

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023

St. John's Lutheran/Zion worship with communion.  
St. John's at 9 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 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: Worship with communion. Conde at 8:30 a.m., Coffee Hour at 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Groton at 10:30 a.m.

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

**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton  
The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.  
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## Flags at Half-Staff in Honor of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

PIERRE, S.D. – Today, Governor Kristi Noem ordered that flags be flown at half-staff statewide effective immediately until sunset on the day of interment, in honor of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein.

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## Football Drops Road Contest to MSU Moorhead

Moorhead, Minn. – The Northern State University Wolves scored in each of the four quarters, however fell to MSU Moorhead 45-26 on the road. NSU dropped their fourth contest of the season, despite leading the contest in rushing yards, time of possession, and sacks.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 26, MSUM 45

Records: NSU 1-4 (1-4 NSIC), MSUM 3-2 (2-2 NSIC)

Attendance: 2000

### HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern took an early lead with a 1-yard touchdown by Brett Brenton in the first and 47-yard field goal and career long by Drew Smoke in the second

The Dragons grabbed the lead in the second, scoring 17 total points on two touchdowns and a field goal

The Wolves added a 34-yard field goal from Smook late in the second and the two teams entered the locker with a 17-13 halftime score in favor of MSUM

Moorhead out-scored Northern in the third 21-6, as Dewaylon Ingram tallied his first touchdown of the game; a 29-yard receiving score from Anthony Vespo

The Dragons extended their lead in the fourth 45-19 with their final touchdown of the contest at 13:03

Less than three minutes later, Vespo and Ingram connected for an 11-yard touchdown pass

Northern recorded 113 yards rushing, 282 yards passing, 395 yards of total offense, and 22 first downs in the game

They converted on 8-of-16 third down attempts and scored three of the four times they entered the red-zone

The Wolves defense recorded three sacks in the contest, led by Logan Grossinger with 2.0

The Dragons had the Wolves number on defense recording three picks and two sacks in total

Vespo threw for 273 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions; completing 27 of 42 attempts

Brenton led the rushing attack with 77 total yards, one touchdown, and a 17-yard long

Ingram tallied his third 100+ yard game of 2023 with 131 total yards and two touchdowns, recording a 32-yard long

Trevor Johnson and Trey King led the defense with seven and six tackles respectively, while Daniel Sedlacek Jr., Grossinger, and Emeka Jillani Ogakwu each forced a fumble

Bradyn Oakley tallied 107 kick return yards with a 37-yard long

Smook went 2-for-2 in field goal attempts and 2-for-3 in PATs

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Anthony Vespo: 273 yards passing, 2 touchdowns

Brett Brenton: 77 yards rushing, 1 touchdown, 5.1 yards per carry

Dewaylon Ingram: 131 yards receiving, 2 touchdowns, 14.6 yards per catch

Trevor Johnson: 7 tackles, 1 break-up

Logan Grossinger: 2.0 sacks, 1 forced fumble

Drew Smook: 2 field goals, 47-yard long (career long), 60.0 yards per kickoff

### UP NEXT

Northern returns to Dacotah Bank Stadium next Saturday for the annual Gypsy Days homecoming game against Minot State. Kickoff is set for 2:30 p.m. versus the Beavers.

## Northern State Falls to Second Ranked Concordia-St. Paul

Aberdeen, S.D. – Despite a 4-set battle, the (RV) Northern State University volleyball team fell to No. 2 Concordia-St. Paul from Wachs Arena. The Wolves rallied back for a third set victory, but ultimately fell in the match.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 1, CSP 3

Records: NSU 11-3 (4-2 NSIC), CSP 14-1 (5-1 NSIC)

Attendance: 761

### HOW IT HAPPENED

Concordia-St. Paul won the first two sets with scores of 26-24 and 25-15

Northern answered with a 25-23 victory in set three, but fell 25-14 in the fourth and final set

The Wolves hit .134 in the loss, recording 41 kills, 37 assists, 54 digs, eight blocks, and five aces

Natalia Szybinska was the lone offensive Wolf in double figures with 11 kills, hitting .370

Abby Meister led the defense with 21 digs, followed by Keri Walker with 12

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Natalia Szybinska: 11 kills, .370 attack%, 2 blocks

Abby Brooks: 8 kills, 3 blocks

Corbyn Menz: 9 kills (career high), 3 blocks

Keri Walker: 33 assists, 12 digs, 3 blocks, 2 kills, 2 aces

Abby Meister: 21 digs

### UP NEXT

The Wolves travel for a pair of matches next week. Northern will face UMary at 6 p.m. on Tuesday in Bismarck, and Minnesota State at 11 a.m. on Saturday in Mankato.

## Letter to the Editor

Power with Purpose. The delivery of reliable electricity with a greater purpose in mind: the development of communities, increased quality of life and excellent service.

Heartland Energy is Groton's wholesale power provider. We strive to be a partner of choice to our customers, with our dedication to service and reliable energy solutions taking the forefront of operations every day.

If you live in the city of Groton, you are served by a community-owned, customer-focused, locally controlled public power electric utility.

Each year, during the first week of October, we celebrate Public Power Week, and recognize the many benefits that come with living in a public power community.

Being served by a community-owned electric utility means you have local ownership and a voice at public meetings where decisions are made.

Public power utilities serve you, the customer, not stockholders. Decisions are made with the community in mind, not profit.

Heartland Energy would like to recognize the hard-working and dedicated employees in Groton ensuring you have reliable electricity day in and day out.

We tip our hats to those who keep your community running and thank them for their tireless efforts to keep the lights on, no matter the circumstances. That's power with purpose.

Russell Olson, CEO  
Heartland Energy

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## Soccer: Groton Area girls beat Garretson, advance to playoffs

The Groton Area girls soccer team defeated Garretson on Saturday, 3-1. The win helped keep the Tigers in the number two spot in the state and will host St. Thomas More on Tuesday in the state quarterfinals.

#	Name	Season				Seed Pts
		W	L	T	PCT	<u>PTS</u>
1	 Tea Area	9	3	2	.714	44.357
2	 Groton Area	7	2	1	.750	42.650
3	 Sioux Falls Christian	8	4	2	.643	42.643
4	 West Central	8	5	1	.607	42.393
5	 Dakota Valley	6	6	1	.500	40.038
6	 Vermillion	5	5	2	.500	40.000
7	 St. Thomas More	5	8	1	.393	39.893
8	 Garretson	1	11	1	.115	37.192
9	 Belle Fourche	0	12	0	.000	35.167

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## Soccer: Boys just miss the playoffs

The Groton Area boys soccer team just missed the playoffs, finishing number nine in the state after losing to Dakota Valley earlier in the week, 3-1.

#	Name	Season				Seed Pts
		W	L	T	PCT	PTS
1	 Sioux Falls Christian	12	0	2	.929	45.643
2	 Vermillion	8	3	0	.727	42.000
3	 Tea Area	6	8	0	.429	41.643
4	 Freeman Academy	8	2	2	.750	40.750
5	 Belle Fourche	6	5	1	.542	39.875
6	 James Valley Christian	6	6	2	.500	39.071
7	 Custer	3	5	3	.409	38.167
8	 St. Thomas More	2	9	0	.182	37.364
9	 Groton Area	2	7	0	.222	37.000
10	 Dakota Valley	1	6	3	.250	36.650
11	 West Central	0	12	2	.071	36.643
12	 Hot Springs	1	9	1	.136	36.500

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JIM CAVIEZEL



S O U N D O F

# FREEDOM

A FILM BY ALEJANDRO MONTEVERDE

BASED ON THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY

ANGEL STUDIOS PRESENTS A SANTA FE FILMS PRODUCTION AN EDUARDO VERÁSTEGUI PRODUCTION "SOUND OF FREEDOM" JIM CAVIEZEL WITH MIRA SORVINO AND BILL CAMP  
CASTING BY DEANNA BRIGIDI, CSA MUSIC BY JAVIER NAVARRETE EDITED BY F. BRIAN SCOFIELD DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY GORKA GÓMEZ ANDRÉU AEC PRODUCED BY EDUARDO VERÁSTEGUI  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY JAIME HERNÁNDEZ WRITTEN BY ROD BARR & ALEJANDRO MONTEVERDE DIRECTED BY ALEJANDRO MONTEVERDE [angel.com/freedom](http://angel.com/freedom)

ANGEL  
STUDIOS

**Sunday, Oct. 1 - 6:30 p.m.**  
**C & MA Church, 706 N. Main St., Groton**  
Tickets are \$5 at the door for Teens and Adults  
A children's movie/activity will be provided  
downstairs for ages 12 and under

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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

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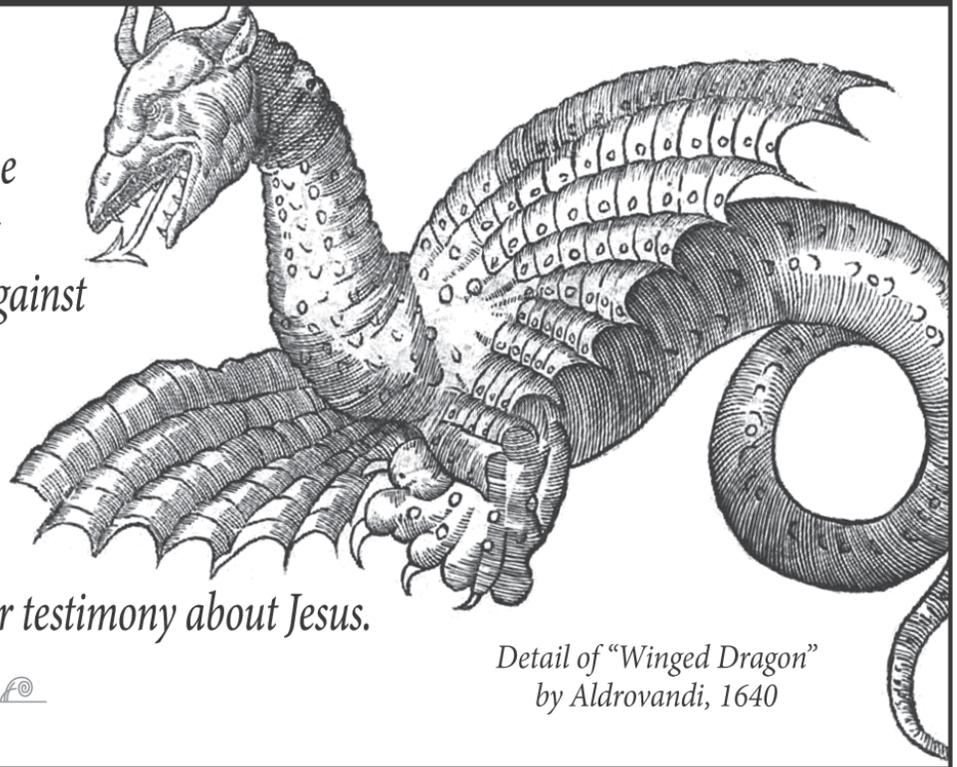
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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

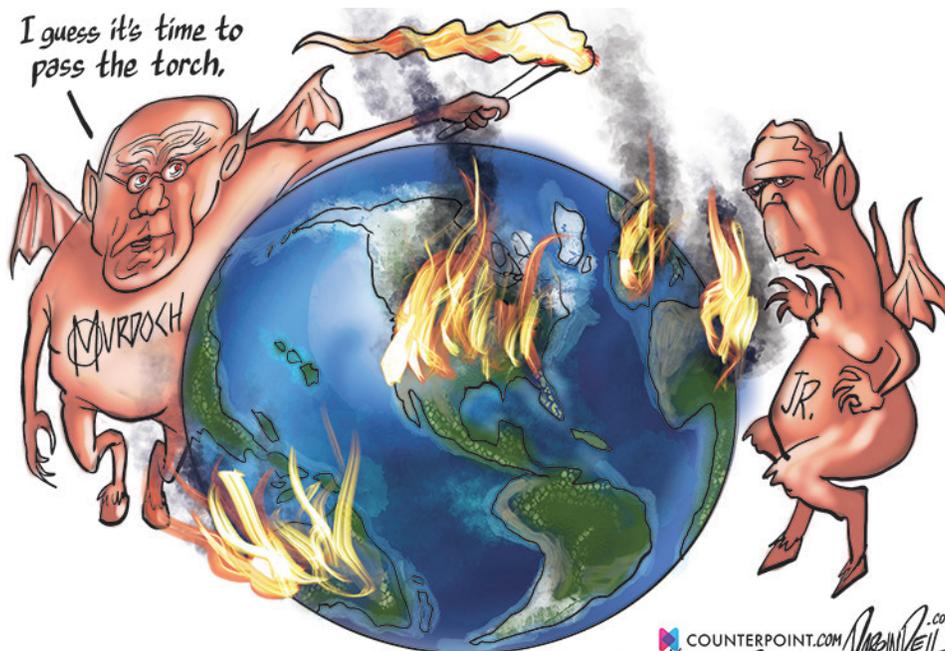
*Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring – those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.*

REVELATION 12:17 



Detail of “Winged Dragon”  
by Aldrovandi, 1640

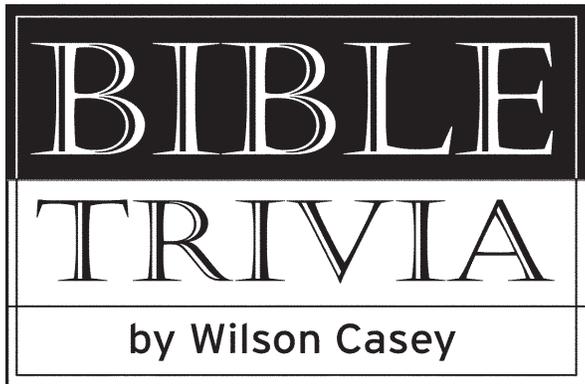
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1. Is the book of Malachi (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. What color is the great throne on which God sits while passing final judgment? Gold, Silver, Purple, White

3. In II Timothy 3, all scripture is given by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Blessing, Re-proof, Willingness, Inspiration

4. According to Paul, who pretends as an angel of light? The unholy, Satan, Herod, The wicked

5. Which epistle warns against patronizing prostitutes? Luke, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Philippians

6. "What" of the spirit is the word of God? Sword, Praise, Love, Lamp

ANSWERS: 1. Old, 2. White, 3. Inspiration, 4. Satan, 5. 1 Corinthians, 6. Sword

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).

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## FLASH GORDON

BY JIM KEEFE 10-1

AS FLASH IS PURSUED BY DUROK, VULTAN AND HIS HAWKPEOPLE ARRIVE, FREEING DALE FROM DUROK'S MEN!

DALE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

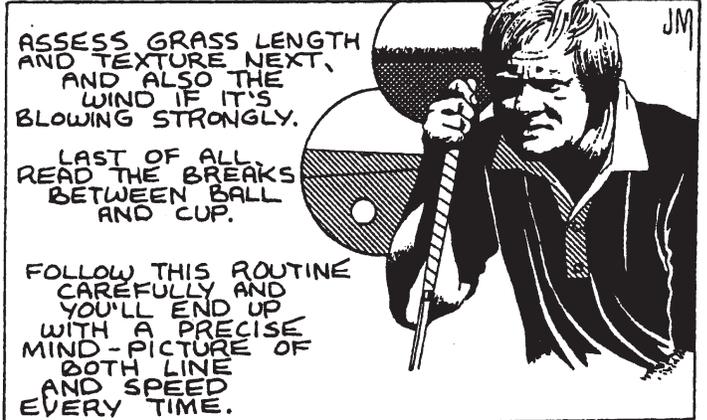
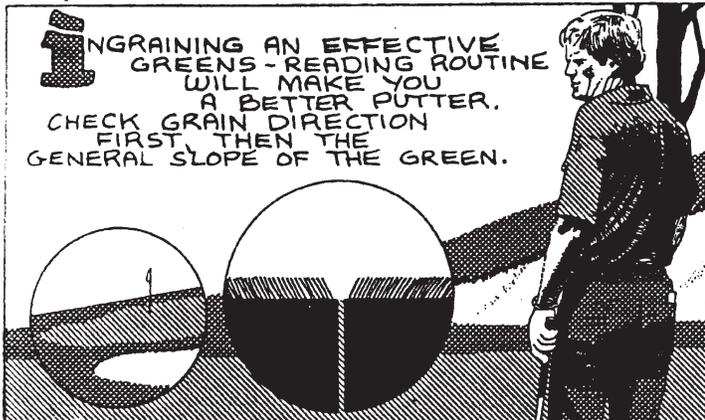
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! YOU HAVE TO FIND FLASH...



"...WE'VE LOST ONE OF THE ENERGY BEAMS SUPPORTING THE CITY!"

NEXT: CITY ON THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION!

## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





## What Prompted the Discontinuation of Fen-Phen?

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I'm a 71-year-old healthy female who has struggled with my weight all my life. In the '90s, I thought I had finally found the solution in fen-phen. It was like a miracle! It took all the nagging thoughts of food out of my brain.

My question is, with all the drug ads on TV every day blithely showing the many side effects leading up to — and including — death, why can't we use fen-phen? I worked in a hospital where a very large number of employees were taking it with great results. I never heard a hint about anything that could affect someone's health.

Also, I talked to many of the other patients at the doctor's office where I was receiving it. Everyone was overjoyed with the results. I had no temptations and no constant yammering in my brain to eat something. As I said, it was a miracle. I felt like a normal person. So, why are all of these drug companies allowed to advertise their products, but one drug that truly worked had to get snatched away from us? — M.H.

**ANSWER:** Fen-phen was a combination of fenfluramine and phentermine, which was approved for use in 1986. Approximately 18 million prescriptions were written for this medicine until 1987, when an association was made between the use of fen-phen and valve diseases of the heart. These cases were

related dexfenfluramine alone, but never with phentermine alone. (Phentermine remains on the market.) Approximately 150 cases were reported.

Subsequent studies estimated that seven out of 10,000 people who took fenfluramine or fen-phen for less than four months developed valve disease, while 35 in 10,000 people who took fenfluramine or fen-phen for more than four months developed valve disease. They were compared to people who either took phentermine alone or did not use a weight-loss medicine.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration determined that the risk of valve disease (some being severe enough to prompt valve replacement surgery) was too high, so the FDA asked manufacturers to remove these drugs from the market.

I fully understand your perspective. Some people are willing to take the risk of a side effect because the benefit of the medicine is so great. In my opinion, people should have the option of making their own decision, but in this case, the FDA felt that the risk was too high.

I have not seen a medicine for weight loss as effective as fen-phen until recently, when semaglutide (Wegovy and Ozempic) and tirzepatide (Mounjaro, not yet approved for weight loss) became available. Just as you say, many of my patients report that they were able to easily control their eating while on these medicines, and as of the time I am writing, there have not been any serious adverse effects of taking these drugs, although there are plenty of milder effects.

However, these medicines only work when you continue to take them, and stopping them generally results in rapid regain of the weight that was lost. It's important to realize that if you take a weight-loss drug, you're making a commitment to a long-term treatment.

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

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"Haunted Mansion" (PG-13) -- Even a cast filled with stars new and old couldn't save this film from bombing at the box office (\$109.7 million gross after a \$150 million budget). Based on the Disney Parks attraction, Rosario Dawson ("Clerks 3") plays widowed mother Gabbie, who moves into Gracey Manor with her son, Travis. They soon learn the mansion is haunted and are forced to stay inside until their curse is lifted. Through the help of Father Kent (Owen Wilson) and his convenient connections, they're able to assemble a dream team so they can escape Gracey Manor. Tiffany Haddish, Danny DeVito and Jamie Lee Curtis star in this spooky comedy, and Winona Ryder even makes an uncredited appearance. Out on Oct. 4. (Disney+)



**From left, Alden Ehrenreich and Phoebe Dynevor star in "Fair Play."** Courtesy of Netflix

"Fair Play" (R) -- "Bridgerton's" Phoebe Dynevor and "Oppenheimer's" Alden Ehrenreich lead this sexy thriller that premieres on Oct. 6. Dynevor and Ehrenreich respectively play Emily and Luke, a newly engaged couple who also work at the same hedge fund firm together. The two decide to keep their relationship under wraps from the office, but when a better position at the firm unexpectedly opens up, their passionate relationship gets put to the test. With both feeling qualified, but only one receiving the promotion, Emily and Luke's relationship enters a new power dynamic that just might cause them to unravel. (Netflix)

"The Boogeyman" (PG-13) -- Hulu begins its annual Huluween event with plain ol' jump-out-of-your-skin horror. And who does that kind of horror better than Stephen King? Based on King's short story written in 1973, this film follows two grieving sisters, Sadie and Sawyer, after the sudden death of their mother. After a disturbed man is killed inside their home, Sawyer starts seeing glimpses of a demonic entity. Feeding off fear, this entity continues to grow in strength, and it's up to Sadie, Sawyer and their father to ward the creature off. Premieres Oct. 5. (Hulu)

"Make Me Scream" (NR) -- In this TV special premiering Oct. 3, Tempestt Bledsoe ("The Cosby Show") and Darryl M. Bell ("A Different World") host a competition that is utterly terrifying -- for the contestants, that is, not the viewers. Three celebrity teams compete against each other by entering into a few scare zones. The object of the game is simple: Don't scream. The more you scream, the higher your score is. The team with the lowest score at the end of the competition takes home the Medal of Mayhem. Jaleel White ("Family Matters"), Shoniqua Shandai ("Harlem") and rapper Lil Xan all lead their own celebrity team. Grab some popcorn, put your feet up and get ready for some serious laughs. (Amazon Prime Video)

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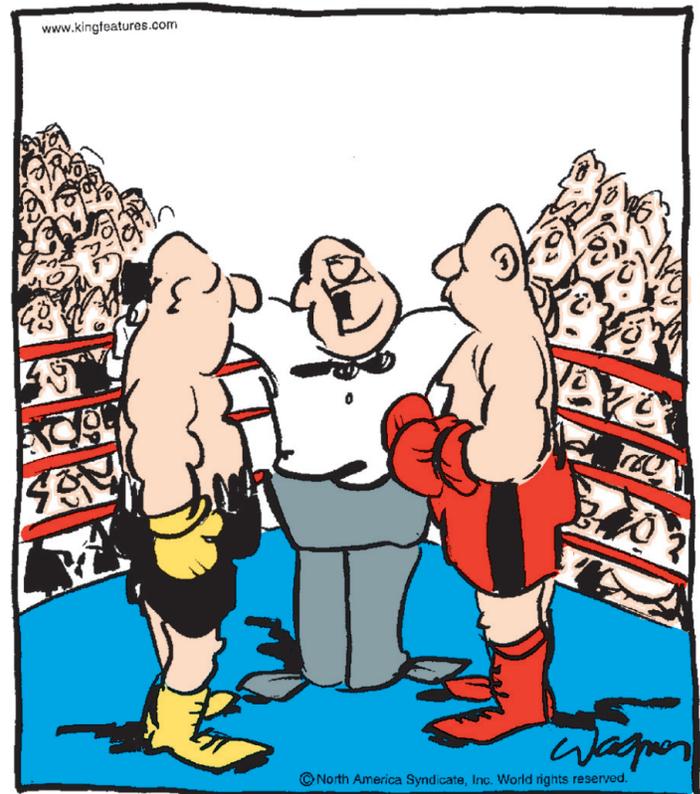
1. Name the artist who had an ice cream flavor named after him.
2. Why was the "In the Navy" video filmed on a U.S. Navy ship?
3. Who released "Message in a Bottle"?
4. Name the Leo Sayer song that is based on his long conversation in a phone booth.
5. Name the soundtrack song that contains this lyric: "First there are kisses, Then there are sighs, And then, before you know where you are, You're sayin' goodbye."

## Answers

1. Ben & Jerry's named one of their flavors Cherry Garcia after Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead in 1987.
2. The Village People were asked by the Navy for permission to use the song in a recruiting video. The answer was yes, as long as the group was included in the video.
3. The Police, in 1979.
4. "Orchard Road," in 1983. Sayer was on the phone asking his wife's forgiveness for a mistake he'd made. The song was recorded in one raw take.
5. "The Crying Game," by Boy George in the 1992 film of the same name. The film, about the Troubles in Northern Ireland, took not only a BAFTA for Best British Film but Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director and more.

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**GRIN and BEAR IT** *by Wagner*



"Shouldn't you guys retire? Your daughters are fighting in the main event."

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

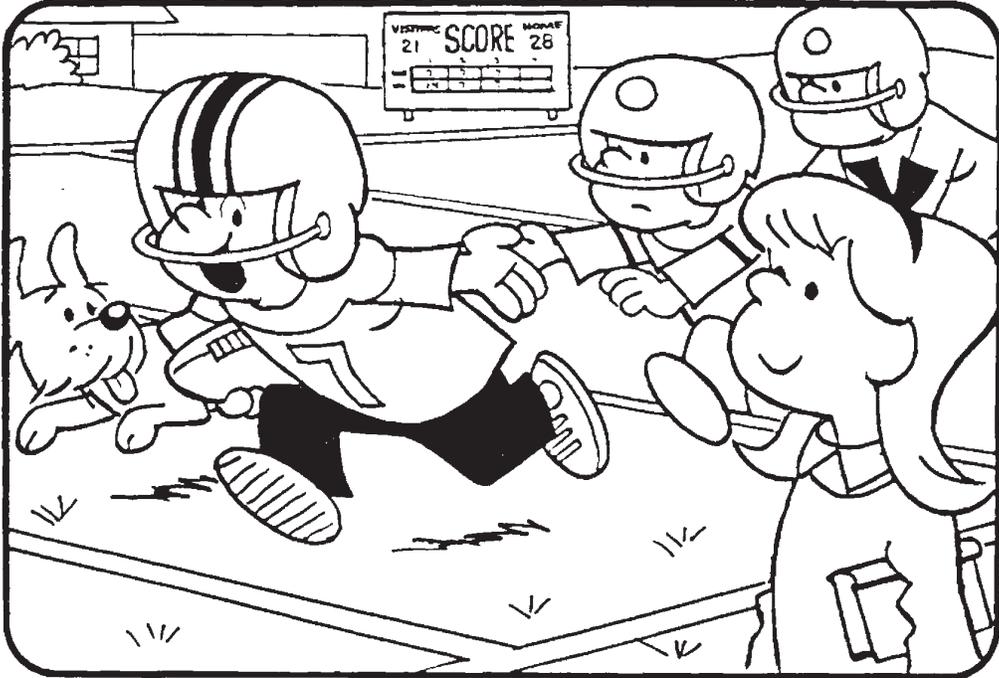


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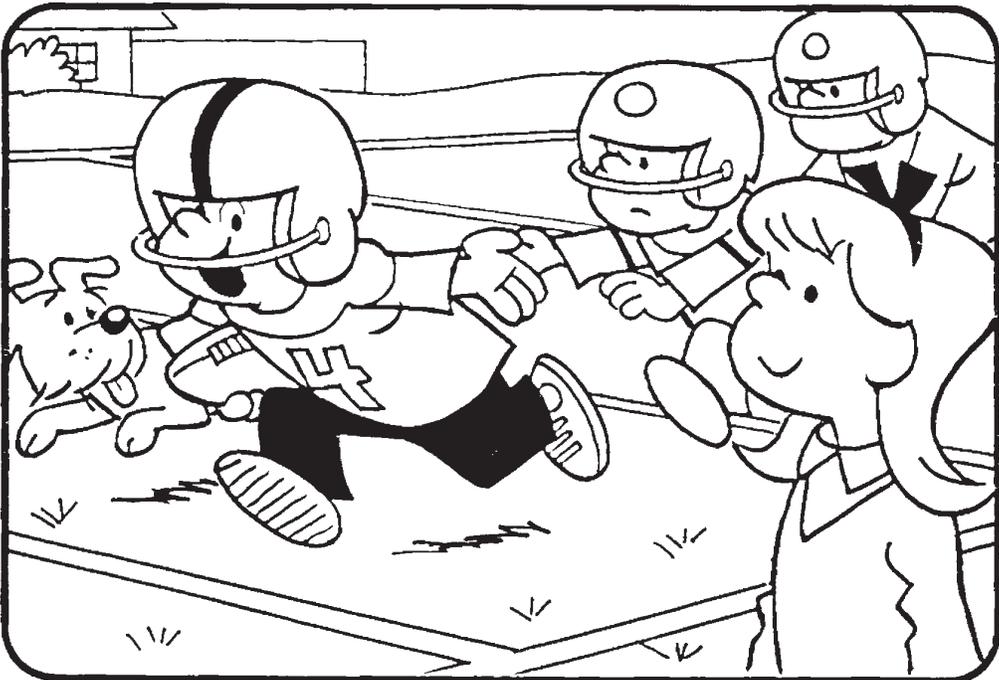
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Ears are different. 2. Stripes are missing. 3. Number is different. 4. Scoreboard is missing. 5. Neckline is different. 6. Book is missing.

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\* You can use self-stick notes to organize your errands. Use a note for each location, with instructions or shopping lists on each. Then put the notes in order: e.g., drop kids off at Grandma's, shoe store, hardware store, grocery store, home, etc. You will be less likely to forget a stop, and you can make the best use of your time and gas!

\* Two tips for sewing buttons: First, for pants buttons, use unwaxed dental floss. It's incredibly strong and can take a lot of abuse. Second, slip a pin between the button and the fabric before sewing on. When you're finished, remove the pin. The button has some room behind it, and it will last longer.

\* "This is a tip for us singletons. I love whipped topping on my hot chocolate, but it doesn't always last in my fridge.

