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Tigers take second at state soccer

The Groton Area girls soccer team lost to Tea Area in the state championship game, 3-1. Jerrica Locke scored Groton's goal with 10 minutes left in the game.

Monday, Oct. 16

Senior Menu: Vegetable beef soup, chicken salad sandwich, Mandarin oranges, tomato juice, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Apple pie in a cup.

School Lunch: French bread pizza, peas.

Pantry Open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

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

Volleyball at Langford (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m., JV at 6:30 p.m. with varsity to follow)

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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Sunday, Oct. 15

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10:15 a.m.; Freshmen meet with pastor, 1 p.m.; Choir, 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion (St. John's at 9 a.m., Zion at 11 a.m.), Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.

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

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

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Spot on Offense Leads Northern State to Saturday Victory

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University volleyball team dominated Minot State in their seventh NSIC victory of 2023 on Saturday. The Wolves swept the Beavers and the weekend, out-scoring their opponents 150-84 in six sets.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 3, MiSU 0

Records: NSU 15-4 (7-3 NSIC), MiSU 2-18 (1-11 NSIC)

Attendance: 831

HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern defeated Minot with set scores of 25-11, 25-11, and 25-10

The Wolves hit an efficient .351 in the match, more than doubling the Beaver kill total with 36

In addition, NSU recorded a match high 34 assists, 46 digs, 12 aces, and seven blocks

Defensively they held Minot State to a -0.023 attack percentage with 18 attack errors and just 16 kills

The 12 aces for NSU was a season second best and NSIC high for the Wolves this fall

Hanna Thompson led the Wolves and the match with 12 kills, hitting .320

Abby Brooks hit a team leading .556, while Morissen Samuels and Eliza Bauers each hit above .400

Keri Walker dished out 29 assists and added eight digs, while Abby Meister led the team with 13 digs

Reese Johnson was a star from the back line, recording a career high six aces; half of the team total

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Hanna Thompson: 12 kills, .320 attack%, 3 digs

Morissen Samuels: 9 kills, .471 attack%, 3 digs

Eliza Bauers: 5 kills, .444 attack%, 5 blocks (career high)

Keri Walker: 29 assists, 8 digs, 2 blocks

Abby Meister: 13 digs, 2 aces

Reese Johnson: 6 aces, 4 digs

UP NEXT

Northern State continues their home stand next weekend against nationally ranked Wayne State and Sioux Falls. Match start times are set for 6 p.m. on Friday versus the Wildcats and 2 p.m. on Saturday versus the Cougars. For full game promotions visit nsuwolves.com/promotions.

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Lots of Volunteers

It takes a lot of volunteers to pull off the annual Pumpkin Fest, from those helping in serving food, to running the kid train and the hay rides to pumpkin and face painting and more. (Photo courtesy April Abeln)



Mike runs the mike

The voice of Mike Nehls was booming through the city park on Saturday as he made the announcements throughout the day, keeping everyone informed. So you could say that Mike ran the mike. The left photo features April Abeln going over some details that need to be announced with Mike. (Photo by

Paul Kosel)

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Wolves Football Battles in Come From Behind Victory in Marshall

Marshall, Minn. – The Northern State University football team tallied their second straight homecoming victory on Saturday, taking down the host Southwest Minnesota State and dampening the Mustang party. The Wolves trailed at the half but rallied back with 14 points in the third and a shutout defensive performance.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 24, SMSU 17

Records: NSU 3-4 (3-4 NSIC), SMSU 1-6 (1-5 NSIC)

Attendance: 2891

HOW IT HAPPENED

The Mustangs opened the contest with a 13-yard rushing touchdown at 12:57 in the first. Northern responded with Drew Smook connecting for his sixth field goal of the season, a 26-yard attempt. As the quarter closed out, SMSU extended their 4-point lead to 11 with a 45-yard receiving score. It was nearly a scoreless second for both teams, however Dakota Larson broke through with a 51-yard receiving score from Colton Hackel at 3:41.

The two teams entered halftime with Southwest leading 17-10, following a 41-yard made field goal by the Mustangs at 1:27.

NSU tied the game early in the third quarter with a 63-yard receiving touchdown by Dewaylon Ingram. Hackel scored the decisive touchdown for the Wolves at 10:37 in the third with a 7-yard rushing score and the Wolves defense held the Mustangs for the final 20 minutes of play.

Northern recorded a game leading 23 first downs, 227 yards rushing, 256 yards passing, and 483 yards of total offense.

They averaged 4.8 yards per carry and 19.7 yards per completion.

The Wolves defense held the Mustangs to just 11 first downs and 266 yards of total offense, recording one interception and one sack.

Hackel complete 9-of-15 attempts for 215 yards with 63 yards rushing, while Jacob Van Landingham went 4-of-6 with 41 passing yards.

Brett Brenton led the rushing attack with a career high 116 yards rushing, averaging 5.3 yards per career. Ingram tallied his fourth 100-plus yard game of 2023 with 132 total yards and one touchdown, averaging 26.4 yards per catch.

Jake Adams led the Wolves defense with eight tackles, while Ismael Kante notched the lone sack and Corey Scott tallied the interception.

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Colton Hackel: 9-of-15, 215 yds passing, 2 touchdowns, 63 yds rushing, 1 touchdown

Brett Brenton: 116 yds rushing (career high), 29 kick return yds

Dewaylon Ingram: 132 yds receiving, 1 touchdown

Dakota Larson: 81 yds receiving, 1 touchdown

Jake Adams: 8 tackles, 1.0 tackle for a loss

Trey King: 6 tackles, 1.0 tackle for a loss

Lynden Williams: 6 tackles

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

Ingram recorded the 21st of his career, moving Ingram to fourth all-time in receiving touchdowns.

He also moved to fifth all-time in career receiving yards with 1,898 in just two seasons.

Teammate Dakota Larson holds the career records for both receiving yards (3,298) and receiving touchdowns (30).

UP NEXT

The Wolves return to Dacotah Bank Stadium next Saturday, hosting Wayne State for the annual Blackout Cancer game. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. against the Wildcats.

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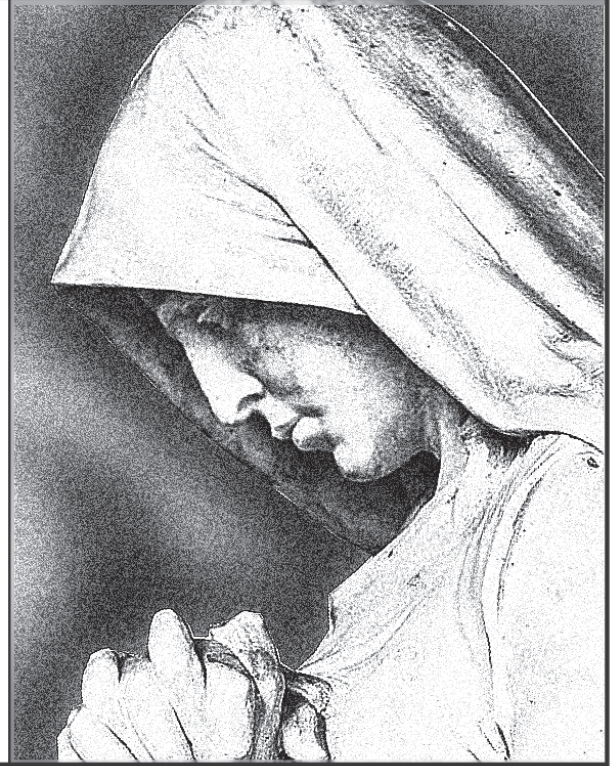
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

❧ ROMANS 12:1 ❧



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BIBBLE
TRIVIA
by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my _____ shall not." *Life, Children, Love, Words*

3. To what type person did Saul seek relief when an evil spirit tormented him? *Harpist, Sorceress, Madman, Soldier*

4. What two weapons did David use to kill Goliath? *Spear/Rock, Sword/Mallet, Sling/Stone, Ax/Knife*

5. The grain of what seed did Jesus liken to the kingdom of heaven? *Mustard, Barley, Apple, Corn*

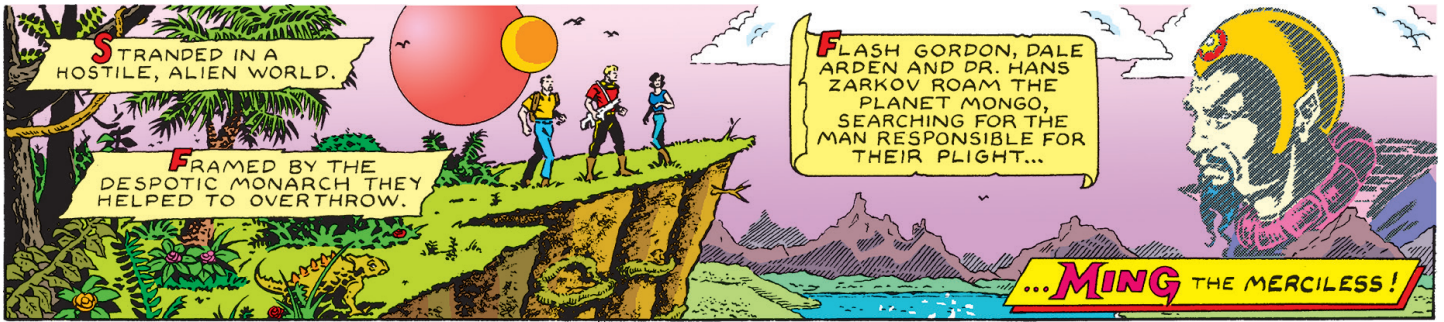
6. What daughter of Leah was defiled by Shechem? *Bathsheba, Dinah, Elisabeth, Anna*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Words, 3) Harpist, 4) Sling/Stone, 5) Mustard, 6) Dinah

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

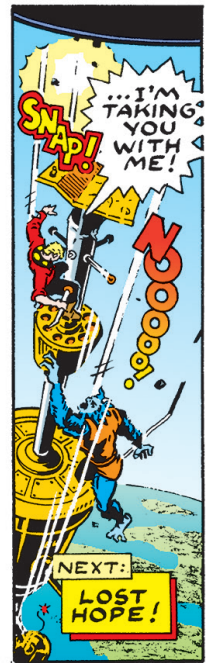
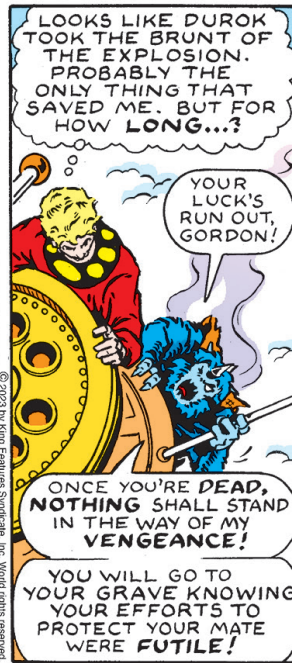
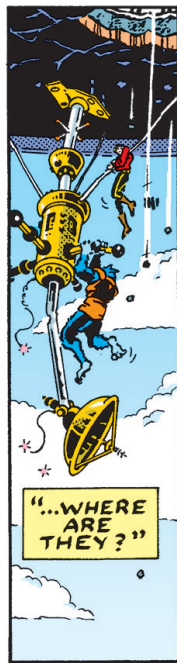
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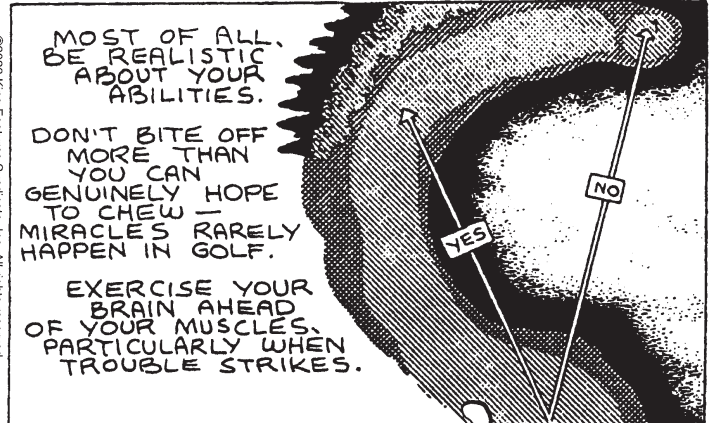
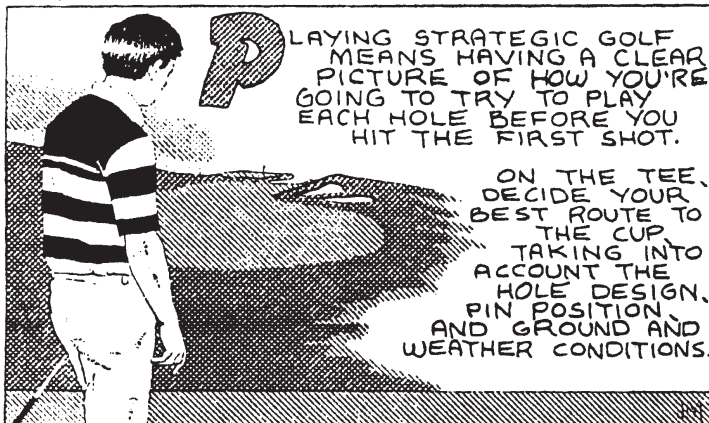


FLASH GORDON

By JIM KEEFE 10-15



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Heart Is Deconditioned to Exercise After Airbag Injury

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 69-year-old who used to walk up 75 to 90 flights of steps several days a week as exercise. After a steering wheel airbag went off and damaged my heart, I am afraid my ability to do that stopped. After years of medication, I am now on a pacemaker, which definitely helps.

Could the exercise have weakened my heart to such a degree that it could be viewed as overdoing it, therefore exacerbating my condition? — Anon.

ANSWER: In general, exercise does not harm the heart. On the contrary, exercise is almost always good for the heart. However, there are exceptions. In healthy people, there is an optimal amount of exercise, and extreme levels of exercise (on the order of running more than 10 miles a day every day) begin to decrease the benefit that a person gets from exercise. (This remains controversial, but I am convinced from the data.)

In people with severe heart disease (the kind with blockages in the arteries), overdoing exercise can lead to a heart attack, but this is an exception. For every person who gets harmed by overexercising, there must be a hundred who don't get adequate exercise.

The fact that you have improved a lot on the pacemaker suggests that at least part of your problem wasn't with the pump function of your heart, nor with the arteries leading to your heart. The problem lies with the electrical supply.

Once a pacemaker is in, that problem

may still be deconditioned ("out of shape"). Regular exercise will help the problem.

Your cardiologist can better answer the question for you and also give you advice on how to build up your exercise tolerance over time.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Colds and flus seem to linger in my lungs and nose for a week or more after all other symptoms have passed. If my phlegm and mucus are clear or white, and I feel healthy otherwise, am I still considered infectious? — S.C.

ANSWER: The color of sputum and mucus is not a reliable indicator of whether an infection is caused by bacteria or viruses, nor of whether you are still infectious. Colds and flus like COVID are caused by viruses. A person is most infectious starting from a day or two before they get symptoms up until a day or two after symptoms start. Most people are no longer infectious after five to seven days of having symptoms, but unfortunately, that's not always 100% certain.

Part of the body's response to infection is to make a great deal of mucus to wash the infection away. This can lead to us feeling very uncomfortable with copious sneezing, runny noses and productive cough. In some people, this tendency is more prolonged. It sounds like you might be one of those people in whom the body's response to infection causes more symptoms than the infection itself.

We can test pretty well for COVID infectiousness with at-home testing, but those home tests don't exist for the flu or other viruses. Following the same advice for COVID — staying home for at least 24 hours after a fever has gone, or remaining in isolation for at least five days without a fever — will minimize your infectiousness to others.

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

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"Cobweb" (R) -- In this horror thriller produced by Evan Goldberg and Seth Rogen, Woody Norman ("C'mon C'mon") plays 8-year-old Peter, a young boy who lives a solemn life with his emotionally distant parents, Carol and Mark. After they won't let him go trick-or-treating on Halloween, Peter begins hearing a tapping on the walls of his home and encounters a voice named Sarah. While his parents dismiss these claims as delusion, Peter's connection with Sarah only grows, and so do the eerie circumstances at home. Lizzy Caplan ("Fatal Attraction") and Antony Starr ("The Boys") co-star in "Cobweb," out now. (Hulu)



Brie Larson stars in "Lessons in Chemistry."

Courtesy of Apple TV+

"Neon" (TV-MA) -- Santi, Ness and Felix are three kids from a small town desperate to make it big in the reggaeton music scene in Miami. With Ness as his manager and Felix behind the camera as a budding music video director, along with A&R rep Mia, Santi attempts to get his star on the rise to eventually become the biggest reggaeton artist yet. This eight-episode comedy series executively produced by reggaeton legend Daddy Yankee follows the trio through their highs and lows of being a growing artist in Miami's music industry. Expect cameos from artist such as Jowell, Ken-Y, LYANNO and more. All episodes release on Oct. 19. (Netflix)

"Lessons in Chemistry" (TV-MA) -- "Captain Marvel's" Brie Larson leads this new drama miniseries based on the novel by Bonnie Garmus. Larson portrays Elizabeth Zott, a female scientist during the 1960s who suddenly gets fired from her position at a laboratory. Having spent her free time cooking up delicacies, Elizabeth gets an offer to host her own cooking show, called "Supper at Six." As she molds herself to become a poised and characterized version of herself on the show, Elizabeth also utilizes this opportunity to educate her viewers, young and old, on current events and scientific topics. Through her honest perspective of what it's like to be a housewife in the 1960s, she provides a beacon of hope to women everywhere. The first two episodes are out now, with the subsequent six episodes releasing every Friday. (Apple TV+)

"The Burial" (R) -- In this legal drama loosely inspired by a true story, Jerry O'Keefe (Tommy Lee Jones) is a funeral home owner with massive financial troubles that could put him out of business. So, he attempts to sue a larger funeral home corporation called the Loewen Group due to a contractual dispute and hires the eccentric lawyer Willie E. Gary (Jamie Foxx) to help him win his case. With Willie asking for \$100 million for his client and Mame "The Python" Downes (Jurnee Smollett) representing the defendant, the stakes are stacked up high against Jerry. But Willie remains undeterred that his unusual lawyering will prevail. Out now! (Amazon Prime Video)

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1. Name the first rock group to record and release "Turn! Turn! Turn!"
2. Which group released "New York Mining Disaster 1941" as their debut single?
3. Who was Walden Robert Cassotto?
4. Who wrote "The Beat Goes On"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I would have waited forever if I'd known that you'd be here."

Answers

1. The Byrds, in 1965. The lyrics (written by Pete Seeger) came from the Book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. The song is also subtitled "To Everything There Is a Season."
2. The Bee Gees, in 1967. Two of the Gibb brothers wrote the song during a power outage at the record company. Their inspiration was the Aberfan disaster in Wales that saw the top of a mountain slide down and kill hundreds when it hit the town.
3. Bobby Darin. His "Dream Lover" was covered by numerous others, including Dion, and Ricky Nelson.
4. Sonny Bono, of Sonny & Cher, in 1967.
5. "One Promise Too Late," by Reba McEntire, in 1987. The song tells of the regret of finally meeting the one she's dreamed of ... after making a promise to someone else. The song topped country charts in both the U.S. and Canada.

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GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner



"I brought them a list of your favorite meals."

