Groton Area boys take second at Groton Golf Invite

Pictured are Jace Johnson, Carter Simon, Brevin Fliehs, Logan Pearson and Jarrett Erdmann. The Groton Invitational Golf Tournament was held Thursday at the Olive Grove Golf Course. Brevin Fliehs took first place with a 69 while Carter Simon was second with a 75 and Jace Johnson placed 15th with an 86. Logan Pearson was 23rd with a score of 92 and Jarrett Erdmann was 29th with a score of 97.

Aberdeen Roncalli won the team title with 315 points followed by Groton Area with 322, Sioux Valley had a score of 328, Milbank had a score of 334, Aberdeen Central had a 386 and Redfield had a score of 400,

Junior varsity golf members were Keegan Harry with a 123, Treton Smith with a 130 and Jacob Tewksbury with a 130. (Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)



## Flag at half-staff today

Monday, Sept. 11, marks the 22-year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Patriot Day serves as a remembrance of the lives lost on that September morning.

By a joint resolution approved Dec. 18, 2001, (Public Law 107-89) Sept. 11 has been designated as Patriot Day, which also directs American flags to be lowered to half-staff from dawn to dusk on Sept. 11.





**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.**

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The GHS Seniors painted the Downtown Street Sunday evening for homecoming week. Those doing the painting are pictured above. In back, left to right, are Bradin Althoff, Jacob Zak, Layne Hanson, Lexi Osterman, Emma Schinkel and Austin Aberle; in the middle row, left to right, are Logan Ringgenberg, Colby Dunker, Tristan Kampa, Holden Sippel, Dillon Abeln, Shaela McGannon, Claire Heinrich, Anna Bisbee, Faith Flihs, Cadence Feist and Emily Clark; in front, left to right, are Lane Tietz, Anna Fjeldheim, Kyleigh Englund, Ava Wienk, Ashlyn Sperry, Sydney Leicht, Lydia Meier, Carly Guthmiller, Camryn Kurtz and Kate Profeta. (Photos

by Paul Kosel)



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**Camryn Kurtz is painting an outline of Anna Bisbee.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Logan Ringgenberg is painting a Tiger paw.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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**Lane Tietz is starting to paint the E in his name.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Emily Clark is starting to paint the E in her name.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Charles Mix County Fatal Crash

What: Single-vehicle crash  
Where: 299th Street and S.D. Highway 50, Eight miles southeast of Wagner, S.D.  
When: 4:17 a.m., Sunday, September 10, 2023

Driver: Female, 63, Fatal injuries  
Vehicle: 2007 Chevrolet Trailblazer

CHARLES MIX COUNTY, S.D.- One person died early this morning in a one-vehicle crash eight miles southeast of Wagner, S.D.

The name of the person involved has not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates that a 2007 Chevrolet Trailblazer was traveling westbound on 299th Street west of S.D. Hwy. 50. The 63-year-old female driver lost control of the Trailblazer on the gravel road and the vehicle began to yaw. The Trailblazer left the gravel road, entered the south ditch, and rolled. The driver was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from the vehicle. The Trailblazer came to a final rest on the driver side.

The 63-year-old female driver sustained fatal injuries.  
The driver was not wearing a seatbelt.

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

## Brule County Fatal Crash

What: Single-motorcycle fatal crash  
Where: I 90, mile marker 282, 2 miles west of Kimball  
When: 5:25 p.m., Saturday, August 9, 2023

Driver: Male, 69, Fatal injuries  
Vehicle: 2019 Harley Davidson FLHTK

Brule County, S.D.- One person died Saturday evening in a single motorcycle crash 2 miles west of Kimball, S.D.

The name of the person has not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates a 2019 Harley Davidson FLHTK pulling a trailer was traveling westbound on I 90 near mile marker 282. The tire on the Harley Davidson FLHTK motorcycle went flat causing the motorcycle and trailer to fishtail. The motorcycle and trailer rolled several times.

The driver was taken by Kimball ambulance to the Sanford Chamberlain Hospital where he was pronounced deceased upon arriving.  
The driver was wearing a helmet.

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



## Photos from Redfield Cross Country Meet



**Ryelle Gilbert.**

(Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



**Rylie Rose won the girls Junior Varsity race.**

(Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



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**Tristan McGannon.**  
(Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



**Logan Clocksene.**  
(Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



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**JD Schwan leads the Groton boys.**

(Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



**First year coach Brooke Malsom gives last minute advise prior to the varsity boys race.**

(Photos courtesy Bruce Babcock)





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Here are some of the cross country runners for Groton Area this year. In back, left to right are Kason Oswald, Jayden Schwan, Gavin Kroll, Logan Clocksene, Nathan Unzen; and in front are Sydney Holmes, Emily Clark. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



Kason Oswald, Logan Clocksene, Tristen McGannon. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



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## Sunflower Golf Tournament

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023 at the Olive Grove Golf Course

### Championship Flight

- 1st – Reid and Carlee Johnson – 70
- 2nd – Connor and Carleen Hanson – 71
- 3rd – Brad and Dar Larson – 73
- 4th – Clay and Mikaela Nutting – 74
- Blake and Leah Ronning – 75
- Ian and Rylie Rose – 76
- Kyle and Tyhe Gerlach – 76
- Jake and Tiffany Unzen – 76
- Chad and Haley Ellingson – 77
- Brad and Brenda Waage – 78
- Robin and Gayle Vrooman - 80

### First Flight

- 1st – Randy and Sue Stanley – 78
- 2nd – John and Darci Withers – 80
- 3rd – Josh and Madison Claymore – 82
- Jonathan and Mandilyn Flihs – 82
- Heath and Katelyn Giedt – 82
- Tom Mahan and Brenda Madsen – 83
- Josh and Josey Heupel – 84
- Sam and Michyl Cahoy – 84
- Butch Farmen and Suzie Easthouse – 92

### Second Flight

- 1st – Lance and Cindy Frohling – 85
- 2nd – Tony and Mandy Grohs – 85
- 3rd – Lorin and Julie Flihs – 86
- 4th – Ryan and Kaitlyn Fair – 88
- Isaac and Nikki Abeln – 89
- Larry and Shirlee Frohling – 89
- Torre and Denise Raap – 90
- Casey Hutchison and Deb Fredrickson – 92
- Craig and Abby Miller - 107

### Pin Prizes

- Men's Closest to the Pin Hole #8 – Clayton Nutting
- Women's Closest to the Pin Hole #4 – Cindy Frohling
- Longest Putt #9 – Jonathan Flihs



**Championship flight winners Reid and Carlee Johnson.** (Photo courtesy Alexa Schuring)



**First flight winners Sue and Randy Stanley.** (Photo courtesy Alexa Schuring)



**Second flight winners Cindy and Lance Frohling.** (Photo courtesy Alexa Schuring)



## Groton Legion Post 39 earns "Pride of the Prairie" Award

Bruce Babcock, American Legion Commander of Groton Post 39, accepts the "Pride of the Prairie" Post Excellence Award on behalf of Groton Post 39 during the Department of South Dakota American Legion Convention this summer in Chamberlain SD. This award recognizes the top Post that receives the highest two-year membership average, and submits all yearly reports and membership awards. Pictured L-R Rod Smith, Department Vice-Commander, Bruce Babcock, Post 39 Commander, and Doug Feltman, Department Commander. (Photo courtesy

Bruce Babcock)



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## Hamilton selected as "Legionnaire of the Year"

Doug Hamilton, Groton American Legion Post #39 Adjutant, was selected as the American Legion District 4 "Legionnaire of the Year!" The Legionnaire of the Year selection is made on the basis of service to the Legion and service to the community, Department, and nation, all based on such service being performed during the calendar year. Pictured on the far left are Doug Hamilton and the other District "Legionnaire of the Year" winners. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



Groton American Legion Post #39 Commander Bruce Babcock poses with Jan Seibel, American Legion Auxiliary District 4 President, during the American Legion and Auxiliary Department Convention. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



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## 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

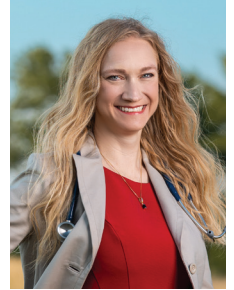
Steve Smith, Sherry Koehler, Topper Tostad, Dick Kolker



## "ALS - Not Just Lou Gehrig's Disease"



Based on Science, Built on Trust



**Jill Kruse, DO**

On July 4, 1939 Lou Gehrig said these famous words at Yankee Stadium, "For the past two weeks you have been reading about the bad break that I got. Yet today I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth." The bad break he was referring to was the diagnosis of a condition that would become synonymous with him - a neuromuscular condition called Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

ALS is a disease which causes motor nerves in the brain and spinal cord to break down. This reduces the nerves ability to control muscle function leading the muscle to weaken, twitch, and waste away. As the disease progresses it slowly impairs the person's ability to walk, talk, swallow, and breathe.

Lou Gehrig was only 36 years old when he was diagnosed at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. However, it is more commonly diagnosed between the ages of 55 and 75. He lived less than two years after his diagnosis with ALS. Today the average life expectancy after diagnosis is two to five years, but some people with this disease can live much longer. The famous physicist, Steven Hawking, lived for more than 50 years after he was diagnosed with ALS.

The cause of ALS is still unknown. Almost all cases are considered sporadic, while only five to ten percent are thought to be inherited. One study suggested smoking may increase a person's risk for developing ALS. Military veterans also have an increased risk of developing ALS compared to civilians. Currently there is no single test that can predict or diagnose ALS, it is based on symptoms and a multitude of tests. While there are treatments and medications that can slow the progression of the disease. There is no cure, but research is still ongoing.

Over eighty years later, the final words of Lou Gehrig's speech still serve as inspiration. "So I close in saying that I may have had a tough break, but I have an awful lot to live for." Major League Baseball holds "Lou Gehrig Day" every year on June 2nd. That day marks the anniversary of both when he became the starting first baseman for the New York Yankees and the day he passed away in 1941. On this day, Major League Baseball raises funds to help research ALS, to find better treatments and hopefully find a cure. Lou Gehrig's optimism and tenacity in face of such a life changing diagnosis makes it no wonder most people know ALS as "Lou Gehrig's Disease".

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a hospitalist in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and on Facebook and Instagram featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show providing health information based on science, built on trust, streaming live on Facebook and SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



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The City of Groton has purchased a used sander/plow truck which will see action this winter if we get snow. The price tag was \$35,000. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

[GDILIVE.COM](http://GDILIVE.COM)

Groton Area  
Tigers  
**GT**

**School Board  
Meeting  
Monday, Sept. 11  
6 p.m.  
Conference Room**

[GDILIVE.COM](http://GDILIVE.COM)

Groton Area  
Tigers  
**GT**

**Homecoming  
Coronation  
Monday, Sept. 11  
7:30 p.m.  
GHS Gym**



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## Weekly Vikings Recap - Vikings vs. Buccaneers

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

The 2023 Minnesota Vikings season did not kick off the way anyone would have liked as the team fell to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at home on Sunday. Despite coming into the game as heavy favorites and outgaining the Buccaneers by over 120 yards, the Vikings gave up three costly turnovers in the game and made several bad penalties. These turnovers and multiple three-and-outs allowed the Buccaneers to stay in the game and ultimately find a way to upset the Vikings 20-17.

The Vikings' offense on Sunday did not look crisp, to say the least. After receiving the opening kickoff, Kirk Cousins and the Vikings' offense immediately went three-and-out and punted the ball back to the Buccaneer's offense. When the Vikings' offense got the ball back again, they finally had a nice 60-yard drive going only to fumble on the Buccaneers' 26-yard line. They then fumbled again on the next drive thanks to Antoine Winfield Jr.'s strip-sack on Kirk Cousins. It was not until the Vikings' fifth offensive drive of the game that the offense finally scored some points on a 39-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Addison, his first of many hopefully.

The Vikings' defense, on the other hand, had a very nice game for the most part. After having the softest defense in the NFL last year, it was nice to see the Vikings show some aggressiveness. However, the Vikings' defense still lacks any sort of star power as the team had only one sack on Baker Mayfield and no forced turnovers.

The story of the game for the Vikings must be the mistakes. Kirk Cousins, who is normally conservative with the ball, had two fumbles and a key interception at the end of the first half. The interception probably was the worst mistake of the game for the Vikings. At that time, the game was tied 10-10 and there was only 0:23 remaining in the half. The Vikings were at the Buccaneers' 13-yard line ready to score and go up 17-10 into halftime. Instead of doing that, Cousins threw a pass to KJ Osborn in double coverage, which got ripped from Osborn's arms for an interception. The pass was not a bad pass per se, but it was a dangerous one that Kirk Cousins would have loved to have back.

The other big mistake came at the start of the second half. After getting a key stop on third down and forcing the Buccaneers into a field goal, rookie Jay Ward decided to jump offside on the field goal attempt. This penalty gave the Buccaneers an automatic first down, which they capitalized on by scoring a touchdown. Rather than the score being 13-10, the score was 17-10. That four-point difference is the difference between a Vikings' win and a loss right now.

Despite the loss, there were some good performers for the Vikings. Justin Jefferson had 9 catches for 150 receiving yards, which keeps him at a good pace to be the first wide receiver in NFL history with 2,000 receiving yards in a season. Danielle Hunter had one sack and two tackles-for-loss in the game and showed he is probably the best defensive player on the Vikings now.

Looking ahead, the Vikings head to Philadelphia to face the Eagles on Thursday night as they look to not start 0-2 on the season. The short week will not bode well for the Vikings' offensive line as Garrett Bradbury missed most of the game with a back injury and Christian Darrisaw was in and out with an ankle injury. The Eagles, who have one of the best defensive lines in the NFL, might be in store for a big game on Thursday, to say the least.

## We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

### "Justice Holmes: A Legend Before Joining the Supreme Court"

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. once said, "If American law were to be represented by a single figure, skeptic and worshipper alike would agree without dispute that the figure could be one alone, and that one, John Marshall." It has been justly observed that if American law were to be represented by a second figure, it would be Holmes himself, since he was more influential in shaping the agenda for the 20th Century Supreme Court than any other legal figure.

Dubbed the "Yankee from Olympus," Holmes, who hailed from a prominent Boston family headed by his father, Holmes, Sr., a medical doctor and a famous New England literary figure, was already a legend in American law before he joined the U.S. Supreme Court. His impact on the nation that he served — as a decorated soldier who fought for the Union Army in the Civil War and as a celebrated writer, legal theorist, practicing lawyer, law professor at Harvard, and judge on the Massachusetts Supreme Court — presaged his impact on generations to come. The lengthy span of his influence was remarkable. Holmes knew Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Holmes was born into what his father called "the Brahmin caste of New England," the "untitled aristocracy." If Holmes had followed his father's advice, he never would have become an American legend; indeed, he never would have become a lawyer. After the Civil War, Holmes told his father that he would study law at Harvard. His father replied, "What is the use of that? A lawyer can't be a great man." Dr. Holmes certainly wasn't the first, or last, father to underestimate the talent and potential of a son.

Following graduation from law school, Holmes was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar and began practicing law while serving as a part-time lecturer at Harvard. An aspiring writer, Holmes wrote articles for legal periodicals and edited the 12th edition of James Kent's famous treatise, "Commentaries on American Law." Harvard invited him to deliver a set of lectures in 1880, and he decided to speak on the topic of the common law. Nobody could have predicted that the invitation would change Holmes's life and the direction of American law. A year later, he published a book, "The Common Law," which made an immediate impact on legal thinking and was destined to become an iconic work in the world of law.

