

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, Sept. 17

St. John's Lutheran/Zion worship with communion. St. John's at 9 a.m., Sunday school at 9:34 a.m., Zion at 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 7 p.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Monday, Sept. 18

Senior Menu: Turkey sub with lettuce, tomato and cheese, peas, Macaroni salad, peaches.

St. John's Lutheran Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.

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

The shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.



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 Clear Lake, 4 p.m.

Junior High Football hosts Webster, 4 p.m.

Junior Varsity Football hosts Webster, 5 p.m.

Youth Football hosts Doland, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 19

Senior Menu: New England ham dinner, dinner roll, fruit cocktail.

St. John's Lutheran Quilting, 9 a.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.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Junior High Football hosts Sisseton, 4 p.m.

Volleyball at Warner: 7th at 5:15, 8th at 6:30, JV at 6:30 with varsity to follow.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.; Conde Ad Council

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

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VA PACT Act Groton Legion Hall

Veterans, Bring Your Families to VA's
PACT Act Presentation
(Legion Membership not required)

Monday September 18th 7:00PM

Aaron Walburg (Brown County) Veterans Service Officer

Open to: Vietnam, Gulf War, Cold War, Post 9/11 Veterans and Survivors

Family Members or dependents of a deceased Veteran may qualify for various VA benefits due to the additional disabilities defined in the PACT Act if they meet eligibility requirements. More information for survivors is available online at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT)



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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Northern Volleyball Sweeps the Weekend with Win over BSU

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University volleyball team defeated Bemidji State 3-1 on Saturday NSIC action from Wachs Arena. The Wolves have now won eight straight and are 2-0 in league action.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 3, BSU 1

Records: NSU 9-1 (2-0 NSIC), BSU 4-6 (1-1 NSIC)

Attendance: 1207

HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern opened with a 25-13 victory in set one, however Bemidji State rallied back for a 25-10 victory in set two

The Wolves buckled down and tallied 25-20 and 25-14 victories in the final two sets to secure the match NSU hit .232 in the win, racking up a match high 48 kills, 46 assists, and 59 digs, adding six blocks and six aces

The Northern defense held Bemidji State to a .119 attack percentage, forcing 23 hitting errors

Hanna Thompson led the Wolves offense with 16 kills, hitting .387

Keri Walker dished out 42 total assists and tallied a team leading three blocks

Abby Meister rallied the defense with 20 digs and recorded a team high three aces

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Hannah Thompson: 16 kills, .387 attack%

Natalia Szybinska: 12 kills, 2 blocks

Keri Walker: 42 assists, 9 digs, 3 blocks, 2 aces

Abby Meister: 20 digs, 3 aces

UP NEXT

Northern heads to top-10 opponents Minnesota Duluth and St. Cloud State next Friday and Saturday. Match start times are set for 6 p.m. on Friday against the Bulldogs and 2 p.m. on Saturday versus the Huskies.

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Tiger Volleyball team takes second at Hamlin Tournament

Groton Area's volleyball team went 7-2 on the day in sets at the Hamlin Tournament held Saturday. The Tigers won three matches to advance to the championship match against Florence-Henry. The Falcons pulled out a 2-1 win over the Tigers in close sets.

Coach Chelsea Hanson said, "Overall, it was a successful day. We went 3-1. We played aggressive and with a lot of energy early in the day, but we ran out of gas at the end. I couldn't be happier with our team's performance. We played some really good teams here at Hamlin and we showed that we can play with the good teams. Some of the teams we beat may well be in the State B Tournament."

Groton Area defeated Tiospa Zina in the first match, 25-13 and 25-15. The Tigers had a 14-point rally late in the first set.

Sydney Leicht had eight kills and nine ace serves, Rylee Dunker had seven kills and one block, Chesney Weber had five kills and two ace serves, Elizabeth Flihs had three kills and one ace serve, Anna Fjeldheim had two kills and one ace serve, Carly Guthmiller had two ace serves and Jerica Locke had one ace serve.

The netters then took on Castlewood and won, 2-0. The first set was tied five times before the Tigers pulled away for the 25-21 win. The second set became more challenging towards the middle. The Warriors took control early with a 6-2 lead, but the Tigers chipped away, tying the set at 13. Thereafter, the set was tied 10 times and there were five lead changes before Groton Area won in extra points, 29-27.

Three players scored eight points with Anna Fjeldheim and Elizabeth Flihs each having six kills and two blocks, Sydney Leicht had seven kills and an ace serve, Chesney Weber had three kills and two ace serves, Rylee Dunker had five kills, Faith Traphagen had two kills and one block, Jerica Locke had two ace serves and Carly Guthmiller had one ace serve.

The third match of the day featured a battle with the Colman-Egan Hawks where Groton came out on top, 2-0. The Tigers had a 10 point run in the first set en route to a 25-16 win. The second set was tied nine times and the lead changed hands five times before Anna Fjeldheim had the game winning kill for the 25-23 win. Rylee Dunker had 10 kills, Sydney Leicht had eight kills and two ace serves, Anna Fjeldheim had four kills, Chesney Weber had two kills and two ace serves, Faith Traphagen had two kills and Jerica Locke had one ace serve.

That set up the championship match with Florence-Henry where the Falcons won, 2-1. In the first set, Groton Area had nine-point rally to take a 23-10 lead en route to a 25-13 win. Florence-Henry got the upper hand early in the second set and went on for the 25-19 win. The Falcons flew ahead early in the third set, but Groton Area rallied to tie the set at 21 and took the lead, 23-21. Florence-Henry would score the last two points for the 25-23 win. Anna Fjeldheim had 12 kills, Rylee Dunker had nine kills and two assisted blocks, Chesney Weber had seven kills, two ace serves and a block, Carly Guthmiller had seven ace serves, Elizabeth Flihs had three kills, two assisted blocks and an ace serve, Emma Kutter and Jerica Locke each had two kills, Sydney Leicht had a kill and an ace serve and Laila Roberts and Faith Traphagen each had a kill.

All matches were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Sponsors: Bary Keith at Harr Motors, BK Custom Ts & More, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Dairy Queen, Groton Ford, Harry Implement, John Sieh Agency and Locke Electric.

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Northern State Runs Away with 2023 Ag Bowl, Securing a 31-Point Victory

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University football team and head coach Mike Schmidt broke through against the University of Mary on Saturday evening, notching their first win of 2023 and the first against the Marauders in the Schmidt-era. The Wolves took control of the contest early and put their foot to the gas, topping the Marauders in nearly every statistical category.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 41, MARY 10 ~ Records: NSU 1-2 (1-2 NSIC), MARY 0-3 (0-3 NSIC)

Attendance: 5477

HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern scored in each of the four quarters, notching ten points in the first, seven in the second, 14 in the third, and ten in the fourth

Stanley Haskins Jr. scored on the Wolves opening drive a 26-yard rush and his second touchdown this season

Drew Smook attempted the team's first field goal of the year at 2:46 in the first, sending a 38-yard right through the uprights for a 10-0 Wolves lead

It was a rushing day for Northern State as Brett Brenton tallied his first touchdown of the season, a 4-yard rush to kickoff the second

With just second remaining in the half, UMary avoided the goose egg, notching a 30-yard field goal

It was all Northern State in the second half, led off by a 14-yard receiving touchdown for Dewaylon Ingram at 6:37 in the third

Haskins Jr. added his second touchdown of the even with under a minute in the third, scoring on first and one

NSU saw back-to-back scores in the fourth from Hank Kraft on a 29-yard run and Smook with a 43-yard field goal; career scoring longs for the duo

The Marauders tallied their lone touchdown of the contest with 19 seconds remaining

In total, Northern recorded a game leading 25 first downs, 214 yards rushing, 246 yards passing, and 460 yards of total offense

The Wolves averaged 5.9 yards per rush and 14.5 yards per completion; scoring all five times they entered the red-zone

The NSU defense tallied three sacks for a loss of 16 yards, 13 pass break-ups, two interceptions, and held Mary to just 1-of-12 on third down

The Wolves held the Marauders to 20 yards rushing, 123 yards passing, and just 143 yards of total offense

In the return game, anchored by Kegan Mountain, Northern averaged 10.7 yards per punt return and 15.7 yards per kick return

Penalties did plague NSU in the contest, as the Wolves suffered 13 total, resulting in 174 total yards

Offensive leaders included Colton Hackel with 234 yards receiving, Haskins Jr. with 76 yards rushing, and Ingram with 120 yards receiving

Luke Manos and Trey King led the defense with five tackles apiece, while Corey Scott and Lynden Williams recorded the team's two interceptions

Solo sacks came from King, Ian Marshall, and Brock Longville

Smook went 2-for-2 in field goals made with a career long of 43-yards, and 5-for-5 in PATs

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Colton Hackel: 234 yards passing, 1 touchdown

Stanley Haskins Jr.: 76 yards rushing, 2 touchdowns, 28-yard long

Dewaylon Ingram: 120 yards receiving, 15.0 yards per catch, 1 touchdown

Trey King: 5 tackles, 1.5 tackles for a loss, 1.0 sack

Drew Smook: 2 field goals, 11 points scored, 43-yard career FG long

UP NEXT The Wolves are set for back-to-back road trips beginning at Winona State next Saturday, September 23. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. versus the Warriors. Northern then travels to MSU Moorhead September 30 for a 12 p.m. kick against the Dragons.

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Stratford and Groton Legionnaires Shad Wood, Steve Dresbach, Tom Leonhardt, and David Bourassa.



Jim Rose, Chamberlain, and Ron Falk, Groton Legion.

Photos Courtesy Bruce Babcock



Prior to the Groton Homecoming parade Doug Hamilton, Aaron Grant, and Bruce Babcock of Groton Legion Post 39 pose before leading parade.



Dave McGannon and Doug Hamilton lead the parade in the Legion Post 39 Jeep.

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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

Groton Daily Independent

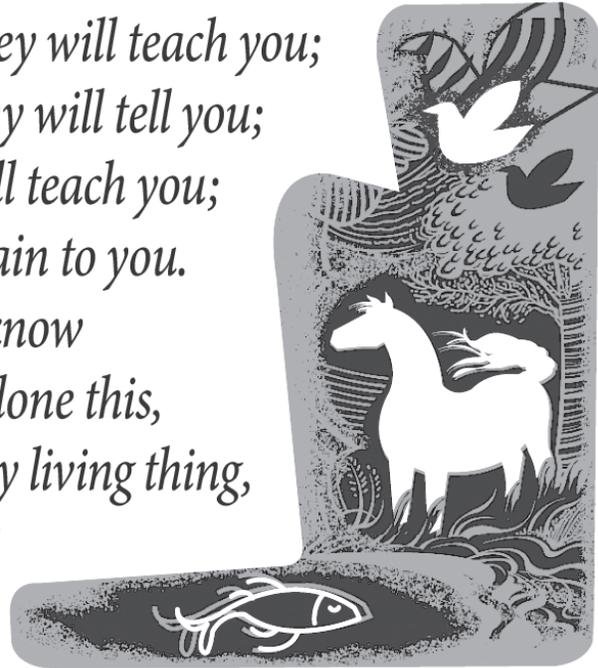
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

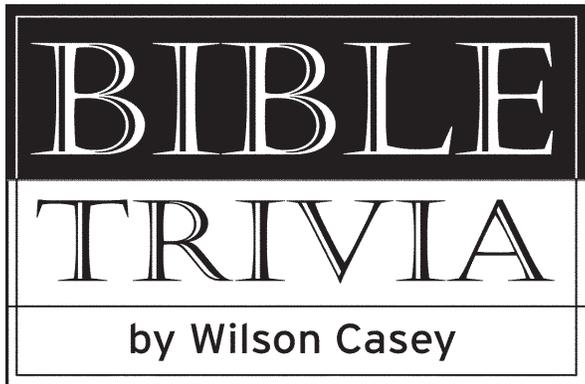
*“But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you;
And the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you;
And the fish of the sea will explain to you.
Who among all these does not know
That the hand of the Lord has done this,
In whose hand is the life of every living thing,
And the breath of all mankind?”*

JOB 12: 7-10 



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

2. On watching Jesus' arrest and trial, which disciple claimed three times he didn't know the Lord? *Judas, James, John, Peter*

3. From Proverbs, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of _____?" *Song, Silver, Meadows, Eden*

4. Who was quoted, "Is there any taste in the white of an egg"? *Solomon, David, Daniel, Job*

5. What did Job behold as the fear of the Lord? *Distrust, Wisdom, Unrighteous, Sympathy*

6. Who was the father of Samson? *Manoah, Isaiah, Abdon, Felix*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Peter, 3) Silver, 4) Job, 5) Wisdom, 6) Manoah

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com.

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FLASH GORDON

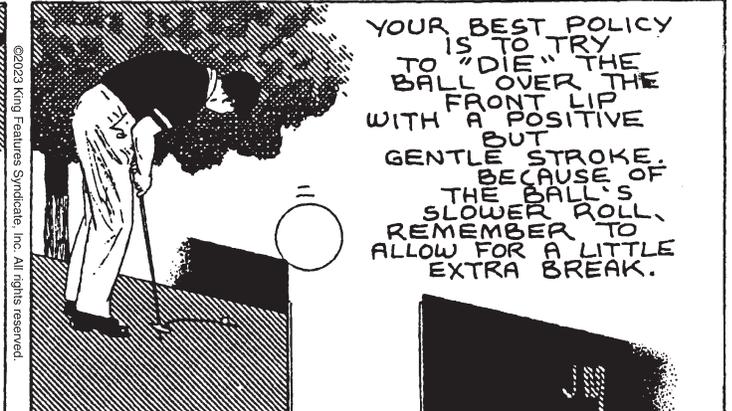
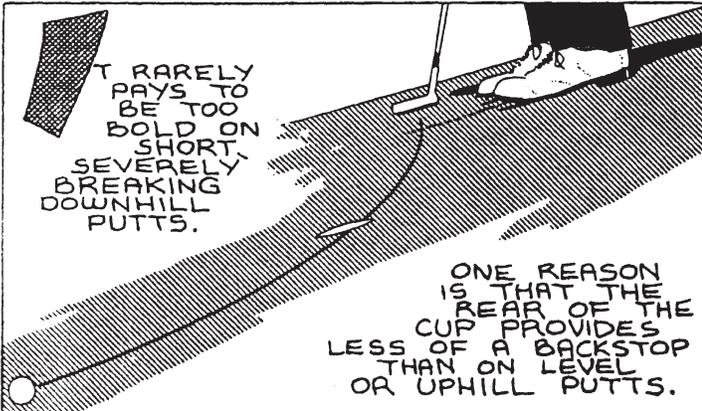
By JIM KEEFE 9-17

HAVING BEEN PERMANENTLY SCARRED BY DALE ARDEN, DUROK SEEKS RETRIBUTION!

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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Finding the Cause Behind Emphysema and Ways to Minimize It

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am male, age 65. I exercise regularly. A shortness of breath led me to get a chest X-ray, which showed that I have emphysema. I smoked for 10 years, but quit 33 years ago. As an avid runner, this revelation was perplexing and depressing.

Is it possible that other factors contributed to me getting emphysema, and how do I minimize this disease, if possible? — T.W.

ANSWER: Emphysema is most often caused by smoking in North America or by cooking fires in many parts of the world. The exact type of emphysema you have can help tell what caused it, but that usually requires a biopsy, which is generally unnecessary for a diagnosis or treatment.

Although X-rays and CT scans can help with the diagnosis, the definitive study is the pulmonary function test. For this test, you must breathe in and out for more times and in more ways than you ever thought was possible with a respiratory technician and a lot of machines. (When I was a fourth-year medical student, I had my own PFTs done as a learning experience — thank you, Dr. Julian Solway — and have respect for how hard they are to perform correctly.)

Besides smoke exposure, another cause is the genetic Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, which can affect the liver as well. This diagnosis is made by blood testing and confirmed by DNA testing through a genetic counselor. I always consider this diagnosis in a person with

minimal smoking history. If you do have AAT deficiency, there may be other treatments available, but specific treatment requires special expertise.

Regardless of the cause behind your emphysema, you have already made the most important change by quitting smoking. Avoiding secondhand smoke and other lung irritants is important, too.

There are no treatments to reverse emphysema, but many can improve symptoms. These include medication (such as inhalers), pulmonary rehabilitation and oxygen in people with emphysema that is severe enough to cause low blood oxygen levels. Most people who quit smoking have a very slow progression of the disease. However, it's important to quit smoking as soon as possible so that there is enough reserve lung function.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a very healthy 74-year-old woman. I don't take any medications other than a Prolia injection twice a year. I recently started taking 20 g of grass-fed collagen peptides powder, which contains all kinds of amino acids. Will this benefit my hair, skin, nails and joints, as the label suggests? — S.H.

ANSWER: I'd like to tell you it will help, but there isn't a lot of evidence it does. My anecdotal experience has shown me that only a few people get benefit.

It is true that deficiency of amino acids can lead to poorly grown skin and nails, but it's not at all clear that giving extra collagen will help people who have a healthy diet.

Just to put things in perspective, 1 cup of chicken or beef stock contains about 10 g of collagen, which your body then breaks down into amino acids. I'm guessing that would be less expensive than the supplement.

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

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"Spy Kids: Armageddon" (PG) -- The original "Spy Kids" film starring Alexa PenaVega and Daryl Sabara as Carmen and Juni Cortez was released over 22 years ago, and it became a franchise that Millennials and Generation Z grew up loving. Now creator Robert Rodriguez is rebooting the franchise for the next generation. The Tango-Torrezes, Nora (Gina Rodriguez) and Terrence (Zachary Levi), are the world's greatest secret agents. Their young kids, Patty and Tony, unknowingly release a virus from an evil game developer through a glitch in the game, which gives the developer control over all the world's technology. With their parents now held hostage, Patty and Tony must jump into their own spy suits to help save Nora and Terrence ... oh, and just the fate of the entire world. Premieres Sept. 22. (Netflix)



From left, Gina Rodriguez, Everly Carganilla, Connor Esterson and Zachary Levi star in "Spy Kids: Armageddon."
Courtesy of Netflix

"A Thousand and One" (R) -- This emotional drama set in the concrete jungle of New York during the '90s and early 2000s follows hairdresser Inez de la Paz. After getting convicted of stealing and passing time in Rikers Island, Inez returns to Harlem to find her son, Terry, in a foster home. Terry attempts to escape from the foster home only to be hospitalized, which prompts Inez to take him from the hospital and raise him on her own. With Inez, Terry finds the foundation he needs amid plenty of chaos and struggles. Teyana Taylor ("White Men Can't Jump," "Coming 2 America") is an incredible standout in the leading role of Inez. Premieres Sept. 19. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Robots" (R) -- In this sci-fi rom-com that jumps to the year 2032, robot versions of humans are now being used for all those mundane tasks, like shaving your legs or taking out the garbage or going out on that date you've been dreading. New couple Elaine and Charles know about that last one better than anyone; they send in their androids -- E2 and C2 -- whenever they can't be bothered to spend time with each other. But when E2 and C2 suddenly catch feelings for each other, they decide to steal their owners' identities and run away together. Elaine and Charles are forced to team up to stop the robots and get their lives back. Shailene Woodley and Jack Whitehall lead "Robots," out now. (Hulu)

"Cocaine Bear" (R) -- For her fourth directorial feature film, Elizabeth Banks ("Charlie's Angels," "Movie 43") tries her hand at the horror genre, but with a campy comedic flair. Ray Liotta plays agitated cocaine kingpin Syd White, who sends two of his cronies into the forest to find duffels of cocaine that have gone missing. Meanwhile, a bear in the forest has long since discovered and ingested the cocaine, running rampant around the forest and attempting to kill everyone in sight. Keri Russell gives an admirable performance as concerned mom Sari, while Margo Martindale plays a hilarious park ranger named Liz. The film is dedicated to Liotta, who passed away almost a year before its theatrical release. Out now. (Peacock)

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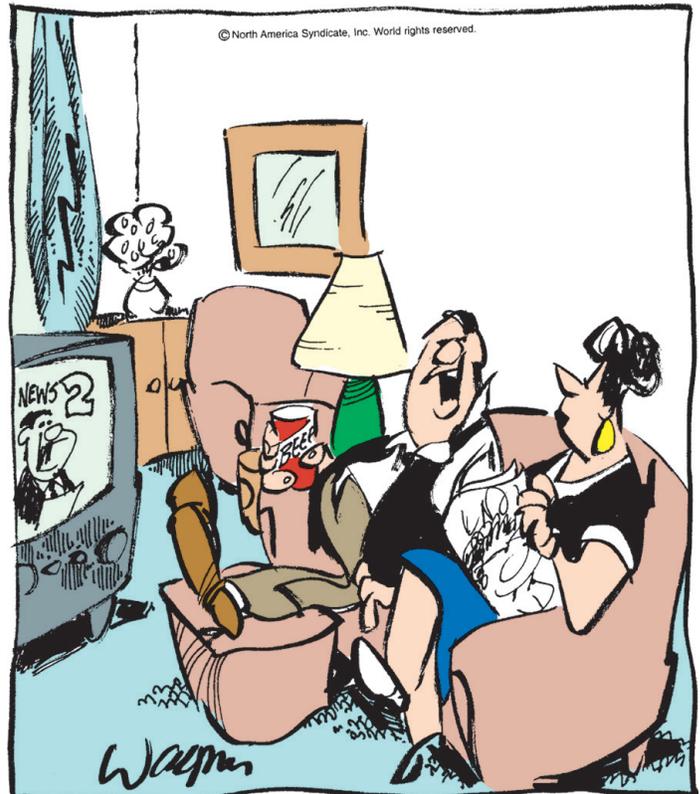
1. Who wrote and released "I Can See Clearly Now"?
2. What was Billy Paul's only No. 1 single?
3. What are the names of the Bee Gees brothers? Which one was never part of the musical group?
4. Who released "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Lonely rivers flow to the sea, to the sea, To the open arms of the sea, yeah, Lonely rivers sigh wait for me, wait for me."

Answers

1. Johnny Nash, in 1972. The reggae sounds are likely due to Nash having worked with reggae master Bob Marley.
2. "Me and Mrs. Jones," in 1972. Legend says that when Paul served in the Army, he was stationed with Elvis Presley. He tried to get Presley to join a music group he was forming, and Presley turned him down, preferring to be a chauffeur.
3. The brothers were Barry, Robin, Maurice and Andy. Baby Andy was born after the group was already active.
4. Culture Club, in 1982.
5. "Unchained Melody," by The Righteous Brothers, in 1965. It was released as the B-side to "Hung On You" but DJs preferred to play "Unchained Melody."