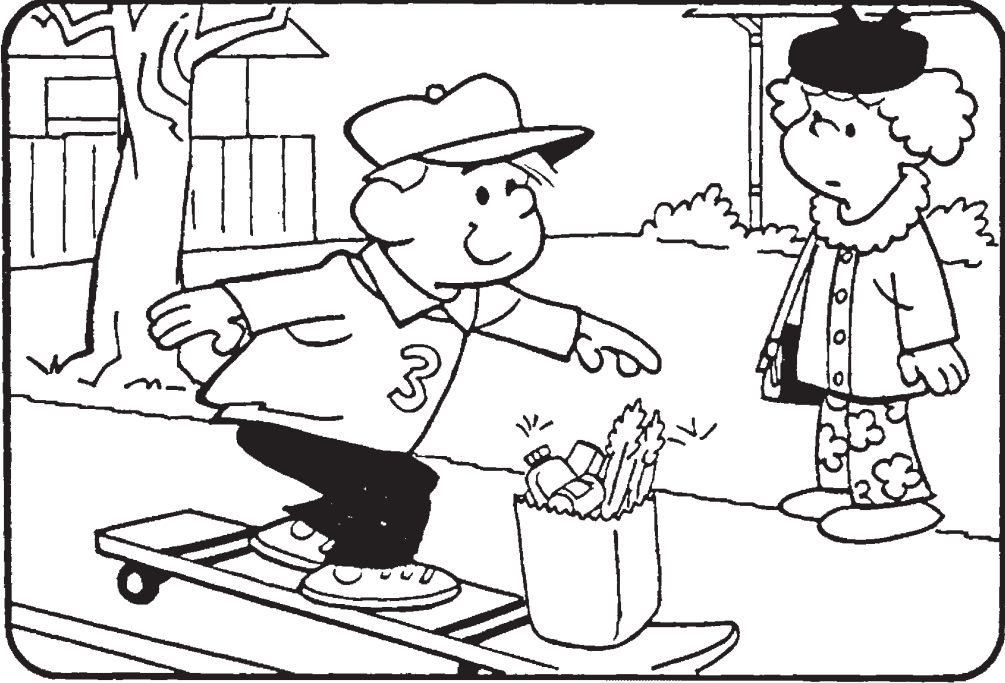
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



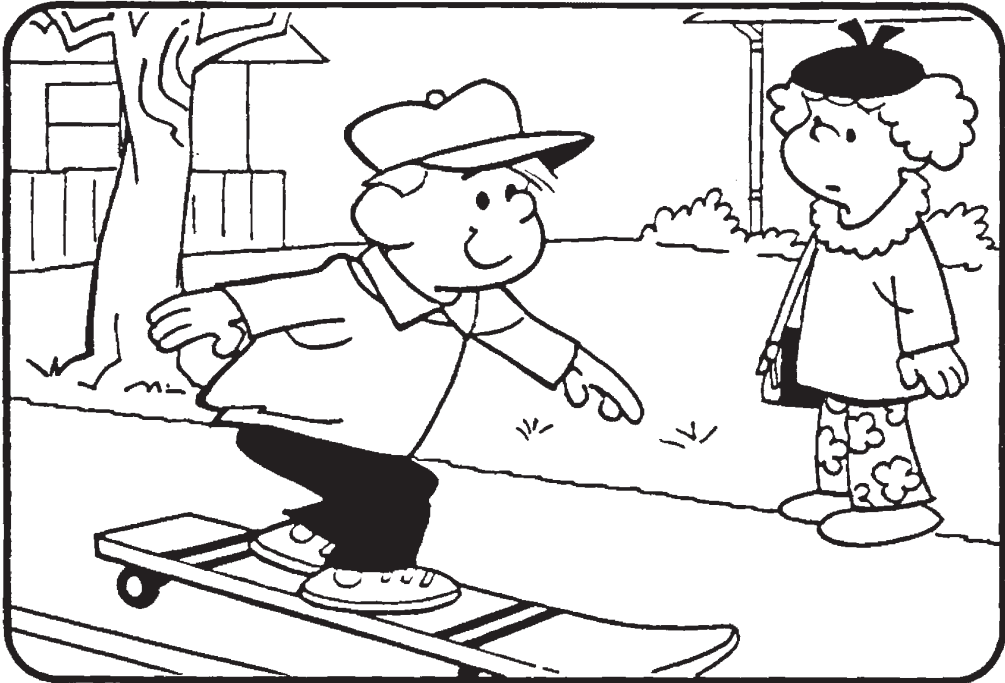
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Fence is smaller. 2. Number is smaller. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Bag of groceries is missing. 5. Hat is different. 6. Button strip is missing.

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* "I like to keep a few needles threaded with black, white and neutral thread for quick repairs. I keep them on a ribbon in my kitchen. I stuck the needles into the ribbon, then taped the ribbon at the top and bottom to the inside of the kitchen cabinet. It's handy and safe." -- A.A. in Florida

* Save your old tissue boxes. They can be used to store plastic grocery store bags for easy use. They can then be stacked up and stored orderly. I use mine for garbage bags.

* "If you start now purchasing or making a gift or two each week, you could have more than a dozen Christmas presents taken care of before December even begins. It's a good way to ease the pressure on your time and your wallet." -- L.S. in Indiana

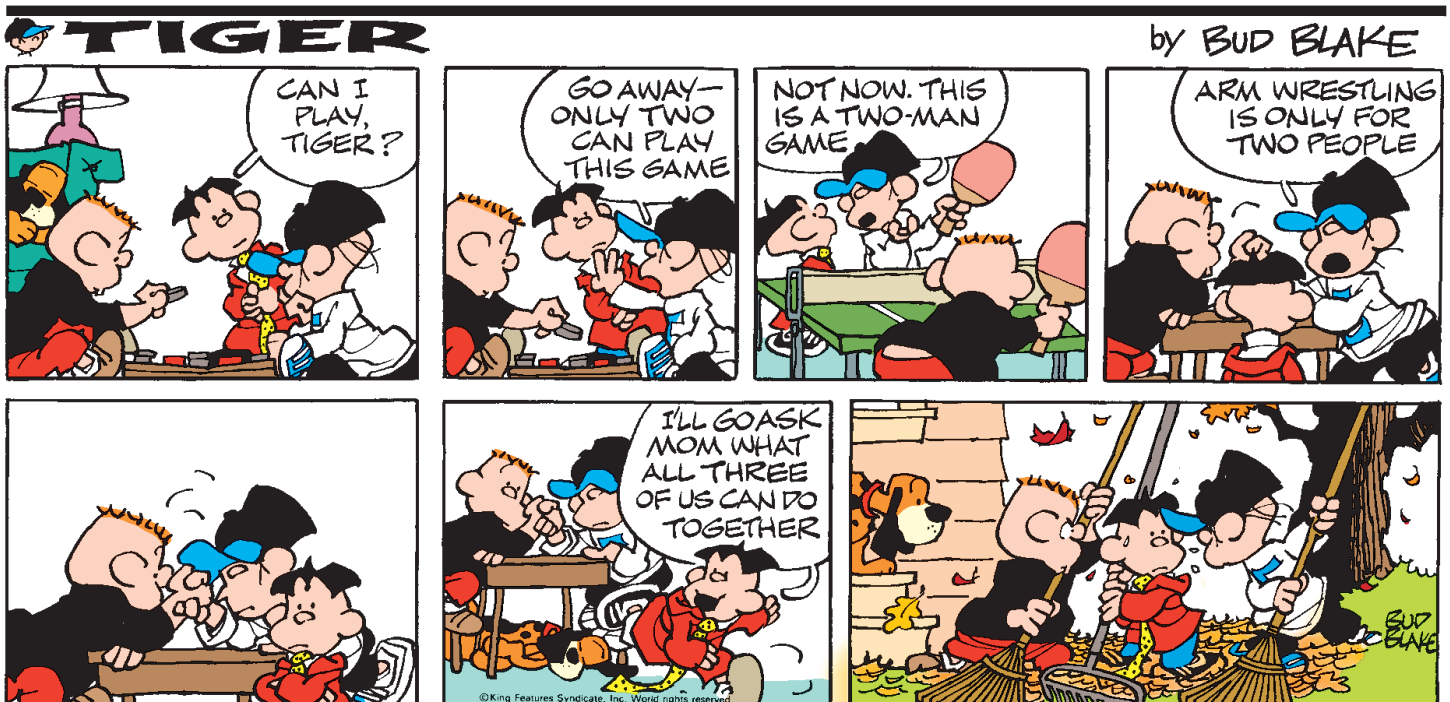
* "I love to can and pickle my garden bounty, but since I give most of them as gifts, supplies can get costly. I have found many jars at thrift stores. And I have seen seals and lids as well, on occasion. Don't forget to check them out from time to time. The jars are going to get sterilized anyway!" -- E.D. in Georgia

* Looking for a way to replace eggs in a recipe? Here are some substitutes: powdered egg substitute (Ener-G brand, for example), 2 tablespoons of arrowroot powder or cornstarch; 1 banana, mashed; a tablespoon of milled flaxseed with 3 tablespoons of water.

* "To keep calendar entries straight, you can use a different color highlighter for types of events or for each family member -- blue for appointments, or green for kids' activities. A family calendar will help keep everyone in the loop." -- A reader

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

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Apple tablet
- 5 Dispensed candy
- 8 1980s Chrysler line
- 12 — bene
- 13 King, in Cannes
- 14 British noble
- 15 Diner employee
- 16 Gerund ending
- 17 Pub potables
- 18 Candy bar nut
- 20 Stoic philosopher
- 22 Baseball film starring Robert Redford
- 26 Kathmandu's land
- 29 Census stat
- 30 Chemical suffix
- 31 Exploits
- 32 LPs' successors
- 33 Air outlet
- 34 — de mer
- 35 Before
- 36 Rodeo rope
- 37 Baseball film starring Kevin Costner
- 40 Hawaiian island
- 41 Phase
- 45 Quick look
- 47 Extended

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			

- 26 Kathmandu's land
- 29 Census stat
- 30 Chemical suffix
- 31 Exploits
- 32 LPs' successors
- 33 Air outlet
- 34 — de mer
- 35 Before
- 36 Rodeo rope
- 37 Baseball film starring Kevin Costner
- 40 Hawaiian island
- 41 Phase
- 45 Quick look
- 47 Extended

- 49 "Doing my best"
- 50 Vogue rival
- 51 Brit. record label
- 52 April forecast
- 53 D.C. insiders
- 54 Squealer
- 55 North Sea feeder
- 8 Reeves of "Speed"
- 9 Dieters count them
- 10 "Right you —!"
- 11 "Kidnapped" monogram
- 19 Stanley Cup org.
- 21 Paris summer
- 23 Consumer crusader
- 24 Curry and Landers
- 25 Jared of "Panic Room"
- 26 Feeling no pain
- 27 Birthright bar-terer
- 28 Helter-skelter
- 32 Squad car
- 33 Dracula, for one
- 35 College URL ender
- 36 Vegas lead-in
- 38 Minnesota's 10,000+
- 39 Custom
- 42 List-ending abbr.
- 43 First bed
- 44 Emmy-winning Daly
- 45 Zing
- 46 "Xanadu" band
- 48 Ms. Thurman

DOWN

- 1 Bygone Peruvian
- 2 Betting group
- 3 Teensy bit
- 4 Stately duo?
- 5 A deadly sin
- 6 Long time
- 7 Slaloms

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
POPEYE
BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

SISTER, JABBO CAN'T POSSIBLY BEAT POPEYE!

HIS JOB ISN'T TO BEAT POPEYE. HIS JOB IS TO GET KNOCKED AROUND BY POPEYE.

IT'S LIKE YOU HIRE YOUR HENCHMEN JUST TO BE CRUEL TO THEM.

JEALOUS 'CUZ YOU DONT HAVE ANY HIRELINGS TO MAKE SUFFER?

... A LITTLE.

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
"BEHOLD, THE HALLO-QUEEN!"
PART 4

AS POPEYE AND OLIVE RACE TO STOP SEA HAG FROM BRINGING WITCHES BACK TO EARTH, HER SERVANT JABBO AND HIS PET INTERCEPT THEM....

OF ALL TH' PETER PUMPKIN-EATER NONSENSE--

POPEYE!

CHOMP!

CHOM CHOM CHOM

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'YA KEEPS LOOKIN' AT YER WATCH. SHOULD WE RESCHEDULE YER BEATIN' FER NEXT WEEK?

BARNEY GOOGLE AND
SNUFFY SMITH

NICE DAY FER A DIP !!

REE-FRESHIN' !!

WHO SAYS MEN CAN'T MULTITASK !!

TH' WIMMIN ARE ALWAYS DOIN' TWENNY THINGS AT ONCE !!

DON'T KNOW HOW THEY DO IT !!

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DON'T KNOW WHY THEY'D WANT TO !!

I PREFER TO DO ONE THING AT A TIME, MYSELF !!

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SO I'M GONNA QUIT YAKKIN' NOW, 'CUZ THAT'S DOIN' TWO !!

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

WITH THE BRIGANDS' LEADER CALLING NOT FOR THE DEATHS BUT FOR THE CAPTURE OF VAL AND GAWAIN, THE TWO KNIGHTS FEND OFF THE ATTACK WITH THE FLATS OF THEIR BLADES. HEADS ARE BUSTED AND LIMBS BROKEN, BUT NO ONE IS BADLY HURT.

IN FACT, THE TWO FARE WELL ENOUGH TO ATTEMPT A FLANKING ACTION. WHILE GAWAIN DRAWS THE BRIGANDS' BLOWS, VAL HURDLES OUT OF THE CART, HOPING TO COUNTER FROM BELOW...

... BUT IS MET IMMEDIATELY BY THAT SAME SKILLED SWORDSWOMAN WHO HELD HIM AT BAY BACK IN CAMELOT. WITH LITTLE STOMACH FOR ENGAGING THE FAIRER SEX IN COMBAT, EVEN UNDER DESPERATE CONDITIONS...

... HE FINDS HIMSELF RETREATING BEFORE THE FEROCIOUS LADY BANDIT. "I WOULD DO YOU NO HARM, WOMAN," HE OFFERS, IN AN ATTEMPT TO END THIS UNPLEASANT DUEL. "YOU INDEED SHALL DO ME NO HARM!" COMES HER RETORT.

NEXT: **A compromise**

YEATES 8/19/12

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

WILL YOU LOVE ME WHEN I GROW OLD AND OVERWEIGHT?

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YES, I DO.

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Avoiding Scammers During the Holiday Season

Here we are in the middle of the holiday buying season, already leery of online purchasing scams and every email we receive that includes links.

It doesn't help that Amazon recently sent out thank-you emails about gift card purchases ... which people believed was a scam email because they hadn't made any gift card purchases.

Message boards lit up as people tried to parse and analyze each sentence of the emails to determine whether they were scams or not. Many changed their passwords. Thousands flooded Amazon with phone calls, only to be assured that there was no scam, that it was an accident on Amazon's part to send out all these emails. Amazon quickly sent out follow-up emails to those customers to apologize for the error.

There was a collective sigh of relief that the email wasn't a scam. But we shouldn't let our guard down too quickly. And we shouldn't be wary of scammers only on Amazon. It can happen with other online merchants as well.

Don't fall for suspicious activity scams wherein the scammer tries to convince you that your account has been either deleted or suspended for suspicious activity. What the scammer wants, of course, is your payment information, username and password.

Hint: Don't tell them anything. Call the merchant to inquire about your account.

Then there is the fake order confirmation that indicates you've made a very large purchase. A pre-recorded phone message will ask if you want to cancel or confirm that order. You'll be told to press a button to speak to a representative. Of course they'll want you to provide information to verify it's really you.

Hint: Hang up. Sign on to your Amazon (or other merchant) account and see if that purchase is actually listed in your orders.

On Amazon.com, there is a page dedicated to security. Click on "Help" at the very bottom of the page. Then select "Security & Privacy," and then click on "Report Something Suspicious." Other merchants likely have similar pages of security information.

Be leery, be wary, be suspicious -- and stay safe.

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1. Pro Football Hall of Famer Deion Sanders compiled a 27-6 record as head coach of what college football team from 2020-22?

2. Former NFL player Bernie Casey and Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Brown starred in what 1988 comedy film directed by Keenen Ivory Wayans?

3. What Texas Rangers slugger was American League MVP in 1996 and '98?

4. Name the brothers who were inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1992 and '93.

5. What World Golf Hall of Famer was captain of the U.S. Solheim Cup team in 2015, 2017 and 2019?

6. Rudy Galindo won gold medals at the 1989 and 1990 U.S. Figure Skating Championships competing in the pairs competition with what partner?

7. What team selected Southern Mississippi's Clarence Weatherspoon in the first round of the 1992 NBA Draft?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. The Jackson State University Tigers.

2. "I'm Gonna Get You Sucka."

3. Juan Gonzalez.

4. Al and Dick McGuire.

5. Juli Inkster.

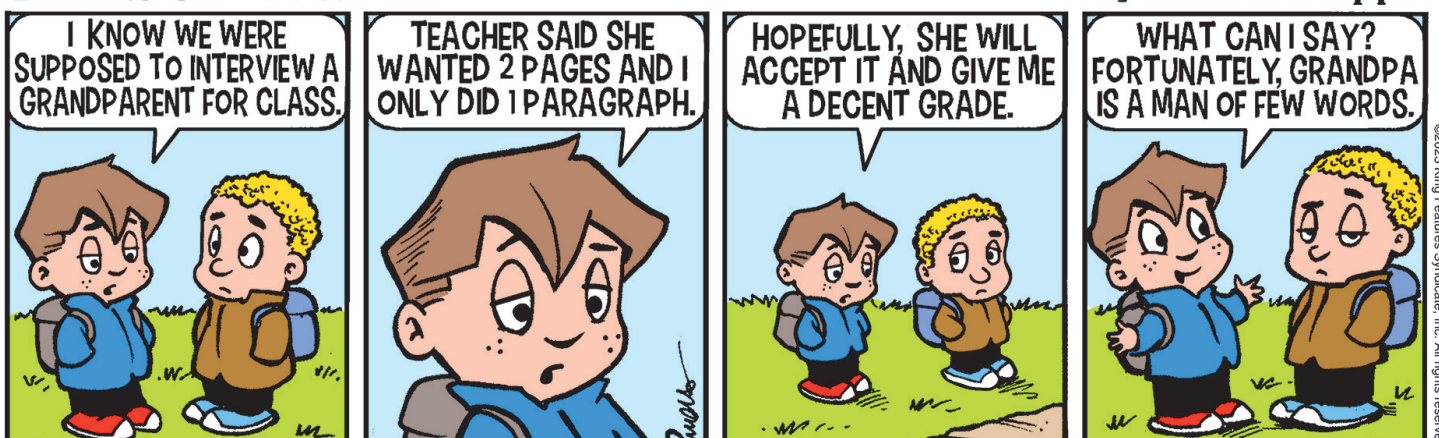
6. Kristi Yamaguchi.

7. The Philadelphia 76ers.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Acid Reflux May be the Culprit in Cat's Digestive Issues

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: In regard to your recent article on a cat's constant vomiting: I had the same issue with my cat. Stella was vomiting once or twice a day for several weeks. I couldn't figure out why; there was no issue with new rugs or furniture. When they sprayed the lawns in our complex, I made sure not to track anything into the house. And Stella was an indoor cat, so she wasn't being exposed to other cats.

I got her in to see her vet, who ran tests and blood work and found nothing seriously wrong. The vet said that Stella might have GERD (acid reflux), and to give

her one-quarter of a 10 mg famotidine pill each day. I cut each pill into fourths and give it to her in the morning with a little treat. It works perfectly; Stella no longer vomits repeatedly and has been doing well for the past two years. She gets a check-up every year at the vet and comes through with flying colors. Perhaps the owner could run this possibility by her vet and see what they think! -- Sande G., Webster, New York

DEAR SANDE: That is certainly a possibility! Readers, be sure to check in with the veterinarian if your cat suffers from symptoms such as vomiting frequently or signs of distress after eating like excessive meowing or howling. Acid reflux is one possibility, but as Sande noted, it's important to rule out more serious conditions.

Be sure to ask plenty of questions at the vet's office. Over-the-counter medications are a possibility, but keep in mind that formulations for humans contain larger dosages than a cat needs and may contain ingredients that are not great for your pets. The vet can advise you best.

Does your cat take over-the-counter instead of prescription medications? Tell us about it at ask@pawscorner.com.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* There is cellphone reception at the summit of Mount Everest.

* The sport of badminton was originally called "Poon," which was played by British officers stationed in India in the 1860s.

* In the 1500s, when folks associated social class with the height of one's footwear, some shoes were so tall that the wearer required servants to help them walk. In response, many countries passed laws limiting the height of shoes, though the decrees were often ignored.

* Iguanas have two normal eyes and a third eye on their head that only detects brightness.

* First cultivated by the Aztecs, morning glories were used in divination rituals. A concoction was prepared by combining the flowers' ground seeds, which contain an ingredient with effects similar to LSD, with water, which was then drunk to produce visions.

* Auto-brewery syndrome is a rare condition in which pure alcohol (ethanol) is produced in a person's gut after eating carbohydrate-rich foods.