Holmes's book broke down the walls of the formalism that had come to dominate jurisprudential thinking. He boldly stated, in words quoted a thousand times, "The life of the law has not been logic: it has been experience. The felt necessities of the time, the prevalent moral and political theories, intuitions of public policy, avowed or unconscious, even the prejudices which judges share with their fellow-men, have had a good deal more to do than the syllogism in determining the rules by which men should be governed."

Holmes promoted the idea that courts should recognize that they must perform a legislative function in an underappreciated manner. Law, he wrote, is drawn from consideration of "what is expedient for the community." In his way of thinking, Holmes said the "felt necessities of the time" and the "intuitions" of what best serve the public interest, even the "prejudices which judges share with their fellow-men," are more influential in determining the legal rules that govern society than mere logic.

Holmes's book was, indeed, radical, even revolutionary in its time. He denied the traditional approach, which was to deduce the body of the law from a series of premises, to neatly "fit part to part in a beautiful, neat logical cohesion." He rejected the idea that our legal system could be worked out like mathematics. The law, he said, "embodies the story of a nation's development through many centuries, and it cannot be dealt with as if it contained the axioms and corollaries of a book of mathematics."

Holmes, of course, was providing a description of what the law was and how it developed over time. More than that, he was prescribing what the law should be, and with it, introducing the theme for American



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jurisprudence in the decades to come.

"The Common Law" was an instant classic. It led to a full professorship at Harvard in 1882 and an appointment to the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, where he served for the next 20 years. His immense reputation and record of achievement appealed to President Theodore Roosevelt, who told colleagues he wanted to place a man like Holmes on the Supreme Court, which he did in 1902. At the time of his appointment, Holmes was already 61 years old, but that didn't deter Roosevelt, who exhibited unabashed admiration for the Civil War hero.

Roosevelt's admiration for Justice Holmes, however, soon faded when Holmes rendered opinions in anti-trust cases that rankled the president to the point that he denounced Holmes at a press conference. He declared his disappointment and said, "I could carve out of a banana a judge with more backbone than Holmes possesses."

Holmes survived Roosevelt's criticism. He proceeded to serve on the Court until retirement in 1932 at the spry age of 90. We turn next week to Justice Holmes' impact on the life of the law and the nation.

Groton Area  
Tigers

# GT



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JV at Tiospa Zina  
C at Florence  
JV at Florence  
C vs. Great Plains Lutheran  
JV vs. Great Plains Lutheran

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: I've heard a lot about the Burning Man festival of late. Can you shed light on just how "green" or not-so-green this event really is?

– B.L. Pepper, Seattle, WA

Burning Man, the annual arts and music festival held in the middle of Nevada's Black Rock Desert, has garnered global attention for its avant-garde art, radical self-expression, and the temporary city it builds each year, called Black Rock City. However, when it comes to the festival's environmental footprint, opinions are as diverse as the event's attendees' eclectic outfits.

One of the most substantial biggest environmental impacts of Burning Man is transportation. Attendees trek from all corners of the globe to reach the remote desert location, and many do so via gas-guzzling vehicles, resulting in a significant carbon footprint. Some burners mitigate this impact by carpooling, arriving by bus or bicycle or participating in organizer-led ridesharing programs.

Building a temporary city for tens of thousands of people necessitates a considerable number of resources. Construction materials, generators, and fuel for transportation within Black Rock City are among the many necessities. While efforts have been made to reduce waste and reuse materials, the event's construction process still takes a toll on the environment.

Burning Man preaches a "leave no trace" ethos, asking participants to pack out everything they bring in. Most attendees cooperate, but instances of litter and improper waste disposal do occur. The event provides recycling and composting options, but managing waste in such a remote location is a challenge.

Powering the numerous art installations, camps and events at Burning Man also uses substantial energy. Strides have been made to use solar and other renewable sources, but the event's overall energy usage is significant. Some burners bring solar panels and promote sustainability within their camps.

A hallmark of Burning Man is its striking art installations, many of which are temporary and may not prioritize long-term sustainability. Some of these creations are burned during the festival's climax, releasing emissions and creating waste.

Despite these environmental challenges, the Burning Man organization has made strides in recent years to address sustainability concerns. They have initiated programs like the "Green Man" theme camp, which focuses on environmental education and sustainable practices. Additionally, a Sustainability Department was established to promote eco-friendly initiatives and reduce the festival's environmental footprint.

Furthermore, attendees themselves play a crucial role in shaping Burning Man's environmental impact. The "Leave No Trace" principle is taken seriously by many, and countless burners are actively working to reduce their ecological footprint and promote sustainable practices within the temporary city.

Burning Man is a unique event with a complex environmental profile. While it undeniably leaves an imprint on the environment, it also serves as a platform for discussions on sustainability, artistic expression and community building.



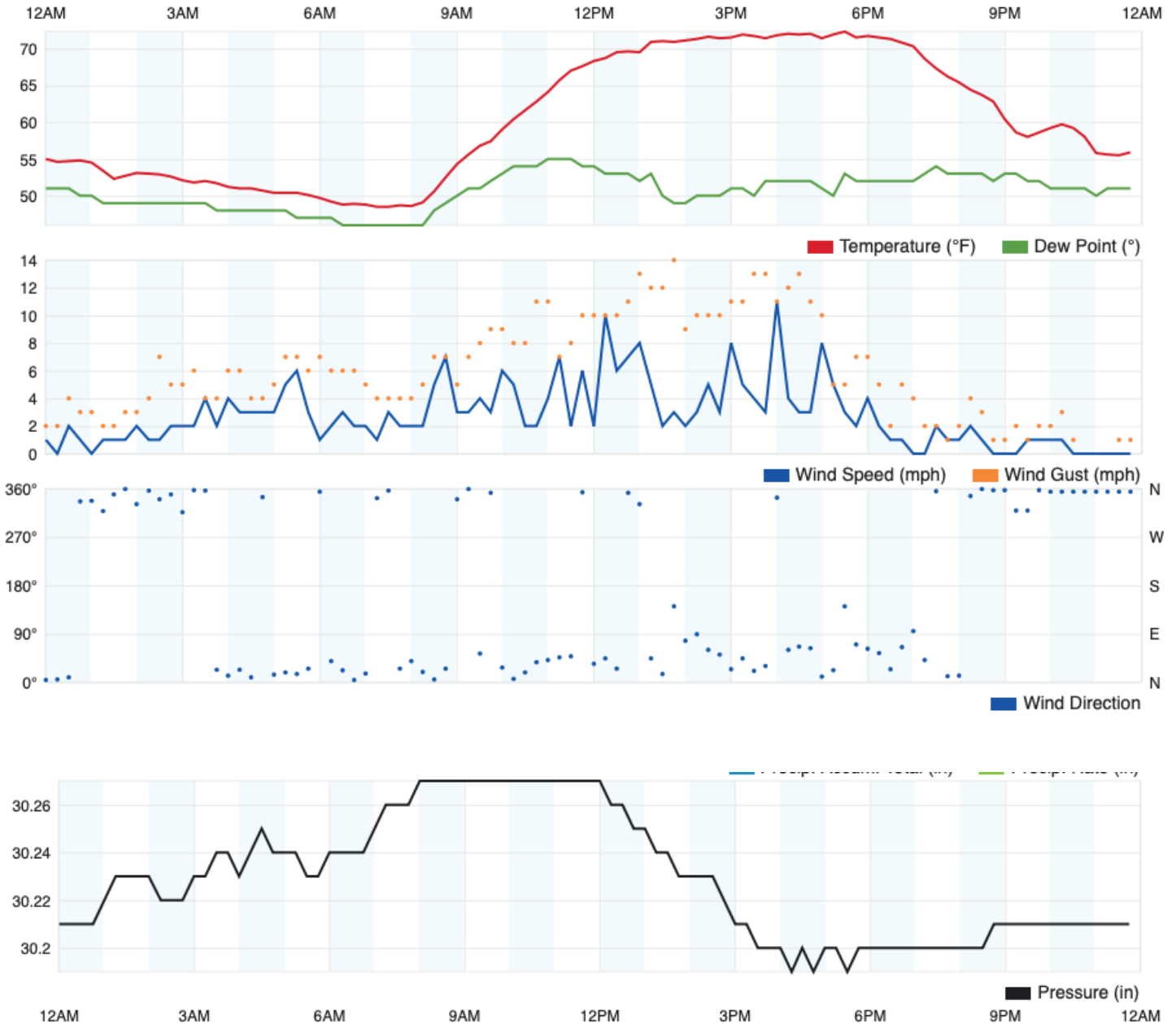
**The Burning Man festival is famous for its avant-garde art installations and performance art, but greens worry about its environmental impact.** Credit: Ben Weinstein-Raun. FlickrCC.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers
High: 73 °F	Low: 43 °F	High: 70 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 78 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 80 °F



## Few Showers Later Today

September 11, 2023  
2:24 AM



mild early week, warming up mid to late week

**Today**  
*Partly Sunny, Isolated afternoon showers northeast SD, west central MN, Highs in the 70s to around 80°*

**Tuesday**  
*Partly Cloudy & Mild  
Highs in the 70s to around 80°*

**Wednesday**  
*Mostly Sunny & Warmer  
Highs 75-85°*

**Thursday**  
*Mostly Cloudy with chance of showers.  
Highs around 80°*



A few showers possible later today, then dry mid-week.



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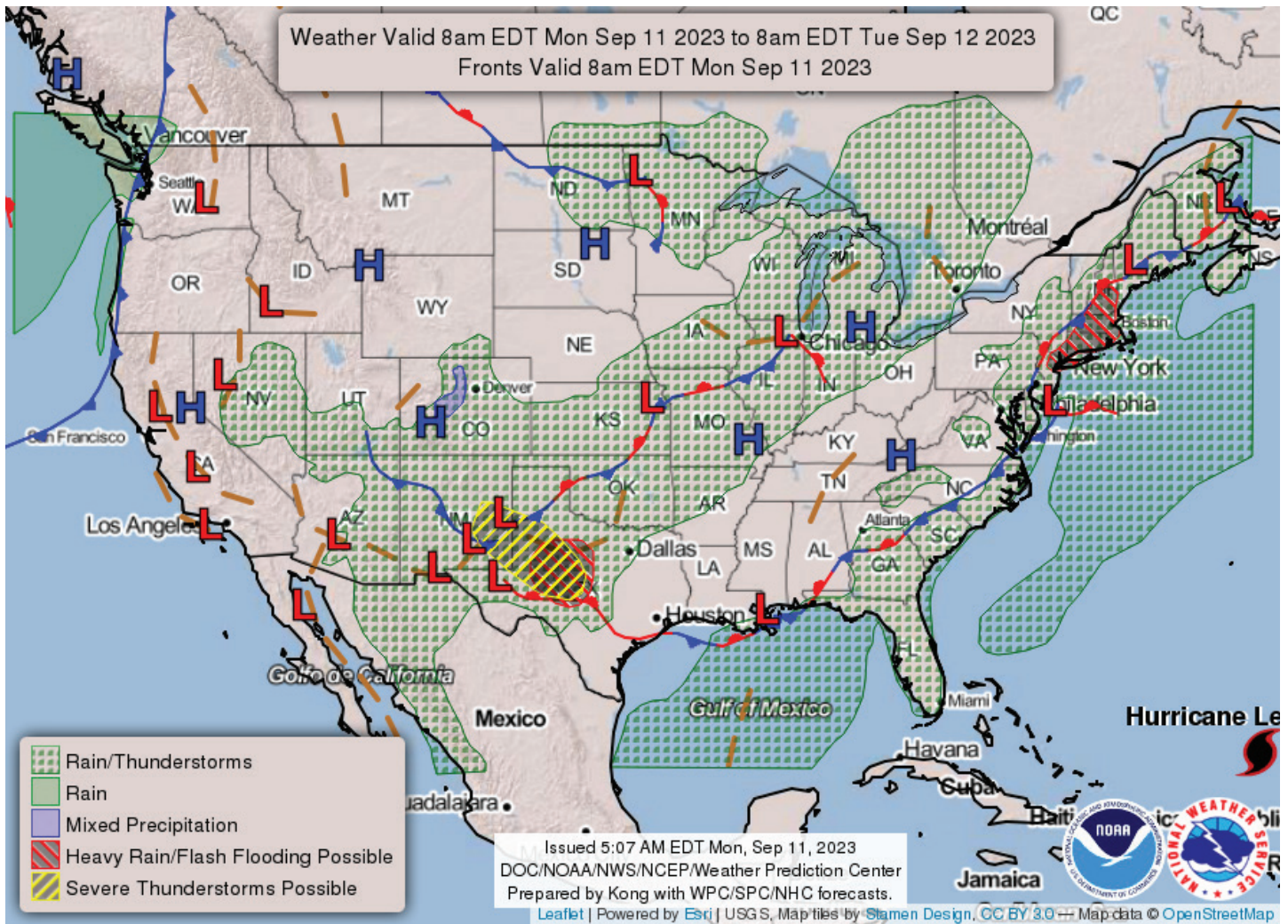
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 72 °F at 5:34 PM**  
**Low Temp: 48 °F at 7:21 AM**  
**Wind: 14 mph at 1:38 PM**  
**Precip: : 0.00**

Day length: 21 hours, 48 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 100 in 1927  
Record Low: 28 in 1940  
Average High: 77  
Average Low: 49  
Average Precip in Sept.: .75  
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.57  
Average Precip to date: 17.09  
Precip Year to Date: 19.16  
Sunset Tonight: 7:53:25 PM  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:05:49 AM



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## Today in Weather History

September 11, 1978: High winds to 65 mph damaged the roofs of several barns outside of Watertown during the early evening.

1900: The remnants of the Great Galveston Hurricane were located over central Iowa on this day. Eastern Nebraska, northwest Iowa, and southern Minnesota show four-plus inches of rain from this storm.

1949 - An early snowstorm brought 7.5 inches to Helena MT. In Maine, a storm drenched New Brunswick with 8.05 inches of rain in 24 hours, a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1961 - Very large and slow moving Hurricane Carla made landfall near Port Lavaca TX. Carla battered the central Texas coast with wind gusts to 175 mph, and up to 16 inches of rain, and spawned a vicious tornado which swept across Galveston Island killing eight persons. The hurricane claimed 45 lives, and caused 300 million dollars damage. The remnants of Carla produced heavy rain in the Lower Missouri Valley and southern sections of the Upper Great Lakes Region. (David Ludlum) (Storm Data)

1976 - Up to five inches of rain brought walls of water and millions of tons of debris into Bullhead City AZ via washes from elevations above 3000 feet. Flooding caused more than three million dollars damage. Chasms up to forty feet deep were cut across some roads. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Thunderstorms caused flash flooding and subsequent river flooding in central Lower Michigan. Up to 14 inches of rain fell in a 72 hour period, and flooding caused 400 million dollars damage. (Storm Data)

1987 - Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Texas, and spawned three tornadoes. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 70 mph at Goodnight TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Snow blanketed parts of the Central Rocky Mountain Region and the Central Plateau, with ten inches reported at Mount Evans in Colorado. Smoke from forest fires in the northwestern U.S. reached Pennsylvania and New York State. Hurricane Gilbert, moving westward over the Caribbean, was packing winds of 100 mph by the end of the day. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Nine cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Havre MT with a reading of 23 degrees. Livingston MT and West Yellowstone MT tied for honors as the cold spot in the nation with morning lows of 17 degrees. Thunderstorms produced hail over the Sierra Nevada Range of California, with two inches reported on the ground near Donner Summit. The hail made roads very slick, resulting in a twenty car accident. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992: Hurricane Iniki struck the island of Kaua'i with winds of 145 mph and a central pressure of 27.91 inches of mercury, making it a Category 4 hurricane. Iniki is the strongest hurricane to strike Hawaii Islands in recent history.

2011: Hurricane Erin was off the coast of New Jersey and New York on this day.