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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{Wagner}



"I like fair, impartial reporting that slants the news my way!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

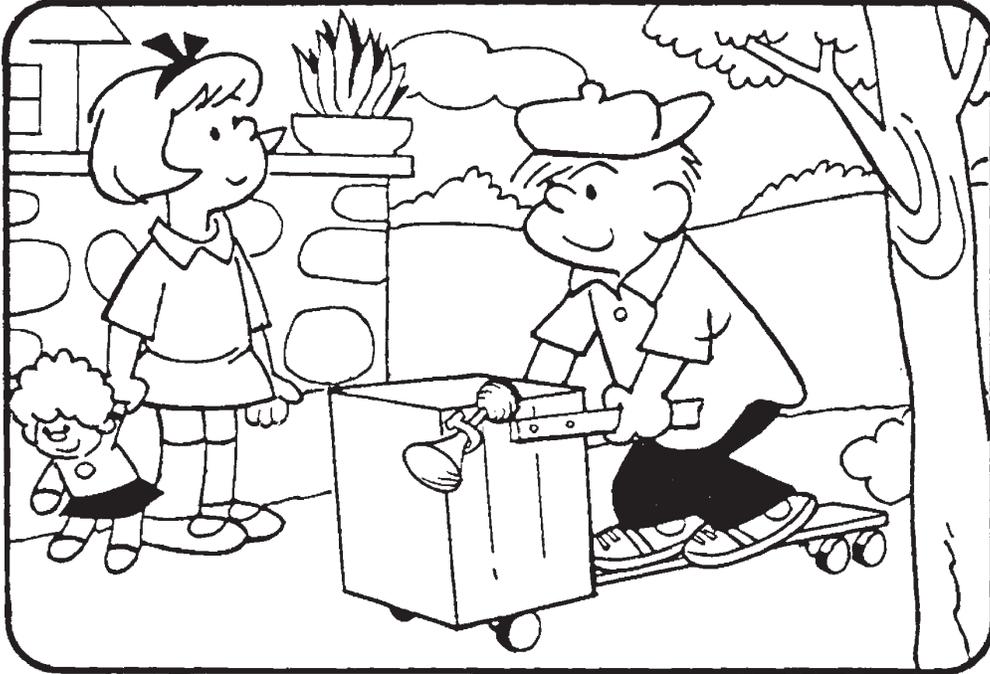
by Dave T. Phipps



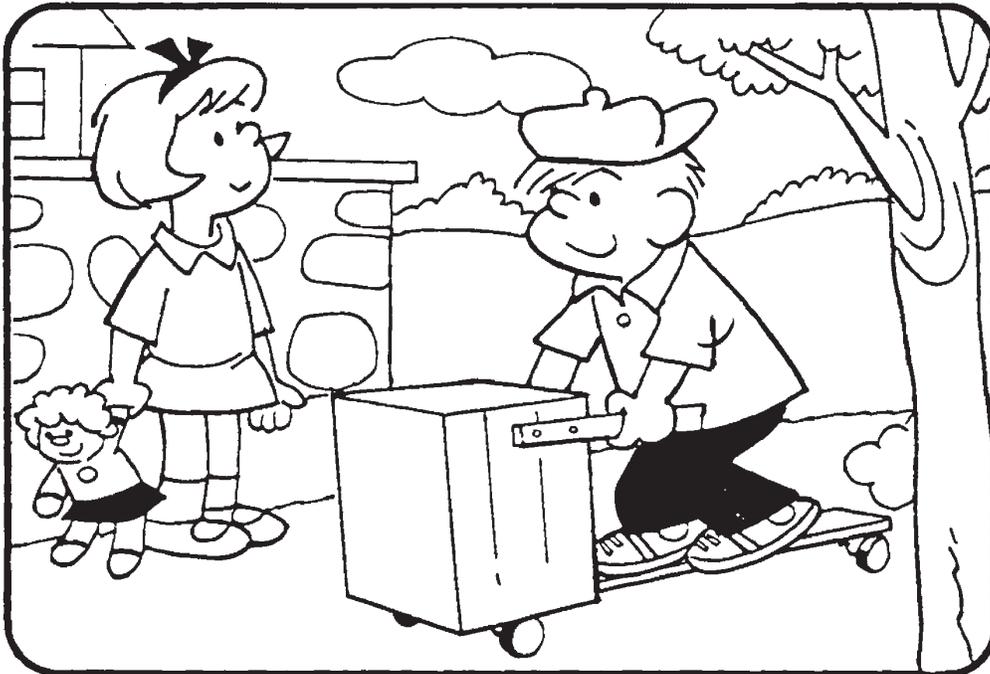
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Plant is missing. 2. Doll's hair is shorter. 3. Socks are shorter. 4. Horn is missing. 5. Shirttail is different. 6. Wheel is missing.

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* You can plant deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves in the fall) strategically in order to reduce your heating and cooling costs. Their leaves grow in the spring, blocking summer's heating rays, but when winter comes, they fall off to let the sun in, warming things up a bit.

* Keep nail-polish bottles easy to open by rubbing a little bit of petroleum jelly inside the cap of the bottle.

* M.C. in Arizona would like to know some alternative uses for hair conditioner. Here goes: use as a shaving lotion for legs or face; a makeup remover; ouch-free bandage removal; soften makeup brushes or paintbrushes before storage; get knots out of doll hair or costume wigs; wash delicates (think silks and pantyhose); rub on a shower rod to help curtain glide effortlessly; and lastly, soak a shrunken sweater in a conditioner/water solution to soften the fibers, then gently try stretching the sweater back to size.

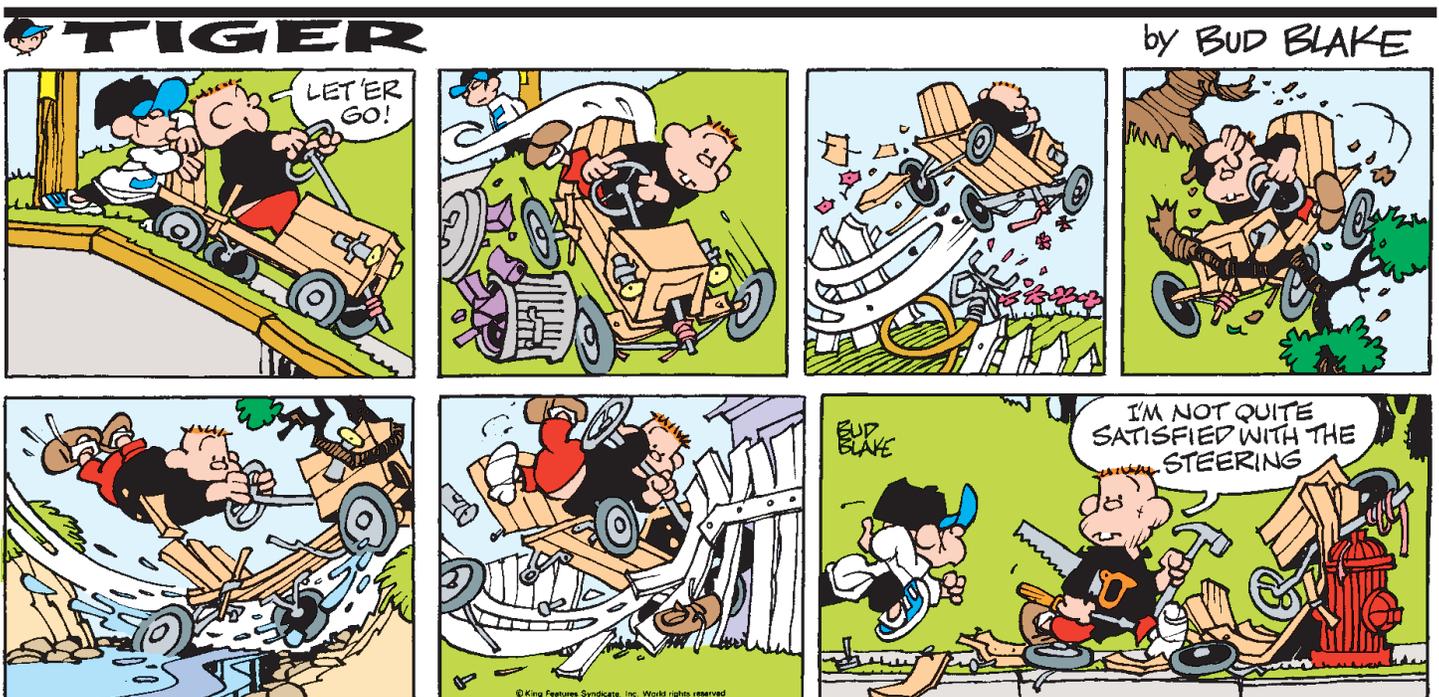
* "Clean an egg carton very well. Flip it over and make slits in each egg cup. This works wonders as a child's card holder for card games." -- L.P. in Maryland

* Use an empty paper towel roll to store plastic grocery bags. Just stuff to capacity. These "bag sticks" are easy to store in a drawer or even mounted on the side of a trash can with double-stick tape.

* When cleaning glass tabletops or chrome fixtures, try using newspaper instead of paper towels or rags. There is no lint left behind, and newspaper gives a better shine.

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

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Swamp
- 6 Foliage
- 12 Alaskan peak
- 13 Current measure
- 14 Kidnapper's demand
- 15 European peninsula
- 16 Venetian blind part
- 17 Suffix for million
- 19 Busy insect
- 20 Penne — Vodka
- 22 Press for payment
- 24 — Alamos
- 27 Mexican snack

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54							55					
56							57					

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 29 Aussie greeting | cloud | 9 Porches | 31 QB's gains |
| 32 Chekhov play, with "The" | 54 Honor | 10 Ireland | 33 Shaft of light |
| 35 Nickelodeon's Explorer" | 55 With uniformity | 11 Plane reservation | 34 201, in old Rome |
| 36 Outlet letters | 56 Vestibules | 12 ER workers | 39 Bygone anesthetic |
| 37 Venus, to Serena | 57 Valleys | 18 Former Chrysler CEO Lee | 41 Prestigious prize |
| 38 CBS logo | DOWN | 21 USPS delivery | 42 Coral formation |
| 40 Abel's brother | 1 Repast | 23 "Yecch!" | 43 To boot |
| 42 Campaigned | 2 Visitor to Siam | 24 PC screen type | 45 Easter entrees |
| 44 Bangkok cuisine | 3 Bob Marley fan, often | 25 Discoverer's call | 47 Melody |
| 46 Elevator name | 4 — -mo | 26 Peace | 48 Misfortunes |
| 50 Biblical prophet | 5 Nepal's — Mountains | 28 Admitted to the clergy | 49 Utter |
| 52 Outer-space | 6 Hideaway | 30 "Entourage" role | 51 Observe |
| | 7 Plant firmly | | 53 Actress Longoria |
| | 8 Gorilla | | |

— King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

	M	A	R	S	H		L	E	A	V	E	S
D	E	N	A	L	I		A	M	P	E	R	E
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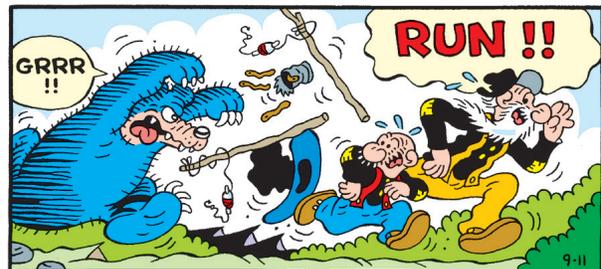
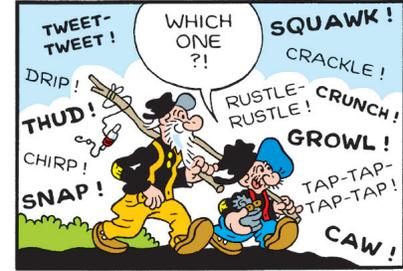
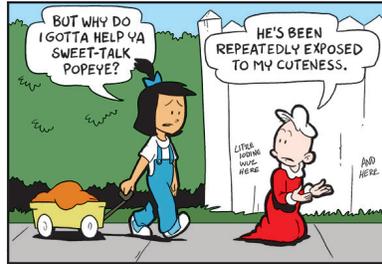
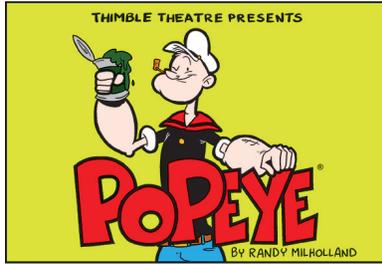
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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HAL FOSTER'S **Prince Valiant**
BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

VAL DOES NOT LIKE WHAT HE SEES OF LOCKBRAMBLE AND ITS APPOINTED CARETAKER, SIR ROGER. HE HAS DECIDED NOT TO TELL OF THE KIDNAPPING OF LORD GRUNYARD FROM CAMELOT UNTIL HE LEARNS MORE OF THIS UNEASY LAND. INSTEAD OF STAYING IN THE CASTLE, WHICH WOULD BE CUSTOMARY, HE AND GAWAIN REPAIR TO A HUMBLE INN.

YEATES 7/22/12 3937



VAL CONSIDERS THE FACTS BEFORE HIM: "ROGER WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE HAPPY IF GRUNYARD NEVER RETURNED. BUT WHY KIDNAP GRUNYARD IF HIS LORD SHOWED NO EAGERNESS TO RETURN? AND ALL THIS TALK ABOUT BRIGANDS..."

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GAWAIN IS LESS THAN INTERESTED, IT BEING WELL PAST HIS MEALTIME. HE GAZES HUNGRILY AT THE MARKET BELOW UNTIL, SUDDENLY: "HOLD! THAT MAN—IT CAN'T BE— BUT HIS GREAT SIZE..."

... "IT IS! THAT MAN PULLING THE CART! I RECOGNIZE HIM AS ONE OF THOSE SERVING THE WENCH WHO KIDNAPPED LORD GRUNYARD!"

Lockbramble Inn

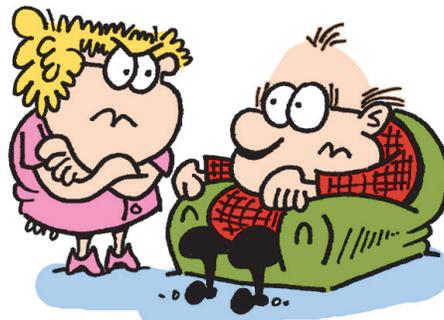
NEXT: Undercover

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

MARRIAGE IS A ROLLER COASTER

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... BUT WITH HER IT'S MORE LIKE BUMPER CARS.

PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Wrapping up the End of the Year

The end of the year is a perfect time to review where we've been in 2023 and gather some ideas about how we might do things differently next year. Saving money is at the top of many to-do lists now, especially for entertainment and groceries.

Look at all your streaming services to see which ones you might be willing to stop using. Make calls to the cellphone services around you and see who has good deals, likely with bundling. Phone plans for seniors generally have a lower cost. A surprise for me: I recently changed cellphone companies. Since I was bringing my own phone number and did not want a deal to buy a phone, I was given a \$200 promo gift card to spend anywhere.

Consider the money you could save with a store affinity account. At my local grocery store, I typically accrue \$5-10 per quarter just for buying the store brand and using the coupons offered.

On Walmart Plus, I often earn \$3-\$4 each time I place online orders for free delivery to my home because of the deals and discounts that pop up on the screen. Additional Plus benefits include travel, video streaming, 10 cents per gallon saved at several gas stations and more. The first 30 days are free to try the service, with a whole year costing \$98. If you're on SNAP, Medicaid or other programs, your cost would be half that.

Take a look at "500 Great Ways to Save for Dummies" by AARP. The book is on Amazon, both in paperback and for a Kindle e-reader, as well as thousands of other places online. This book might be one you want to keep for a long time. You can also ask your library or senior center if they will purchase the book to keep on the shelves.

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1. What was the name of the WNBA team that was based in Salt Lake City from 1997-2002?

2. Mexico's Daniel Bautista won a gold medal at the 1976 Montreal Summer Olympics competing in what track and field event?

3. Name the U.S. women's figure skater who won four straight U.S. championships (1977-80), two world championships (1977, '79) and a silver medal at the 1980 Lake Placid Winter Olympics.

4. What facility did the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies play their home games in from 2001-04?

5. In the 1988 comedy film "The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad!," what California Angels outfielder is hypnotized in a plot to assassinate Queen Elizabeth II?

6. What team selected 7-foot 3-inch Latvian player Kristaps Porzingis in the first round of the 2015 NBA Draft?

7. Burgess Owens, a member of the Super Bowl XV champion Oakland Raiders, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in what state?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. The Utah Starzz.
2. Race walking.
3. Linda Fratianne.
4. The Pyramid Arena.
5. Reggie Jackson.
6. The New York Knicks.
7. Utah.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Can This Dog be Trained?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Recently, a new member joined our family: a toy poodle mix named Petey who was rehomed by an acquaintance who said they just couldn't handle him and that he was untrainable. Petey is 4 years old, bounces everywhere, and loves to play soccer by catching a ball and then bouncing it off of his front paws back toward me. He's incredibly smart, but training him has indeed been a challenge. I know the previous owners never made an effort to train him in basic obedience, and they left him alone for days at a time. His house-training is spotty. How can I make the training process faster and easier for both of us? -- Doug L., Burlington, Vermont

DEAR DOUG: You've taken on a real challenge: a smart, independent and energetic dog. Petey sounds like a wonderful little guy, though, and I'm so glad you've added him to your family and committed to his well-being.

Building trust with Petey is important so that he knows what to expect from you and the rest of the family. Do that by adhering to a schedule: walks, feeding and training at the same time each day, with as little deviation as possible.

Obedience-training a smart and independent dog requires you to be smart about training, too. Petey needs to know the house rules, and he must want to do the things you're asking him to do (or not do). Look into positive reinforcement methods like clicker training (<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/clicker-training-your-dog-mark-and-reward/>). Commit to a consistent training regimen so that desirable behaviors are reinforced and negative ones are discouraged. Work with a trainer if you are still struggling with Petey after a few weeks.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* More people from nudist colonies play volleyball than any other sport.

* New York's Girl Scout Troop 6000, whose entire membership is homeless or living in shelters, has sold more than \$1.6 million worth of Girl Scout cookies since 2017, earning not just national recognition, but money to benefit about 2,500 women and girls in more than 20 shelters throughout the greater New York area.

* Competitive trash collecting is a sport in Japan.

* Just in time for global warming, scientists have developed a paint that reflects the sun's rays, potentially reducing the need for air conditioning by up to 40%.

* The oldest known photograph, taken by French photographer Nicephore Niepce in 1826, took eight hours to expose.

* In 5th-century Greece, handshakes were done to make sure that the other person wasn't carrying a hidden weapon. The hand clasp proved that your hand was empty, and shaking it was meant to "shake out" any weapons hiding in the sleeve.

* Farm-raised salmon are fed carotenoids to give their flesh its trademark pink color.

* If a woodpecker goes too long without food, it will pin down other birds and peck at their heads until it can eat their brains.

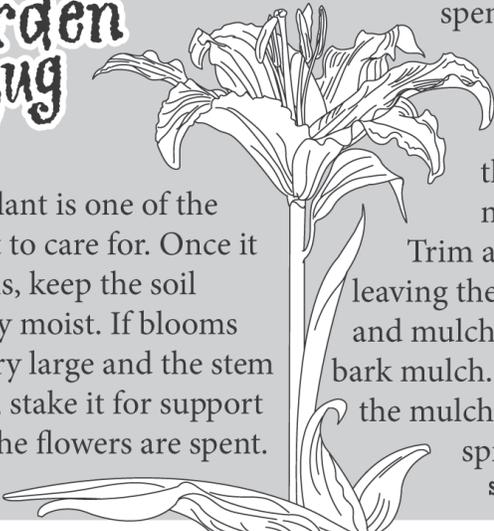
* Holy flipping flapjacks! In 2012, Brad Jolly of Australia set the Guinness World Record for the most tosses of a pancake, with an astonishing 140 flips a minute.

Thought for the Day: "Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and the life to come." -- Henri Nouwen

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The Garden Bug

Oriental Lilies



In autumn, cut off any spent flowers and stalks, but allow the leaves to stay until they yellow and die; this fuels the bulb for next year's blooming. Trim away any growth left, leaving the bulb in the ground, and mulch over it with organic bark mulch. In spring, pull away the mulch when you see green sprouts. - Brenda Weaver

This plant is one of the easiest to care for. Once it blooms, keep the soil slightly moist. If blooms are very large and the stem bends, stake it for support until the flowers are spent.

Source: gardeningknowhow.com



by Freddy Groves

VA Computer Glitches, Still

The problem was worse than we thought. It wasn't only 32,000 veteran uploads to VA.gov that were caught in a "dead zone" glitch since 2018 with claims left unprocessed. It was an additional 57,000 since 2011.

This newly revealed problem concerned 56,000 veterans who needed to update the number of their dependents -- revealed, because it was actually unearthed in 2021.

Consider that problem: Whether a veteran is adding or subtracting a dependent, it changes the monthly disability benefit amount. Yes, those veterans who tried to add one or more dependents will get that back-dated money eventually. But what of a veteran who tried to do the right thing and subtract a dependent? Will the Department of Veterans Affairs want that money back?

An additional nearly 1,000 glitches concerned veterans who tried to appeal a decision about their disability benefits. Apparently, when they tried to get the notice of disagreement online, nothing happened.

And now the VA is taking a close look at the whole system. They're doing what they call a "full review" to make sure everything is working correctly. Part of this will be to watch the system carefully.

Which begs the obvious question: Why are they just now realizing that a computer system needs to be watched? The VA holds the lives of thousands of veterans (and their families) in their hands. It's infuriating to think that so many errors were allowed to happen over so many years and that no one stopped to consider that maybe they needed to investigate, or add software to monitor things, or pay attention to the phone calls from veterans when expected additional benefit money did not appear, or notice when there were changes in how veterans seemed to be using (or not using) the online functions.

Meanwhile, on the VA.gov website, the information for changing the number of dependents has this: "Question ... Can I file by mail? Answer ... Yes, but we encourage you to file online." But can the online process be trusted?

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Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. GEOGRAPHY: Which European city has almost 2,500 bridges?
2. MOVIES: How many infinity stones exist in "Avengers: End Game"?
3. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many digits do pandas have on each hand?
4. AD SLOGANS: Which car manufacturer used the ad slogan, "Life is a journey. Enjoy the ride"?
5. LITERATURE: What is Hogwarts' motto in the "Harry Potter" book series?
6. TELEVISION: Which show spawned the spinoff TV comedy "Laverne & Shirley"?
7. SCIENCE: How long is an eon?
8. MUSIC: What is the name of the band that John Lennon, George Harrison and Paul McCartney were in before The Beatles formed?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What does the Apgar score measure?
10. U.S. STATES: Which state has an active volcano named Mount St. Helens?