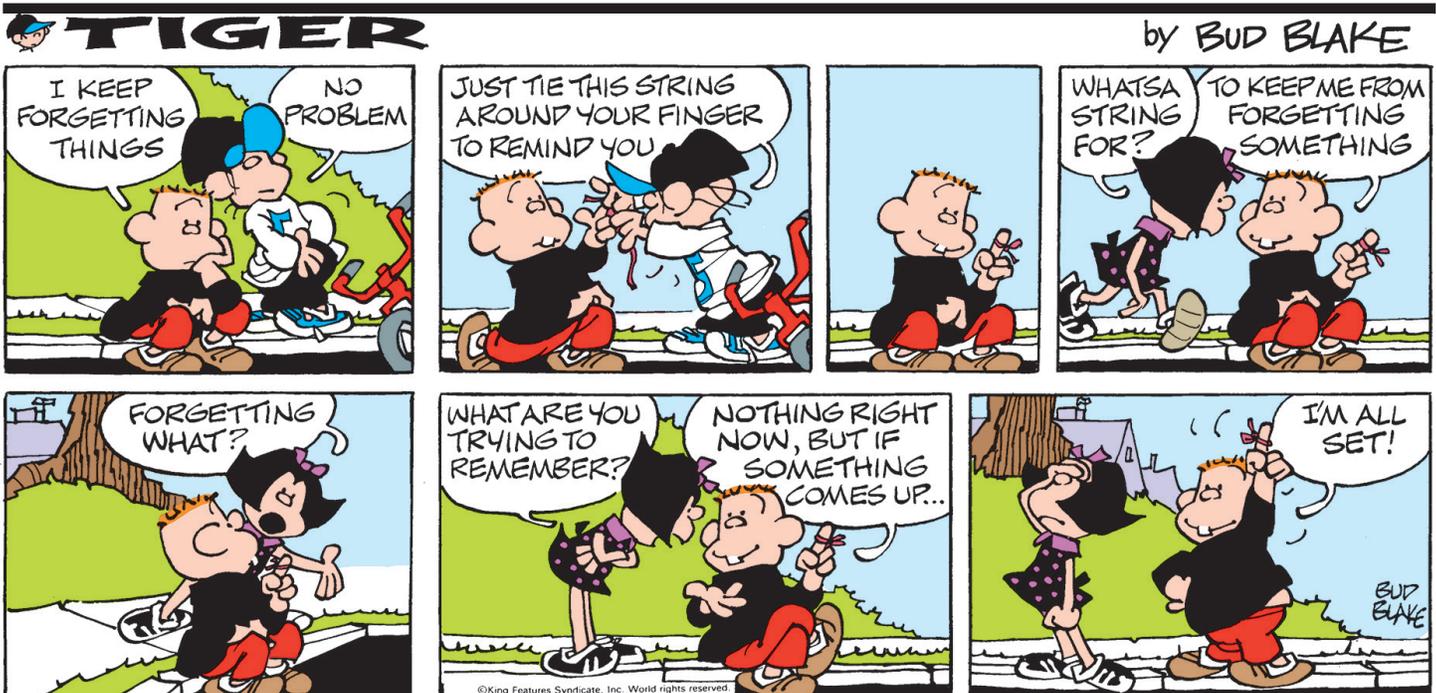
I buy a tub of it, and spoon it into mug-size dollops on a cookie sheet lined with wax paper. When the sheet is full, I freeze them. They can be peeled off easily and slipped in a container or plastic bag. When I make my hot chocolate, I plop one in straight from the freezer. It takes only minutes to soften and melt. And it's delicious!" -- F.D. in Michigan

\* "If you cut the entire top and one of the top corners off a cereal box, then tape the bottom closed, it's almost the same as the magazine holders they sell in stores. I covered mine with fancy paper. I keep it in my kitchen for cooking magazines." -- R.R. in Indiana

\* Gifts a school-age kid can make: Bookmarks! Cut strips of cardstock into bookmark lengths. Have your child decorate one side and write a nice message on the other. Laminate if possible. Great gift from your child.

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

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Sketch
- 5 Shock partner
- 8 Verdi heroine
- 12 Ms. McEntire
- 13 Scale note
- 14 Mosque VIP
- 15 Shakespeare title starter
- 16 Centennial State
- 18 Man's youth
- 20 San Francisco griddler
- 21 Newt
- 22 Take to court
- 23 Give a leg up
- 26 Madrid museum
- 30 Klutz
- 31 Author Tan
- 32 Have a bug
- 33 Swagger
- 36 Open-mouthed
- 38 Mornings (Abbr.)
- 39 A Gabor
- 40 Painting of a scene
- 43 Public speakers
- 47 16th-century Spanish explorer
- 49 Loafer, for one
- 50 Scent
- 51 Nourished

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

- 52 Vitriol
- 53 Marries
- 54 Mao — -tung
- 55 Egg part
- 10 Miami- — County
- 11 Latin love
- 17 "Movin' —" ("The Jeffersons" theme)
- 19 Frequently
- 22 Devious
- 23 Short 'do
- 24 Galley item
- 25 Son-gun link
- 26 Comic Philips
- 27 Small battery
- 28 Quick swim
- 29 Flamenco cheer
- 31 Billboards
- 34 Mists
- 35 Prayer ender
- 36 "Selma" director DuVernay
- 37 Fitzgerald title character
- 39 Wear down
- 40 Garbage barge
- 41 Morse —
- 42 Yankee nickname
- 43 Praiseful pieces
- 44 Wheeling's river
- 45 Bakery buy
- 46 Hunt for
- 48 Sternward

### DOWN

## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

D	R	A	W		A	W	E		A	I	D	A
R	E	B	A		S	O	L		I	M	A	M
A	L	L	S		C	O	L	O	R	A	D	O
B	O	Y	H	O	O	D		N	I	N	E	R
			E	F	T		S	U	E			
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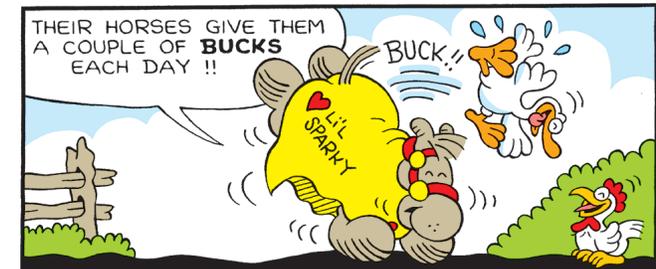
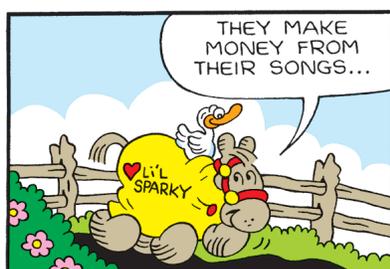
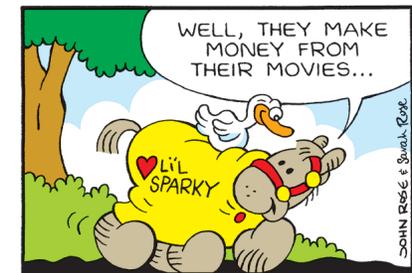
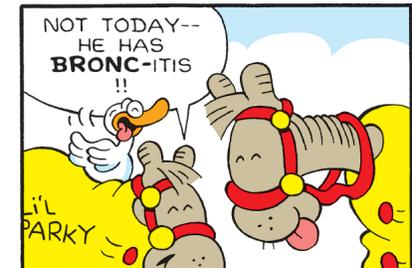
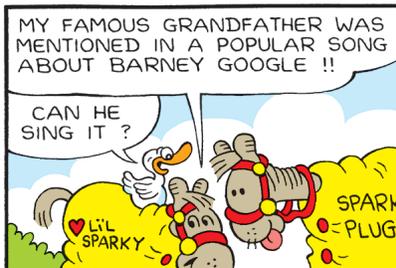
### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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# Groton Daily Independent

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

VAL AND GAWAIN HAVE HITCHED A HAYRIDE, UNBEKNOWNST TO THE DRIVER. THEY PEER THROUGH TANGLED REEDS AT LONG STRETCHES OF COUNTRYSIDE ...

3939

... UNTIL, DEEP INTO DUSK, THEY ARE PULLED OFF THE PATH AND INTO A DILAPIDATED SHED.

YEATES 9/5/12

ONCE INSIDE, THE BIG DRIVER - WHOM VAL AND GAWAIN HAVE RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF LORD GRUNYARD'S KIDNAPPERS - LOOKS ABOUT CAUTIOUSLY BEFORE SWINGING OPEN A HIDDEN DOOR IN THE BACK WALL...

... AND PROCEEDING ALONG A TWISTING PATH CLEVERLY HIDDEN IN THE DENSE, IMPOSING THICKETS BEHIND THE SHED. "THESE ROGUES ARE INDEED CLEVER!" THINKS VAL, ADMIRINGLY.

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FINALLY, THEY COME TO A FOREST ENCAMPMENT, MADE BARELY VISIBLE BY BLAZING NIGHT FIRES. VAL AND GAWAIN HEAR A STRANGELY FAMILIAR FEMALE VOICE: "UNLOAD THE CART NOW - THE HORSES ARE HUNGRY." VAL'S HEART SINKS. HE HAD PLANNED ON MORE TIME TO VACATE THEIR HIDING PLACE!

NEXT: **Discretion**

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

SOMETIMES I MISS YOU.

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ONLY WHEN I GET OUT OF YOUR WAY.

PICKERING

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### A Scam Close to Home

Ooops. I came very close to falling for a scam just like the ones I always warn against in this column.

The text message on my phone appeared to come from the local pharmacy. The words said that they had questions and would I please call. Included in the text was a link to touch that would dial the number for me ...

At the last minute I pulled my hand away and studied the message more closely.

The pharmacy was in the chain where I do business, but it was from the branch in the next town, not where my prescriptions are. And when I looked closely at the number in the link to click, I realized it was from an area code in a completely different state.

I put the phone down and got on the internet. Sure enough, that linked number was fake and was used in all manner of scams, including ones that could have instantly downloaded malware onto my phone. I called the pharmacy in question (from my other phone) just to be sure they hadn't sent it. No, they hadn't. I very carefully deleted that scam message, being sure not to touch that link.

So all is well, but I'm a bit unnerved by just how close I came to blithely clicking that link because I didn't initially question the message.

Save yourself some potential trouble by looking closely at any text messages you get on your phone.

Scammers are getting wiser, but they're not infallible. The pharmacy used in my text message was genuine, a logical request from a specific local company.

What they didn't realize was that they were working from an old list. We now have a branch of that pharmacy here in town. I would not have used the pharmacy in the next town, and that was my clue.

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1. What wide receiver for the Houston Oilers (1986-94) celebrated touchdowns with the "Electric Slide" dance?

2. Baseball Hall of Famer Robin Yount won two American League MVP awards (1982, '89) as a member of what team?

3. American-born freestyle skier Eileen Gu won two gold medals and one silver medal at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics competing for what country?

4. What tennis player was disqualified from the 2020 U.S. Open after hitting a ball that struck a line judge in the throat?

5. In November 2012, Grinnell College basketball player Jack Taylor set the NCAA record for most points scored by an individual in a game with how many?

6. World Golf Hall of Famer Raymond Floyd won four major championships but did not complete the career grand slam. What major title eluded him?

7. "The Prancing Horse" is a nickname for what Formula One racing team?



by Ryan A. Berenz

## Answers

1. Ernest Givins.

2. The Milwaukee Brewers.

3. China.

4. Novak Djokovic.

5. 138.

6. The Open Championship (He tied for second in 1978).

7. Scuderia Ferrari.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## How Long Will Dog's Heatstroke Recovery Take?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Two weeks ago, my Golden Retriever Lollie suffered a heatstroke. I let him outside into the backyard around midmorning. When I checked on him after about a half hour, he stumbled to me and collapsed. I rushed him to the veterinarian, where he was treated. Lollie is recovering, but I am terrified to let him outside again. Why did he have problems so fast? Will this episode affect his health long-term? -- Greg in Houston

DEAR GREG: I'm glad to hear that Lollie is recovering, because heatstroke can be deadly -- as you

know. Your fear is normal, because you're clearly a caring pet owner, and you don't want Lollie to be injured again.

That care and attention is perhaps the biggest factor in Lollie recovering fully and having fewer long-term complications from his heatstroke.

The reasons why Lollie suffered heatstroke aren't as clear, but there are so many factors that could have contributed to it. The morning may have been hotter than usual. Lollie may have had an underlying illness that made it harder for him to withstand the warmer temperature. He might not have drunk as much water as he needed to maintain his internal temperature.

You did all the right things: letting him outside earlier in the day; checking on him periodically; and immediately taking him to the vet as soon as you saw his symptoms were serious.

Keep following the vet's instructions to support Lollie's care as he recovers. It may be weeks or months before he can spend the same time in the heat. He'll get tired more easily, so his daily walks should be kept short. Make sure he's eating and drinking enough water. All these factors will improve his health for the long term.

Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* If you want to become a police officer in Norway, you'll need a B.A. from the Police University College. The program includes theoretical studies in criminal law, ethics and social sciences, plus a year of practical field training.

\* Chloroform was once used in the treatment of asthma, cholera and gonorrhoea, not to mention as a sweetener in medicines.

\* Folks around the world really do love their soda

-- to the tune of about 6,700 cans per second, or enough to wrap around the earth every 17 hours. Be sure to recycle!

\* International animal rights organization PETA asked musical duo the Pet Shop Boys to change their name to Rescue Shelter Boys. (Obviously, they refused.)

\* During a Bulls vs. Jazz game in 1987, after basketball legend Michael Jordan dunked over John Stockton, a 6 foot, 1 inch guard, an upset fan yelled at him to "pick on someone your own size." In response, Jordan next dunked over the 6 foot, 11 inch Mel Turpin, turned to his heckler, and asked, "Was he big enough?"

\* Slave ants capture ants from other colonies to increase their workforce.

\* If you measure it in terms of rainfall, a hurricane releases the force of 10,000 atomic bombs over an area about 413 miles wide.

\* The prevalence of syphilis in the 19th century led to a sharp increase in demand for sunglasses, as the disease causes intense sensitivity to light if left untreated.

\* Thousands of years ago, keys were made from wood.

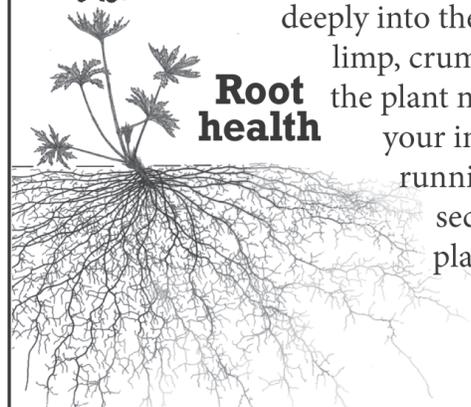
\* During the "I smell a rat" scene in the Martin Scorsese flick "The Departed," Jack Nicholson decided things didn't feel quite intense enough, so he improvised by pulling a real gun on co-star Leonardo DiCaprio.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "I attribute my success to this: I never gave or took any excuse." -- Florence Nightingale

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### The Garden Bug



#### Root health

If a potted plant looks poorly, gently remove the plant from the pot and examine the root system. Healthy roots should be white or tan in color, sturdy, very numerous and reaching deeply into the soil. If any roots are discolored, limp, crumbly or have a bad smell to them, the plant may have "root rot" and will need your intervention. Hold its roots under running water, and remove any rotten sections with scissors or nips. Then place into a new pot with fresh soil.

- Brenda Weaver

Sources: [www.greenwaybiotech.com](http://www.greenwaybiotech.com),  
[humboldtssecretsupplies.com](http://humboldtssecretsupplies.com)



by Freddy Groves

## Holiday Party at the VA 2023

Have you given thought to how you're going to step up this holiday season and give a hand to other veterans?

If you're in a veterans group such as American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars, you're in a perfect position to pull off a holiday party at the closest Department of Veterans Affairs medical center.

Your first step (after getting group consensus) will be to contact Voluntary Services and let them know

you'd like to host a party on one of the wards. (Suggestion: Long-term care has veterans who've been there far too long.) Get their permission and input for the best path to take going forward. Perhaps a lunch on a certain December date? Perhaps pizza, soft drinks and holiday cookies?

Is there a large day room on the medical ward? With tables and chairs?

Do you want to consider gifts? Contact the nursing station on your designated floor and ask about small gifts of things like puzzle books, mechanical pencils, military caps, handheld games, T-shirts, candy, handkerchiefs, small bedside calendars and so forth. Get a head count (and add a few extra in case more patients check in) to make sure each veteran gets a little wrapped gift.

Contact a local pizza shop and arrange for several types of pizza (plus the paper plates and napkins) to be delivered at a certain time. You might even get a big discount if the owner or manager is a veteran. Don't forget cups and ice for the drinks.

Borrow a CD player and all the holiday tunes you can find to play in the background. If there's a base near you, ask for volunteers to come help at the party, in addition to your own group. The more the merrier.

What will be most appreciated at your party is listening. Sitting with the veterans in the hospital and sharing your experiences and listening to theirs might well be the highlight of their holiday season.

You might be the only visitors they get.

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## Wishing Well®

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8	4	6	8	6	8	6	8	7	8	7	6	6
A	T	Y	I	O	R	U	L	R	Y	S	R	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. TELEVISION: How many noble houses are mentioned in "Game of Thrones"?
2. MOVIES: What is the name of the high school in the musical film "Grease"?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Which southeast Asian country's monetary unit is the ringgit?
4. MUSIC: The song "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'" is from which musical?
5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to be impeached?
6. ANATOMY: What is considered the "master gland" of the human body?
7. PHYSICS: What does a newton measure?
8. HISTORY: Which founding father wanted the turkey to be the national symbol of America rather than the eagle?
9. SCIENCE: What is studied in mycology?
10. U.S. STATES: What is Alaska's state animal?

### Answers

1. Nine.
2. Rydell High School.
3. Malaysia.
4. "Oklahoma!"
5. Andrew Johnson, 1868.
6. Pituitary gland.
7. Force.
8. Benjamin Franklin.
9. Fungi.
10. The moose.

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## The Buffalo Roundup: The Heart of the Wild West

Teddy Roosevelt is one of my favorite presidents. He embodied the spirit of Freedom. He cared about stewarding the land. And he appreciated the beauty of this nation. President Roosevelt said, "the farther one gets into the wilderness, the greater is the attraction of its lonely freedom." That is exactly what South Dakota offers.

President Roosevelt spent a lot of time in the Dakotas during his life. And there is one event that we do every single year here in South Dakota that I just know he would have loved. It is one of my favorite days of the years – the Buffalo Roundup.

The Buffalo Roundup really shows what South Dakota is all about. It incorporates South Dakota' culture, heritage, outdoor spirit, and our passion for Freedom. The event takes place every year on the last Friday in September in Custer State Park. Custer State Park is home to a herd of about 1,400 bison. Rounding up these bison is not only a spectacular sight to see, but it is also critical to maintaining a strong and healthy heard.

Back in 2016, when I was serving as South Dakota's lone member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I led the efforts to name the bison as America's National Mammal. This was a huge accomplishment, especially after the bison came so close to extinction. It is estimated that the bison population in the United States reached an all-time low in 1884, when fewer than 1,000 were left in the country. Now, after more than a century of conservation efforts, there are more than 500,000 bison in the United States!

The Custer State Park bison herd has contributed greatly to those efforts. When South Dakota legend Scotty Philip started the herd, it was one of the few herds left in America. Because of that long history of strong management, our herd has some of the best genetics in the country. Each year, we sell some of these bison to intersperse their genetics with those of other herds to improve the health of the species' population across the nation.

The state of South Dakota is a special place – and the Buffalo Roundup is truly a testament to the spirit of conservation in our state. We are a state still believes in the beauty of the American Dream. We believe that you can pull yourself up by the bootstraps, put in a little hard work, and make anything possible for yourself. We still prioritize American values. Our small-town way of life makes people feel comfortable – like they're back somewhere safe and familiar.

We value tradition, and we value the great outdoors. All of this is why we continue to host the Buffalo Roundup year after year. The Roundup is a tradition unlike any other. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience that you can only get here in South Dakota.

Teddy Roosevelt talked about the "lonely freedom" of the wilderness. Well, South Dakota is the Freest state in America – so I can't think of a better place to enjoy the Freedom of the Wild West than right here.

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



## 10 Years Since Winter Storm Atlas

Ten years ago, Winter Storm Atlas swept through western South Dakota. When it started, no one had any idea that it would be one of the most devastating snowstorms in the area's history. Atlas dropped as much as 5 feet of snow in some areas. Wind gusts reached 71 miles per hour, and the storm devastated West River ranches.

Growing up in Murdo, we saw a lot of nasty weather, but Winter Storm Atlas was a storm unlike any other. Shortly after the storm cleared, I toured the area with then-Gov. Dennis Daugaard. It was heart-wrenching to see the impact on our state's livestock industry. Tens of thousands of cattle, sheep, horses, and bison were killed. Much of the livestock that survived the storm were scattered miles from their pasture.

The Atlas storm brought the ferocity of Mother Nature to bear, but it also revealed the resilience and kindness of South Dakotans. Farmers and ranchers are independent, hard-working people. They are the best friends and neighbors you could ask for – the first to lend a helping hand and the last to ask for help. In the days and weeks after the blizzard, support came in from across the country. South Dakotans donated to the Rancher Relief Fund that provided millions of dollars in assistance to livestock producers, and producers from around the country donated their own livestock to help South Dakota ranchers rebuild their way of life.

When the storm hit, Congress was working on finalizing a farm bill, and I got right to work to make sure the bill would be done quickly and that the programs producers needed would be there for them. Winter Storm Atlas was a reminder that disaster can strike when you least expect it. In the 2008 farm bill, I coauthored the first standing livestock disaster programs of their kind. I worked to ensure these programs – the Livestock Forage, Livestock Indemnity, and Emergency Livestock Assistance programs – were continued and strengthened in the 2014 and 2018 farm bills.

Thankfully a storm as devastating as Atlas hasn't struck again, but South Dakota's farmers and ranchers have certainly seen their fair share of extreme weather in the last decade. Weather is just one aspect of the uncertainty and challenges that farmers and ranchers face. The livestock programs I helped design are an integral part of the farm safety net that farmers and ranchers depend on when challenges arise. As Congress considers another farm bill this year, I'm working to strengthen these programs to ensure farmers and ranchers can weather any storm that comes their way.

Agriculture is South Dakota's number-one industry. South Dakota farmers and ranchers work hard every day, and they face uncertainty and a myriad of challenges to deliver a reliable and affordable food supply to the nation and the world. South Dakota's producers are on my mind every day in the U.S. Senate, and I'll continue working to ensure farm policy supports them and the important work they do.

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



## The Big Three

### **BIG Update**

Last week, I gave you an update on our national debt. This week, our nation is facing the September 30 deadline to fund the government. House Republicans continue to pass individual appropriations bills that cut spending, strengthen our military, and secure the border – but we are running out of time to get everything across the finish line by tomorrow at midnight. A government shutdown costs the U.S. money and would prevent our military from getting paid – it’s a terrible option.

That’s why I worked on a short-term solution with the House Freedom Caucus and Republican Main Street Caucus to keep the government open for 31 more days paired with historic spending cuts and strong border security provisions. Unfortunately, 21 of my Republican colleagues sided with Democrats and opposed our bill. They try to make it sound like a noble cause, but it doesn’t move America in the right direction. In fact, it does the opposite.

This bill was our chance to show the U.S. Senate and President Biden that House Republicans won’t accept a clean government spending bill and that we are serious about lower spending and securing our border. These 21 prevented that from happening.

### **BIG Idea**

China plays a large role in chassis (the base frame that helps move cargo) production for truck trailers. In our steps to decrease dependence on China, leveling the playing field for chassis production is part of that strategy. I met with the Truck Trailer Manufacturers Association and Trail King of Mitchell, South Dakota to talk about ways to increase production in America and foster a robust workforce.

### **BIG News**

Border crossing numbers hit new record highs. More than 60,000 people came across the southern border illegally just this week. The news has 24/7 coverage of long lines of people streaming across the border. It’s clear the Biden Administration isn’t allowing Border Patrol agents to do their jobs.

Eight Democrat mayors and governors have declared a state of emergency because of the illegal immigrants that have flooded their communities. They don’t have the resources—physical or financial—to handle this influx.

The crisis at the border cannot be ignored, yet the Biden Administration’s border policies have neglected it for nearly 36 months. Congress can’t rely on President Biden’s policies to change any time soon. It’s long past time to put in place real border security solutions. On Thursday night, House Republicans passed our bill to fund Homeland Security. It secures our southern border by hiring more border patrol agents, investing in new technology, resuming construction of the border wall, and removing dangerous criminals. We’re taking action to secure the border. It’s too dangerous not to. It’s my hope the Senate agrees and passes our bill.

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## How Much Is Laughter Really Worth?



Of all the things I prioritize in my life, laughter is at the top of the list. I appreciate laughter more than any other thing.

Some people get paid for their jokes, while others pay mightily. I am in the latter category. I like to make people laugh, but sometimes it costs me.

Whenever I see somebody with a frown, my first thought is how to make that person laugh. If it's in the supermarket and they're walking down the aisle toward me, I put in gear something to make them laugh. Usually, it works, but once in a while, it doesn't.

Where my jokes don't fly too well is with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I try the best I can to make her laugh, and occasionally, I succeed. When I fail, there is a price to be paid.

For example, our birthdays are two days apart in July. We celebrated our birthdays at one of our favorite restaurants this past year.

After finishing our dinner, they brought dessert, and then The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "Do you feel old today?"

I have difficulty taking things seriously, so I reached across the table, took hold of her arm, squeezed it very gently, and said, "I feel old now."

You might be surprised I was the only one laughing at the table.

Getting into trouble with some joke is not that bad. I haven't gotten into too much trouble, but once in a while, I do.

Like everybody else, I get these scam calls, particularly concerning Medicare upgrades. I should be grateful that so many people want to help me upgrade my Medicare program. And yet, being a Pennsylvania Dutchman, I don't trust people who want to give me something for free.

I got a call the other day, and they wanted to upgrade my Medicare plan so that I had everything I deserved. Then they asked me how old I was. That was the switch that turned on the light bulb in my head.

"I really don't know," I said as thoughtfully as possible, "every year my age changes and I just can't keep up to date with it."

There was a pause on the other end of the phone line, and finally, that person started speaking French and told me a lot about my mother. Then there came the "click."

I laughed and used it several times since.

Several weeks ago, I had a dental appointment to fix some of my teeth. I can't imagine being a dentist and spending my whole career looking into people's mouths, especially me with bad breath.

I went into the office on my appointed day, signed in, and then took a seat.

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Shortly, the lady at the desk asked me to come forward. I did not quite know what she wanted.

She showed me a file and asked, "Is this you?"

I looked at the file, looked back at her, and said, "No, that is not me."

Looking a little frustrated, she said maybe she got the wrong file.

"No," I said, looking at her. Then I pointed to my chest and said to her, "This is me and that is just paper with my name on it."

People sitting in the waiting room started giggling, and finally, the lady at the desk got what I said and started laughing. "So," she said laughing, "this paper is not you."

I love it when a plan comes together.

In minutes, I was called to go in, and one of the dentist's assistants took me to the room to prepare me for the process. There was a long process, and she did everything but throw me over the moon.

Finally, she finished her work, and the dentist came in. I had three teeth that needed to be worked on. The first thing he did was to give some numbing shots in my mouth, and everything went numb. Then, he was ready to do the work.

I sat in that chair for maybe an hour with my mouth open and the dentist on one side of me poking in and his assistant on the other side doing what she was supposed to do, and it was a long process. The dentist talked to me, but I was in such a position that I couldn't answer back.

His assistant on my left side was doing an excellent job, at least I think so, but my mouth was so numb I wouldn't have known otherwise.

Finally, the process was over, and the assistant, a very nice young lady, asked me, "How do you feel now?"

I didn't have to think, but I responded immediately, "I feel like a woman."

The assistant looked at me with wonder and said, "What?"

"I feel like a woman because my mouth has been open for such a long time."

It took a while for her to get it, and she did not think it qualified for laughter.

I tried to laugh, but my mouth was so numb I could hardly talk.

Later that day, I was reminded of what the Bible says. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Proverbs 17:22).

Much of our problems can be dealt with through a merry heart. We look for artificial medicine that does not get to the heart of our problems.

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## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Are there any proven links between exposure to pollution and mental health problems?

-- John C., Scranton, PA

Mental health and environment are two issues often in the spotlight, though not often associated together. But some researchers have begun to find links between increases in polluted air, water and soil and growing mental health problems throughout our society.

Several recent studies showed that exposure to high levels of air pollutants, like fine particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide, is linked to higher risks of mental health problems. Several studies have found that long-term exposure to air pollution can increase risks of depression, anxiety and even neurodevelopmental disorders in children. Harvard researchers recently concluded that long-term exposure to air pollution correlates to late-life depression in older Americans. More studies are needed, but researchers believe that the inflammation and oxidative stress caused by air pollution likely affects mental health negatively.

Emerging research also suggests that air pollution may have adverse effects on cognitive abilities, including memory and decision-making. These impairments can, in turn, contribute to stress and anxiety. Exposure to contaminants like lead, arsenic and pesticides in drinking water can have neurotoxic effects, too, leading to behavioral and cognitive problems in both children and adults and contributing to the development of mental health issues like attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and depression.

Noise pollution, often overlooked but pervasive in urban areas, can also harm mental well-being. Chronic exposure to noise pollution can lead to increased stress levels, sleep disturbances and heightened anxiety and depression. Noise pollution's negative impact on mental health is compounded by its association with increased risk of cardiovascular diseases, which can further contribute to mental health problems.

Environmental justice aspects of pollution and mental health are at issue, too. Low-income communities and marginalized populations are often disproportionately exposed to pollution due to factors such as proximity to industrial facilities and limited access to green spaces. Consequently, these communities face a higher burden of mental health issues linked to pollution, exacerbating existing health disparities.

Addressing these concerns requires concerted efforts on multiple fronts. Governments and regulatory bodies must prioritize air and water quality standards, enforce pollution controls and invest in cleaner technologies. Individuals can reduce their personal exposure by using air purifiers and cleaner transportation options, and advocating for clean energy policies. Also, mental health services need to incorporate environmental factors into their assessment and treatment plans. Healthcare professionals should be trained to recognize the potential role of pollution in mental health problems.



**Researchers have begun to find links between increases in polluted air, water & soil and growing mental health problems throughout society.**

Credit: RDNE Stock project, Pexels.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Congress clears bill to avert shutdown, with vote promised later on Ukraine aid

**South Dakota's Thune, Rounds, Johnson vote yes**

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 4:14 PM

WASHINGTON — Congress approved a bill Saturday night that would stave off a government shutdown until at least mid-November, though the measure doesn't include Ukraine aid backed by both Republicans and Democrats.

The bipartisan 88-9 vote in the U.S. Senate, just hours before a midnight deadline, took place after the U.S. House earlier in the day voted 335-91 to approve the legislation, with the support of members of both parties. President Joe Biden was expected to sign it into law later Saturday night. South Dakota's congressional delegation, Republican Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds and Rep. Dusty Johnson, all voted in favor of the legislation.

Republican senators voting no included Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, Mike Braun of Indiana, Ted Cruz of Texas, Bill Hagerty of Tennessee, Mike Lee of Utah, Roger Marshall of Kansas, Rand Paul of Kentucky, Eric Schmitt of Missouri and J. D. Vance of Ohio.