* If you traveled at the speed of light, you could reach Pluto in four hours.

* Part of Manhattan's Ninth Avenue is named Oreo Way in honor of the beloved cookie, which was invented at a Nabisco factory on that street in 1912.

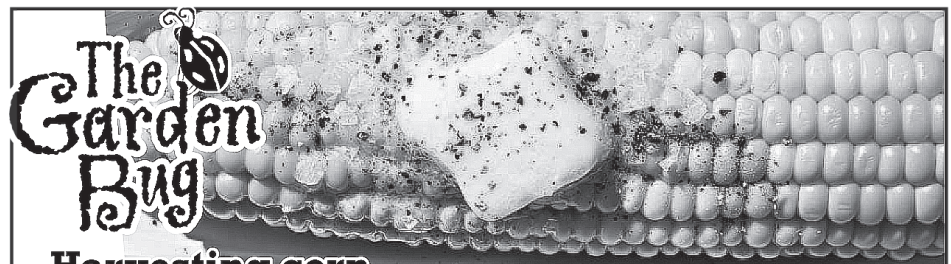
* You can obtain a degree in Viticulture and Enology, or the cultivation of grapes and the science of winemaking, at Cornell University.

* Humans and the galaxy share 97% of the same kind of atoms.

* The world's largest sandcastle, sculpted by a 30-person team led by Wilfred Stijger of Holland, stood 69.4 feet high and utilized 5,000 tons of sand. Stijger created it to represent the power the coronavirus held over the world and included a crown-shaped replica of the virus at its top.

Thought for the Day: "Be patient with yourself. Nothing in nature blooms all year." <-- Lisa Kelly

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Harvesting corn

When their tassels begin to turn brown, pull corn "ears" downward and twist them off the stalk. Remove all husks, tassels and stalks, and place shucked cobs of corn in cold water until time to cook. Bring a large kettle of water to a rapid boil, adding 1 tablespoon of salt for each quart of water. Toss in all your corn cobs and boil them 3-5 minutes. Remove and drain, and serve hot with butter and seasonings.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: www.almanac.com



by Freddy Groves

Adaptive Sports and Arts for 2024

Ninety-one programs around the country will share in a \$16 million Department of Veterans Affairs grant to provide adaptive sports opportunities for 13,000 disabled veterans. In 2024, the money will cover programs in 30 states.

To learn more about adaptive sports and arts, take a look at department.va.gov/veteran-sports to see events for 2024 and get an idea of the opportunities

available -- especially if you can volunteer.

The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic needs a band of 700 volunteers, including adaptive ski instructors and clinical staff such as adaptive sports specialists. That event will be held the first week in April 2024 and will include adaptive skiing, sled hockey, rock wall climbing and more.

The National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic (to be held in late August 2024 in San Diego) will include adaptive sports such as kayaking, sailing and surfing. Registration will be from Dec. 1 to March 1 of 2024.

The Golden Age Games, for those age 55 and up, will be held in late August 2024 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The range of competitions is vast and includes basketball, bowling, swimming and much more.

If sports aren't your thing, don't miss the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. The final date for that event hasn't been determined yet, but it will be held in Denver. For more details, see department.va.gov/veteran-sports/national-veterans-creative-arts-festival.

Scroll down to see the categories. Art (a long list of possibilities from leatherwork to painting), creative writing, dance, drama and music are among the choices. Smaller festivals are held around the country in all those categories, with winners in those competitions advancing to national judging. Contact your local VA facility to find out the deadline dates for submission of entries. Remember: You need to be enrolled in VA healthcare before you enter a local competition.

If you're interested in any of the opportunities, contact them now to verify the details of registration dates and locations. All the programs are extremely popular, so don't wait.

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Wishing Well®

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F	N	E	I	R	N	M	G	I	L	N	F	D

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

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1. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the Girl Scouts, founded by Juliette Gordon Low in 1912?
2. MOVIES: Which 1990s movie features a character named Jack Dawson?
3. ART: Who painted the Sistine Chapel ceiling?
4. ASTRONOMY: Which U.S. astronaut wrote his daughter's initials on the moon?
5. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Australia?
6. HISTORY: In which year was Korea divided into two occupation zones that would become North and South Korea?
7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many presidents were elected in the 1950s?
8. Which 20th-century novel features a character named Holden Caulfield?
9. TELEVISION: Queen Latifah stars in which 1990s TV sitcom?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the largest species of shark?

Answers

1. Georgia.
2. "Titanic."
3. Michelangelo.
4. Gene Cernan.
5. Canberra.
6. 1945.
7. One — Dwight Eisenhower.
8. "The Catcher in the Rye."
9. "Living Single."
10. The whale shark.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Protecting the Promised Land

When I was in the U.S. House of Representatives, I traveled with other U.S. government officials to strengthen relationships with America's allies around the world. In all of my travels as a member of the committee and following the end of my time in Congress, no foreign leader impressed me more than Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He's decisive and tough as nails. He leads a nation that is equally passionate and strong.

Israel embraces democracy; their military strength is a shield for us in a dangerous land; and they are our friends. These facts, Prime Minister Netanyahu's leadership, as well as my multiple visits to Israel helped me realize just how crucial America's partnership with Israel is to our national security.

In recent days, we have seen the devastating invasion of the State of Israel by Hamas terrorists. This is an act of war and invasion of the Promised Land that was given to the people of Israel by God. These barbaric actions have shocked the conscience of the world.

It is time for all Americans to stand firm in our resolve to support the Israeli people. In the wake of these attacks, we have seen an outpouring of support for the State of Israel. But we have also seen a surge of antisemitism and hatred for Israel.

It is more critical now than ever that we teach our kids and grandkids the importance of our alliance with the State of Israel. They are our most important strategic ally – and they are a dear friend to the United States of America.

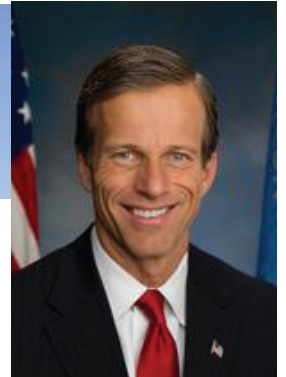
If we fail to educate our children of Israel's importance, we risk raising a generation that sees no need to protect our most important strategic ally. Americans must always understand the significance of this land that God has promised to the Israelites; they must respect the Jewish people and the State of Israel; and they must always be on the side of Freedom and good, never on the side of terrorism and evil.

All of the national security-focused trips I made were incredibly impactful. One that stands out as a teaching moment was my visit to the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea. It is the most heavily fortified border in the world. I was shocked at how close the troops were positioned to one another. South Korean troops stood facing north. North Korean soldiers lined up directly across from them in their territory. However, right in the middle, between these two armies, stood our American forces. They were there to keep the peace. Never before have I seen such a physical reminder of America's role in the world. Because we are the greatest democracy in the world that stands for Freedom, we often stand in the gap to perpetuate peace. We are strong, and we believe in Freedom. Therefore, the mantle we bear is to continue to project peace through strength. That is exactly what we must do for Israel today.

We must also take action to secure our own nation following these terrorist attacks. If we look at our own Southern border, we see that hundreds of individuals on the terrorist watch list have been captured attempting to enter the United States. If that many known terrorists have been caught, it's gravely concerning to consider how many could have been "gotaways" who are within our borders right now. The Biden Administration must step up to secure the Southern border or risk devastation here in our homeland.

Israel is in my prayers. Bryon and I pray for safety for the hostages taken by the Hamas terrorists. And we also ask God to have Israeli forces find the strength to swiftly deliver justice to these evil terrorists. To Prime Minister Netanyahu and the beloved people of Israel, I am confident that you will win this war. You have our support every step of the way.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Stand With Israel

Hamas militants recently breached the border in Gaza and attacked a dozen Israeli communities. What had begun as an ordinary, peaceful Saturday morning quickly became a tragic day in history. Sadly, more than two dozen Americans were among the 1,300-plus killed – an intolerable loss. Israel is again at war defending its unequivocal right to exist against terrorists seeking to destroy it, and America must stand in support of our ally.

The world has once again seen the face of evil. The images and stories coming out of Israel are enough to make a person sick to his stomach. Hamas terrorists stormed into communities, killing indiscriminately and taking innocent men, women, and children hostage. They slaughtered hundreds of Israelis at a music festival and murdered children and babies in their rampage. Every American should condemn these horrific acts of violence and the terrorists committing them.

Kimberley and I are heartbroken by what is happening in Israel, and we continue to pray for the victims and their families and those now fighting to defend their country. Israel is one of America's closest allies, and it is a bulwark of freedom and democracy in the Middle East. The United States has long supported Israel's right to defend itself against the type of terror that Hamas has inflicted over the years. We must continue to support Israel and ensure it has everything it needs to defend itself and bring swift justice to its attackers.

Terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah, which are dead set on Israel's destruction, have long received support from Iran. Although the degree to which Iran was directly involved in these attacks is disputed, we know that Iran has provided financing, weapons, and training to terror groups, including Hamas, for decades. Iran and its proxies continue to threaten American interests, yet the Biden administration has sought to appease the regime. The administration tried to revive the flawed Iran nuclear deal and, just last month, released \$6 billion in sanctioned Iranian assets. The administration appears to be correcting course and will perhaps re-freeze these assets, but we must take a serious and sober look at whether our policies embolden our adversaries.

The war in Israel is a reminder that the world remains a dangerous place. The best way to keep danger in check and maintain peace is through strength. I continue to support a strong national defense and robust alliances that deter evil actors like Hamas from attacking the United States and our allies. The recent atrocities in Israel are an unfortunate reminder of what can happen when our enemies sense weakness.

I am continuing to monitor the situation in Israel and will work with my colleagues to ensure we get Americans home while also demonstrating that U.S. support for Israel is robust and unwavering. Like many Americans, I am disgusted by what Hamas has done to innocent Israelis, and I mourn the tragic deaths of our citizens. But I am confident that the Israeli people will defend their homeland and deliver justice to Hamas. I hope you will join me in praying for the Israeli people as they undertake this important fight.

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



The Big Three – Groundhog Day

BIG Update

It seems like we've been here before. The House Republican Conference is at a stalemate trying to elect the next Speaker of the House. We voted in a closed-door meeting on Wednesday and current Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) won. However, the Republican candidate for Speaker must get 217 votes from the full House of Representatives to become Speaker. Scalise couldn't secure the votes, so he stepped down and we are back to the drawing board.

We're one month away from a government shutdown, and without a Speaker of the House, no bills can be considered, which means we can't vote on any funding bills. We also can't vote to authorize assistance for situations like the attacks on Israel. The House is paralyzed.

What we need is for House Republicans to come together to support a candidate for Speaker so we can accomplish the necessary tasks for the American people. A shutdown is costly to our country. And a House without a Speaker is costly to the rest of the world.

BIG Idea

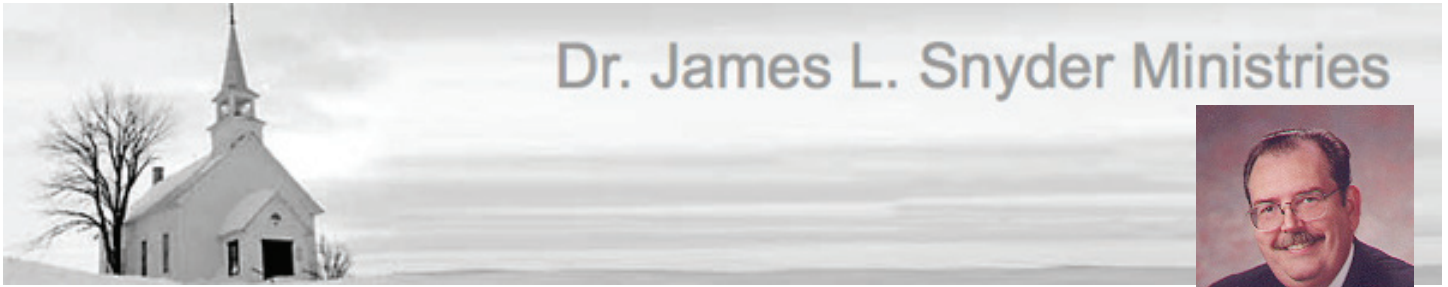
South Dakota FCCLA students from Brookings, Burke, Wessington Springs, and Harrisburg came to visit Washington, D.C. to meet with legislators. We discussed our state's educational needs, specifically the teacher shortage, and how to address issues at the state and federal level.

BIG News

The Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel are unconscionable and must be condemned. The horror of these actions has echoed throughout the world. Thousands of people have died, including innocent civilians, babies, and American citizens. America must stand by our ally Israel. I cosponsored a resolution condemning Hamas in the strongest terms and expressing unconditional and unwavering support for Israel and its right to defend itself. More than 400 members of Congress cosponsored and agreed, too. The U.S. House stands nearly united in our support.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



Where Did The Summer Go?

This past week started out as the best week of the whole year. At least, I thought so at the time.

I finished my book manuscript and sent it to the publisher. I caught up with some other projects that were lagging. And I had time to balance my checkbook.

What could be better than that?

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into my office and said, "Why are you smiling so much? Did you win the lottery?"

It was better than the lottery.

"No, my dear, I'm just so excited that I'm all caught up with my projects. Now I'm ready for summer to begin." Then I laughed with a joyful laugh.

"What you mean you're ready for summer?"

"Like I said, I'm all caught up and now I have the whole summer to really enjoy myself and have a little bit of fun."

Looking at me rather strangely, which is not unusual, she said, "You do know it's October, don't you?"

Although my smile was frozen, it began to deteriorate inside.

"What you mean it's October?"

She laughed at me and said, "Don't you have a calendar? Don't you know what day it is?"

I could not say anything for a moment because I did not know what to say. Then I got out my cell phone and checked the calendar.

Sure enough, like every other time, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was right. If I live a thousand years, there will never be a day when she is wrong.

It is October, and for some reason, I have not kept up with the time. I was so busy trying to get caught up with my projects, especially my book manuscript, that I wasn't paying attention to the ticking clock.

Looking at her in frustration, I said, "Where did the summer go?"

I guess that's the trouble with life. You are so focused on one thing that everything else falls by the wayside. I am glad I'm caught up, but I don't know how I lost track of time.

I wish there was a way to freeze time for as long as you want to. If I have a project on a schedule, I could freeze time so that I can be caught up and then come back and unfreeze time. Where are these genius scientists when you need them?

"So," I said to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, "it is October and I just got caught up with my time."

Being caught up with time is not a possibility. When I get up on a Wednesday morning that means Tuesday is gone forever.

"If you need help getting caught up," my wife said, giggling, "just let me know." Then, she returned to her craft room.

I sat back in my chair and thought a little bit. How can I keep this from happening again? How can I keep time in hand?

Of course, I could ask help from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, but you know what that would do. I need to figure out how to keep up with time.

What I really need is a nice hot cup of coffee and a fresh Apple Fritter. Of course, if I had the Apple Fritter, I would be in "timeout." I just went and got a nice hot cup of coffee, returned to my office and

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sat down to think this through.

It was not that I missed that time; I was focused on some important things then. Sometimes, my priorities overtake what I should be doing.

What bothers me is, what did I miss by missing the summer?

Thinking back over that time, I realized I did not miss anything. In fact, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is in charge of all our activities, and not one was missed. She has a wonderful way of keeping up a good schedule and balancing our time like nobody I know.

I lived through the summer and enjoyed each day of that summertime; it's just that I was more focused on projects. I wanted to complete each project in good time.

One of the great aspects of getting old is not remembering. Oh, don't get me wrong, I don't forget hardly anything; it's just that many things I don't remember.

For example, on a Monday morning, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will come to my office and say, "Do you remember you have a doctor's appointment this afternoon?"

Then I remembered I had a doctor's appointment.

In all truth, my not remembering is entirely the fault of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. The simple fact is I don't have to remember anything because she remembers everything, and I can depend upon her memory. I can use my memory for better things.

In the morning, I get up, go to my office and prepare for the day, and if there are any appointments for that day, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will remind me. So, why do I need to waste my time remembering things like that?

In my thinking, a certain Bible verse came to mind. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

I only have one shot at today, and I had better make the most of it. My best shot is to rejoice and be glad in it. This I plan to do.

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EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What eco-friendly beers and hard ciders are available in the U.S.?

-- Patricia C., Largo, FL

The explosion of U.S. craft breweries and cideries in recent years has meant that beer and hard cider drinkers have more eco-friendly options than ever. But what exactly constitutes an eco-friendly brew? Local sourcing, organic ingredients, sustainable farming practices, energy-efficient machinery and operations, water conservation, recyclable or biodegradable packaging and the use of renewable energy are a few of the hallmarks. While a given brand doesn't have to employ all of them to market itself as eco-friendly, the more it can toe the green line from farm to table, the better.

Consumers can start their research online as to which beers and ciders are both sustainable and available locally, and then continue with real world taste-testing at a bar, restaurant or at home. At the grocer, check out the labels on available beers and ciders to see if any carry one or more sustainability-oriented certification labels, such as USDA Organic, Fair Trade or Salmon-Safe.

Some of the most popular eco-friendly beers include Peak Organic's Fresh Cut Pilsner and Super Juice DIPA, Eel River's Organic IPA, Wicked Weed Appalachia Session IPA, Ninkasi Brewing's Cold Fermented Lager, Hopworks Urban Brewery's HUB Lager, Samuel Smith's Organic Chocolate Stout, Lawson's Finest Liquids Kingdom Trails IPA, Sierra Nevada Dankful Generously Hopy IPA, Alaskan Brewing Company Icy Bay IPA, Great Lakes Brewing Company Burning River Pale Ale, Cantillon's Gueuze 100% Lambic Bio and Brasserie Dupont's Foret Organic Saison, Fort George Brewery's Vortex IPA, Full Sail's Oregon Original Amber, Brewdog's Italian Pale Ale, Rhinegeist Brewing Fruited Sour, Fairstate Brewing's Smell Test Hazy IPA, Toast Ale's Session IPA, Brewery Vivant's Tee Patrol, New Belgium's Voodoo Ranger, Humboldt Brewing's Black Xantus, and Upslope Brewing's Pumpkin Ale.

As for hard cider, which has enjoyed a huge surge in popularity in the last decade, sustainable varieties also abound. Some favorites include Samuel Smith's Organic Cider, JK's Scrumpy Farmhouse Organic Hard Cider, Flag Hill Farm's Sapsucker Organic Hard Cider and Coronado Nice, Tieton Organic Hard Cider, North Country Cider's Original Press, and Dry USDA Certified Organic Cider.

While these premium beer and cider options represent a small piece of the overall U.S. market, consumers are increasingly upgrading from light beers to these products as they learn more about them. Market research firm International Wine & Spirit Research (IWSR) reports that while "standard-and-below" beer volumes are expected to continue declining in the U.S. at a rate of about five percent a year (mostly thanks to Americans increasingly turning to spirits-based hard seltzers instead), volumes of "premium-and-above" beers and ciders—like those mentioned above—are expected to increase some three percent annually, thus representing the future of the beer and cider industries in the U.S. Whether you like beer or hard cider a lot or a little, you can do your part to help out the planet by considering just who is making it and whether or not they are taking the environment into account in the process.



Most eco-friendly beers are derived from organically grown hops. Credit: Paul Miller, FlickrCC.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

COMMENTARY

Are beavers always the answer? Not everywhere.

by **TED WILLIAMS**

OCTOBER 14, 2023 2:00 PM

Beavers, through their assiduous dam building, can recharge groundwater and provide habitat for fish and wildlife. In the Pacific Northwest, for example, managers are bringing back beaver as part of trout and salmon management.

"God bless beavers and their industrious nature," writes Trout Unlimited's Idaho-based Chris Hunt in Hatch magazine. "They make habitat for the fish we love, and opportunities to catch them." True enough, in Idaho.

But the notion, ubiquitous in America, that all beavers everywhere are a panacea for what ails an ecosystem is misinformed. Yes, beavers are beneficial — in the right places.

In the wrong places — watersheds degraded by humans — they're a scourge. The environmental community and the public tend to have trouble grasping these two realities simultaneously.