Answers

1. Hamburg, Germany.
2. Six.
3. Six — five fingers and an opposable pseudo thumb.
4. Nissan.
5. "Never Tickle a Sleeping Dragon."
6. "Happy Days."
7. 1 billion years.
8. The Quarrymen.
9. The health of newborns.
10. Washington.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Shall Not be Infringed

South Dakota has been setting the standard as the most Second-Amendment-friendly state in the nation for years. We embrace liberty and personal responsibility. We know that our Founding Fathers created a government that recognizes our God-given rights – including the right to defend ourselves, our families, and our Freedoms.

Unfortunately, not everyone respects the Second Amendment rights of every American.

Recently, New Mexico's Democratic Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham issued an emergency order suspending the right to carry guns in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County for at least 30 days.

Lujan Grisham classified this ban on Second Amendment rights as an emergency public health order, connecting it to a threshold for violent crimes that was only met by the Albuquerque area. This ban applied to both open and concealed carry in almost every public place. Violating the ban would result in civil penalties and up to a \$5,000 fine.

This is tyrannical and unconstitutional – and a federal judge agrees. A U.S. District Judge blocked the part of the public health order that violates the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

When politicians overstep their authority in a time of crisis, that is how we lose our country. And that is exactly what happened in New Mexico. If our nation follows suit, we will lose the rights and the Freedoms that our Founding Fathers fought and died for.

Unlike too many other states, South Dakota is a sanctuary for Second Amendment rights. In fact, the very first bill that I signed into law as Governor guarantees Constitutional Carry for all law-abiding South Dakotans. We made South Dakota the first state to not charge a fee for a concealed carry permit, and we strengthened our "Stand Your Ground" laws. We even have legislation that prevents exactly what Lujan Grisham tried to do in New Mexico. In South Dakota, state and local governments cannot use an emergency declaration as an excuse to infringe on Second Amendment rights.

In April, I signed an Executive Order onstage at the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action Leadership Forum. That Executive Order protects South Dakota's Second Amendment rights from being infringed upon by financial institutions. The EO blocked state agencies from contracting with large banks that engage in discrimination against firearm-related industries.

The United States Constitution may not always use plain language, but it is pretty straightforward when it comes to our right to defend ourselves. "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

The Second Amendment could not be any clearer.

In Federalist Paper 46, James Madison writes, "ultimate authority, wherever the derivative may be found, resides in the people alone." This is phrased a bit simpler in our state's motto: "Under God, the People Rule." It's time for liberal politicians to realize that their actions are not only unconstitutional, but they take away the ultimate authority of the people, which our founders outlined so clearly.

Unlike Governor Lujan Grisham, South Dakota respects our God-given rights – the rights that our Founding Fathers risked their lives to ensure. And if anyone wants to make the move to a state that values you, your way of life, and your Freedom, South Dakota is the state for you.

In South Dakota, the God-given right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



The Biden Agenda Misses the Mark (Again)

Pheasant season. Deer season. Turkey season. There's plenty of opportunities in South Dakota to get outdoors and partake in our state's hunting tradition. Hunting is a part of our way of life, our traditions, and our economy. South Dakotans know that, but the Biden administration has once again proved itself to be wildly out of touch with reality in rural America. Case in point, the Biden administration's latest instance of overreach by denying federal funding for school hunting and archery education programs.

Last year, the president signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act into law. I opposed this bill for several reasons. Among them was a concern about how the Biden administration would implement the bill to advance its far-left agenda. This concern proved to be well-founded when the administration interpreted a straightforward provision, which mentions neither archery nor hunting, to block funding for archery and hunting education programs, something it was never intended to do.

Hunting and archery programs enrich our cherished hunting tradition and add value to students' educations in South Dakota and across the country. The National Archery in the Schools Program is in nearly 9,000 schools in 49 states. It provides 1.3 million students the opportunity to experience archery and its benefits, sometimes for the first time. Nine in 10 students pursue or want to pursue other outdoor activities because of the program.

Hunting programs, like South Dakota's HuntSAFE for Schools program, have similarly positive results. HuntSAFE uses nonfunctional guns to teach kids about hunting with "an emphasis on firearm safety and responsibility." Learning to safely handle firearms decreases firearm-related injuries and accidents, and hunting education programs have contributed to a steep decline in hunting accidents.

I'm at a loss to explain why the Biden administration would seek to deny federal funding to these programs. Funding programs like these seems like a good thing to do to promote safer communities. Schools should have the choice of spending their federal funding on programs that unquestionably meet the goal of helping to offer students a well-rounded educational experience. Unfortunately, there are already reports of schools canceling plans for these programs in their curricula as a result of this policy.

To ensure students are able to access the benefits of archery and hunting programs in their school, I've joined several of my Senate colleagues in urging the Biden administration to reverse its decision. I've also introduced legislation that would prevent this prohibition from going into effect and to clarify that federal funding can support sports clubs, teams, trainings, and other curricular and extracurricular programs for students.

Hunting is an institution in rural communities. Growing up in Murdo, my dad taught my siblings and me how to bag roosters. Hunting taught us about patience and perseverance. And it taught us to appreciate the land and the importance of safety when handling firearms. I cherish those memories, and I keep up the family tradition with my siblings and sons-in-law. I'm not surprised the Biden administration doesn't quite understand how we do things in South Dakota, but I wish they would stop interfering with our way of life. I'll continue fighting against the Biden administration's overreach to protect the rights of individuals and, in this case, local communities.

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



The Big Three

I'm revamping the Weekly Column to give you a greater look at what's happening in Washington, D.C. This is the first edition of The Big Three, where I'll share a BIG update of what's on my mind, a BIG idea from a meeting I had, and BIG news about the hot topic in D.C. This week was full of BIG headlines, so I'll try to keep it short.

BIG Update

House Republicans spent the week fighting the Left's attempts to mandate all new cars be electric vehicles. We successfully passed the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act to stop California and President Biden from deciding what vehicles you may and may not drive. A fully electric vehicle fleet is not sustainable, not practical, and not affordable.

BIG Idea

This week, I met with the South Dakota Auto Dealers Association. We talked about catalytic converter theft, harmful Environmental Protection Agency attempts to mandate electric vehicles, and record-high used car prices. SDADA's big idea is to add a VIN or serial number to every catalytic converter. It only costs \$2 to add compared to \$1,200 for a new catalytic converter.

BIG News

Talks in Washington, D.C. were centered around the impeachment inquiry and the spending bills to fund the government. As we barrel toward the September 30 government funding deadline, we face the possibility of a government shutdown. The stakes are high, and Republicans and Democrats are hitting major roadblocks during negotiations.

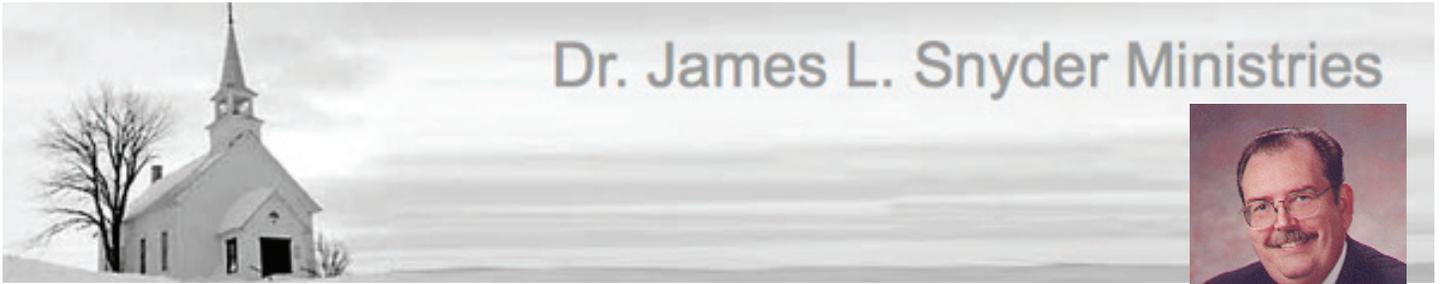
I've been fighting to keep the lights on, but not without measures in the funding package to secure the border. The situation at the border is getting worse, and it's affecting communities across America. New York City begged the New York Governor to bus migrants out of the city. Massachusetts recently declared a state of emergency and requested funding for help due to migrant families. President Biden's open border policies need to be reversed.

Ensuring border security is in the funding package isn't the only thing I'm prioritizing—we need to cut spending. Congress's runaway spending under Democratic leadership has piled up our debt. We cannot continue to spend into oblivion. Budget cuts must be made.

I'm working do all three: cut spending, secure the border, and keep the government open. Congress needs to act.

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Oh, Memory, How I Miss Thee

Driving home from a luncheon with friends, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage asked me a stunning question.

She is a specialist regarding questions I can't answer. I am trying to evade her questions and have been very good up until now.

"Did that story you told really happened?" She glanced at me with one of her quizzical looks.

Because I told several stories at lunchtime, I was wondering which one she was referring to. To the best of my knowledge, everything I say is true. Of course, people have different views of truth.

"Which story are you referring to, my dear?"

My plan has always been to deflect the attention away from the real question.

"You know. The one about the chicken attacking you."

Since I told quite a few stories, I couldn't remember that one exactly. My memory has a problem with really staying focused. I can tell one story one time and tell it again, and it is pretty different. If you heard both, you would know they were the same story.

It's not that I lie. I have a creative attitude and imagination with the stories I tell.

It's not the story I'm telling but rather the point I'm trying to convey.

"Well, my dear, if I told it, it must true because I do not lie except when I go to bed." But I smiled at her and nodded in a very affirmative way.

She didn't think that was funny and said so.

"Well," she said very seriously, "I've heard you tell that story at least six times and each time it's different. What do you have to say about that?"

Looking at her rather soberly, I said, "The only thing I can think of is that they were six different stories."

That is one of the astounding things about memory. If it's my memory, I should be able to tell it how I want to. After all, I can't remember back that far in my life. And, to tell the truth, it may not have happened at all. Who knows?

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That is why if I tell any story, it is one before I met The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. All during our marriage, she has been very faithful in correcting the stories I tell while I'm telling them. At least those stories that happened while we were together.

That is the challenge I have just about every day of my life. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has a flawless memory. Don't let her know I said this, but I suspect she remembers things that never happened. But with my flawed memory, there's no way I could correct that.

She knows everything that has ever happened since the day we first met. If only I had half of her memory skills. [Sigh!]

I learned this long ago, so if I tell a story, it was before I met Miss Know-It-All. Then, I can tell it according to my memory, which is somewhat flawed.

One of the blessings of a flawed memory is that I can tell a story that happened way back half a dozen times, and nobody would know it. Most of the time, I don't know it.

A long time ago, I accepted that I should not try to correct a story whenever she tells it.

Once, and only once, I thought I would agitate her, and as she told a story, I would correct it.

"No, my dear, it wasn't on a Tuesday, it was on a Friday."

On and on I went until I could see behind those beautiful eyes of her and growing agitation; that was a warning sign for me to SHUT UP. And UP, I SHUT.

On our way home that time, we had a long discussion. It was not a discussion; it was a monologue of what she thought about me correcting her when she was absolutely right about everything.

Common sense told me not to do that again. I think about it occasionally and can't help but chuckle. I want to do that one more time just before my funeral.

If I had her impeccable memory, my life would be so dull. I often change the memories that I do remember because nobody would know the difference, and I'm having fun.

Long ago, I stopped telling stories after I met The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage because one slip up there will have a lifetime consequence.

I was sitting in my easy-chair with a hot cup of Joe reflecting on these things. I thought of what Solomon said about memory. "Blessings are upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked. The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot" (Proverbs 10:6-7).

Then I was reminded of what Peter said. "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it" (1 Peter 3:10-11).

Memory can be a tricky thing for many, especially me. I'm trying to process Peter's warning here to "refrain my tongue from evil, and my lips that they speak no guile." If I'm honest with myself I must be honest with everyone else. Also what Solomon said, "The memory of the just is blessed" is important.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What's the kerfuffle over uranium mining near the Grand Canyon?

-- P.L.K., via e-mail

Since the 1950s when uranium was discovered below the desert in the Grand Canyon region of Arizona, land managers, resource extractors, environmentalists and locals have debated the ecological impacts of mining this heavy metal that serves as an abundant source of concentrated energy for nuclear power plants and other applications. The Grand Canyon is a World Heritage Site and a protected national park; worries that uranium mining in the area could harm the environment and the park's natural resources are central to the debate. Meanwhile, uranium mining in the region poses a serious threat to the native people like the Havasupai who have called the Grand Canyon home for centuries.

In 2012, the Havasupai worked with then President Barack Obama for a 20-year moratorium on uranium mining in the region because the mining could threaten the tribe's only water source, Havasu Creek. The harmful tailings from the mining, loaded with heavy metals, could contaminate the creek, rendering the water non-potable. Operations would also endanger sacred and cultural sites. And so, the danger to the Havasupai land seemed to be diverted.

But the can was only kicked further down the road: As climate change continues to rage on, interest in nuclear energy has resurfaced, and mining companies have started nosing around the Grand Canyon region again, this time just outside of the national park where uranium reserves are reportedly abundant without the red tape of being on federally protected land.

Furthermore, mining companies say they can go about their business with minimal impact given the advent of better mining technology. Energy Fuels Resources, the company that owns the only claim in the Grand Canyon area, says they can operate without affecting the groundwater, and that they are just as dedicated to preserving the land as everyone else. Local Arizonians also support the mining, with local officials preaching about the stimulating effect the operation would have on the local economy.

However, the miners have been faced with some pushback by Democrats and the White House. The land surrounding the Canyon makes up less than two percent of uranium reserves in the U.S., so why not look elsewhere? President Biden took executive action on the issue, using the Antiquities Act to create the "Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni—Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument," a massive 900,000 acre preserve to federally protect the lands of tribes like the Havasupai. And although it won't completely shut down all mining operations outside the Canyon—claims to nearby Pinyon Plain have been affirmed by the federal courts—the monument does stand as a victory for native tribes in the region. It appears that the native people have struck gold in protecting their culture and identity for the near future..



The Havasupai tribe worries that allowing uranium mining outside the Grand Canyon will destroy their water supply. Credit: Roddy Scheer



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

COMMENTARY

So this is what passes for 'unity' in the Trump era

Can you imagine Democrats booing their delegation in 2004?

by DANA HESS ~ SEPTEMBER 16, 2023 2:00 PM

There was a time in 2004 when South Dakota Democrats had plenty to celebrate. This was back in the days before South Dakota politics was awash in red. It was likely even before the days when anyone would characterize states as red or blue. On the national level, there was a short time when South Dakota Democrats were kind of a big deal.

In June of 2004, Stephanie Herseth Sandlin won a special election to serve out the remaining U.S. House term of Bill Janklow. In November of that year, Sen. Tom Daschle's reelection efforts would be upset by John Thune. But for a few months, Herseth Sandlin, Daschle and Sen. Tim Johnson provided South Dakota with a fully Democratic congressional delegation.

Imagine, at some time between June and November, a statewide gathering of Democrats to celebrate their congressional trifecta. Imagine bad weather or the press of work keeping the Democratic delegation from attending the fictional celebration in South Dakota. In their place, their photo is shown to the celebrants. Technology in 2004, as well Democratic Party finances, dictate that we imagine the photos are displayed by an overhead projector.

Imagine the three smiling faces ready to work for South Dakotans and strive against the conservative policies of President George W. Bush. Now, since the congressional delegation failed to show up, when their photo is shown to those in attendance, imagine them booing.

While our scenario is fictional, a similar situation took place this month when Donald Trump headlined what was billed as a Republican Party unity rally in Rapid City. When photos of Sens. Thune, Mike Rounds and Rep. Dusty Johnson were shown to 7,000 party faithful, they booed. Gov. Kristi Noem, without naming names, called out Republicans who didn't make the trip to Rapid City to pay homage to Trump, who has a substantial lead in Republican primary polling.

The three had been present in 2020 when Noem hosted then-President Trump for a Fourth of July celebration at Mount Rushmore. It's one thing, however, to honor President Trump and quite another to show support for candidate Trump. For Noem, that was a distinction without a difference.

"They didn't even show up tonight to welcome a former president of the United States to South Dakota," Noem was quoted in a South Dakota Searchlight story, without bothering to name those who didn't show up.

Despite the crowd reaction to their failure to bend the knee to Trump, South Dakota's Republican congressional delegation really had no choice but to hastily arrange some scheduling conflicts that would keep them way from Rapid City and the man who leads the league in indictments.

Rounds and Thune have thrown their support in the Republican primary to the long shot candidacy of South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott. If they had been at the Rapid City event, some people, like me, would have been quick to point out the hypocrisy of backing one candidate while seeming to curry favor with another.

Dusty Johnson has vowed not to endorse a presidential candidate during the primary. His presence in Rapid City would have been a tacit, if silent, endorsement of Trump. A situation that some people, probably me, would be quick to point out.

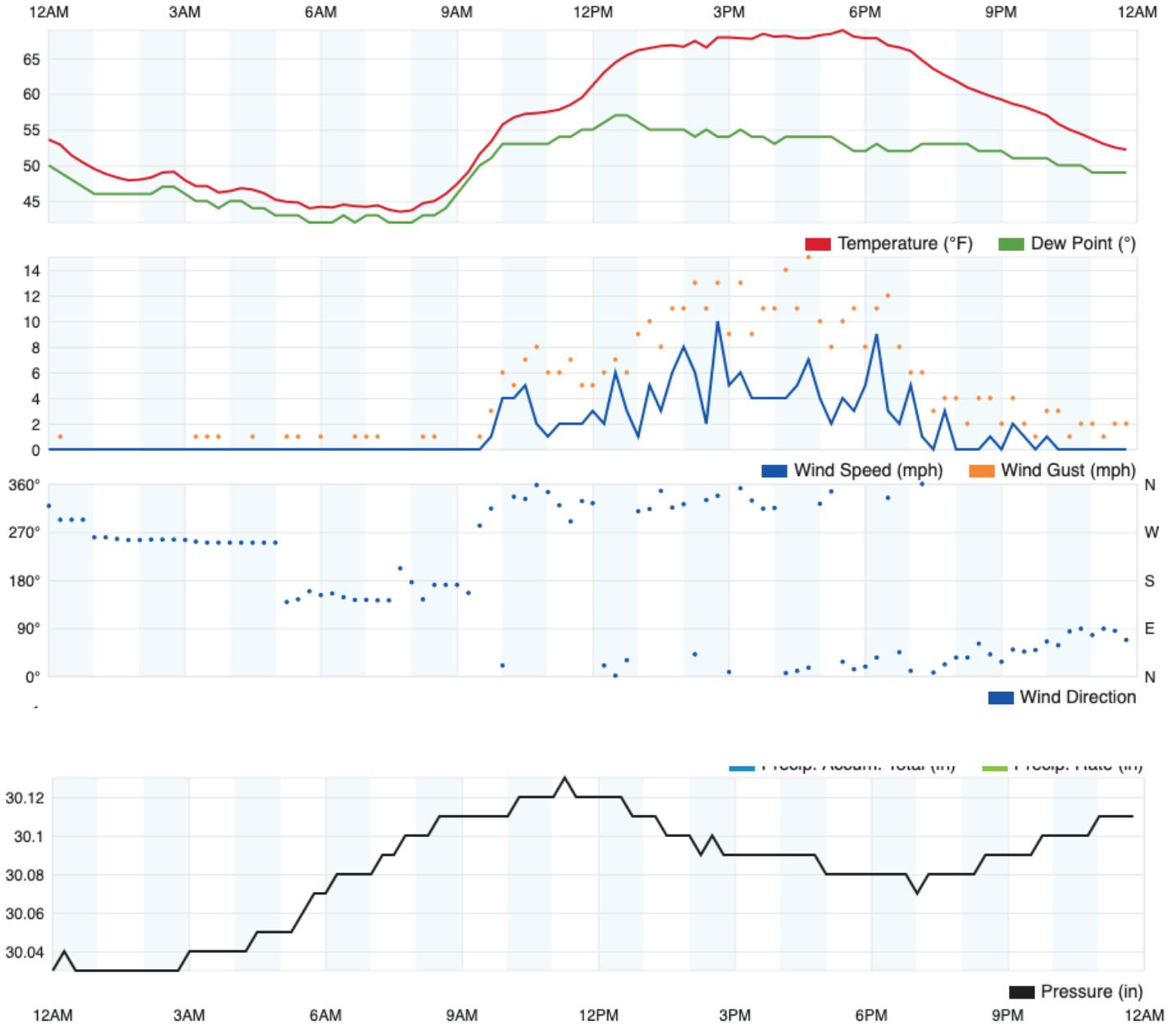
Maybe the catcalls aimed at the delegation will just be so much hot air. However, despite their good reasons for staying away from the rally and Trump, it's likely that Rounds, Thune and Johnson could pay some sort of political price for their absence. There's no way to imagine that qualifies as party unity.

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

Groton Daily Independent

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Patched Fog then Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers
High: 73 °F	Low: 50 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 79 °F

Dry and warmer

Today

Morning Fog
Mostly Sunny
Smoke - Central SD

Highs: 70-83°

Monday

Sun/Clouds & Warmer

Highs: 77-88°

Tonight

Clear to Partly Cloudy

Lows: 47 to 51°

Maximum Temperature Forecast

	9/19	9/20	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24	Maximum
	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
Aberdeen	86	80	76	73	71	67	86
Britton	84	78	78	71	69	66	84
Brookings	85	81	81	76	71	69	85
Chamberlain	91	85	80	76	71	69	91
Clark	83	80	79	73	69	66	83
Eagle Butte	84	76	71	70	67	64	84
Ellendale	83	78	73	70	69	65	83
Eureka	84	76	70	69	67	64	84
Gettysburg	86	78	72	71	64	64	86
Huron	89	84	80	77	73	70	89
Kennebec	90	83	78	73	70	67	90
McIntosh	80	73	71	66	65	62	80
Milbank	86	81	81	76	72	69	86
Miller	87	79	76	71	69	66	87
Mobridge	86	78	73	72	69	66	86
Murdo	89	81	77	72	69	66	89
Pierre	92	83	78	75	72	65	92
Redfield	86	81	77	73	71	67	86
Sisseton	85	78	79	73	70	68	85
Watertown	85	78	81	75	71	69	85
Webster	81	76	77	71	68	65	81
Wheaton	83	79	80	75	71	68	83



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Patchy to areas of fog continue early this morning before clearing out by mid morning or so. High pressure overhead continues to keep the area dry, however, wildfire smoke will still be an issue for today, mainly from north-central to south-central SD. This becomes less of an issue tonight into Monday. Quite the warmup expected Monday as highs will be about 10 degrees above average, ranging in the 80s with a few 90° not out of the question. Warmer than average temps continue into Tuesday.