The stopgap spending legislation, unveiled Saturday morning in the House, does not provide any additional funding for military relief or humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The Senate's original short-term funding bill had included \$6.1 billion, which was significantly less than the \$24 billion the Biden administration requested in August. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy earlier this month traveled to Capitol Hill to meet with lawmakers to reiterate the need for continued aid to support his country's fight against the Russian invasion.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, said he would put a supplemental spending bill for Ukraine on the floor as soon as next week.

"This is a bridge CR and Leader McConnell and I have agreed to continue fighting for more economic and security aid for Ukraine," Schumer said. "We support Ukraine's efforts to defend its sovereignty against



**U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, speaks with reporters about a stopgap government funding bill inside the U.S. Capitol on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023.** (Jennifer Shutt/States Newsroom)

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Putin's aggression."

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, said he expected the Senate would approve aid for Ukraine before the end of the year.

"Most Senate Republicans remain committed to helping our friends on the front lines, to investing more heavily in American strength that reinforces our allies and deterring our top strategic adversary, China," McConnell said. "I'm confident the Senate will pass further urgent assistance to Ukraine later this year."

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Whip Katherine Clark, Caucus Chair Pete Aguilar and Vice Chair Ted Lieu all called on House Republicans to put a Ukraine assistance bill up for a vote.

"When the House returns, we expect Speaker McCarthy to advance a bill to the House Floor for an up-or-down vote that supports Ukraine, consistent with his commitment to making sure that Vladimir Putin, Russia and authoritarianism are defeated," they said in a joint statement.

Senate Republicans announced mid-day they would not support moving ahead with the original CR that included assistance for Ukraine. McConnell has been a vocal proponent of additional military and humanitarian aid for the country.

The Kentucky Republican told reporters that he had instructed GOP senators to vote against advancing the Senate's own stopgap spending bill toward final passage.

"It looks like there may be a bipartisan agreement coming from the House," McConnell said. "So I'm fairly confident that most of my members, our members, are going to vote against cloture — not necessarily because they're opposed to the underlying bill, but to see what the House can do on a bipartisan basis, and then bring it over to us."

## **A motion to adjourn, a fire alarm and a 'magic minute'**

House passage of the continuing resolution, or CR, came amid a hectic day on Capitol Hill.

Republicans began the morning huddling in a basement room of the Capitol to plot a path ahead, after failing to pass a separate stopgap spending bill Friday.

GOP leaders then brought the floor into session, giving just 40 minutes for debate on a new stopgap spending bill and infuriating Democrats, who argued they hadn't been given time to read the 71-page measure.

"We have had 15 minutes to review a 71-page document," House Appropriations Committee ranking member Rosa DeLauro said. "A document that was filed before midnight last night. There hasn't been any time for staff to review a 71-page document on such an important issue."

House Democratic Whip Katherine Clark, of Massachusetts, got more time for lawmakers to read the legislation before the House took the final vote by making a motion to adjourn.

Democrats were able to extend what should have been a 15-minute vote by waiting until it was almost over, then lining up on the House floor to vote on paper cards one-by-one, instead of electronically with their voting cards.

The final vote, which took about an hour, rejected the motion to adjourn, 0-427 after Democrats voted with Republicans to stay in session.

"We have just received a 71-page bill that is about keeping open our federal government, something the Democrats have been pushing for months," Clark said before the vote began. "We are asking for 90 minutes to be able to read this bill and come to the floor with an informed vote. That has been denied. We have serious trust issues, so at this point in time, I am making a motion to adjourn."

Adding to the feeling of chaos, New York Democratic Rep. Jamaal Bowman pulled a fire alarm in one of the House office buildings around noon as the vote on the motion to adjourn was beginning, causing the alarm to go off and for the building to be evacuated. The U.S. Capitol Police weren't able to clear the building for reopening until more than an hour later.

His chief of staff said in a written statement posted to X that "Congressman Bowman did not realize he would trigger a building alarm as he was rushing to make an urgent vote. The Congressman regrets any confusion."

After the vote on adjourning wrapped up, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, a New York Democrat, delivered a so-called "magic minute" floor speech. As a member of leadership he can speak as long as he

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wants and it only subtracts one minute from Democrats' total debate time.

The tactic has been used by both Democratic and Republican leaders to bring attention to an issue or to delay a final vote. Slowing down the vote on Saturday was intended to give Democrats more time to read the bill and appeared to also give congressional leaders time to determine how to move forward on the new continuing resolution.

The speech lasted about an hour, after which the House debated the legislation a bit longer, before sending it over to their Senate colleagues with just hours to go.

Far-right members of the House Republican Conference have been threatening to oust House Speaker Kevin McCarthy if he relied on Democrats to pass a short-term spending bill. But none of those members brought up the so-called motion to vacate on Saturday. The House after its vote adjourned until Monday.

## **Disaster relief, FAA extension**

Senators had been slowly advancing their own bipartisan spending bill since releasing it Tuesday, though without the agreement of all 100 lawmakers in that chamber, the bill wouldn't have become law before the Saturday midnight deadline.

The 71-page stopgap bill in the House released Saturday would fund the government through Friday, Nov. 17 and extend the authorization for the Federal Aviation Administration through Dec. 31.

It would provide \$16 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief fund, the primary account for disaster relief and response. Wildland firefighters would not see a pay cut that was scheduled to begin on Oct. 1.

House Appropriations Chair Kay Granger, a Texas Republican, urged support for the legislation, saying during floor debate that while "a continuing resolution is not ideal, it prevents a harmful government shutdown."

"It gives us more time to pass the appropriations bills on the floor of the House and allows us to start negotiations on final, full-year bills with the Senate," Granger said.

## **Pay raise argument**

DeLauro, a Connecticut Democrat, sharply criticized House Republicans for not adding a provision to the bill that bars members of Congress from getting a cost of living increase, calling it a pay raise.

"The Senate bill includes the blocking or prohibition on a member pay raise. That has been dropped from the bill that has just been proposed," DeLauro said.

Nevada Republican Rep. Mark Amodei, chairman of the panel that funds Congress, said that was an incorrect reading of the legislation. But he later said the bill could be amended to include a paragraph explicitly prohibiting a cost-of-living adjustment for members of Congress.

"I guess, being generous here, out of an abundance of caution and respect for those bill-drafting experts in the Senate, fixing that to include the Senate's genius language in this measure is something that's imminently doable in short order," he said.

The change was quickly agreed to on the House floor without any vote.

*Jennifer covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.*

## COMMENTARY

### A bright spot at the intersection of farming, electric vehicles and solar energy

IVY MAIN

The energy transition is in full swing across the U.S. and the world, but the changes now underway are not simple or linear. In an economy as complex and connected as ours, progress in one area will often affect other parts of the economy, creating winners and losers.

And then there are the changes that work together synergistically and leave everyone better off. This is what we will see as renewable energy overtakes fossil fuels and electric vehicles go mainstream. These transformations will deliver another enormous benefit, this time to farmland, as they pull the rug out from under the expensive and wasteful ethanol industry.

#### Counting Corn

Across the United States, more than 30 million acres of farmland is currently devoted to growing corn for a purpose other than feeding humans and animals. The corn – over 5 billion bushels every year — is processed into ethanol and then added to gasoline to comply with a federal mandate.

The U.S. Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), enacted in 2005, requires the nation's oil refiners to mix 15 billion gallons of corn-based ethanol into the nation's gasoline supply annually; this is the reason why most gasoline sold in the U.S. includes 10% ethanol. The mandate was intended to cut U.S. dependence on energy imports, support farmers and reduce emissions.

As it turned out, the RFS was primarily successful in increasing the acreage devoted to growing corn. Because of the ethanol mandate, an additional 6.9 million acres of corn were planted between 2008 and 2016. Corn is now the nation's number one crop and, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, ethanol production accounts for 45% of the U.S. corn crop. Most of the rest goes to animal feed, with only 15% destined for human consumption. (A mere half of one percent of the total corn crop is sweet corn, a different plant entirely.)

As a way to reduce emissions, however, the mandate proved a failure. A study funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Wildlife Federation concluded that ethanol is at least 24% more carbon-intensive than gasoline, once land use impacts are factored in.

It's a bad deal for taxpayers, too. In addition to the ethanol mandate, the U.S. government subsidizes corn farmers through the federal crop insurance program, with taxpayers covering an average of 62% of the cost of insurance premiums. More than a quarter of the insurance subsidy goes to corn, and very little goes to small farms. Add to this the many concerns about water use, fertilizer, pesticides and land degradation, and it is hard to find much good in the corn ethanol program.

#### EVs threaten King Corn

The world is a different place now than it was in 2005, with the U.S. having become the largest oil producer in the world and a net exporter. Yet the ethanol subsidy is fiercely guarded by the corn lobby and, in spite of occasional bipartisan efforts at repeal, it seems to be untouchable politically. Indeed, last year's Inflation Reduction Act, passed by Democrats, actually contains new credits for biofuel production that corn-state Republicans are keen on keeping even as they continue to seek rollbacks of other clean energy incentives.

The biggest threat to the corn lobby, though, isn't a repeal of the mandate, it's electric vehicles. When people no longer need gasoline, they can no longer be forced to buy corn ethanol.

Electric vehicle sales reached 5% of the U.S. new car market in 2022, and already this year they've hit 8.6%. JD Power projects 70% of new vehicles will be electric by 2035, with California leading the way at 94% by then.

Many agricultural communities are in denial about EVs, preferring to believe they will never catch on in numbers enough to threaten the importance of the corn crop. And indeed, it will take decades before the

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last gasoline-powered cars drive off to the junkyard. But most of us can see the writing on the wall. As more vehicles become electric, more land that is now devoted to corn ethanol will become available for other purposes.

While the ethanol industry looks to jet fuel and other possible new uses for its product, a far more promising "crop" is renewable energy. Planting wind turbines and solar panels, either alone or combined with actual crops that feed people, provides higher returns with less risk and is better for the planet.

'Planting' more solar energy instead of corn

Wind turbines already coexist with farmland across the Great Plains. Solar energy is somewhat land-intensive, but not compared to corn. A decade ago, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory calculated that we could power the country's entire electricity demand with 10 million acres of solar panels. That's only one-third of the land now devoted to corn ethanol.

Since that study, solar efficiency has increased, while electricity demand has risen only modestly. With the electrification of vehicles, buildings, and everything else that can be electrified, however, electricity demand is likely to double. But even if we had no wind energy, hydropower or nuclear, and we needed 20 million acres of solar to meet the demand, that would represent only two-thirds of the land currently devoted to corn ethanol, leaving millions of acres more freed up for food crops, land conservation and rewilding.

A comparison of the energy yield of corn vs. solar shows why displacing ethanol with solar energy would be a welcome change. An acre of corn yields 328 gallons of ethanol, which is one-third less efficient than gasoline. If you could run an internal combustion automobile entirely on ethanol (you can't), a car averaging 40 miles per gallon could go 8,738 miles on an acre of corn.

But that same acre "planted" in solar panels would yield 394-447 MWh per year of electricity. Even at the low end, that's enough to power a Tesla Model 3 for over 100,000 miles.

Much of the corn crop is grown in places like Iowa and Nebraska, but even in Virginia, 540,000 acres were planted in corn last year, second only to soybeans. Assuming 45% of Virginia's crop goes to corn ethanol (I could not find an actual breakdown by state), that amounts to 243,000 acres that could be put to better use. That's worth keeping in mind for the next time someone frets about farmland being "lost" to solar development.

Solar is also a more reliable crop, and a better one for small farmers. The profitability of corn growing varies by state and by year, but it is never exactly a lucrative business for any but the largest farm operations. In a good year, such as 2022, corn might return a profit of \$450 per acre, minus land rents (or taxes). In a down year, returns can be negative once land costs are accounted for. (Rents vary considerably, averaging about \$325 per acre.)

Meanwhile, solar lease rates range from \$250 to \$2000 per acre, depending on location and suitability. A guaranteed payment for 20 or 30 years with no work involved is a pretty attractive deal. Even putting just a portion of a farm into solar provides a form of insurance, guaranteeing a steady income flow regardless of weather and commodity price swings.

Solar is also a better deal than corn for the community, since it provides tax revenue, diversifies the local economy and conserves water. If the developer plants pollinator-friendly species around the solar panels or uses sheep instead of machinery to control grass, the benefits to the local economy increase further.

The ethanol industry is already looking for new uses for their product, but if they don't find takers, it is one fuel we don't need to mourn losing.

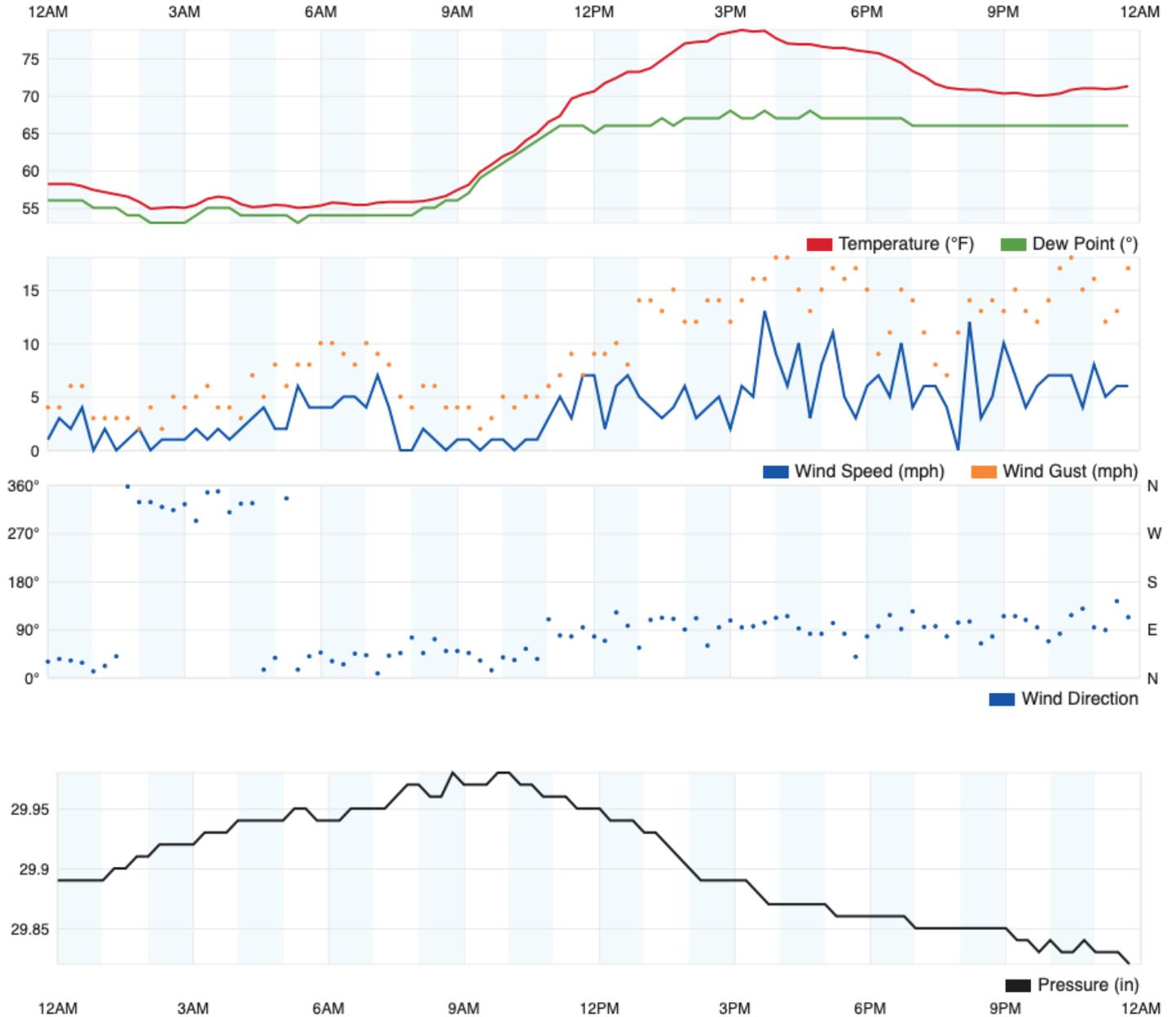
*This commentary was first published by the Virginia Mercury, which like South Dakota Searchlight is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Virginia Mercury maintains editorial independence.*

*Ivy Main is a lawyer and a longtime volunteer with the Sierra Club's Virginia chapter. A former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency employee, she is currently the Sierra Club's renewable energy chairperson. Her opinions are her own and do not necessarily reflect those of any organization.*

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Sun Oct 1	Mon Oct 2	Tue Oct 3	Wed Oct 4	Thu Oct 5	Fri Oct 6	Sat Oct 7
88°F 69°F	85°F 66°F	73°F 50°F	61°F 45°F	64°F 42°F	55°F 36°F	50°F 40°F
S	S	S	NNW	W	NW	W
24 MPH	19 MPH	25 MPH 70%	17 MPH 70%	16 MPH	18 MPH	12 MPH



## Highs Today Around 90 Degrees

October 1, 2023  
3:56 AM

Maximum Wind Gusts Through Tuesday

	Sun			Mon					Tue					Maximum									
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm		9pm								
Aberdeen	26↑	31↑	35↑	36↑	36↑	31↑	30↑	26↑	26↑	26↑	25↑	25↑	22↑	33↑	35↑	35↑	31↑	35↑	32↑	26↑	20↑	24↑	36
Britton	26↑	30↑	33↑	37↑	36↑	32↑	33↑	30↑	29↑	29↑	29↑	29↑	21↑	35↑	39↑	38↑	37↑	39↑	37↑	33↑	25↑	24↑	39
Brookings	25↑	31↑	33↑	35↑	31↑	31↑	30↑	28↑	30↑	36↑	35↑	35↑	33↑	35↑	36↑	32↑	31↑	37↑	39↑	38↑	33↑	29↑	39
Chamberlain	22↑	35↑	36↑	37↑	35↑	33↑	32↑	26↑	24↑	30↑	28↑	32↑	30↑	37↑	38↑	30↑	25↑	28↑	28↑	26↑	26↑	25↑	38
Clark	30↑	32↑	32↑	36↑	33↑	35↑	33↑	33↑	28↑	28↑	29↑	28↑	30↑	36↑	38↑	38↑	35↑	36↑	36↑	31↑	28↑	24↑	38
Eagle Butte	23↑	30↑	35↑	36↑	31↑	24↑	21↑	18↑	16↑	16↑	17↑	18↑	18↑	22↑	22↑	17↑	14↑	17↑	21↑	31↑	40↑	37↑	40
Ellendale	21↑	28↑	32↑	35↑	32↑	30↑	29↑	24↑	23↑	24↑	23↑	24↑	16↑	28↑	38↑	37↑	31↑	37↑	35↑	29↑	22↑	25↑	38
Eureka	23↑	29↑	36↑	37↑	35↑	32↑	30↑	22↑	17↑	17↑	20↑	20↑	17↑	26↑	30↑	26↑	22↑	24↑	24↑	23↑	26↑	26↑	37
Gettysburg	25↑	32↑	38↑	40↑	36↑	35↑	31↑	24↑	20↑	21↑	22↑	23↑	23↑	33↑	33↑	28↑	22↑	22↑	22↑	23↑	25↑	32↑	40
Huron	29↑	35↑	35↑	37↑	35↑	32↑	32↑	30↑	30↑	33↑	32↑	36↑	35↑	35↑	32↑	30↑	31↑	33↑	37↑	35↑	30↑	28↑	37
Kennebec	28↑	37↑	45↑	47↑	40↑	36↑	33↑	28↑	21↑	25↑	29↑	31↑	31↑	40↑	40↑	32↑	24↑	22↑	22↑	24↑	29↑	38↑	47
McIntosh	20↑	28↑	32↑	36↑	30↑	21↑	18↑	18↑	17↑	17↑	18↑	20↑	16↑	20↑	21↑	17↑	14↑	17↑	22↑	30↑	37↑	35↑	37
Milbank	22↑	24↑	28↑	30↑	28↑	26↑	22↑	24↑	23↑	25↑	26↑	26↑	25↑	30↑	31↑	31↑	32↑	37↑	39↑	35↑	28↑	28↑	39
Miller	28↑	31↑	36↑	37↑	33↑	32↑	33↑	29↑	25↑	25↑	25↑	24↑	31↑	38↑	38↑	35↑	30↑	30↑	26↑	22↑	21↑	30↑	38
Mobridge	22↑	29↑	32↑	35↑	33↑	28↑	25↑	18↑	15↑	16↑	17↑	18↑	16↑	21↑	23↑	21↑	15↑	18↑	18↑	24↑	31↑	31↑	35
Murdo	29↑	39↑	44↑	45↑	40↑	37↑	33↑	25↑	20↑	21↑	22↑	26↑	36↑	44↑	41↑	25↑	20↑	22↑	23↑	29↑	40↑	41↑	45
Pierre	23↑	31↑	38↑	40↑	36↑	32↑	26↑	21↑	15↑	18↑	21↑	23↑	25↑	30↑	29↑	21↑	17↑	18↑	20↑	24↑	33↑	35↑	40
Redfield	28↑	31↑	32↑	37↑	36↑	31↑	30↑	29↑	25↑	25↑	25↑	26↑	28↑	36↑	36↑	35↑	30↑	31↑	30↑	25↑	20↑	23↑	37
Sisseton	23↑	26↑	30↑	32↑	30↑	26↑	28↑	26↑	26↑	28↑	28↑	26↑	26↑	24↑	33↑	33↑	33↑	38↑	39↑	36↑	28↑	23↑	39
Watertown	30↑	31↑	33↑	36↑	32↑	32↑	35↑	31↑	28↑	29↑	30↑	30↑	29↑	35↑	36↑	36↑	33↑	37↑	38↑	36↑	30↑	26↑	38
Webster	30↑	33↑	36↑	37↑	36↑	33↑	33↑	32↑	30↑	30↑	31↑	30↑	28↑	36↑	38↑	38↑	38↑	40↑	40↑	37↑	31↑	26↑	40
Wheaton	23↑	24↑	26↑	28↑	26↑	26↑	24↑	22↑	22↑	23↑	23↑	23↑	22↑	29↑	29↑	28↑	30↑	33↑	33↑	31↑	28↑	23↑	33

With highs around 90 degrees and windy conditions, we will see elevated fire danger for drier areas. Temperatures will be just about as warm for Monday, so more of the same to start the work week. We will see less intense heat for Tuesday along with increasing chances for moisture.

# Groton Daily Independent

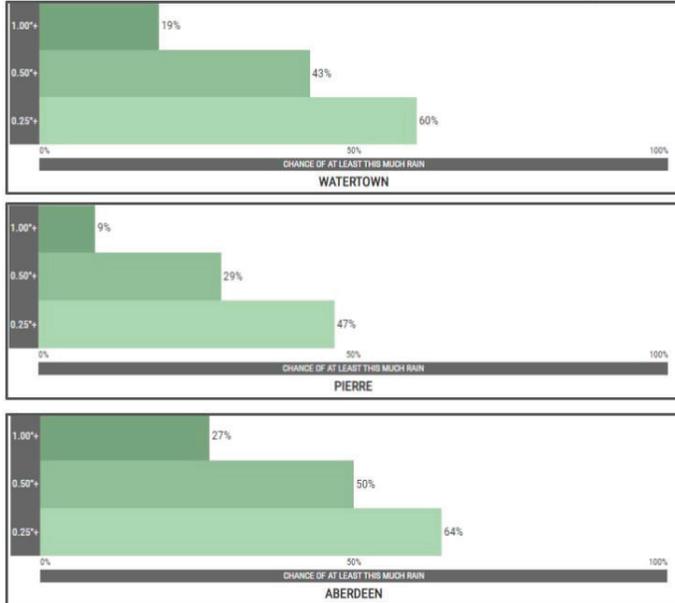
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## Upcoming Precipitation Chances

October 1, 2023  
4:02 AM

### Moisture Probabilities For Tuesday



### Timing Moisture

	Mon				Tue				Wed								
	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm
Aberdeen	0	0	0	15	15	45	45	60	60	70	70	55	55	45	45	15	15
Britton	0	0	0	10	10	35	35	50	50	65	65	55	55	55	55	15	15
Brookings	5	0	0	5	5	20	20	35	35	55	55	65	65	35	35	25	25
Chamberlain	0	5	5	20	20	40	40	50	50	65	65	50	50	45	45	15	15
Clark	0	0	0	10	10	35	35	55	55	75	75	60	60	35	35	15	15
Eagle Butte	0	0	0	65	65	50	50	45	45	55	55	30	30	15	15	5	5
Ellendale	0	0	0	15	15	45	45	60	60	65	65	50	50	55	55	15	15
Eureka	0	0	0	35	35	55	55	60	60	65	65	50	50	40	40	10	10
Gettysburg	0	0	0	35	35	55	55	60	60	60	60	40	40	30	30	5	5
Huron	5	0	0	10	10	35	35	55	55	70	70	60	60	45	45	25	25
Kennebec	0	0	0	30	30	55	55	60	60	45	45	35	35	20	20	5	5
McIntosh	0	0	0	70	70	70	70	40	40	55	55	40	40	20	20	5	5
Milbank	0	0	0	0	0	20	20	30	30	60	60	60	60	40	40	20	20
Miller	0	0	0	20	20	50	50	75	75	70	70	45	45	30	30	10	10
Mobridge	0	0	0	45	45	55	55	55	55	55	55	40	40	25	25	5	5
Murdo	0	0	0	55	55	60	60	45	45	40	40	30	30	15	15	5	5
Pierre	0	0	0	50	50	55	55	50	50	50	50	35	35	15	15	5	5
Redfield	0	0	0	10	10	45	45	70	70	75	75	50	50	40	40	15	15
Sisseton	0	0	0	5	5	25	25	40	40	65	65	60	60	45	45	20	20
Watertown	0	0	0	5	5	25	25	50	50	65	65	60	60	35	35	15	15
Webster	0	0	0	5	5	35	35	45	45	65	65	60	60	45	45	15	15
Wheaton	0	0	0	5	5	25	25	35	35	65	65	65	65	45	45	25	25

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

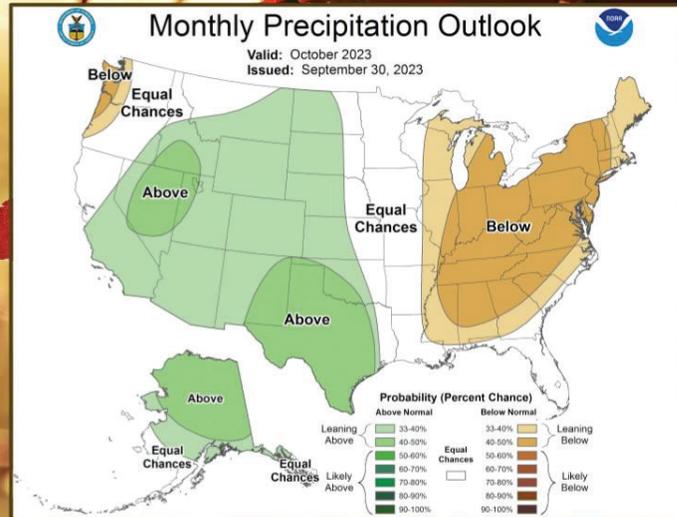
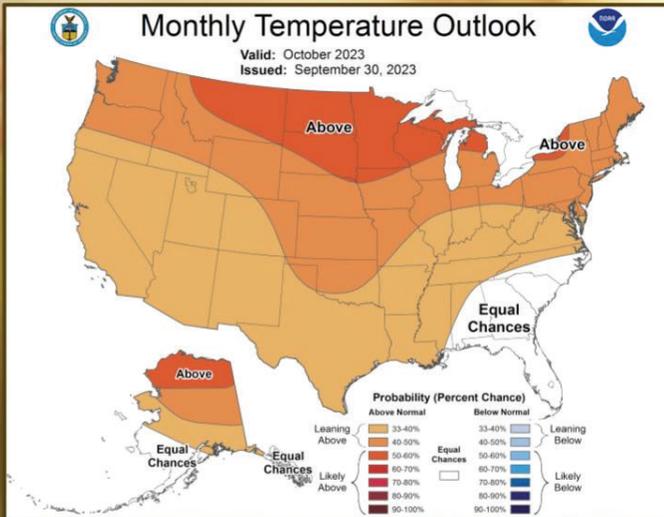
Precipitation timing and intensity with the upcoming system centered mostly around Tuesday.