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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### THE GENERAL'S LAST REQUEST

As General Grant lay dying, his heart was troubled, and he desired to make things right with God. Turning to someone nearby he asked for a minister to come to visit him.

"General," said the minister, "'The Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.' If you'll sincerely call upon Him from your heart, you'll receive mercy from Him and abundant pardon."

The minister then fell to his knees and prayed for the general, and General Grant received Jesus as His Savior. At that moment, he was wonderfully converted.

Thrilled, the minister said, "God's Kingdom has received a great acquisition in your conversion, General."

General Grant, thinking for a moment responded, "God doesn't need great men, but great men need God."

On the cross of Christ, God leveled the playing field. No one stands above the crowd. Each time we are reminded of the death of Jesus, we must also remind ourselves that the "Son of man has come to seek and to save those who are lost."

No one is saved as a result of a great heritage or popularity contest. Our background or previous lifestyle does not matter. God saves us by "His special favor when we believe...in Him...because salvation is a gift from God." But, we must accept His gift to be saved!

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for making it possible for everyone, everywhere and anywhere, to have equal access to Your grace and salvation. Thank You for loving us! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Ephesians 2:8



We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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## 2023 Community Events

- 01/29/2023 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 01/29/2023 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 01/31/2023-02/03/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Drop Off 6-9pm, Community Center
- 02/04/2023-02/05/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Sale 1-5pm, Community Center
- 02/25/2023 Littles and Me, Art Making 10-11:30am, Wage Memorial Library
- 03/25/2023 Spring Vendor Fair, 10am-3pm, Community Center
- 04/01/2023 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
- 04/06/2023 Groton Career Development Event
- 04/08/2023 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
- 04/22/2023 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 04/23/2023 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)
- 05/06/2023 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/29/2023 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/16/2023 SDSU Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament
- 06/17/2023 Groton Triathlon
- 07/04/2023 Couples Firecracker Golf Tournament
- 07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/26/2023 GGA Burger Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 08/04/2023 Wine on Nine 6pm
- 08/10/2023 Family Fun Fest, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 08/11/2023 GHS Basketball Golf Tournament
- 09/08/2023 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



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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.08.23

3 12 17 51 62 1

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$141,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 25  
DRAW: Mins 15 Secs

[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 16 Hrs 40 Mins 15  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.10.23

9 16 19 20 48 3

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$7,000/week**

NEXT 16 Hrs 55 Mins 15  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.09.23

4 14 31 34 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$39,000**

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 55  
DRAW: Mins 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.09.23

33 38 42 64 65 20

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

NEXT 17 Hrs 24 Mins 16  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.09.23

11 19 29 63 68 25

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$522,000,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 24 Mins 16  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)



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## News from the Associated Press

### **The United States marks 22 years since 9/11, from ground zero to Alaska**

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans are looking back on the horror and legacy of 9/11, gathering Monday at memorials, firehouses, city halls and elsewhere to observe the 22nd anniversary of the deadliest terror attack on U.S. soil.

Commemorations stretch from the attack sites — at New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania — to Alaska and beyond. President Joe Biden is due at a ceremony on a military base in Anchorage.

His visit, en route to Washington, D.C., from a trip to India and Vietnam, is a reminder that the impact of 9/11 was felt in every corner of the nation, however remote. The hijacked plane attacks claimed nearly 3,000 lives and reshaped American foreign policy and domestic fears.

On that day, "we were one country, one nation, one people, just like it should be. That was the feeling — that everyone came together and did what we could, where we were at, to try to help," said Eddie Ferguson, the fire-rescue chief in Virginia's Goochland County.

It's more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the Pentagon and more than three times as far from New York. But a sense of connection is enshrined in a local memorial incorporating steel from the World Trade Center's destroyed twin towers.

The predominantly rural county of 25,000 people holds not just one but two anniversary commemorations: a morning service focused on first responders and an evening ceremony honoring all the victims.

Other communities across the country pay tribute with moments of silence, tolling bells, candlelight vigils and other activities. In Columbus, Indiana, 911 dispatchers broadcast a remembrance message to police, fire and EMS radios throughout the 50,000-person city, which also holds a public memorial ceremony.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts raise and lower the flag at a commemoration in Fenton, Missouri, where a "Heroes Memorial" includes a piece of World Trade Center steel and a plaque honoring 9/11 victim Jessica Leigh Sachs. Some of her relatives live in the St. Louis suburb of 4,000 residents.

"We're just a little bitty community," said Mayor Joe Maurath, but "it's important for us to continue to remember these events. Not just 9/11, but all of the events that make us free."

New Jersey's Monmouth County, which was home to some 9/11 victims, made Sept. 11 a holiday this year for county employees so they could attend commemorations.

As another way of marking the anniversary, many Americans do volunteer work on what Congress has designated both Patriot Day and a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

At ground zero, Vice President Kamala Harris is due to join the ceremony on the National Sept. 11 Memorial and Museum plaza. The event will not feature remarks from political figures, instead giving the podium to victims' relatives for an hourslong reading of the names of the dead.

James Giaccone signed up to read again this year in memory of his brother, Joseph Giaccone, 43. The family attends the ceremony every year to hear Joseph's name.

"If their name is spoken out loud, they don't disappear," James Giaccone said in a recent interview.

The commemoration is crucial to him.

"I hope I never see the day when they minimize this," he said. "It's a day that changed history."

Biden, a Democrat, will be the first president to commemorate Sept. 11 in Alaska, or anywhere in the western U.S. He and his predecessors have gone to one or another of the attack sites in most years, though Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Barack Obama each marked the anniversary on the White House lawn at times. Obama followed one of those observances by recognizing the military with a visit to Fort Meade in Maryland.

First lady Jill Biden is due to lay a wreath at the 9/11 memorial at the Pentagon.

In Pennsylvania, where one of the hijacked jets crashed after passengers tried to storm the cockpit, a

remembrance and wreath-laying is scheduled at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Stoystown operated by the National Park Service. Harris' husband, Doug Emhoff, is expected to attend the ceremony.

The memorial site will offer a new educational video, virtual tour and other materials for teachers to use in classrooms. Educators with a total of more than 10,000 students have registered for access to the free "National Day of Learning" program, which will be available through the fall, organizers say.

"We need to get the word out to the next generation," said memorial spokesperson Katherine Hostetler, a National Park Service ranger.

## **North Korean train presumably carrying leader Kim Jong Un departed for Russia, South Korea media say**

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A North Korean train presumably carrying North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has departed for Russia for a possible meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, South Korean media said Monday.

Citing unidentified South Korean government sources, the Chosun Ilbo newspaper reported that the train likely left the North Korean capital of Pyongyang on Sunday evening and that a Kim-Putin meeting is possible as early as Tuesday.

The Yonhap news agency and some other media published similar reports. Japan's Kyodo news agency cited Russian officials as saying that Kim was possibly heading for Russia in his personal train.

South Korea's Presidential Office, Defense Ministry and National Intelligence Service didn't immediately confirm those details.

U.S. officials released intelligence last week that North Korea and Russia were arranging a meeting between their leaders that would take place within this month as they expand their cooperation in the face of deepening confrontations with the United States. A possible venue for the meeting is the eastern Russian city of Vladivostok, where Putin arrived Monday to attend an international forum that runs through Wednesday, according to Russia's TASS news agency. The city was also the site of Putin's first meeting with Kim in 2019.

According to U.S. officials, Putin could focus on securing more supplies of North Korean artillery and other ammunition to refill declining reserves as he seeks to defuse a Ukrainian counteroffensive and show that he's capable of grinding out a long war of attrition. That could potentially put more pressure on the United States and its partners to pursue negotiations as concerns about a protracted conflict grow despite their huge shipments of advanced weaponry to Ukraine over the past 17 months.

North Korea has possibly tens of millions of artillery shells and rockets based on Soviet designs that could potentially give a huge boost to the Russian army, analysts say.

In exchange, Kim could seek badly needed energy and food aid and advanced weapons technologies, including those related to intercontinental ballistic missiles, nuclear-capable ballistic missile submarines and military reconnaissance satellites, analysts say.

There are concerns that potential Russian technology transfers would increase the threat posed by Kim's growing arsenal of nuclear weapons and missiles that are designed to target the United States, South Korea, and Japan.

After a complicated, hot-and-cold relationship for decades, Russia and North Korea have been drawing closer to each other since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The bond has been driven by Putin's need for war help and Kim's efforts to boost the visibility of his partnerships with traditional allies Moscow and Beijing as he tries to break out of diplomatic isolation and have North Korea be part of a united front against Washington.

While using the distraction caused by the Ukraine conflict to ramp up its weapons development, North Korea has repeatedly blamed the United States for the crisis in Ukraine, claiming the West's "hegemonic policy" justified a Russian offensive in Ukraine to protect itself.

North Korea is the only nation aside of Russia and Syria to recognize the independence of two Russian-



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backed separatist regions in eastern Ukraine — Donetsk and Luhansk — and it has also hinted at an interest in sending construction workers to those areas to help with rebuilding efforts.

Russia — along with China — have blocked U.S.-led efforts at the U.N. Security Council to strengthen sanctions on North Korea over its intensifying missile tests while accusing Washington of worsening tensions with Pyongyang by expanding military exercises with South Korea and Japan.

The United States has been accusing North Korea since last year of providing Russia with arms, including artillery shells sold to the Russian mercenary group Wagner. Both Russian and North Korean officials denied such claims. But speculation about the countries' military cooperation grew after Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu made a rare visit to North Korea in July, when Kim invited him to an arms exhibition and a massive military parade in the capital where he showcased ICBMs designed to target the U.S. mainland.

Following Shoigu's visit, Kim toured North Korea's weapons factories, including a facility producing artillery systems where he urged workers to speed up the development and large-scale production of new kinds of ammunition. Experts say Kim's visits to the factories likely had a dual goal of encouraging the modernization of North Korean weaponry and examining artillery and other supplies that could possibly be exported to Russia.

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

"We have serious concerns about the prospect of North Korea potentially selling weapons, additional weapons, to the Russian military. It is interesting to reflect for a minute on what it says that when Russia goes around the world looking for partners that can help it, it lands on North Korea," Finer said aboard a plane carrying Biden from India to Vietnam.

Some analysts say a potential meeting between Kim and Putin would be more about symbolic gains than substantial military cooperation.

Russia — which has always closely guarded its most important weapons technologies, even from key allies such as China — could be unwilling to make major technology transfers with North Korea for what is likely to be limited war supplies transported over a small rail link between the countries, they say. \_\_\_\_

Associated Press writer Jim Heintz in Tallinn, Estonia, contributed to this report.

## **The search for Cyprus' missing goes high-tech as time weighs on loved ones waiting for closure**

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS Associated Press

EXO METOCHI, Cyprus (AP) — A bright yellow machine resembling a cross between a vacuum cleaner and a small scooter scrapes a narrow village road in Cyprus, working to solve a painful mystery from the divided island nation's conflict-ridden past.

It uses radio waves to detect any disturbances in the layers of soil under the asphalt — potential evidence that could support eyewitness accounts of a mass grave containing remains of people who vanished nearly a half-century ago.

Cyprus' Committee on Missing Persons is testing the pulseEkko — a deep ground penetrating radar — to help locate the remains of hundreds of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots who disappeared in the clashes during the 1960s and the 1974 Turkish invasion.

Since then, the island has been divided along ethnic lines, with the breakaway Turkish Cypriot north separated from the Greek Cypriot south where the internationally recognized government is located.

The radar is working against time as many witnesses to the violent events are no longer living. It is also one of the few remaining slivers of hope for the relatives of the missing — like Sophia Stavrinou.

Her father was last seen on Aug. 14, 1974, when he and fellow Greek Cypriot soldiers retreated from a massive Turkish military advance. The remains of soldiers who were with Stavrinou's father that day have been found and returned to their relatives. But not those of her father.

"There's hope," she said. "To be honest, I don't know if it will happen."

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The committee, comprised of a Greek Cypriot, a Turkish Cypriot and a rotating member appointed by the United Nations, is looking to use the high-tech gear to help save both time and money in the search.

Bruce Koepke, special assistant to the committee's U.N.-appointed member, says the machinery is expensive but that it's worth investing in the radar.

"Witnesses are dying, so we need to use this technology," he said.

On the breakaway Turkish Cypriot side of the island, in the village of Exo Metochi, or Düzova in Turkish, the radar is busy collecting images from below ground along a road squeezed between a two-story home and a fig orchard.

Harry M. Jol, a geography and anthropology professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, which owns the pulseEkko, says that subsequent computer analysis of the images could reveal soil "anomalies," possibly caused by digging for a burial site.

Pinpointing such anomalies could then help divert resources to "promising" sites instead of costly and time-consuming excavations that may yield no results, Jol told The Associated Press.

"If you can look down at a depth of a meter" in the images the radar collected, "that could be a year's worth of excavation work," said Jol, a Canadian citizen who is volunteering on the project in Cyprus together with his son and assistant Connor.

The two were looking at four sites in Cyprus over a week's time, with the committee only covering their travel expenses and accommodations.

Yagmur Erbolay, a committee investigation coordinator, said an earlier dig at the orchard site abutting the road found nothing. But a second search was launched using the pulseEkko after consistent eyewitness accounts indicated several Greek Cypriots could be buried there.

For Jol, it's the second time he has travelled to Cyprus to test out the radar.

A trip last year produced few tangible results, but now they are using a more powerful version of the radar, which can probe deeper into the ground.

If proven effective, it could convince the committee to purchase its own machinery.

"We're still testing the equipment and once the determination is made, the committee will meet to decide on whether to purchase the equipment," said Koepke.

Of the 2,002 people who disappeared in Cyprus between 1963 and 1974, the remains of 1,033 have been identified and returned to their families since search efforts began in earnest in 2006.

That marks the second-best success rate in the world, after the former Yugoslavia, where thousands disappeared during the ethnic wars in the 1990s that accompanied the country's breakup, according to Paul-Henri Arni, the committee's outgoing U.N.-appointed member.

Deciphering the fate of those still missing — 769 Greek Cypriots and 200 Turkish Cypriots — is a huge challenge.

"Now we have the hard cases when somebody was killed in one location, taken in a pickup truck 20 kilometers (12 miles) away and buried without (a) witness in a second location," Arni told reporters last week.

With imprecise and less-than-reliable information on burial sites, technology is seen as key to expediting excavations by ruling out areas where there's little or no evidence of soil disturbances.

New technology, such as GPR, can pinpoint the search for potential grave sites where the topography has changed significantly from how witnesses remember them, said Nikos Sergides, president of the Organization of Relatives of the Missing.

"We hope that any new technology that's employed can expedite the process and that's more important to relatives now than ever," Sergides told the AP.

Testing the pulseEkko is key for the committee, which relies on international donations to support its 3.2 million euro budget (\$3.4 million), mostly funded by the European Union.

Jol, who participated in searches for Holocaust victims in Latvia, said the technology could be a game-changer for burial sites in other former conflict zones.

The whole point of his work, Jol said, is to offer closure to the families of the missing by "working myself out of a job."



## Historic Cairo cemetery faces destruction from new highways as Egypt's government reshapes the city

By LEE KEATH and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The cane chairs and umbrella still stand in the courtyard of Hussein Omar's family mausoleum, where his grandmother came every morning for 19 years after her daughter — his mother — died. Near her grave, she would sit and pray under the date palm and among the flowering plants, a few hours of peace in Cairo's historic City of the Dead.

Now the mausoleum, built in 1924 in a neo-Islamic style and housing the graves of a number of prominent Egyptians from a century ago, is threatened with demolition.

Authorities have already razed hundreds of tombs and mausoleums as they carry out plans to build a network of multilane highways through the City of the Dead, a vast cemetery that has been in use for more than a millennium. Stunned preservationists say the construction is destroying a unique part of Egypt's heritage where major Islamic figures, prominent Egyptian politicians, artists and scholars and the loved ones of many Egyptians are buried.