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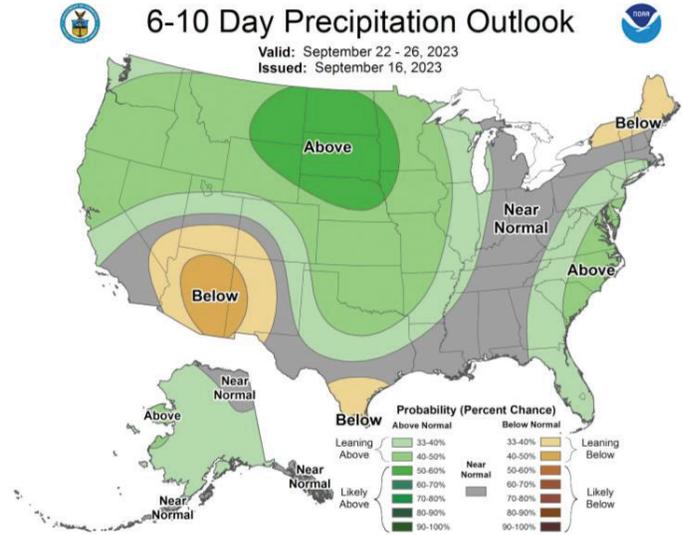
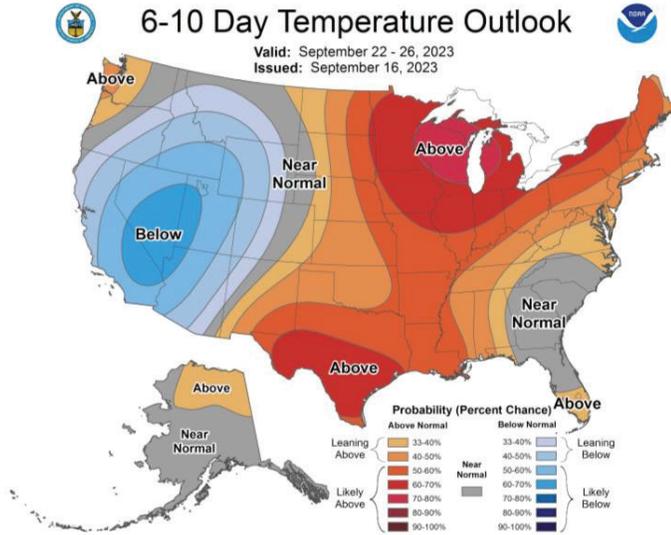


Temperature & Precipitation Outlook

September 17, 2023

4:09 AM

September 22-26



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

September 22-26: The probability of above average temperatures range from 40-70%, with the highest percentage/confidence over extreme eastern SD into western MN. However, much higher confidence in above average precipitation as probabilities range from 70-80%!

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 69 °F at 5:23 PM

Low Temp: 43 °F at 7:46 AM

Wind: 15 mph at 1:19 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 21 hours, 29 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 97 in 1955

Record Low: 28 in 1903

Average High: 75

Average Low: 46

Average Precip in Sept.: 1.14

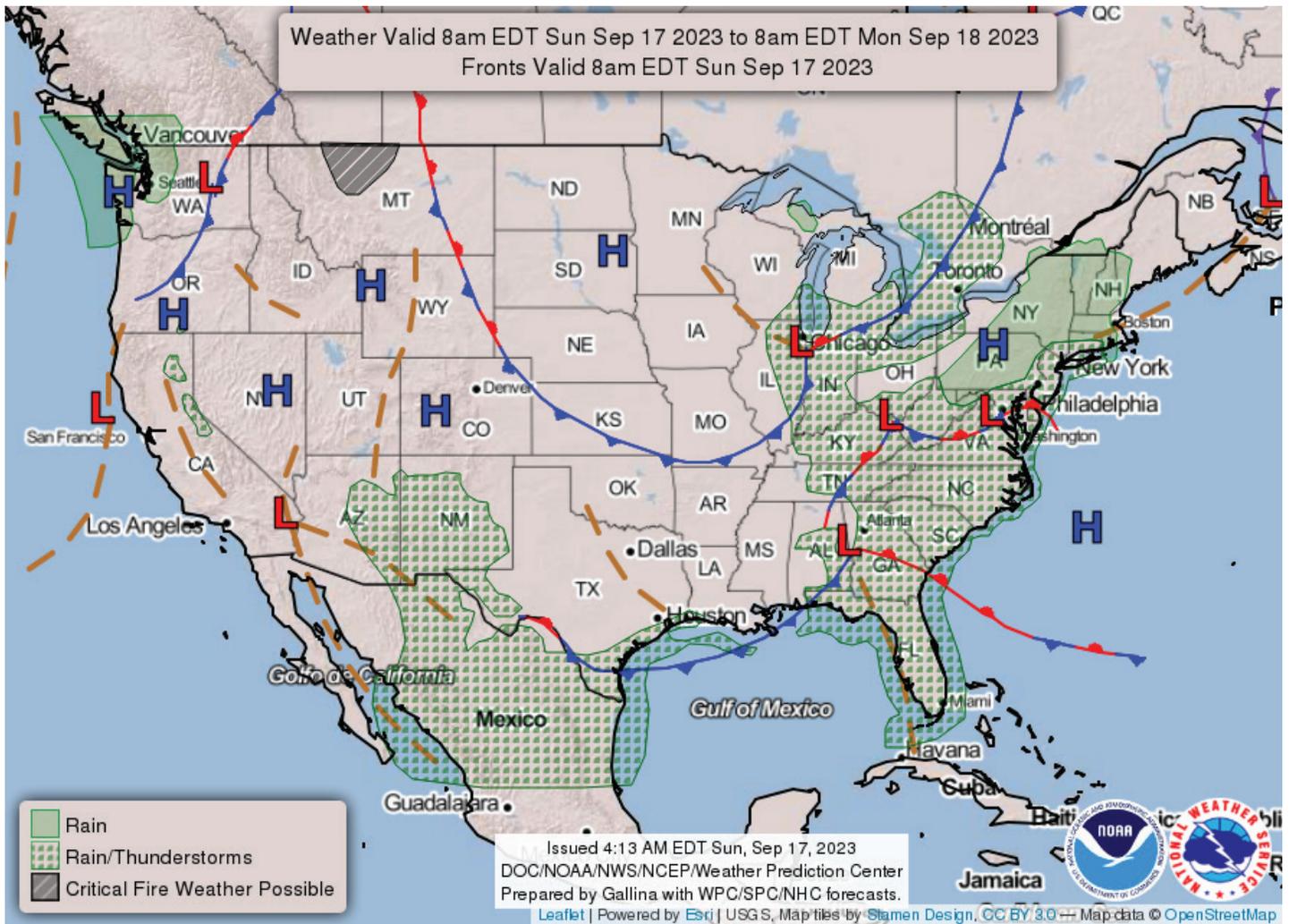
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.57

Average Precip to date: 17.48

Precip Year to Date: 19.16

Sunset Tonight: 7:41:50 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:13:08 AM



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Today in Weather History

September 17, 1911: Pipestone, Minnesota is hit with baseball-sized hail that smashes numerous windows at the Calumet Hotel and high school. The local observer measured hail three inches deep. Click [HERE](#) for an image of the Pipestone school following the hailstorm.

September 17, 1969: In the late afternoon 16 miles east of Pierre in Hughes County, 60 mph wind-driven penny size hail-damaged crops and buildings in the area. Unofficial amounts of 5 to 6 inches of rain also occurred with the storms.

September 17, 1975: Heavy rain and hail fell in the Pierre area during the night flooding streets and some basements. The high winds downed power lines. The damage estimate was more than 100,000 dollars.

September 17, 1975: Lightning started a grass fire in western Stanley County in the early morning hours of the 17th. With the arid and windy conditions, the fire quickly spread and consumed 25,000 acres of grassland before it was under control. Smoke from the fire was seen from 40 miles away. The fire also destroyed six outbuildings and an old unoccupied farmhouse. Some roads had to be closed due to the fire and smoke. Several electrical poles were also burned. Many residents were notified of possible evacuations. The fire was finally put out in the early morning hours of the 18th.

1881 - Iowa's earliest measurable snow of record fell over western sections of the state. Four to six inches was reported between Stuart and Avoca. (The Weather Channel)

1829: A typhoon, Japan's most catastrophic storm, inflicts widespread damage over much of the country. On the southern island of Kyushu, the storm surge off the Ariake Sea kills over 10,000. The German physician Philipp Franz von Siebold was present during this storm and succeeded in taking barometric pressure readings around Nagasaki at the risk of drowning.

1923: A devastating fire threatens the University of California at Berkeley on this day. This fire killed two and caused \$10 million in damages. While the exact cause is unknown, the fire began in the dry forest northeast of Berkeley. Strong northeasterly winds blew cinders into the air which lead to the rapid-fire growth.

1928 - Hurricane San Felipe, a monster hurricane, which left 600 dead in Guadeloupe, and 300 dead in Puerto Rico, struck West Palm Beach FL causing enormous damage, and then headed for Lake Okeechobee. When the storm was over, the lake covered an area the size of the state of Delaware, and beneath its waters were 2000 victims. The only survivors were those who reached large hotels for safety, and a group of fifty people who got onto a raft to take their chances out in the middle of the lake. (David Ludlum)

1984 - The remains of Tropical Storm Edourd began to produce torrential rains in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Port Isabel reported more than 21 inches. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Overnight rains soaked Arkansas, with 5.25 inches reported at Bismarck. In the town of Malvern, up to four feet of water was reported over several downtown streets, with water entering some homes and businesses. Thunderstorms in Texas drenched Lufkin with 4.30 inches of rain in just three hours. Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Missouri. A small tornado near Kirksville lifted a barn thirty feet into the air and then demolished it. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989: Hurricane Hugo hit the Virgin Islands, producing wind gusts to 97 mph at Saint Croix. Hurricane Hugo passed directly over the island of Saint Croix causing complete devastation and essentially cutting off the island from communications. A storm surge of five to seven feet occurred at Saint Croix. The only rain gauge left operating, at Caneel Bay, indicated 9.40 inches in 24 hours. Hurricane Hugo claimed the lives of three persons at Saint Croix and caused more than 500 million dollars damage.

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms, representing what remained of Hurricane Octave, brought locally heavy rains to California, impeding the drying process for raisins and other crops. Sacramento CA was soaked with 1.53 inches of rain in six hours. At Phoenix AZ, the afternoon high of 107 degrees marked a record seventy-six days with afternoon highs 105 degrees or above. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2004: The remnants of Hurricane Ivan submerged Pittsburgh in 5.95 inches of rain in one day. That is the most rainfall Pittsburgh has seen in a 24-hour period since records began in 1876.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

TRYING TO FIND ME

A telephone salesman called a home and a small child answered the phone just above a whisper. "Hello," he said.

"Is your mother in?" asked the salesman.

"Yes," he said in a hushed voice. "But she's busy."

"Well," the salesman continued, "is your father home?"

"Yes," came the quiet reply. "But he's busy too."

Wondering what was going on the salesman asked, "Well, what are they doing?"

"Looking for me," whispered the child. "I broke my mom's favorite vase and I'm hiding."

Hiding is the natural thing to do when we've done something we think is wrong. It has a long heritage going back to the Garden of Eden when Adam said to God, "I heard you, so I hid." Facing the Lord is not pleasant even though we know that He loves us and will willingly forgive us if we ask.

Often, when we are guilty of being disobedient or knowingly commit a sin, we fear to approach Him. But that is the time we need Him the most. We need to remember that He does not want to hurt us but to heal us. He is anxious to forgive us, restore our relationship with Him, and grant us His pardon and peace. "If we confess, He is faithful and just to forgive." But, we must ask!

Prayer: We know, Heavenly Father, that we do what is unacceptable to You when we sin. May we be swift to confess and repent and forsake what we know is wrong. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John 1:9



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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The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.15.23

5 13 29 50 53 25

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$183,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.16.23

23 30 34 40 41 3

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$2,150,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.16.23

8 20 32 38 43 18

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 10 Mins 9 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.16.23

5 12 19 28 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$46,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.16.23

10 27 30 43 47 6

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.16.23

8 11 19 24 46 5

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$638,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the Associated Press

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Hill City def. Jones County, 25-14, 25-15, 25-13
Mitchell def. Yankton, 25-15, 12-25, 25-23, 25-23
Pierre T F Riggs High School def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-22, 25-17, 9-25, 17-25, 15-7
Rapid City Christian def. Red Cloud, 25-14, 25-15, 25-6
Sioux Falls Jefferson def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-12, 25-18, 25-9
Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Brookings, 25-18, 25-6, 25-20
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Rapid City Central, 25-14, 25-13, 25-11
Big Dakota Conference Tournament=
Miller def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-11, 25-12
Miller def. McLaughlin, 25-11, 25-8
Miller def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-19, 25-16
Miller def. Winner, 25-19, 25-22
Mobridge-Pollock def. Chamberlain, 25-4, 25-9
Mobridge-Pollock def. Crow Creek Tribal School, 25-11, 25-2
Mobridge-Pollock def. Winner, 25-13, 25-18
Bon Homme Invitational=
Alcester-Hudson def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-16, 25-14
Alcester-Hudson def. Vermillion, 25-7, 25-17
Avon def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-16, 15-25, 25-17
Avon def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-18, 25-16
Northwestern def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-14, 25-18
Northwestern def. Beresford, 25-12, 25-15
Northwestern def. Bon Homme, 25-22, 25-27, 25-17
Northwestern def. Gregory, 25-15, 25-15
Parkston def. Avon, 25-16, 20-25, 25-16
Platte-Geddes def. Northwestern, 26-24, 25-14
Vermillion def. Avon, 27-25, 17-25, 25-14
Bridgewater-Emery Tourney=
Bridgewater-Emery def. Ethan, 25-20, 30-28
Bridgewater-Emery def. Howard, 25-23, 25-20
Bridgewater-Emery def. Menno, 25-17, 25-20
Canistota def. Freeman, 25-23, 14-25, 25-17
Canistota def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-8, 25-17
Ethan def. Canistota, 25-23, 25-14
Menno def. Howard, 26-24, 25-11
Hamlin invitational=
Castlewood def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-12, 25-13
Florence/Henry def. Groton Area, 13-25, 25-19, 25-23
Groton Area def. Castlewood, 25-21, 29-27
Groton Area def. Colman-Egan, 25-16, 25-23
Hamlin Invitational=
Colman-Egan def. Castlewood, 26-24, 25-22
Groton Area def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-12, 25-15

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Ipswich Tourney=
Herreid/Selby Area def. Ipswich, 26-24, 25-22
Herreid/Selby Area def. Lemmon High School, 25-15, 25-8
Milbank def. Lemmon High School, 25-20, 20-16
Lake Preston Invitational=
Estelline/Hendricks def. Sioux Valley, 25-19, 25-23
Estelline/Hendricks def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-5, 25-19
Sioux Valley def. Arlington, 25-22, 25-20
Sioux Valley def. Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op, 25-20, 25-20

PREP FOOTBALL

Aberdeen Central 21, Mitchell 6
Crazy Horse 26, Marty Indian 10
Great Plains Lutheran 44, Sunshine Bible Academy 16
Hot Springs 31, St. Thomas More 7
Rapid City Christian 25, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 0
Todd County 42, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 12
Winnebago, Neb. 50, St. Francis Indian 6
Winner 52, Lead-Deadwood 0

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

South Dakota State beats Drake 70-7 at Target Field, home of the Minnesota Twins

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Mark Gronowski had a career-high six touchdowns, five passing and one rushing, to help defending FCS champion South Dakota State beat Drake 70-7 on Saturday at Target Field, home of the Minnesota Twins.

South Dakota State (3-0) extended its winning streak to 17 in its final nonconference matchup of the regular season. The SDSU-Drake matchup marked the third college football game played at Target Field since in 2010.

After Drake scored on the opening drive, South Dakota State closed the first half with 35 unanswered points for a 28-point lead. Gronowski completed 15-of-20 passes in the first half for 203 yards and four touchdowns. Isaiah Davis, Zach Heins, Griffin Wilde and Kevin Brenner each had a touchdown grab in the first half.

Jaxon Janke finished with seven catches for 85 yards and a touchdown for South Dakota State. Angel Johnson rushed for 90 yards and two touchdowns, including a 66-yarder.

Luke Bailey threw for 201 yards and one touchdown for Drake (0-3). Colin Howard had three grabs for 103 yards and a score.

The Bulldogs faced another Missouri Valley Football Conference opponent, North Dakota, in their season opener, falling 55-7. Then Drake dropped a 27-24 overtime decision to defending NAIA national champion Northwestern (Iowa) last weekend.

___ AP college football: <https://apnews.com/hub/college-football> and <https://apnews.com/hub/ap-top-25-college-football-poll>

Thomas, Theis each score 2 TDs as South Dakota runs past Lamar 35-6

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Nate Thomas ran for 164 yards and two touchdowns and Travis Theis carried for 120 yards and two more touchdowns as South Dakota ran past Lamar, 35-6 on Saturday.

Lamar (0-3) took a 6-0 lead in the second quarter on a pair of 26-yard field goals by Chris Esqueda and turned the ball over deep in South Dakota territory twice.

Theis capped a 13-play, 75-yard drive by scoring on a 2-yard run with 2:14 left in the half to send the Coyotes (2-1) into intermission with a 7-6 advantage. Theis added a 32-yard scoring run in the fourth quarter and Thomas scored on two short runs in the second half. The pair combined for 35 carries. Aidan Bouman completed 7 of 9 passes for 96 yards and a touchdown to JJ Galbreath, but was picked off once.

Robert Coleman was 13 of 23 for 119 yards for Lamar and threw one of the Cardinals' two interceptions.

AP college football: <https://apnews.com/hub/college-football> and <https://apnews.com/hub/ap-top-25-college-football-poll>

Texas AG Ken Paxton is back on job after acquittal but Republicans aren't done attacking each other

By PAUL J. WEBER and JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Newly acquitted of impeachment charges, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is back on the job and getting back to the usual.

Promises to keep dragging the Biden administration into court. Support from former President Donald Trump. And coming soon, a sit-down with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson.

As Paxton on Sunday begins his first full day back in office after winning acquittal in the Texas Senate over accusations of corruption and bribery, the Republican is quickly resuming what has long helped make him one of the most resilient political figures in the U.S. despite years of criminal charges and alleged scandal.

At the same time, the verdict is inflaming rifts within the GOP surrounding his impeachment in the first place.

The fallout in the Texas Capitol is likely only beginning and threatens to spill into the 2024 elections, when conservative allies of the Trump-backed attorney general say they will target Republican legislators who led the investigation against Paxton.

Even the very act of impeachment in Texas could get a second look after Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presided over the trial, called for new guardrails in a fiery speech questioning how the case made it this far.

On the other side are Republicans in the Texas House, where Paxton was overwhelmingly impeached and suspended from office in May. Its members bristled at Saturday's verdict and the criticism leveled by the lieutenant governor.

"The inescapable conclusion is that today's outcome appears to have been orchestrated from the start, cheating the people of Texas of justice," Republican House Speaker Dade Phelan said.

Paxton, 60, was absent for most of the trial and was not in the Senate for his acquittal on 16 articles of impeachment. He issued a statement blasting his impeachment as the work of a "kangaroo court" and promoted an interview he plans to give this week with Carlson.

"I've said many times: Seek the truth! And that is what was accomplished," Paxton said.

The trial was a showcase of sober testimony and occasional spectacle. In accusing Paxton of abusing his office, former advisers recounted how Texas' top lawyer allegedly pressured them to help a political donor who was under FBI investigation. The testimony included arguments over who paid for home renovations, whether Paxton used burner phones and how his alleged extramarital affair became a strain on the office.

Paxton denied wrongdoing and his attorneys argued there either was no evidence or wasn't enough to rise beyond a reasonable doubt. They portrayed Paxton as the victim of a plot orchestrated by Republican

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rivals and waved to political conspiracies involving George P. Bush, the nephew of former President George W. Bush, who unsuccessfully challenged Paxton in last year's GOP primary.

Paxton was endorsed in that race by Trump, who reaffirmed his support in the waning days of the trial and applauded the verdict. "The Ken Paxton Victory is sooo BIG. WOW!!!" Trump posted on Truth Social, his social media platform.

More than three months after the overwhelming impeachment in the Texas House, where Republicans have a solid majority, Paxton was just as convincingly acquitted by Senate Republicans who serve alongside his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton.

Angela Paxton was not allowed a vote in the trial. But she attended all two weeks of the proceedings, including one dramatic moment when a woman was called to publicly testify about an affair she had with the state senator's husband.

The woman ultimately never took the witness stand, but her relationship with Ken Paxton was central to a case accusing him of going to potentially criminal lengths to help a local real estate developer named Nate Paul, who was under FBI investigation at the time.

Democratic state Sen. Nathan Johnson described nearly eight hours of deliberations among the 30 senators as a hard and seemingly sincere process.

"And then it collapsed," he said.

Johnson said it eventually became clear there would not be enough votes to convict, which may have led some senators to change their minds.

"When enough people fall away from conviction, it exposes any remaining Republican to very strong attack from the right," Johnson said. "We reached the wrong result and it was the result of political pressures."

The outcome is not the end of Paxton's troubles. He still faces trial on felony securities fraud charges, remains under a separate FBI investigation and is in jeopardy of losing his ability to practice law in Texas because of his baseless attempts to overturn the 2020 election.

Eight of Paxton's former deputies reported him to the FBI in 2020 over his relationship with real estate developer Paul, setting off a federal investigation that is ongoing. Federal prosecutors investigating Paxton took testimony in August before a grand jury in San Antonio, according to two people with knowledge of the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of secrecy rules around the proceeding.

Paul was indicted in June on charges of making false statements to banks. He has pleaded not guilty.

Dan Cogdell, one of Paxton's attorneys, said the securities fraud charges the attorney general still faces should be dismissed.

"If they don't dismiss them, we'll try them and beat them there just like we beat them here," he said.

Associated Press writer Jake Bleiberg in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

Find AP's full coverage of the impeachment of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton at: <https://apnews.com/hub/ken-paxton>

UN committee votes to list ruins near ancient Jericho as a World Heritage Site in Palestine

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — A U.N. conference voted Sunday to list prehistoric ruins near the ancient West Bank city of Jericho as a World Heritage Site in Palestine, a decision likely to anger Israel, which controls the territory and does not recognize a Palestinian state.

Jericho is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities on earth, and is in a part of the Israeli-occupied West Bank that is administered by the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority. The listing refers to the Tel es-Sultan archaeological site nearby, which contains prehistoric ruins dating back to the ninth millennium B.C. and is outside the ancient city itself.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the U.N. World Heritage Committee in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, under the auspices of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO.

Israel quit UNESCO in 2019, accusing it of being biased against it and of diminishing its connection to the Holy Land. Israel also objected to UNESCO's acceptance of Palestine as a member state in 2011. But Israel remains a party to the World Heritage Convention, and it sent a delegation to the meeting in Riyadh.