## October Forecast - Updated

September 30, 2023  
8:09 PM

The recent warmth, on average, is expected to persist for most of October



**Key Points** - Temperature probabilities favor above normal temperatures for October  
- Precipitation probabilities only slightly favor above normal for October

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 79 °F at 3:09 PM

Low Temp: 55 °F at 2:15 AM

Wind: 18 mph at 3:48 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 11 hours, 45 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 92 in 1922

Record Low: 121 in 1974

Average High: 68

Average Low: 40

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.08

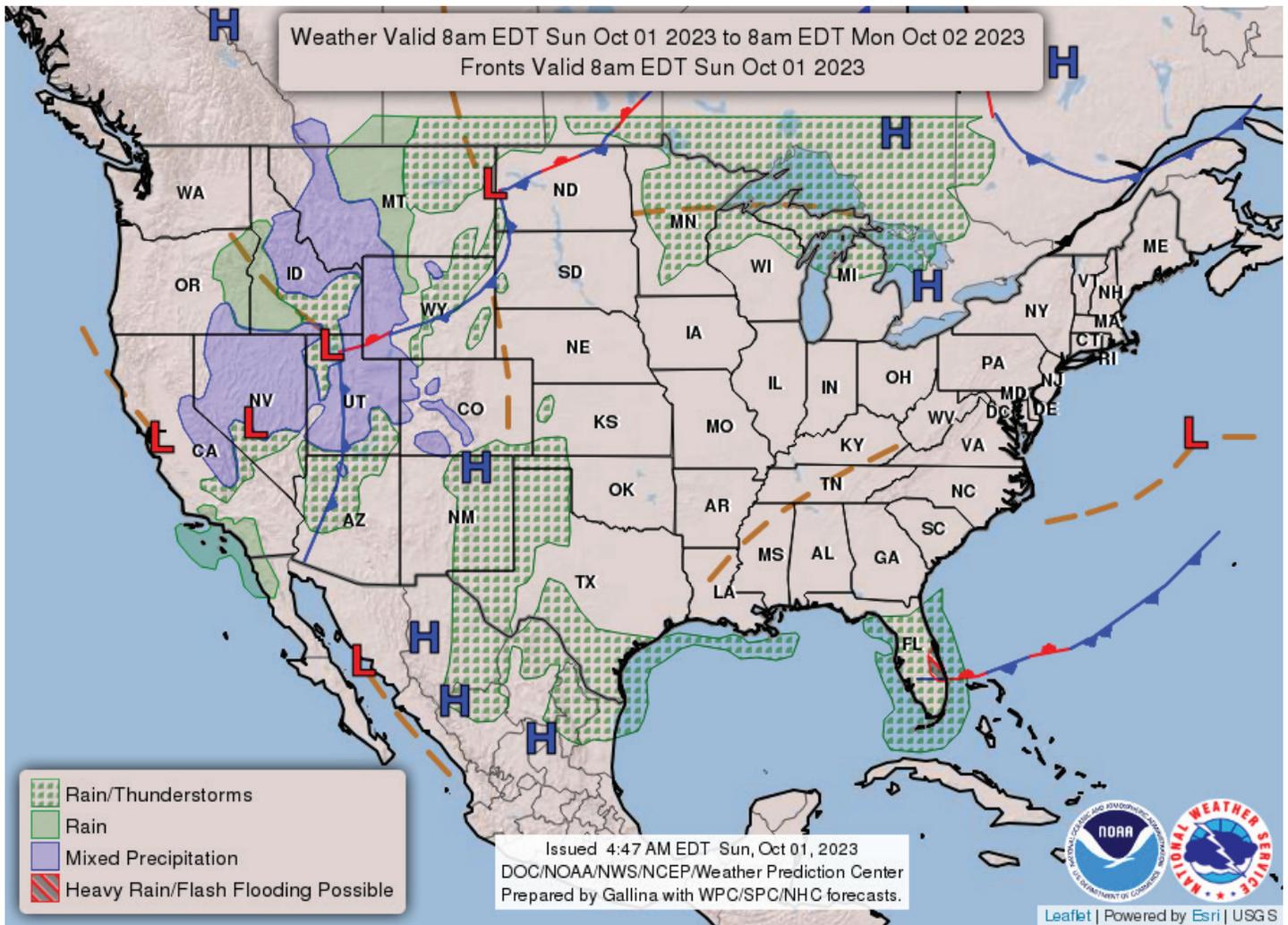
Precip to date in Oct.: 3.18

Average Precip to date: 18.41

Precip Year to Date: 21.77

Sunset Tonight: 7:14:53 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:30:27 AM



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## Today in Weather History

October 1, 1971: A rare October tornado developed in Sully County during the evening hours. The brief tornado damaged a ranch home and large barn, 6 miles west-northwest of Onida.

October 1, 1999: A narrow band of heavy snow fell across portions of South Dakota. Snowfall amounts of 4 to 8" were typical in the relatively narrow band, breaking many daily records.

October 1, 2012: Drought continued to intensify and expand across central and northeast South Dakota through October, resulting in severe to exceptional drought conditions. Many locations continued the trend of recording well below-average precipitation totals for the month. The exceptional drought conditions expanded into Stanley, Jones, and southern Lyman counties. Extreme drought conditions spread into southern Dewey, Sully, Hughes, Lyman, Jones, Southwest Hyde, Hamlin, Codrington, Grant, and Deuel counties. Severe drought conditions spread into Corson, Dewey, northwest Hyde, Hand, Faulk, Edmunds, McPherson, Brown, eastern Clark, and southern Roberts Counties.

1752 - The second severe hurricane in two weeks hit the Carolinas. The Onslow County Courthouse was destroyed along with all its records, and Beacon Island disappeared. (David Ludlum)

1890: The weather service is first identified as a civilian agency when Congress, at the request of President Benjamin Harrison, passes an act transferring the Signal Service's meteorological responsibilities to the newly-created U.S. Weather Bureau in the Department of Agriculture.

1893: On this day, the village of Caminadaville, Louisiana, was destroyed by a massive hurricane. Caminadaville was a vibrant fishing community in the late 19th century, located on Cheniere Caminada, adjacent to Grand Isle in coastal Jefferson Parish in Louisiana. It took five days for the news of this devastating hurricane to reach New Orleans.

1938: Grannis and Okay, Arkansas set an all-time high-temperature record for October for Arkansas with 105 degrees.

1945: While investigating a Category 1 typhoon over the South China Sea, the typhoon hunter plane was lost. This marks the first of only a few instances of the Hurricane/Typhoon plane was lost during their flight into the storm.

1958: NASA officially begins operations on October 1st, 1958.

1977: While an F3 tornado traveled less than one-mile through Montfort Heights or the greater Cincinnati area, it destroyed 12 homes and damaged 15 others. There were 17 injuries.

1987 - A blast of cold arctic air hit the north central U.S. An afternoon thunderstorm slickened the streets of Duluth MN with hail and snow, and later in the afternoon, strong northerly winds reached 70 mph. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the Pacific northwest. Afternoon highs of 90 degrees at Olympia WA, 92 degrees at Portland OR, and 89 degrees at Seattle WA, were records for the month of October. For Seattle WA it marked the twenty-first daily record high for the year, a record total in itself. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather across central Oklahoma and the eastern half of Texas. Thunderstorms in Texas produced softball size hail northwest of Nocona, and baseball size hail at Troy and Park Springs. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the southeastern U.S. through the daytime and evening hours. Severe thunderstorms spawned eleven tornadoes, with seven of those tornadoes in Georgia. A tornado southwest of Moultrie, GA, killed two persons and injured a dozen others. Tornadoes also injured one person north of Graceville, FL, and two persons at Bartow, GA. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### **PULL OR PUSH: WHICH IS BETTER?**

Updated on September 28, 2023

General Dwight D. Eisenhower is recognized as one of the greatest leaders in all of history. After a brilliant military career, he became a trusted and honored president.

On one occasion he was asked to describe the art of leadership. Rather than describing it, he decided to demonstrate it. To illustrate his point, he put a piece of string on a table and said, "Push it and it will go nowhere. Pull it and it will follow."

Few of us will ever say to others: "Look at me. I am a good example. Follow me and do as I do." But that's exactly what Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians. Quite a daring statement!

He was able to set himself up as an example, however, because he walked close to his Lord and Savior, spent much time studying God's Word, and praying and witnessing. Because he was "in Christ" he lived his life "through Christ" and could say to others, "I ask you to follow my example and do as I do." At all times and in every situation whatever Paul did is what he believed Jesus Christ, his Savior and Lord would have done.

If there ever was a Christian leader who "pulled" people to the Lord, it was Paul. We see it in his faith that sustained him in situations far beyond our imagination. We are inspired by his hope that never faltered when he had no reason to hope. And, above all, his very life defined love.

Prayer: Father, it is frightening to think that others may look at us and imitate what we do because they assume we are Your examples. May our lives be worthy of imitating. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: So I urge you to imitate me. 1 Corinthians 4:16



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:  
09.29.23

18 40 47 55 64 11

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$300,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.30.23

4 5 26 27 35 6

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$2,450,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.30.23

23 26 38 43 45 12

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 8 Mins 35 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.30.23

5 20 26 33 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$20,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.30.23

2 22 46 56 67 25

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

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.30.23

19 30 37 44 46 22

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$1,040,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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## News from the Associated Press

### Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

#### PREP VOLLEYBALL

Brandon Valley def. Pierre T F Riggs High School, 19-25, 19-25, 29-27, 25-14, 15-7

Edgemont def. Guernsey-Sunrise, Wyo., 25-7, 25-7, 25-13

Marshall, Minn. def. Brookings, 25-12, 25-17, 25-15

Sioux Falls Christian def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 25-11, 22-25, 25-22, 22-25, 15-5

Wagner def. Tri-Valley, 25-18, 25-18, 27-25

Douglas Triangular=

Douglas def. Mitchell, 25-20, 25-16, 21-25, 25-21

Mitchell def. Spearfish, 25-23, 25-20, 25-23

Spearfish def. Douglas, 25-22, 24-26, 20-25, 25-18, 15-10

Great Plains Conference Tournament=

Pool Play=

Alcester-Hudson def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-22, 15-25, 25-19

Alcester-Hudson def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-17, 25-21

Alcester-Hudson def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 16-25, 25-17, 25-15

Avon def. Centerville, 25-15, 25-20

Avon def. Colome, 25-14, 25-2

Avon def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-18, 25-20

Gayville-Volin High School def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-13, 25-17

Gayville-Volin High School def. Avon, 25-21, 25-20

Playoff=

Alcester-Hudson def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 27-25, 25-19

Lakota Nation Invitational=

Pool A=

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Tiospaye Topa, 25-23, 26-24

Lakota Tech def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-18, 25-21

Lakota Tech def. Wakpala, 25-10, 25-13

Lower Brule def. Crazy Horse, 25-13, 25-23

Tiospaye Topa def. Wakpala, 10-25, 25-18, 26-24

Pool B=

Pine Ridge def. Santee, Neb., 25-17, 25-16

Santee, Neb. def. Takini, 25-10, 25-6

White River def. St. Francis Indian, 25-13, 25-22

Pool C=

Crow Creek Tribal School def. Oelrichs, 25-7, 25-18

Red Cloud def. Marty Indian, 25-10, 25-15

Wyoming Indian, Wyo. def. Marty Indian, 25-8, 22-25, 25-19

Pool D=

Custer def. Little Wound, 25-16, 25-15

Custer def. McLaughlin, 25-17, 25-21

Custer def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-19, 25-15

Todd County def. McLaughlin, 20-25, 25-21, 25-18

Championship Round=

Semifinal=

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Lakota Tech def. Wyoming Indian, Wyo., 25-23, 20-25, 25-12

White River def. Custer, 25-22, 25-19

Third Place=

Wyoming Indian, Wyo. def. Custer, 25-21, 15-25, 26-24

Championship=

White River def. Lakota Tech, 25-17, 25-17

Mile High Invite=

Gordon/Rushville, Neb. def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-9, 25-13

Gordon/Rushville, Neb. def. New Underwood, 25-19, 25-22

Gordon/Rushville, Neb. def. Newell, 25-15, 25-13

Redfield VB Classic=

Aberdeen Christian def. Florence/Henry, 25-23, 25-15

Belle Fourche def. Potter County, 25-12, 25-10

Belle Fourche def. Redfield, 25-20, 25-19

Beresford def. Timber Lake, 25-16, 18-25, 25-21

Florence/Henry def. Potter County, 25-18, 25-11

Florence/Henry def. Timber Lake, 25-16, 25-14

Miller def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-13, 25-14

Miller def. Belle Fourche, 19-25, 25-17, 25-18

Miller def. Florence/Henry, 25-14, 25-13

Warner def. Belle Fourche, 25-15, 25-14

Warner def. Beresford, 25-9, 25-10

Warner def. Miller, 25-16, 25-12

Warner def. Timber Lake, 25-5, 25-10

Aberdeen Christian def. Beresford, 8-25, 25-20, 25-20

Redfield def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-13, 26-24

Redfield def. Potter County, 25-10, 25-20

Twin Cities Invitational=

Consolation Bracket=

Chase County, Neb. def. St. Thomas More

Rapid City Stevens def. McCook, Neb.

Championship=

Rapid City Stevens def. Sidney, Neb.

Consolation Semifinal=

St. Thomas More def. McCook, Neb.

Semifinal=

Rapid City Stevens def. Chase County, Neb.

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## PREP FOOTBALL

St. Thomas More 35, Aberdeen Roncalli 6

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

## **Top-ranked South Dakota State beats 11th-ranked North Dakota 42-21 for 18th straight victory**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Isaiah Davis rushed for 132 yards and three touchdowns, Mark Gronowski had a touchdown rushing and passing, and top-ranked South Dakota State beat 11th-ranked North Dakota 42-21 on Saturday in a Missouri Valley Conference opener for both teams.

South Dakota State (4-0), the defending Football Championship Subdivision champion, extended its school-record winning streak to 18 games dating to early in the 2022 campaign.

Gronowski scored on a 1-yard run on the first possession of the game and Davis gave SDSU a 14-0 lead on a 6-yard run in the first quarter. Davis made it 28-7 with the lone touchdown of the third quarter.

Tucker Large retrieved a punt that went over his head and eventually went the other way for a gain of 51 yards before being stopped by punter Luke Silvernale. Davis capped the 31-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown for a 35-7 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Gronowski was 13 of 22 for 167 yards without an interception for South Dakota State.

Tommy Schuster threw for 118 yards and a score for North Dakota (2-2). The Fighting Hawks were held to just 100 yards in the first half and finished with 234.

It marked the sixth game between the two programs in their respective Division I eras. SDSU has won five of the meetings, including a 49-35 come-from-behind road victory on Oct. 21, 2022.

## **South Dakota knocks off North Dakota State in Fargo 24-19**

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Aidan Bouman combined with Carter Bell on two long touchdown passes and South Dakota knocked off FCS No. 2-ranked North Dakota State 24-19 on Saturday in a Missouri Valley Football Conference opener for both teams.

The win was the first for the Coyotes in Fargo since 2015.

Bouman threw to Bell in the flat and Bell turned the toss into a 50-yard touchdown in the first quarter for the game's first points and the Coyotes would never trail.

Bouman scrambled out of the pocket and found Bell at 12-yard line for a 52-yard score after Bell dragged a defender into the end zone for a 21-3 halftime lead.

Following a pass-interference call in the end zone that put the ball at the South Dakota 2, Cam Miller hit Joe Stoffel with a scoring pass to make it 24-19 with 36 seconds left. But a conversion pass was intercepted by Dennis Shorter, who also had a pick earlier in the game for the Bison's first turnover of the season.

Bouman finished 10-of-12 passing for 168 yards and the two touchdowns. Bell had 124 yards receiving on five catches.

Miller was 18-of-25 passing for 154 yards, a touchdown and an interception.

The Bison outgained the Coyotes 348-269 but their two longest drives of the day of over nine minutes only resulted in field goals.

## **Suicide bomber detonates a device in the Turkish capital. A second assailant is killed in a shootout**

By SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in the heart of the Turkish capital, Ankara, on Sunday, hours before parliament was scheduled to reopen after a three-month summer recess. A second assailant was killed in a shootout with police, the interior minister said.

Two police officers were slightly injured during the attack near an entrance to the Ministry of Interior Affairs, Minister Ali Yerlikaya said on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.

The attack occurred as parliament was set to reopen with an address by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

There was no immediate information on the assailants. Kurdish and far-left militant groups as well as the Islamic State group have carried out deadly attacks throughout the country in the past.

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Yerlikaya said the assailants arrived at the scene inside a light commercial vehicle early on Sunday. Television footage showed bomb squads working near a parked vehicle in the area, which is located near the Turkish Grand National Assembly and other government buildings. A rocket launcher could be seen lying near the vehicle.

Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc said an investigation has been launched into the "terror attack."

"These attacks will in no way hinder Turkey's fight against terrorism," he wrote on X. "Our fight against terrorism will continue with more determination."

Police cordoned off access to the city center and increased security measures, warning citizens that they would be conducting controlled explosions of suspicious packages.

The two police officers were being treated in a hospital and were not in serious condition, Yerlikaya said.

Egypt, which has normalized ties with Turkey after a decade of tensions, condemned the attack. A terse statement from the Foreign Ministry offered Egypt's solidarity with Turkey.

The U.S. Embassy in Ankara also the condemned the attack, saying it stands in solidarity with Turkey.

Erdogan's speech will be closely watched for indications as to when Turkey's parliament may ratify Sweden's membership in NATO.

Stockholm applied for NATO membership alongside Finland following Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year. While Finland has since joined, Turkey blocked Sweden's membership in the military alliance, accusing it of being soft on groups that Turkey considers to be security threats. Only Turkey and Hungary are yet to ratify Swedish membership.

## Evacuated Illinois residents return home after ammonia leak from truck crash that killed 5 people

By JOHN O'CONNOR and COLLEEN SLEVIN Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Five people were killed and five were seriously injured after a truck overturned in central Illinois, causing a toxic substance to leak from its cargo and forcing the evacuation of hundreds of area residents, authorities said Saturday.

A semitruck carrying caustic anhydrous ammonia toppled about 9:25 p.m. Friday night in Teutopolis, spilling more than half its 7,500-gallon (28,390-liter) load, according to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Effingham County Coroner Kim Rhodes said the five dead included three from the same family: one adult and two children under 12. The other two were adult motorists from out of state, Rhodes said. Additionally, five people were airlifted to hospitals, their conditions unknown.

Names of the victims were not released, nor would authorities discuss causes of death.

About 500 residents within a 1-mile (1.6-kilometer) radius of the crash site were evacuated after the accident, including northeastern parts of Teutopolis. Late Saturday night, Teutopolis Fire Protection District Assistant Chief Joe Holomy said testing found the area was safe for residents to return home.

Emergency crews worked overnight after the accident on Friday trying to control the plume from the leak and struggled to get near the crash site.

"We have a lot of brave firemen, EMT, hazmat specialists, police officers that are working on this scene as we speak," Effingham County Sheriff Paul Kuhns said at a Saturday morning news conference.

As of midday Saturday, the accident scene was still heavily blockaded. Kuhns apologized for any inconvenience from the investigation and the evacuation.

Private and federal environmental contractors were summoned to recommend a cleanup procedure in Teutopolis, a town of 1,600 about 110 miles (177 kilometers) northeast of St. Louis.

The National Transportation Safety Board will review the crash, spokesperson Jennifer Gabris told The Associated Press.

The accident caused "a large plume, cloud of anhydrous ammonia on the roadway that caused terribly dangerous air conditions in the northeast area of Teutopolis," Kuhns said. "Because of these conditions, the emergency responders had to wait. They had to mitigate the conditions before they could really get

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to work on it, and it was a fairly large area.”

Although not strong, crews working overnight struggled against shifting wind.

“The wind changed three or four different times on us,” said Tim McMahon, chief of the Teutopolis Fire Protection District. “That’s another reason we got crews out in different places, reporting back on which way the wind’s going.”

Traffic, including the tanker, was pushed onto U.S. 40, which bisects Teutopolis, earlier Friday because of another truck crash on Interstate 70.

Phillip Hartke, 75, who lives in Teutopolis but farms with his son outside of town, said U.S. 40 was jammed after the I-70 closure. Hartke finished harvesting corn about 9:30 p.m. Driving home, as he neared the center of town, he could smell anhydrous ammonia. When he reached U.S. 40, emergency vehicles swarmed the area.

“Firefighters advised us right there: ‘Evacuate to the west,’” Hartke said.

Hartke estimated 85% of Teutopolis was subject to the evacuation. He and his wife were staying with his son. Such familial ties should serve most evacuees well.

“T-Town’ is a tight-knit community,” Hartke said. “Many people have sons and daughters, aunts and uncles within five or six miles of town.”

Anhydrous ammonia is used by farmers to add nitrogen fertilizer to the soil and as a refrigerant in the cooling systems of large buildings such as warehouses and factories. According to the American Chemical Society, it is carried around the United States by pipeline, trucks and trains.

In 2019, dozens of people were sickened in suburban Chicago after the valves were left open on tanks of anhydrous ammonia being transported from a farm in Wisconsin to one in Illinois, creating a toxic gas cloud and sickening dozens of people. Seven people were initially hospitalized in critical condition after a leaking anhydrous ammonia tank pulled by a tractor released the plume over Beach Park.

And in 2002, a train derailment released anhydrous ammonia in Minot, North Dakota, killing one man, and hundreds of other people reported injuries including burns and breathing problems.

“It’s terrible. It’s bad stuff if you are involved in breathing it, especially because it gets in your airways, in your lungs, and it burns,” Kuhns said.

In addition to having a commercial driver’s license, the person behind the wheel of a toxic-substance tanker must study further and successfully complete a test for a hazardous material endorsement, said Don Schaefer, CEO of the Mid-West Truckers Association.

“Once you get that endorsement, there are no restrictions — unless otherwise posted — on hauling hazardous materials on a public highway,” Schaefer said. “But you’re subject to higher scrutiny.”

## **A populist, pro-Russia ex-premier leads a leftist party to win in Slovakia’s parliamentary elections**

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP) — A populist former prime minister and his leftist party won parliamentary elections in Slovakia, staging a political comeback after campaigning on a pro-Russian and anti-American message, according to almost complete results.

Former Prime Minister Robert Fico and the leftist Smer, or Direction, party led with 22.9%, the Slovak Statistics Office said early Sunday after completing the count of 99.98% of the votes from some 6,000 polling stations.

The election Saturday was a test for the small eastern European country’s support for neighboring Ukraine in its war with Russia, and the win by Fico could strain a fragile unity in the European Union and NATO.

Fico, 59, vowed to withdraw Slovakia’s military support for Ukraine in Russia’s war if his attempt to return to power succeeded.

The country of 5.5 million people created in 1993 following the breakup of Czechoslovakia has been a staunch supporter of Ukraine since Russia invaded last February, donating arms and opening the borders for refugees fleeing the war.

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With no party winning a majority of seats, a coalition government will need to be formed. The president traditionally asks an election's winner to try to form a government, so Fico is likely to become prime minister again. He served as prime minister in 2006-2010 and again in 2012-2018.

A liberal, pro-West newcomer, the Progressive Slovakia party, was a distant second, with 18% of the votes. Its leader Michal Simecka, who is deputy president of the European Parliament, said his party respected the result. "But it's bad news for Slovakia," he said. "And it would be even worse if Robert Fico manages to create a government."

He said he'd like try and form a governing coalition if Fico fails.

The left-wing Hlas (Voice) party, led by Fico's former deputy in Smer, Peter Pellegrini, came in third with 14.7%. Pellegrini parted ways with Fico after the scandal-tainted Smer lost the previous election in 2020, but their possible reunion would boost Fico's chances to form a government.

Pellegrini replaced Fico as prime minister after he was forced to resign by major anti-government street protests following the 2018 killing of journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancée.

Pellegrini congratulated Fico on his victory but said that two former prime ministers in one government might not work well.

"It's not ideal but that doesn't mean such a coalition can't be created," he said.

Another potential coalition partner, the ultranationalist Slovak National Party, a clear pro-Russian group, received 5.6%.

Those three parties would have a parliamentary majority if they joined forces in a coalition government.

Fico opposes EU sanctions on Russia, questions whether Ukraine can force out the invading Russian troops and wants to block Ukraine from joining NATO.

He proposes that instead of sending arms to Kyiv, the EU and the U.S. should use their influence to force Russia and Ukraine to strike a compromise peace deal.

Fico's critics worry that his return to power could lead Slovakia to abandon its course in other ways, following the path of Hungary under Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and to a lesser extent of Poland under the Law and Justice party.

Hungary has been sanctioned by the EU for alleged rule-of-law violations and corruption, while EU institutions say Poland has been on a slippery slope away from the EU's rule-of-law principles. Fico has threatened to dismiss investigators from the National Criminal Agency and the special prosecutor who deals with the most serious crimes and corruption.

Hungary also has — uniquely among EU countries — maintained close relations with Moscow and argued against supplying arms to Ukraine or providing it with economic assistance.

Fico repeats Russian President Vladimir Putin's unsupported claim that the Ukrainian government runs a Nazi state from which ethnic Russians in the country's east needed protection. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is Jewish and lost relatives in the Holocaust.

Known for foul-mouthed tirades against journalists, Fico also campaigned against immigration and LGBTQ+ rights.

The populist Ordinary People group, the conservative Christian Democrats and the pro-business Freedom and Solidarity also won seats in parliament.

## **India's devastating monsoon season is a sign of things to come, as climate and poor planning combine**

By SIBI ARASU Associated Press

BENGALURU, India (AP) — Sanjay Chauhan witnessed monsoon rains lash down over his home and farm in the Indian Himalayas this year with a magnitude and intensity he's never experienced before.

"Buildings have collapsed, roads are broken, there were so many landslides including one that has destroyed a large part of my orchard," said the 56-year-old farmer, who lives in the town of Shimla in Himachal Pradesh. "I have not seen anything like this."

The devastation of this year's monsoon season in India, which runs from June to September, has been

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significant: Local government estimates say that 428 people have died and Himachal Pradesh suffered over \$1.42 billion worth in property damage since June.

Human-caused climate change is making rain more extreme in the region and scientists warn Himalayan states should expect more unpredictable and heavy seasons like this one. But the damage is also exacerbated by developers paying little mind to environmental regulations and building codes when building on flood- and earthquake-prone land, local experts and environmentalists say.

Damages to property in Himachal Pradesh this year were more than the last five years combined. Other regions also suffered heavy losses in terms of lives, property and farmland — including the neighboring state of Uttarakhand, Delhi and most northern and western Indian states.

In the second week of July, 224.1 millimeters (8.82 inches) of rainfall descended on the state instead of the usual 42.2 millimeters (1.66 inches) for this time of the year — a 431% increase — according to the Indian Meteorological Department. Then for five days in August, 111.9 millimeters (4.41 inches) poured down on Himachal Pradesh, 168% more than the 41.7 millimeters (1.64 inches) it would typically receive in that timeframe.

The rainfall spurred hundreds of landslides, with overflowing rivers sweeping vehicles away and collapsing multiple buildings, many of them recently constructed hotels. Key highways were submerged or destroyed and all schools in the region were shut. Around 300 tourists stranded near the high altitude lake of Chandratol had to be airlifted to safety by the Indian Air Force.

Jakob Steiner, a climate scientist with the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development, said rising global temperatures from human-caused climate change means more water evaporates in the heat which is then dumped in heavy rainfall events.

And when all the water pours in one place, it means other regions are starved of rain.

In the south of the country, rain was so rare that the region had its driest monsoon season since 1901, the IMD said. The government of Karnataka in southern India declared drought conditions in most of the state.

Climate change compounds the phenomenon of weather extremes, said Anjal Prakash, a research director at the Indian School of Business, with both droughts and deluges expected to intensify as the world warms.

In the Himalayas, the problem of climate changed-boosted rain is worsened by unregulated development and years of devastation piling up with little time to adapt or fix the damage in between.

“Roads, dams and settlements have been built without proper environmental assessments or following building codes,” said Prakash. Unregulated development has also led to increased soil erosion and disrupted natural drainage systems, he said.

Y.P. Sundaral, a geologist with Uttarakhand-based HNB Garhwal University, agrees.

“People here are building six floor buildings on slopes as steep as 45 degrees” in a region that is both flood and earthquake prone, Sundaral said. “We need to make sure development policies keep the sensitiveness of Himalayas in mind to avoid such damage in the future.”

When these structures almost inevitably topple year after year during monsoon rains, it creates a “cumulative impact” said local environmentalist Mansi Asher, meaning residents are now living with years of unaddressed devastation.

Ten years ago, an estimated 6,000 people died in flash floods caused by a cloudburst in Uttarakhand which destroyed hundreds of villages; between 2017 and 2022, around 1,500 people died in Himachal Pradesh from extreme rain-related incidents; and earlier this year at least 240 families were relocated away from the religious town of Joshimath after the ground caved in from over construction despite warnings from scientists.

Governments on the state and national level have been looking at how to address the destruction.

Himachal Pradesh’s government announced a \$106 million disaster risk reduction and preparedness program with support from the French Development Agency this year to strengthen its response to extreme rainfall.

The state also published a comprehensive climate action plan in 2022 but many of the plan’s recom-

recommendations, such as creating a fund to research climate challenges or helping farmers in the region adapt to changing weather conditions, have not yet been implemented.

The Indian federal government meanwhile has set an ambitious target of producing 500 gigawatts of clean energy by 2030 and has installed 172 gigawatts as of March this year. India is currently one of the world's largest emitters. The country also created a national adaptation fund for climate change, releasing just over \$72 million for various projects since 2015.

But these initiatives are too little, too late for apple farmer Chauhan and others picking up the pieces after an especially catastrophic monsoon season.

Chauhan, who's also the former mayor of Shimla, wants to see a firm plan that addresses climate change in the face of the region's growing population and development needs.

"Those in power really need to step up," he said.

## Chicago is keeping hundreds of migrants at airports while waiting on shelters and tents

By SOPHIA TAREEN and MELISSA PEREZ WINDER Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Hidden behind a heavy black curtain in one of the nation's busiest airports is Chicago's unsettling response to a growing population of asylum-seekers arriving by plane.

Hundreds of migrants, from babies to the elderly, live inside a shuttle bus center at O'Hare International Airport's Terminal 1. They sleep on cardboard pads on the floor and share airport bathrooms. A private firm monitors their movements.

Like New York and other cities, Chicago has struggled to house asylum-seekers, slowly moving people out of temporary spaces and into shelters and, in the near future, tents. But Chicago's use of airports is unusual, having been rejected elsewhere, and highlights the city's haphazard response to the crisis. The practice also has raised concerns about safety and the treatment of people fleeing violence and poverty.

"It was supposed to be a stop-and-go place," said Vianney Marzullo, one of the few volunteers at O'Hare. "It's very concerning. It is not just a safety matter, but a public health matter."

Some migrants stay at O'Hare for weeks, then are moved to police stations or manage to get into the few shelters available. Within weeks, Chicago plans to roll out winterized tents, something New York has done.

Up to 500 people have lived at O'Hare simultaneously in a space far smaller than a city block, shrouded by a curtain fastened shut with staples. Their movements are monitored by a private company whose staff control who enters and exits the curtain.

Sickness spreads quickly. The staffing company provides limited first aid and calls ambulances. A volunteer team of doctors visited once over the summer and their supplies were decimated.

Chicago offers meals, but only at specific times and many foods are unfamiliar to the new arrivals. While migrants closer to Chicago's core have access to a strong network of volunteers, food and clothing donations at O'Hare are limited, due to airport security concerns.

Most of the 14,000 immigrants who have arrived in Chicago during the last year have come from Texas, largely under the direction of Republican Gov. Greg Abbott.

As more migrants arrived, the city's existing services were strained. Officials struggled to find longer-term housing solutions while saying the city needed more help from the state and federal governments. Brandon Johnson took office in May and has proposed tents.

Many migrants are from Venezuela, where a political, social and economic crisis in the past decade has pushed millions of people into poverty. At least 7.3 million have left, with many risking an often-harrowing route to the United States.

Maria Daniela Sanchez Valera, 26, who passed through Panama's dangerous, jungle-clad Darien Gap with her 2-year-old daughter, arrived at O'Hare days ago. She fled her native Venezuela five years ago for Peru, where her daughter was born. After her daughter's father was killed, she left.

"We come here with the intention of working, not with the intention of being given everything," she said. A recent Biden Administration plan to offer temporary legal status status, and the ability to work, to

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Venezuelans doesn't apply to her because she arrived after the deadline.