"It's always felt like a very sacred space. We always thought that whatever happens in the rest of Cairo, the City of the Dead would be safe," said Omar, a historian who is writing a 500-year history of Cairo as told through the necropolis. "As we see now, that's not the case."

The work is part of a mega-building campaign by President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi that is reshaping the city of some 20 million people. His government has put up massive freeways and flyovers at a furious rate, torn down several older neighborhoods it considers slums and built housing projects. It has encouraged the growth of gated suburban compounds outside the city while building a giant new capital in the desert.

Though many support the roadwork to unclog congestion in the overcrowded city, the construction has also brought complaints of uprooting green spaces and trees.

But the cemetery destruction sparked an outcry that is unusual in an Egypt, where dissent has been squelched for years under el-Sissi.

Dozens of parties, activists, public figures and non-governmental organizations signed a petition in August condemning the destruction. Five members of a committee of experts formed by the government to study the cemeteries resigned in protest, saying authorities ignored its recommendations that demolitions be halted and alternatives to the routes be found.

The government's project is destroying a "unique, architectural, historic fabric," Ayman Wanas, an official with the government department that lists distinctive buildings, wrote in his resignation letter posted online. "It's a waste of Egypt's historic, valuable heritage which is irreplaceable."

Apparently in response, authorities last week temporarily halted the demolition of tombs in the main part of the cemetery, a municipal official who oversees the eastern Cairo area where the cemeteries are located, told The Associated Press.

He said no explanation was given to the municipality, but he believes the government either wants to examine alternatives or wants to quiet criticism ahead of a meeting of the United Nations cultural agency, UNESCO, that started Sunday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't allowed to brief media.

Security agents told grave caretakers not to let anyone enter or photograph sites, several caretakers said.

The area is designated by UNESCO as a world heritage zone. But many preservationists sharply criticize the agency for remaining silent over the destruction. In a statement to the AP, UNESCO said it has expressed concerns to the Egyptian government and asked for more information on the work.

There was no official announcement of the temporary halt and no word that the highway plans had been changed.

The City of the Dead, covering nearly 2 square miles (5 square kilometers), has been a unique space in Cairo for centuries. Originally a desert plain outside the city, it first came into use soon after the Muslim conquest of Egypt in the 700s. Imam Shafii, one of the top scholars of early Islam, was buried there after his death in 819, and now the grey dome of his mausoleum-shrine towers over the district.

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Over the centuries, it was filled with the tombs of Mamluk and Ottoman nobles and ordinary Egyptians. A rare large open space in Cairo, it has a stark beauty — quiet dirt paths run through a landscape of grave-markers, ancient domes and unexpected areas of greenery. Stately mausoleum compounds hold elaborately carved and decorated cenotaphs inside.

The area also abounds with life. Families come weekly to visit loved ones' graves, spending the day with picnics and food. Generations of caretaker families live in the mausoleums. Kids fly kites on its empty roads in the evening. Tens of thousand of people live in residential neighborhoods within the cemetery, and on Fridays its main avenue is packed with an outdoor market.

The main demolitions so far have been in an area dotted with mausoleums of some of Egypt's most notable families of the late 1800s and early 1900s. The government said it has given families who had to exhume and move their loved ones new burial plots, usually in the suburbs outside Cairo.

Omar's extended family has five mausoleums in the cemetery, two of which are slated for destruction. His mother, who died in 2001, is buried in the Barakat family mausoleum. Among his forebearers there are Fathallah and Atef Barakat, two nationalist figures who participated in the 1919 Revolution against British colonial rule.

For Omar and others, the necropolis isn't just a historic site, but a center of personal memories and a place that joins life, death and peace.

Omar recalls visiting the mausoleum as a 6-year-old and asking his grandmother what the sound was that he was hearing. Raised in densely urbanized Cairo, he didn't recognize the sound of birds singing.

"It is about the cohesiveness of the space, the peacefulness of the space. It has historically been a place of serenity," he said. "What does it mean to have some lone surviving mausolea in the middle of a massive jumble of roads and traffic?"

In 2020, a large highway flyover was built across the southern end of the cemetery, razing hundreds of graves. The more extensive plans now reportedly include making way for two new highways, two large roundabouts, a giant cloverleaf and the widening of other roads.

Preservationists fear that will mean the City of the Dead's end: Carved up between highways, its remaining pieces would be vulnerable to further destruction.

The government has long argued the graves are not on a list of protected official historic Islamic and Christian monuments, a list that has hardly been updated in decades.

Two 700-year-old minarets on the list that are in the path of the roadwork are being dismantled and moved to another location. The planned highways weave within yards (meters) of several other registered monuments.

Prime Minister Moustafa Madbouly said in June that alternative burial sites are being provided for families moving their dead ahead of the construction. He said tomb markers of historic figures would be collected in a "Cemetery of the Immortals."

Mostafa el-Sadek, a university professor who leads a volunteer initiative to document ancient graves and mausoleums, was frustrated by the government's insistence on razing the tombs.

"The demolition must stop," he said. "This area has layers and layers of history. Any problems, including the groundwater, could be resolved. It's a matter of willingness."

## **Lahaina's fire-stricken Filipino residents are key to tourism and local culture. Will they stay?**

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER Associated Press

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP) — Ambulance and fire truck sirens wailed outside as Elsie Rosales stripped linens from king-sized mattresses at a beachfront resort in Lahaina.

She tried to focus on the work, but was beset by dread: Had a wildfire taken the home she scrimped to buy on a housekeeper's wages?

It had. And now Rosales, like many other Filipino housekeepers used to cleaning hotels, is living in one with her family, a poignant example of how the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century has afflicted



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Maui's heavily Filipino population.

"All our hard work burned," Rosales told The Associated Press in an interview conducted in Ilocano, her native language. "There is nothing left."

The disaster has prompted fears about what will become of Lahaina's community and character as it rebuilds.

Many are concerned residents like Rosales won't be able to afford to live in Lahaina after the community is rebuilt, and that affluent outsiders seeking a home in the oceanfront town will price them out.

Will Filipinos, Native Hawaiians and others who have been the backbone of the tourism industry for so long be able to remain here? Will they want to?

Filipinos began arriving in Hawaii more than a century ago to labor on sugarcane and pineapple plantations. As their descendants and successive generations of immigrants have settled, they have become deeply ingrained in the community's culture.

Today, they account for the second-largest ethnic group on Maui, with nearly 48,000 island residents tracing their roots to the Philippines, 5,000 of them in Lahaina, which was about 40% of the town's population before the fire. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates about one-fourth of Hawaii's 1.4 million people are of Filipino descent.

Many of them work in hotels, health care and food service. Filipinos account for about 70% of the members of UNITE HERE Local 5, the union representing workers in those industries, union President Gemma Weinstein said. She is Filipino and a former Honolulu hotel housekeeper.

"If it wasn't for the Filipinos having two or three jobs, a lot of the businesses here, including the hotels, would have a hard time operating," said Rick Nava, a community advocate and Filipino immigrant who lost his own home in the fire.

A month after the Aug. 8 disaster killed at least 115 people, nearly 6,000 people were staying at two dozen hotels serving as temporary shelters around Maui.

A number are hotel housekeepers like Rosales, 61, who is staying in a two-bedroom suite with her two sisters, her son, his wife and three grandchildren at the Sands of Kahana resort. Rosales' 72-year-old sister, Evangeline Balintona, works there as a housekeeper.

In the sisters' suite, there is an artificial plant in the corner of the living room, between a window overlooking the ocean and the flat-screen TV, that Balintona has dusted countless times. When she makes the bed, she does it the way she always has done for work, with layers of sheets and a comforter tucked neat and tight under a heavy mattress.

"I know every corner of this room," Balintona said.

She is thinking about returning to Ilocos Norte, the family's hometown in the Philippines. She hopes her son there has saved enough from the monthly remittances she sent over the years to support her if she returns with nothing.

Tourists have been told to avoid Lahaina for now, and many hotels are housing federal aid workers. Balintona and others worry about the futures of their jobs.

Rosales, who said she did not know anyone who died in the fire, immigrated to Hawaii in 1999. After years of renting and saving for a down payment, she bought a five-bedroom home on Lahaina's Aulike Street in 2014 for \$490,000. Her mother and siblings owned homes nearby. Those also are gone now.

She continues to work at another resort a few miles from where the sisters are staying. On her days off, she sorts out insurance paperwork, including trying to itemize belongings lost in the fire.

Rosales recalled the night of the fire when she and her co-workers — almost all from the Philippines — were forced to remain in the hotel because roads were blocked. She didn't learn the fate of her home until the next morning, when her youngest son called.

"Mom, no more house," he told her.

"No, anak ko!" she shrieked, using an Ilocano term meaning "my child."

Around her, other housekeepers sobbed as they received similar calls.

The Rev. Efren Tomas, pastor of Christ the King Church in Kahului, worries about the mental health of

survivors. He has been counseling groups of Filipinos staying in hotels, even celebrating Mass in a hotel reception room.

"For Filipinos, it's very hard for them to go into one-on-one counseling," he said. "They want to gather in a group. I think they get strength from each other."

Many longtime Lahaina residents, including Native Hawaiians, told the AP they worry that whatever is built from the ashes of Lahaina won't include Filipinos and other ethnic groups who made it the working class community it was.

"The new Lahaina should be the old Lahaina," said Alicia Kalepa, who lives in a Hawaiian homestead where most of the houses survived the fire. "Mixed culture."

Gilbert Keith-Agaran, a state senator from Maui who is stepping down to focus on litigation work involving the fires, said he won't be surprised if many Filipinos leave for places such as Las Vegas, an affordable destination for Hawaii residents who no longer can afford to live here.

"I think it's hard to take the Filipinos out of the fabric of our community," said Keith-Agaran, whose father came from Ilocos Norte in 1946 for plantation work. "We intermarried a lot with others who are here."

Melen Magbual Agcolicol was 13 when she arrived on Maui from the Philippines more than four decades ago with her family. Since then, she has become a community advocate and is president of Binhi at Ani, "Seed and Harvest," which operates Maui's only Filipino community center.

Her group unveiled a fund called Tulong for Lahaina, or Help for Lahaina. The idea is to provide grants to Filipinos who lost homes, shops or loved ones.

"The starting over is so difficult. How are you going to start over? Number one, you don't have a job," she said. "Number two, your sanity. Your sanity is not normal until you think that you can accept what happened to you."

Rosales' three sons don't want her to sell her property, but she is finding it difficult to think about the future. She can't sleep or eat, can't stop crying.

Residents have not been allowed to return to the burned areas. Rosales wants to go back. She wants to comb through the rubble of her American dream, hoping to find a piece of her jewelry collection, a gold bracelet or a watch, luxuries she would never have been able to afford in the Philippines.

"Even if it's black," she said, "I want to take it as a remembrance."

She touched the delicate gold hoops dangling from her ears. She put them on the morning she left her house to go to work.

## **Patients need doctors who look like them. Can medicine diversify without affirmative action?**

By KAT STAFFORD Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Dr. Starling Tolliver knew she wanted to become a doctor. Yet, as a Black girl growing up in Akron, Ohio, it was a dream that felt out of reach.

She rarely saw doctors who looked like her. As a child, she experienced severe hair loss, and struggled to find a dermatologist who could help.

Tolliver made a pact with two childhood best friends to become doctors who would care for Black and underserved communities like their own. Now 30, she is in her final year of dermatology residency at Wayne State University in Detroit.

She plans to spend her career caring for the body's largest organ, where differences in melanin give humans the skin colors underpinning the construct of race. In dermatology, only 3% of U.S. doctors are Black.

Despite her success, the girls' pact remains unfulfilled. While her friend Charmaine became a nurse, Maria, who wanted to become a pediatrician, was killed in their hometown at the age of 19.

Her friend's death only strengthened her resolve.

"I'm going to continue to go on this path of medicine," Tolliver said. "Not only for myself, but for Maria, and to potentially help others in the future from similar backgrounds as mine know that they can do it as



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well.”

But more than two months after the Supreme Court struck down affirmative action in college admissions, concerns have arisen that a path into medicine may become much harder for students of color. Heightening the alarm: the medical field’s reckoning with longstanding health inequities.

Black Americans represent 13% of the U.S. population, yet just 6% of U.S. physicians are Black. Increasing representation among doctors is one solution experts believe could help disrupt health inequities.

The disparities stretch from birth to death, often beginning before Black babies take their first breath, a recent Associated Press series showed. Over and over, patients said their concerns were brushed aside or ignored, in part because of unchecked bias and racism within the medical system and a lack of representative care.

A UCLA study found the percentage of Black doctors had increased just 4% from 1900 to 2018.

But the affirmative action ruling dealt a “serious blow” to the medical field’s goals of improving that figure, the American Medical Association said, by prohibiting medical schools from considering race among many factors in admissions. The ruling, the AMA said, “will reverse gains made in the battle against health inequities.”

The consequences could affect Black health for generations to come, said Dr. Uché Blackstock, a New York emergency room physician and author of “LEGACY: A Black Physician Reckons with Racism in Medicine.”

“It’s really about holding these larger organizations, institutions accountable and saying: ‘Right now, we’re in a crisis — a crisis of humanity,’” Blackstock said.

With affirmative action off the table at predominantly white institutions, historically Black colleges and universities may see an increase in applications, said Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice, president and CEO of Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta.

The college, which typically has 115 openings for new medical students, receives between 7,000 and 9,000 applications per year, a number Rice said she believes will increase in light of the Supreme Court ruling. HBCUs have long served as a direct pipeline of Black doctors.

Experts say diversity is especially needed within specialty medicine. In dermatology, just 65 of the 796 applicants for residencies in 2020 were Black, data from the Association of American Medical Colleges shows. Only 39 were Latino.

For a field focusing on the skin, the unequal access among patients of color is stark: Patients of color are half as likely as white patients to see a dermatologist for the same conditions.

The consequences can be devastating.

“The skin is a window to the rest of your health,” said Dr. Ginette Okoye, professor and chair of dermatology at Howard University, who is a programming lead for the American Academy of Dermatology’s Pathways program.

“If you have kidney disease, if you have cancer, sometimes those clues show up on the skin first. We are able to preemptively diagnose cancer sometimes just by the way a specific rash shows up on the skin,” Okoye said. “That’s pretty impactful.”

Black men are more likely to die of melanoma, compared with men of other races, according to a study co-authored last month by dermatologist Dr. Ashley Wysong in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology. They also are more likely to be diagnosed at a later stage, when the condition is more difficult to treat. Melanoma is the most invasive and serious form of skin cancer.

The reasons for the different cancer rates are unclear, and more research is needed to understand in particular how economic and social conditions impact the cancer rates, Wysong said. The study found survival rates in men with melanoma were highest among white men, 75%, while the survival rates were lowest among Black men at only 52%.

“As medical professionals, any time we see disparities in care or outcomes of any kind, we have to look at the systems in which we are delivering care and we have to look at ways that we are falling short,” Wysong said.

Without affirmative action as a tool, career programs focused on engaging people of color could grow

in importance.

For instance, the Pathways initiative engages students from Black, Latino and Indigenous communities from high school through medical school.

The program starts with building interest in dermatology as a career and continues to scholarships, workshops and mentorship programs. The goal: Increase the number of underrepresented dermatology residents from about 100 in 2022 to 250 by 2027, and grow the share of dermatology faculty who are members of color by 2%.

Tolliver credits her success in becoming a dermatologist in part to a scholarship she received through Ohio State University's Young Scholars Program, which helps talented, first-generation Ohio students with financial need. The scholarship helped pave the way for medical school, but her involvement in the Pathways residency program also was central.