Israel captured the West Bank, along with Gaza and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three territories for their future state. Israel views the West Bank as the biblical and cultural heartland of the Jewish people.

There have been no serious or substantive peace negotiations in over a decade, and Israel is currently led by the most nationalist and religious government in its history, making any move toward Palestinian statehood nearly unimaginable.

The modern city of Jericho is a major draw for tourism to the Palestinian territories, both because of its historical sites and proximity to the Dead Sea. In 2021, the Palestinian Authority unveiled major renovations to one of the largest mosaics in the Middle East, in a Jericho palace dating back to the 8th century.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on his way home after concluding a trip to Russia's Far East

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, HYUNG-JIN KIM and ELISE MORTON Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is on his way home Sunday from Russia, ending a six-day trip that triggered global concerns about weapons transfer deals between the two countries locked in separate standoffs with the West.

Kim's armored train departed to the sound of the Russian patriotic march song "Farewell of Slavianka" at the end of a farewell ceremony at a railway station in Artyom, a far eastern Russian city about 200 kilometers (124 miles) from the border with North Korea, Russia's state news agency RIA reported.

Senior officials including Russia's Minister of Natural Resources Alexander Kozlov and Primorye regional Gov. Oleg Kozhemyako were present at the ceremony, which featured a Russian military band playing both North Korean and Russian national anthems.

It was Kim's longest foreign travel since he took power in late 2011. Observers said Kim was expected to return to Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, around Monday afternoon.

Since entering Russia last Tuesday in his first overseas trip in more than four years, Kim had met President Vladimir Putin and visited key military and technology sites, underscoring the countries' deepening defense cooperation in the face of separate, intensifying confrontations with the U.S. and its allies. Foreign officials and experts have said North Korea could provide badly needed munitions for Moscow's war on Ukraine in exchange for sophisticated Russian weapons technology that would advance Kim's nuclear ambitions.

U.N. Security Council resolutions — which Russia, a permanent member, previously endorsed — ban North Korea from exporting or importing any arms. Observers say Russia's alleged attempts to receive ammunitions and artillery shells from North Korea suggest Moscow's desperation to refill its arsenal exhausted in the war with Ukraine.

"Military cooperation between North Korea and Russia is illegal and unjust as it contravenes U.N. Security Council resolutions and various other international sanctions," South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said in written responses Sunday to questions from The Associated Press. "The international community will unite more tightly in response to such a move."

In return for supplying conventional arms to Russia, experts say North Korea would seek Russian economic and food aid but also transfers of technologies to build powerful missiles, a nuclear-propelled submarine and a spy satellite. North Korea has publicly sought to introduce such high-tech weapons systems citing what it called intensifying U.S.-led hostilities.

Earlier Sunday, Kim was in a lighter mode, touring a university and watching a walrus show at a Russian aquarium. Russia's state media released videos of Kim, accompanied by his top officials, talking with Russian officials through translators at the campus of the Far Eastern Federal University in Russky Island.

At the island's Primorsky Aquarium, Russia's largest, Kim watched performances featuring beluga whales,

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bottlenose dolphins, fur seals and "Misha" the walrus, which he seemed to particularly enjoy, according to Russian media.

Kozhemyako, the Primorye governor, said a delegation from Russia's Far East would visit North Korea. According to Russian state media, Kozhemyako said he'll be part of the delegation that will travel with specialists from trade, tourism and agricultural sectors. The exact timing for the visit to North Korea hasn't been announced.

On Saturday, Kim traveled to an airport near Vladivostok, where Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and other senior military officials gave him an up-close look at Russia's strategic bombers and other warplanes. Kim and Shoigu later in the day went to Vladivostok, where they inspected the Admiral Shaposhnikov frigate.

On Friday, Kim visited an aircraft plant in the city of Komsomolsk-on-Amur that produces Russia's most powerful fighter jets.

The Russian warplanes shown to Kim on Saturday were among the types that have seen action in Ukraine, including the Tu-160, Tu-95 and Tu-22 bombers that have regularly launched cruise missiles. During Kim's visit, Shoigu and Lt. Gen. Sergei Kobylash, the commander of the Russian long-range bomber force, confirmed for the first time that the Tu-160 had recently received new cruise missiles with a range of more than 6,500 kilometers (over 4,040 miles).

Shoigu, who had met Kim during a rare visit to North Korea in July, also showed Kim another of Russia's latest missiles, the hypersonic Kinzhal, carried by the MiG-31 fighter jet, that saw its first combat during the war in Ukraine.

North Korea's state media reported that Kim and Shoigu talked about the regional security environment and exchanged views on "practical issues arising in further strengthening the strategic and tactical coordination, cooperation and mutual exchange between the armed forces of the two countries."

Kim's summit with Putin was held at Russia's main space launch site, a location that pointed to his desire for Russian assistance in his efforts to acquire space-based reconnaissance assets and missile technologies. In recent months, two North Korean launches to send a spy satellite into space ended in failure, and the North vowed to conduct a third attempt in October.

During the meeting with Putin, Kim said his country would offer its "full and unconditional support" for Russia's fight to defend its security interests, in an apparent reference to the war in Ukraine. Kim invited Putin to visit North Korea at "a convenient time," and Putin accepted.

It was Kim's second summit meeting with Putin. The previous meeting took place in Vladivostok in April 2019, two months after Kim's high-stakes nuclear diplomacy with then U.S. President Donald Trump fell apart during their second summit in Vietnam.

___ Morton reported from London.

Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy dies after being shot in his patrol car by an unknown assailant

PALMDALE, Calif. (AP) — A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputy died after he was shot in his patrol car Saturday evening by an unknown assailant and an investigation is underway that the sheriff said will press all of the department's resources into action.

Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer, 30, died after being transported to a hospital, Sheriff Robert Luna said during a press conference late Saturday night.

The preliminary investigation showed Clinkunbroomer was driving while on duty and fired upon around 6 p.m., Luna said.

Clinkunbroomer was unconscious in the vehicle when he was found near the intersection of Sierra Highway and Avenue Q in Palmdale by a person Luna identified as a "good Samaritan" who alerted personnel at the Palmdale station of the sheriff's department.

The deputy was transported to Antelope Valley Medical Center in Lancaster, where he was treated for a gunshot wound.

"Despite the medical staff's best efforts to save our deputy's life, regrettably he succumbed to his inju-

ries," Luna said.

Homicide investigators are aware of video from a surveillance camera that may have captured the shooting, Luna said.

Luna said he believed the shooting was a "targeted attack" but the motive, and whether the deputy or the department in general was the target, was not yet known.

"We're going to catch the person who did this," Luna said. "Because every resource that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has to bear is going after you."

Clinkunbroomer, who transferred to the Palmdale station in July 2018, was a third-generation officer who followed his grandfather and father into the sheriff's department, Luna said.

The sheriff added that his department was working closely with representatives from the city of Palmdale, about 61 miles (98.1 kilometers) northeast of Los Angeles.

"Palmdale loves the sheriff's deputies and the deputies take very good care of Palmdale and love our community back," Mayor Laura Bettencourt said at the press conference. "The person that did this is a coward and they will be caught."

"It is sickening, heartbreaking news," Republican state Sen. Scott Wilk, who represents Palmdale, posted earlier in the evening on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter.

Atlantic storm Lee delivers high winds and rain before forecasters call off warnings in some areas

By ROBERT F. BUKATY and DAVID SHARP Associated Press

BAR HARBOR, Maine (AP) — Atlantic storm Lee made landfall at near-hurricane strength Saturday, bringing destructive winds, rough surf and torrential rains to New England and Maritime Canada. But officials withdrew some warnings for the region and predicted the storm would disappear early this week.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said early Sunday that the post-tropical cyclone was about 35 miles (55 kilometers) west of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and about 225 miles (360 kilometers) west of Channel-Port Aux Basques, Newfoundland. The top sustained wind speed had dropped for a third time in 24 hours to 50 mph (85 kph) with some higher gusts expected.

"Gradual weakening is forecast during the next couple of days, and Lee could dissipate on Tuesday," the hurricane center said.

The center discontinued a tropical storm warning for the coast of Maine late Saturday and reported the Canadian Hurricane Centre had ended its tropical storm warning for New Brunswick and parts of Prince Edward Island.

Storm surges were expected to subside on Sunday after being forecast as up to 3 feet (0.91 meters) on Saturday along coastal areas, the hurricane center said.

A 51-year-old motorist in Searsport, Maine, died Saturday after a large tree limb fell on his vehicle on U.S. Highway 1 during high winds. The limb brought down live power lines and utility workers had to cut power before removing the man, who died later at a hospital, Police Chief Brian Lunt said.

The storm was tracked as moving around 22 mph (35 kph) and expected to proceed northeast, taking the weather system across the Canadian Maritimes. Rainfall was expected to be an additional 1 inch (25 millimeters) or less for portions of eastern Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the U.S. storm center said.

A tropical storm warning remained in effect for parts of Nova Scotia, the Magdalen Islands and Prince Edward Island with strong winds possibly leading to downed trees and power outages, the center said.

The post-tropical cyclone was strong enough to cause power outages several hundred miles from its center. At midday Saturday, 11% of electricity customers in Maine lacked power, along with 27% of Nova Scotia, 8% of New Brunswick and 3% of Prince Edward Island.

Life-threatening surf swells and rip currents generated by Lee may affect Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Bahamas, Bermuda and the U.S. East Coast, the center said.

In Bar Harbor, Maine, the touristy gateway to Acadia National Park, a whale watch vessel broke free

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of its mooring and crashed ashore Saturday. Authorities worked to offload 1,800 gallons (6,813 liters) of diesel fuel to prevent it from spilling into the ocean.

Lee flooded coastal roads in Nova Scotia and took ferries out of service while fanning anxiety in a region still reeling from wildfires and severe flooding this summer. The province's largest airport, Halifax Stanfield International, cancelled all flights.

"People are exhausted," said Pam Lovelace, a councilor in Halifax. "It's so much in such a small time period."

Hurricane-force winds extended as far as 140 miles (220 kilometers) from Lee's center, with tropical storm-force winds extending as far as 320 miles (515 kilometers), enough to cover all of Maine and much of Maritime Canada.

The storm skirted some of the most waterlogged areas of Massachusetts that experienced severe flash flooding days earlier, when fast water washed out roads, caused sinkholes, damaged homes and flooded vehicles.

In eastern Maine, winds died down enough by late afternoon Saturday for utility workers to begin using bucket trucks to make repairs. Central Maine Power and Versant Power had hundreds of workers, including out-of-state crews, assisting the effort.

"At this point, the storm is resembling a nor'easter," said Sarah Thunberg, a National Weather Service meteorologist, referring to the fall and winter storms that often plague the region and are so named because their winds blow from the northeast. They typically have a much wider wind field than tropical systems with winds remaining closer to a storm's center.

The entire region has experienced an especially wet summer, ranking second in the number of rainy days in Portland, Maine — and Lee's high winds toppled trees stressed by the rain-soaked ground in Maine, the nation's most heavily wooded state.

Cruise ships found refuge at berths in Portland, Maine, while lobstermen in Bar Harbor and elsewhere pulled traps from the water and hauled boats inland.

Billy Bob Faulkingham, House Republican leader of the Maine Legislature, and another lobsterman survived after their boat overturned while hauling traps ahead of the storm Friday, officials said.

The boat's emergency locator beacon alerted authorities and the pair clung to the hull until help arrived, said Winter Harbor Police Chief Danny Mitchell. The 42-foot (12.8-meter) boat sank.

"They're very lucky to be alive," Mitchell said.

Forecasters urged residents to stay home, but many ventured out anyway.

Betsy Follansbee and her husband, Fred, jogged to Higgins Beach in Scarborough, Maine, to watch surfers — some wearing helmets — paddling out to catch waves reaching 12 feet (3.6 meters). They were the biggest waves Follansbee had seen in her 10 years living there, she said.

"We're impressed that they're bold enough to try," Follansbee said.

On Maine's Bailey Island, a slender spit jutting into the Gulf of Maine, Ren Renton watched the ocean roil. "It comes and goes and takes what it wants, but hopefully not too much," she said.

Lee shared some characteristics with 2012's Superstorm Sandy. Both storms were once-strong hurricanes that became post-tropical cyclones — cyclonic storms that have lost most of their tropical characteristics — before landfall. Lee was not expected to be nearly as destructive as Sandy, which caused billions of dollars in damage and was blamed for dozens of deaths in New York and New Jersey.

Lee also was not anywhere near as severe as the remnants of Hurricane Fiona, which a year ago washed houses into the ocean in eastern Canada, knocked out power to most of two provinces and swept a woman into the sea, Canadian meteorologist Jill Maepea said.

Destructive hurricanes are relatively rare so far north. The Great New England Hurricane of 1938 brought gusts as high as 186 mph (300 kph) and sustained winds of 121 mph (195 kph) at Massachusetts' Blue Hill Observatory. There have been no storms that powerful in recent years.

Sharp reported from Portland, Maine. Associated Press journalists Robert Bumsted in Cape Elizabeth, Maine; Patrick Whittle in Portland, Maine; Michael Casey in Boston; Rio Yamat in Las Vegas; Mark Thies-

sen in Anchorage, Alaska; Rob Gillies in Toronto; and Kathy McCormack in Concord, New Hampshire, contributed to this report.

South Korea's Yoon warns against Russia-North Korea military cooperation and plans to discuss at UN

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's president said the international community "will unite more tightly" to cope with deepening military cooperation between Russia and North Korea, as he plans to raise the issue with world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly this week.

Worries about Russian-North Korean ties have flared since North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traveled to Russia last week for a summit with President Vladimir Putin and to tour a slew of high-profile military and technology sites. Foreign experts speculate Kim could refill Russia's ammunition inventory drained in its 18-month war with Ukraine in return for economic aid and technologies to modernize his weapons systems targeting South Korea and the U.S.

"Military cooperation between North Korea and Russia is illegal and unjust as it contravenes U.N. Security Council resolutions and various other international sanctions," South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said in written responses to questions from The Associated Press before his departure to New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly.

"The international community will unite more tightly in response to such a move," he said.

In his address Wednesday at the annual U.N. gathering, Yoon will speak about his assessment of the Russian-North Korean moves, according to his office in South Korea, which added it is discussing countermeasures with the U.S., Japan and other partners.

While Russian-North Korean cooperation is feared to fuel Russia's war efforts in Ukraine, it has also stoked security jitters in South Korea, where many think a Russian transfer of sophisticated weapons technologies would help North Korea acquire a functioning spy satellite, a nuclear-powered submarine and more powerful missiles. Some experts still say North Korea would end up receiving food and cash in return for supplying ammunition and shells because Russia closely guards its high-tech weapons technologies.

North Korea's advancing nuclear arsenal has been a major source of tensions in the region, with the North openly threatening to use nuclear weapons in potential conflicts with its rivals and conducting a barrage of missile tests since last year. In response, Yoon and U.S. President Joe Biden in April agreed to expand joint military exercises, increase the temporary deployments of U.S. strategic assets and launch a bilateral nuclear consultative group.

"Our two countries (South Korea and the U.S.) reaffirmed that any nuclear attack by North Korea will be met with a swift, overwhelming and decisive response that will bring about the end of the regime," Yoon said.

"Going forward, (South Korea)-U.S. extended deterrence will develop into a joint system in which both countries discuss, decide and act together," he said. "We will also enhance the ability to deter and respond to any nuclear or missile threat from North Korea."

Since entering Russia last Tuesday in his first foreign travel in 4 1/2 years, Kim has inspected some of Russia's most advanced weapons systems including nuclear-capable bombers, fighter jets, hypersonic missiles and a warship. During a summit with Putin at Russia's most important space launch center on Wednesday, Kim vowed "full and unconditional support" for Putin.

Some South Koreans call on their government to consider providing lethal weapons to Ukraine in retaliation against Russia's possible weapons technology transfers. But South Korea's Defense Ministry said its policy of not supplying weapons to countries at war remained unchanged.

Yoon recently announced South Korea will provide an additional \$300 million to Ukraine next year, on top of the \$150 million promised this year. He said South Korea will prepare for a mid- to long-term support package worth more than \$2 billion.

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South Korea has provided Ukraine with demining equipment, emergency evacuation vehicles, pickup trucks, medical supplies, tablet PCs and other items. Yoon said in the coming year South Korea will continue to communicate closely with Ukraine to send it what is truly needed.

Since taking office last year, Yoon, a conservative, has made a bolstered military alliance with the U.S. the heart of his foreign policy while pushing to move beyond history disputes with Japan — Korea's former colonial ruler — and expand a trilateral Seoul-Washington-Tokyo security cooperation. That has triggered concerns that South Korea's relations with China, its biggest trading partner, will be hurt.

Yoon dismissed such a notion, saying "the trilateral cooperation harbors no intention of marginalizing any particular nation or establishing an exclusive coalition."

Citing his meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping last November and Premier Li Qiang this month, both on the margins of regional gatherings, Yoon said he learned that "China also attaches importance to (South Korea)-China relations."

During their November meeting, Yoon said Xi expressed his willingness to visit South Korea when the COVID-19 pandemic situation stabilized. Yoon said Li and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida had also expressed their support for resuming a trilateral Seoul-Beijing-Tokyo summit in South Korea for the first time in four years.

"All three countries — the Republic of Korea, the United States and Japan — share a common understanding that it is important for China to play a responsible and constructive role not only in resolving pending issues on the Korean Peninsula and in the region but also in addressing global challenges," Yoon said.

In his U.N. speech, Yoon said that he'll also raise the issue of gaps in three areas — development, climate responses and digital transformation — and present how South Korea will contribute to resolving them. Yoon said that as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the 2024-25 term, he'll also mention that South Korea will play a responsible role on security issues that require international solidarity like the war in Ukraine and the North Korean nuclear program.

While in New York, Yoon said he will hold bilateral summits with the leaders of about 30 countries. Yoon said he'll try to use those summits to discuss bilateral cooperation and explain South Korea's hopes to host the 2030 World Expo in Busan, South Korea's second-biggest city.

Zimbabwe's reelected president says there's democracy. But beating and torture allegations emerge

By FARAI MUTSAKA Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Barely a week after being elected as a local councilor for Zimbabwe's main opposition party, Womberaishu Nhende and a relative were pulled out of their car by unidentified men, shot with a stun gun and handcuffed.

They were then bundled into a pickup truck and driven about 70 kilometers (more than 40 miles) outside of Harare, the capital, where they were whipped, beaten with truncheons and interrogated, and injected with an unknown substance, their lawyers say.

Having been questioned over what their Citizens Coalition for Change party is planning after August's disputed and troubled national election, the ordeal ended when the two men were dumped naked near a river, the lawyers allege.

Their story isn't new in the southern African nation, which has a long history of violence and intimidation against opposition to the ZANU-PF party during its 43-year rule.

There are signs that the country has now slipped into another era of brutal oppression, even as newly reelected President Emmerson Mnangagwa speaks publicly of "peace, love, harmony and tolerance."

Behind those sweet words, more than a dozen opposition CCC figures — from elected representatives to officials and activists — have been arrested by police in the three weeks since the election, the party says. Others have been targeted with violent abductions.

"It is the beginning of a new term and we are seeing people being abducted and tortured, people's homes being burnt down, and lawyers arrested for simply doing their job," said Doug Coltart, one of Nhende's

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lawyers, who was himself arrested.

"It only creates the impression that we are going to see further breakdown in the rule of law in Zimbabwe."

Mnangagwa, a former guerrilla fighter known as "the crocodile," won a second term as president last month in an election rejected by the CCC as flawed and questioned by international and regional observers, who cited numerous problems, including a climate of fear and intimidation.

That appears to still be a mainstay in Zimbabwe six years after renowned autocratic leader Robert Mugabe was ousted in a coup and replaced by Mnangagwa in 2017.

Coltart and another of Nhende's lawyers, Tapiwa Muchineripi, were detained and charged with obstructing justice for telling police that they couldn't question Nhende and relative Sanele Mkuhlani over their beatings while they were sedated, they said. Coltart isn't new to harassment, having been arrested by authorities for doing his job at least four times before, but he said the latest crackdown so soon after the elections doesn't "bode well for the next phase."

Mnangagwa and his party have repeatedly denied allegations of using repression to crush dissent. Yet the president, who turned 81 on Friday, described the opposition's allegations as "noises from some little boys" and threatened to imprison "anybody who wants to be nonsensical and bring chaos."

Mnangagwa's often-repeated assertion that Zimbabwe is a mature democracy under him is seen as a facade by many, including prominent international rights groups like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. A truer picture of Zimbabwean politics might be the deep red and black welts and rips in the skin visible across Nhende's back and lower legs, the result of a lashing with a heavy sjambok whip, his lawyers said.

Nhende recounted his experience and showed his wounds in a video released by the CCC, the closest challenger to ZANU-PF in the election.

"They beat us up trying to extract information about our post-election plans," Nhende said in the video, during which he winces in pain as he speaks.

The sight of an elected representative showing injuries from a beating isn't uncommon in Zimbabwe.

More than 15 years ago, then-opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai was photographed by the world's media with a swollen and badly bruised face, one eye completely closed, after having been detained by police during the Mugabe era and severely beaten.

It appears little has changed in a country that offers unrealized potential for Africa, given its rich agricultural land, mineral resources that include the continent's biggest lithium deposits, and potential oil and gas finds.

Police announced a new bout of arrests of opposition figures last week — including a newly elected CCC lawmaker, on charges of attempted murder and malicious damage to property during the election. The CCC says two of its lawmakers have recently been arrested. Other representatives were reelected last month while in detention.

Party spokesperson Promise Mkwanzani has left the country after police said they were seeking to arrest him for failing to attend a court hearing in 2019, and charged him with assault and damage to property. CCC deputy spokesperson Gift Siziba was arrested on charges of inciting violence at a soccer game.

Amnesty has raised the case of another CCC activist, who it says was abducted and tortured in the days after the election.

The CCC and analysts say there is a clear post-election clampdown now that the international observers have left.

"All this post-election repression is to suffocate the opposition," Zimbabwean political commentator Rashweat Mukundu said. "What we are seeing now is an indication that there has been no reform. Elections have failed to resolve the governance issues in Zimbabwe, so the repression is a pattern that is likely to persist until the next elections."

After visiting Nhende and Mkuhlani in the hospital, CCC leader Nelson Chamisa, who lost to Mnangagwa in the presidential election, said that his party was under siege and facing a backlash.

"After freedom of choice, you don't expect torture," Chamisa said. "It was a sham election, a disputed

election, a flawed election. But beyond that, you torture people for what reason?"

AP Africa news: <https://apnews.com/hub/africa>

For a divided Libya, disastrous floods have become a rallying cry for unity

By HAZEM TURKIA and JACK JEFFERY Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Zahra el-Gerbi wasn't expecting much of a response to her online fundraiser, but she felt she had to do something after four of her relatives died in the flooding that decimated the eastern Libyan city of Derna. She put out a call for donations for those displaced by the deluge.