She tries to keep the toddler entertained with walks around the terminal. On a recent day, a staff member told Valera to make her daughter stop running or else they would be kicked out. The company, Favorite Healthcare Staffing, said employees treat new arrivals with respect and it would investigate further.

Valera said she wanted to take a train from the airport, but she didn't have the roughly \$5 subway fare. "There are many people who have been able to get out and they say that in the garbage dumps you can get good clothes for the children," she added.

Chicago began using the city's two international airports as temporary shelters as the number of migrants arriving by plane increased. Nearly 3,000 people who have arrived by plane since June have sought shelter.

A handful live at Midway International Airport. When they need clothes or services, they walk 2 miles (3 kilometers) to a police station, volunteers say.

At O'Hare, migrants have spread out beyond the curtain for more space, sleeping along windows. Travelers wheeling suitcases and airline staff catching buses whiz by, some stopping to take pictures.

Chicago officials acknowledge using O'Hare isn't ideal, but say there aren't other options with a crisis they inherited.

Cristina Pacione-Zayas, first deputy chief of staff, said Chicago is slowly building capacity to house people. The city has added 15 shelters since May and resettled about 3,000 people. They serve 190,000 meals weekly and partner with groups for medical care, but still rely heavily on volunteers to fill gaps.

"Is it perfect? No. But what we have done is stood in our values to ensure that we live up to operationalizing a sanctuary city," she said. "We will continue to work on it, but we are holding the line."

Other cities oppose using airports.

At Boston's Logan International Airport, migrants who arrive overnight are given cots for a few hours before being sent elsewhere. Massport spokeswoman Jennifer Mehigan said Logan "is not the appropriate place" to stay.

When reports of a possible federal plan to use the Atlantic City International Airport in New Jersey as a shelter surfaced recently, elected officials blasted the idea.

"It is such a preposterous solution to the problems we have," said Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson. "Who is going to secure these people? Who is going to feed them? Who is going to educate them? We really don't have any infrastructure to take care of them."

Jhonatan Gelvez, a 21-year-old from Colombia, didn't plan to stay at O'Hare long, as he has a friend in Chicago. He teared up when he talked of being separated from his fiancé en route to the U.S. Among his few belongings was a silver, anchor-shaped necklace she gave him.

"Just by arriving here I feel peace," he said. "It is a country with many opportunities. ... I am very grateful."

Yoli Cordova, 42, arrived at O'Hare days ago. She left Venezuela because she was discriminated against for her sexual orientation. She cried as she expressed relief at leaving but remained worried about her daughters in Venezuela.

"I don't know if they're going to help me here," Cordova said. "I really don't know what to do, where to go."

## Washington officers on trial in deadly arrest of Manny Ellis, a case reminiscent of George Floyd

By MARTHA BELLISLE Associated Press

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — Police wrestle the unarmed Black man to the sidewalk. One officer pushes his face into the pavement as he pleads in vain: "Can't breathe."

Witnesses capture the scene at a dark intersection on their cellphones — one yells, "Hey! Stop! Oh my God, stop hitting him!" — and the medical examiner rules the man's death a homicide.

The story evokes images of George Floyd begging for his life under the knee of a Minneapolis officer in May 2020. But this wasn't Floyd.

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This is the story of Manuel Ellis, who died, hogtied and handcuffed by three Tacoma officers, nearly three months before Floyd's death would spark an international outcry against police brutality.

Ellis' death, which coincided with the first U.S. outbreak of COVID-19 at a nursing home in Kirkland, Washington, became a touchstone for racial justice demonstrators locally but did not garner the attention of Floyd's murder in front of a crowd in broad daylight.

Still, the trial of the officers charged in Ellis' case is another example of video footage of a violent arrest possibly playing a critical role in determining whether the police should be held accountable.

It's also the first trial under a 5-year-old Washington state law designed to make it easier to prosecute police who wrongfully use deadly force. Opening statements are expected this week in a trial that could last more than two months.

Ellis, 33, was walking home with doughnuts from a 7-Eleven on the night of March 3, 2020, when he passed a patrol car stopped at a red light. Officers Matthew Collins and Christopher Burbank sat inside.

After what witnesses said appeared to be a brief conversation between Ellis and the officers, Burbank, in the passenger seat, threw open his door, knocking Ellis down. The officers, both white, tackled and punched Ellis, with one stunning him with a Taser as the other held him in a neck restraint.

A third officer, Timothy Rankine, arrived after Ellis was already handcuffed, face-down, and knelt on his upper back as Ellis pleaded for breath.

Police claimed Ellis had tried to open the door of another vehicle at the intersection, struck the window of their cruiser and swung his fists at them, but witnesses said they observed no such things.

The three civilian witnesses — a woman in one car, a man in another, and a pizza delivery driver in a third car — all said they never saw Ellis attempt to strike the officers, according to a probable cause statement filed by the Washington attorney general's office, which is prosecuting the case.

Video, including cellphone footage taken by the witnesses and surveillance video from a doorbell camera nearby, variously showed Ellis raising his hands in an apparent gesture of surrender and addressing the officers as "sir" while telling them he can't breathe. One officer is heard responding, "Shut the (expletive) up, man."

"The police version of events has always been taken as the gospel truth," said Philip Stinson, a criminal justice professor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

"And what these cases show us, especially when there's video evidence, is that oftentimes the actual narratives of the police officers, whether in police reports, whether they're testifying, are sometimes inconsistent with the video evidence," Stinson continued. "And that's what gets closer scrutiny by the prosecutors and investigators."

Collins and Burbank are each charged with second-degree murder. Rankine, who is Asian American, is charged with manslaughter.

They argue Ellis would not have died had he not taken methamphetamine and had underlying health issues. The Pierce County medical examiner determined Ellis' cause of death was a lack of oxygen as a result of his restraint, with meth intoxication and an enlarged heart as complicating factors. But medical experts hired by the defense are expected to testify it was the meth that killed him.

The trial will feature the work of forensic analysts hired by prosecutors to examine audio and video from cell phones, a doorbell camera and 911 dispatch tapes to create "a comprehensive transcript of the incident."

Collins' lawyer said the video only shows "a fraction" of what happened that night.

"While it may well have made it 'easier' to charge the officers, we are confident that the evidence presented in its entirety will show that Officer Collins is innocent of the charge he is facing, and the jury in this case will hold the State to its burden, and deliver a not guilty verdict," Dan Gerl, CEO of the Puget Law Group, told The Associated Press in an email.

The Ellis family said they hope the trial will be a turning point "in favor of truth and justice."

"A police badge should not be seen as a license to commit human rights violations," his family said in a Sept. 18 press release. "Murder is not justified because the victim suffered from mental problems or substance abuse."

How the encounter started and whether Ellis was violent toward the officers are critical points when

trying to determine if the officers were justified in using force. In 2018, Washington voters approved a measure removing a longstanding requirement that prosecutors had to prove police acted with malice to charge them criminally for using deadly force. No other state had such a hurdle to charging officers.

One other officer has been charged since the law passed. Auburn police Officer Jeffrey Nelson was charged in the fatal shooting of Jesse Sarey in 2019 and is still awaiting trial.

## **Armenia grapples with multiple challenges after the fall of Nagorno-Karabakh**

By The Associated Press undefined

Tens of thousands of now-homeless people have streamed into Armenia from the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh, controlled by its emboldened adversary, Azerbaijan.

Swarms of protesters are filling the streets of the Armenian capital of Yerevan, demanding the prime minister's ouster. Relations with Russia, an old ally and protector, have frayed amid mutual accusations.

Armenia now finds itself facing multiple challenges after being suddenly thrust into one of the worst political crises in its decades of independence following the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

Developments unfolded with surprising speed after Azerbaijan waged a lightning military campaign in Nagorno-Karabakh, a majority ethnic Armenian region that has run its affairs for three decades without international recognition.

Starved of supplies by an Azerbaijani blockade and outnumbered by a military bolstered by Turkey, the separatist forces capitulated in 24 hours and their political leaders said they would dissolve their government by the end of the year.

That triggered a massive exodus by the ethnic Armenians who feared living under Azerbaijani rule. Over 80% of the region's 120,000 residents hastily packed their belongings and trudged in a grueling and slow journey over the single mountain road into impoverished Armenia, which is struggling to accommodate them.

Enraged and exasperated over the loss of their homeland, they will likely support almost daily protests against Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, who has been blamed by the opposition for failing to defend Nagorno-Karabakh.

"There's a tremendous amount of anger and frustration directed at Nikol Pashinyan," said Laurence Broers, an expert on the region at Chatham House.

Pashinyan's economically challenged government has to provide them quickly with housing, medical care and jobs. While the global Armenian diaspora has pledged to help, it poses major financial and logistical problems for the landlocked country.

While many Armenians resent the country's former top officials who lead the opposition and also hold them responsible for the current woes, observers point to a history of bloodshed. In 1999, gunmen barged into the Armenian parliament during a question-and-answer session, killing Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsyan, the parliament speaker and six other top officials and lawmakers.

"There is a kind of tradition of political assassination in Armenian culture," said Thomas de Waal, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Europe think tank.

He and other observers note that one factor in Pashinyan's favor is that whatever simmering anger there is against him, there is just as much directed toward Russia, Armenia's main ally.

After a six-week war in 2020 that saw Azerbaijan reclaim part of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding territories, Russia sent about 2,000 peacekeeping troops to the region under a Kremlin-brokered truce.

Pashinyan has accused the peacekeepers of failing to prevent the recent hostilities by Azerbaijan, which also could make new territorial threats against Armenia,

Russia has been distracted by its war in Ukraine, which has eroded its influence in the region and made the Kremlin reluctant to defy Azerbaijan and its main ally Turkey, a key economic partner for Moscow amid Western sanctions.

"Clearly, this Azerbaijani military operation would not have been possible if the Russian peacekeepers

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had tried to keep the peace, but they just basically stood down," de Waal said.

The Kremlin, in turn, has sought to shift the blame to Pashinyan, accusing him of precipitating the fall of Nagorno-Karabakh by acknowledging Azerbaijan's sovereignty over the region and damaging Armenia's ties with Russia by embracing the West.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has long been suspicious of Pashinyan, a former journalist who came to power in 2018 after leading protests that ousted the previous government.

Even before Azerbaijan's operation to reclaim control of Nagorno-Karabakh, Russia had vented anger at Armenia for hosting U.S. troops for joint military drills and moving to recognize the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court after it had indicted Putin for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine.

The bad feelings escalated after the fall of Nagorno-Karabakh, with Moscow assailing Pashinyan in harsh language that hadn't been heard before.

The Russian Foreign Ministry blasted "the inconsistent stance of the Armenian leadership, which flip-flopped on policy and sought Western support over working closely with Russia and Azerbaijan."

In what sounded like encouragement of demonstrations against Pashinyan, Russia declared that "the reckless approach by Nikol Pashinyan's team understandably fueled discontent among parts of Armenian society, which showed itself in popular protests," even as it denied that Moscow played any part in fueling the rallies.

"The Armenian leadership is making a huge mistake by deliberately attempting to sever Armenia's multi-faceted and centuries-old ties with Russia, making the country a hostage to Western geopolitical games," it said.

It remains unclear whether Pashinyan might take Armenia out of Moscow-dominated Collective Security Treaty Organization, a group of several former Soviet nations, and other Russia-led alliances. Armenia also hosts a Russian military base and Russian border guards help patrol Armenia's frontier with Turkey.

Despite the worsening rift, Pashinyan has refrained from threats to rupture links with Moscow, but he emphasized the need to bolster security and other ties with the West.

It could be challenging for the U.S. and its allies to replace Moscow as Armenia's main sponsors. Russia is Armenia's top trading partner and it is home to an estimated 1 million Armenians, who would strongly resist any attempt by Pashinyan to break ties with Moscow.

"Economically speaking, strategically speaking, Russia is still very deeply embedded in the Armenian economy in terms of energy supply and ownership over key strategic assets," Broers said. "It's going to need a lot of creativity from other partners for Armenia to broaden out its foreign policy."

The future of the Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh, which were supposed to stay through 2025, is unclear. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said their status needs to be negotiated with Azerbaijan.

Broers said Azerbaijan could allow a small number of Russian peacekeepers to stay in Nagorno-Karabakh to help promote its program to "integrate" the region.

"This would be face-saving for Moscow," he said. "This would substantiate the integration agenda that is being promoted by Azerbaijan."

Even though the peacekeepers didn't try to prevent Azerbaijan from reclaiming Nagorno-Karabakh, the Russian troops' presence in Armenia helps counter potential moves by Azerbaijan and Turkey to pressure Yerevan on some contested issues.

Baku has long demanded that Armenia offer a corridor to Azerbaijan's exclave of Nakhchivan, which is separated from the rest of the country by a 40-kilometer (25-mile) swath of Armenian territory. The region, which also borders Turkey and Iran, has a population of about 460,000.

The deal that ended the 2020 war envisaged reopening rail and road links to Nakhchivan that have been cut since the start of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but their restoration has stalled amid continuing tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan has warned it could use force to secure the corridor if Armenia keeps stonewalling the issue, and there have been fears in Armenia that the corridor could infringe on its sovereignty.

"I think there is extreme concern about this in Armenia, given the very dramatic military asymmetry

between Armenia and Azerbaijan today and given the fact that Russia has ostensibly abdicated its role as a security guarantor for Armenia," Broers said.

De Waal noted that Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev hosted Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Nakchivan on Monday and talked about southern Armenia as a historic Azerbaijani land "in a rather provocative way."

Despite Western calls for Azerbaijan to respect Armenia's sovereignty as well as strong signals from Iran, which also has warned Azerbaijan not to use force against Armenia, tensions remain high, he noted.

"The issue is to what extent Azerbaijan and Turkey, backed maybe quietly by Russia, push this issue," de Waal said. "Do they just sort of try and force Armenia at the negotiating table or do they actually start to use force to try and get what they want? This is the scenario everyone fears."

## **Native Hawaiian neighborhood survived Maui fire. Lahaina locals praise its cultural significance**

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER Associated Press

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP) — Shaun "Buge" Saribay felt like giving up. Hours of makeshift firefighting with garden hoses and buckets of water across Lahaina didn't stop flames from consuming his house, his rental properties and thousands of other structures in his beloved hometown.

Drained, dirty and delirious, he continued anyway, pedaling a bicycle he found during the apocalyptic night of Aug. 8 to one Lahaina neighborhood he was determined to save as a symbol of enduring Hawaiian heritage.

Although Native Hawaiians including Saribay live throughout Lahaina, the Villages of Leiali'i is the only community in West Maui exclusively for Hawaiians. Part of a program Congress passed in 1921 to give Hawaii's Indigenous people land to live on, Leiali'i and other so-called homestead communities have become not just key to economic self-sufficiency, but reserves of Hawaiian culture and traditions as well.

Just two of the neighborhood's 104 homes were lost to the fire, an immense relief amid a disaster that destroyed more than 2,000 buildings and killed at least 97 people. Many of the homesteaders have taken in friends and relatives who lost homes nearby. Some homes suffered smoke damage. Water in the neighborhood, like much of Lahaina, remains unsafe to cook with or drink.

"So much of Lahaina went burn," Saribay said in Hawaii Pidgin. "We no need lose Hawaiian homes."

Homestead communities across the state, which also are referred to as Hawaiian Homes, represent one of the most valuable benefits available to those with Hawaiian ancestry: land at almost no cost.

Those with at least 50% Hawaiian blood can apply for a 99-year lease for \$1 a year. There are about 29,000 people on a waitlist for 99-year residential or agricultural land leases.

Knowing that many Hawaiians have died waiting for a lease motivated Saribay to try to save Leiali'i.

"How long Hawaiians was waiting for Hawaiian Homes? Choke years," the lifelong Lahaina resident said. "Many years."

The fire that swept through Lahaina was mostly out by midmorning on Aug. 9. But it still threatened houses in Leiali'i when Saribay and a group of his tenants arrived at the 16-year-old Lahaina homestead community.

Most residents had evacuated as wind-whipped fire spread from the hillsides and surrounded the neighborhood, which is one of the newer subdivisions developed by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Saribay, who livestreamed his actions for hours on Instagram, focused on flames taking down a house just outside Leiali'i. His group connected garden hoses and he broke down a homesteader's fence to keep the fire out of the community, he said.

It's not clear how much the efforts of Saribay and others contributed to the neighborhood's survival.

Some residents have credited it to a combination of factors. Among them are the willingness of locals such as Saribay to risk their lives fighting the flames; the use of newer, more fire-resistant construction materials, such as composite siding, than was used in older parts of Lahaina; underground utility lines,

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which did not snap and spark in the high winds as above-ground utility poles did; and the grace of “akua,” which is Hawaiian for a divine or spiritual force.

Keola Beamer, a famous slack key guitarist who lives in Leiali'i, found significance in the neighborhood's name. “Lei” can mean garland in Hawaiian and “alii” refers to chiefs or royalty.

“We think that our ancestors joined hands and formed a lei of alii around our homes, protecting us from the ensuing flames,” Beamer said. “It jumped over us.”

The home Saribay helped protect by knocking down a fence belongs to Archie Kalepa, a well-known surfer, lifeguard, Polynesian voyager and proponent of traditional Hawaiian canoe surfing. In the ensuing days, the home became a hub for distributing donated relief supplies, including generators, cleaning products and canned food.

Workers with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands erected a temporary black screen to protect Kalepa's house from any potentially toxic dust that might blow over from a house that burned just outside the homestead's boundary.

The tragedy would have been compounded if the homestead burned, too, Kalepa said.

“If Hawaiian Homes didn't exist, all these families — who, most of them, are nine, 10, 12, 15 generations from Lahaina — would have been gone,” he said. “Their genealogy ... their children, their grandchildren. They're all here. And that would have been lost.”

Archie Kalepa's wife, Alicia, was on the other side of Maui when the fire struck. She initially heard the homestead had burned: “Me and my daughter just started screaming and crying.”

For hours until the morning, they alternated between fits of tears and restless sleep while parked on the roadside, stuck in traffic. Unable to get into Lahaina, Alicia Kalepa sent her 17-year-old twin daughters by boat to check on the family's property. It wasn't until the girls returned by driving a winding and narrow road north of Lahaina that she got confirmation that the vast majority of Leiali'i was unscathed.

“I was so relieved, but at the same time I was so sad for a lot of my friends,” she said. “My hula sisters that lost their houses.”

Some residents are wrestling with feelings of guilt.

“Those of us that survived with our houses, you know, we feel a little survivor's guilt thing going on,” Beamer said. “Why us?”

The two leaseholders who lost their homes are talking about rebuilding, said Randy Awo, the Hawaiian Homes commissioner for Maui.

Soon after the fire, concern spread that Lahaina will be rebuilt into a tropical haven for affluent outsiders, pricing out Hawaiians and other longtime locals.

Archie Kalepa sees the survival of Leiali'i as a testament to the resilience of the Hawaiian people — “the root and soul of this place” — and the need to find ways for Hawaiians to prosper despite Hawaii's crushingly high cost of living.

“Because when you really think about it, Hawaii was never, ever for sale,” Kalepa said. “Hawaiian Homes is a perfect example. You don't own this land.”

## Government shutdown averted with little time to spare as Biden signs funding before midnight

By LISA MASCARO, KEVIN FREKING and STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The threat of a federal government shutdown suddenly lifted late Saturday as President Joe Biden signed a temporary funding bill to keep agencies open with little time to spare after Congress rushed to approve the bipartisan deal.

The package drops aid to Ukraine, a White House priority opposed by a growing number of GOP lawmakers, but increases federal disaster assistance by \$16 billion, meeting Biden's full request. The bill funds government until Nov. 17.

After chaotic days of turmoil in the House, Speaker Kevin McCarthy abruptly abandoned demands for

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steep spending cuts from his right flank and instead relied on Democrats to pass the bill, at risk to his own job. The Senate followed with final passage closing a whirlwind day at the Capitol.

"This is good news for the American people," Biden said in a statement.

He also said the United States "cannot under any circumstances allow American support for Ukraine to be interrupted" and expected McCarthy "will keep his commitment to the people of Ukraine and secure passage of the support needed to help Ukraine at this critical moment."

It's been a sudden head-spinning turn of events in Congress ahead of the midnight funding deadline after grueling days in the House pushed the government to the brink of a disruptive federal shutdown.

The outcome ends, for now, the threat of a shutdown, but the reprieve may be short-lived. Congress will again need to fund the government in coming weeks risking a crisis as views are hardening, particularly among the right-flank lawmakers whose demands were ultimately swept aside this time in favor of a more bipartisan approach.

"We're going to do our job," McCarthy, R-Calif., said before the House vote. "We're going to be adults in the room. And we're going to keep government open."

If no deal was in place before Sunday, federal workers would have faced furloughs, more than 2 million active-duty and reserve military troops would have had to work without pay and programs and services that Americans rely on from coast to coast would have begun to face shutdown disruptions.

"It has been a day full of twists and turns, but the American people can breathe a sigh of relief: There will be no government shutdown," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

The package funds government at current 2023 levels until mid-November, and also extends other provisions, including for the Federal Aviation Administration. The package was approved by the House 335-91, with most Republicans and almost all Democrats supporting. Senate passage came by an 88-9 vote.

But the loss of Ukraine aid was devastating for lawmakers of both parties vowing to support President Volodymyr Zelenskyy after his recent Washington visit. The Senate bill included \$6 billion for Ukraine, and both chambers came to a standstill Saturday as lawmakers assessed their options.

"The American people deserve better," said House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, warning in a lengthy floor speech that "extreme" Republicans were risking a shutdown.

For the House package to be approved, McCarthy was forced to rely on Democrats because the speaker's hard-right flank has said it will oppose any short-term funding measure, denying him the votes needed from his slim majority. It's a move that is sure to intensify calls for his ouster.

After leaving the conservative holdouts behind, McCarthy is almost certain to be facing a motion to try to remove him from office, though it is not at all certain there would be enough votes to topple the speaker. Most Republicans voted for the package Saturday while 90 opposed.

"If somebody wants to remove me because I want to be the adult in the room, go ahead and try," McCarthy said of the threat to oust him. "But I think this country is too important."

The White House was tracking the developments on Capitol Hill and aides were briefing the president, who was spending the weekend in Washington.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, who has championed Ukraine aid despite resistance from his own ranks, is expected to keep pursuing U.S. support for Kyiv in the fight against Russia.

"I have agreed to keep fighting for more economic and security aid for Ukraine," McConnell, R-Ky., said before the vote.

Late at night, the Senate stalled when Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., held up the vote, seeking assurances Ukraine funds would be reconsidered.

"I know important moments are like this, for the United States, to lead the rest of the world," Bennet said, noting his mother was born in Poland in 1938 and survived the Holocaust. "We can't fail."

The House's quick pivot comes after the collapse Friday of McCarthy's earlier plan to pass a Republican-only bill with steep spending cuts up to 30% to most government agencies and strict border provisions that the White House and Democrats rejected as too extreme. A faction of 21 hard-right Republican holdouts opposed it.

"Our options are slipping away every minute," said one senior Republican, Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida.

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The federal government had been heading straight into a shutdown that posed grave uncertainty for federal workers in states all across America and the people who depend on them — from troops to border control agents to office workers, scientists and others.

Families that rely on Head Start for children, food benefits and countless other programs large and small were confronting potential interruptions or outright closures. At the airports, Transportation Security Administration officers and air traffic controllers had been expected to work without pay, but travelers could have faced delays in updating their U.S. passports or other travel documents.

The White House has brushed aside McCarthy's overtures to meet with Biden after the speaker walked away from the debt deal they brokered earlier this year that set budget levels.

Catering to his hard-right flank, McCarthy had made multiple concessions including returning to the spending limits the conservatives demanded back in January as part of the deal-making to help him become the House speaker.

But it was not enough as the conservatives insisted the House follow regular rules, and debate and approve each of the 12 separate spending bills needed to fund the government agencies, typically a months-long process. In the Senate, all the no votes against the package came from Republicans.

McCarthy's chief Republican critic, Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, has warned he will file a motion calling a vote to oust the speaker.

Some of the Republican holdouts, including Gaetz, are allies of former President Donald Trump, who is Biden's chief rival in the 2024 race. Trump has been encouraging the Republicans to fight hard for their priorities and even to "shut it down."

At an early closed-door meeting at the Capitol, several House Republicans, particularly those facing tough reelections next year, urged their colleagues to find a way to prevent a shutdown.

"All of us have a responsibility to lead and to govern," said Republican Rep. Mike Lawler of New York.

The lone House Democrat to vote against the package, Rep. Mike Quigley of Illinois, the co-chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, said, "Protecting Ukraine is in our national interest."

## **Jimmy Carter turns 99 at home with Rosalynn and other family as tributes come from around the world**

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Jimmy Carter has always been a man of discipline and habit. But the former president will break routine Sunday, putting off his practice of quietly watching church services online to instead celebrate his 99th birthday with his wife, Rosalynn, and their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Plains.

The gathering will take place in the same one-story structure where the Carters lived before he was first elected to the Georgia Senate in 1962. It comes amid tributes from around the world. But for Carter's family, it's an opportunity to honor a personal legacy.

"The remarkable piece to me and I think to my family is that while my grandparents have accomplished so much, they have really remained the same sort of South Georgia couple that lives in a 600-person village where they were born," said grandson Jason Carter, who chairs the board at The Carter Center, which his grandparents founded in 1982 after leaving the White House a year earlier.

Despite being global figures, the younger Carter said his grandparents have always "made it easy for us, as a family, to be as normal as we can be."

Celebrating the longest-lived U.S. president this way was inconceivable not long ago. The Carters announced in February that their patriarch was forgoing further medical treatments and entering home hospice care after a series of hospitalizations. Yet Carter, who overcame cancer diagnosed at age 90 and learned to walk after having his hip replaced at age 94, defied all odds again.

"If Jimmy Carter were a tree, he'd be an towering, old Southern oak," said Donna Brazile, a former Democratic national chairperson and presidential campaign manager who got her start on Carter's campaigns. "He's as good as they come and tough as they come."

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Jill Stuckey, a longtime Plains resident who visits the former first couple regularly, cautioned to “never underestimate Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter.”

His latest resilience has allowed Carter a rare privilege even for presidents: He’s been able to enjoy months of accolades typically reserved for when a former White House resident dies. The latest round includes a flood of messages from world leaders and pop culture figures donning “Jimmy Carter 99” hats, with many of them focusing on Carter’s four decades of global humanitarian work after leaving the Oval Office.

Katie Couric, the first woman to anchor a U.S. television network’s evening news broadcast, praised Carter in a social media video for his “relentless effort every day to make the world a better place.”

She pointed to Carter’s work to eradicate Guinea worm disease and river blindness, while advocating for peace and democracy in scores of countries. She noted he has written 32 books and worked for decades with Habitat for Humanity building houses for low-income people.

“Oh, yeah, and you were governor of Georgia. And did I mention president of the United States?” she joked. “When are you going to stop slacking off?”

Bill Clinton, the 42nd president and first Democratic president after Carter’s landslide defeat, showed no signs of the chilly relationship the two fellow Southerners once had.

“Jimmy! Happy birthday,” Clinton said. “You only get to be 99 once. It’s been a long, good ride, and we thank you for your service and your friendship and the enduring embodiment of the American dream.”

Musician Peter Gabriel led concertgoers at Madison Square Garden in a rendition of “Happy Birthday,” as did the Indigo Girls at a recent concert.

In Atlanta, the Carter Library & Museum and adjacent The Carter Center was holding a weekend of events, including a naturalization ceremony for 99 new citizens on Sunday. Festivities at the museum, which offered 99-cent admission Saturday, were slated to continue Sunday after Congress came to an agreement to avoid a partial government shutdown at the start of the federal fiscal year, which coincides with Carter’s birthday.

Jason Carter said his grandfather has found it “gratifying” to see reassessments of his presidency. Carter’s term often has been broad-brushed as a failure because of inflation, global fuel shortages and the holding of American hostages in Iran, a confluence that led to Republican Ronald Reagan’s 1980 romp.

Yet Carter’s focus on diplomacy, his emphasis on the environment before the climate crisis was widely acknowledged and his focus on efficient government — his presidency added a relative pittance to the national debt — have garnered second looks from historians.

Indeed, Carter’s longevity offers a frame to illuminate both how much the world has changed over his lifetime while still recognizing that certain political and societal challenges endure.

The Carter Center’s disease-eradication work occurs mostly in developing countries. But Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter were first exposed to river blindness growing up surrounded by the crushing poverty of the rural Deep South during the Great Depression.

The Center’s global democracy advocacy has reached countries that were still part of various European empires when Carter was born in 1924 or were under heavy American influence in the decades after World War II. Yet in recent years, Carter has declared his own country to be more of an “oligarchy” than a well-functioning democracy. And the Center has since become involved in monitoring and tracking U.S. elections.

Carter has lived long enough finally to have a genuine friend in the Oval Office again. President Joe Biden was a young Delaware politician in 1976 and became the first U.S. senator to endorse Carter’s campaign against better-known Washington figures. Now, as Biden seeks reelection in 2024, he faces the headwinds of inflation that Republicans openly compare to Carter’s economy. Biden had a wooden birthday cake display placed on the White House front lawn to honor Carter.

The year Carter was born, Congress passed sweeping immigration restrictions, sharply curtailing Ellis Island as a portal to the nation. Now, the naturalization ceremony to mark Carter’s 99th birthday comes as Washington continues a decades-long fight over immigration policy. Republicans, especially, have moved well to the right of Reagan, who in 1986 signed a sweeping amnesty policy for millions of immigrants who

were in the country illegally or had no sure legal path to citizenship.

Carter also was born into Jim Crow segregation, at a time when the Ku Klux Klan marched openly on state capitols and in Washington. As governor and president, Carter set new marks for appointing Black Americans to top government posts. At 99, Carter's Sunday online church circuit includes watching Georgia's first Black U.S. senator, the Rev. Raphael Warnock, preach at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. Yet, at the same time, some white state lawmakers in Carter's native region are defying the U.S. Supreme Court in an effort to curtail Black voters' strength at the ballot box.

Jason Carter said understanding his grandfather's impact means resisting the urge to assess whether he solved every problem he confronted or won every election. Instead, he said, the takeaway is to recognize a sweeping impact rooted in respecting other people on an individual level and trying to help them.

"You don't get more out of a life than he got, right?" the younger Carter said. "It is a incredible, full rich life with a long marriage, a wonderful partnership with my grandmother, and the ability to see the world and interact with the world in ways that almost nobody else has ever been able to do."