In his essay "Thinking Like a Mountain," Aldo Leopold, father of wildlife management, described how killing wolves for the supposed benefit of deer resulted in obliterating deer habitat along with the deer themselves. Everything he wrote about deer applies equally to beavers. Both species depend on essentially the same forage — in unnatural abundance because of massive logging — and the main predators of both are wolves that are no longer around.

Beavers affect native ecosystems the way red wine affects human bodies: One glass a day helps the heart; 20 blows out the liver.

In the wrong places, beavers grossly overpopulate, blocking trout migration, stripping streamside cover, choking spawning gravel with silt and muck, and converting oxygen-rich streams to deadwater. That's because humans have eliminated wolves and old growth from most of the West, and stream corridors now grow willow and aspen — beaver candy.

Consider the debacle in Nevada. This from Kim Toulouse, the Nevada Department of Wildlife's former conservation educator: "Historically, virtually every stream in the northern half of Nevada held some form of cutthroat trout. Additionally, many small-order streams also held native redband and bull trout. When the push started (for trout recovery) we discovered that many single-order streams were infested with heavy populations of beavers.

"Extremely high numbers of beaver dams on these systems led to loss of gene flow and precluded the ability of fish to move up and down these systems. Additionally, fish found it difficult to find suitable spawning grounds due to heavy siltation caused by the dams. The loss of riparian habitat led to erosion, more siltation, less shade, higher water temperatures, loss of native riparian vegetation, and establishment of noxious invasive plants."

So Nevada initiated major beaver control. But politicians, incited by the Humane Society of the U.S., shut it down.

Beaver damage to Minnesota and Wisconsin trout streams is even worse. Fisheries managers have to hire Wildlife Services, a federal agency, to trap beavers and blow up dams. It's expensive, so only a small percentage of streams can be salvaged.

And Trout Unlimited reports that in Minnesota's Knife River watershed, "artificially high beaver numbers ... threaten the survival of coldwater fisheries, as well as the health of the watershed and Lake Superior."

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But an outfit ironically called "Advocates for the Knife River Watershed" is fighting to nix beaver control, circulating junk science and such fictions as "beaver have been totally eradicated in the whole Knife River valley — over 200 square miles."

California's Silver King Creek watershed is the only refuge for threatened Paiute cutthroat trout, yet overpopulated beavers block migration and destroy habitat. It got so bad in Four-Mile Creek that Trout Unlimited volunteers had to reroute the stream.

"The biggest problem I see is that beavers move into an area that doesn't have enough forage, and they abandon their dams," said retired state fisheries biologist Bill Sommer. "When beavers leave, the dams blow out and that causes erosion."

Aldo Leopold could grasp two realities about deer simultaneously. Were he still alive, he'd applaud Phil Monahan, who wrote this in Trout Unlimited's Trout Magazine: "Many anglers see the beavers' work as predominately destructive — turning a babbling trout stream into a slow-moving wetland, for instance. Wildlife biologists recognize that each of these 'destructive' effects has a flip side: situations in which that very same effect is beneficial to trout.

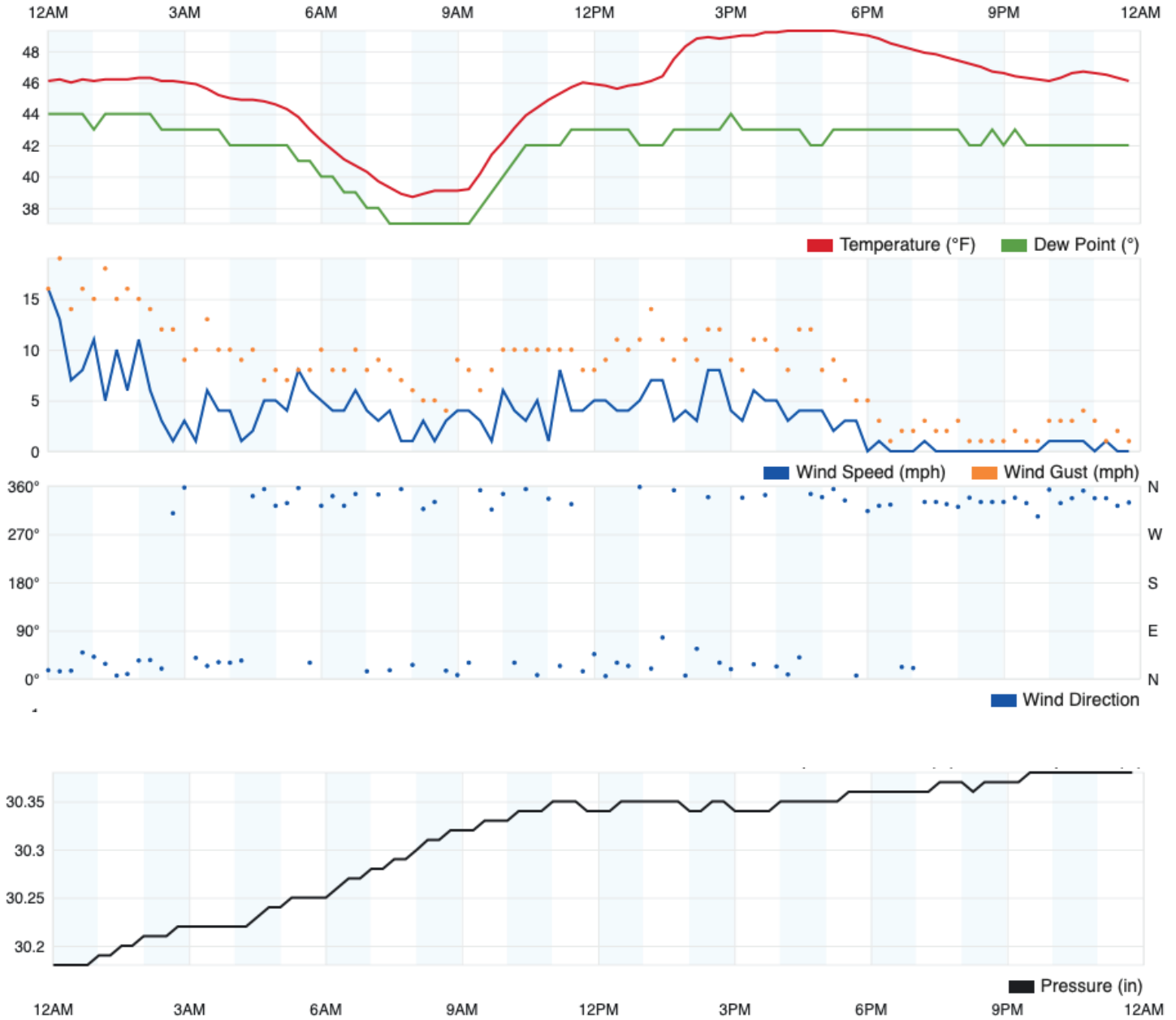
"After looking at all the data, then, the question, 'Are beavers good or bad for trout streams?' can be answered only with a definitive: 'It depends.'"

Ted Williams is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring conversation about the West. He writes for several national publications about wildlife.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Sun Oct 15	Mon Oct 16	Tue Oct 17	Wed Oct 18	Thu Oct 19	Fri Oct 20	Sat Oct 21
54° F	58° F	65° F	58° F	59° F	63° F	57° F
31° F	37° F	45° F	41° F	40° F	39° F	39° F
NNW	N	S	WNW	NNW	W	WNW
9 MPH	6 MPH	19 MPH	17 MPH	13 MPH	12 MPH	11 MPH
			30%			



Chilly Today w/ Gradual Clearing

October 15, 2023

2:48 AM

Warming Trend Through Mid-Week



Today	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs

Highs: 52-58° 57-63° 63-73° 56-62° 57-68°



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

We'll see some stubborn clouds through the day but eventually widespread clearing will occur. Expect a gradual warming trend through mid-week before a fast moving system brings some light showers and gusty winds to the region.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 50 °F at 4:34 PM

Low Temp: 39 °F at 7:54 AM

Wind: 19 mph at 12:09 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 11 hours, 01 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 88 in 1958

Record Low: 15 in 2018

Average High: 60

Average Low: 34

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.13

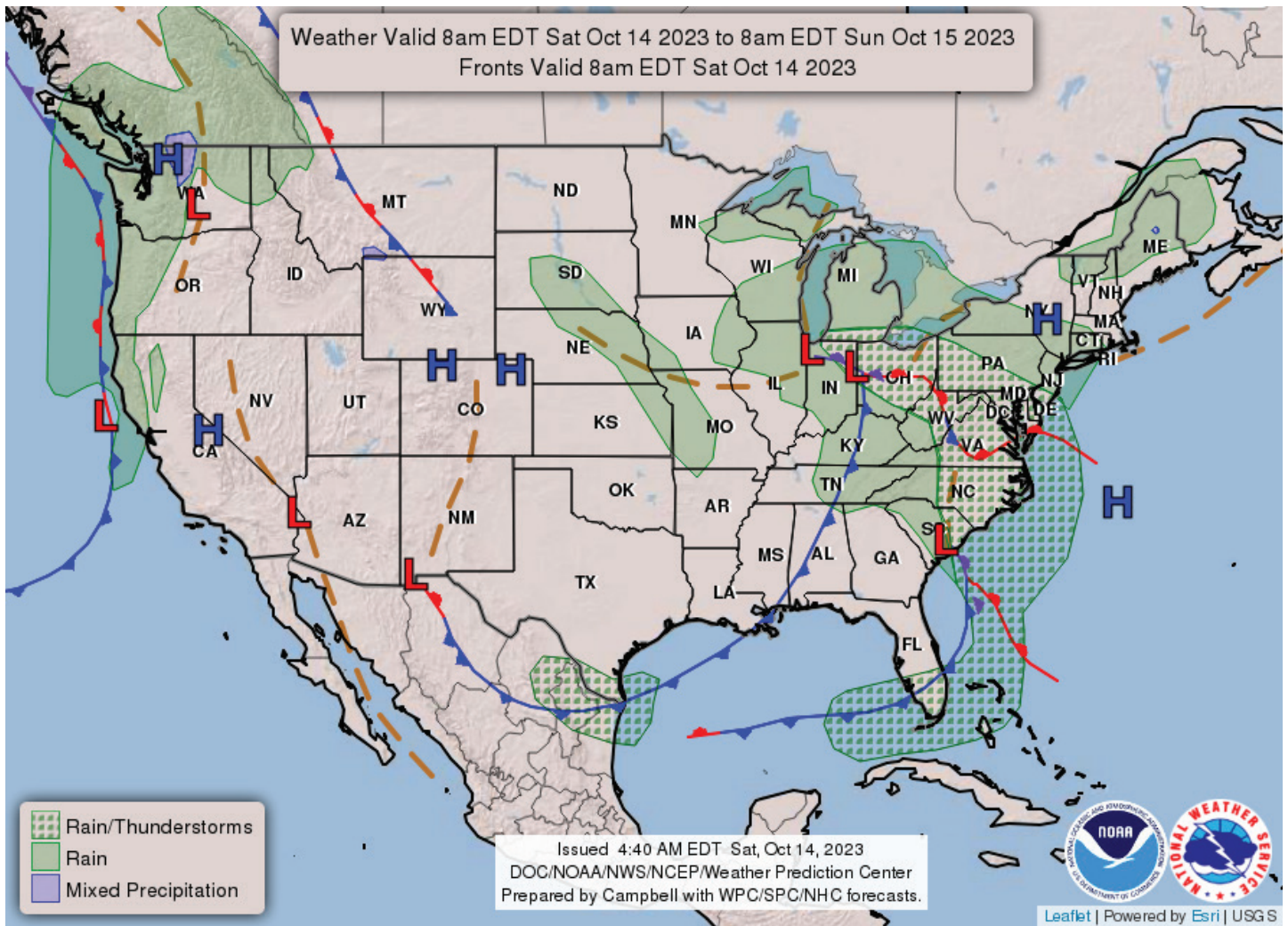
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.80

Average Precip to date: 19.46

Precip Year to Date: 22.57

Sunset Tonight: 6:49:07 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:48:31 AM



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Today in Weather History

October 15, 1880: A violent early season blizzard devastated Minnesota and the Dakotas. Winds gusted to 70 mph at Yankton, SD, and snow drifts 10 to 15 feet high were reported in northwest Iowa and southeast South Dakota. Canby Minnesota reported 20 feet high snow drifts from this storm. Saint Paul, MN, reported a barometric pressure of 28.65 inches on the 16th. Piles of snow, which remained throughout the severe winter to follow, blocked railroads. The winter of 1880-81 is vividly portrayed in Laura Ingalls Wilder's Book: The Long Winter.

October 15, 1992: Snow fell throughout the day across the north-central and northwest part of the state with 2 to 6 inches occurring. There was a separate report of 7 inches near Harding in northwestern South Dakota.

1608: Evangelista Torricelli, the Italian physicist and mathematician who invented the barometer, was born on this day. In 1644, Evangelista Torricelli built the first barometer with mercury.

1880 - A violent early season blizzard raked Minnesota and the Dakotas. Winds gusted to 70 mph at Yankton SD, and snow drifts 10 to 15 feet high were reported in northwest Iowa and southeast South Dakota. Saint Paul MN reported a barometric pressure of 28.65 inches on the 16th. Railroads were blocked by drifts of snow which remained throughout the severe winter to follow. Gales did extensive damage to ship on the Great Lakes. (15th-16th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1954 - Hurricane Hazel struck the Carolina coastline. The hurricane demolished every pier along a 170 mile stretch from Myrtle Beach SC to Cedar Island NC, and obliterated entire lines of beach homes. Hurricane Hazel also destroyed 1500 homes as it moved inland with seventeen foot tides. Winds between Myrtle Beach SC and Cape Fear NC gusted to 150 mph. Hurricane Hazel caused 163 million dollars damage, and claimed the lives of 98 persons. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1966 - Iowa experienced its worst late season tornado of record. In just one minute a twister tore through the town of Belmond leveling 75 percent of the businesses, and 100 homes, causing more than eleven million dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1984: The Monday Night Football game in Denver, Colorado, was played in a raging blizzard. 15 inches of snow fell with up to 34 inches reported in the nearby mountains. The Air Force Academy canceled classes for the first time in its' recorded history.

1987: Beginning on the night of October 15th, an unusually strong weather system caused extremely high winds in the United Kingdom. This storm became known as the Great Storm of 1987. It was the worst storm to hit the UK since the Great Storm in 1703.

1987 - Unseasonably cold weather continued in the eastern U.S., with thirteen cities reporting record low temperatures for the date. The low of 34 degrees at Montgomery AL was their coldest reading of record for so early in the season. Lows of 32 degrees at Harrisburg PA and 34 degrees at Parkersburg WV marked their third straight morning of record cold. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - The cold high pressure system responsible for the record low temperatures in the eastern U.S. began to move out to sea, giving way to a trend toward "Indian Summer". Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced golf ball size hail at Altamont KS and hail two inches in diameter at Yates City IL. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Hurricane Jerry made landfall at Galveston, TX, at 6 30 PM (CDT). Winds at the Galveston Airport reached 75 mph, with gusts to 100 mph. Tides along the island were six to eight feet, and rainfall totals ranged up to slightly more than six inches north of Beaumont. Three persons were killed when their vehicle was blown off the Galveston seawall into the pounding surf. Total damage along the Upper Texas Coast was estimated at fifteen million dollars. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Lower Michigan during the late morning. Two persons were injured when a tree fell on their camper at the Traverse City State park. While strong northerly winds ushered much colder air into the central U.S., unseasonably warm weather continued in the south central and eastern U.S. The afternoon high of 82 degrees at Bluefield WV was a record for October. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

FAITHFUL UNTIL THE END

At seventy-five Grandma Faith learned that cancer would soon take her home to heaven. She had been a faith-filled Christian all of her life. Realizing that her time with her family on this earth would soon be over, she called all of them together. After they gathered around her bed, she said in a calm, steady and joyful voice, "For many years I've shown you how to live like a Christian. Now I want to show you how to die like one!" Life after life was important to her.

Life after life was important to Paul, too. He planned for it, prepared for it, and personally looked forward to the time when he would be with his Lord. From the day he met his Savior, his values changed and his view of "things" on earth was different. Not only did he see life from an eternal perspective, but the only desire he had was for others to see life the way he did: through the eyes of the risen Christ. No matter what, Paul believed that Christians have a faith that makes life enjoyable and enduring, and hope to die with. The joy and happiness that came to him from serving his Lord satisfied his every need no matter how horrible his circumstances might have been. Paul understood that this life is temporary and transitional and that there was more than what is seen.

His words in Philippians "For me, living is living for Christ and dying is even better," reminds us that "life after life" will be far better than "life as it is" if we have faith and hope in Christ.

Prayer: We look to You, Heavenly Father, for faith for today, hope for tomorrow and purpose in between. Fill us with love for You and the lost whose lives are in our hands. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. Philippians 1:20-26



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:
10.13.23

6 18 44 46 68 18

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$69,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.14.23

6 32 33 36 47 4

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$2,750,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.14.23

19 22 23 27 48 3

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 25 Mins 55 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.14.23

3 7 14 23 26

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$24,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.14.23

13 21 33 46 50 23

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.14.23

14 16 42 48 64 14

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$34,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the  Associated Press

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 18, Standing Rock, N.D. 12

Pine Ridge 50, Red Cloud 0

Todd County 44, St. Francis Indian 6

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Brandon Valley def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-22, 25-7, 25-16

Sioux Falls Jefferson def. Cherokee, Washington, Iowa, 21-15, 21-15

Sioux Falls Jefferson def. Sioux Center, Iowa, 21-14, 21-15

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Rapid City Central, 25-15, 25-22, 25-16

Wall def. Lemmon High School, 25-20, 25-22

Douglas Invitational Tournament=

Belle Fourche def. Bison, 25-12, 25-7

Douglas def. Todd County, 25-10, 25-5

Harding County def. Bison, 25-17, 25-18

Jones County def. Bison, 25-19, 25-18

Wall def. New Underwood, 25-13, 25-16

Wall def. Red Cloud, 25-14, 25-6

DVC Tournament=

Arlington def. Castlewood, 25-19, 19-25, 25-23

Castlewood def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-20, 18-25, 25-17

Castlewood def. Estelline/Hendricks, 25-18, 25-23

Colman-Egan def. Arlington, 25-22, 25-14

Colman-Egan def. Castlewood, 25-16, 26-24

Colman-Egan def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-22, 25-20

Colman-Egan def. Estelline/Hendricks, 25-18, 13-25, 25-22

Dell Rapids St. Mary def. DeSmet, 25-16, 25-19

Deubrook def. DeSmet, 25-11, 23-25, 25-23

Deubrook def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 20-25, 25-20, 25-20

Deubrook def. Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op, 25-17, 25-18

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Arlington, 25-22, 27-25

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Estelline/Hendricks, 25-23, 12-25, 25-16

Estelline/Hendricks def. Arlington, 23-25, 25-22, 25-22

Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op def. DeSmet, 25-20, 25-16

Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-23, 25-16

Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 24-26, 25-14, 25-18

Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. DeSmet, 25-15, 15-25, 25-19

Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-21, 29-27

Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Deubrook, 25-14, 25-11

Lakeville North - Bachman Invite=

Caledonia, Minn. def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 27-25, 25-19

Rochester Mayo, Minn. def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 14-25, 25-23, 15-10

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Jackson County Central, Minn., 25-20, 25-21

Milbank Invitational=

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Great Plains Lutheran def. Beresford, 25-16, 25-23
Great Plains Lutheran def. Sioux Valley, 25-19, 20-25, 25-17
Hamlin def. Milbank, 25-22, 25-23
Hamlin def. Sioux Valley, 25-22, 26-24
Hamlin def. Sisseton, 25-18, 25-18
Milbank def. Beresford, 25-21, 25-15
Milbank def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-16, 25-13
Milbank def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-22, 17-25, 27-25
Mobridge-Pollock def. Beresford, 25-7, 25-15
Mobridge-Pollock def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-22, 25-18
Mobridge-Pollock def. Sisseton, 25-21, 25-23
Sioux Valley def. Sisseton, 25-19, 25-19
Panhandle Conference Tournament=
Championship=
Morrill, Neb. def. Edgemont, 25-22, 23-25, 25-22
Semifinal=
Edgemont def. Hemingford, Neb., 25-16, 25-17
Rustler Volleyball Invitational=
Miller def. Hot Springs, 25-10, 25-8
Miller def. Sioux Falls Lutheran, 25-18, 26-24
Miller def. Sully Buttes, 25-11, 25-18
Championship=
Miller def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 25-22, 25-19

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

Gronowski throws for 3 TDs South Dakota State wins 20th straight, 41-6 over Northern Iowa

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mark Gronowski threw for three touchdowns and ran for another and South Dakota State rolled to its 20th-straight victory on Saturday, 41-9 over Northern Iowa.