Azariah Providence, a 17-year-old rising high school senior who lives in the U.S. Virgin Islands, participated in the high school Pathways program last month. She wants to become a dermatologist because of her own scalp psoriasis diagnosis, which is a skin disease causing a rash with itchy, scaly patches.

Her condition hampered her self-esteem as a 9-year-old girl. The dermatologist she saw, one of very few on the island, prescribed medication causing Providence's skin to burn and her hair to fall out.

"It was a difficult experience because as a little girl, your hair is very important to you," Providence recalled. "After going through that, I wanted to help little girls who have similar conditions that I have. I want to be that person for them that I didn't have when I was younger."

Providence, who would be a first-generation medical student, said the program exposed her to college students and doctors of color, something she had never before seen.

"I think it's important for more Black people to get into the field of dermatology for the simple reason that some conditions may appear differently on Black skin," Providence said. "I want to enter the field so that people who look like me can have their skin understood and fully studied so that when they come to get diagnosed, it's a correct diagnosis and they could get the correct treatment."

Dermatology also is working to diversify its textbooks to help improve the spectrum of skin colors so doctors can be better equipped to diagnose and provide equitable care, said Dr. Adam Friedman, chair of dermatology at George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington, D.C.

But targeted programs to diversify the pipeline of talent are crucial for the future of medicine, Friedman said.

As Tolliver prepares to leave residency, she hopes to be one of the people pushing for better outcomes, especially for Black women.

"Our patients are looking for us, and that kind of pushed forward my love for this field," Tolliver said. "And that really has been my goal ongoing from when I was a little girl: for Black women to see the beauty of themselves, within themselves."

## McCarthy juggles government shutdown and Biden impeachment inquiry as House returns to messy fall

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Kevin McCarthy is a man who stays in motion — enthusiastically greeting tourists at the Capitol, dashing overseas last week to the G7 summit of industrial world leaders, raising funds back home to elect fellow Republicans to the House majority.

But beneath the whirlwind of activity is a stubborn standstill, an imbalance of power between the far-right Republicans who hoisted McCarthy to the speaker's role yet threaten his own ability to lead the House.

It's a political standoff that will be tested anew as the House returns this week from a long summer recess and McCarthy faces a collision course of difficult challenges — seeking to avoid a government shutdown, support Ukraine in the war and launch an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden.

"They've got some really heavy lifting ahead," said the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, John Thune of South Dakota.



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McCarthy is going to “have his hands full trying to figure out how to navigate and execute,” he said. Congress has been here before, as has McCarthy in his nearly two decades in office, but the stakes are ever higher, with Republicans powered by an increasingly hard-right faction that is refusing to allow business as usual in Washington.

With former President Donald Trump’s backing, McCarthy’s right-flank pushed him into the speaker’s office at the start of the year only after he agreed to a long list of conservative demands — including the ability to call a quick vote to “vacate the chair” and remove him from office.

That threat of an abrupt ouster hovers over McCarthy’s every move, especially now.

To start, Congress faces a deadline to fund the government by the end of the month, or risk a potentially devastating federal shutdown. There’s just 11 working days for Congress to act once the House resumes Tuesday.

Facing a backlash from conservatives who want to slash government funding, McCarthy may be able to ease the way by turning to another hard-right priority, launching a Biden impeachment inquiry over the business dealings of the president’s son, Hunter Biden.

For McCarthy, running the two tracks — a government funding process alongside an impeachment drive — is an unusual and politically fraught undertaking.

But starting a formal impeachment inquiry into Biden could help to appease Republican allies of Trump, who has emerged as the GOP frontrunner to confront Biden in the 2024 election for the White House.

“He’s being squeezed,” Brad Woodhouse, a veteran Democratic operative, said of McCarthy. Woodhouse is now a senior adviser to the Congressional Integrity Project, which is preparing to criticize Republicans over the Biden impeachment.

The White House has said Biden is not involved in his son’s business dealings.

But Trump’s allies among House Republicans are working furiously to unearth any links between Biden and his son’s business as they portray Hunter Biden as trading on the family name for financial enrichment and work to erode public support for the president ahead of the presidential election.

Republicans have not yet been able to produce evidence of wrongdoing by President Biden.

White House spokesman Ian Sams said, “Speaker McCarthy shouldn’t cave to the extreme, far-right members who are threatening to shut down the government unless they get a baseless, evidence-free impeachment of President Biden. The consequences for the American people are too serious.”

Meanwhile, what should have been a fairly prescribed process to fund the government after McCarthy and Biden negotiated a more than \$1 trillion deal earlier this summer over the debt limit appears to be falling apart. Even a stopgap measure to simply keep government funding at existing levels for a few months while Congress tries to finish the spending bills is a nonstarter for McCarthy’s right flank.

Conservatives powered by the House Freedom Caucus are insisting federal spending is rolled back to 2022 levels and they want to add other priorities to the legislation.

If not, they say they will oppose a temporary measure, called a continuing resolution, or CR, to keep government running.

“We must rein in the reckless inflationary spending, and the out-of-control federal bureaucracy it funds,” the Freedom Caucus wrote in a statement at the end of August.

With command of dozens of votes, the hard right can deny McCarthy the support he needs to pass a Republican bill on its own. But relying on Democrats for votes would bring other problems for McCarthy if he is seen as disloyal to his ranks.

The conservatives want to beef up border security and address what Republicans deride as the “weaponization” of the Justice Department’s prosecutions, including of those charged in the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol. They also want to end what they call the Pentagon’s “woke” policies as the Defense Department tries to provide diversity, equity and inclusion to service personnel.

Signaling the hard road ahead, Trump-ally Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., mockingly reposted one of McCarthy’s recent videos welcoming tourists at the Capitol.

“Kevin thinking this was the video we needed at this moment is depressingly revealing,” Gaetz said on

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social media.

"We need a SPEAKER not a GREETER."

Congress also has a pending request from the White House to provide an additional \$40 billion on three fronts — some \$21 billion in military and humanitarian relief for Ukraine as it battles the Russian invasion; \$12 billion to replenish federal disaster aids after floods, fires and other problems, including to curb the flow of deadly fentanyl at the southern U.S. border with Mexico.

McCarthy has vowed there won't be any "blank check" for Ukraine as he works to appease skeptical Republicans who want to end U.S. involvement in overseas affairs, particularly involving Russia.

While the shutdown is the more pressing problem for McCarthy, the Biden impeachment inquiry is his bigger political gamble.

McCarthy has signaled an impeachment inquiry is coming. But there is "no date circled on the calendar," said a person familiar with his thinking and granted anonymity to discuss it.

Not all House Republicans are eager for impeachment proceedings. "We can waste our time on issues that are not important, or we can focus on issues that are," Rep. Ken Buck, R-Colo., said Sunday on MSNBC's "Inside with Jen Psaki."

Trump faces his own more serious charges of wrongdoing, including the federal indictments over his efforts to overturn the 2020 election he lost to Biden and his refusal to return classified documents stored at his Mar-a-Lago estate. He has been indicted four times this year.

Watching from the Senate, which has been working to pass all 12 of the regular bills needed to fund government operations through committees ahead of floor votes starting next week, Republicans hope cooler heads in the House will prevail on all fronts.

Several Republicans have made no secret of their disinterest in impeachment proceedings against Biden.

And GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski said those who don't think a federal shutdown of government operations is a big deal ought to visit her state of Alaska and see "real life."

During a previous government shutdown, Murkowski said crab fisherman couldn't get out in the water because federal permits could not be issued.

"You know, we've got a lot of things going on here in the Congress right now," she said. "So the House is going to have to sort through their priorities and hopefully, they're going to be priorities that are in the best interests of the operations of good governance."

## Thailand's LGBTQ+ community draws tourists from China looking to be themselves

By YUCHENG TANG Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Xinyu Wen traveled to Thailand in June, planning a two-week vacation around Bangkok's Pride parade.

Instead, the 28-year-old stayed a month and a half, as her experience at the parade gave rise to discussions and discoveries in the Thai capital's thriving LGBTQ+ community.

LGBTQ+ people from China, frequently scorned and ostracized at home, are coming to Thailand in droves, drawn by the freedom to be themselves. When Wen walked along the parade on the streets in Bangkok, "I felt like I was in a big party or a huge amusement park. We could forget all upsetting things and feel fun-filled," she said.

Bangkok is only a 5-hour flight from Beijing, and Thailand's tourism authorities actively promote its status as among the most open to LGBTQ+ people in the region.

Wen got interested in Thailand when her friend sent her a photo of rainbow-colored, Pride-themed ice cream being sold on the streets.

"I wanted to go to Thailand to take a look," she said.

Wen describes herself as queer, which she says means that her partners can be any gender and she can be any gender. At home, Wen said she regularly gets judgmental stares on the street for wearing her hair short like a man's, and was once asked by her barber: "What happened to your life?"



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But at the Bangkok Pride parade in June, Wen noticed people confidently wore what they wanted. She was excited to be able to express herself publicly and finally drop her guard. More than that, she said she was also impressed by the protest element to the event, in which people carried signs written in traditional Chinese with slogans like "China has no LGBTQ" and "Freedom is what we deserve."

"I felt a mixed feeling, touched but sad," she said.

Ahead of her trip, she read up on the situation in Thailand, finding reports that showed there is still widespread discrimination, especially in the workplace. Thailand does not recognize same-sex unions or marriages, which also means they're barred from adopting children, and other legal processes that straight couples have access to.

Wen arrived at the parade somewhat skeptical. But she ended up finding it empowering.

"Although I initially had a critical attitude toward the parade in Bangkok because discrimination against LGBTQ individuals hasn't disappeared, I still felt inspired because the neglected groups and the suppressed feelings matter here."

Thailand Tourism Authority official Apichai Chatchalermkit said in an Aug. 9 article in The Nation newspaper that LGBTQ+ tourists are considered "high-potential" as they tend to spend more and travel more frequently than other visitors.

"Using a photo of LGBTQ+ individuals in tourism advertisements is considered as offering a warm welcome without discrimination," he said.

Thailand doesn't keep figures on LGBTQ+ tourists. But through mid-August, it has counted 2.2 million Chinese tourists out of an overall 16 million.

Owen Zhu, a gay real estate agent in Bangkok who sells houses to Chinese clients, said many are also coming to stay. He estimated some 2/3 of his clients are LGBTQ+, many of whom buy apartments to live in part- or full-time.

"Among Chinese gay people, Thailand is called gay's heaven," he said, noting that there are many chat groups where gay men from China coordinate trips to Thailand and share information about parties and tickets to events.

Being gay is not illegal in China, though other Asian countries have strict laws around homosexuality — such as Malaysia, which announced in August that anyone in possession of an LGBTQ+-themed watch could be jailed for 3 years. But LGBTQ+ people in China face other pressures to conform that can make the free expression of their identities difficult.

As a lesbian in her conservative province in central China, Jade Yang was talked into marrying a gay man at her parents' request so that both of them could keep up appearances.

The 28-year-old, who works in the television industry, first visited Thailand four years ago and remembers being shocked to hear people talk casually about their same-sex partners. Yang disliked lying to her cousins and friends about the marriage and moved to Thailand in February, saying she wanted to distance herself from her hometown.

Now, she said, she can date the women she likes and focus on her studies and career without worrying about how to act as a straight woman.

"I wasted a lot of time over the past three years," she said. "After coming here, I feel the world is so big for me to explore. I have also learned I should not deny the way I am so easily, and love myself better."

At the Silver Sand gay bar in Bangkok, owner Adisak Wongwaikankha said about 30% of his customers are LGBTQ+ people from China, and that number has been growing.

He operates a bar on the ground floor and a drag show on the second floor.

"Most of our Chinese customers come with excitement and curiosity," he said.

Another draw for tourists, inside and outside the LGBTQ+ community, is Thailand's loose enforcement of prostitution laws and renowned nightclub shows.

Eros Li first came to Thailand in February to check out the nightlife and the massage parlors, many of which offer sex services. The 42-year-old returned two months later, saying that, while there are some spas in China where similar sex services are on offer, they are less accessible and there is a risk of being

arrested.

"The LGBTQ community in Thailand is lively and open. I received many messages on gay dating apps every day, which made me happy," Li said.

## **Biden says US outreach to Vietnam is about providing global stability, not containing China**

By JOSH BOAK and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — President Joe Biden said Sunday his visit to Vietnam to showcase stronger ties with Hanoi was not about trying to start a "cold war" with China, but rather was part of a broader effort to provide global stability by building U.S. relationships throughout Asia at a time of tensions with Beijing.

"It's not about containing China," Biden said at a news conference in Vietnam's capital after attending the Group of 20 summit in India. "It's about having a stable base."

The American president came to Hanoi as Vietnam was elevating the United States to its highest diplomatic status, comprehensive strategic partner. That is evidence of how far the relationship has evolved from what Biden referred to as the "bitter past" of the Vietnam War.

The expanded partnership reflects a broader effort across Asia to counter China's influence. Biden has said Vietnam wants to flex a degree of independence, and U.S. companies are seeking an alternative to imports from Chinese factories. He is pursuing possible allies while also trying to soothe tensions with China.

"I think we think too much in ... cold war terms," Biden said at his news conference. "It's not about that. It's about generating economic growth and stability in all parts of the world. And that's what we're trying to do."

He added: "We have an opportunity to strengthen alliances around the world to maintain stability. That's what this trip is all about."

Biden opened his news conference by saying he had "traveled around the world in five days," from Washington to New Delhi and now Hanoi, showcasing efforts by his administration to forge alliances. The president will stop in Alaska on the way home Monday to commemorate the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

In response to one question, Biden told reporters he had met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang while in India. The contact is the highest-level interaction between U.S. and Chinese officials since Biden and China's president, Xi Jinping, held talks at last year's G20 in Indonesia. Xi skipped the India talks and sent Li in his place.

"We talked about stability. ... It wasn't confrontational at all," Biden said.

The exchange, between G20 sessions Saturday, was brief, according to a senior Biden administration official. It was not clear who approached whom, but Biden was interested in seeing Li and underscoring his desire to stabilize the up-and-down relationship between the two countries, said the official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Biden went into meetings with Vietnam's leaders after his arrival in the country. He welcomed the new partnership and said he hoped for progress on climate, the economy and other issues during his 24-hour stop in Hanoi.

"We can trace a 50-year arc of progress between our nations from conflict to normalization to this new elevated status," Biden said with Nguyễn Phú Trọng, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, at party headquarters.

Biden has described himself as being part of the "Vietnam generation" although he did not serve in a war. He was given five draft deferments and was exempted from military service because he had asthma as a teenager.

Biden called Vietnam "a friend, a reliable partner and a responsible member of the international community." He noted that veterans such as John Kerry, his climate czar, and the late John McCain, a Vietnam POW and Republican senator from Arizona, found ways to build a relationship with Vietnam after the war.

"Both men saw so clearly, as I and so many others did, how much we had to gain by working together



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to overcome a bitter past," he said.

Trong pledged that his country will work hard to implement the agreement. "Only then can we say it is a success," he pledged.

Biden described the U.S. and Vietnam as "critical partners at what I would argue is a very critical time." Neither leader specifically discussed how China's economic and geopolitical rise had contributed to their countries' expanded partnership, yet it was hard to explain the mutual embrace without Beijing's growing influence.

Vietnam previously bestowed the same level of relations on China and Russia. Elevating the U.S. suggests that Vietnam wants to hedge its friendships as U.S. and European companies look for alternatives to Chinese factories.

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

Biden was welcomed upon his arrival in Vietnam with a pomp-filled ceremony outside the mustard-colored Presidential Palace. Schoolchildren lined the steps and waved American and Vietnam flags. Biden watched from an elevated review stand as high-stepping members of the military marched past.