## **In New York City, scuba divers' passion for the sport becomes a mission to collect undersea litter**

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN and TED SHAFFREY Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — On a recent Sunday afternoon, the divers arrived on a thin strip of sand at the furthest, watery edge of New York City. Oxygen tanks strapped to their backs, they waded into the sea and descended into an environment far different from their usual terrestrial surroundings of concrete, traffic and trash-strewn sidewalks.

Horseshoe crabs and other crustaceans crawl on a seabed encrusted with barnacles and colonies of coral. Spiny-finned sea robin, blackfish and wayward angelfish swim in the murky ocean tinted green by sheets of algae.

Not all is pretty. Plastic bottles, candy wrappers and miles and miles of fishing line drift with the tides, endangering sea life.

The undersea litter isn't always visible from the shore. But it has long been a concern of Nicole Zelek, a diving instructor who four years ago launched monthly cleanups at this small cove in the community of Far Rockaway, where New York City meets the Atlantic Ocean, about 4 miles (6.4 kilometers) south of John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens.

A throwaway culture of single-use plastics and other hard-to-degrade material has sullied the world's waters over the decades, posing a danger to marine life such as seals and seabirds. By 2025, some 250 million tons (226.7 million metric tons) of plastic will have found its way into the oceans, according to the PADI AWARE Foundation, a conservation group sponsoring a global project called Dive Against Debris.

Dive by dive, small groups like Zelek's have been trying to undo some of the damage.

"Every month we have a prize for the weirdest find," she said. They have included the occasional goat skull, perhaps used as part of some ritual, Zelek surmises.

"The best find of all time was an actual ATM machine. Unfortunately, it was empty," she said.

The divers' haul one late-summer Sunday wasn't much, but there were clumps and clumps of fishing line untangled from underwater objects. What the divers can't pull away by hand is cut with scissors.

"Unfortunately, tons of crabs and horseshoe crabs — which are under threat — get tangled in the fishing line and then they die," Zelek said.

While more ambitious projects are underway to scoop up huge accumulations of floating debris in deeper waters, small-scale coastal cleanups like Zelek's are an important part of the battle against ocean pollution, said Nick Mallos, vice president of conservation for Ocean Conservancy.

"The science is very clear and that's to tackle our global plastic pollution crisis," he said. "We have to do it all."

Every September, the conservancy holds monthlong international coastal cleanups. Since its inception nearly four decades ago, the cleanups have retrieved about 400 million pounds (181.4 million kilograms)

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of trash from coastal areas around the world.

The best way to combat plastics going into the oceans, Mallos said, is to reduce the globe's dependence on them, particularly in packaging consumer products. But human-powered cleanup is the least costly of all cleanup options.

The Dive Against Debris project invites what organizers call "citizen scientists" to survey their diving sites to help catalog the myriad items that don't belong in oceans, lakes and other bodies of water. By the group's count, more than 90,000 participants have conducted more than 21,000 such surveys and removed 2.2 million pieces of junk, big and small.

Zelek and her fellow divers have contributed their finds to the project.

Surface trash might be easy enough to clear with a rake, but the task is more challenging beneath the water. Over the years, the layers of monofilament fishing line have accumulated. And until a few years ago, no one was scooping out the line, hooks and lead weights.

Untangled, a pound of medium-weight fishing filament would stretch to a bit more than 4 miles (6.4 kilometers). It's anybody's guess how many miles of fishing line remain on the channel's bottom.

"Those small things are really what start to accumulate and become a much larger and bigger problem," said Tanasia Swift, who has been with the group for a year and works for an environmental nonprofit focused on restoring the health of New York City's waters.

"If there's anything that we see that doesn't belong in the water, we take it out," she said.

While the divers work, fishermen cast their lines from a ledge where the city's concrete stops. The beach is frequented mostly by residents who live nearby.

Raquel Gonzalez is one such resident, and she's been coming to the beach for years. She and a neighbor brought a rake with them on the same Sunday the divers were there.

"Needs a lot of cleanup here. There's nobody that does any cleanup around here. We have to clean it up ourselves," she said.

"I love this spot, I love the scuba divers," Gonzalez said. "Look at all the good people here."

## Who is Arthur Engoron? Judge weighing future of Donald Trump empire is Ivy League-educated ex-cabbie

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — He's driven a taxi cab, played in a band and protested the Vietnam War. As a New York City judge, Arthur Engoron has resolved hundreds of disputes, deciding everything from zoning and free speech issues to a custody fight over a dog named "Stevie."

Now, in the twilight of a distinguished two-decade career on the bench, the erudite, Ivy League-educated judge is presiding over his biggest case yet: deciding the future of former President Donald Trump's real estate empire.

Last week, Engoron ruled that Trump committed years of fraud by exaggerating his wealth and the value of assets on financial statements he used to get loans and make deals. As punishment, the judge said he would dissolve some of Trump's companies — a decision that could cause him to lose control of marquee New York properties, like Trump Tower.

Starting Monday, Engoron will preside over a non-jury trial in Manhattan to resolve remaining claims in New York Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit against Trump, his company and top executives. He will also decide on monetary damages. James' office is seeking \$250 million.

Trump, who is listed as a potential witness and could end up face-to-face with Engoron in court, called the judge's fraud ruling "the corporate death penalty." He referred to Engoron as a "political hack" and said he would appeal.

"I have a Deranged, Trump Hating Judge, who RAILROADED this FAKE CASE through a NYS Court at a speed never before seen," the 2024 Republican frontrunner wrote on his Truth Social platform.

Through a court spokesperson, Engoron has declined to comment on Trump's barbs. He is barred from commenting to the news media about the case.

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Trump typically hasn't gone to court in the many cases involving his company. He was absent from a criminal trial in which the Trump Organization and one of its top executives was convicted of tax evasion and skipped a civil trial in which he was found responsible for sexually assaulting the writer E. Jean Carroll. But asked Friday if he planned to be at the New York trial, Trump said: "I may. I may."

Engoron, a Democrat, has ruled repeatedly against Trump in the three years he's been presiding over James' lawsuit. He's forced Trump to sit for a deposition, held him in contempt and fined him \$110,000.

Now, Engoron is poised to permanently disrupt the collection of skyscrapers, golf courses and other properties that vaulted Trump to fame and the White House.

At a hearing in the case last Wednesday, the day after his ruling, Engoron offered "a little bit of New York humor" to break the tension. He repeated an oft-told story about a judge who ended up agreeing with everyone who spoke in his courtroom.

Engoron, a fan of puns and pop culture references, routinely turns to humor — even in the gravest of hearings and decisions.

"We certainly can use it today," Trump lawyer Christopher Kise said.

Engoron, a few years younger than Trump at 74, spent his early years in Queens, about 3.8 miles (6 kilometers) east of the former president's childhood home.

Engoron's family later moved to East Williston on Long Island, where he ran track and wrote for the student newspaper at The Wheatley School, a public high school in Old Westbury, New York, and graduated in 1967.

A proud alum, Engoron is the founder and director of the school's alumni association and writes an online newsletter with news about fellow graduates who've nicknamed him the "Mayor of Wheatley." He even posted a link last year to an article about his involvement in the Trump case.

At the end of one newsletter, he posted a quippy call to action: "Please send me your autobiography before someone else sends me your obituary."

Engoron first made headlines in 1964, when he and three friends won the grand prize in a "Banner Day" contest where the New York Mets, then just two years into their existence, invited fans to parade across the field carrying banners painted with creative messages about the team.

In an early sign of Engoron's irreverence, the message was a take off on a popular political quote from the era: "Extremism In Defense Of The Mets Is No Vice." Engoron was just 15 at the time.

While attending Columbia University in the 1960s, Engoron drove a taxi — a fact he revealed a decade ago while ruling against then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg's plan to expand yellow cab service outside New York City. A state appeals court later reversed that decision.

Engoron's rulings are rife with biographical information, part full-disclosure, part nostalgia. He revealed in one decision that he participated in "huge, sometimes boisterous, Vietnam War protests." He's also described himself as a free-speech absolutist and said he's been a member of the American Civil Liberties Union since 1994.

Engoron got his law degree from New York University in 1979. He's worked as a litigator and was a law clerk for 11 years for a judge in the same court where he now sits. Engoron also taught piano and drums and played keyboard in what he describes as a "moderately successful" bar band. He's been married three times and has four children, according to his Wheatley alumni page biography.

Engoron joined the bench in 2003 as a judge on the New York City Civil Court, which handles small claims and other lesser-stakes lawsuits. In 2013, he was appointed an acting justice of the state's trial court and ran unopposed for a permanent post in 2015. His term runs until 2029, though New York requires judges at his level retire when they turn 76.

A former law clerk, Michelle Bernstein Ravenscroft, said she remembered Engoron being "kind and approachable and that he was very invested in making sure his clerks had a good learning experience with him."

Engoron frequently peppers his rulings with song lyrics, movie quotes and the occasional New York City history lesson. He's quoted Bob Dylan and Shakespeare and movies like "City Slickers" and the Marx

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Brothers classic "Duck Soup." He signs them with a logo of sorts, his initials, AE, drawn together in a circle.

In 2017, Engoron turned to the Frank Sinatra hit "Love and Marriage" which, the song notes, "go together like a horse and carriage" for a ruling restricting protests on horse-drawn carriages in Central Park. He punily titled a subsection "Balancing of the Equines, er, Equities."

In a 2015 ruling on the custody of "Stevie" — a female, mixed-breed, part Basenji — Engoron offered a philosophical discussion of the rights of animals — or lack thereof — while reversing his previous ruling that sought to do what was in the pet's best interest.

"Conferring rights on animals would create the ultimate slippery slope," he said, reasoning that "if dogs were deemed to have rights, why not cats, raccoons, squirrels, fish, ants, cockroaches? Could you be imprisoned for swatting a fly? Where will it all end?"

In another ruling, Engoron said New York's review process for new housing "seems like Rube Goldberg, Franz Kafka, and the Marquis de Sade cooked it up over martinis."

Engoron has been involved in Trump-related cases since 2020, when he was assigned to intervene in quarrels among Trump's lawyers and James' office over demands for evidence and the direction of her investigation.

Trump's lawyers wanted James' lawsuit moved to a judge in the court's Commercial Division, which is set up to handle complex corporate litigation, but an administrative judge kept the case with Engoron, citing his experience with the matter.

Back in the courtroom last Wednesday, as Trump's lawyers reached rare consensus with James' office on procedural issues, Engoron dispatched with one last quip.

"I knew this case would be a love fest," he said.

## **A fight over precious groundwater in a rural California town is rooted in carrots**

By AMY TAXIN Associated Press

NEW CUYAMA, Calif. (AP) — In the hills of a dry, remote patch of California farm country, Lee Harrington carefully monitors the drips moistening his pistachio trees to ensure they're not wasting any of the groundwater at the heart of a vicious fight.

He is one of scores of farmers, ranchers and others living near the tiny town of New Cuyama who have been hauled into court by a lawsuit filed by two of the nation's biggest carrot growers, Grimmway Farms and Bolthouse Farms, over the right to pump groundwater.

The move has saddled residents in the community 100 miles (161 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles with mounting legal bills and prompted them to post large signs along the roadway calling on others to boycott carrots and "Stand with Cuyama."

"It's just literally mind-boggling where they're farming," Harrington said, adding that his legal fees exceed \$50,000. "They want our water. They didn't want the state telling them how much water they can pump."

The battle playing out in this stretch of rural California represents a new wave of legal challenges over water, long one of the most precious and contested resources in a state that grows much of the country's produce.

For years, California didn't regulate groundwater, allowing farmers and residents alike to drill wells and take what they needed. That changed in 2014 amid a historic drought, and as ever-deeper wells caused land in some places to sink.

A new state law required communities to form local groundwater sustainability agencies tasked with developing plans, which must be approved by the state, on how to manage their basins into the future. The most critically overdrafted basins, including Cuyama's, were among the first to do so with a goal of achieving sustainability by 2040. Other high and medium priority basins followed.

But disputes arose in Cuyama and elsewhere, prompting a series of lawsuits that have hauled entire communities into court so property owners can defend their right to the resource beneath their feet. In the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins, growers sued due to a lack of consensus over pumping allocations.

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In San Diego County, a water district filed a lawsuit that settled about a year later.

It's a preview of what could come as more regions begin setting stricter rules around groundwater.

The lawsuit in Cuyama, which relies on groundwater for water supplies, has touched every part of a community where cellphone service is spotty and people pride themselves on knowing their neighbors.

The school secretary doubles as a bus driver and a vegetable grower offers horseshoe repair. There is a small market, hardware store, a Western-themed boutique hotel and miles of land sown with olives, pistachios, grapes and carrots.

From the start, Grimmway and Bolthouse participated in the formation of the local groundwater sustainability agency and plan.

Their farms sit on the most overdrafted part of the basin, and both companies said they follow assigned cutbacks. But they think other farmers are getting a pass and want the courts to create a fairer solution to reduce pumping throughout the basin, not just on their lots.

"I don't want the aquifer to get dewatered because then all I have is a piece of gravel, no water, which means it's desert ground, which is of no value to anybody," said Dan Clifford, vice president and general counsel of Bolthouse Land Co. "What we're trying to get is the basin sustainability, with the understanding that you're going to have a judge calling balls and strikes."

Grimmway, which has grown carrots in Cuyama for more than three decades, currently farms less than a third of its 20 square miles (52 square kilometers) there and has installed more efficient sprinklers to save water. Seeing groundwater levels decline and pumping costs rise, the company began growing carrots in other states, but doesn't plan to uproot from Cuyama, said Jeff Huckaby, the company's president and chief executive.

"It's one of the best carrot-growing regions that we've come across," Huckaby said, adding that arid regions are best so carrot roots extend below ground for moisture, growing longer. "The soil up here is ideal, temperatures are ideal, the climate is ideal."

California has been a "Wild West" for water but that's changing. The company has cut back its water use in Cuyama and hopes to remain there for decades, he said.

Until the lawsuit, 42-year-old cattle rancher Jake Furstenfeld said he thought the companies were working with people in town, but not anymore.

Furstenfeld, who sits on an advisory committee to the groundwater agency, doesn't own land and doesn't have an attorney. But he's helping organize the boycott and has passed out yard signs.

"It's been called David versus Goliath," he said.

Many residents are worried about the water they need to brush their teeth, wash clothes and grow a garden. The water district serving homes in town said rates are rising to cover legal fees. The school district, which is trying to stay afloat so its 185 students can attend school locally, is burdened with unexpected legal bills.

"Without water, we have no school," said Alfonso Gamino, the superintendent and principal. "If the water basin goes dry, I can kind of see Bolthouse and Grimmway going somewhere else, but what about the rest of us?"

Before the state's groundwater law, most groundwater lawsuits were filed in Southern California, where development put added pressure on water resources. Legal experts now expect more cases in areas where farmers are being pushed to slash pumping.

"For an average person or a small user it is disruptive because most people haven't been involved in lawsuits," said Eric Garner, a water rights attorney who worked on California's law. "For large pumpers, lawyers are an inexpensive option compared with having to replace their water supply."

Most of the country's carrots are grown in California, with consumers demanding a year-round supply of popular baby carrots. The state's climate is a prime place for growing and carrots are one of California's top 10 agricultural commodities, valued at \$1.1 billion last year, state statistics show.

Along the highway, Grimmway's fields are doused with sprinklers for eight hours and left to dry for two weeks so carrot roots stretch in search of moisture. Critics question the companies' use of daytime sprin-

blers, but Huckaby said Grimmway uses far less water than the alfalfa grower who farmed there before.

The suit in Cuyama, filed two years ago, has an initial hearing in January. In a recent twist, Bolthouse Farms has asked to withdraw as a plaintiff, saying the company has no water rights as a tenant grower and plans to slash its water use 65% by 2040. The company that owns the land, Bolthouse Land Co., is still litigating.

Jean Gaillard, another Cuyama advisory committee member, sells produce from his garden to locals. He tries to conserve water by alternating rows of squash between corn stalks and capturing rainwater on the roof of an old barn.

Paying a lawyer to represent him rather than re-investing in his produce business is problematic, he said. Meanwhile, his well water has dropped 30 feet (9 meters) in the past two decades.

"We feel we are being totally overrun by those people," Gaillard said. "They are taking all the water."

## Ukraine aid left out of government funding package, raising questions about future US support

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional supporters of Ukraine say they won't give up after a bill to keep the federal government open excluded President Joe Biden's request to provide more security assistance to the war-torn nation.

Still, many lawmakers acknowledge that winning approval for Ukraine assistance in Congress is growing more difficult as the war between Russia and Ukraine grinds on. Republican resistance to the aid has been gaining momentum in the halls of Congress.

Voting in the House this past week pointed to the potential trouble ahead. Nearly half of House Republicans voted to strip \$300 million from a defense spending bill to train Ukrainian soldiers and purchase weapons. The money later was approved separately, but opponents of Ukraine support celebrated their growing numbers.

Then, on Saturday, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy omitted additional Ukraine aid from a measure to keep the government running until Nov. 17. In doing so, he closed the door on a Senate package that would have funneled \$6 billion to Ukraine, roughly a third of what has been requested by the White House. Both the House and Senate overwhelmingly approved the stopgap measure, with members of both parties abandoning the increased aid for Ukraine in favor of avoiding a costly government shutdown.

The latest actions in Congress signal a gradual shift in the unwavering support that the United States has so far pledged Ukraine in its fight against Russia, and it is one of the clearest examples yet of the Republican Party's movement toward a more isolationist stance. The exclusion of Ukraine funding came little more than a week after lawmakers met in the Capitol with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who sought to assure lawmakers that his military was winning the war, but stressed that additional aid would be crucial for continuing the fight.

After that visit, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said that one sentence summed up Zelenskyy's message in his meeting with the Senate: "If we don't get the aid, we will lose the war," Schumer said.

Yet, McCarthy, pressured by his right flank, has gone from saying "no blank checks" for Ukraine, with the focus being on accountability, to describing the Senate's approach as putting "Ukraine in front of America." He declined to say after the vote on government funding whether he would bring aid for Ukraine up for a House vote in the coming weeks.

"If there is a moment in time we need to have a discussion about that, we will have a discussion completely about that, but I think the administration has to make the case for what is victory," McCarthy said.

In the Senate, both Schumer and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell pledged to move quickly to try and pass the full White House request. But it was clear that goal will be increasingly difficult as more rank-and-file GOP senators have questioned the aid or demanded that it be attached to immigration policy that would help secure the southern border — echoing similar demands in the House.

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Florida Sen. Rick Scott, a Republican who voted for the spending bill after the Ukraine aid was stripped out, said that Congress needs to have "a conversation with the American public." He said he was optimistic after seeing the money taken out of the bill.

"In my state, people want to be helpful to Ukraine, but they also want to be helpful to Americans," Scott said. "And so they want to really understand how this money has been spent."

Democrats said they were disappointed by the lack of Ukraine funding, but expressed determination that they would get the aid to the war-torn country.

"We will not stop fighting for more economic and security assistance for Ukraine," Schumer said after the bill passed. "Majorities in both parties support Ukraine aid, and doing more is vital for America's security and for democracy around the world."

Leading up to Saturday's vote, Pentagon officials expressed alarm at the prospect of no extra funding for Ukraine. In a letter to congressional leaders dated Friday, Michael McCord, under secretary of defense, wrote that the department has exhausted nearly all the available security assistance.

"Without additional funding now, we would have to delay or curtail assistance to meet Ukraine's urgent requirements, including for air defense and ammunition that are critical and urgent now as Russia prepares to conduct a winter offensive and continues its bombardment of Ukrainian cities," McCord said.

Rep. Mike Rogers, the Republican chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said he would like to send a clear message to the world about U.S. support for Ukraine by passing legislation, but believes the Pentagon has "enough draw-down money" to last through December. He said he believes McCarthy still supports funding for Ukraine.

"I think the speaker has always had a good position on Ukraine. I think he's dealing with a caucus that's got fractures that he has to deal with and none of them can be ignored when you've got a four-seat majority and 15 nuts in the conference," Rogers said, referring to far-right lawmakers who have staunchly opposed funding for Ukraine.

Rep. Gregory Meeks, D-N.Y., the top Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said he heard McCarthy tell Zelenskyy during his visit that "we will give them what they need."

"Unfortunately, the message that speaker and the former president is sending is that they can't be relied upon," Meeks said, adding a reference to former President Donald Trump, who has called on Congress to withhold additional Ukraine funding until the FBI, IRS and Justice Department "hand over every scrap of evidence" on the Biden family's business dealings.

The U.S. has approved four rounds of aid to Ukraine in response to Russia's invasion, totaling about \$113 billion, with some of that money going toward replenishment of U.S. military equipment that was sent to the frontlines. In August, Biden called on Congress to provide for an additional \$24 billion.

Saturday's move by the House to act first on government funding left the Senate with a stark choice: either go along with a bill that fails to help Ukraine, or allow what could have been an extended government shutdown to occur.

Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., expressed frustration at the outcome.

"Every day that goes by that we don't get the additional money is a day Russia gets closer to being capable of winning this war," Murphy said.

Sen. Jim Risch of Idaho, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Ukraine should not be deterred, and that aid can be approved by other means.

"Neither our friends nor our enemies should look at this as being some change in the United States' commitment to Ukraine," Risch said.

## California Sen. Dianne Feinstein's body returns to San Francisco on military flight

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein returned Saturday to her hometown for the final time when a military jet carrying the late Democratic senator's body landed at San Francisco International Airport.

The long-serving senator and political trailblazer died Thursday at her home in Washington, D.C., after a series of illnesses. At 90, she was the oldest member of Congress after first being elected to the Senate in 1992.

The arrival of her body was not open to the public. No details have been shared about services.

The former San Francisco mayor was a passionate advocate for priorities important to her state, including environmental protection, reproductive rights and gun control. But she also was known as a pragmatic, centrist lawmaker who reached out to Republicans and sought middle ground.

Her death was followed by a stream of tributes from around the nation, including from President Joe Biden, who served with Feinstein for years in the Senate and called her "a pioneering American" and a "cherished friend."

California's junior senator, Democrat Alex Padilla, called her "a towering figure — not just in modern California history, but in the history of our state and our nation."

Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters said Feinstein "spent her entire career breaking glass ceilings and opening doors into areas that had been perpetually dominated by men."

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom is expected to soon appoint a replacement for the vacant Senate seat.

## Federal agency sues Chipotle after a Kansas manager allegedly ripped off an employee's hijab

By CLAIRE RUSH Associated Press/Report for America

A federal agency has sued the restaurant chain Chipotle, accusing it of religious harassment and retaliation after a manager at a Kansas location forcibly removed an employee's hijab, a headscarf worn by some Muslim women.

In a lawsuit filed Wednesday, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleged that in 2021, an assistant manager at a Chipotle in Lenexa, Kansas, repeatedly harassed the employee by asking her to show him her hair, despite her refusal. After several weeks, the harassment culminated in him grabbing and partially removing her hijab, according to the complaint.

The manager's "offensive and incessant requests" that she remove her hijab, and his attempt to physically take it off, were "unwelcome, intentional, severe, based on religion, and created a hostile working environment based on religion," the complaint alleged.

Chipotle's chief corporate affairs officer, Laurie Schalow, said the company encourages employees to report concerns, including through an anonymous hotline.

"We have a zero tolerance policy for discrimination of any kind and we have terminated the employee in question," she said in an emailed statement.

The harassment began in July 2021, when the manager began asking the employee, who was 19 at the time, to remove her hijab because he wanted to see her hair. According to the complaint, he demanded to see her hair at least 10 times over the course of one month. She refused on every occasion, saying she wore it because of her religious beliefs.

The employee complained to another supervisor that the incidents made her uncomfortable, but no further action was taken against the manager, the complaint said. One night during closing in August 2021, the manager allegedly reached out and pulled her hijab partially off her head.

The following day, the employee gave her two weeks' notice. Chipotle didn't schedule her for any shifts during those two weeks even though other non-Muslim employees who submitted their notice continued to be scheduled for work during that time, the complaint alleged.

The lawsuit claims that Chipotle violated federal civil rights law protecting employees and job applicants from discrimination based on religion, race, ethnicity, sex and national origin.

In its suit, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said it wants Chipotle to institute policies that provide equal employment opportunities for employees of all religions and pay damages to the employee.

## **The police chief who led a raid of a small Kansas newspaper has been suspended**

By SUMMER BALLENTINE Associated Press

The police chief who led a highly criticized raid of a small Kansas newspaper has been suspended, the mayor confirmed to The Associated Press on Saturday.

Marion Mayor Dave Mayfield in a text said he suspended Chief Gideon Cody on Thursday. He declined to discuss his decision further and did not say whether Cody was still being paid.

Voice messages and emails from the AP seeking comment from Cody's lawyers were not immediately returned Saturday.

The Aug. 11 searches of the Marion County Record's office and the homes of its publisher and a City Council member have been sharply criticized, putting Marion at the center of a debate over the press protections offered by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Cody's suspension is a reversal for the mayor, who previously said he would wait for results from a state police investigation before taking action.

Vice-Mayor Ruth Herbel, whose home was also raided Aug. 11, praised Cody's suspension as "the best thing that can happen to Marion right now" as the central Kansas town of about 1,900 people struggles to move forward under the national spotlight.

"We can't duck our heads until it goes away, because it's not going to go away until we do something about it," Herbel said.

Cody has said little publicly since the raids other than posting a defense of them on the police department's Facebook page. In court documents he filed to get the search warrants, he argued that he had probable cause to believe the newspaper and Herbel, whose home was also raided, had violated state laws against identity theft or computer crimes.

The raids came after a local restaurant owner accused the newspaper of illegally accessing information about her. A spokesman for the agency that maintains those records has said the newspaper's online search that a reporter did was likely legal even though the reporter needed personal information about the restaurant owner that a tipster provided to look up her driving record.

The newspaper's publisher Eric Meyer has said the identity theft allegations simply provided a convenient excuse for the search after his reporters had been digging for background information on Cody, who was appointed this summer.

Legal experts believe the raid on the newspaper violated a federal privacy law or a state law shielding journalists from having to identify sources or turn over unpublished material to law enforcement.

Video of the raid on the home of publisher Eric Meyer shows how distraught his 98-year-old mother became as officers searched through their belongings. Meyer said he believes that stress contributed to the death of his mother, Joan Meyer, a day later.

Another reporter last month filed a federal lawsuit against the police chief over the raid.

## **Iowa's two campaigns: Donald Trump's rivals search for paths to stop him as he blazes his own trail**

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Having stood out in two presidential debates, Nikki Haley has booked her largest venue in Iowa since launching her campaign. She's hoping to fill a 600-person hall in a western Des Moines suburb on Saturday.

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That would be a huge number for most of her rivals. It's also less than the smallest crowds usually drawn by Donald Trump, who is dominating the Republican field for the 2024 Iowa caucuses less than four months away.

The former president will be in rural southeast Iowa the following day to headline an organizing event. Aides were expecting at least 1,000 to attend.

In essence, there are two Iowa campaigns underway: Trump is holding fewer, bigger events that demonstrate the strength of his organization and grip on GOP base voters, while his rivals attend the state's traditional candidate forums and meet-and-greets, searching for ways to cut into his lead or consolidate second place.

While things could change before the Jan. 15 caucuses, some campaigns are trying to shift expectations. They're hoping a close runner-up to Trump in Iowa — or even someone who falls well short of Trump but pulls away from other rivals — could begin consolidating support and force others out.

"What's crystal clear to me is that until there is a winnowing event, you're never going to get to the head-to-head that it would require to have somebody other than Trump win the nomination," said Gentry Collins, who managed Mitt Romney's campaign for the 2008 caucuses. "That winnowing starts in Iowa and it changes the dynamics of the race."

Here's a look at the campaigns working hardest in Iowa to catch Trump.

RON DESANTIS

Campaign overspending and donor jitters prompted the Florida governor to shake up his organization and narrow a broad, national approach to one increasingly focused on Iowa. His national support has slipped substantially from its high point earlier this year.

DeSantis hired David Polyansky as a senior deputy campaign manager in August. Polyansky is a top strategist with Iowa chops from past presidential campaigns. He was working for Never Back Down, the super PAC supporting DeSantis.

Never Back Down has taken on a huge share of work normally done by candidates directly. It has put on almost 50 of DeSantis' Iowa appearances, hired 22 paid staff in Iowa — more than on any campaign team in the state — and purchased almost \$8 million of television and digital ads this year, the most of any single political group, according to analysis from the tracking firm AdImpact.

Speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal strategy, two DeSantis advisers suggest he could survive three second-place finishes — in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina — and try to force a head-to-head matchup with Trump ahead of March's Super Tuesday slate of primaries.

DeSantis has already visited two-thirds of Iowa's counties, Polyansky said in an interview. The candidate pledged earlier this year to visit all 99, a goal that could net extra support and allow him to shore up more populous counties down the stretch.

"Knocking out a majority of our 99-county swing this early, before the caucus campaigning heats up even further, gives us the freedom down the stretch to travel where we want to go and when we want to go" in Iowa, New Hampshire and beyond, Polyansky said.

NIKKI HALEY

Haley's team pumped up expectations going into Wednesday's second debate and hopes her energetic performance — including several tussles with rivals — translates to a rise in polls.

She impressed Nicole Schlinger, an Iowa Republican campaign phone and text vendor who has not committed to a 2024 candidate.

"Nikki's showing she can be strong and assertive and put these guys back on their heels," said Schlinger, who is not committed in the 2024 race.

Toiling before smaller crowds throughout the spring and summer, Haley, the former United Nations ambassador and governor of South Carolina, drew a noticeably more robust 400 to stops in rural eastern Iowa this month. She took the wheel of a combine among amber rows of corn.

She has recently signed noteworthy Iowa GOP talent, including Troy Bishop, who was Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley's organizational director. And she's lured some donors away from DeSantis, including billionaire

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former Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner. Now, the super PAC supporting her is spending more on ads in Iowa.

TIM SCOTT

Scott was striding toward the midway at the Iowa State Fair this summer when a man approached from behind to tell him, "I've seen your ads."

He wasn't alone. Scott's campaign and the super PAC supporting him have combined to spend roughly \$10 million in advertising this year introducing Scott to Iowans, about a quarter of all GOP caucus campaign and super PAC ad spending, according to AdImpact.

The South Carolina senator's team argues Iowans are more familiar with him through advertising and ready to see him emerge in the up-close settings that are traditionally critical here.

He has started criticizing his rivals more, going after Trump, DeSantis and Haley for refusing to push for a federal abortion ban. His more aggressive posture was on display during the Wednesday debate in California, when he criticized a proposal by Haley to increase the gas tax.

"I think I come across as a nice guy. I will say, though, that I am not an angry guy," Scott told one Iowa audience after being asked if he was tough enough to confront Russia. "I think we sometimes confuse anger with strength."