On the Jackrabbits' 109th homecoming day, which the school dubs Hobo Day Game, the top-ranked FCS team quickly took care of business with Gronowski and Isaiah Davis scoring on short touchdown runs for a 14-0 lead after one quarter.

South Dakota State (6-0, 3-0 Missouri Valley Football Conference) lost fumbles on consecutive possessions before scoring on five straight drives for a 41-3 lead.

Three of the scores were Gronowski passes — the first a 16-yarder to Jadon Janke for a 24-0 lead — before the Panthers kicked a field goal on the final play of the half.

In the third quarter, Zach Heins hauled in TD passes covering 6 and 23 yards.

Gronowski was 21-of-36 passing for 291 yards and Davis carried 17 times for 103 yards.

The game was far different than last year's matchup when the Jackrabbits won 31-28 on a last-play field goal, which clinched the conference title on their way to winning the national championship.

Northern Iowa (3-3, 2-1) had five turnovers. Sam Schnee caught four passes for 104 yards.

Leyland FG on last play lifts South Dakota State over Youngstown State 34-31

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Will Leyland kicked a 41-yard field goal on the final play of the game and South Dakota escaped with a 34-31 victory over Youngstown State on Saturday.

South Dakota (5-1, 3-0 Missouri Valley Football Conference) pulled out the win after seeing all of a 21-point, second-half lead evaporate.

Youngstown State (3-3, 1-2) trailed 31-10 midway through the third quarter when Mitch Davidson passed to Max Tomczak for a 66-yard touchdown. Dra Rushton scored on a 1-yard run early in the fourth quarter and Davidson capped a 12-play drive with a 6-yard scoring toss to Bryce Oliver with 5:48 left to play.

A pass-interference penalty gave the Coyotes the ball at the Penguins' 46-yard line with 19 seconds to go. Aidan Bouman hit Makai Lovett for a 22-yard gain to set up Leyland's game-winning kick.

South Dakota used Keyondray Jones' 34-yard touchdown run early in the second quarter to grab a 10-3 lead. Bouman fired a 36-yard scoring strike to Carter Bell with 94 seconds left to give the Coyotes a 17-3 lead at halftime.

Bouman opened the second half with a 10-yard touchdown toss to JJ Galbreath for a 24-3 advantage.

Davidson and Joey Farthing teamed up for a 65-yard touchdown to get Youngstown State within 14 points, but Bouman connected with Bell for a 56-yard score three plays later to make it 31-10.

Bouman finished with 369 yards and three touchdowns on 24-of-29 passing for the Coyotes. Bell had five receptions for 131 yards, while Galbreath had six catches for 101.

Davidson completed 15 of 26 passes for 267 yards and three touchdowns for Youngstown State. Rushton carried 16 times for 116 yards.

6 killed in Russian attacks on Ukraine as Kyiv continues drone counterstrikes

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Six people have been killed in Russian attacks on Ukraine in the past 24 hours, local officials reported Sunday.

Two people were killed and three more injured in the Kherson area after more than 100 shells bombarded the region over the weekend, local governor Oleksandr Prokudin wrote on social media.

Two guided bombs later hit key infrastructure in Kherson city, sparking a partial blackout and disruption to the area's water supply, reported the head of the city's military administration, Roman Mrochko.

Local officials said two more people had died in the Donetsk area and that a 57-year-old man and a 54-year-old woman had been killed by an airstrike that destroyed their home in the Kharkiv region.

Meanwhile, the Russian defense ministry announced Sunday that Ukraine had launched 27 drones in an overnight attack on western Russia.

Officials said that 18 drones were shot down over the Kursk region, leading to speculation in the Russian press that the attack could have been targeting the nearby Khalino military airfield.

Images on social media showed burning debris just 1.5 kilometers (a mile) from the airbase, which was previously attacked by Ukrainian forces at the end of September.

Writing on social media, Kursk governor Roman Starovoit said that debris had fallen in the region's namesake capital and the nearby village of Zorino. No casualties were reported.

Officials also said that two more drones had been shot down over Russia's Belgorod region, but did not confirm the fate of the remaining seven drones.

Packed Gaza hospitals warn that thousands could die as supplies run low and ground offensive looms

By NAJIB JOBAIN, SAMYA KULLAB and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Medics in Gaza warned Sunday that thousands could die as hospitals packed with wounded people run desperately low on fuel and basic supplies. Palestinians in the besieged coastal enclave struggled to find food, water and safety ahead of an expected Israeli ground offensive in the war sparked by Hamas' deadly attack.

Israeli forces, supported by a growing deployment of U.S. warships in the region, positioned themselves along Gaza's border and drilled for what Israel said would be a broad campaign to dismantle the militant group. A week of blistering airstrikes have demolished entire neighborhoods but failed to stem militant rocket fire into Israel.

The Gaza Health Ministry said 2,329 Palestinians have been killed since the fighting erupted, more than in the 2014 Gaza war, which lasted over six weeks. That makes this the deadliest of the five Gaza wars for both sides. More than 1,300 Israelis have been killed, the vast majority of them civilians killed in Hamas' Oct. 7 assault. This is the deadliest war for Israel since the 1973 conflict with Egypt and Syria.

Hospitals are expected to run out of generator fuel within two days, according to the U.N., which said that that would endanger the lives of thousands of patients. Gaza's sole power plant shut down for lack of fuel after Israel completely sealed off the 40-kilometer-long (25-mile-long) territory following the Hamas attack.

In Nasser Hospital, in the southern town of Khan Younis, intensive care rooms are packed with wounded patients, most of them children under the age of 3. Hundreds of people with severe blast injuries have come to the hospital, where fuel is expected to run out by Monday, said Dr. Mohammed Qandeel, a consultant at the critical care complex.

There are 35 patients in the ICU who require ventilators and another 60 on dialysis. If fuel runs out, "it means the whole health system will be shut down," he said, as children moaned in pain in the background. "All these patients are in danger of death if the electricity is cut off."

Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, the head of pediatrics at the Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza, said it did not evacuate despite Israeli orders. There are seven newborns in the ICU hooked up to ventilators, he said. "We cannot evacuate, that would mean death for them and other patients under our care."

Patients keep arriving with severed limbs, severe burns and other life-threatening injuries. "It's frightening," he said.

The Shifa hospital in Gaza City, the territory's largest, said it would bury 100 bodies in a mass grave as an emergency measure after its morgue overflowed, with relatives unable to bury their loved ones. Tens of thousands of people seeking safety have gathered in the hospital compound.

Gaza was already in a humanitarian crisis due to a growing shortage of water and medical supplies caused by the Israeli siege. With some bakeries closing, residents said they were unable to buy bread. Israel has also cut off water, forcing many to rely on brackish wells.

Israel has ordered more than 1 million Palestinians — almost half the territory's population — to move south. The military says it is trying to clear away civilians ahead of a major campaign against Hamas in the north, where it says the militants have extensive networks of tunnels, bunkers and rocket launchers. Hamas urged people to stay in their homes.

The U.N. and aid groups say the mass exodus within Gaza, along with Israel's complete siege, will cause untold human suffering. The World Health Organization said the evacuation "could be tantamount to a death sentence" for the more than 2,000 patients in northern hospitals.

The military said Sunday that it would not target a single route south between 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., again urging Palestinians to leave the north en masse. The military offered two corridors and a longer window the day before. It says hundreds of thousands have already fled south.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees says an estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza in a single week.

The U.S. has been trying to broker a deal to reopen Egypt's Rafah crossing with Gaza to allow Americans

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and other foreigners to leave and humanitarian aid amassed on the Egyptian side to be brought in. The crossing, which was closed because of airstrikes early in the war, has yet to reopen.

Israel has said the siege will only be lifted when the captives are returned.

Hundreds of relatives of the estimated 150 people captured by Hamas in Israel and taken to Gaza gathered outside the Israeli Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv late Saturday, demanding their release.

"This is my cry out to the world: Please help bring my family, my wife and three kids," said Avihai Broditz of Kfar Azza. Many expressed anger toward the government, saying they still have no information about their loved ones.

In southern Israel, residents of the town of Sderot, one of several communities targeted in the Hamas rampage, were boarding buses for other parts of the country to escape continuing rocket fire. Thousands have already left under a state-sponsored program that puts them in hotels elsewhere in the country.

"The kids are traumatized, they can't sleep at night," Yossi Edri told Channel 13 before boarding a bus.

The military said Sunday an airstrike in southern Gaza had killed a Hamas commander blamed for the killings at Nirim, one of several communities Hamas had attacked in southern Israel. Israel said it struck over 100 military targets overnight, including command centers and rocket launchers.

In the north, meanwhile, Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon fired an anti-tank missile toward an Israeli army post and Israel responded with artillery fire. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said a 40-year-old man was killed, without giving his nationality. Israel later closed off areas up to 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) from the border and ordered civilians within 2 kilometers (1.25 miles) to shelter in safe rooms.

Israel and Hezbollah, which fought a devastating war in 2006, have traded fire along the border several times since the start of the latest Gaza war.

Israel has called up some 360,000 military reserves and massed troops and tanks along the border with Gaza. Israelis living near the Gaza border, including residents of the town of Sderot, continued to be evacuated. Militants in Gaza have fired over 5,500 rockets since the hostilities erupted, many reaching deep into Israel, as Israeli warplanes pound Gaza.

In a televised address Saturday night, Israel's chief military spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said "we are going to attack Gaza City very broadly soon," without giving a timetable for the attack.

When asked at a press briefing whether Israel would treat civilians who stay in the north as combatants, Lt. Col. Richard Hecht, another army spokesman, said: "That's why we've encouraged people not involved with Hamas to move south."

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said late Saturday that the U.S. was moving a second carrier strike group, the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, to the eastern Mediterranean, in a show of force meant to deter Hamas allies like Iran and Hezbollah from seeking to widen the war.

Hamas remained defiant. In a televised speech Saturday, Ismail Haniyeh, a top official based abroad, said that "all the massacres" will not break the Palestinian people.

Hamas spokesperson Jihad Taha told The Associated Press in Beirut that Israel "does not dare to fight a ground battle," because of the captives. He alluded to the possible entry of Hezbollah and other regional players in the battle should Israel launch a ground invasion but declined to say whether they had made any concrete commitments.

Live updates | Day 9 of the latest Israel-Hamas war

By The Associated Press

Hundreds of thousands of Gaza residents sought to heed Israel's order to evacuate roughly the northern half of the territory, while others huddled at hospitals in the north on Sunday. Gaza's 2.3 million civilians faced a deepening struggle for food, water and safety, and braced for a looming invasion more than a week after Hamas militants launched a deadly assault on Israel.

Israeli forces, supported by a growing deployment of U.S. warships in the region, positioned themselves along Gaza's border and drilled for what Israel said would be a campaign by air, land and sea to dismantle the militant group. Israel dropped leaflets over Gaza City in the north and renewed warnings on social

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media, ordering more than 1 million Gaza residents to move south.

Currently:

1. People are struggling to flee from northern Gaza while also grappling with a growing water crisis after Israel stopped the flow of resources to the Gaza Strip

2. The Israeli military said Sunday that it would refrain from targeting a single route south from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., again urging Palestinians to leave the north en masse. The military offered two corridors and a longer window the day before.

3. No decision on a ground offensive has been announced, although Israel has been massing troops along the Gaza border

4. The war has claimed more than 3,600 lives since Hamas launched an incursion on Oct. 7

5. Gaza's hospitals are expected to run out of fuel for emergency generators within two days, according to the U.N., which said that that would endanger the lives of thousands of patients

Here's what's happening in the latest Israel-Hamas war:

ISRAELIS IN THE SOUTHERN CITY OF SDEROT NEAR GAZA BOARD BUSES TO ESCAPE HAMAS' ROCKETS
JERUSALEM, Israel — Residents of the southern Israeli city of Sderot boarded buses for other parts of the country on Sunday to escape the rocket barrages from the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian Hamas militants who infiltrated Israel on a rampage that killed more than 1,300 people more than a week ago have also bombarded the country with thousands of rockets. Sderot, a city of about 34,000 people located about a mile from the Gaza border, has been a frequent target.

One of the residents, Yossi Edri, told Channel 13 before boarding a bus that "children are traumatized, they can't sleep at night."

Thousands already left the city last week under a state-sponsored program that puts them up in hotels elsewhere as a respite from the violence. The program in Sderot was expanded Sunday.

"There is no reason to return to Sderot," Mayor Alon Davidi told Army Radio. "It's on the front line."

GERMANY WARNS AGAINST ALL TRAVEL TO ISRAEL, PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES AND LEBANON
BERLIN — The German government has issued a travel warning for Israel, the Palestinian territories and Lebanon. Sunday's warning is a big step up from previous longstanding partial travel warnings for the Gaza Strip and some areas of Lebanon.

The German foreign office said in a statement that "due to the escalation of violence in the region in connection with the massive terrorist attacks by Hamas on Oct. 7, we are warning against traveling to the countries and areas mentioned."

The government also called on all German citizens affected by the warning to register on its crisis precaution list where it provides information on departure options.

In recent days, the German government has helped with the evacuation of more than 2,800 German citizens and their family members from Israel. On Saturday evening, the German army started using military airplanes for evacuations.

More than 100,000 residents of Israel hold dual German and Israeli citizenship.

WITH FUEL RUNNING OUT AND ISRAEL'S GROUND OFFENSIVE APPROACHING, GAZA HOSPITALS WARN OF AN IMPENDING TRAGEDY

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip — In Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, Gaza's second largest hospital, the ICU rooms are packed full of wounded patients, most of them children below the age of 3. Hundreds of people with blast injuries have come to the hospital in the past eight days and many risk death as fuel is expected to run out by Monday, said Dr. Mohammed Qandeel, a consultant at the critical care complex of the hospital.

Many patients have severe and complex injuries and need intensive care, he said. "The difference with this escalation is we don't have medical aid coming in from outside, the border is closed, electricity is off and this constitutes a high danger for our patients," he said.

He said there are 35 patients in the ICU unit who depend on ventilators to stay alive. A further 60 patients are on dialysis. If fuel runs out, "it means the whole health system will be shut down, the services will be off," he said. "We we are talking about another catastrophe, another war crime, a historical tragedy."

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"All these patients are in danger of death if the electricity is cut off," he said.

Further north, In the Kamal Alwan Hospital, the head of pediatrics Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya said the hospital did not evacuate despite the Israeli order to move south because there was no way to move patients without risking their lives.

"They have asked us to evacuate the hospital but we did not answer that order because evacuating the hospitals means death to all the children and patients under our care. We shall not evacuate the hospital even if it costs us our lives," he said, adding that there are seven newborns in the ICU hooked up to ventilators.

CROSS-BORDER FIRE ON LEBANON BORDER KILLS ONE PERSON

JERUSALEM — Cross-border fire erupted between Israel and Lebanon early Sunday, killing at least one person on the Israeli side of the border.

Both the Israeli military and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah acknowledged the fighting.

Hezbollah said it shelled Israeli military positions in the northern border town of Shtula. The group said in a statement the attack was in retaliation for Israeli shelling that killed Reuters videographer Issam Abdallah on Friday and two Lebanese civilians on Saturday.

Israel has responded by targeting the outskirts of the town of Ait el-Shaab, the Israeli military said.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said a 40-year-old man was killed in the attack from Lebanon, without elaborating or giving his nationality

As Israel wages its war against Hamas over last week's unprecedented attack by the Gaza Strip militant group, there's been concern that Hezbollah could enter the war as well as Israel moves toward launching a ground offensive in Gaza.

EGYPT BORDER CROSSING REMAINS CLOSED

CAIRO — The Rafah crossing point between Egypt and Gaza remained closed on Sunday morning, as Egyptian authorities continued negotiations with Israel, the U.S. and Palestinian militant groups over allowing aid to flow into the besieged strip and letting Americans and other foreigners and wounded Palestinians cross into Egypt, two Egyptian officials said.

Convoys of humanitarian aid, including shipments from Turkey and Jordan, have been waiting near the crossing point for delivery to Gaza, they said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media.

BLINKEN MEETS WITH SAUDI CROWN PRINCE

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh as the Biden administration scrambles to prevent the Israel-Hamas war from becoming a broader regional conflict.

Blinken and the crown prince spoke Sunday for a little less than an hour at his private farm outside the capital, U.S. officials said. Asked how the meeting went, Blinken replied "very productive," but there were no other immediate details. The meeting, which had been expected late Saturday night but never materialized, was closed to media.

The talks came just hours after the Israeli military warned that a full-scale assault on Hamas positions in the Gaza Strip would begin soon amid increasingly dire warnings that the expected ground invasion will have devastating consequences for Palestinian civilians.

State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a statement after the meeting: "The Secretary highlighted the United States' unwavering focus on halting terrorist attacks by Hamas, securing the release of all hostages, and preventing the conflict from spreading. The two affirmed their shared commitment to protecting civilians and to advancing stability across the Middle East and beyond."

Prince Mohammed is the sixth Arab leader Blinken has seen in person since he arrived in the Middle East on Thursday, stopping first in Israel to reaffirm the Biden administration's pledge to stand with and support Israel. From Israel, Blinken has traveled throughout the region meeting the leaders of Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. He plans to visit Egypt later Sunday.

PALESTINIAN DEATHS SOAR PAST 2,300

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The Gaza Health Ministry says 2,329 Palestinians have been killed since the latest fighting erupted, making this the deadliest of the five Gaza wars for Palestinians.

The death toll on Sunday surpassed that of the third war between Israel and Hamas, in the summer of 2014, when 2,251 Palestinians, including 1,462 civilians, were killed, according to U.N. figures.

That war lasted six weeks, and 74 people were killed on the Israeli side, including six civilians.

The current war erupted a week ago when Hamas militants stormed into southern Israel in a shocking surprise attack. More than 1,300 Israelis have been killed in the initial, wide-ranging assault and in rocket attacks from Gaza. The overwhelming majority were civilians.

For Israel, this is the deadliest war since the 1973 conflict with Egypt and Syria.

INDONESIANS RALLY TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS

JAKARTA, Indonesia — More than 2,000 Muslims rallied in Indonesia's capital on Sunday to show solidarity with Palestinians and called for an end to the Israel-Hamas war.

Waving Indonesian and Palestinian flags and signs that read "Save Palestinians," they gathered outside Al Azhar Grand Mosque in southern Jakarta.

"Let's pray for an end to the war, which is full of tears and blood of the martyrs," a speaker told the crowd with a loudspeaker. "Victory will at the end be in the hands of the Palestinian people."

The rally ended peacefully and the community raised money for humanitarian aid in Gaza.

Similar rallies were held Saturday in other major cities across the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, including in Bandung, Yogyakarta, Solo and Medan.

US DEFENSE SECRETARY SAYS 2ND CARRIER IS PART OF EFFORT TO PREVENT WIDENING OF WAR

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is sending the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower carrier strike group to the Eastern Mediterranean to support Israel.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the additional carrier was being sent "as part of our effort to deter hostile actions against Israel or any efforts toward widening this war following Hamas's attack on Israel."

The Eisenhower will join the USS Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group, which is already sailing near Israel, to bolster U.S. presence there with a host of destroyers, fighter aircraft and cruisers.

The Eisenhower deployed from its homeport of Norfolk, Va., Friday. Having two carriers in the region can provide a host of options.

They can disperse and serve as primary command and control operations centers, to cover a wide swath of area. They can conduct information warfare. They can launch and recover E2-Hawkeye surveillance planes that provide early warnings on missile launches, conduct surveillance and manage the airspace.

Both ships carry F-18 fighter jets that could fly intercepts or strike targets. They also have significant capabilities for humanitarian work, including an onboard hospital with medics, surgeons and doctors, and they sail with helicopters that can be used to airlift critical supplies in or victims out.

US TO SEND A SECOND CARRIER STRIKE GROUP TO SUPPORT ISRAEL

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is sending the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower carrier strike group to the Eastern Mediterranean to support Israel, two defense officials told The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to discuss the move ahead of its announcement.