Biden and Trong both expressed happiness over seeing each other again after last meeting some eight years ago in Washington. Biden was vice president at that time.

Trong had some flattering words for Biden, who is running for reelection next year and faces persistent questions at home about his age.

"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 complimenting your image." Biden chuckled at that.

But the packed schedule and jet lag appeared to take a toll on the 80-year-old president, who wrapped up his news conference saying "I'm going to go to bed."

Jon Finer, Biden's principal deputy national security adviser, addressed reports that Vietnam was pursuing a deal to buy weapons from Russia, even as Hanoi is seeking stronger relations with the U.S. Finer acknowledged Vietnam's lengthy military relationship with Russia. He said the U.S. continues to work with Vietnam and other countries that have similar ties to Russia to try to limit their interactions with Moscow, which Washington accuses of committing war crimes and violating international law with its aggression in Ukraine.

U.S. trade with Vietnam has already accelerated but there are limits to how much further it can grow 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.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said that the CEOs she talks with rank Vietnam highly as a place to diversify supply chains that, before the coronavirus pandemic, had been overly dependent on China.

American imports of Vietnamese goods have nearly doubled since 2019 to \$127 billion annually, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. But 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.

## Rubiales resigns as Spain's soccer president 3 weeks after kissing player at Women's World Cup final

By JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Luis Rubiales, the suspended head of the Spanish soccer federation, finally folded under immense pressure Sunday and resigned three weeks after his kiss of a player on the lips overshadowed Spain's first-ever Women's World Cup title.

Rubiales had been at the center of a controversy that had gone far beyond Spain's borders and the world of sport after he kissed Jenni Hermoso during the globally televised awards ceremony after Spain beat England to win the title on Aug. 20 in Sydney, Australia. The player said the kiss was without her consent.

"After my swift suspension by FIFA, and the rest of the cases building against me, it is clear that I can-

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not return to the post," Rubiales said on Sunday in a message posted on X, formerly known as Twitter.

He had already been temporarily suspended from his job by FIFA for his conduct at the final and, after soccer's world body opened a disciplinary case, remained defiant and hostile toward those who criticized him.

Then came the most serious threat yet to Rubiales, when Spanish state prosecutors accused him on Friday of sexual assault and coercion after the kiss, two days after Hermoso formally accused him of sexual assault.

Once the most powerful man in Spanish soccer, Rubiales insisted the kiss was consensual and done in a "moment of jubilation." He said it was like one "I could give one of my daughters."

Hermoso denied that claim in statements issued by her and her players' union. The player also said she and her family were pressured by the federation to show her support for Rubiales. Fans, players and politicians publicly disagreed with Rubiales and saw it as a sexist act and the abuse of authority.

"The former president of the Spanish soccer federation has done what he had to do," Spain's Secretary of State for Sport Víctor Francos told Spain's Cadena SER radio. "I think it is what practically the entirety of Spanish society had asked him to do."

Rubiales said he had also resigned as UEFA vice president due to the reputational danger the scandal could inflict on Spain's joint bid to host the 2030 men's World Cup along with Portugal, Morocco and possibly Ukraine.

Rubiales said that he had told interim Spanish federation president Pedro Rocha — who replaced him when Rubiales was suspended on Aug. 26 — of his resignation late Sunday night. The Spanish federation confirmed Rubiales' resignation in a statement, adding that it would follow its statutes and call an election for a new president.

Also Sunday, Rubiales said "I am going to (resign), I cannot continue my work," in reply to a question from TV host Piers Morgan on Britain's TalkTV. Clips from the show were released Sunday at a similar time to Rubiales' social media post appearing.

"My father, my daughters, I spoke with them ... and some friends very close to me, and they say to me 'Luis, now you have to focus on your dignity and to continue your life, because if not, probably you are going to damage people you love, and the sport you love,'" Rubiales told Morgan.

"In this situation now, (it is) the thing I have to do."

Two weeks ago, Rubiales had been expected to step down amid the immediate wave of criticism for his conduct at the final, which included a lewd gesture of grabbing his crotch, with Spain's Queen Letizia and her teenage daughter, Princess Sofía, nearby. Instead, in a defiant Aug. 25 speech before his federation's general assembly, he refused to go quietly and claimed he was victim of a "witch hunt" by "false feminists."

That led FIFA to provisionally suspend him just one day later; the Spanish government starting a motion to have him ruled unfit to hold his office; and Hermoso's accusation of sexual assault.

Rubiales' behavior at one of soccer's premier global events had drawn scorn from Spain's politicians, its soccer leagues, clubs, players and fans, amid talk of a "Me Too" movement in Spanish soccer. The uproar against Rubiales coincides with a strike by Spain's women's league as its players call for higher wages.

Rubiales' public supporters — other than his mother, who held a short-lived hunger strike in a church in southern Spain — soon abandoned him. Those included the coaches of Spain's women's and men's teams. His own federation also publicly asked him to step down.

After Spain's state prosecutors opened the door to him facing criminal charges — and even possible prison time if convicted — Rubiales finally agreed to resign.

"Insisting in waiting and hanging on would not contribute anything positive (for) either the federation or Spanish soccer, among other reasons, because the powers that be would stop me from returning (to my job)," Rubiales said in his statement.

After Rubiales accused Hermoso of lying about what he said was a kiss she had consented to, Spain's women world champions, along with dozens of players, refused to play again for their country until there were changes in the federation's leadership. The firing of the unpopular women's team coach was not enough by itself for them to come back.



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No. 2-ranked Spain is scheduled to start the Women's Nations League on Sept. 22 in a visit to top-ranked Sweden. Spain beat Sweden in the World Cup semifinals.

Hermoso, 33, now plays for Mexican club Pachuca after a long career in Europe. She helped Barcelona win the 2021 Women's Champions League, and came second in Ballon d'Or voting to teammate Alexia Putellas that same year.

Rubiales will also resign as a vice president at UEFA, the European soccer body which pays him 250,000 euros (\$268,000) annually in a job he was appointed to in 2019. He first had to be elected onto UEFA's executive committee by European soccer federations. UEFA has taken no action against Rubiales, even after FIFA opened a disciplinary case 18 days ago.

## MEN'S WORLD CUP

Spain's government had expressed its concerns that Rubiales would end up hurting Spain's joint bid to host the 2030 edition of the men's World Cup. Rubiales, who had led the bid, appears to have finally agreed, according to his statement, while still maintaining his belief that he was being too harshly judged.

"I don't want Spanish soccer to be hurt by this exaggerated campaign against me, and above all, I take this decision after being assured that my exit would help contribute to the stability that will allow both Europe and Africa to stay united for their dream of 2030, which will permit the greatest sporting event in the world to go to our country," he said.

The bid has been strongly favored to win the hosting rights in a campaign that FIFA wants decided by late 2024.

An election to replace Rubiales on the UEFA ruling committee can be held in Madrid next February when the Spanish federation hosts the next annual meeting of UEFA member federations.

## SAUDI DEAL

Rubiales, 46, is a former player and head of Spain's main players union. He had run the federation since 2018.

He has not shied away from controversy since but, proving to be a shrewd deal maker, he shored up internal support by boosting revenues for the federation and spreading them around.

In part, Rubiales was tolerated because he was considered better than his predecessor, Ángel Maria Villar, who was in power for nearly three decades before he was arrested on suspicion of corruption.

Rubiales made 339,000 euros (\$365,000) in 2021 after taxes for presiding over the federation with a budget of 382 million euros (\$412 million). The federation runs Spain's men's and women's national soccer teams and its semi-professional and amateur soccer leagues. It also organizes the referees. The government maintains some oversight of the entity but it cannot name or remove its executives.

Rubiales' biggest decision was to take the Spanish Super Cup to Saudi Arabia – now the big draw for top European talent like Cristiano Ronaldo – in exchange for \$40 million a year. The clubs and federation loved the cash, but the move was criticized by women's and human rights groups for the regime's treatment of women and minorities. Spanish authorities also scrutinized the deal, and an investigative judge is probing the legality of the Super Cup contract s.

The controversy not only drew attention away from the greatest victory for women's soccer in Spain. It also tarnished Spain's greatest achievement in soccer overall — in both men's and women's teams — since Rubiales took charge before eventually leading to his own downfall.

## **A drone attack on an open market has killed at least 43 people in Sudan as rival troops battle**

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — A drone attack Sunday on an open market south of Sudan's capital, Khartoum, killed at least 43 people, activists and a medical group said, as the military and a powerful rival paramilitary group battle for control of the country.

More than 55 others were wounded in the attack in Khartoum's May neighborhood, where paramilitary forces battling the military were heavily deployed, the Sudan Doctors' Union said in a statement. The

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casualties were taken to Bashair University Hospital.

The Resistance Committees, an activist group that helps organize humanitarian assistance, posted footage on social media showing bodies wrapped in white sheets in an open yard at the hospital.

Sudan has been rocked by violence since mid-April, when tensions between the country's military, led by Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, burst into open fighting.

The RSF blamed the military's air force for Sunday's attack, though it was not immediately possible to independently verify the claim. The military, meanwhile, said Sunday afternoon that it didn't target civilians, describing the RSF accusations as "false and misleading claims."

Indiscriminate shelling and airstrikes by both factions are not uncommon in Sudan's war, which has made the Greater Khartoum area a battleground.

The conflict has since spread to several parts of the country. In the Greater Khartoum area, which includes the cities of Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri, RSF troops have commandeered civilian homes and turned them into operational bases. The military responded by bombing these residential areas, rights groups and activists say.

In the western Darfur region — the scene of a genocidal campaign in the early 2000s — the conflict has morphed into ethnic violence, with the RSF and allied Arab militias attacking ethnic African groups, according to rights groups and the United Nations.

Fierce clashes ensued over the weekend in al-Fasher, the provincial capital of North Darfur province, following an attack on a military facility by the RSF, local media reported.

Clementine Nkweta-Salami, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator in Sudan, expressed concerns Sunday about the clashes in al-Fasher. Writing on X, formerly known as Twitter, the U.N. official called for warring factions to stop fighting "so that humanitarians can bring in food, medicine and shelter items to those who need them most."

The war has killed more than 4,000 people, according to August figures from the United Nations. However, the real toll is almost certainly much higher, doctors and activists say.

The number of internally displaced persons has nearly doubled since mid-April to reach at least 7.1 million people, according to the U.N. refugee agency. Another 1.1 million are refugees in neighboring countries, according to figures released last week by the International Organization for Migration.

Chad received about 465,000 refugees, mostly from West Darfur province where the RSF and its Arab militias launched scorched-earth attacks on non-Arab tribes in the provincial capital of Geneina and its surrounding areas, according to the U.N. and rights groups.

## **Why the United Auto Workers union is poised to strike major US car makers this week**

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — About 146,000 U.S. auto workers are set to go on strike this week if General Motors, Ford and Stellantis fail to meet their demands for big pay raises and the restoration of concessions the workers made years ago when the companies were in financial trouble.

Shawn Fain, the combative president of the United Auto Workers union, has threatened to strike any of the three companies that hasn't reached an agreement by the time its contract with the union expires at 11:59 p.m. Eastern time Thursday.

Both sides began exchanging wage and benefit proposals last week. Though some incremental progress appears to have been made, a final agreement could come too late to avoid walkouts by UAW workers at factories in multiple states. Any strike would likely cause significant disruptions for auto production in the United States.

Here's a rundown of the issues that are standing in the way of new contract agreements and what consumers could face if a prolonged strike occurs:

**WHAT DO WORKERS WANT?**

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The union has asked for 46% raises in general pay over four years — an increase that would elevate a top-scale assembly plant worker from \$32 an hour now to about \$47. In addition, the UAW has demanded an end to varying tiers of wages for factory jobs; a 32-hour week with 40 hours of pay; the restoration of traditional defined-benefit pensions for new hires who now receive only 401(k)-style retirement plans; and a return of cost-of-living pay raises, among other benefits.

Perhaps most important to the union is that it be allowed to represent workers at 10 electric vehicle battery factories, most of which are being built by joint ventures between automakers and South Korean battery makers. The union wants those plants to receive top UAW wages. In part, that is because workers who now make components for internal combustion engines will need a place to work as the auto industry increasingly transitions to EVs.

“Our union,” Fain has said, “isn’t going to stand by while they replace oil barons with battery barons.”

Currently, UAW workers who were hired after 2007 don’t receive defined-benefit pensions. Their health benefits are less generous, too. For years, the union gave up general pay raises and lost cost-of-living wage increases to help the companies control costs. Though top-scale assembly workers earn \$32.32 an hour, temporary workers start at just under \$17. Still, full-time workers have received profit-sharing checks ranging this year from \$9,716 at Ford to \$14,760 at Stellantis.

Fain himself has acknowledged that the union’s demands are “audacious.” But he has argued that the richly profitable automakers can afford to raise workers’ pay significantly to make up for what the union gave up to help the companies withstand the 2007-2009 financial crisis and the Great Recession.

Over the past decade, the Detroit Three have emerged as robust profit-makers. They’ve collectively posted net income of \$164 billion, \$20 billion of it this year. The CEOs of all three major automakers earn multiple millions in annual compensation.

**WHAT HAVE THE COMPANIES PROPOSED?**

A contract offer from Ford proposed a cumulative 10% pay raise over the course of the four-year contract, plus several lump-sum payments, including \$6,000 to cover inflation. GM has offered 10% as well, with similar lump sums. Stellantis (formerly Fiat Chrysler) offered 14.5% wage increases over four years, without lump sums in the wage package. But it proposed lump sums to cover inflation. All offered contract-ratification bonuses but rejected the shortened work week the UAW requested.

Under its proposal, Ford said it calculated that average annual pay, including overtime and lump-sum bonuses, would rise from an average of \$78,000 a year last year to more than \$92,000 in the first year of a new contract.

The companies have rebuffed the union’s demands as too expensive. The automakers’ argument is that they will be absorbing enormous capital expenses in the coming years to continue to build combustion-engine vehicles while at the same time designing electric vehicles and building battery and assembly plants for the future.

They also contend that too lavish a UAW contract would saddle them with expenses that would force up the retail prices of vehicles, pricing Detroit automakers above competitors from Europe and Asia. Outside analysts say that when wages and benefits are included, Detroit Three assembly plant workers now receive around \$60 an hour while workers at Asian automaker plants in the U.S. get \$40 to \$45.

In a letter Friday, Mark Stewart, Stellantis’ chief operating officer, told employees that the company’s offer to the union would make it financially feasible to employ workers into the next generation.

“It also protects the company’s future ability to continue to compete globally in an industry that is rapidly transitioning to electric vehicles,” Stewart wrote.

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

The union and companies are continuing to trade wage and benefit counteroffers and will likely continue to do so into the work week ahead of Thursday night’s strike deadline.

“Things are moving but they’re moving very slow and we’ve got a long way to go in four days,” Fain said on a Sunday night video event.

On Friday, Fain said that the company offers weren’t enough and that he had put them in the trash. But he said he visited GM and Ford on Sunday and was preparing to meet with Stellantis on Monday.



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On the one hand, the UAW has struck a confrontational stance. Its members voted 97% in August to authorize leaders to call for walkouts. It has filed unfair labor practice charges with the federal government against Stellantis and GM — charges that the companies have denied. And the union has called contract offers from all three companies “disappointing.”

Still, Fain has raised some hope by saying the union doesn’t want to strike and would prefer to reach contract agreements with the automakers.

**A STRIKE CAUSE CAR PRICES TO GO UP?**

Eventually. GM, Ford and Stellantis have continued to run their factories around the clock to build up supplies on dealer lots. But that’s also putting more money into the pockets of UAW members and strengthening their financial cushions.