In the first half-hour after she shared it on Facebook, the Benghazi-based clinical nutritionist said friends and strangers were already promising financial and material support.

"It's for basic needs like clothes, foods and accommodation," el-Gerbi said.

For many Libyans, the collective grief over the more than 11,000 dead has morphed into a rallying cry for national unity in a country blighted by 12 years of conflict and division. In turn, the tragedy has ramped up pressure on the country's leading politicians, viewed by some as the architects of the catastrophe.

The oil-rich country has been divided between rival administrations since 2014, with an internationally recognized government in Tripoli and a rival authority in the east, where Derna is located. Both are backed by international patrons and armed militias whose influence in the country has ballooned since a NATO-backed Arab Spring uprising toppled autocratic ruler Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. Numerous United Nations-led initiatives to bridge the divide have failed.

In the early hours of Sept. 11, two dams in the mountains above Derna burst, sending a wall of water two stories high into the city and sweeping entire neighborhoods out to sea. At least 11,300 people were killed and a further 30,000 displaced.

An outpouring of support for the people of Derna followed. Residents from the nearby cities of Benghazi and Tobruk offered to put up the displaced. In Tripoli, some 1,450 kilometers (900 miles) west, a hospital said it would perform operations free of charge for any injured in the flood.

Ali Khalifa, an oil rig worker from Zawiya, west of Tripoli, said his cousin and a group of other men from his neighborhood joined a convoy of vehicles heading to Derna to help out with relief efforts. Even the local scout squad participated, he said.

The sentiment was shared by 50-year-old Mohamed al-Harari.

"The wound or pain of what happened in Derna hurt all the people from western Libya to southern Libya to eastern Libya," he said.

The disaster has fostered rare instances of the opposing administrations cooperating to help those affected. As recently as 2020, the two sides were in an all-out war. Gen. Khalifa Hifter's forces besieged Tripoli in a yearlong failed military campaign to try to capture the capital, killing thousands.

"We have even seen some military commanders arrive from the Tripoli allied military coalition in Derna, showing support," said Claudia Gazzini, a senior Libya analyst at International Crisis Group.

But the distribution of aid into the city has been highly disorganized, with minimal amounts of supplies reaching flood-affected areas in the days following the disaster.

Across the country, the disaster has also exposed the shortcomings of Libya's fractured political system.

While young people and volunteers rushed to help, "there was a kind of confusion between the governments in the east and west" on what to do, said Ibrahim al-Sunwisi, a local journalist from the capital, Tripoli.

Others have leveled blame for the burst dams on government officials.

A report by a state-run audit agency in 2021 said the two dams hadn't been maintained despite the allocation of more than \$2 million for that purpose in 2012 and 2013. As the storm approached, authorities told people — including those in vulnerable areas — to stay indoors.

"Everyone in charge is responsible," said Noura el-Gerbi, a journalist and activist who was born in Derna and is also a cousin of el-Gerbi, who made the call for donations online. "The next flood will be over them."

The tragedy follows a long line of problems born from the country's lawlessness. Most recently, in August, sporadic fighting broke out between two rival militia forces in the capital, killing at least 45 people, a reminder of the influence rogue armed groups wield across Libya.

Under pressure, Libya's General Prosecutor al-Sediq al-Sour said Friday that prosecutors would open a file on the collapse of the two dams and investigate the authorities in the Derna, as well as past governments.

But the country's political leaders have so far deflected responsibility. The Prime Minister of Libya's Tripoli government, Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah, said he and his ministers were accountable for the dams' maintenance, but not the thousands of deaths caused by the flooding.

Meanwhile, the speaker of Libya's eastern administration, Aguila Saleh, said the flooding was simply an incomparable natural disaster. "Don't say, 'If only we'd done this, if only we'd done that,'" said Saleh in a televised news conference.

When the rescue and recovery operation in Derna is done, other daunting tasks will lie ahead. It remains unclear how Libyan authorities will rehome much of its population, and rebuild.

El-Gerbi, who has since closed down the donations page to encourage people to give directly to the Red Crescent, said two of her uncles are on their way from Derna to Benghazi, with potentially tens of thousands of others making the same journey.

"They don't have work, know where to live, even what to eat," she said.

Jeffery contributed to this report from London.

Yoga in a basement helps people in a Ukrainian front-line city cope with Russia's constant shelling

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KRAMATORSK, Ukraine (AP) — In a basement in one of the front-line cities in Ukraine's Donetsk region, people gather three times a week in the morning for yoga to alleviate the stress caused by the constant shelling from Russian artillery.

Soothing music fills the basement in Kramatorsk, where the humid air is tangible.

"We let go of the external world," Serhii Zaloznyi, a 52-year-old yoga instructor, said in a serene tone. He gently leads people into a meditative state.

Occasionally, the sound of water rushing through the pipes of the multistory building disrupts the tranquil music, serving as a reminder that the yoga session unfolds in the basement.

"Peace, tranquility and balance feel within the heart," Zaloznyi continues as people calmly breathe with their eyes closed.

For the participants, the "external world" is life in a front-line city where sirens sound every few hours, and the noise of explosions disrupts their daily lives.

Kramatorsk is just 30 kilometers (around 20 miles) from the battle front in the Donetsk region, where some of the heaviest fighting in eastern Ukraine takes place.

In late July, a Russian missile hit one of Kramatorsk's most well-known restaurants, wiping out 13 lives, and shocked the city's residents.

But in this modest basement in a residential district, people come to find a feeling of safety and security by attending the yoga sessions, which happen according to schedule despite everything.

"In the beginning, the war overwhelmed people, and right here is where they found peace in their hearts and souls, tranquility, and simply solid ground beneath their feet," Zaloznyi said.

One of those attending is Viktoria Omelchenko, 47, who initially left Kramatorsk but returned a few months later.

"Yoga brought me to emotional balance. Yoga classes gradually calmed me down, balanced me, taught me not to be afraid, to feel in harmony and balance," she said.

"That's why these classes are really very important, especially in our city. When it's restless, they help

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a lot.”

When the war started, Zaloznyi taught online because most of the people who used to attend yoga had fled to safer regions. Later, people began to return, and he resumed in-person sessions last spring.

The gym they used before the war was converted into a shelter where families with children take cover. Now, instead of yoga mats, there are supplies of water for emergencies.

Zaloznyi quickly found a new space, which used to be a beauty salon. The owners left Kramatorsk and allowed the yoga sessions to be held there.

On the walls of the yoga studio, the photos from past hairdressing workshops can be seen. And in the improvised changing room, large bottles of professional care shampoo rest on the shelves, now covered in dust.

Nonetheless, the yoga participants aren't troubled by this. They persist in following Zaloznyi's guidance, moving their bodies from one asana, or yoga position, to another with closed eyes. The room is dimly lit, because the windows are covered with colored tape, intended to prevent glass from shattering in case of an attack.

“There are moments when shelling occurs, of course, and people are anxious. The sense of added protection brings extra tranquility. Because the basement space is safer,” Zaloznyi said.

His classes cost 90 Ukrainian hryvnias (\$3), and five to six people attend them regularly.

Another participant, Valentyna Vandysheva, 61, joined the classes three months ago “for health and calming her nerves.”

“Physical activity balances emotions, so it helped. You don't react as strongly to sirens and explosions,” she said.

Zaloznyi is confident that whenever they come together to practice calming yoga, everything will be fine. The participants support each other emotionally, and as a result, a feeling of community has already emerged.

“I would say that our room is alive already. It protects us. This space, it's completely familiar and safe for us,” Zaloznyi said.

Thousands without power and 1 dead after Atlantic storm Lee pummels New England and Maritime Canada

By ROBERT F. BUKATY and DAVID SHARP Associated Press

BAR HARBOR, Maine (AP) — Atlantic storm Lee pummeled a large swath of New England and Maritime Canada with destructive winds, rough surf and torrential rains that toppled trees, flooded roadways and cut power to tens of thousands on Saturday. One person was killed in Maine when a tree limb fell on his vehicle.

The center of the sprawling post-tropical cyclone made landfall about 135 miles (215 kilometers) west of Halifax, the capital of Nova Scotia, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. That's about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southeast of Eastport, Maine. It had near-hurricane-strength winds of 70 mph (110 kph), though the storm was weakening as it headed north to New Brunswick and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Lee flooded coastal roads in Nova Scotia and took ferries out of service as it fanned anxiety in a region still reeling from wildfires and severe flooding this summer. The province's largest airport, Halifax Stanfield International, cancelled all flights.

“People are exhausted. ... It's so much in such a small time period,” said Pam Lovelace, a councilor in Halifax.

The storm was so big that it caused power outages several hundred miles from its center. At midday Saturday, 11% of electricity customers in Maine lacked power, along with 27% of Nova Scotia, 8% of New Brunswick and 3% of Prince Edward Island.

Hurricane-force winds extended as far as 140 miles (220 kilometers) from Lee's center, with tropical storm-force winds extending as far as 320 miles (515 kilometers) — enough to cover all of Maine and

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much of Maritime Canada.

In the United States, a tropical storm warning remained in effect from Stonington, Maine, north to the U.S.-Canada border.

That included Bar Harbor, the touristy gateway to Acadia National Park, where a whale watch vessel broke free of its mooring and crashed ashore. Authorities worked to offload 1,800 gallons of diesel fuel to prevent it from spilling into the ocean.

A 51-year-old motorist in Searsport, Maine, died after a large tree limb fell on his vehicle Saturday on U.S. Highway 1 during a period of high winds, the first fatality attributed to the storm.

The tree limb brought down live power lines, and utility workers had to cut power before the man could be removed, said Police Chief Brian Lunt. The unidentified man died later at a hospital, Lunt said.

Storm surge of up to 3 feet (0.91 meters) was expected along coastal areas, accompanied by large and destructive waves, the hurricane center said.

The storm skirted some of the most waterlogged areas of Massachusetts that experienced severe flash flooding days earlier, when fast water washed out roads, caused sinkholes, damaged homes and flooded vehicles.

In eastern Maine, winds died down enough by late afternoon for utility workers to begin using their bucket trucks to make repairs. Both Central Maine Power and Versant Power had hundreds of workers, including out-of-state crews, to assist in the effort.

"At this point, the storm is resembling a nor'easter," said Sarah Thunberg, a National Weather Service meteorologist, referring to the fall and winter storms that often plague the region and are so named because their winds blow from the northeast. They typically have a much wider wind field than tropical systems, whose winds stay closer to a storm's center.

But the entire region has experienced an especially wet summer — it ranked second in the number of rainy days in Portland, Maine — and Lee's high winds toppled trees stressed by the rain-soaked ground in Maine, the nation's most heavily wooded state.

Cruise ships found refuge at berths in Portland, while lobstermen in Bar Harbor and elsewhere pulled traps from the water and hauled boats inland.

Billy Bob Faulkingham, House Republican leader of the Maine Legislature, and another lobsterman survived after their boat overturned while hauling traps ahead of the storm Friday, officials said.

The boat's emergency locator beacon alerted authorities, and the two clung to the hull until help arrived, said Winter Harbor Police Chief Danny Mitchell. The 42-foot boat sank.

"They're very lucky to be alive," Mitchell said.

Forecasters urged residents to stay home, but many ventured out anyway.

Betsy Follansbee and her husband, Fred, jogged to Higgins Beach in Scarborough, Maine, to watch surfers — some wearing helmets — paddling out to catch waves reaching 12 feet (3.6 meters). They were the biggest waves Follansbee has seen in her 10 years living there, she said.

"We're impressed that they're bold enough to try," Follansbee said.

On Maine's Bailey Island, a slender spit jutting into the Gulf of Maine, Ren Renton watched the ocean roil. "It comes and goes and takes what it wants, but hopefully not too much," she said.

Lee shared some characteristics with 2012's Superstorm Sandy. Both were once-strong hurricanes that became post-tropical cyclones — cyclonic storms that have lost most of their tropical characteristics — before landfall. Lee was not expected to be nearly as destructive as Sandy, which caused billions of dollars in damage and was blamed for dozens of deaths in New York and New Jersey.

Lee also isn't anywhere near as severe as the remnants of Hurricane Fiona, which a year ago washed houses into the ocean in eastern Canada, knocked out power to most of two provinces and swept a woman into the sea, said Canadian meteorologist Jill Maepea.

Destructive hurricanes are relatively rare so far north. The Great New England Hurricane of 1938 brought gusts as high as 186 mph (300 kph) and sustained winds of 121 mph (195 kph) at Massachusetts' Blue Hill Observatory. But there have been no storms that powerful in recent years.

Sharp reported from Portland, Maine. Contributing to this report were Associated Press journalists Robert Bumsted in Cape Elizabeth, Maine; Patrick Whittle in Portland, Maine; Michael Casey in Boston; Rio Yamat in Las Vegas; Mark Thiessen in Anchorage, Alaska; Rob Gillies in Toronto; and Kathy McCormack in Concord, New Hampshire.

This story has been corrected to show that the Republican leader of the Maine Legislature is known as Billy Bob Faulkingham, not Bill Bob.

Donald Trump's GOP rivals try to attract social conservatives in Iowa at an event he skipped

By WILL WEISSERT and THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Hoping to cut into Donald Trump's support at a major Iowa gathering of evangelical Christians, several of his top rivals on Saturday mostly avoided direct criticism of him on abortion and other issues key to social conservatives.

The Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition's annual banquet is traditionally a marquee event on the Republican primary calendar. But the former president skipped it, leaving a mostly muted crowd of more than 1,000 pastors and activists to instead hear from several candidates running far behind Trump.

The primary field's split on abortion was once again on display, with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis saying restrictions on the procedure should be left to the states — a position similar to Trump's — while former Vice President Mike Pence referred to Trump as his "former running mate" and said he was wrong to oppose a national abortion ban.

While the audience was overwhelmingly anti-abortion, Pence's push for a 15-week ban got only tepid applause, reflecting some national Republicans' concerns that Democrats are winning on abortion rights issues after last year's Supreme Court ruling overturning the Roe v. Wade decision.

DeSantis, who has struggled to solidify himself as the GOP primary's No. 2 behind Trump, declined to say he'd back a federal abortion ban. Instead, he said, states have done more on the issue.

"Congress has really struggled to make an impact over the years," DeSantis said.

That's similar to Trump, who recently has refused to back a federal ban, arguing that the issue should be left up to the states. The former president also has also previously cautioned top Republicans from championing abortion positions that are outside the political mainstream.

Pence said he disagreed with Trump and argued all Republican presidential candidates should back a federal abortion ban at a minimum of 15 weeks of pregnancy.

"I believe it's an idea whose time has come," Pence said. "We need to stand for the unborn all across America."

A Trump attack came from former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who is a frequent critic of the former president. He said "there's another candidate, that I respect, but who is not here tonight" before slamming Trump for saying he wants "to make both sides happy" on abortion.

Hutchinson said that unlike Trump, "both sides aren't going to like me. This is going to be a fight for life."

Unlike other high-profile events, no one in the audience booed that or any other comment Saturday. That might have been because Ralph Reed, chairman of the Faith and Freedom Coalition, admonished the audience before things started: "Let's conduct ourselves in a way that honors these candidates but honors our lord and savior Jesus Christ."

Those criticizing Trump didn't agree on everything. Hutchinson suggested that a House Republican push to open an impeachment inquiry against President Joe Biden might be premature given the facts that have been uncovered so far. Pence said he supported that effort.

The event featured many devout and well-connected social conservatives who can play a decisive role in Iowa's first-in-the-nation Republican caucuses in January. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz used strong appeals to evangelical Republicans to win the GOP's 2016 caucuses.

This time, however, Trump's rivals face a much tougher task because he has built a large early GOP

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primary lead. The former president has also remained popular with evangelical Christians and social conservatives in Iowa and elsewhere who were delighted to see his three Supreme Court picks vote to overturn Roe v. Wade.

Saturday's banquet is the last scheduled opportunity for a large group of Iowa evangelical conservatives have the chance to see the candidates side-by-side, meaning they won't see Trump. He skipped similar events with crowds of thousands in Iowa in April and June.

South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, a longtime bachelor, was asked about reports that he has a girlfriend who hasn't been publicly identified. On Saturday, he called her a "lovely Christian girl" and asked the crowd, "Can we just pray together for me?"

He added, "I just say praise the living God," seemingly joking about the Lord's work in finally ensuring he has a girlfriend.

DeSantis was asked specifically to talk about his personal faith and deeply held Catholic beliefs. He noted that when his wife was diagnosed with breast cancer, he was thankful for "the amount of prayers we received. It lifted my wife's spirits up." He said prayer was a key reason she was now cancer-free.

Candidates discussing their personal faith has been a hallmark of successful Iowa caucus candidates for decades — including George W. Bush who in 1999 famously said, when asked to identify his favorite political philosopher, named Jesus Christ "because he changed my heart."

Robin Star of Waukee, just west of Des Moines, attended DeSantis' address at the church and said she was glad the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade — but that Trump doesn't deserve all the credit. Star said she'd nonetheless vote for Trump if he's the Republican nominee, but fears he cannot unify the Republican Party enough heading into the general election against Biden.

"We've got to win," Star said. "We've just got to win."

Her husband, Jerry Star, was more definitive, saying "I believe it's time for new leadership."

A retired Air Force officer, Jerry Star said he was very supportive of most of Trump's time in the White House until Jan. 6, 2021, when a mob of the former president's supporters overran the U.S. Capitol.

"He did a heck of a job in his four years, but he knocked it all down that day," he said. "It's time for someone else."

Armed man accused of impersonating officer detained at Kennedy campaign event in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An armed man accused of impersonating a federal officer was taken into custody outside a Robert F. Kennedy Jr. campaign event in Los Angeles.

A Los Angeles Police Department statement said police received a call Friday afternoon that a man with a loaded gun and holster and wearing a U.S. Marshals Service badge was outside a theater where the Democratic presidential candidate was scheduled to give a speech.

A campaign statement said Kennedy's security team surrounded the man, who later was taken into custody by the LAPD. The FBI also was on the scene.

No one was injured.

"The man claimed to be part of Kennedy's security team," the campaign statement said. He told the candidate's security team "that he needed to be taken to the candidate immediately."

The man was taken into custody on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon.

In a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, Kennedy said he was grateful for the LAPD's swift response. His campaign said Kennedy's requests for Secret Service protection have been rejected, and he plans to apply again this month.

Republican Texas AG Ken Paxton is acquitted of corruption charges at historic impeachment trial

By PAUL J. WEBER and JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton was fully acquitted Saturday of corruption charges in a historic impeachment trial, a resounding verdict that reaffirms the power of the GOP's hard right and puts an indicted incumbent who remains under FBI investigation back into office.

The outcome demonstrated Paxton's lasting durability in America's biggest red state after years of criminal charges and scandal. And more broadly, it delivered a signature victory for the Texas GOP's ascendent conservative wing, following an impeachment that gave a rare window into divisions among Republicans nationally heading into 2024.

"Today, the truth prevailed. The truth could not be buried by mudslinging politicians or their powerful benefactors," Paxton said in a statement. He only attended a few hours of the two-week trial and was not there for the verdict.

The trial was a showcase of both sober testimony and occasional spectacle. In accusing Paxton of abusing his office, former advisers recounted how Texas' top lawyer allegedly pressured them to help a political donor who was under FBI investigation. The testimony included arguments over who paid for home renovations, whether Paxton used burner phones and how his alleged extramarital affair became a strain on the office.

Paxton denied wrongdoing and his attorneys argued there was either no evidence or that there wasn't enough to rise beyond a reasonable doubt. They portrayed Paxton as the victim of a plot orchestrated by Republican rivals and waved to political conspiracies involving George P. Bush, the nephew of former President George W. Bush, who unsuccessfully challenged Paxton in last year's GOP primary.

Paxton was endorsed in that race by former President Donald Trump, who reaffirmed his support in the waning days of the trial and applauded the verdict. "The Ken Paxton Victory is sooo BIG. WOW!!!" Trump posted on Truth Social, his social media platform.

More than three months after an overwhelming impeachment in the Texas House — where Republicans have a solid majority — Paxton was just as convincingly acquitted by Senate Republicans who serve alongside his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton.

Angela Paxton was not allowed a vote in the trial. But she attended all two weeks of the proceedings, including one dramatic moment when a woman was called to publicly testify about an affair she had with the state senator's husband. The woman ultimately never took the witness stand, but her relationship with Ken Paxton was central to a case that accused him of going to potentially criminal lengths to help a local real estate developer named Nate Paul, who was under FBI investigation at the time.

The voting to acquit Paxton one-by-one on 16 charges of misconduct, bribery and corruption took more than an hour. Needing at least nine GOP senators to cross party lines, impeachment managers never got more than two on any one charge.

Onlookers in the Senate gallery for the verdict included three of Paxton's former deputies who reported him to the FBI in 2020 and testified in the trial. As the acquittals stacked up, one of them left midway through the verdict.

When the voting finally finished, Angela Paxton walked over to the defense table and hugged her husband's lawyers.

Democratic state Sen. Nathan Johnson described nearly eight hours of deliberations among the 30 senators as a hard and seemingly sincere process. "And then it collapsed," he said.

Johnson said it eventually became clear there would not be enough votes to convict and that it may have led some senators to change their minds.

"When enough people fall away from conviction, it exposes any remaining Republican to very strong attack from the right," Johnson said. "We reached the wrong result and it was the result of political pressures."

Another Democrat, Sen. Royce West, said the deliberations were not combative. "It was fluid," he said.

The outcome far from ends Paxton's troubles. He still faces trial on felony securities fraud charges, re-

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mains under a separate FBI investigation and is in jeopardy of losing his ability to practice law in Texas because of his baseless attempts to overturn the 2020 election.

Eight of Paxton's former deputies reported him to the FBI in 2020 over his relationship with real estate developer Paul, setting off a federal investigation that remains ongoing. Federal prosecutors investigating Paxton took testimony in August before a grand jury in San Antonio, according to two people with knowledge of the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of secrecy rules around the proceeding.

Paul was indicted in June on charges of making false statements to banks. He has pleaded not guilty. Testimony in the trial included a former Texas Ranger, who said he warned Paxton he was risking indictment in trying to help Paul pursue claims of wrongdoing by federal agents and a judge.

But reelected twice, including last November, Paxton has remained politically resilient despite the legal troubles and dysfunction in his office.

After starting his career in the state legislature as a Tea Party insurgent, Paxton has elevated his national profile by rushing his office into polarizing courtroom battles across the U.S., winning acclaim from Trump and the GOP's hard right.

Shortly after the verdict, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott welcomed Paxton back to work without reservations.