The Eisenhower will join the USS Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group, which is already sailing near Israel, to bolster U.S. presence there with a host of destroyers, fighter aircraft and cruisers.

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— By Tara Copp

HAMAS SAYS THREE KILLED AFTER CROSSING BORDER BETWEEN LEBANON AND ISRAEL

BEIRUT — Hamas announced early Sunday that three of its members from Lebanon had been killed after crossing the border from Lebanon into Israel and clashing with Israeli forces.

The group said in a statement that its militants had “inflicted losses” before being targeted by Israeli airstrikes.

Since the outbreak of the latest Hamas-Israel war on Oct. 7, there have been sporadic border clashes between Israeli forces and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, a Hamas ally, and with Palestinian armed groups in Lebanon including Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Powerful earthquake shakes west Afghanistan a week after devastating quakes hit same region

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A powerful 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck western Afghanistan on Sunday, just over a week after strong quakes and aftershocks killed thousands of people and flattened entire villages in the same region.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the latest quake’s epicenter was about 34 kilometers (21 miles) outside Herat, the provincial capital, and eight kilometers (five miles) below the surface.

Aid group Doctors Without Borders said two people were reported dead while Herat Regional Hospital received over 100 people injured in Sunday’s temblor.

Mohammad Zahir Noorzai, head of the emergency relief team in Herat province said one person died and nearly 150 others were injured. He added that casualty numbers might rise, as they are yet to reach all affected areas.

Sayed Kazim Rafiqi, 42, a Herta city resident, said he had never seen such devastation before with the majority of houses damaged and “people terrified.” Rafiqi and others headed to the hospital to donate much-needed blood.

“We have to help in any way possible,” he said.

The earthquakes on Oct. 7 flattened whole villages in Herat, in one of the most destructive quakes in the country’s recent history.

More than 90% of the people killed a week ago were women and children, U.N. officials reported Thursday.

Taliban officials said the earlier quakes killed more than 2,000 people across the province. The epicenter was in Zenda Jan district, where 1,294 people died, 1,688 were injured and every home was destroyed, according to U.N. figures.

The initial quake, numerous aftershocks and a second 6.3-magnitude quake on Wednesday flattened villages, destroying hundreds of mud-brick homes that could not withstand such force. Schools, health clinics and other village facilities also collapsed.

Besides rubble and funerals after that devastation, there was little left of the villages in the region’s dusty hills. Survivors are struggling to come to terms with the loss of multiple family members and in many places, living residents are outnumbered by volunteers who came to search the debris and dig mass graves.

Poles vote in a high-stakes election that will determine whether right-wing party stays in power

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poland is holding a high-stakes election on Sunday that has energized many voters, with the ruling conservative nationalist party pitted against opposition groups that accuse it of eroding the foundations of the democratic system.

The ruling party, Law and Justice, has a devoted base of supporters in the Central European nation of 38 million who appreciate its defense of Catholic traditions and its social spending on pensioners and families with children. The payments have given relief to poor people.

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But support for the party has shrunk since the last election in 2019 — when it won nearly 44% of the vote — amid high inflation, allegations of cronyism and bickering with European allies. Law and Justice has been polling in recent weeks at over 30%, making it the single most popular party but still at risk of losing its majority in parliament.

In that case, some speculate that Law and Justice could need the support of the far-right Confederation party to govern, though both parties campaigned saying that was not an option.

Many Poles feel like it is the most important election since 1989 when a new democracy was born after decades of communism. The health of the nation's constitutional order, its legal stance on LGBTQ+ rights and abortion, and the foreign alliances of a country that has been a crucial ally to Ukraine are all at stake.

Polling in recent days suggested that opposition parties have a chance to deprive the governing populists of an unprecedented third term in a row.

The Civic Coalition, Third Way and New Left have campaigned on promises to repair the rule of law and ties with the EU and other allies if they manage to gain power. The final outcome of the vote could be ultimately decided by the small margins gained or lost by the smaller parties.

Tomasz Druzynski, an information technology specialist, voted in Warsaw saying he believes change is possible.

"I believe in it and I think this is the first chance in eight years to change something. And I hope this change will come," Druzynski said.

The continued growth of Poland's dynamic economy is also on voters' minds.

Jan Molak, an 80-year-old supporter of the ruling party, credited it with creating a more just economic system and the development boom of recent years.

"Things are getting better and better," he said after voting in Warsaw.

Others see economic threats in the way the party has governed and believe the high social spending has helped to fuel inflation.

There is also a high level of state ownership in the Polish economy, and the ruling party has built up a system of patronage, handing out thousands of jobs and contracts to its loyalists. Some fear over time that will cause damage.

The EU, whose funding has driven much of the economic transformation, is also withholding billions of euros (dollars) in funding to Poland over what it views as democratic erosion.

Political experts say the election will not be fully fair after eight years of governance by Law and Justice, which has eroded checks and balances to gain more control over state institutions, including the courts, public media and the electoral process itself.

Retired nurse Barbara Burs voted early in Warsaw, saying she cast her vote to change the government because she wants a better country for her children and grandchildren — a "just and undivided Poland."

The fate of Poland's relationship with Ukraine is also at stake. The Confederation party campaigned on an anti-Ukraine message, accusing the country of lacking gratitude to Poland for its help in the war.

While Poland has been a staunch ally of Ukraine and a transit hub for Western weapons, relations chilled over the Ukrainian grain that entered Poland's market.

Some 29 million Poles aged 18 and above are eligible to vote. They are choosing 460 members of the lower house, or Sejm, and 100 for the Senate for four-year terms.

A referendum on migration, the retirement age and other issues is being held simultaneously. Opposition groups oppose the referendum, accusing the government of seeking to tap into emotions to mobilize its electorate in the close and unpredictable race. Some called on voters to boycott the referendum.

At one polling station on the southern edge of Warsaw, people could be seen apparently declining to vote in the referendum, casting just two ballots into the assigned boxes. Voters were offered three ballots, one for the Sejm, one for the Senate and one for the referendum.

More than 31,000 voting stations across Poland are open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Over 400 voting stations will operate abroad. In a sign of the huge emotions being generated by the vote, more than 600,000 Poles registered to vote abroad.

On Friday, the Foreign Ministry fired its spokesman after he said that not all the votes cast abroad could

be counted before the deadline for submitting them, which would cause them to be invalidated. The ministry said he was dismissed for spreading "false information."

Exit poll results by global polling research firm Ipsos will be announced after polls close.

Individual parties need to get at least 5% of votes to win seats in parliament, coalitions need at least 8% of votes.

Schools near a Maui wildfire burn zone are reopening. Parents wrestle with whether to send kids back

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER Associated Press

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP) — Children take their places at folding tables on a church patio several miles from where their school burned down. Plastic tubs hold brand new textbooks quickly shipped from a publisher. Recess is on the resort golf course across the street.

The wind-driven wildfire that leveled the historic Maui town of Lahaina this summer displaced many pupils not just from their homes, but from their schools, forcing their families and education officials to scramble to find other ways to teach them.

Now, more than two months after the Aug. 8 wildfire killed at least 98 people, the three public schools that survived are set to reopen this week, posing an emotional crossroads for traumatized children and their families as they decide whether to go back to those campuses or continue at the other schools that took them in.

Some parents said they won't send their children back because they worry the fire left toxins behind, despite assurances from education officials that the campuses are safe.

"I'm feeling optimistic about it and grateful we get to go back," said Cailee Cuaresma, a 10th-grader at Lahainaluna High School. "I'm grateful our school is still standing."

For the past month, Cuaresma has attended classes at the makeshift campus of Sacred Hearts School, a Catholic school founded in 1862. Most of the school burned down, but its leaders quickly got classes up and running at Sacred Hearts Mission Church 10 miles (16 kilometers) away.

Sacred Hearts and other private schools across the state took in displaced public school students, such as Cuaresma, while offering a year of free tuition. Other students bused more than 45 minutes away to public schools on the other side of Maui or opted for remote classes.

On a recent school day at Sacred Hearts' temporary site, teachers moved students between pockets of shade to keep them out of the relentless Lahaina sun. Principal Tonata Lolesio told students assembled on cushioned pews in a chapel that it might be two years before they can return to a rebuilt school.

"Pray that it can be sooner," she said.

Meanwhile, space limitations require students to attend classes on staggered days. Workers have been readying an adjacent lawn for tents allowing at least the younger children to attend school daily.

Cuaresma sat with a group of younger students petting a golden retriever comfort dog brought in by Assistance Dogs of Hawaii. Her home survived the fire but her dad only recently got his job back at a hotel. Being at Sacred Hearts was a good opportunity because the work was challenging, she said.

One public school in Lahaina, King Kamehameha III Elementary, was destroyed. Pupils from there will share space with Princess Nāhi'ena'ena Elementary, which was closed for post-fire cleaning along with Lahainaluna High and Lahaina Intermediate.

The schools are just blocks away from piles of potentially dangerous ash, prompting concerns from parents, but education officials have said air-quality tests show it is safe to reopen.

"He is not going to be stepping one foot back there," said Tiffany Teruya, the mother of a Lahaina Intermediate eighth-grader.

She and her son, Pu'uwai Naho'oikaika, have been staying in a hotel since their apartment building burned down. He has been participating in a Hawaiian immersion program connected to Lahaina Intermediate.

After the school closed, the program held classes outdoors, away from the burn zone, and focused on cultural learning such as making bamboo trumpets and working in taro patches.

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Teruya doesn't know where she will send her son once the school reopens and the immersion program returns to campus, she said.

Debbie Tau's two children won't return to their Lahaina schools because she also is worried the air isn't safe. They live in a Lahaina neighborhood north of the burn zone. She plans to drive them after fall break, when the school district stops providing busing to other schools in Kihei, about 45 minutes away.

"Asbestos is something that really scares me because it's a carcinogen. And 10, 20, 30 years down the road, our kids could have cancer," she said. "I feel like it's like back to COVID, where every decision you make is wrong and you're, like, putting your kids' lives at risk."

Some of the public school students who have joined private schools plan to stay. Patrick Williams said the first time he saw his son Kupa'a praying at Sacred Hearts reminded him of his own childhood in Mississippi.

"I'm like, 'Oh, this is where he should have been all along,'" Williams said.

The family, whose home wasn't touched by the fire, will make sacrifices to afford tuition, especially because Williams lost most of his Lahaina water delivery routes to the fire.

The difficult circumstances have prompted teachers to try different ways of connecting with the displaced students.

At Maui Preparatory Academy, which at one point had taken in 150 public school students, science and math teacher Gabby Suzik said she checks in often with her Lahainaluna High students who lost their homes. Suzik lost the home she and her husband bought last year on Lahaina's Front Street.

When some students showed up at Maui Prep with no shoes, no backpack and no pencil, she told them not to worry, noting she was wearing borrowed clothes.

"I just like being honest with them and saying, like, 'Hey, you know, I get what you're going through and you can talk to me anytime,'" Suzik said.

During a Hawaiian culture lesson at Sacred Hearts, teacher Charlene Ako sought to make connections with third-graders from Princess Nāhi'ena'ena Elementary by showing them a picture of the princess with a lei of bird feathers around her head, a symbol of the monarchy that once ruled the Hawaiian kingdom.

Ako had the students draw native Hawaiian birds. Maile Asuncion, 9, drew a red iwi, also known as a scarlet honeycreeper.

Until she was 7, she and her family lived in a cottage behind her grandfather's home near historic Waiola Church, which burned, and where the princess is buried. The cottage burned down, as did her grandfather's home, forcing him to move to Kihei.

Maile and her family have not been able to return to their new home in a condo, which survived but is in the burn zone. They now live in the hotel where her father works.

Many of Maile's friends have left the school, including her best friend, whom she desperately wants to see again: "She's still on Maui. But I don't know where she is right now."

Republican Jeff Landry wins the Louisiana governor's race, reclaims office for GOP

By SARA CLINE Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Attorney General Jeff Landry, a Republican backed by former President Donald Trump, has won the Louisiana governor's race, holding off a crowded field of candidates.

The win is a major victory for the GOP as they reclaim the governor's mansion for the first time in eight years. Landry will replace current Gov. John Bel Edwards, who was unable to seek reelection due to consecutive term limits. Edwards is the only Democratic governor in the Deep South.

"Today's election says that our state is united," Landry said during his victory speech Saturday night. "It's a wake up call and it's a message that everyone should hear loud and clear, that we the people in this state are going to expect more out of our government from here on out."

By garnering more than half of the votes, Landry avoided an expected runoff under the state's "jungle primary" system. The last time there wasn't a gubernatorial runoff in Louisiana was in 2011 and 2007, when Bobby Jindal, a Republican, won the state's top position.

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The governor-elect, who celebrated with supporters during a watch party in Broussard, Louisiana, described the election as "historic."

Landry, 52, has raised the profile of attorney general since taking office in 2016. He has used his office to champion conservative policy positions. More recently, Landry has been in the spotlight over his involvement and staunch support of Louisiana laws that have drawn much debate, including banning gender-affirming medical care for transgender youths, the state's near-total abortion ban that doesn't have exceptions for cases of rape and incest, and a law restricting youths' access to "sexually explicit material" in libraries, which opponents fear will target LGBTQ+ books.

Landry has repeatedly clashed with Edwards over matters in the state, including LGBTQ rights, state finances and the death penalty. However the Republican has also repeatedly put Louisiana in national fights, including over President Joe Biden's policies that limit oil and gas production and COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

Landry spent two years on Capitol Hill, beginning in 2011, where he represented Louisiana's 3rd U.S. Congressional District. Prior to his political career, Landry served 11 years in the Louisiana Army National Guard, was a local police officer, sheriff's deputy and attorney.

During the gubernatorial election season, Landry had long been considered the early frontrunner, winning the endorsement of high profile Republicans — Trump and U.S. Rep Steve Scalise — and a controversial early endorsement from the state GOP. In addition, Landry has enjoyed a sizable fundraising advantage over the rest of the field throughout the race.

Landry has made clear that one of his top priorities as governor would be addressing crime in urban areas. The Republican has pushed a tough-on-crime rhetoric, calling for more "transparency" in the justice system and continuing to support capital punishment. Louisiana has the nation's second-highest murder rate per capita.

Along the campaign trail, Landry faced political attacks from opponents on social media and in interviews, calling him a bully and making accusations of backroom deals to gain support. He also faced scrutiny for skipping all but one of the major-televised debates.

Among other gubernatorial candidates on the ballot were GOP state Sen. Sharon Hewitt; Hunter Lundy, a Lake Charles-based attorney running as an independent; Republican state Treasurer John Schroder; Stephen Waguespack, the Republican former head of a powerful business group and former senior aide to then-Gov. Jindal; and Shawn Wilson, the former head of Louisiana's Transportation and Development Department and sole major Democratic candidate.

Wilson, who was the runner-up, said during his concession speech that he had called Landry to congratulate him on his victory. The Democrat said during their phone call, he asked the governor-elect to keep Medicaid expansion, increase teacher pay and "educate our children the way they need to be educated."

"The citizens of Louisiana spoke, or didn't speak, and made a decision," Wilson said.

Also on Saturday's ballot were five other statewide contests and four ballot measures.

Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser won reelection Saturday night, but other races won't be decided until November.

One closely watched race is for attorney general, which holds the highest legal authority in the state's executive branch. Liz Baker Murrill, a Republican who currently works at the Attorney General's Office and Lindsey Cheek, a Democrat and trial attorney, have advanced to a November runoff.

Also advancing to a runoff in the state treasurer race is John Fleming, Republican, and Dustin Granger, Democrat.

In the secretary of state race, First Assistant Secretary of State Nancy Landry, a Republican, and Gwen Collins-Greenup, a Democrat and attorney, will advance to a runoff. The winner in November will have the task of replacing Louisiana's outdated voting machines, which do not produce the paper ballots critical to ensuring accurate election results.

There are hundreds of additional localized races, including all 39 Senate seats and 105 House seats, however a significant number of incumbents are running unopposed.

Australia looks for new ways to lift Indigenous living standards after referendum loss

By ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia will look for new ways to lift Indigenous living standards after voters soundly rejected a proposal to create a new advocacy committee, the deputy prime minister said on Sunday.

Every state and mainland territory apart from Australian Capital Territory voted against a proposal to enshrine in the constitution an Indigenous Voice to Parliament to advocate on behalf of the nation's most disadvantaged ethnic minority.

Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles said his government remained committed to improving Indigenous welfare to close the eight-year gap in average life expectancies between Indigenous Australians and the wider community.

"In terms of exactly what the precise steps forward are from here is a matter that we need to take some time to work through and I think people can understand that," Marles told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"Coming out of this referendum there is a greater call for action on closing the gap," Marles added.

Indigenous Voice campaigners were flying Aboriginal flags at half-staff across Australia on Sunday as a mark of their disappointment.

Proponents had hoped that the Voice's advice would lead to better government service delivery and improved outcomes for Indigenous people.

Accounting for only 3.8% of the population, Indigenous Australians have a suicide rate twice that of the national average, are more likely to be incarcerated than other Australians and suffer from diseases in the remote Outback that have been eradicated from other wealthy countries.

Latest counting on Sunday found more than 60% of voters had opposed the Voice. There was majority support for the Voice in Outback polling booths in the Northern Territory. That part of the country has Australia's highest proportion of Aboriginal residents and the result suggests the Voice was popular among Indigenous Australians.

Many Voice supporters accused opposition lawmakers of spreading misinformation and disinformation about the Voice.

Marcia Langton, an Indigenous academic who helped draft the Voice proposal, said opposition leader Peter Dutton through his "no" campaign had "cemented racism into the body politic."

"The nation has been poisoned. There is no fix for this terrible outcome," Langton wrote in *The Saturday Paper*.

Dutton accused Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of dividing Australians by holding the referendum.

"This is the referendum that Australia did not need to have. The proposal and the process should have been designed to unite Australians, not to divide us," Dutton said.

Albanese blamed Dutton's campaigning against the measure for the failure. No referendum has ever succeeded without support of the major parties.

"When you do the hard things, when you aim high, sometimes you fall short," Albanese said after conceding defeat.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney, who is Aboriginal, told Indigenous people that the recent months of referendum campaign had been "tough."

"But be proud of who you are. Be proud of your identity," a tearful Burney said after conceding the referendum had been rejected.

"Be proud of the 65,000 years of history and culture that you are a part of. And your rightful place in this country. We will carry on and we'll move forward and we will thrive," she added.

It is the second time that Australians have rejected a referendum that would have included recognition of Indigenous people in the constitution.

When a referendum was last held in 1999, Australians rejected adding a preamble to the constitution

— an introduction that carried only symbolic and no legal significance — acknowledging that Indigenous Australians had inhabited the country “since time immemorial” and were “honored for their ancient and continuing cultures.”

Australians have now rejected 37 referendums since the constitution took effect 122 years ago. Only eight have succeeded and none since 1977.

The Israel-Hamas war has roiled US campuses. Students on each side say colleges aren't doing enough

By JOCELYN GECKER, CHRISSIE THOMPSON and MICHAEL MELIA AP Education Writers

America's colleges aspire to be places where ideas meet and common ground emerges. As the death toll rises in the Israel-Hamas war, they have become seats of anguish.

Many Jewish students and their allies, some with family and friends in Israel, have demanded bold reckonings and strong condemnation after the attacks by Hamas militants, who stormed from the blockaded Gaza Strip into nearby Israeli towns, killing and abducting civilians and soldiers.

Meanwhile, some Muslim students have joined with allies to call for a recognition of decades of suffering by Palestinians in Gaza, plus condemnation of the response by Israel. After the Hamas attack, Israel launched a total blockade of Gaza; airstrikes have flattened buildings and homes, killing civilians and forcing hundreds of thousands to evacuate.

On many campuses, these students agree on one thing: Their colleges, which are increasingly staking out positions of neutrality, have not done enough to support them.

College officials, already under pressure to allow conservative opinions on campus, have been trying to preserve free speech and open debate. But the conflict has presented an excruciating challenge.

“This is an incredibly difficult free speech moment on campuses, where both sides have deeply passionate, entrenched, intractable views,” said Alex Morey, director of campus rights advocacy at the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, which is recommending that colleges try to remain institutionally neutral.

“We want to create an ideal climate for debate and discussion on campus, and the only way we can do that is if we step out of the debate,” Morey said.