At the end of August, the three automakers collectively had enough vehicles to last for 70 days. After that, they would run short. Buyers who need vehicles would likely go to nonunion competitors, who would be able to charge them more.

Vehicles are already scarce when compared with the years before the pandemic, which touched off a global shortage of computer chips that hobbled auto factories.

Sam Fiorani, an analyst with AutoForecast Solutions, a consulting firm, said the automakers had roughly 1.96 million vehicles on hand at the end of July. Before the pandemic, that figure was as high as 4 million.

“A work stoppage of three weeks or more,” Fiorani said, “would quickly drain the excess supply, raising vehicle prices and pushing more sales to non-union brands,” Fiorani said.

**COULD A STRIKE HURT THE ECONOMY?**

Yes, if it’s long and especially in the Midwest, where most auto plants are concentrated. The auto industry accounts for about 3% of the U.S. economy’s gross domestic product — its total output of goods and services — and the Detroit automakers represent about half of the total U.S. car market.

If a walkout occurs, workers would receive about \$500 a week in strike pay —far short of what they earn while they’re working. As a result, millions of dollars in wages would be removed from the economy.

The automakers would be hurt, too. If a strike against all three companies lasted just 10 days, it would cost them nearly a billion dollars, the Anderson Economic Group has calculated. During a 40-day UAW strike in 2019, GM alone lost \$3.6 billion.

**WHICH SIDE HAS THE ADVANTAGE?**

It’s hard to say. The companies have plenty of cash on hand to withstand a strike. The union has an \$825 million strike fund. But it would be depleted in just under three months if all 146,000 workers walk out.

The union’s inability to organize U.S. factories run by foreign automakers represents a disadvantage for the union because those companies pay less than Detroit companies do.

But organized labor has been flexing its muscles and winning big contract settlements in other businesses. In its settlement with UPS, for example, the Teamsters won wages for its top-paid drivers of \$49 an hour after five years.

So far this year, 247 strikes have occurred involving 341,000 workers — the most since Cornell University began tracking strikes in 2021, though still well below the numbers during the 1970s and 1980s.

## **Moroccans sleep in the streets for 3rd night following an earthquake that took more than 2,100 lives**

By SAM METZ and MOSA’AB ELSHAMY Associated Press

AMIZMIZ, Morocco (AP) — People in Morocco slept in the streets of Marrakech for a third straight night as soldiers and international aid teams in trucks and helicopters began to fan into remote mountain towns hit hardest by a historic earthquake.

The disaster killed more than 2,100 people — a number that is expected to rise — and the United Nations estimated that 300,000 people were affected by Friday night’s magnitude 6.8 quake.

Amid offers from several countries, including the United States and France, Moroccan officials said Sun-

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day that they are accepting international aid from just four countries: Spain, Qatar, Britain and the United Arab Emirates.

"The Moroccan authorities have carefully assessed the needs on the ground, bearing in mind that a lack of coordination in such cases would be counterproductive," the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

While some foreign search-and-rescue teams arrived on Sunday as an aftershock rattled Moroccans already in mourning and shock, other aid teams poised to deploy grew frustrated waiting for the government to officially request assistance.

"We know there is a great urgency to save people and dig under the remains of buildings," said Arnaud Fraisse, founder of Rescuers Without Borders, who had a team stuck in Paris waiting for the green light. "There are people dying under the rubble, and we cannot do anything to save them."

Help was slow to arrive in Amizmiz, where a whole chunk of the town of orange and red sandstone brick homes carved into a mountainside appeared to be missing. A mosque's minaret had collapsed.

"It's a catastrophe," said villager Salah Ancheu, 28. "We don't know what the future is. The aid remains insufficient."

Residents swept rubble off the main road into town and people cheered when trucks full of soldiers arrived. But they pleaded for more help.

"There aren't ambulances, there aren't police, at least for right now," Ancheu said, speaking about many parts of the region on Sunday morning.

Those left homeless — or fearing more aftershocks — slept outside Saturday, in the streets of the ancient city of Marrakech or under makeshift canopies in hard-hit Atlas Mountain towns like Moulay Brahim. Both there and in Amizmiz, residents worried most about the damage in hard-to-reach communities. The worst destruction was in rural communities that rely on unpaved roads that snake up the mountainous terrain covered by fallen rocks.

Those areas were shaken anew Sunday by a magnitude 3.9 aftershock, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It wasn't immediately clear if it caused more damage or casualties, but it was likely strong enough to rattle nerves in areas where damage has left buildings unstable and residents feared aftershocks.

In a region where many build bricks out of mud, Friday's earthquake toppled buildings not strong enough to withstand such a mighty temblor, trapping people in the rubble and sending others fleeing in terror. A total of 2,122 people were confirmed dead and at least 2,421 others were injured — 1,404 of them critically, the Interior Ministry reported.

Most of the dead — 1,351 — were in the Al Haouz district in the High Atlas Mountains, the ministry said.

Flags were lowered across Morocco, as King Mohammed VI ordered three days of national mourning starting Sunday. The army mobilized search and rescue teams, and the king ordered water, food rations and shelters to be sent to those who lost homes.

He also called for mosques to hold prayers Sunday for the victims, many of whom were buried Saturday amid the frenzy of rescue work nearby.

Though it said for the first time Sunday that it would accept aid from four countries, Morocco has not made an international appeal for help like Turkey did in the hours following a massive quake earlier this year, according to aid groups.

Aid offers poured in from around the world, and the U.N. said it had a team in Morocco coordinating international support. About 100 teams made up of a total of 3,500 rescuers are registered with a U.N. platform and ready to deploy in Morocco when asked, Rescuers Without Borders said. Germany had a team of more than 50 rescuers waiting near Cologne-Bonn Airport but sent them home, news agency dpa reported.

A Spanish search-and-rescue team arrived in Marrakech and headed to the rural Talat N'Yaaqoub, according to Spain's Emergency Military Unit. Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares said in a radio interview that Moroccan authorities asked for help. Another rescue team from Nice, France, also was on its way.

Officials in the Czech Republic earlier said the country was sending about 70 members of a rescue team trained in searching through rubble after receiving an official request from the Moroccan government.

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Czech Defense Minister Jana Cernochova said three military planes were prepared to transport the team.

In France, which has many ties to Morocco and said four of its citizens died in the quake, towns and cities have offered more than 2 million euros (\$2.1 million) in aid. Popular performers are collecting donations.

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

Devastation gripped each town along the High Atlas' steep and winding switchbacks, with homes folding in on themselves and people crying as boys and helmet-clad police carried the dead through the streets.

"I was asleep when the earthquake struck. I could not escape because the roof fell on me. I was trapped. I was saved by my neighbors who cleared the rubble with their bare hands," said Fatna Bechar in Moulay Brahim. "Now, I am living with them in their house because mine was completely destroyed."

There was little time for mourning as survivors tried to salvage anything from damaged homes.

Khadija Fairouje's face was puffy from crying as she joined relatives and neighbors hauling possessions down rock-strewn streets. She had lost her daughter and three grandsons aged 4 to 11 when their home collapsed while they were sleeping less than 48 hours earlier.

"Nothing's left. Everything fell," said her sister, Hafida Fairouje.

The Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity was coordinating help for about 15,000 families in Al Haouz province, including food, medical aid, emergency housing and blankets, the state news agency MAP quoted the organization's head, Youssef Rabouli, as saying after he visited the region.

Rescuers backed by soldiers and police searched collapsed homes in the remote town of Adassil, near the epicenter. Military vehicles brought in bulldozers and other equipment to clear roads, MAP reported. Ambulances took dozens of wounded from the village of Tikht, population 800, to Mohammed VI University Hospital in Marrakech.

In Marrakech, large chunks were missing from a crenelated roof, and warped metal, crumbled concrete and dust were all that remained of a building cordoned off by police.

Tourists and residents lined up to give blood.

"I did not even think about it twice," Jalila Guerina told The Associated Press, "especially in the conditions where people are dying, especially at this moment when they are needing help, any help." She cited her duty as a Moroccan citizen.

The quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.8 when it hit at 11:11 p.m., lasting several seconds, the USGS said. A magnitude 4.9 aftershock hit 19 minutes later, it said. The collision of the African and Eurasian tectonic plates occurred at a relatively shallow depth, which makes a quake more dangerous.

It was the strongest earthquake to hit the North African country in over 120 years, according to USGS records dating to 1900, but it was not the deadliest. In 1960, a magnitude 5.8 temblor struck near the city of Agadir, killing at least 12,000. That quake prompted Morocco to change construction rules, but many buildings, especially rural homes, are not built to withstand such tremors.

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

## **A US Navy veteran got unexpected help while jailed in Iran. Once released, he repaid the favor**

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michael White had only recently arrived in a grim Iranian jail when a curious fellow prisoner, an English-speaking Iranian, approached him in the courtyard for a conversation.

The American did not reveal much at first, but it was the beginning of an unlikely friendship between White, a Navy veteran imprisoned on spying charges he says were unfounded, and Mahdi Vatankhah, a young Iranian political activist whose positions on social issues had drawn his government's ire.

As the men connected behind bars over a shared interest in politics and human rights, they developed a bond that proved vital for both.



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Vatankhah, while in custody and after his release, helped White by providing White's mother with crucial, firsthand accounts about her son's status in prison and by passing along letters White had written while he was locked up. Once freed, White did not forget. He pushed successfully for Vatankhah's admission to the United States, allowing the men to be reunited last spring inside a Los Angeles airport, something neither could have envisioned when they first met in prison years earlier.

"He risked his life to get the information out for me when I was in the prison in Iran. He really, really did," White said in an interview alongside Vatankhah. "I told him I would do everything I could in my power to get him here because I felt, one, that would be for his safety in his own life. And also I felt he could be a great contributing member of society here."

This year, White received permission for Vatankhah to live temporarily in the U.S. under a government program known as humanitarian parole, which allows people in for urgent humanitarian reasons or if there is a significant public benefit.

Vatankhah told AP he had dreamed about coming to the U.S. ever since he could remember. When he landed, "It was like the best moment of my life. My whole life changed."

White, 50, a Southern California native who spent 13 years in the Navy, was arrested in Iran in 2018 after traveling to the country to pursue a romantic relationship with a woman he met online. He was jailed on various charges, including espionage accusations that he calls bogus, as well as allegations of insulting Iran's supreme leader.

He endured what he says was torture and sexual abuse, an ordeal he documented in a handwritten diary that he secretly maintained behind bars, and was sentenced to 10 years in prison in what the U.S. government has said was a wrongful detention.

Vatankhah, now 24, said he had been in and out of prison since he was a teenager because of his involvement in left-leaning causes and vocal criticism of the Iranian government, including through protests, social media posts and university newspaper pieces. He met White in 2018 after one such arrest when Vatankhah faced accusations of spreading propaganda against Tehran's government.

Though Vatankhah was later released, he was arrested again, this time winding up in the same cell as White in Iran's Mashhad prison.

During the course of their friendship, Vatankhah helped White navigate his imprisonment and better understand the judicial system, functioning as an interpreter to help him communicate with guards and other inmates. In early 2020, while Vatankhah was out on furlough, he also became a vital conduit to the outside world for White.

Using contact information White had given him, Vatankhah got in touch with Jonathan Franks, a consultant in the U.S. for families of American hostages and detainees who was working on White's case and later helped spearhead the humanitarian parole process for Vatankhah. He also spoke with White's mother and smuggled out letters White had written.

The detailed information about White, his status and his health — he suffered from cancer and COVID-19 in prison — came at a crucial time, providing a proof-of-life of sorts at a time of heightened tensions between the U.S. and Iran due to a U.S. drone strike that killed Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who led the expeditionary Quds Force of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

White was released in a June 2020 prisoner swap, exchanged for an American-Iranian physician imprisoned in the U.S. for violating American sanctions laws. Vatankhah, released the same year, made his way to Turkey.

White argued in his March application on Vatankhah's behalf that his friend met the criteria for humanitarian parole because, despite having relocated to Turkey, he was continuing to face harassment on account of his political viewpoints.

Vatankhah wrote in his own petition that the situation was unsafe for him in Turkey. He noted that Turkish police had raided his home and that he remained at risk of deportation to Iran.

Paris Etemadi Scott, a California lawyer who has worked with White and Vatankhah and filed the humanitarian parole application on the Iranian's behalf, said Vatankhah's assistance to an American — a

veteran, no less — enhanced the legitimacy and urgency of his petition because it added to the potential that Vatankhah could face imminent harm.

While many applicants do not have significant supporting documentation, “Mahdi had this amazing amount of evidence to show that he was in fact incarcerated over and over again,” she said.

A State Department spokesman said in a statement that the office of the department’s special presidential envoy for hostage affairs had worked hard to secure White’s release in 2020, and after learning of Vatankhah’s case, “worked hand-in-hand with multiple partners in the U.S. government,” including the White House National Security Council and Department of Homeland Security, to ensure his arrival in the U.S.

Vatankhah is now living in San Diego, where White is from. Vatankhah said his humanitarian parole is good for one year, but he already has applied for asylum, which would allow him to remain in the U.S. He’s obtained a work permit and found work as a caregiver.

He’s also enjoying freedom to share his political views freely without fear of retribution.

“I like to express my ideas here where I can. I can continue to use my freedom to talk against the Iranian regime.”

## Escaped murderer still at large slips out of search area, steals van, tries to contact ex-co-workers

The Associated Press undefined

PHOENIXVILLE, Pa. (AP) — Authorities say an escaped murderer who has eluded capture since breaking out of a southeastern Pennsylvania prison a week and a half ago slipped out of the search area, changed his appearance, stole a dairy delivery van, abandoning it miles away and remained at large.

Lt. Col. George Bivens of the Pennsylvania State Police said Sunday that Danelo Souza Cavalcante stole the unlocked van which had the keys inside sometime Saturday night about three-quarters of a mile from the northern perimeter of the search area where hundreds of law enforcement officers had been searching for him.

Baily’s Dairy said on its Facebook page that the delivery van was stolen between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saturday “while we were still here working.”

The theft wasn’t noticed for hours, and in the meantime Cavalcante, 34, traveled more than 20 miles (32 kilometers) northeast to East Pikeland Township and Phoenixville. Shortly before 10 p.m. Saturday he went to an East Pikeland Township home of a person he had worked with several years ago and asked to meet with him, police said.

The homeowner, who was at dinner with his family and didn’t respond, called police after returning home and reviewing his doorbell video. Shortly after 10 p.m. Saturday, police said, Cavalcante went to the Phoenixville area home of another former work associate, who wasn’t home, police said.

Doorbell video images showed Cavalcante to be now clean-shaven and wearing a yellow or green hooded sweatshirt, black baseball cap, green prison pants and white shoes, police said. The stolen van was found at 10:40 a.m. Sunday in a field behind a barn in East Nantmeal Township, about 15 miles (24 kilometers) west of Phoenixville.

Bivens said he believed Cavalcante abandoned the vehicle at least in part because it was low on fuel. While law enforcement was searching the immediate area for any signs of him authorities were concerned that he would attempt to obtain another vehicle or had already done so.

“I do not have a report of a stolen vehicle; I anticipate that we will,” he said.

Bivens expressed confidence, how that the fugitive would eventually be recaptured, vowing to “aggressively continue” the search with the aid of federal, state, county and local resources.

“This is a minor setback,” he said. “We’ll get him, it’s a matter of time”

Cavalcante, 34, escaped from the Chester County Prison while awaiting transfer to state prison on Aug. 31 after being sentenced to life for fatally stabbing his ex-girlfriend in 2021. Prosecutors say he wanted to stop her from telling police that he’s wanted in a killing in his home country of Brazil.