"Attorney General Paxton has done an outstanding job representing Texas, especially pushing back against the Biden Administration," Abbott said. "I look forward to continuing to work with him to secure the border and protect Texas from federal overreach."

Associated Press writer Jake Bleiberg in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

Find AP's full coverage of the impeachment of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton at: <https://apnews.com/hub/ken-paxton>

The auto workers strike will drive up car prices, but not right away — unless consumers panic

By DAVID KOENIG AP Business Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Car shoppers are heading for a new round of sticker shock if the strike by the United Auto Workers doesn't end soon, particularly for popular vehicles that are already in short supply.

The number of vehicles on dealer lots will shrink the longer the walkout goes on. Dealers are likely to lose incentives that the manufacturers pay them to boost sales by cutting prices.

And consumers might make things worse with panic-buying.

Many analysts think it will take several weeks before dealer lots start to look a bit empty. Ford, General Motors and Stellantis built up inventories of vehicles ahead of Thursday night's strike, and the UAW decided to limit the walkout to just three plants — at least for now.

"Guys at the dealerships are going to tell you, 'The UAW this and that,' but their lots are full of cars now," says Ivan Drury, the director of insights at Edmunds, a provider of information about the auto industry. He estimates that at current inventory levels and the pace of vehicle sales, most car shoppers shouldn't notice much change for a couple of months.

Vehicles from the Detroit Three sat in inventory an average 52 days before being sold in August, up from 31 days at the start of last year, according to Edmunds data.

The UAW began striking at factories that make only a few vehicles — Ford Broncos and Rangers, Jeep Wranglers, Chevrolet mid-size pickups and GMC vans. Dealers have good inventories of those.

The union said it had "reasonably productive conversations" with Ford on Saturday, while Stellantis gave details about its most recent offer to the union.

Mark Stewart, chief operating officer for North America at Stellantis, also said his company has contingency plans to limit the impact on consumers, though he declined to give details about them.

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"We really want to encourage customers: Don't be afraid," Stewart said, while suggesting they see the deals available at dealerships.

If the strike isn't ended soon, however, there could be shortages of some makes and models –big sellers or vehicles that are already in short supply, such as Chevrolet Silverado and Tahoe, GMC Sierra and Ford F-Series pickups. The car companies have plants in Mexico that could keep producing some models – as long as they have a supply of parts.

While the supply of cars from Detroit's Big Three will largely depend on how long the strike lasts and how quickly it spreads to other plants – there were rumors Friday that additional factories could be added next week – there are other factors.

Garrett Nelson, an auto analyst for CFRA Research, expects manufacturers to eliminate incentives they pay to dealers to boost sales. Those incentives let dealers reduce their sticker prices, and they're often targeted at slower-selling models.

The biggest wild card could be consumer psychology – panic-buying that would drive up prices.

"The impact on prices would be almost instantaneous," Nelson says. "Dealers will say, 'Look, we're not sure how many additional vehicles we're going to be getting.' There could be somewhat of a panic effect that could stimulate consumers to make that purchase sooner rather than later."

As cars from Ford, GM and Stellantis, the successor to Fiat Chrysler, become harder to find, there will be a ripple effect. Consumers who need a vehicle would likely turn to nonunion competitors like Toyota, Honda and Tesla, who would be able to charge them more.

"You'll start to see that pricing gets affected everywhere — and not just on the new end of the business," Drury says. "Used-car values, which have been seeing a bit of a decline from last year's highs, could start going back up" as consumers look for an affordable alternative to new vehicles.

Consumers who lease their vehicle and are coming to the end of the term could be especially vulnerable. Drury says leasing companies want their cars back while the used-car market is hot, and might be unwilling to extend the lease.

Anyone shopping for a new, used or leased car right now will also be hit by higher interest rates. The average rate for a new-car loan this week stood at 7.46%, and for a used car, it was 8.06%, according to Bankrate.

High rates are contributing to a spike in rejections for consumers looking to buy a ride. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York said this month that the rejection rate for auto loans is now 14.2%, the highest since the bank started tracking figures in 2013 and up from 9.1% six months ago. (Rejections are also up for mortgages, credit cards and other loans, as lenders recoil at the growing number of people falling behind on payments. Household debt is rising.)

Car prices were rising long before the auto workers even raised the possibility of a strike. A chip shortage, disruptions in the global supply chain and strong demand pushed prices higher.

The average price for a new vehicle jumped from \$39,919 in 2020 to \$48,798 so far this year, according to Kelley Blue Book. Cheap cars have all but disappeared, and consumers are forced into ever-longer loans to limit their monthly payments. Prices for used cars rose sharply in 2021 and 2022, but have slipped slightly this year.

Prices are almost certain to rise even if the strike is settled quickly, because the auto makers' labor costs will increase.

"It's almost a foregone conclusion that the UAW will succeed in getting substantial wage increases," says Patrick Anderson, the founder of Anderson Economic Group, a research firm that conducts market analysis. "Part of that is simply due to inflation, part of that is due to the profits of the automakers, and part of that is due to the leverage that the UAW has right now with a short inventory and an economy that still has a lot of people that want to buy cars."

The UAW is asking for a 36% increase in wages over four years, plus other demands that would increase expenses for the companies. On Saturday, Stellantis detailed its latest offer for cumulative raises of nearly 21% in hourly wages, roughly in line with proposals from Ford and GM.

Politicians also have been pushing automakers to consider workers who gave up pay and benefits to help their employers during the Great Recession.

"Now that our carmakers are enjoying robust profits, it's time to do right by those same workers so the industry can emerge more united and competitive than ever," former President Barack Obama said in a statement Saturday.

UAW President Shawn Fain is sensitive to the impression that the union's gains will come out of consumers' pocketbooks. He points out that prices were rising before the strike, and says labor accounts for a fraction of the Big Three's total costs.

"They could double our wages and not raise car prices and still make billions of dollars in profit," he said during an online presentation to union members this week.

It's all enough to make many motorists consider avoiding the car lot and keeping their current car a while longer. Their bank accounts will be healthier without car payments.

"Holding on to your car is not a bad thing," said Drury, the Edmunds analyst. "It's a lot more durable than you think it is."

Supply problems and insurance issues make popular weight-loss drugs hard to get

By TOM MURPHY AP Health Writer

When she prescribes the popular weight-loss drug Wegovy, Dr. Angela Fitch sends patients on a quest she likens to "The Hunger Games."

They will have to call drugstores over several days to find one with the properly sized first dose. Then they'll do that again for their second dose, and probably the third. And that's only if the patient has insurance or the means to afford a drug that can cost more than \$1,300 a month.

"This is not for the weak-willed," said Fitch, who is president of the Obesity Medicine Association and also consults for drugmakers.

Supply problems and insurance complications have made it difficult for people to start — and stay on — Wegovy and similar medications that are transforming obesity treatment, according to doctors and patients around the country. They say getting the high-demand, injectable drugs requires persistence and a fair amount of luck.

People starting on Wegovy have to take injections of gradually increasing strength before they reach the so-called maintenance dose that they stay on.

The drug's maker, Novo Nordisk, says that demand has forced it to restrict the supply of those smaller, initial doses in the U.S. The company also is warning those taking another weight-loss drug, Saxenda, to expect difficulty filling prescriptions "for the remainder of 2023 and beyond."

Another drugmaker, Eli Lilly, has said it expects tight supplies until year's end for its diabetes treatment Mounjaro, which also is prescribed for weight loss.

Finding Wegovy can become a part-time job for patients, said Dr. Diana Thiara, medical director of the weight management clinic at the University of California, San Francisco.

Thiara said some wind up driving 45 minutes or more to get prescriptions filled, a barrier for hourly workers who can't leave their job and for people without cars.

"It's usually patients who are a little bit more privileged, able to take off from work to go make those drives," Thiara said.

One of Fitch's patients, Mike Bouboulis, has taken Saxenda, Mounjaro or Ozempic, a Novo diabetes drug with the same active ingredient as Wegovy, since around 2019. It became much harder for him to find the drugs in the past year, after their popularity exploded.

Refilling a prescription involved calling five to seven pharmacies.

"They all know what you're calling for, and they all have the same answer: 'I don't know. We'll see tomorrow,'" said the 35-year-old small business owner who lives outside Boston.

Pharmacy technician Lizzy Nielsen used insider knowledge to start Wegovy earlier this year.

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She regularly checked drug wholesalers' supply lists, refreshing her screen each morning, and then ordering Wegovy for her pharmacy as soon as she saw it in stock.

"I was really lucky ... because that's when it was like starting to be constantly back-ordered," the 42-year-old West Springfield, Massachusetts, resident said.

While patients have had to deal with shortages of many medications in the past year, those taking weight-loss drugs can face coverage complications too.

The federal Medicare program for people age 65 and older doesn't cover obesity medicines, but some privately run Medicare Advantage or Medigap plans do, according to Novo. Coverage from Medicaid programs for people with low incomes varies.

Doctors and patients say many insurers have stopped covering Ozempic and Mounjaro outside their approved use for diabetes. Some insurers and employers don't pay for Wegovy.

Novo Nordisk even offers a form letter on its Wegovy website to help doctors request coverage.

Bouboulis, the Boston-area resident, said his insurer stopped covering Mounjaro earlier this year. He then tried switching back to Ozempic but found that also was no longer covered.

He's taking low doses of leftover Ozempic until he can find coverage.

"I know the insurance companies don't want to pay, but between (them) and the pharmaceutical industry, they need to find some kind of nice middle ground because these medications, they can save people's lives," said Bouboulis, who has lost around 80 pounds since he started taking them.

Employers and insurers that do pay for the weight-loss treatments often require patients to get pre-approval or to first try other strategies like diet and exercise.

Some require patients to show they've lost 5% of their body weight after six months on the drugs in order to continue coverage. Supply problems make that hard, Thiara noted.

"A lot of patients are not staying on it consistently because they can't get it," she said.

Dr. Laura Davisson estimates that less than 30% of her patients with insurance through an employer or an individual plan have obesity medicine coverage.

Davisson directs a weight-loss program in West Virginia, a state that consistently ranks as having one of the highest obesity rates in the country. The state's Medicaid program doesn't cover Wegovy, but neighboring Pennsylvania's does.

"For me, it's either they have coverage through insurance, or they're not taking it," she said. "No one can afford it."

Coverage may improve over time, as it has with other obesity treatments like bariatric surgery.

About 46% of large U.S. employers cover obesity medicines like Wegovy, according to the benefits consultant Mercer. Another 18% are considering it. Mercer's experts say employers are still trying to learn about how the added cost will affect them and what other support patients may need.

Dr. Deborah Horn says she thinks supply problems and coverage will eventually smooth out, but it may take a couple years. She noted that the FDA may soon approve Mounjaro to treat obesity, which could improve coverage.

Drugmakers also are developing other weight-loss medications, including easier-to-take pills.

In the meantime, more patients are realizing that they can get medical help for their disease and don't have to manage it on their own, said Horn, an obesity medicine expert at UTHealth Houston.

"I feel like this is the beginning of the change in obesity care, where we will see every year better and better medications coming to market and people getting their disease under control," she said. "We're just in the hard part ... right now."

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Libya investigates dams' collapse after a devastating flood last weekend killed more than 11,000

By SAMY MAGDY and YOUSEF MOURAD Associated Press

DERNA, Libya (AP) — Libyan authorities have opened an investigation into the collapse of two dams that caused a devastating flood in a coastal city as rescue teams searched for bodies on Saturday, nearly a week after the deluge killed more than 11,000 people.

It's unclear how such an investigation can be carried out in the North African country, which plunged into chaos after a NATO-backed uprising toppled longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. For most of the past decade, Libya has been split between rival administrations — one in the east, the other in the west — each backed by powerful militias and international patrons.

One result has been the neglect of crucial infrastructure, even as climate change makes extreme weather events more frequent and severe.

Heavy rains caused by Mediterranean storm Daniel caused deadly flooding across eastern Libya last weekend. The floods overwhelmed two dams, sending a wall of water several meters high through the center of Derna, destroying entire neighborhoods and sweeping people out to sea.

More than 10,000 people are missing, according to the Libyan Red Crescent. Six days on, searchers are still digging through mud and hollowed-out buildings, looking for bodies and possible survivors. The Red Crescent has confirmed 11,300 deaths so far.

Claire Nicolet, who heads the emergencies department of the Doctors Without Borders aid group, said that rescuers found "a lot of bodies" on Friday and were still searching.

"It was a big number ... the sea is still ejecting lots of dead bodies unfortunately," she told The Associated Press.

She said major aid efforts were still needed, including urgent psychological support for those who lost their families. She said the burial of bodies is still a significant challenge, but there has been progress in coordinating search and rescue efforts and the distribution of aid.

Authorities and aid groups have voiced concern about the spread of waterborne diseases and shifting of explosive ordnance from Libya's recent conflicts.

Haider al-Saeih, head of Libya's center for combating diseases, said in televised comments Saturday that at least 150 people had suffered from diarrhea after drinking contaminated water in Derna. He urged residents only drink bottled water, which is being shipped in as part of relief efforts.

Libya's General Prosecutor, al-Sediq al-Sour, said that prosecutors would investigate the collapse of the two dams, which were built in the 1970s, as well as the allocation of maintenance funds. He said prosecutors would investigate local authorities in the city, as well as previous governments.

"I reassure citizens that whoever made mistakes or negligence, prosecutors will certainly take firm measures, file a criminal case against him and send him to trial," he told a news conference in Derna late Friday. He said the probe will include investigators from different parts of the country.

Such an inquiry would face major obstacles given Libya's lingering political divide, even as the devastation brought a rare moment of unity, with Libyans on both sides rushing aid to Derna.

Jalel Harchaoui, an expert on Libya at the London-based Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, said that an investigation could pose "a unique challenge" to judicial authorities, since it could lead to the highest ranks of leadership in eastern and western Libya.

Later on Saturday, a local television station reported that Derna's mayor, Abdel-Moneim al-Gaithi, was suspended pending an investigation into the disaster, according to a government decree dated Sept. 14.

Ahmed Amdour was appointed acting mayor for the flood-stricken city, the station said.

Since 2014, eastern Libya has been under the control of Gen. Khalifa Hifter and his self-styled Libyan National Army. A rival government, based in the capital, Tripoli, controls most national funds and oversees infrastructure projects. Neither tolerates dissent.

"The key challenge to a thorough investigation is the Hifter coalition's longstanding behavior; its historic lack of accountability writ large could obstruct the unearthing of truths," Harchaoui said.

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During a visit to Derna on Friday, Hifter promised promotions to all military personnel involved in the relief efforts.

Local officials in the city had warned the public about the coming storm and last Saturday ordered residents to evacuate coastal areas in Derna, fearing a surge from the sea. But there was no warning about the dams, which collapsed early Monday as most residents were asleep in their homes.

A report by a state-run audit agency in 2021 said the two dams hadn't been maintained despite the allocation of more than \$2 million for that purpose in 2012 and 2013.

A Turkish firm was contracted in 2007 to carry out maintenance on the two dams and build another dam in between. The firm, Arsel Construction Company Ltd., said on its website that it completed its work in November 2012. It didn't respond to an email seeking further comment.

Local and international rescue teams were meanwhile working around the clock, searching for bodies and potential survivors in the city of 90,000 people.

Ayoub said that his father and nephew died in Derna on Monday, a day after the family had fled flooding in the nearby town of Bayda. He said that his mother and sister raced upstairs to the roof but the others didn't make it.

"I found the kid in the water next to his grandfather," said Ayoub, who only gave his first name. "I am wandering around and I still don't believe what happened."

Al-Sour, the top prosecutor, called on residents who have missing relatives to report to a forensic committee that works on documenting and identifying retrieved bodies.

Libyan authorities have restricted access to the flooded city to make it easier for searchers to dig through the mud and hollowed-out buildings for the more than 10,000 people still missing. Many bodies were believed to have been buried under rubble or swept out into the Mediterranean Sea, they said.

The storm hit other areas in eastern Libya, including the towns of Bayda, Susa, Marj and Shahatt. Tens of thousands of people have been displaced in the region and took shelter in schools and other government buildings.

Dozens of foreigners were among those killed, including people who had fled war and unrest elsewhere in the region. Others had come to Libya to work or were traveling through in hopes of migrating to Europe. At least 74 men from one village in Egypt perished in the flood, as well as dozens of people who had traveled to Libya from war-torn Syria.

Maltese authorities said they found over 80 bodies during land and sea searches on Friday. One person was found alive 10 nautical miles, roughly 11 miles, off the coast of Derna. Malta's armed forces have been helping with relief efforts in Libya since Wednesday.

Magdy reported from Cairo. Associated Press writer Jack Jeffery contributed to this report from London.

Hollywood strikes enter a new phase as daytime shows like Drew Barrymore's return despite pickets

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "The Drew Barrymore Show" will begin airing fresh episodes on Monday but a lot of off-air controversy will be clinging to its typically bubbly host.

Barrymore — a daughter of a proud acting dynasty — is making new batches of her syndicated talk show despite picketers outside her studio, as daytime TV becomes the latest battlefield in the ongoing Hollywood labor strife.

"We're four months approximately into this strike and it's not surprising that there are defectors," said Michael H. LeRoy, a professor of labor and employment relations at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "I couldn't predict that this would happen on daytime TV, but everybody has a breaking point in a labor dispute."

"The Drew Barrymore Show," operating without its three union writers, isn't the only daytime show to resume. "The View" has returned for its 27th season on ABC, while "Tamron Hall" and "Live With Kelly

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and Ryan" — neither are governed by writers guild rules — have also been producing fresh episodes. "The Jennifer Hudson Show" and "The Talk" are also restarting Monday.

As long as the hosts and guests don't discuss or promote work covered by television, theatrical or streaming contracts, they're not technically breaking the strike. That's because talk shows are covered under a separate contract — the so-called Network Code — from the one actors and writers are striking. The Network Code also covers reality TV, sports, morning news shows, soap operas and game shows.

"I know there is just nothing I can do that will make this OK to those that it is not OK with. I fully accept that," Barrymore said in a video posted Friday on Instagram that was later deleted. "I just want everyone to know my intentions have never been in a place to upset or hurt anymore. It's not who I am."

The ongoing strike pits Writers Guild of America and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents Disney, Netflix, Amazon and others.

The return of daytime hosts, producers and studio crews will make for some awkward exchanges, predicted Zayd Ayers Dohrn, a writer, professor and director of the MFA in Writing for Screen and Stage at Northwestern University.

"It's kind of amazing that they're going to go back to work with their own writers picketing outside the doors of the studios," said Dohrn, a writers guild member. "They're literally walking past the picket line of the workers who they say they're supporting."

Barrymore's decision to return to the air was met with pushback on social media. "You have the heart and mind to be more tapped into the needs of the community than this," wrote one viewer on Instagram. Another was more blunt: "You don't get to play a generous and relatable character when it's financially expedient for you and then scab when your pocketbook is at risk."

Actor and activist Alyssa Milano, whose friendship with Barrymore stretches back years, also criticized the return, calling it "not a great move."

"I love her very much — I grew up with her — but I'm not sure that this was the right move for the strike. I'm sure in her eyes it's the right move for her and the show, but as far as the WGA and SAG and union strong — not a great move."

Barrymore's stance was also met with some puzzlement since she walked away as host of the MTV Movie & TV Awards in May, the first big awards show to air during the strike. Back then, she wrote: "I have listened to the writers, and in order to truly respect them, I will pivot from hosting the MTV Movie & TV Awards live in solidarity with the strike."

She has since lost another hosting gig: the National Book Awards in November. The organization rescinded her invitation "in light of the announcement that 'The Drew Barrymore Show' will resume production."

LeRoy, who has studied labor-employer struggles for 30 years, warned that TV shows like Barrymore's may think they can get by without using union writers but may find long-term costs.

"No members of the Writers Guild will ever work with that show again," he said. "It's a short-term, feel-good moment or get-by moment for Drew Barrymore and maybe the others, but long term they really have, in my view, basically given themselves an early retirement."

He noted other strikes in the past that left bitter feelings for decades, like when Major League Baseball umpires went on strike in 1999. New umpires were hired and integrated with veteran ones but tensions continued.

"For the next 25 years, those umpires would not talk to each other if they were assigned to work games together," LeRoy said. "Twenty-five years of shunning. People do not forget it."

Viewers who tune into new episodes of daytime talk shows these days will find a changed landscape. Guests aren't always the A-listers with blockbuster TV shows or films to promote. Since the strike began, authors, musicians and comedians are filling the gaps.

This week, Neil deGrasse Tyson was on "Live With Kelly and Ryan" talking about the science behind the Hulk while Cedric The Entertainer was telling Hall about his debut novel. Matthew McConaughey was on "The View" to promote his book "Just Because."

Hosts like Barrymore may be caught in a lose-lose situation — contractually obligated to return to work but certain to anger colleagues when they do. Last week she noted “This is bigger than just me.”

Bill Maher, who also announced he would return to his late night talk show, couched his reasoning as wanting to help all his staff, saying writers “are not the only people with issues, problems, and concerns.”

Dohrn isn’t buying it: “They talk about wanting to support the people who are just getting by. But Bill Maher and Drew Barrymore and the hosts of ‘The View’ are not just getting by. They could very easily stand with their fellow workers in the industry and say, ‘We’re not going to feed the studio pipeline until they make a fair offer,’” he said.

“They’re deciding for a whole host of complicated reasons to go back to work and to ultimately try to break the strike.”

Associated Press Writer Krysta Fauria contributed to this report.

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

Republican presidential candidates mostly overlook New Hampshire in an effort to blunt Trump in Iowa

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Once upon a time, the moderates, the mavericks and the underdogs in presidential politics had a chance to break through in New Hampshire.

Former Sen. John McCain, an independent-minded Republican, resurrected his anemic campaign with a victory in the state’s first-in-the-nation presidential primary in 2008. Bill Clinton, a centrist Democrat from Arkansas, became the “comeback kid” by exceeding expectations here in 1992. And little-known Georgia peanut farmer, Jimmy Carter, would go on to claim the presidency after winning the state’s 1976 Democratic primary.

But this year, New Hampshire’s primary tradition may be little more than a fairy tale as the presidential field largely overlooks the Granite State.

Democratic officials, who have rallied behind President Joe Biden, have already decided to bypass New Hampshire in favor of South Carolina. And the crowded Republican field is focusing its money, time and attention on Iowa, betting big that the Midwestern state’s religious conservatives are most likely to help them stop former President Donald Trump’s march toward the GOP nomination.

This weekend alone, no fewer than eight Republican White House hopefuls are descending upon Iowa for the state’s Faith and Freedom Coalition annual meeting. It marks the third multi-candidate gathering in the state in two months, while New Hampshire hasn’t hosted one.