VIVEK RAMASWAMY

Long before he grabbed attention at the first debate, Ramaswamy was working hard in Iowa.

The 38-year-old entrepreneur has traveled the state more than any candidate, holding nearly 70 campaign events. He's gotten buzz for his youth and charisma, his lack of political background, and a brashness that reminds some people of Trump. Some Iowans have also voiced unfavorable impressions sparked by what some see as foreign policy naivete and lack of experience.

Ramaswamy's Iowa team is small and led by outspoken social conservative former state Sen. Jake Chapman and former Iowa Secretary of State Matt Schultz.

Ramaswamy, who is Hindu and the son of Indian immigrants, always cites what he calls his lists of truths, the first of which is "God is real." Evangelical Christians are critical in Iowa.

While few will say out loud that Ramaswamy's faith is an obstacle, one voter raised it at a Tim Scott event last week.

"He talks about God all the time, but it's a pagan god," said Liz Kuennen of Fort Dodge.

Hindus worship several gods, who they believe to be manifestations of the one formless supreme being.

MIKE PENCE

For a former vice president so closely identified with evangelical Christians, it would seem Pence would have a leg up.

Yet Pence faces distinct challenges.

Among the most stubborn is the lingering — and false — perception that Pence could have refused to certify the 2020 election. A man in the state fair crowd this summer confronted Pence and asked him, "Why did you commit treason?"

Pence patiently walked through the constitutional requirements of the vice president during the certification process.

"Even though my former running mate and his outside lawyers told me that authority was there, I knew it never was," Pence told the crowd. "I'll always believe, by God's grace, I did my duty that day."

Though the now well-rehearsed answer sparks respectful applause, Pence faces stubbornly high unfavorable ratings in Iowa among likely GOP caucusgoers.

Still, Pence, who had seven events planned in Iowa over the coming days, was on track to top 60 campaign stops by the end of next week, second only to Ramaswamy.

## The Supreme Court will take up abortion and gun cases in its new term while ethics concerns swirl

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is returning to a new term to take up some familiar topics — guns and abortion — and concerns about ethics swirling around the justices.

The year also will have a heavy focus on social media and how free speech protections apply online. A big unknown is whether the court will be asked to weigh in on any aspect of the criminal cases against former President Donald Trump and others or efforts in some states to keep the Republican off the 2024 presidential ballot because of his role in trying to overturn the results of the 2020 election that he lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

Lower-profile but vitally important, several cases in the term that begins Monday ask the justices to constrict the power of regulatory agencies.

"I can't remember a term where the court was poised to say so much about the power of federal administrative agencies," said Jeffrey Wall, who served as the deputy solicitor general in the Trump administration.

One of those cases, to be argued Tuesday, threatens the ability of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to function. Unlike most agencies, the bureau is not dependent on annual appropriations from Congress, but instead gets its funding directly from the Federal Reserve. The idea when the agency was created following the recession in 2007-08 was to shield it from politics.

But the federal appeals court in New Orleans struck down the funding mechanism. The ruling would cause "profound disruption by calling into question virtually every action the CFPB has taken" since its creation, the Biden administration said in a court filing.

The same federal appeals court also produced the ruling that struck down a federal law that aims to keep guns away from people facing domestic violence restraining orders from having firearms.

The three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said its decision was compelled by the Supreme Court's 2022 ruling expanding gun rights and directing judges to evaluate restrictions based on history and tradition. Judges also have invalidated other long-standing gun control laws.

The justices will hear the Texas case, in November, in what is their first chance to elaborate on the meaning of that decision in the earlier case, which has come to be known as Bruen.

The abortion case likely to be heard by the justices also would be the court's first word on the topic since it reversed *Roe v. Wade's* right to abortion. The new case stems from a ruling, also by the 5th Circuit, to limit the availability of mifepristone, a medication used in the most common method of abortion in the United States.

The administration already won an order from the high court blocking the appellate ruling while the case continues. The justices could decide later in the fall to take up the mifepristone case this term.

The assortment of cases from the 5th Circuit could offer Chief Justice John Roberts more opportunities to forge alliances in major cases that cross ideological lines. In those cases, the conservative-dominated appeals court, which includes six Trump appointees, took aggressive legal positions, said Irv Gornstein, executive director of the Georgetown law school's Supreme Court Institute.

"The 5th Circuit is ready to adopt the politically most conservative position on almost any issue, no matter how implausible or how much defiling of precedent it takes," Gornstein said.

The three Supreme Court justices appointed by Trump — Amy Coney Barrett, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh — have been together in the majority of some of the biggest cases in the past two years, including on guns, abortion and ending affirmative action in college admissions.

But in some important cases last term, the court split in unusual ways. In the most notable of those, Kavanaugh joined with Roberts and the court's three liberal justices to rule that Alabama had not done enough to reflect the political power of Black voters in its congressional redistricting.

Roberts, Kavanaugh, this time joined by Barrett, also were in the majority with the liberal justices in a case that rejected a conservative legal effort to cut out state courts from oversight of elections for Congress and president.

Those outcomes have yet to do much to ameliorate the court's image in the public's mind. The most recent Gallup Poll, released last week, found Americans' approval of and trust in the court hovering near record lows.

It is not clear whether those numbers would improve if the court were to adopt a code of conduct.

Several justices have publicly recognized the ethics issues, spurred by a series of stories questioning some of their practices. Many of those stories focused on Justice Clarence Thomas and his failure to disclose travel and other financial ties with wealthy conservative donors, including Harlan Crow and the Koch brothers. But Justices Samuel Alito and Sonia Sotomayor also have been under scrutiny.

Behind the scenes, the justices are talking about an ethics code, and Kavanaugh has said he is hopeful the court would soon take "concrete steps."

Justice Elena Kagan, who backs a high court code of ethics, said in an appearance at the University of Notre Dame that her colleagues are trying to work through their differences.

"There are, you know, totally good-faith disagreements or concerns, if you will. There are some things to be worked out. I hope we can get them worked out," Kagan said.

There's no timetable for the court to act.

Biden encouraged the justices to adopt an ethics code, which he said would render irrelevant any questions about whether Congress could impose one on the court. "Do it themselves," he said in an interview with ProPublica, the nonprofit investigative journalism organization.

Democratic lawmakers and progressive critics of Alito and Thomas said those justices' impartiality in some cases is in doubt because of financial ties, joint travel or friendships with people involved in the cases.

Alito has rejected calls to step aside from a tax case and Thomas, who has been silent in the past about recusals, seems exceedingly unlikely to bow to his critics' wishes now.

## **Apple says it will fix software problems blamed for making iPhone 15 models too hot to handle**

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE AP Technology Writer

Apple is blaming a software bug and other issues tied to popular apps such as Instagram and Uber for causing its recently released iPhone 15 models to heat up and spark complaints about becoming too hot to handle.

The Cupertino, California, company said Saturday that it is working on an update to the iOS17 system that powers the iPhone 15 lineup to prevent the devices from becoming uncomfortably hot and is working with apps that are running in ways "causing them to overload the system."

Instagram, owned by Meta Platforms, modified its social media app earlier this week to prevent it from heating up the device on the latest iPhone operating system.

Uber and other apps such as the video game Asphalt 9 are still in the process of rolling out their updates, Apple said. It didn't specify a timeline for when its own software fix would be issued but said no safety issues should prevent iPhone 15 owners from using their devices while awaiting the update.

"We have identified a few conditions which can cause iPhone to run warmer than expected," Apple in a short statement provided to The Associated Press after media reports detailed overheating complaints that are peppering online message boards.

The Wall Street Journal amplified the worries in a story citing the overheating problem in its own testing of the new iPhones, which went on sale a week ago.

It's not unusual for new iPhones to get uncomfortably warm during the first few days of use or when they are being restored with backup information stored in the cloud — issues that Apple already flags for users. The devices also can get hot when using apps such as video games and augmented reality technology that require a lot of processing power, but the heating issues with the iPhone 15 models have gone beyond those typical situations.

In its acknowledgement, Apple stressed that the trouble isn't related to the sleek titanium casing that houses the high-end iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max instead of the stainless steel used on older

smartphones.

Apple also dismissed speculation that the overheating problem in the new models might be tied to a shift from its proprietary Lightning charging cable to the more widely used USB-C port that allowed it to comply with a mandate issued by European regulators.

Although Apple expressed confidence that the overheating issue can be quickly fixed with the upcoming software updates, the problem still could dampen sales of its marquee product at time when the company has faced three consecutive quarters of year-over-year declines in overall sales.

The downturn has affected iPhone sales, which fell by a combined 4% in the nine months covered by Apple's past three fiscal quarters compared with a year earlier.

Apple is trying to pump up its sales in part by raising the starting price for its top-of-the-line iPhone 15 Pro Max to \$1,200, an increase of \$100, or 9%, from last year's comparable model.

Investor worries about Apple's uncharacteristic sales funk already have wiped out more than \$300 billion in shareholder wealth since the company's market value closed at \$3 trillion for the first time in late June.

## Putin marks anniversary of annexation of Ukrainian regions as drones attack overnight

By SUSIE BLANN Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday insisted that the residents of four Ukrainian regions that Moscow illegally annexed a year ago "made their choice — to be with their Fatherland."

In an address released in the early hours to mark the first anniversary of the annexation, Putin insisted that it was carried out "in full accordance with international norms." He also claimed that residents of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions had again expressed their desire to be part of Russia in local elections earlier this month. Russia's Central Election Commission said the country's ruling party won the most votes.

The West has denounced both the referendum votes carried out last year and the recent ballots as a sham. The votes were held as Russian authorities attempted to tighten their grip on territories Moscow illegally annexed a year ago and still does not fully control.

A concert was held in Red Square on Friday to mark the anniversary, but Putin did not participate.

The address came after Russia's Defense Ministry said Friday it would enlist 130,000 men for compulsory military service this fall, beginning Oct. 1, in most regions of the country. It announced it would for the first time begin enlisting residents of the annexed territories as part of its twice-yearly military conscription campaign.

Russia says conscripts are not deployed to what it calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine, or to serve in the annexed territories. However, after their service, conscripts automatically become reservists, and Russia has previously deployed reservists to Ukraine.

In Ukraine, EU chief diplomat Josep Borrell referenced the anniversary of the regions being "illegally annexed" by Russia in a video recorded during an unannounced visit to the Black Sea port city of Odesa on Saturday. Speaking from the city's Transfiguration Cathedral, severely damaged in a Russian missile strike in July, Borrell reiterated the EU's support for Ukraine.

"Odesa is a beautiful historic city. It should be in the headlines for its vibrant culture and spirit. Instead, it marks the news as frequent target of Putin's war," the EU Foreign Affairs and Security Policy chief wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Meanwhile, the governor of Ukraine's partly occupied southern Zaporizhzhia region, Yuri Malashko, said five people were wounded on Saturday in two missile strikes on the village of Matviivka, located on the northeastern outskirts of the regional capital, also called Zaporizhzhia.

Air defenses shot down 30 out of 40 Iranian-made kamikaze drones aimed at the Odesa, Mykolaiv and Vinnytsia provinces overnight, the Ukrainian air force said Saturday.

Vinnytsia regional Gov. Serhii Borzov said that air defenses shot down 20 drones over his central Ukrainian region, but that a "powerful fire" broke out in the town of Kalynivka when a drone struck an unspecified infrastructure facility.

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Romania's Ministry of National Defense said Saturday that a possible unauthorized entry into its national airspace occurred overnight amid the bombardment.

It said the radar surveillance system of the Romanian Army detected "a possible unauthorized entry" into the national airspace of NATO member Romania, with a signal detected toward the city of Galati, which is close to the border with Ukraine.

"At this moment, no objects have been identified that fell from the airspace onto the national territory," the statement read, adding that NATO allies were informed in real time and that searches will continue through Saturday.

Emergency authorities issued text message alerts overnight to residents living in the counties of Galati and Tulcea, after detecting what the defense ministry said was "groups of drones heading toward Ukrainian territory" near the border.

In recent weeks, Romania has found drone fragments on its soil from the war next door at least three times as Russian forces carry out sustained attacks on Ukraine's Danube ports.

Russia's Defense Ministry said Saturday that it had shot down nine Ukrainian rockets fired at its southern Belgorod region, which borders Ukraine. Belgorod Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said that an artillery shell created a crater and shrapnel damaged a house, a store and a gas pipeline in an attack on the regional capital, also called Belgorod. Local officials in Russia's Bryansk region, also bordering Ukraine, reported disruptions to the power supply following an unspecified attack on the town of Pogar. Drone strikes and shelling in the Russian border regions are a regular occurrence.

## **UAE's president-designate for UN COP28 offers full-throated defense of nation hosting climate talks**

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The Emirati president-designate for the upcoming United Nations COP28 climate conference offered a full-throated defense Saturday of his nation hosting the talks, dismissing those who "just go on the attack without knowing anything, without knowing who we are."

Climate activists roundly criticized Sultan al-Jaber's appointment as the president-designate of the talks because he serves as the CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co., which is seeking to boost its production of carbon-emitting crude oil and natural gas.

Back before a quiet, hometown crowd and an amenable moderator after attending the U.N. General Assembly, al-Jaber pointed to his 20 years of work on renewable energy as a sign that he and the Emirates represent the best chance to reach a consensus to address climate change worldwide.

"The world only, for whatever reason, views us as an oil-and-gas nation," he said. "We have moved beyond oil and gas 20 years ago. We embraced the energy transition 20 years ago."

He added: "We don't become passionate or ideological or so emotional. We're business-oriented. We're results-driven."

Al-Jaber, a 50-year-old longtime climate envoy, is a trusted confidant of UAE leader Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He's been behind tens of billions of dollars spent or pledged toward renewable energy in the federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula — but also leads an oil company that pumps some 4 million barrels of crude a day and hopes to expand to 5 million daily.

Addressing the world's reliance on crude oil, al-Jaber issued a challenge to the audience listening to him at Dubai's visually striking Museum of the Future: Tell him how to immediately stop the use of all fossil fuels.

"Some are promoting the fact that we can just unplug the world from the current energy system and with a flick of a switch, we can just initiate a new energy system," he said. "That doesn't work. It won't work. ... So we need to sober up and be more realistic and more practical."

But the fact that al-Jaber repeatedly defended himself and the country from activists' criticism is incredibly telling in the Emirates, an autocratic nation that while a key U.S. business and military ally still tightly controls speech, bans political parties and criminalizes labor strikes.

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As the profile of the UAE and Dubai in particular has grown in recent decades, so too have its ambitions abroad, drawing increasing scrutiny of its involvement in the Saudi-led war in Yemen and actions backing fellow autocrats in the wake of the 2011 Arab Spring.

Al-Jaber described his nation as having the "political will" under its leadership to push forward.

His colleague on stage, the UAE's U.N. Climate Change High-Level Champion Razan al-Mubarak, also sought to call climate change denial "dead." But a recent Republican presidential debate in the U.S. saw candidates roundly rejecting the notion that humans are causing climate change, with other right-wing politicians worldwide similarly dismissive.

One important target of the COP will be making sure that a global pledge to try to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) compared with pre-industrial times becomes a reality, al-Jaber said. Scientists say that in order to achieve that goal, emissions need to be halved by 2030 and reach net zero by mid-century, meaning all emissions are either slashed or canceled out somehow — setting an incredible challenge ahead of the talks for the UAE officials like al-Jaber shepherding the negotiations.

"Time has come for us to take on this responsibility, but we do need the world to understand," he said. "We want all of those likeminded partners to step up, to up their game, to engage, to be more forthcoming, more forward leaning, rather than just sitting back, pointing fingers and shooting."

Each year, the country hosting the U.N. negotiations known as the Conference of the Parties — where COP gets its name — nominates a person to chair the talks. Hosts typically pick a veteran diplomat as the talks can be difficult to steer between competing nations and their interests.

The nominee's position as "COP president" is confirmed by delegates at the start of the talks, usually without objections. However, activists' ire over al-Jaber's selection could see a turbulent start to the negotiations.

Al-Jaber described the efforts at reaching out to nations, activists and industry ahead of COP28 as "unprecedented." However, his remarks underscored what is likely a growing irritation of the criticism.

"We simply engaged, listened and we did not leave any stone unturned," he said, before adding that some "chose very early on to just go on the attack without knowing anything, without knowing who we are, without knowing who am I, without knowing what we bring to the table."

COP28 will be held at Dubai's Expo City from Nov. 30 through Dec. 12.

## **A lead prosecutor in the Hunter Biden case cut a contentious path during his time in Baltimore**

By ERIC TUCKER and JULIET LINDERMAN Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Before being assigned to investigate President Joe Biden's son, Leo Wise built a reputation in Baltimore as a tough and hard-charging federal prosecutor, taking on powerful, and seemingly untouchable, figures — whether a gang of corrupt cops, a police commissioner, a top local prosecutor and even a mayor.

Wise's backers call him talented and savvy, with a knack for navigating complex, headline-generating cases. To detractors, he's stubborn and uncompromising as well as self-promotional: he wrote a memoir about one of his major cases while still employed by the Justice Department. His approach — aggressive in a way that has won him accolades but riled other lawyers — sets the stage for a contentious fight in the high-stakes prosecution of Hunter Biden.

"He holds everything very close to the vest, and he takes every possible advantage that he can take," said Gerard Martin, a Baltimore criminal defense lawyer who calls Wise a "hard-ass." "He's not a guy you can go meet with and sit down and say, 'Look, this is what my client says. This is what happened,'" and have that be taken into account.

Wise's track record in Baltimore is newly relevant given his position as a lead lawyer in what is already a politically fraught prosecution. The case, overseen by special counsel David Weiss, is poised to unfold in the heat of the president's 2024 re-election campaign and could give fresh momentum to a nascent

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Republican impeachment inquiry while drawing the White House deeper into questions about Biden's relationship with his son.

The Justice Department declined to comment on Wise or make him available for an interview.

The first public glimpse of Wise in the Hunter Biden case came during a fractious July plea hearing on gun and tax charges when the agreement was scuttled amid a tense dispute over the deal's terms. An indictment under federal firearms statutes followed, even though charges related to gun possession by drug users are rare, especially when not in connection with other crimes.

Hunter Biden is scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday. The Justice Department has not disclosed whether it will bring a tax indictment.

That Wise would be at the center of a media and legal vortex doesn't surprise attorneys who have tracked his career. The Harvard Law graduate and avid runner was already an experienced prosecutor by the time he joined the U.S. attorney's office in 2010, having served on Justice Department teams that pursued the tobacco industry and executives of Enron, the financial services company that collapsed in a notorious financial scandal.

Soon after arriving, he established a reputation as a premier public corruption prosecutor with a taste for big cases.

"Leo is an exceptionally talented and extraordinarily diligent lawyer," Rod Rosenstein, Wise's onetime boss as U.S. attorney in Baltimore before becoming deputy attorney general, wrote in an email. He called him "impervious to political considerations."

In 2018, he secured a guilty plea from a former police chief who admitted he cheated on his taxes. The next year, former mayor Catherine Pugh pleaded guilty to conspiracy and tax evasion charges related to her self-published children's books to nonprofit organizations to promote her political career.

Wise also netted high-profile convictions of members of the Baltimore Police Department's Gun Trace Task Force who'd terrorized the city, robbing drug dealers and planting narcotics and firearms on innocent people. A prosecutor who worked with Wise on that case and others, Derek Hines, has also been assigned to the Hunter Biden prosecution team.

The police case spurred two books by journalists who covered the investigation, an HBO series and even a BBC podcast. In an unusual move for a sitting prosecutor, Wise penned his own account, titled "Who Speaks for You?" He has said he earns no compensation from it.

Isabel Mercedes Cumming, Baltimore's inspector general, said Wise has proven successful in court because he is extremely detail-oriented and thorough in his preparation of corruption cases. He's careful and balanced, always striving for the truth, she said.

"If you look at the highest-profile cases in the Baltimore area in the last few years, Leo's done most of them," Cumming said. "It's not personal. It's just a matter of the job you have, the job you chose, and doing it to the best of your ability."

"Sometimes the cases make us controversial," she said. "Sometimes controversy comes with the job. But you just do your job."

Wise acknowledged as much in his book. He boasted how during his tenure at the Office of Congressional Ethics, a law journal profile described him as on his way to "becoming one of the least-liked lawyers on Capitol Hill." It was a "badge of honor," he wrote.

"As I quickly learned on the job," he wrote of the ethics position, "going after the powerful doesn't tend to make one popular."

In Baltimore, not all of his recent prosecutions have been easy, or successful.

His case against the city's former top prosecutor Marilyn Mosby -- accused of perjury and mortgage fraud related to applications for relief during the COVID-19 pandemic -- has been defined by acrimony.

Mosby's former lawyer leveled incendiary accusations against Wise, including that he'd been motivated by personal animus in his pursuit of Mosby and had a history of targeting Black elected officials.

Wise said the claims had no merit, adding that he was only one of three prosecutors on the case and had no unilateral authority to seek indictments. During a hearing last year, he equated the attack-the-prosecutor strategy to "just like what Trump did." Former President Donald Trump has repeatedly lashed

out at federal and local prosecutors who have indicted him in four separate cases.

"Witch hunt, witch hunt, witch hunt," Wise said. "That's what the politicians always say."

A judge sided with Wise and rejected the allegations. The case is set for trial later this fall.

The prosecution that caused Wise the most trouble went to trial in 2021, and he's still grappling with the fallout.

The case concerned two prominent and well-regarded attorneys: Kenneth Ravenell and Joshua Treem. A year after Ravenell was indicted in a money laundering conspiracy case, Wise and colleagues charged Treem, who'd represented Ravenell earlier in the investigation, with obstructing the probe and creating false documents related to a meeting he had with a witness.

The charges against Treem roiled the city's legal community, with defense lawyers aghast that a federal prosecutor would so aggressively go after an attorney with some 50 years of experience and pursue a case they saw as exceptionally weak.

Treem, who denied any wrongdoing and testified in his own defense, was acquitted outright. Ravenell was convicted of a single count.

The controversy extended beyond Treem's acquittal. A brief Wise filed in Ravenell's appeal that accused a major law firm of benefiting from laundered proceeds was swiftly withdrawn and corrected by his own office, a rarity for the Justice Department and a clear rebuke.

Andy Levy, a former law partner of Treem's, said Wise "was pretty well-respected, not just for his legal ability, but I think people thought that he was a reasonable guy that could be trusted." But, he added, the Treem prosecution was "such a colossal error of judgment" that it hurt his reputation in the legal community.

In a sign of lingering tensions, a Baltimore law club event at which Wise was slated to speak about his book was abruptly canceled in May amid opposition from Treem's supporters. Wise was quoted by the Daily Record as saying, "I find it bizarre that somebody would object to the fact that I did my job."

Wise's assignment to the Hunter Biden investigation in Delaware came not long after he was replaced as chief of the public corruption unit in the U.S. attorney's office in Baltimore. The personnel move followed clashes with office leadership, according to several people familiar with the office dynamics.

Even for a lawyer with extensive experience prosecuting prominent Baltimore figures, Wise will confront unique challenges in the Hunter Biden case, his every move certain to be dissected by the national media, presidential candidates and lawmakers; he'll also square off against one of Washington's most successful defense attorneys, Abbe Lowell.

Last week, Lowell asked the court to excuse Hunter Biden from appearing in person, citing the inconvenience of a cross-country trip and the public spectacle it would create.

In a hardball move, Wise and his colleagues balked, and a judge agreed. There will be no special treatment for the president's son.

## **Anti-abortion groups are at odds on strategies ahead of Ohio vote. It could be a preview for 2024**

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Abortion opponents in Ohio are at odds not only over how to frame their opposition to a reproductive rights initiative on the state's November ballot but also over their longer-term goals on how severely they would restrict the procedure.

The disagreements, roiling the anti-abortion side just six weeks before Election Day, are providing a window into the challenges the wider movement is preparing to navigate next year. Initiatives to protect reproductive rights are expected in multiple states and abortion will be a central issue in candidate races up and down the ballot.

Scattershot campaign messaging in Ohio hints at some of the internal conflict among members of the broad anti-abortion coalition aligned against the constitutional amendment that seeks to protect abortion access in Ohio.

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Early ads played on voters' fears by warning that the amendment, known as Issue 1, would be a gateway to teenagers getting abortions and gender-transition surgeries without their parents' consent. Other efforts focused on advancing legal arguments about the amendment's specific phrasing, including the meaning of "reproductive health care."

In its first statewide TV ad, which began airing this past week, the opposition campaign Protect Women Ohio went in yet another direction. It combined clips of former President Donald Trump and President Joe Biden on screen to try to unite Republicans and Democrats against the proposal's ability to protect abortions into the ninth month of pregnancy, even though health statistics show later-term abortions are a rarity, generally reserved for life-threatening circumstances.

Terry Casey, an Ohio Republican consultant, said the opposition campaign's reliance on two unpopular politicians in the ad only extends a disjointed approach that ultimately will be unlikely to win the day with voters.

"The key thing I'm looking at is, 'What's the message on the no side, and is it clear and understandable?'" he said. "So far, I haven't seen that, nor that they have the money and resources to define the issue to the 11.5 million people of Ohio."

Casey said Ohioans United for Reproductive Rights, the coalition advocating a "yes" vote, seems to have developed a consistent message — freedom from government interference in one's personal reproductive health decisions — and stuck with it. That's easier to do when you're on a winning streak, he said.

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling last year that overturned *Roe v. Wade* kicked the abortion question back to the states. Since then, voters in both Democratic and deeply Republican states — California, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana and Vermont — have voted to protect abortion rights in one form or another. Abortion rights questions are planned in more than half a dozen states next year.

David Zanotti, president and CEO of the conservative American Policy Roundtable, said "it's crystal clear" that the abortion rights movement was ready for the high court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* and that "the anti-abortion community was not."

"For 50 years, we didn't have to think about this because the big people in the black robes said it's not your business," he said. "Now suddenly, it's our business."

Republicans across the country are divided over how to move forward on the issue, particularly because the string of defeats is backed up by public polling that suggests about two-thirds of people in the United States believe abortion should generally be legal. Do Republicans capitalize on the *Dobbs* decision to push for an "abortionless future," concede to a patchwork of individual state laws or compromise on federal legislation?

Protect Women Ohio is funded largely by the campaign arm of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, a leading national anti-abortion group. Last spring, the organization enlisted Kellyanne Conway, a pollster and onetime Trump adviser, "to get pro-life candidates on offense in the 2024 election cycle."

Conway and Marjorie Dannenfelser, Susan B. Anthony's president, defined what they mean by "pro-life" when they wrote in a *Washington Post* op-ed that the anti-abortion movement should embrace a minimum standard of banning abortion after the 15th week of pregnancy.

The column appeared after Ohio Republicans' defeat in an August special election, when the state's voters resoundingly rejected a proposed amendment that would have made it tougher to pass the abortion measure and other future constitutional changes.

The American Policy Roundtable doesn't support federal action, after conservatives spent half a century fighting to bring decision-making power on abortion back to the state level. Zanotti said it has chosen to run its own campaign against the Ohio amendment focused on its phrasing and legal reach.

Another major player in the anti-abortion movement, the Catholic Conference of Ohio, is part of the statewide coalition but is also running its own parallel effort opposing the amendment. Executive Director Brian Hickey said that campaign focuses on three points: parental rights, the safety of women and the fact the amendment would allow abortions through all nine months.

"I would place the Catholic Conference as supporting as much human life as possible and as expansive resources as possible to pregnant women, single mothers and young families," he said. "That includes tax

credits, affordable housing, social support, that sort of thing.”

Austin Beigel, president of End Abortion Ohio, does not consider the 15-week policy that Susan B. Anthony is supporting as “pro-life.” He said he has begun referring to himself as an “abortion abolitionist” because he believes the term “pro-life” has become meaningless.

“I don’t use that phrase anymore, because it seems the pro-life movement no longer wants to accomplish the goal of abolishing abortion,” he said. “Somewhere along the line, the various groups began to abandon the idea.”

To groups like his, one date stands out — May 12, 2022. Just days after a draft leaked suggesting the Supreme Court would overturn Roe, but before the court had acted, Louisiana was poised to pass a bill defining abortion as homicide, exposing women to criminal prosecution and prison. More than 75 anti-abortion groups, led by National Right to Life, signed an open letter condemning the legislation.

The president of Ohio Right to Life was among those signing the letter, which Beigel’s group criticized. The divide between the state’s anti-abortion camps widened earlier this year over an effort to introduce a similar bill in Ohio, which would have banned abortions from conception and criminalized the doctors and women involved in them.

That bill was nearing introduction this summer when another anti-abortion activist active in the Protect Women Ohio campaign pressured the sponsor to spike it, Beigel said. Their concern was that publicity over the bill would generate backlash and make it harder to defeat the abortion rights amendment, which had just qualified for the fall ballot.

Ohio’s top Republican, Gov. Mike DeWine, is offering yet another message to voters in an effort to bolster the opposition to the constitutional amendment. A staunch Catholic who opposes abortion, DeWine is pledging that if voters defeat Issue 1, he will work toward a legislative compromise that “the majority of the people are comfortable with.”

To supporters of abortion rights, the divisions that the Ohio amendment have exposed in the anti-abortion movement are merely “cosmetic,” said NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio Executive Director Kellie Copeland.

She pointed to legislation passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature to ban abortions once fetal cardiac activity is detected, usually around six weeks. With a Republican majority state supreme court, Copeland said she has no doubts about what Republicans will do if Issue 1 is defeated.

“No matter who’s taking the lead, or what they’re saying, their goal has been and remains a total ban on abortion with no exceptions,” she said. “What they’re arguing about is strategy, tactics for holding onto voters who are not on their side.”

## **Dianne Feinstein was at the center of a key LGBTQ+ moment. She’s being lauded as an evolving ally**

By JEFF McMILLAN Associated Press

Dianne Feinstein once stood at the center of a pivotal moment in LGBTQ+ history. Decades later, in death, she’s being lauded by LGBTQ+ leaders as a longtime ally who, if she didn’t always initially do the right thing, was able to learn and evolve.

Feinstein was president of the San Francisco County Board of Supervisors when she stood behind reporters’ microphones in November 1978 and grimly announced: “Both Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed. The suspect is Supervisor Dan White.”

George Moscone was the liberal mayor of San Francisco; Milk was California’s first openly gay elected official. White was a disgruntled former fellow county supervisor who was the board’s sole vote against a gay anti-discrimination ordinance. And Feinstein, at age 45, found herself at the helm of a global center of gay life that, already roiled by the violence, was about to be further upended by AIDS.