Police on Saturday had reported two more confirmed sightings of Cavalcante within the search area

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around the Longwood Gardens botanical park, the center of the search in recent days. Bivens said Friday that about 400 personnel were taking part in the search, including tactical teams, tracking dogs, and officers on horseback as well as aircraft.

Despite the massive searches, Bivens said the area had some underground tunnels and "very large drainage ditches" that were impossible to secure completely. Police had been planning to use close to 600 personnel Monday for "one massive sweep" of the search area, he said.

Authorities have described Cavalcante as extremely dangerous. Police are asking anyone with information to call 911. A \$20,000 reward is being offered for information leading to his capture.

Authorities on Friday announced the firing of the prison tower guard on duty when Cavalcante scaled a wall by crab-walking up from the recreation yard, climbed over razor wire, ran across a roof and jumped to the ground. His escape went undetected for more than an hour until guards took a headcount.

Cavalcante's escape and the search has attracted international attention and became big news in Brazil, where prosecutors in Tocantins state say he's accused of "double qualified homicide" in the 2017 slaying of Válder Júnior Moreira dos Reis in Figueirópolis, which they allege was over a debt the victim owed him in connection with repair of a vehicle.

## 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 nongovernmental organization, while dozens of Russian drones targeted Kyiv and wounded at least one civilian.

The four volunteers from the Road to Relief group, 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 that Anthony Ihnat of Canada died in the attack, while German medical volunteer Ruben Mawick and Swedish volunteer Johan Mathias Thyr were seriously wounded, it said.

Road to Relief added that it couldn't 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, Ukrainian officials reported that Russia launched "dozens" of drones at Kyiv and the surrounding region early in the morning, wounding at least five civilians.

Ukraine's air force later said it had brought down 26 out of a total of 33 drones. The head of Kyiv's military administration, Serhii Popko, reported 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 confirmed 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 doesn't include the capital, also reported that the drone strike wounded four people across the province, one of whom had to be hospitalized. In a Facebook post, Gov. Ruslan Kravchenko said that the drones damaged an infrastructure facility as well as civilian buildings including homes and stores, a hospital, a rehabilitation center, a school and a kindergarten.

Russia's Defense Ministry said in the early hours of Sunday that Moscow's forces earlier destroyed three U.S.-supplied speedboats carrying Ukrainian soldiers that had been traveling toward Russian-occupied Crimea. The claim couldn't be independently verified. Earlier on Sunday, the ministry said in a separate statement that Russian air defenses shot down eight Ukrainian drones targeting Crimea, as well as another



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that flew over the Bryansk region bordering Ukraine.

On Aug. 24, Ukrainian military intelligence said that its special forces landed in Crimea, which Moscow illegally took from Ukraine in 2014, and raised the Ukrainian flag along the peninsula's western shore before leaving "without casualties."

Ukrainian army representatives on Sunday reported further small gains near Robotyne in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, where Kyiv has mounted a counteroffensive, days after Russian-installed authorities acknowledged that Russian forces had left the village.

Oleksandr Shtupun, a press officer for Ukraine's Tauride Defense Forces, said on Ukrainian TV that Kyiv's troops had retaken a further 1.5 square kilometers (0.6 square miles) near Rabotyne, and that heavy fighting is ongoing.

"The Russians are clinging to every meter of our Ukrainian land ... however, the Ukrainian Defense Forces are trying to make it as difficult as possible to supply the Russian army, and in certain areas this is bearing fruit," Shtupun said, without giving details.

Hours later, Ukraine's General Staff said in the latest of its Facebook updates that its forces had "partial success" near Robotyne as well as Klishchiivka, a village 9 kilometers (5.6 miles) southwest of Bakhmut, dislodging Russian troops from their positions. It gave no further details, and the claim could not be verified.

A Washington-based think tank late on Saturday assessed, citing geolocated footage, that Russian forces had captured territory between Robotyne and two nearby villages: Verbove, some 10 kilometers (6 miles) east, and Novoprokopivka, 5 kilometers (3 miles) to the south.

The Institute for the Study of War also said in the latest of daily updates that Ukrainian forces had advanced along the border between the Zaporizhzhia region and the Donetsk province farther east, near Novomaiorske village. It acknowledged earlier Ukrainian claims of advances "south of Klischiivka," but gave no evidence to support them.

## **Let skeeters feed on you for science? Welcome to front lines of mosquito control**

By SAM METZ and RICK BOWMER Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — It's lunchtime at the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District and a colony of sabethes cyaneus — also known as the paddle-legged beauty for its feathery appendages and iridescent coloring — find their way to Ella Branham.

"They're not very aggressive and they're kind of picky eaters," said Branham, a technician, as she exhaled into a glass tank to attract the insects to the carbon dioxide in her breath. "So I'll be feeding them with my arm."

Branham had volunteered to let the South American mosquitoes feed on her blood so they can produce eggs and maintain the colony for education and research at the lab in the Salt Lake City district. It's one of the many mosquito control districts around the United States that seek to hold in check one of the world's deadliest animals — one well-positioned to thrive as climate change fosters a warmer and wetter environment.

Mosquitoes can carry viruses including dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya and Zika. They are especially threatening to public health in Asia and Africa but are also closely monitored in the United States. Local agencies reported more than 1,100 cases of West Nile virus in 2022, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Most humans who contract West Nile show no symptoms. But for some, it can cause vomiting, fever and in rare cases seizures or meningitis. Over roughly the last 25 years, nearly 3,000 deaths and more than 25,000 hospitalizations linked to West Nile were reported throughout the United States — most of them in August.

West Nile deaths have been reported this year in states including Texas and Colorado, and mosquitoes are thought to be the source of "locally acquired" malaria infections of people in Maryland, Florida and Texas.

Ary Faraji, an entomologist and the executive director of the Salt Lake City mosquito abatement district,

said monitoring shows the mosquito season starting earlier and lasting longer as the climate has warmed. The district used to historically shut down each year in mid-September, but that has gotten later and later. Last year, district workers were still setting and checking traps until Thanksgiving.

And this year — where an abnormally snowy winter and a very rainy spring left more water across the landscape for mosquitoes to breed in — his staff estimated that there were five times as many mosquitos in May compared to the average year.

That's where the health threat comes in. While both males and females feed on sugar or nectar throughout their lives, females require blood meals to nourish and develop their eggs.

"They are the true vixens," Faraji said. "Some can be so beautiful and yet some can be so deadly."

Faraji's staff — made up of scientists and college and doctoral students — traps, sorts and tests mosquitos for viruses using drones, boats and ATVs. Their work takes into account how trends ranging from weather patterns to population growth will affect disease transmission.

"The more people you put in a closer vicinity of where the mosquitos are, the higher chance of pathogen transmission," he said, noting the challenges of the wetland areas surrounding Utah's Great Salt Lake.

Though dangerous, mosquitoes are also critical to ecosystems throughout the world, with various species serving as pollinators or food sources to fish, birds and frogs.

"We try to maintain a balance and suppress them to the point that they're not negatively affecting communities," Faraji said. "Taking them away would definitely negatively impact our ecosystem overall."

## **11 people are hurt when a walkway collapses during Maine's annual lighthouse event**

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Eleven lighthouse enthusiasts were hurt when a walkway collapsed, sending people tumbling into mudflats below during an annual event that encourages tours of Maine's beloved beacons.

The wooden walkway collapsed at Doubling Point Lighthouse in Arrowsic on Saturday afternoon. The lighthouse was open to the public as part of Maine Open Lighthouse Day, which is a day when the state's scenic lighthouses are open to the public.

Five of the 11 injured people were taken to hospitals, said Bath Fire Department Deputy Chief Chris Cummings.

The collapse of the bridge happened at low tide and caused some of the victims to fall eight to ten feet, and they landed in a somewhat rocky mudflat below, Cummings said. He said numerous public safety departments responded to the scene.

"It was a team effort," said Cummings, whose department is in a small city a few miles away.

Karen McLean, a member of the Friends of Doubling Point Light, said the group intends to repair the lighthouse, but there is no timeframe to do that yet.

The website of Friends of Doubling Point Light directed visitors to a message that said the lighthouse was "closed to visitors until further notice" on Sunday. McLean said the group has been working with local authorities in the aftermath of the collapse.

Doubling Point Lighthouse has stood since the late 19th century and is located on the Kennebec River. It's located in a small town of about 450 people located about 40 miles (64 kilometers) up the coast from Portland, the largest city in the state.

The lighthouse is active as a Coast Guard aid to navigation. The site has a long wooden walkway that leads over a marshy area to the lighthouse, which itself is shorter than many in the state with a tower height of 23 feet (seven meters).

## 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.

The committee's primary mission is to investigate the "serious allegations recently brought to light by Channel 4 in a broadcast video," the president's office said in a statement Sunday. It said that the "allegations have added fuel to the fire."

The statement said that a former attorney general "has made similar claims, suggesting the existence of a mastermind behind the devastating Easter bomb attack." It said that a parliamentary committee would separately investigate and "address these concerns comprehensively."

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."

## Food recalls are pretty common for things like rocks, insects and plastic

By JONEL ALECCIA AP Health Writer

Rocks in Trader Joe's cookies. Insects in its broccoli-cheese soup. Pieces of plastic in Banquet frozen chicken strips.

In recent weeks, U.S. consumers have seen high-profile food recalls for an unappetizing reason: They're contaminated with foreign objects that have no place on a dinner plate. And while no one wants to bite down on stainless steel in peanut butter or bone fragments in smoked sausage, this type of contamination is one of the top reasons for food recalls in the U.S.

Food safety experts and federal agencies use the terms "extraneous" or "foreign" materials to describe things like metal fragments, rubber gaskets and bits of bugs that somehow make it into packaged goods.

"Extraneous materials" triggered nine recalls in 2022 of more than 477,000 pounds of food regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service — triple the number of recalls tied to food contaminated with toxic E. coli bacteria.

And the size of recalls can reach into the millions: In 2019, USDA reported 34 recalls of more than 16 million pounds of food, spurred in large part by a giant recall of nearly 12 million pounds of Tyson chicken strips tainted with pieces of metal.

Plastic pieces from frayed conveyor belts, wood shards from produce pallets, metal shavings or wire from machinery are all common. So are rocks, sticks and bugs that can make it from the field to the factory.

Some contamination may even be expected, the FDA acknowledges in a handbook.

"It is economically impractical to grow, harvest or process raw products that are totally free of non-hazardous, naturally occurring, unavoidable defects," the agency wrote.

Both the USDA and FDA ask companies to promptly notify them when food is potentially contaminated with objects that may harm consumers. The agencies then determine whether recalls are necessary. Most



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recalls are voluntary and initiated by the companies, though the agencies can request or mandate the action.

Regulators said the Banquet issue was discovered when someone reported an oral injury after eating chicken strips. ConAgra Brands Inc., which owns Banquet, declined to comment beyond the firm's news release. Trader Joe's wouldn't elaborate on how material got into the foods that led to its recent recalls.

Detection of unwanted objects has vastly improved in the past several years, said Keith Belk, director of the Center for Meat Safety and Quality at Colorado State University. Large manufacturers use magnets, metal detectors, X-ray devices and other technology to find unwanted materials in their products.

Still, "they're going to miss things," Belk said.

Those things have included pieces of gray nitrile glove that forced the recall of nearly 6,400 pounds of chicken tortilla soup in 2021 and pieces of copper wire that led to recall of nearly 5,800 pounds frozen beef shepherd's pie in 2022.

There are also two notorious examples from 2017: "extraneous golf ball materials" that triggered a recall of frozen hash browns and a dead bat found in bagged salad that led the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to recommend rabies treatment for two people.

In recent years, firms have become increasingly cautious and are recalling products more frequently than before, said Nathan Mirdamadi, a consultant with Commercial Food Sanitation, which advises the industry about food safety.

That may be because consumers don't like finding weird things in their food. When they do, lawsuits may follow, experts said.

"It's never good business to injure your customers," Mirdamadi added.

Actual contamination may affect only a small amount of product, but firms recall all food produced within a certain window just to be safe. And while some of the food may be able to be "reconditioned" or treated for safety and sold again, "most of the time, it's going to landfills," Mirdamadi said.

Consumers who find foreign materials in food should notify manufacturers, experts said, but also realize that recalls are likely to stick around.

"The thing is, there's never going to be a day where there's zero risk associated with consuming a food product," Belk said.

## **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.

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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

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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.

## Today in History:

### September 11, the United States comes under attack

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Sept. 11, the 254th day of 2023. There are 111 days left in the year.

On Sept. 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 people were killed as 19 al-Qaida hijackers seized control of four jetliners, sending two of the planes into New York's World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon and the fourth into a field in western Pennsylvania.

On this date:

In 1789, Alexander Hamilton was appointed the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.

In 1814, an American fleet scored a decisive victory over the British in the Battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812.

In 1936, Boulder Dam — later renamed the Hoover Dam — began operation as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a key in Washington to signal the startup of the dam's first hydroelectric generator.

In 1941, groundbreaking took place for the Pentagon. In an anti-Semitic speech, Charles A. Lindbergh told an America First rally in Des Moines, Iowa, that "the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt administration" were pushing the United States toward war.

In 1954, the Miss America pageant made its network TV debut on ABC.

In 1967, the comedy-variety program "The Carol Burnett Show" premiered on CBS.

In 1972, the Munich Summer Olympics, where 11 Israeli athletes and several others were killed, ended.

In 1973, Chilean President Salvador Allende (ah-YEN'-day) died during a violent military coup.

In 1997, Scotland voted to create its own Parliament after 290 years of union with England.

In 2006, in a prime-time address, President George W. Bush invoked the memory of the victims of the 9/11 attacks as he staunchly defended the war in Iraq, though he acknowledged that Saddam Hussein was not responsible for the attacks.

In 2008, presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama put aside politics as they visited ground zero together on the anniversary of 9/11 to honor its victims.

In 2012, a mob armed with guns and grenades launched a fiery nightlong attack on a U.S. diplomatic outpost and a CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya, killing U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans

In 2016, Hillary Clinton abruptly left a 9/11 anniversary event at ground zero in New York after feeling "overheated," according to her campaign, and hours later her doctor disclosed that the Democratic presidential nominee had pneumonia.

In 2022, Javier Mariás, Spain's most prestigious novelist for most of his life, died at age 70.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Earl Holliman is 95. Comedian Tom Dreesen is 84. Movie director Brian De Palma is 83. Singer-actor-dancer Lola Falana is 81. Rock musician Mickey Hart (The Dead) is 80. Guitarist Leo Kottke is 78. Actor Phillip Alford is 75. Actor Amy Madigan is 73. Rock singer-musician Tommy Shaw (Styx) is 70. Sports reporter Lesley Visser is 70. Actor Reed Birney is 69. Former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh (Jay) Johnson is 66. Musician Jon Moss (Culture Club) is 66. Actor Scott Patterson is 65. Rock musician Mick Talbot (The Style Council) is 65. Actor/director Roxann Dawson is 65. Actor John Hawkes is 64. Actor Anne Ramsay is 63. Actor Virginia Madsen is 62. Actor Kristy McNichol is 61. Musician-composer Moby is 58. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is 58. Business reporter Maria Bartiromo is 56. Singer Harry Connick Jr. is 56. Actor Taraji (tuh-RAH'-jee) P. Henson is 53. Actor Laura Wright is 53. Rock musician Jeremy Popoff (Lit) is 52. Blogger Markos Moulitsas is 52. Singer Brad Fischetti (LFO) is 48. Rock musician Jon Buckland (Coldplay) is 46. Rapper Ludacris is 46. Rock singer Ben Lee is 45. Actor Ariana Richards is 44. Country singer Charles Kelley (Lady A) is 42. Actor Elizabeth Henstridge is 36. Actor Tyler Hoechlin (HEK'-lihn) is 36. Actor Mackenzie Aladjem is 22.