The shift toward Iowa, which hosts the nation’s opening presidential caucuses on Jan. 15 shortly before New Hampshire’s first-in-the-nation primary, began in recent years as the national GOP lurched rightward. But as New Hampshire’s prominence fades further in 2024, it’s unclear whether there will be sufficient oxygen or opportunity for anyone to emerge as a serious Trump challenger in the state best known for political upsets.

Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, the most aggressive anti-Trump Republican in the race, is the only GOP White House contender to campaign in New Hampshire since Monday. He’s devoting the vast majority of his time to the Granite State — and South Carolina, to a lesser degree.

“There’s a lot of people competing in Iowa — hard — and not as many people competing hard in New Hampshire,” Christie said in an interview. “I think it’s a mistake and I think I’m going to benefit from it.”

He acknowledged Trump’s strength among the GOP base, but suggested the former president cannot ultimately create the broad coalition likely needed to defeat Biden next November.

“If the nominee is Donald Trump, we’re going to lose the general election. And I think that’s tragic for the country and for our party, but I think it’s completely avoidable,” Christie said. “But if it’s gonna start, it’s gonna start here.”

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Indeed, New Hampshire Republican officials have been more willing than most to speak out against Trump. Republican Gov. Chris Sununu has come out forcefully against Trump and is working to boost his rivals. Former state GOP chair Jennifer Horn is a fierce Trump critic. And New Hampshire's former Republican national committeeman, Steve Duprey, endorsed Biden over Trump in 2020.

In an interview, Sununu conceded Trump is dominating the race, but he insisted the majority of Republican primary voters remain open to someone else.

"People are clearly looking for an alternative," Sununu said. "There's a lot of opportunity for that alternative — I'm not saying he's more moderate — I think it's just seeing a new generation of conservative leadership."

The evolving dynamic between Iowa and New Hampshire underscores a growing tension within a Republican Party that must ultimately appeal to both its hardline conservative base and moderates and independents who play an outsized role in the general election. Iowa's presidential caucuses tend to feature the most conservative Republican voters, especially evangelical Christians. New Hampshire, however, hosts an "open" primary election that allows voters to participate regardless of party affiliation.

Marc Colcombe, a 63-year-old Republican voter from Hillsborough, New Hampshire, said he's looking for a presidential nominee who "understands that everybody's got something good they bring to the table and foster those relationships and bring everybody together."

A former Trump supporter, Colcombe says he's now deeply concerned that no one appears to be emerging as a viable alternative to the divisive former president. He shared his fears during a Christie appearance at a local brewery this week that may have attracted as many members of the press as voters.

"You've got to put your ego aside and do what's right," Colcombe said. "Trump can't do that because his ego rules everything he does."

And while there is real resistance to Trump in New Hampshire, his rivals are devoting most of their time and money to Iowa for the foreseeable future.

Republican presidential candidates and their allies have reserved almost \$30 million in TV, radio and on-line advertising across Iowa compared to \$19 million in New Hampshire for the period beginning Sunday through the primary phase of the campaign, according to an AP analysis of AdImpact data. The spending disparity has been consistent since Trump launched his campaign last fall. As of Friday, Republican candidates and their allies have already spent \$38 million across Iowa advertising compared to less than \$23 million in New Hampshire.

Meanwhile, Christie had New Hampshire to himself this week. Over the same seven-day period, eight GOP candidates made at least 32 separate appearances in Iowa.

Former Vice President Mike Pence appeared at more than a dozen public events this week in Iowa. Conservative entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy made three stops in Iowa on Thursday alone. Both Nikki Haley, the former ambassador to the United Nations, and South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott were set to make at least three Iowa stops of their own over the weekend. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis was set to appear there at least twice.

There are exceptions to the trend.

Haley, who may be more popular with her party's establishment wing than its base, has divided her time evenly between New Hampshire and Iowa.

She's in the midst of her 10th trip to Iowa covering 44 campaign events, according to spokesperson Nachama Soloveichik. Haley has hosted another 49 events in New Hampshire over nine separate trips, although a 10th is scheduled for next week.

"Our team is committed to both Iowa and New Hampshire because Nikki is campaigning for every vote," Soloveichik said. "No one will outwork Nikki Haley."

DeSantis, who casts himself as Trump's chief rival, has increasingly narrowed his focus to Iowa as he struggles for momentum. After this weekend, the Florida governor will have made 23 appearances in New Hampshire, compared with 70 in Iowa, according to spokesperson Andrew Romeo. He said DeSantis is not ignoring New Hampshire, having attended a July 4th celebration and unveiled his economic policy there.

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For Ramaswamy, battling DeSantis for second place in primary polls, Wednesday night's rally in Davenport marked his 100th Iowa event, spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said. He's hosted 65 events in New Hampshire, including two last Sunday.

Despite the Iowa bias, McLaughlin noted that Ramaswamy has multiple county chairs for every county and nearly 50 municipal chairs across New Hampshire.

Veteran New Hampshire Republican strategist Mike Dennehy noted that the shift toward Iowa, which began in recent elections, coincides with the GOP's shift to the right.

"For better or worse, the candidates running for president are more conservative than in years past. To be perfectly honest, I'm not sure George W. Bush would fit into this field," Dennehy said, highlighting the party's political challenge in next year's general election. "Republicans have to win over moderate to right-of-center Republicans who aren't evangelicals or aren't hard-right conservative voters. ... New Hampshire plays a pivotal role for that purpose."

And despite New Hampshire's storied role as a launching pad for underdogs, Dennehy is skeptical there will be a happy ending for Trump's rivals in 2024.

"I wouldn't bet anything on anything on anything at this point — other than Trump winning," he said.

The Senate's bipartisan approach to government funding is putting pressure on a divided House

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — On one side of the Capitol, two senators have steered the debate over government funding mostly clear of partisan fights, creating a path for bills to pass with bipartisan momentum. Steps away, on the House side of the building, things couldn't be more different.

House Republicans, trying to win support from the far-right wing of the party, have loaded up their government funding packages with spending cuts and conservative policy priorities. Democrats have responded with ire, branding their GOP counterparts as extreme and bigoted, and are withdrawing support for the legislation.

The contrary approaches are not unusual for such fights in Congress. But the differences are especially stark this time, creating a gulf between the chambers that could prove difficult to bridge. The dynamic threatens to plunge the United States into yet another damaging government shutdown, potentially as soon as the end of September when last year's funding expires.

Leaders in both chambers are trying to project strength as they enter negotiations that will determine the fate of billions of dollars in government programs, military aid for Ukraine and emergency disaster recovery funds.

The Senate strategy is being led by the first female duo to hold the top leadership spots on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Sens. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Susan Collins, R-Maine.

The two have worked for months to pull off a feat not seen in Congress in five years, crafting 12 separate funding bills through the so-called regular order process, which involves crafting legislation in open committee hearings. The goal is to avoid an outcome that rank-and-file lawmakers in both parties loathe: being forced to fund the government at year's end with a sprawling omnibus package, nearly sight unseen, after it emerges from closed-door negotiations.

"I heard from many members at the end of last year, Republicans and Democrats, that they don't want this dysfunction," Murray told The Associated Press. "They want the appropriations bill not to be some big conglomerate at the end of the year that nobody knows what's in it."

As Murray took the helm of the committee earlier this year, she and Collins began to build on their decades-old working relationship. Murray also met with the top Democrats and Republicans on each subcommittee and urged them to shield funding legislation from "poison pill" policy riders that would drive away the members of one party or the other.

Their effort was at first met with skepticism, Murray said. But as the Senate grinds toward votes on their funding bills, they have won plaudits from leadership in both parties.

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Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., called the appropriations work “a shining example of how things should work in Washington.” Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky has been supportive as well, saying Murray and Collins “have taken us in the right direction.”

Collins said she has urged her Republican colleagues, who are in the minority, to “understand that if they really believe in regular order, we need to proceed with these bills and start the amendment process and conclude the bills and send them on their way to the House.”

So far, Senate appropriations bills have made it out of the committee on large bipartisan votes, and the Senate this past week took a step toward a final vote on the first package of three spending bills with a 91-7 vote.

Thanks to the filibuster that forces a 60-vote threshold for passage of most legislation, the Senate has no choice but to work on a bipartisan basis when it comes to most major legislation. But the chamber is hardly immune to political brinkmanship. A few GOP senators allied with conservatives in the House are working to slow the Senate’s work on appropriations bills. The delay could give the House more time to advance its own, hard-line approach.

Still, the Senate’s coordination on the bills only intensifies the pressure on House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who abandoned a plan to pass a defense funding bill — one of the 12 appropriations bills, and usually one of the least controversial — after members of the House Freedom Caucus refused to support it advancing to a vote on the House floor.

“You’re stronger when you have one House and you can advocate for the policies you want and you’ve passed that,” McCarthy, R-Calif., said Wednesday, shortly after he was forced to call off the vote.

The top lawmakers on the House Appropriations Committee, Reps. Kay Granger of Texas, R-Texas, and Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., have had a good working relationship, but their bills are shaped by larger forces in the House. That means all eyes are on McCarthy as he tries to win support from the conservative wing of his own conference.

To win the speaker’s gavel, McCarthy committed to returning the appropriations process to regular order. He reiterated that approach this week saying, “The American public wins in this — that they actually see the bills.”

But with a thin majority and a shaky hold on his leadership position, McCarthy has allowed House Republicans to craft packages that cut below the agreement he struck in May with President Joe Biden to suspend the nation’s borrowing limit. They have also loaded the House’s appropriations bills with conservative policy wins, ensuring Democratic opposition.

McCarthy has also ratcheted up the political divide in the House by directing an impeachment inquiry into Biden — a move that the right-wing of his conference has been demanding for months.

“House Republicans have made clear that they are determined to shut down the government and try to jam their extreme right-wing ideology down the throats of the American people,” said House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York.

Republican appropriators have used their funding bills to engage in charged partisan fights, teeing up cuts to programs that benefit LGBTQ people, funding for the Department of Defense’s policy of facilitating travel for service members to receive abortions and defunding offices and positions that Republicans see as liberal.

Committee hearings often grew tense over the summer as Democrats accused Republicans of betraying future generations by cutting money for environmental protections and climate programs. Republicans criticized current spending levels as a betrayal of their children and grandchildren because it imperils the future of Social Security and Medicare.

Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma, a senior Republican, dismissed the House ruckus as “the chaos of democracy.”

“We’re actually having a real legislative debate over here, a pretty robust discussion and some pretty hardball politics,” he said.

But a government shutdown is approaching rapidly, leaving House Republicans little time to form an appropriations plan or pass a short-term measure that would give them more time to negotiate a funding deal.

McCarthy told a closed-door House GOP meeting on Thursday that he would keep the House in session longer than scheduled if necessary, according to lawmakers in attendance.

Exiting the meeting, Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., said McCarthy's message was stark: "We will be losers if we get a shutdown."

UAW strike exposes tensions between Biden's goals of tackling climate change and supporting unions

By CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two of President Joe Biden's top goals — fighting climate change and expanding the middle class by supporting unions — are colliding in the key battleground state of Michigan as the United Auto Workers go on strike against the country's biggest car companies.

The strike involves 13,000 workers so far, less than one-tenth of the union's total membership, but it's a sharp test of Biden's ability to hold together an expansive and discordant political coalition while running for reelection.

Biden is trying to turbocharge the market for electric vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prevent China from solidifying its grip on a growing industry. His signature legislation, known as the Inflation Reduction Act, includes billions of dollars in incentives to get more clean cars on the roads.

Some in the UAW fear the transition will cost jobs because electric vehicles require fewer people to assemble. Although there will be new opportunities in the production of high-capacity batteries, there's no guarantee that those factories will be unionized and they're often being planned in states more hostile to organized labor.

"The president is in a really tough position," said Erik Gordon, a professor at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. "What he needs to be the most pro-labor president ever and the greenest president ever is a magic wand."

The union is demanding steep raises and better benefits, and it's escalating the pressure with its targeted strike. Brittany Eason, who has worked for 11 years at the Ford Assembly Plant in Wayne, Michigan, said workers are worried that they'll "be pushed out by computers and electric vehicles."

"How do you expect people to work with ease if they're in fear of losing their jobs?" said Eason, who planned to walk the picket line this weekend. Electric vehicles may be inevitable, she said, but changes need to be made "so everybody can feel secure about their jobs, their homes and everything else."

Biden on Friday acknowledged the tension in remarks from the White House, saying the transition to clean energy "should be fair and a win-win for autoworkers and auto companies."

He dispatched top aides to Detroit to help push negotiations along, and he prodded management to make more generous offers to the union, saying "they should go further to ensure record corporate profits mean record contracts."

As part of its demands, the UAW wants to represent employees at battery plants, which would send ripple effects through an industry that has seen supply chains upended by technological changes.

"Batteries are the power trains of the future," said Dave Green, a regional director for the union in Ohio and Indiana. "Our workers in engine and transmission areas need to be able to move into the new generation."

Executives, however, are keen to keep a lid on labor costs as their companies prepare to compete in a global market. China is the dominant manufacturer of electric vehicles and batteries.

"The UAW strike and indeed the 'summer of strikes' is the natural result of the Biden administration's 'whole of government' approach to promoting unionization at all costs," said Suzanne Clark, CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Some environmental groups, conscious of how labor remains crucial to securing support for climate programs, have expressed support for the strike.

"We're at a really pivotal moment in the history of the auto industry," said Sam Gilchrist, deputy national outreach director at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

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Presidential politics have increased the stakes for the strike, which could damage the economy going into an election year, depending on how long it lasts and whether it spreads. It's also centered in Michigan, a key part of Biden's 2020 victory and critical to his chances at a second term.

Former President Donald Trump, the front-runner for the Republican nomination, sees an opportunity to drive a wedge between Biden and workers. He issued a statement saying Biden "will murder the U.S. auto industry and kill countless union autoworker jobs forever, especially in Michigan and the Midwest. There is no such thing as a 'fair transition' to the destruction of these workers' livelihoods and the obliteration of this cherished American industry."

In an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press," Trump said that "electric cars are going to be made in China," not the United States, and he said "the autoworkers are being sold down the river by their leadership."

Trump's comments have not earned him any support from Shawn Fain, president of the UAW.

"That's not someone that represents working-class people," he told MSNBC earlier this month. "He's part of the billionaire class. We need to not forget that. And that's what our members need to think about when they go to vote."

Ammar Moussa, a spokesman for Biden's campaign, said Trump "will say literally anything to distract from his long record of breaking promises and failing America's workers." He noted that Trump would have let auto companies go bankrupt during the financial crisis rather than bail them out as President Barack Obama did at the time.

But there are also disagreements between Biden and workers.

When the Energy Department announced a \$9.2 billion loan for battery plants in Tennessee and Kentucky, part of a joint venture by Ford and a South Korean company, Fain said the federal government was "actively funding the race to the bottom with billions in public money."

Madeline Janis, co-executive director of Jobs to Move America, which works on environmental and worker issues, said the White House needs to do more to alleviate labor challenges.

"We don't have enough career pathways for people to see themselves in this future and let go of the jobs in industries that are causing our world to be in crisis," she said.

Associated Press writer Joey Cappelletti in Lansing, Michigan, contributed to this report.

Special UN summit, protests, week of talk turn up heat on fossil fuels and global warming

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

The heat is about to be turned up on fossil fuels, the United States and President Joe Biden.

As a record-smashing and deadly hot summer draws to a close, the United Nations and the city that hosts it are focusing on climate change and the burning of coal, oil and natural gas that causes it. It features a special U.N. summit and a week of protests and talk-heavy events involving leaders from business, health, politics and the arts. Even a royal prince — William — is getting in on the action.

The annual Climate Week, which coincides with the U.N. General Assembly, kicks off Sunday with tens of thousands of people expected in the "March to End Fossil Fuels" Manhattan rally, one of hundreds of worldwide protests.

This week "is the start of an incredible pressure cooker that we are all part of," said Jean Su, a march organizer and energy justice director for the Center for Biological Diversity. "It is coming from the top down, from that chief of the United Nations and now it is coming from bottom up in over 400 distributed actions across the world."

Much of the heat is coming from Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who is convening a new Climate Ambition Summit on Wednesday that has a special twist: Only leaders from nations that bring new and meaningful action will be allowed to speak. And the U.N. isn't saying yet who will get that chance.

It won't be Biden, who is speaking Tuesday at the U.N., the White House said. Nor will it be the leaders of China, the United Kingdom, Russia or France — all major players in the development and use of fossil fuels -- who won't even be in New York.

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Guterres has repeatedly aimed his criticism at fossil fuels, calling them "incompatible with human survival." He and scientific reports out of the United Nations have emphasized that the only way to curb warming and meet international goals is to "phase out" fossil fuels.

Phase-out is a term that world leaders in past climate negotiations and meetings of large economic powers have refused to back, instead opting for watered-down phrases such as "phase down" of unabated coal, allowing fossil use if its emissions are somehow captured and stored. The president of the upcoming international climate negotiations in Dubai is an oil executive from the United Arab Emirates and will be speaking at Wednesday's summit, though his dual role has upset activists and some scientists.

"This really is an unprecedented soft power moment where the U.N. chief is throwing fossil fuels into the limelight and forcing heads of states to respond," Su said. "Whether it's yes or no, he's at least forcing them to respond as to will you commit to no new fossil fuel development in line with climate science?"

But U.N. chiefs have little real power, said Climate Analytics CEO Bill Hare, a climate scientist.

"They can talk. They can persuade. They can from time-to-time constructively criticize and that's all the tools that he's got," Hare said. "The U.N. secretary-general has moral authority and he's using that."

Guterres "can shame leaders who show up with pitiful offers in terms of climate action," said Power Shift Africa Director Mohamed Adow, a longtime climate diplomacy observer. "We've got to a point where we can no longer be able to afford the velvet glove diplomacy."

Guterres will ask nations to accelerate their efforts to rid themselves of carbon-based energy, with the richest nations that can afford it going first and faster, and providing financial aid to the poorer nations that can't afford it, said Selwin Hart, Guterres' special adviser for climate action.

"We know the use of fossil fuels is the main cause of the climate crisis, coal, oil and gas," Hart said Friday. "We need to accelerate the global transition away from fossil fuels. But it must be just, fair and equitable."

But the same 20 richest economies who promise to slice carbon emissions "are now issuing new oil and gas licensing at a time when the (International Energy Agency and the science-based Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has clearly stated that this is incompatible with the 1.5 degree (Celsius, 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) goal of the Paris Agreement," Hart said.

Yet speeding to net zero emissions of carbon requires rapid and huge reshaping of the energy landscape that "could inflict serious harm on the economy," American Energy Alliance President Thomas Pyle said last month.

Environmental activists calculate that five rich northern countries – the United States, Canada, Australia, Norway and the United Kingdom – that talk about cutting back emissions are responsible for more than half of the planned expansion of oil and gas drilling through 2050. The United States accounts for more than one-third.

So activists and protesters at Sunday's march say they are aiming their frustration – and pressure - at Biden and America.

However, Biden has repeatedly trumpeted last year's Inflation Reduction Act, which includes \$375 billion to fight climate change, mostly on solar panels, energy efficiency, air pollution controls and emission-reducing equipment for coal- and gas-fueled power plants.

"They want to be seen as the good guys, but the fact is they have very little to back it up," said Brandon Wu, policy director at ActionAid USA. He pointed to the new drilling plans and said the United States has failed to deliver on its promised climate-based financial aid to poor countries and has not increased its money pledges like other nations.

"How much carnage does the planet have to suffer for global leaders to act?" Su said. "We want President Biden and other major oil gas producers to phase out fossil fuels."

Associated Press climate and environmental coverage receives support from several private foundations.

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Today in History: September 17

Israel, Egypt reach Camp David Accords

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 17, the 260th day of 2023. There are 105 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 17, 1978, after 12 days of meetings at the U.S. presidential retreat of Camp David, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (men-AH'-kem BAY'-gihh) and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed a framework for a peace treaty.

On this date:

In 1787, the Constitution of the United States was completed and signed by a majority of delegates attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

In 1862, more than 3,600 men were killed in the Civil War Battle of Antietam (an-TEE'-tum) in Maryland.

In 1908, Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge of the U.S. Army Signal Corps became the first person to die in the crash of a powered aircraft, the Wright Flyer, at Fort Myer, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C.

In 1920, the American Professional Football Association -- a precursor of the National Football League -- was formed in Canton, Ohio.

In 1937, the likeness of President Abraham Lincoln was dedicated at Mount Rushmore.

In 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Poland during World War II, more than two weeks after Nazi Germany had launched its assault.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied paratroopers launched Operation Market Garden, landing behind German lines in the Netherlands.

In 1947, James V. Forrestal was sworn in as the first U.S. Secretary of Defense.

In 1980, former Nicaraguan president Anastasio Somoza was assassinated in Paraguay.

In 1986, the Senate confirmed the nomination of William H. Rehnquist to become the 16th chief justice of the United States.

In 2001, six days after 9/11, stock prices nosedived but stopped short of collapse in an emotional, flag-waving reopening of Wall Street.

In 2011, a demonstration calling itself Occupy Wall Street began in New York, prompting similar protests around the U.S. and the world.

In 2013, Eiji Toyoda, a member of Toyota's founding family who helped create the super-efficient "Toyota Way" production method, died at age 100.

In 2018, Senate leaders, under pressure from fellow Republicans, scheduled a public hearing for the following week at which Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and the woman accusing him of sexual assault decades earlier would testify.

In 2021, a Los Angeles jury convicted New York real estate heir Robert Durst of murdering his best friend 20 years earlier. (Durst, who was sentenced to life in prison, died in 2022.)

Today's Birthdays: Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, is 90. Retired Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter (SOO'-tur) is 84. Singer LaMonte McLemore (The Fifth Dimension) is 88. Retired U.S. Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni is 80. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Phil Jackson is 78. Singer Fee Waybill is 75. Actor Cassandra Peterson ("Elvira, Mistress of the Dark") is 72. Comedian Rita Rudner is 70. Director-actor Paul Feig is 61. Director Baz Luhrmann is 61. Singer BeBe Winans is 61. TV personality/businessman Robert Herjavec (TV: "Shark Tank") is 60. Actor Kyle Chandler is 58. Rapper Doug E. Fresh is 57. Actor Malik Yoba is 56. Rock singer Anastacia is 55. Actor Matthew Settle is 54. Rapper Vin Rock (Naughty By Nature) is 53. Actor-comedian Bobby Lee is 52. Actor Felix Solis is 52. Actor-singer Nona Gaye is 49. Singer-actor Constantine Maroulis is 48. NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson is 48. Country singer-songwriter Stephen Cochran is 44. Rock musician Chuck Comeau (Simple Plan) is 44. Actor Billy Miller is 44. Rock musician Jon Walker is 38. NHL forward Alex Ovechkin (oh-VECH'-kin) is 38. Actor Danielle Brooks is 34. Gospel singer Jonathan McReynolds is 34. Actor-singer Denyse Tontz is 29. NHL center Auston Matthews is 26.