She rose to the challenge and then some, advocates said after Feinstein, the nation’s oldest sitting U.S. senator, died Thursday at age 90.

“Senator Feinstein stood with our community back when few others did, fighting for funding and action to combat the AIDS crisis when most elected officials chose to look away,” the advocacy group Equality

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California said in a news release Friday.

Feinstein had a tense relationship with Milk but later championed his legacy, Stuart Milk, the assassinated supervisor's nephew and a family spokesperson, said in an interview.

"She had become a consistent supporter of LGBTQ inclusion after a harder road for her to get there," Milk said, noting that she was a sponsor of the Navy ship named for his uncle.

The Human Rights Campaign, a large LGBTQ+ advocacy group, cited Feinstein's "sterling record of support for the LGBTQ+ community."

Feinstein, a Democrat, voted against the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which banned federal recognition of same sex marriage, and the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that required LGBTQ+ military service members to stay in the closet.

"It makes no sense to ask our gay and lesbian soldiers to put their lives on the line, while at the same time asking them to live in the shadows," Feinstein said in a 2010 statement when "don't ask, don't tell" was being repealed.

The Human Rights Campaign pointed out she was also a sponsor of the Respect for Marriage Act, which President Joe Biden signed in 2022 to solidify the right to same-sex marriage.

But Feinstein could be polarizing, especially on her home turf.

She drew the ire of Gavin Newsom, the San Francisco mayor and future California governor, by saying that his issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples in 2004, in violation of state law, was an action that was "too much, too fast, too soon" and motivated conservative voters who gave Republican President George W. Bush a second term.

And, in the 1980s, her mayoral administration caused an outcry in some quarters for closing gay bathhouses to help stem the spread of HIV/AIDS.

But at the same time, "she dedicated huge amounts of city resources and funding, more so than the federal government was doing at that time, to try to stem the spread of this disease that was killing gay men in the city," said Matthew S. Bajko, an editor and political columnist for the Bay Area Reporter, an influential LGBTQ+ newspaper.

Feinstein visited an AIDS hospice in Los Angeles in 1990 during her unsuccessful campaign for governor, telling patients, "I was there at the beginning and I hope I'm there at the end," the Los Angeles Times reported at the time.

"No one could ever say she was, you know, the biggest champion of LGBTQ issues and people when she started her journey," said Kierra Johnson, executive director of the National LGBTQ Task Force. "What I think is so powerful about who she is, is that we saw her evolve over time."

Feinstein was the one who had found the bullet-riddled body of her colleague Milk, who was later celebrated in the book "The Mayor of Castro Street" by journalist Randy Shilts, the Academy Award-winning documentary "The Times of Harvey Milk," and the Hollywood biopic "Milk," starring Sean Penn.

"I remember it, actually, as if it was yesterday. And it was one of the hardest moments, if not the hardest moment, of my life," Feinstein told the San Francisco Chronicle in 2008. "It was a devastating moment. For San Francisco, it was a day of infamy."

She told the newspaper she believed White, who was convicted of manslaughter and died by suicide in 1985 after his release, was motivated by feelings of personal and political betrayal, not homophobia.

Still, she said, the assassinations "helped form who I am and what I believe."

## **Borrowers are reassessing their budgets as student loan payments resume after pandemic pause**

By CORA LEWIS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Millions of Americans must start repaying their federal student loans again in October, with monthly payments averaging hundreds of dollars. To get ready, borrowers are cutting expenses, taking on additional work, and looking for options to reduce their monthly payments.

Megan McClelland, 38, said she has started asking for October shifts with a catering company and a

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winery to help supplement her income.

McClelland's main job is as a counselor at Petaluma High School in California. During the more than three years payments were suspended because of the pandemic, she paid off her car loan and was able to save for the first time. She'll put the \$235 she was spending on her car payment toward her student loan, but that still leaves another \$270 or so she'll have to reallocate or earn.

"It had been a huge relief the past few years to not have that financial burden," she said. "In the next months, I'm looking to see where I can scale back in my budget. Probably less going out to eat, and more picking up side gigs."

Justin Cole, 35, of Little Rock, Arkansas, said he doesn't know how he's going to come up with the \$166 a month he'll owe starting in October. That's the estimated payment on his roughly \$19,000 of loans from paying for college more than 10 years ago.

"I'm already in a mountain of debt, and while I just got a raise at work, it doesn't go into effect until we're full staffed at my family practice clinic," he said.

Cole works the front office at a medical practice, checking in patients, handling records and managing payment collection. Some of his other debt comes from medical expenses after a car accident early in the pandemic.

"If those loans were forgiven, I could finally work on getting my credit up and actually saving money for once," he said. "If they were forgiven out of the blue, I'd be ecstatic."

The Supreme Court in July rejected a plan by President Joe Biden's administration to wipe away \$400 billion in student loan debt.

For now, Cole has applied for adjustments to his payments based on both the new SAVE plan and prior income-driven repayment options, which are listed as processing and "in review" on his account. The SAVE, or "Saving on a Valuable Education," plan allows borrowers to make lower payments based on a percentage of their discretionary income.

His major household expenses are "rent, car payments, groceries, and utilities — the same as everybody else," he said.

Not yet clear is how millions of people suddenly having less discretionary income might affect the economy.

On an earnings call last month, the chief financial officer of Target said that student loan payments restarting will "put additional pressure on the already-strained budgets of tens of millions of households," a sentiment echoed by the financial chiefs of Best Buy and other retailers.

In the Federal Reserve's latest survey of economic conditions, one restaurant-industry observer in Boston said workers are taking on more hours, and, for the first time, credit card debt has topped \$1 trillion. According to credit bureau TransUnion, more than half of student loan holders added credit card debt during the pandemic. Meanwhile, consumer savings, which peaked in 2021, are on the decline.

McClelland qualifies for Public Service Loan Forgiveness as a public school teacher who will have worked in the field for 10 years next March. She's putting her loans in order to hopefully receive that cancellation next year. The program erases remaining debts for federal student loan holders who work in public service while making 10 years of payments.

"I only have six payments to go, but it's still stressful," she said. "I have to find about \$500 a month starting next month towards this payment that I haven't had in so long."

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program is one of several avenues for relief still available to many with student debt. After Biden's original plan for forgiveness was struck down by the Supreme Court in July, the White House has said it will use the Higher Education Act to bring cancellation to more borrowers. It's currently undergoing a process known as "negotiated rule-making" to determine the details of that plan.

Other sources for relief for borrowers include: false certification, borrower defense, closed school, total/permanent disability discharges, and alternate repayment programs like income-driven repayment.

McClelland, for her part, said she now spends a lot of time counseling high school students on how to avoid taking on burdensome loans.

"I had no financial guidance when I was younger, from my own parents or from school," she said. "I didn't ever understand the long term impact."

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Despite working while in school and since — moonlighting at Starbucks, wineries and restaurants as well as counseling — McClelland still has a balance of about \$38,000 in debt, from original loans of \$10,000 towards her undergraduate studies and \$40,000 for her masters in counseling at Sonoma State.

"I knew I wanted to go to college, and my parents didn't have any money," McClelland said. "I tell kids all the time, openly, 'As someone who was once in your shoes, I highly recommend finding a way to avoid taking out loans.' When you're 17 or 18 years old, you think, 'Oh, sure, I'll figure this out.' Then it's frustrating to still be in this financial situation."

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## The Dianne Feinstein they knew: Women of the Senate remember a tireless fighter and a true friend

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Washington Sen. Patty Murray received a call early Friday morning that Sen. Dianne Feinstein had died, she immediately started calling her fellow female senators.

The Democrat's first call was to Republican Sen. Susan Collins, who had worked with Feinstein almost as long as she had. Murray and Feinstein were elected in 1992 — "the year of the woman" — and Collins was elected just four years later. Murray then called several other female Senate colleagues, hastily arranging a tribute.

"My immediate response was my women Senate colleagues that have been her friends and her family for so long, and that we needed to be together on the floor," Murray said in an interview in her Capitol office Friday afternoon.

They were all there when the Senate opened at 10 a.m., just hours after Feinstein had died at her home in Washington after serving more than three decades in the Senate. Standing near Feinstein's Senate desk, now draped in black cloth, the senators — along with some of their male colleagues — described her indomitable, fierce intelligence, her impact on the Senate and her deep knowledge of every issue she touched. They talked about how she had paved the way for so many women as the first female mayor of San Francisco, one of California's first two female senators and the first female chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

But the women also talked about their private times with Feinstein that were at odds with her tough public persona -- how she would invite them out to dinners, how she would sometimes give them the clothes off her back, and how she brought them together for bipartisan gatherings as their ranks in the Senate grew from just a handful to one-quarter of the chamber. Several of them teared up as they spoke.

It was a peek into Feinstein's friendships and also the private, collegial side of the Senate that the public rarely sees — and that has faded in recent years as Congress has become more partisan and divided. Feinstein often received criticism from the left flank for her bipartisanship.

"I think it's important that people understand that here in the United States Senate, a place that can be so divisive at times, that true friendships actually exist," said Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a Republican.

Murkowski spoke about sharing dinners with Feinstein when the Senate would stay in town over a weekend and they weren't able to fly home to their faraway states. She joked that Feinstein, always impeccably dressed, probably wouldn't have approved of the shoes she was wearing.

As the senators spoke, Feinstein's daughter Katherine watched from the gallery, sitting with former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Members of California's House delegation lined the back wall.

Collins said Feinstein held an engagement party for her before she was married more than a decade ago. She displayed a painting that Feinstein had painted for her that now hangs in her office "and will have a place of honor there always," Collins said.

Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota said that when attending an event in San Francisco around

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15 years ago, Feinstein invited her to stay the night at her mansion in the city. When Klobuchar woke up early the next morning, Feinstein summoned her to her room, where she was wearing fuzzy slippers -- and reading a 200-page bill. She proceeded to quiz Klobuchar on the details.

"That was Dianne," Klobuchar said, noting that the California Democrat had to work harder than everyone else as she rose up through politics at a time when there were so few women.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., also brought a drawing Feinstein had given her and wore red lipstick in her honor. Murray told a story about admiring one of Feinstein's purses, and then receiving one in the mail from the California senator a few days later. Sen. Maggie Hassan, D-N.H., said she was wearing shoes she said Feinstein had once admired.

Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, was wearing a scarf Feinstein had given her on the spot when she had told her she liked it.

"She just took it off and gave it to me," Hirono said. "We had to be careful about admiring anything Dianne had, because she would likely take it off and give it to us."

Wyoming Sen. Cynthia Lummis, a Republican, said Feinstein was "particularly kind to other women senators. She was the first to invite other women senators to dinner, to lead our gatherings and to focus our attention on things that are good for all Americans without regard to political ideology."

Feinstein was one of the leaders and hosts of regular bipartisan dinners with all the women of the Senate, even as the group got a bit too large for them all to sit around one table and as the gatherings became a bit less frequent.

When eating with Feinstein, said Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada, Feinstein "would have a little parting gift for you, a little coin purse or something to show you just truly who she was."

Speaking at an event Friday, former New York Sen. Hillary Clinton told her own story about a gathering at Feinstein's home.

After she lost the Democratic presidential primary to Barack Obama in 2008, Clinton said, she called Feinstein when the two former opponents — and then-senators — wanted to talk privately and weren't sure how to do so without attracting attention. Clinton said she and Obama ended up in Feinstein's living room, talking about what Clinton would do to support the future president while Feinstein would occasionally pop in, asking if they wanted more Chardonnay.

"I had total trust in her," Clinton said at The Atlantic Festival in Washington.

For Murray and Collins, one of the places where they had worked most closely with Feinstein was on the Senate Appropriations Committee, which Murray now leads with Collins as the top Republican. The three women served together for decades on the committee, which is known for its bipartisanship.

One of the female senators Murray contacted Friday morning was Alabama Sen. Katie Britt, a first-term Republican and former staffer on the Appropriations Committee. Britt texted back that Feinstein had blazed a trail for her, along with Murray, and asked to sit with the other women senators on the floor during the tribute. "My heart is so sad," Britt texted her.

Murray said the text brought her to tears.

"There was a side of Dianne that most people probably never saw, which all of us who are so lucky to be her friends here saw," Murray said.

On the Senate floor, Murray teared up again as she recalled seeing Feinstein there just Thursday, casting her last vote.

"I'm so sorry I didn't hug her when she went back out that door yesterday," Murray said.

## **When Kula needed water to stop wildfire, it got a trickle. Many other US cities are also vulnerable**

By BRITTANY PETERSON and MICHAEL PHILLIS Associated Press

Hours before devastating fires scorched the historic town of Lahaina on Maui, Kyle Ellison labored to save his rental house in Kula, a rural mountain town 24 miles away, from a different blaze.

As high winds whipped burning trees and grass, Ellison and his landlord struggled with plummeting water

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pressure. Ellison had to wait for pots to slowly fill in the sink before running them to the fire; his landlord wielded a garden hose with little more than a trickle. Firefighters had to rush away for half-hour stretches to find a working fire hydrant to refill their tanker, and every time they did, the fire gained.

"It's a very disconcerting feeling when the fire department shows up and they don't have water," Ellison said.

The lack of backup power for critical pumps seriously hindered firefighting in Kula, county water director John Stufflebean told The Associated Press. Once the winds knocked out electricity, pumps were unable to push water up into tanks and reservoirs that were key to maintaining pressure.

"If all those (pumps) had had generators, I think there is a pretty good chance we could have kept up," Stufflebean said.

Kula's experience exposed a common vulnerability in the U.S., where many water systems don't have sufficient backup power to guarantee pressure if fires, storms or cold take electricity offline for long periods. Besides hamstringing firefighting, the lack of pressure can make water systems vulnerable to contamination that jeopardizes clean drinking water.

The impact of August's fires in Kula was far smaller than in Lahaina, where at least 97 people were killed and some 2,200 buildings destroyed in a fire so hot that thousands of water pipes melted. More generators wouldn't have made a difference there, Stufflebean said. But it might have in Kula, where no one died and a few dozen buildings burned.

Experts said backup power systems are expensive. The Environmental Protection Agency, which enforces clean drinking water standards, recommends but doesn't require utilities to have backup systems — even as climate change is leading to more frequent and damaging extreme weather events.

"Right now, a robust national study to understand the degree of that vulnerability is what's needed," said Alan Roberson, executive director of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators.

The fire wasn't the first time Kula's lack of backup power was exposed. A 2021 storm knocked out power for several days, and without enough water pressure, bacteria got into pipes that took months to clear.

Stufflebean, who became director of Maui's water systems in January, said it would cost about \$12 million to install the generators needed. He says the department will buy several diesel generators and seeks outside funding for others, but "we may need to live with whatever we can get."

"It really comes down to funding," he said. "The Maui water supply department has been underfunded for decades."

Brief power disruptions are fairly common and water systems typically rely on water still in the pipes or kept in tanks and reservoirs to temporarily maintain pressure, according to Chad Seidel, president of Corona Environmental Consulting. The problem comes when a catastrophe hits and water quickly leaves through fire hoses or damaged pipes, and there's no power to keep moving new water in.

The American Water Works Association advises providers to have a plan for up to three days without power. Big cities usually have done some emergency planning, and some states have added requirements in recent years to ensure utilities function at least a while without power. But much of the responsibility to keep water flowing falls to thousands of local utilities across the country, many with limited funds, said Andrew Whelton, a Purdue University professor who studies drinking water contamination following wildfires.

In fire-prone California, most small water providers serving poorer communities in rural areas do not have enough backup power to run properly when the power goes out, said Andrew Reynolds, assistant field manager with Rural Community Assistance Corporation, a nonprofit that helps rural communities in several western states. A California grant program to help these utilities buy backup power is overwhelmed every time officials open it to new applicants, he said.

The state is requiring utilities to install backup generators by 2024, but some communities might have a hard time meeting the deadline. The issue is "going to be lingering for a long time," Reynolds said.

The city of Louisville, Colorado, installed backup generators many years ago for their pumps — one diesel, the other powered by a natural gas line. Public works director Kurt Kowar said back then the city was in a "low if nonexistent" fire risk zone, before climate change made some wildfires increasingly common and more intense. They didn't expect a major blaze would engulf the city and take down the electrical

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grid, as the Marshall Fire did after it erupted on a dry and windy day in December 2021. The natural gas provider shut off fuel to avoid an explosion, and with only the diesel-powered generator bringing water into city pipes, firefighters quickly struggled with a depleted system.

The water department had workers manually open valves and let untreated water from the Colorado River and Boulder Creek into pipes to restore pressure, which allowed firefighting but also meant contamination in the system. They also trucked in tanks of natural gas to power the fuel-less generator.

Today, the water department is spending about a half-million dollars to convert its natural gas generator, which powers a treatment plant and several pumps, to diesel.

A couple of months after the Marshall Fire ravaged Louisville, Winter Storm Uri hit Texas, causing rolling blackouts that affected millions. Shallow water pipes froze and burst; the problem worsened when pumps lost power and stopped moving water. Officials issued some 2,000 boil orders.

Texas lawmakers subsequently required utilities to devise plans to last a day in an emergency without losing too much water pressure. Water providers have several ways they can comply, including installing backup power or ensuring they have enough water storage to get through an emergency.

Sarah Kirkle, director of policy and legislative affairs at the Texas Water Conservation Association, which represents utilities, said cost is the biggest obstacle. In San Antonio, for example, water officials said it would cost roughly \$200 million over a decade to comply with the law, with generators being the majority of the expense.

Amy Hardberger, a water expert at Texas Tech University, said installing backup power is important but it can't come at the expense of strengthening the electric grid against major storms. Prevention is "way less expensive than putting in a generator and thinking it's all fixed," she said.

But disasters will happen, and experts say water providers are largely underprepared. Stufflebean said Maui's water systems were built with the capacity to put out smaller fires, not the large wildfires that struck this summer. He also said some main lines were smaller than called for by modern engineering standards, though it wasn't clear if that would have affected firefighting efforts if pumps had delivered water pressure.

The system is going to have to be rethought, he said.

At Ellison's rental property in Kula, the flames were finally stopped about 10 feet from his home. But smoke and ash penetrated every surface, and Ellison, his wife and their three sons have had to live in a series of temporary homes since then.

He said he learned of the generator issue at a community meeting a couple of weeks after the fires, where Stufflebean told residents that the county was "working to get generators on all the pumps going forward."

Ellison said he exchanged baffled looks with the people near him.

"Kinda like, 'Little late, don't you think?'" he said.

## **Pope Francis creates 21 new cardinals who will help him to reform the church and cement his legacy**

By NICOLE WINFIELD and TRISHA THOMAS Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis created 21 new cardinals at a ritual-filled ceremony Saturday, including key figures at the Vatican and in the field who will help enact his reforms and cement his legacy as he enters a crucial new phase in running the Catholic Church.

On a crisp sunny morning filled with cheers from St. Peter's Square, Francis further expanded his influence on the College of Cardinals who will help him govern and one day elect his successor: With Saturday's additions, nearly three-quarters of the voting-age "princes of the church" owe their red hats to the Argentine Jesuit.

In his instructions to the new cardinals at the start of the service, Francis said their variety and geographic diversity would serve the church like musicians in an orchestra, where sometimes they play solos, sometimes as an ensemble.

"Diversity is necessary; it is indispensable. However, each sound must contribute to the common design,"

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Francis told them. "This is why mutual listening is essential: each musician must listen to the others."

Among the new cardinals was the controversial new head of the Vatican's doctrine office, Victor Manuel Fernandez, and the Chicago-born missionary now responsible for vetting bishop candidates around the globe, Robert Prevost.

Also entering the exclusive club were the Vatican's ambassadors to the United States and Italy, two important diplomatic posts where the Holy See has a keen interest in reforming the church hierarchy. Leaders of the church in geopolitical hotspots like Hong Kong and Jerusalem, fragile communities like Juba, South Sudan, and sentimental favorites like Cordoba, Argentina, filled out the roster.

Francis' promotions of Prevost and his ambassador to Washington, French Cardinal Christophe Pierre, were clear signs that he has his eye on shifting the balance of power in the U.S. hierarchy, where some conservative bishops have strongly resisted his reforms. Between them, Pierre and Prevost are responsible for proposing new bishop candidates and overseeing any investigations into problem ones already in place.

"I think I do have some insights into the church in the United States," Prevost said after the ceremony during a welcome reception in the Apostolic Palace. "So the need to be able to advise, work with Pope Francis and to look at the challenges that the church in the United States is facing, I hope to be able to respond to them with a healthy dialogue."

The ceremony took place days before Francis opens a big meeting of bishops and lay Catholics on charting the church's future, where hot-button issues such as women's roles in the church, LGBTQ+ Catholics and priestly celibacy are up for discussion.

The Oct. 4-29 synod is the first of two sessions – the second one comes next year -- that in many ways could cement Francis' legacy as he seeks to make the church a place where all are welcomed, where pastors listen to their flocks and accompany them rather than judge them.

Several of the new cardinals are voting members of the synod and have made clear they share Francis' vision of a church that is more about the people in the pews than the hierarchy, and that creative change is necessary. Among them is Fernandez, known as the "pope's theologian" and perhaps Francis' most consequential Vatican appointment in his 10-year pontificate.

In his letter naming Fernandez as prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, Francis made clear he wanted his fellow Argentine to oversee a radical break from the past, saying the former Holy Office often resorted to "immoral methods" to enforce its will.

Rather than condemn and judge, Francis said he wanted a doctrine office that guards the faith and gives people hope. He also made clear Fernandez wouldn't have to deal with sex abuse cases, saying the office's discipline section could handle that dossier.

It was a much-debated decision given Fernandez himself has admitted he made mistakes handling a case while he was bishop in La Plata, Argentina, and that the scale of the problem globally has long cried out for authoritative, high-ranking leadership.

On the eve of the consistory to make Fernandez a cardinal, clergy abuse survivors including a La Plata victim rallied near the Vatican, calling on Francis to rescind the nomination.

"No bishop who has covered up child sex crimes and ignored and dismissed victims of clergy abuse in his diocese should be running the office that oversees, investigates, and prosecutes clergy sex offenders from around the world, or be made a cardinal," said Julieta Añazco, the La Plata survivor, according to a statement from the End Clergy Abuse.

With Saturday's ceremony, Francis will have named 99 of the 137 cardinals who are under age 80 and thus eligible to vote in a future conclave to elect his successor. While not all are cookie-cutter proteges of the 86-year-old reigning pontiff, many share Francis' pastoral emphasis as opposed to the doctrinaire-minded cardinals often selected by Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI.

Such a huge proportion of Francis-nominated cardinals almost ensures that a future pope will either be one of his own cardinals or one who managed to secured Franciscan cardinal votes to lead the church after he is gone, suggesting a certain continuity in priorities.

Europe still has the most voting-age cardinals with 52, followed by the Americas with 39 and Asia with 24.

The ceremony officially installing them followed a ritual in which each man takes an oath to obey the

pope, remain faithful to Christ and serve the church. Francis reminded them that they were wearing red as a sign that they must be strong "even to the shedding of blood" to spread the faith.

One of the 21 new cardinals couldn't make it because of poor health: Cardinal Luis Pascual Dri, a 96-year-old Franciscan from the pope's native Buenos Aires. He is one of the churchmen over age 80 who cannot vote in a conclave but was elevated as a sign of gratitude for his service to the church.

The 59-year-old archbishop of Juba, Cardinal Stephen Ameyu Martin Mulla, is one of the younger ones and recently hosted Francis during his February visit to South Sudan. He said the region's conflict was a constant concern for the church.

"This country has been divided by war and ongoing war since 50 years ago," he said. "Now we are trying our best to bring people together."

## Becky G proudly shows her roots in 'Esquinas,' inspired by regional Mexican music

By BERENICE BAUTISTA Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Growing up on the border between Mexico and the United States, Becky G spoke English, but sang corridos, boleros and mariachi in Spanish. All her life, she dreamed of an album that would honor her family's roots and delve into those genres that she enjoys so much.

"A lot of the times they would tell me that I am too Mexican to be American or too American to be Mexican and that you can't be in the middle. Why would I have to give up a part of myself to be accepted here and the other way around?" said Becky G from New York in a recent video call interview conducted in English and Spanish.

Now, that album is finally here: "Esquinas" was released on Thursday night. Becky described it as "a love letter to my abuelitos, to my younger self and hopefully to the future generations."

"It's like the cross streets of two flags, two cultures, two languages," said the singer, who was born in Inglewood, California, and thinks of her identity as 200%: 100% Mexican, 100% American.

The album was produced by the Latin Grammy nominee Édgar Barrera. Initially, Becky wanted to do something very traditional to show she was capable of dabbling in Mexican genres, so she incorporated elements such as trumpets, tololoche and acoustic guitar. She included covers of classics she listened to when she was younger, such as "Un puño de tierra" ("A handful of soil") by Ramón Ayala — dubbed "the king of the accordion."

But as the project evolved, it allowed for more alternative sounds and collaborations with the new generation of regional Mexican music artists: Iván Cornejo on "2ndo Chance," DannyLux with "Cries in Spanish" and Peso Pluma with "Chanel."

While this is her third Spanish-language album, she said the release of "Chanel" as a single was the first time fans heard her use "a tone of voice that was a little more different."

"It's because regional music is a little more organic, it has more acoustic elements and it's a lower tone of voice for me, but I love it," Becky said. "I think when we recorded that song it literally took us an hour to write it; a guitar and the two of us, me with the melodies and him with the story."

In "Querido Abuelo" ("Dear Grandpa"), she talks about her roots, her family and the people she loves most. Since childhood, she had talked with her grandparents about a project "totally inspired by regional Mexican music." She decided it was finally time to focus on that project after the death of her grandfather Miguel, to whom she dedicated the track.

"He was a great inspiration to me, very hardworking. He was a very humble man who was always available to help every person in his community," she said. "He always had somewhere for them a place to sleep, food to give, he always had love to share."

When writing the song, which she performs accompanied by guitar, Becky felt connected to her origins and the memories that inspired the lyrics in which she talks about the smell of the countryside and sleeping on the ground. Becky's mother's family is originally from Tepatitlán and her father's, including her late

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grandfather, is from Tenamaxtlán, both in the Mexican state of Jalisco.

Becky co-directs the video for "Querido Abuelo" with the filmmaker Elías López, in which she features multiple home clips on a ranch and of her maternal and paternal grandparents.

"This project has a lot of content that is very personal," she said of the visuals accompanying the album. "Even the album cover was inspired, it's a photo my mom took for my birthday, when I was about two years old."

For "2ndo Chance," which she recorded in the studio physically with Cornejo, Becky's voice sounds nostalgic. She said it was based on her memories of the old AM radio songs her grandmother listened to while cleaning her house. Another of her inspirations is the bolero trio Los Panchos for the song "Los Astros".

"When I was a child, on my great-grandmother's side, she always played Los Panchos and I wanted to do something like that in that style, and it is a song that is great. I love it, it has a slightly sexy flow, but also very sweet," said Becky G.

Becky said she planned to have a party with her family for the album release. But she's having the biggest party with her fans during the ongoing Mi Casa, Tu Casa Tour, her first headliner tour in the United States. It started in Boston and New York this month and continues with stops in the Southwest, including El Paso, Texas; San Diego and Los Angeles.

"I feel very lucky and honored to celebrate this milestone, with my third studio album," she said. "We are going to be able to sing the music live with the fans and see in real time which songs they are most connected to, which songs are their favorites."

## Today in History: October 1

### Man kills 58 in Las Vegas country concert shooting

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Oct. 1, the 274th day of 2023. There are 91 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 1, 2017, a gunman opened fire from a room at the Mandalay Bay casino hotel in Las Vegas on a crowd of 22,000 country music fans at a concert below, leaving 58 people dead and more than 800 injured in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history; the gunman, 64-year-old Stephen Craig Paddock, killed himself before police arrived.

On this date:

In 1908, Henry Ford introduced his Model T automobile to the market.

In 1910, the offices of the Los Angeles Times were destroyed by a bomb explosion and fire; 21 Times employees were killed.

In 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China during a ceremony in Beijing.

In 1955, the sitcom "The Honeymooners," starring Jackie Gleason, Art Carney, Audrey Meadows and Joyce Randolph, premiered on CBS.

In 1957, the motto "In God We Trust" began appearing on U.S. paper currency.

In 1964, the Free Speech Movement began at the University of California, Berkeley.

In 1971, Walt Disney World opened near Orlando, Florida.

In 1987, eight people were killed when a magnitude-5.9 earthquake shook the Los Angeles area.

In 1994, National Hockey League team owners began a 103-day lockout of their players.

In 1996, a federal grand jury indicted Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski in the 1994 mail bomb slaying of advertising executive Thomas Mosser. (Kaczynski was later sentenced to four life terms plus 30 years. He died in June, 2023.)

In 2013, novelist Tom Clancy died in Baltimore at age 66.

In 2015, officials in Michigan declared a public health emergency over the city of Flint's water in response to tests that showed children with elevated levels of lead.

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In 2017, O.J. Simpson was released from a prison in Nevada after serving nine years for a botched hotel-room heist in Las Vegas.

In 2019, Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders was diagnosed with a heart attack at a Las Vegas hospital, where he'd been taken after experiencing chest discomfort at a campaign event.

In 2021, the U.S. death toll from COVID-19 eclipsed 700,000.

Today's Birthdays: Former President Jimmy Carter is 99. Actor-singer Julie Andrews is 88. Rock musician Jerry Martini (Sly and the Family Stone) is 80. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Rod Carew is 78. Jazz musician Dave Holland is 77. Actor Yvette Freeman is 73. Actor Randy Quaid is 73. R&B singer Howard Hewett is 68. Former British Prime Minister Theresa May is 67. Alt-country-rock musician Tim O'Reagan (The Jayhawks) is 65. Singer Youssou N'Dour is 64. Actor Esai Morales is 61. Retired MLB All-Star Mark McGwire is 60. Actor Christopher Titus is 59. Actor-model Cindy Margolis is 58. Producer John Ridley is 58. Rock singer-musician Kevin Griffin (Better Than Ezra) is 55. Actor Zach Galifianakis is 54. Singer Keith Duffy is 49. Actor Sherri Saum is 49. Actor Katie Aselton is 45. Actor Sarah Drew is 43. Actor Carly Hughes is 41. Actor-comedian Beck Bennett is 39. Actor Jurnee Smollett is 37. Actor Brie Larson is 34. San Diego Padres infielder Xander Bogaerts is 31. Singer/songwriter Jade Bird is 26. Actor Priah Ferguson is 17. Actor Jack Stanton is 15.