Yet staying neutral is not always easy. Students for whom the conflict is intensely personal want their administrations to recognize how they are affected by traumatic events and use their stature to denounce what they see as moral wrongs.

Colleges across the country have put out statements on the war. Many have faced criticism for not going far enough in condemning Hamas' attack, or for failing to condemn civilian deaths in Gaza, or for leaving out context and history from the region. As of Saturday the death toll was more than 2,200 in Gaza and over 1,300 on the Israeli side — many of those civilians — and roughly 1,500 Hamas militants killed in the fighting, according to authorities.

Stanford University, for one, has shifted more toward neutrality as events unfolded.

On Monday, officials at the California school said they were “deeply saddened and horrified by the death and human suffering” in Israel and Gaza and hoped for “thoughtful opportunities for sharing knowledge” on campus. In response, dozens of faculty signed a letter demanding “unambiguous condemnation” of the Hamas attacks.

On Wednesday, Stanford sent an “update” explaining its position on neutrality. Faculty and students “should not expect frequent commentary from us in the future,” college officials said.

The letter from interim President Richard Saller and Provost Jenny Martinez did note an incident in which a lecturer reportedly singled out Jewish students in an undergraduate class, asked them to stand in a corner and told the room that was what Israel does to the Palestinians. The lecturer also reportedly called an Israeli student a colonizer.

The incident is under investigation and the lecturer has been removed, Saller and Martinez said. “Academic freedom,” they said, “does not permit identity-based targeting of students.”

At Columbia University, the campus was closed Thursday as a safety measure as hundreds attended

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dueling pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian rallies. Some students were angry that a statement from the university president did not go far enough to acknowledge Palestinian deaths.

"Clearly we're all against violence, but we're just asking for the lives of Palestinians to be acknowledged as well," said Nadia Ali, who demonstrated alongside hundreds of peers. Many were dressed in the green, red and black of the Palestinian flag and wearing medical face masks.

Across the Manhattan campus' main lawn, demonstrators draped themselves in the blue-and-white Israeli flag and held prayer and song circles.

One demonstrator, Yola Ashkenazie, said some Jewish students feel unsafe: "The rise in anti-Semitism on our campus has been abhorrent."

A day earlier, a 19-year-old woman was charged with assaulting a student in a dispute over posters bearing the names and images of hostages being held by Hamas.

At Yale University, "Free Palestine" messages were written in chalk around campus one night. The following night, some students put up posters of Israelis taken hostage with the word "Kidnapped."

There was also controversy over social media posts by a professor of American studies, Zareena Grewal, who wrote after the Hamas attack: "Settlers are not civilians. This is not hard." A petition circulated demanding her removal; Grewal did not respond to a request for comment.

In a statement, the university said it "is committed to freedom of expression" and Grewal's comments on personal accounts "represent her own views."

Eytan Israel, a 21-year-old sophomore, said that response fell short.

"Just seeing that, and Yale not doing anything, does feel like a betrayal, even if the statements they've been making have been supportive," said Israel, who is Jewish.

Talking politics is inevitably sensitive on campuses with diverse populations, said Hussam Ayloush, CEO of the California branch of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

But if colleges choose to issue official statements, Ayloush said, "then do it morally."

"Don't be selective about which lives are more valued than others. Every innocent life is important. Do it accurately, so we're not just commenting on actions but we're also commenting on ... the root causes of the actions," he said, pointing to Israel's treatment of Palestinians during decades of conflict.

Some of the most notable recent disputes have come at Harvard University, where the Palestine Solidarity Committee student group released a statement holding Israel "entirely responsible for all unfolding violence," cosigned by a few dozen other student organizations. At least one student had a job offer rescinded as a result of the statement.

Then Accuracy in Media, a conservative group, arranged for a billboard truck to drive around campus showing the faces of students associated with the groups. "Harvard's leading anti-Semites," it called them.

Former Harvard President Lawrence Summers, who is Jewish, was critical of university leadership for appearing "at best neutral towards acts of terror against the Jewish state of Israel."

"In nearly 50 years of @Harvard affiliation, I have never been as disillusioned and alienated as I am today," Summers said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

A day later Harvard President Claudine Gay condemned "terrorist atrocities perpetrated by Hamas" and said that while students have the right to speak out, "no student group — not even 30 student groups — speaks for Harvard University or its leadership."

Summers joined the university's Hillel student group later in the week in opposing efforts to "vilify," as he put it, signers of the anti-Israel statement.

"Such intimidation is counterproductive to the education that needs to take place on our campus at this difficult time," Harvard Hillel said.

The Middle East conflict has been contentious on campuses for decades, but this time it feels more volatile and polarizing, said Amy Spitalnick, leader of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, who was president of the Hillel student group at Tufts University, where she graduated in 2008.

When she was a student, "there was real disagreement but it was done constructively." Today, much like U.S. politics, the Israel-Hamas war has become a divisive, "us-versus-them" issue, she said.

"It shouldn't be hard to support Palestinian rights and dignity ... while still condemning what Hamas did

to Israeli civilians," Spitalnick said. "The fact that there are some who refuse to do that has been a heart-breaking, mask-off moment for many in the Jewish community who expected more."

Azerbaijanis who fled a separatist region decades ago ache to return, but it could be a long wait

By AIDA SULTANOVA Associated Press

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — As a young man starting out as a dentist, Nazim Valiyev was forced to flee his home as ethnic violence roiled a separatist region inside Azerbaijan. More than three decades later, with his medical career over after a stroke, the 60-year-old hopes he can return there, now that it is back under Azerbaijani control.

It could still be years, however, before he realizes his dream.

Valiyev is among the estimated 700,000 Azerbaijanis who fled or were forced out of the region they call Karabakh amid violence that flared beginning in 1988 and then grew into an outright war.

That conflict ended in 1994, with the territory under the control of ethnic Armenian forces supported by their neighboring country. A subsequent war in 2020 returned control of much of the area to Azerbaijan, and a lightning offensive last month forced the Armenian separatists to relinquish the rest of the region known elsewhere as Nagorno-Karabakh.

Within days of the capitulation, ethnic Armenians streamed out of the region, leaving it nearly empty. A United Nations mission that visited in early October said there may be no more than 1,000 people left in the region whose population was an estimated 120,000 a month ago.

The blinding speed of events raised spirits among those who had fled so long ago and longed to return to its mountains and thick forests.

"I often saw in my dreams how my neighbors and I, as before, were walking in the forest and picking flowers," Bahar Aliguleyeva said of her childhood memories in the Karabakh capital city of Khankendi, which was called Stepanakert by Armenians.

When she heard that Azerbaijan had regained control of the city she left in 1988 at age 16, "I somehow didn't even believe it. It's as if I found myself somewhere between the past and reality, but there is a path to happiness," she told The Associated Press in Baku, the Azerbaijan capital.

Valiyev, the former dentist, said he thinks about returning every day, "but I understand that this will not be a quick process."

In 2022, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev established a program called "The Great Return to Azerbaijan's Liberated Territories" to bring back long-displaced people. It envisions improvements in infrastructure, construction of residences, and laborious, slow-moving efforts to clear the region of mines.

Azerbaijan's budget for this year allocates about \$3.1 billion for reconstruction projects in the region.

So far, only about 2,000 people have returned, but the government aims for 10,000 by the end of the year, according to Fuad Huseynov of the State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.

He told AP that the government plans to return 150,000 people by 2027.

"Mines are a huge obstacle, a huge problem. The territories that were under Armenian occupation for 30 years were not only virtually completely razed to the ground, but also mined with mines and other unexploded military ammunition," he said.

Since the 2020 war, at least 65 people have been killed by mines and another 267 injured in the territories once held by Armenians, according to Azerbaijan's Mine Action Agency.

If Aliguleyeva and Valiyev and other displaced residents are ever able to return, what they may find could be wrenching. Aliguleyeva is uncertain whether her childhood home is still intact.

Although she was able to contact a former neighbor through social media, "when I asked her to send a photo of the house, she only sent a photo of the courtyard wall."

Valiyev said his family residence was burned down in 1988, although the separate building where he kept his dental equipment survived. He is eager to go back nonetheless.

"My 5-year-old granddaughter loves it when I tell her about my childhood in Karabakh, and she says that she also wants to grow up there. The past must never be repeated," he said. "We and the Armenians must start a new life, no matter how difficult it may be. Enmity cannot continue forever, it must remain in the past."

Overcoming that enmity likely is a more difficult process than rebuilding war-ruined buildings. Although both Valiyev and Aliguliyeva spoke warmly of getting along with their Armenian neighbors when they lived in Khankendi, they also told of the terror they felt when ethnic violence drove them away.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly promised that the rights of ethnic Armenians who want to stay in the region will be respected.

But "such assertions are difficult to accept at face value after the months of severe hardships, decades of conflict, impunity for alleged crimes, in particular during hostilities, and the Azerbaijani government's overall deteriorating human rights record," the Human Rights Watch organization said.

Ecuadorians electing new president, choosing between an heir to a banana empire and an attorney

By REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Frightened by unprecedented violence on the streets and within prisons, Ecuadorians have a universal demand for the president they will choose Sunday — safety.

The runoff election in the South American country pits an heir to a banana empire, Daniel Noboa, and an attorney, Luisa González. Both have limited governing experience and will undoubtedly have their work cut out.

The election comes as more Ecuadorians become victims of drug-related violence that erupted roughly three years ago and intensified in August, when a presidential candidate was assassinated in broad daylight. People continuously watch their backs and limit how often they leave home. The uneasiness even pushed Noboa to add a bulletproof vest to his daily outfit.

Whoever wins with a simple majority of votes will govern for only 15 months, until May 2025, which is what remains of the presidency of Guillermo Lasso. He cut his term short when he dissolved the country's National Assembly in May as lawmakers carried out impeachment proceedings against him over alleged improprieties in a contract by a state-owned company.

Lasso, a conservative former banker, clashed constantly with lawmakers after his election in 2021 and decided not to run in the special election.

Under Lasso's watch, violent deaths soared, reaching 4,600 in 2022, the country's highest in history and double the total in 2021. The National Police tallied 3,568 violent deaths in the first half of 2023.

"Security affects us all, and whether poor or rich, no one is safe from criminals anymore," housewife Ximena Flores said ahead of the runoff election. "Do you think that a new president will be able to do something in such a short time? I think not. It will be a new disappointment for everyone."

The spike in violence is tied to cocaine trafficking. Mexican, Colombian and Balkan cartels have set roots in Ecuador and operate with assistance from local criminal gangs.

Voting is mandatory in Ecuador for people ages 18 through 64. Those who don't comply face a fine of about \$45. Polls were to close in late afternoon, and results were expected Sunday evening.

Noboa and González, both of whom have served short stints as lawmakers, advanced to the runoff by finishing ahead of six other candidates in the election's first round Aug. 22.

Noboa, 35, is an heir to a fortune built on Ecuador's main crop, bananas. His political career began in 2021, when he won a seat in the National Assembly and chaired its Economic Development Commission. He opened an event organizing company when he was 18 and then joined his father's Noboa Corp., where he held management positions in the shipping, logistics and commercial areas.

González, 45, held various government jobs during the decade-long presidency of Rafael Correa, her mentor, and was a lawmaker until May. She was unknown to most voters until Correa's party picked her as its presidential candidate. At the start of the campaign, she said Correa would be her adviser, but she

has recently tried to distance herself a bit in an effort to court voters who oppose the former president.

In Hamas' horrific killings, Israeli trauma over the Holocaust resurfaces

By TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Women, children and older adults hiding in safe rooms gunned down mercilessly. Homes set ablaze with terrified residents still inside them. Children, some bound, forced into a room and slaughtered. Jews, helpless.

For many Israelis and Jews around the world, the horrors committed by Hamas militants during their stunning onslaught on southern Israeli communities is triggering painful memories of a calamity of a far greater scale: the Holocaust.

Long seen as a catastrophe so horrific nothing else should be compared to it, Israelis are now drawing direct parallels between the murder of 6 million Jews in Europe eight decades ago and their most recent tragedy, underscoring how traumatic the attack has been for a country that rose from the ashes of World War II and was created as a safe haven for Jews.

"I have been strict about not using the word 'Shoah' in any context other than the Holocaust," political commentator Ben Caspit wrote in the daily Maariv, referring to the Holocaust by its Hebrew name. "When Jewish children hide in a protected room and their anguished parents pray that they won't cry, so that the marauders won't come in and set the house on fire, it's a Shoah."

Israel's retaliation against Hamas in Gaza has also drawn comparisons to the Palestinians' greatest national tragedy, the Nakba, when hundreds of thousands fled or were forced to flee following the 1948 war that led to Israel's creation. Many Palestinians fear a repeat of that mass exodus after Israel ordered the evacuation of northern Gaza.

Just a few years ago, comparisons to the Holocaust would have been promptly denounced as cheapening its memory and diminishing the horror of the Nazi crimes.

That has begun to erode in recent years — with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu alluding to the Nazis when talking about Iran and its nuclear program and protesters on rival sides of the political aisle calling each other "Nazis." Still, such incidents remain rare and often draw criticism.

But the horrors of the Oct. 7 Hamas assault, which killed at least 1,300 Israelis, have tapped into Israel's deepest fears and revived memories of the Jews' greatest trauma.

Hundreds of militants stormed across the border, catching the country and its vaunted military off guard on a major Jewish holiday. They attacked sleepy farming villages, slaughtering terrified residents.

The militants killed at least 260 revelers at a music festival, with survivors telling harrowing stories of methodical massacres.

Dozens were dragged away as hostages on motorcycles and golf carts. Some of the dead and captured were Holocaust survivors.

"This is a massacre. This is a pogrom," said Maj. Gen. Itai Veruv, leader of forces that cleared one of the besieged villages, referring to historic massacres of European Jews.

In the Holocaust, Nazis led a campaign of genocide, rounding up and murdering many of Europe's Jews, while sending others on trains to death or labor camps.

Israel made protecting Jews from similar atrocities part of its *raison d'être*. Many Israelis see their country as a refuge, a nation with a strong army that could protect Jews despite regional threats. Many Jews in the diaspora share that feeling, seeing Israel as a safe haven should Jews be persecuted again.

While the Hamas attack did not nearly approach the Holocaust's scale, it marked the deadliest day for Jews since then and its well-planned slaughter reopened a wound that remains fresh for many in Israel.

Netanyahu compared the festival killings to the Babi Yar massacre, one of the most infamous mass slaughters of World War II in which more than 33,000 Jews were killed. He has declared that Israel will "never forget," a clear reflection of Israel's vow to never let the Holocaust disappear from the world's collective memory. Dany Cushmaro, an Israeli newscaster, began referring to the Hamas militants as "those Nazis."

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Israel's allies abroad also have made the connection.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken referred to his late father-in-law, a Holocaust survivor, during a visit to Israel and said the attacks had "harrowing echoes" of Nazi massacres. A reel posted to Instagram by the pro-Israel group Stand With Us shows a candle and the number 6 million slowly ticking up to include the 1,300 slain Israelis.

The memory of the mass murder of Jews looms large over Israel. It holds a memorial day, where Israelis stand still during a one-minute siren to remember the dead. The Holocaust is taught in depth in schools. Youth groups and soldiers visit the death camps in Europe. And visiting dignitaries are taken to the country's Holocaust memorial.

Israeli historian Tom Segev said it was natural for Israelis to make the connection between the Hamas attack and the nation's deeply embedded trauma. "This is the ultimate evil that the person in Israel recognizes," he said.

But he said Israeli leaders across the political spectrum have for decades tried to exploit the memory of the Holocaust for political gain.

Israelis have, in some cases, become furious when comparisons are made.

In a 2016 speech marking Israel's Holocaust memorial day, Yair Golan, then deputy military chief, said he was witnessing "nauseating processes" in Israeli society that reminded him of the fascism of Nazi-era Germany. The speech drew angry reactions from Israeli leaders and is widely believed to be the reason Golan was passed over for the army's top job.

Prominent activists on rival sides of Israel's recent judicial overhaul controversy sparked uproars over Holocaust-related comments.

Some critics of Israel, meanwhile, compare Israeli actions against the Palestinians to the Nazis, which Israel condemns as antisemitism.

Mairav Zonszein, a senior analyst with the International Crisis Group, said the Holocaust is being used by Israel and its allies to build legitimacy for its strikes against Hamas, which have killed at least 2,200 Palestinians, and to appeal to Jews in the diaspora.

She said the comparisons could also have dangerous consequences for the way the war plays out.

"When you invoke the Holocaust, it's the worst of the worst," Zonszein said, adding that Israel's response could be severe.

Weary families trudge through Gaza streets, trying to flee the north before Israel's invasion

By WAFAA SHURAFI and SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Some fled home with suitcases jammed with clothes and heirlooms and photographs. Some left with stacks of foam mattresses tied to car roofs. They took buses and vans and cars and carts pulled by donkeys.

Many walked. Many had nothing with them but exhausted family members trudging through streets littered with rubble. All of them were trying to get to safety.

"We left the house without food, without water and without clothes," said Mohammad Hillis, sitting at a wooden school desk scarred by generations of students in a makeshift refugee camp in central Gaza. "We left without taking anything with us."

He said about 150 people lived in his building in their northern Gaza town. All left after clouds of Israeli leaflets began dropping from the sky, warning civilians to flee the north within 24 hours.

"Evacuate south for your own safety and the safety of your families and distance yourself from Hamas terrorists who are using you as human shields," an Israeli statement said. It warned that Israeli forces would "operate significantly" in northern Gaza in the coming days, an apparent reference to an expected land offensive being prepared one week after Hamas' bloody, carefully planned attack on Israel.

The leaflets fueled the fear and chaos already raging in Gaza, which has faced relentless Israeli airstrikes

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since the attack.

In just 12 hours after the first Israeli warnings, hundreds of thousands of people had either taken to the roads or been forced from their homes by the airstrikes.

But many chose to stay and face the looming invasion. Some said there was simply no safe place to go in the south, which was far from their friends and relatives. Many also feared the dangers on the roads that Israel said could be used as evacuation routes, but which had been targeted several times by Israeli airstrikes.

Some sought shelter in places that they hoped would not be Israeli targets.

Medical officials say an estimated 35,000 have crammed into the grounds of Gaza City's main hospital, hoping for refuge.

The scale of the evacuation order is vast, and perhaps simply impossible.

The order covers an area of 1.1 million residents, or about half the territory's population. The U.N. and aid workers have warned that the mass exodus would be catastrophic.

Social media was flooded with calls for help.

"If there is a car, bus, or anything nearby that will take us from Gaza to Rafah, please contact me" a Gaza City doctor pleaded on Facebook.

On Friday, Haifa Khamis al-Shurafa wondered what her 82-year-old father was thinking as they prepared to flee for the second time in a week.

Her father, who is stricken with Parkinson's and unable to speak, had borne witness to the 1948 Nakba, or "catastrophe," the term Palestinians use to describe their mass displacement when Israel was founded.

As she helped him into a car in Gaza City, along with the family of seven's most important possessions in two suitcases, she felt acutely that history was repeating itself.

Her father was 6 years old when he and his family were displaced from what is now the Israeli city of Beersheba.

"They left their shops and homes," she said later Friday, after reaching Deir al-Balah, a central Gaza city that is south of the zone where Israel had ordered the evacuation. "Now, my father is surrounded by his children and is seeing that we have to leave again, that we have to live this again."

Like many people in Gaza, Shurafa grew up hearing stories about 1948, and how so many Palestinians were never able to return home. Today, that fuels suspicions about whether Israel has any intention to allow Gaza residents to return to their homes.

Earlier this week, Al-Shurafa, a 42-year-old architect married to a dentist, fled her upscale Gaza City neighborhood after her apartment was destroyed in an Israeli airstrike.

They had just minutes to gather their children and pack some important documents and clothes before the five-story building was destroyed, bringing down two other buildings.

"That was the worst moment of my life, the moment we had to leave, we had leave our memories, our dreams, my dreams, the house that we built together," she said. "We are not young anymore, that was our entire life savings."

Asked how she was coping, she nearly cried.

"Please don't ask me how I feel," she said. "That is the worst feeling I have ever felt or will ever feel."

"It was the feeling of anguish, of humiliation, of injustice, of abandonment," she said.

The family stayed a few days in a temporary home she shared with her in-laws, then fled again Friday to Deir al-Balah after Israel announced the evacuation order.

As night fell, she could hear the sounds of distant shelling. Israel has cut off nearly all electricity to the Gaza Strip, and the family was left in darkness.

"We don't deserve this," she said. "We didn't kill anyone."

'Ring of fire' eclipse brings cheers and shouts of joy as it moves across the Americas

By MARÍA VERZA and IVÁN VALENCIA Associated Press

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CANCÚN, México (AP) — First came the darkening skies, then the crescent-shaped shadows on the ground, and finally an eruption of cheers by crowds that gathered Saturday along the narrow path of a rare “ring of fire” eclipse of the sun.

It was a spectacular show for millions of people across the Americas as the moon moved into place and blocked out all but a brilliant circle of the sun’s outer edge.

Hundreds of people filed into the planetarium in the Caribbean resort city of Cancún to watch the eclipse. Some peered through box projectors, while others looked through telescopes and special glasses.

Excited children whistled, as some adults raised their arms toward the sky as if to welcome the eclipse.

Vendors selling plants outside observed the dance between the moon and the sun in a more natural way — with the help of trees as the shifting sunlight filtered through the leaves, casting unique shadows on the sidewalk.

“There was silence and like a mist, as if it was dusk, but only a few minutes later the birds were singing again,” said Carmen Jardines, 56, one of the vendors.

Artemia Carreto, was telling passersby about her experience as a child in southern Mexico, when they were told to look instead at the river where it reflected beautifully on the sand beneath the water.

While she wasn’t near a river this time, Carreto said she was carried away by the sensations induced by changing temperatures and a feeling of heaviness that she pegged to the rotation of the Earth.

For Pilar Cáceres, there was a sense of energy.

“It is something that nature brings us and that we must watch,” said the 77-year-old retired elementary school teacher who watched the eclipse by following its shadow through a piece of cardboard.

Ancient Maya astronomers who tracked the movements of the sun and moon with precision referred to eclipses as “broken sun.” They may have used dark volcanic glass to protect their eyes, said archeologist Arturo Montero of Tepeyac University in Mexico City.

Unlike a total solar eclipse, the moon doesn’t completely cover the sun during a ring of fire eclipse. When the moon lines up between Earth and the sun, it leaves a bright, blazing border.

The entire eclipse — from the moment the moon starts to obscure the sun until it’s back to normal — lasted 2 1/2 to three hours at any given spot. The ring of fire portion was from three to five minutes, depending on the location.

Saturday’s U.S. path: Oregon, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Texas in the U.S., with a sliver of California, Arizona and Colorado. Then: Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula, Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Brazil. Much of the rest of the Western Hemisphere got a partial eclipse.

NASA and other groups livestreamed the event.

In the U.S., some eclipse watchers traveled to remote corners of the country to try to get the best view possible while those in Albuquerque got a double treat as the eclipse coincided with an international balloon fiesta that typically draws tens of thousands of spectators and hundreds of hot air balloon pilots from around the world.

There were hoots, hollers and yelps from the balloon launch field as the moon began to cover the sun. Some pilots used their propane burners to shoot flames upward in unison as the spectacle unfolded.

“It’s very exciting to be here and have the convergence of our love of flying with something very natural like an eclipse,” said Allan Hahn, a balloon pilot from Aurora, Colorado.

At Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah, enthusiasts hit the trails before sunrise to stake out their preferred spots among the red rock hoodoos.

With the ring of fire in full form, cheers echoed through the canyons of the park.

“I just think it’s one of those things that unites us all,” said John Edwards, a cancer drug developer who traveled alone across the country to watch the eclipse from Bryce Canyon.

Kirby James and Caroline McGuire from Toronto didn’t realize they would be in a prime spot when they planned their trip to southern Utah.

“Nothing that you can read could prepare you for how it feels,” said Kirby James, 63, a co-founder of a software company. “It’s the moment, especially when the ring of fire came on, you realized you were

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having a lifetime experience.”

For the small towns and cities along the path, there was a mix of excitement, worries about the weather and concerns they'd be overwhelmed by visitors flocking to see the annular solar eclipse.

In Eugene, Oregon, oohs and ahs combined with groans of disappointment as the eclipse was intermittently visible, the sun's light poking through the cloud cover only at times.

In southern Colombia, the Tatacoa desert played host to astronomers helping a group of visually impaired people experience the perfect golden ring created by the moon and sun through raised maps and temperature changes.

Colombia Science Minister Yesenia Olaya said moments like this should inspire people to promote science among children, so they see it as “a life project.”

Juan Pablo Esguerra, 13, waited months to make the trip to the desert with his father to witness the eclipse.

“I like the astronomy because it's a spectacular experience,” he said. “This is the best that I've seen in my life.”

In Mexico City, some children came dressed as astronauts as thousands of people gathered at the main esplanade of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the country's main public college. People shared special glasses, and the university set up telescopes.

Saturday's eclipse marked the first for Brazil since 1994. The country's national observatory broadcast the event online while thousands flocked to parks and beaches in the north and northeastern regions to soak in the phenomenon.

Next April, a total solar eclipse will crisscross the U.S. in the opposite direction. That one will begin in Mexico and go from Texas to New England before ending in Canada.

The next ring of fire eclipse is in October next year at the southernmost tip of South America. Antarctica gets one in 2026. It will be 2039 before another ring of fire is visible in the U.S., and Alaska will be the only state in its direct path.

Palestinian Americans watch with dread as family members in Gaza struggle to stay alive

By NOREEN NASIR Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — For the unforeseeable future, Laila El-Haddad has one mission: to get the voices of her fellow Palestinians, along with their pleas for help, out to the rest of the world.

From her home office in Columbia, Maryland, El-Haddad frantically juggled phone calls this week from journalists seeking her expertise on Gaza and Palestinian Americans trying to get the attention of their local elected officials.

In between the calls, the 45-year-old mother and author checked WhatsApp, the global messaging application, for updates from her own family members in Gaza during their brief windows of electricity and internet access. Electricity was since cut off by Israel and internet outages have made it difficult for many to keep in touch.

“I'm just trying to stay sane by doing what I can to help,” El-Haddad said.

For many Palestinian Americans, there's a sense of helplessness and hopelessness as they struggle to hear from loved ones in Gaza. Amid a fuel and water shortage, no electricity, and now a forced evacuation in the north, administering and sending aid to civilians in Gaza is near impossible.

Israel has bombarded Gaza with airstrikes for days and has threatened a ground invasion in response to Hamas' attack on Israel that killed 1,300 last weekend. The Gaza Health Ministry said Saturday that over 2,200 people have been killed in the besieged territory in the last several days, including 724 children and 458 women. With a looming humanitarian crisis, that number is expected to rise.

But even before this week, getting to Gaza to visit family for Palestinian Americans was a lengthy, exhausting and difficult experience, and most people who live Gaza can never leave. Unlike Israeli Americans, Palestinian Americans say they have never been afforded the opportunity to freely help their loved ones

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in times of crisis.

Mohammad AbuLughod, who lives in a suburb of Milwaukee, received fragmented updates from a cell phone his family in Gaza kept charged via a solar panel. His family shared those messages with The Associated Press:

An elder in the family died from an airstrike. They tried to seek shelter in a United Nations school, before deciding to stay home. Schools were damaged by airstrikes. Children died. Buildings have been reduced to rubble. They don't know if the neighbors are alive. They are all gathered now, three generations, in one house. When the bombs come, they will die together. No one will have to live alone.

"I feel I am living in a nightmare," one relative wrote in a message to the family.

AbuLughod is at a loss for what to do. "There's no way to send support, we can't send them money and money would probably be useless, because there's nothing to buy," he said.

Deanna Othman's young nephew in Gaza messaged her on Instagram to say it may be the last time he's able to talk to her.

"How do you reply to that?" Othman, who lives in a suburb of Chicago, said in an interview with the AP. "How can you say anything to comfort someone who is facing their own mortality?"

Haneen Okal, a Palestinian American living in New Jersey, is currently stuck in Gaza with her three young children. She'd gone to Gaza while pregnant, after 9 years away to visit her family, and planned to travel back to New Jersey to deliver her baby. But after experiencing a medical emergency, she delivered her baby in Gaza in August, and has remained there since.

Minutes before she was set to leave Gaza through the Rafah crossing with Egypt earlier this week, Israeli airstrikes left the crossing inoperable. She and her children traveled back to the Rafah crossing on Saturday in the hopes that the U.S. government would allow for their safe evacuation. So far, she said, State Department officials have not told her if they will help her leave. Abdulla, Okal's husband, is pleading with the U.S. government from New Jersey to bring his family home.

"There's no place safe here in the Gaza Strip," Haneen Okal said in a recorded video sent to the AP via WhatsApp. "My kids are feeling so scared. ... Please help us get evacuated safely."

Many Palestinian Americans watched in agony this week as Israelis abroad rushed to travel to Israel following the Hamas assault, signing up to fight in military reserve units or administer aid on the ground. Palestinian Americans say they've never had the option to do the same.

With the Gaza Strip, a sliver of land only 25 miles (40 kilometers) long with 2.3 million people, essentially dark and the Israeli blockade making delivering humanitarian aid even more challenging, those who have family in Gaza are left watching from afar, feeling powerless as their families struggle to find safety.

"It's just too traumatic for me right now to see American citizens who, even predating this, have the privilege and the access to my country that my husband, a Palestinian whose own parents and grandparents were forced to flee from their homes, doesn't enjoy," said El-Haddad, the author in Maryland.

Othman and her family traveled from the suburbs of Chicago to Gaza this summer — a process she described as mentally, physically and bureaucratically difficult. Othman's extended family lives in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territory of the West Bank, but her husband's family is in Gaza. If she wanted to visit her family in the West Bank, she'd have to go without her husband, who, like most people with a Gaza ID, cannot travel to the West Bank under the Israeli occupation.

"My family in the West Bank was only about 40 miles (64 km) away from me when I was in Gaza," Othman said. "But the amount of effort it would have taken to get to them just wouldn't have worked."

Several years ago, during more peaceful times, Nahed Elrayes and his father tried for days to enter Gaza from Tel Aviv to catch his terminally ill grandmother's final moments.

"The Israelis simply would not let us enter Gaza," he said. On the third day of trying, Elrayes' grandmother passed away and the Israeli forces finally allowed them entry to attend the funeral services.

"I will never forget being with my father that day," Elrayes said. "There is no respect for our humanity."

The story of so many Palestinian Americans is one of longing, loss and a sense that their history is being erased. Many Palestinian families are shaped by the history of becoming refugees relatively recently.

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Gaza is, in part, so densely populated today because of the mass exodus of Palestinians from what is now Israel during the 1948 war surrounding its creation.

It's the echoes of the 1948 Nakba, or "catastrophe" that haunt AbuLughod and his family — refugees originally from the Palestinian town Yaffa, now Jaffa, Israel — as they watch the scenes of mass evacuation playing out from Gaza this week. The fear is that Palestinians in Gaza, like those who were forced to leave their homes in 1948, will never be able to return. For so many Palestinians who have experienced the loss of their land and homes, identity is all they have left.

"What's heaviest at the moment is that the world is going to watch a group of people be killed mercilessly and pushed out, in real time, and believe it to be right and OK and just," said Amirah AbuLughod, Mohammad's daughter.

To cope with the dire outlook, Hani Almadhoun said he and his fellow Palestinian American colleagues at UNRWA USA are pouring themselves into their work supporting the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, trying to provide aid to people on the ground in Gaza despite the challenges. Eleven UNRWA staff members were killed in airstrikes in Gaza this week.

"There are no heroes right now in Gaza. Everybody's damaged. Everybody's burying somebody," Almadhoun said. "And I hope I am wrong, but this is going to go on for a long time. A lot more people will lose their lives and then nobody's going to be held accountable."

Gaza's desperate civilians flee or huddle in hopes of safety, as warnings of Israeli offensive mount

By WAFAA SHURAFI and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Desperate Palestinians scrambled for escape from northern Gaza on Saturday or huddled by the thousands at a hospital in the target zone in hopes it would be spared, as Israel intensified warnings of an imminent offensive by air, ground and sea following Hamas militants' deadly rampage in Israel a week ago.

While workers at an Israeli military base continued efforts through the Jewish Sabbath to identify the more than 1,300 people killed in the Oct. 7 assault, Israel dropped leaflets from the air and redoubled warnings on social media for more than 1 million Gaza residents to move south.

The military says it is trying to clear away civilians ahead of a concentrated campaign against Hamas militants in the north, including in what it said were underground hideouts in Gaza City. Hamas urged people to stay in their homes.

The U.N. and aid groups say such a rapid exodus along with Israel's siege of the territory would cause untold human suffering. The World Health Organization said the evacuation "could be tantamount to a death sentence" for the more than 2,000 patients in northern hospitals, including newborns in incubators and people in intensive care.

Gaza's humanitarian crisis already was mounting Saturday amid a growing shortage of water and medical supplies under a week-old Israeli blockade, which has also forced electrical plants to shut down without fuel.

In Gaza City, Haifa Khamis al-Shurafa crowded into a car with six family members, fleeing to the south in the darkness.

"We don't deserve this," Shurafa said, before leaving her home city. "We didn't kill anyone."

The evacuation directive covers an area of 1.1 million residents, or about half the territory's population. The Israeli military said "hundreds of thousands" of Palestinians had heeded the warning and headed south. It gave Palestinians a six-hour window that ended Saturday afternoon to travel safely within Gaza along two main routes.

In Israel, meanwhile, workers at a military base received special rabbinical approval to continue identifying bodies of the more than 1,300 people, most civilians, killed by Hamas. Work is normally halted on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Be'eri and Kfar Azza, two southern border communities where Hamas militants slaughtered dozens of Israelis, to meet with soldiers and tour the ruins of bloodied

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homes. Netanyahu has faced criticism that his government has not done enough to meet with relatives of the victims.

Hundreds of relatives of the scores of Israelis and foreigners captured by Hamas and taken to Gaza gathered outside the Israeli Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, demanding their release.

"This is my cry out to the world: Please help bring my family, my wife and three kids," said Avihai Broditz of Kfar Azza. Many expressed anger toward the government, saying they still have no information about their loved ones.

In a nationally broadcast address Saturday night, Israel's chief military spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, accused Hamas of trying to use civilians as human shields and issued a new appeal to Gaza residents to move south.

"We are going to attack Gaza City very broadly soon," he said, without giving a timetable for the attack against the 40-kilometer-long (25-mile-long) territory.

"The Palestinian civilians in Gaza are not our enemies," an Israeli military spokesman, John Conricus, said. "We don't assess them as such, and we don't target them as such. We are trying to do the right thing."

Israel has called up some 360,000 military reserves and massed troops and tanks along the border with Gaza. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said late Saturday that the U.S. was moving in a second carrier strike group, the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, as a deterrence to any regional actors seeking to widen the war.

Palestinian militants have fired more than 5,500 rockets into Israel since the fighting erupted, the Israeli military said.

Hamas remained defiant. In a televised speech Saturday, Ismail Haniyeh, a top official, said that "all the massacres" will not break the Palestinian people.

Fighting continued in the run-up to the expected offensive, with Hamas launching rockets into Israel and Israel carrying out strikes in Gaza.

An Israeli airstrike near the Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza killed at least 27 people and wounded another 80, Gaza health authorities said.

Most of the victims were women and children, the authorities said. Doctors from Kamal Edwan Hospital shared chaotic footage of charred and disfigured bodies.

It was not clear how many Palestinians remained in northern Gaza by Saturday afternoon, said Juliette Touma, a spokesperson for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees. An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza in one week, she said.

At Gaza City's main hospital, al-Shifa, a crowd of men, women and children that medical officials estimated at 35,000 crammed into bloodied hallways and on hospital grounds, sitting under trees as well as inside the building's lobby, hoping to be protected from the fighting.

"People think this is the only safe space after their homes were destroyed and they were forced to flee," said Dr. Medhat Abbas, a Health Ministry official.

Basic necessities like food, fuel and drinking water were running out because of the complete Israeli siege.

Water has stopped coming out of taps across the territory. Amal Abu Yahia, a 25-year-old pregnant mother in the Jabaliya refugee camp, said she waited anxiously for the few minutes when contaminated water trickles from the pipes in her basement. She rations it, prioritizing her 5-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter. She said she is drinking so little herself, she only urinates every other day.

Near the coast, the only tap water is contaminated with Mediterranean Sea water because of the lack of sanitation facilities. Mohammed Ibrahim, 28, said his neighbors in Gaza City have taken to drinking the salt water.

The Israeli military's evacuation order demands the territory's entire population cram into the southern half of Gaza as Israel continues strikes, including in the south.

Rami Swailem said he and at least five families in his building decided to stay put in his apartment near Gaza City. "We are rooted in our lands," he said. "We prefer to die in dignity and face our destiny."

Others were looking desperately for ways to evacuate. "We need a number for drivers from Gaza to the

south, it is necessary #help," read a post on social media.

The U.N. refugee agency for Palestinians expressed concern for those who could not leave, "particularly pregnant women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities," saying they must be protected. The agency also called for Israel to not target civilians, hospitals, schools, clinics and U.N. locations.

Al-Shifa hospital was receiving hundreds of wounded every hour and had used up 95% of its medical supplies, hospital director Mohammad Abu Selim said. Water is scarce and the fuel powering its generators is dwindling.

"The situation inside the hospital is miserable in every sense of the word," he said. "The operating rooms don't stop."

Thousands of people crammed into U.N.-run schools across Gaza.

"I came here with my children. We slept on the ground. We don't have a mattress, or clothes," said Howeida al-Zaaneen, 63, from the northern town of Beit Hanoun. "I want to go back to my home, even if it is destroyed."

The Gaza Health Ministry said Saturday that over 2,200 people have been killed in the territory, including 724 children and 458 women. The Hamas communications office said Israel has destroyed over 7,000 housing units so far.

At Gaza's Rafah crossing into Egypt, announcement of an agreement to briefly open the closed crossing to allow foreigners to escape brought hopeful crowds to the gates Saturday. But any deal appeared to have fallen through, with the crossing yet to open by nightfall.

Some 1,500 people in Gaza are estimated to hold Western passports, including about 500 Americans, along with citizens from other parts of the world.

A ground assault in densely populated Gaza would likely bring even higher casualties on both sides in brutal house-to-house fighting.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan in Riyadh on Saturday, and both called for Israel to protect civilians in Gaza.

"As Israel pursues its legitimate right to defend its people and to trying to ensure that this never happens again, it is vitally important that all of us look out for civilians," Blinken said.

A proposed gag order on Trump in his federal election case is putting the judge in a tricky position

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A proposed gag order aimed at reining in Donald Trump's incendiary rhetoric puts the judge overseeing his federal election interference case in a tricky position: She must balance the need to protect the integrity of the legal proceedings against the First Amendment rights of a presidential candidate to defend himself in public.

U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan will hear arguments Monday in Washington over whether Trump has gone too far with remarks such as calling prosecutors a "team of thugs" and one possible witness "a gutless pig."

It is the biggest test yet for Chutkan, underscoring the unprecedented complexities of prosecuting the former Republican president as the judge vows not to let political considerations guide her decisions.

Ending the stream of Trump's harsh language would make the case easier to manage. But among the difficult questions Chutkan must navigate is how any gag order might be enforced and how one could be fashioned that does not risk provoking Trump's base and fueling his claims of political persecution as he campaigns to retake the White House in 2024.

"She has to think about the serious risk that it's not just his words that could trigger violence, but that she could play into the conspiracy theories that Trump's followers tend to believe in, and that her act of issuing a gag order might trigger a very disturbing response," said Catherine Ross, a George Washington University law school professor.

"If we allow that to stop a judge from doing what is called for, that's a big problem for rule of law. But

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on the other hand, if I were the judge, I would certainly be thinking about it," she said.

Short of issuing an order, Chutkan has already suggested that inflammatory comments could force her to move up the trial, now scheduled to begin in March, to guard against tainting the jury pool. Judges can threaten gag order violators with fines or jail time, but jailing a presidential candidate could prompt serious political blowback and pose logistical hurdles.

Chutkan, who was nominated to the bench by President Barack Obama, isn't the first judge to confront the consequences of Trump's speech. The judge in his civil fraud trial in New York recently imposed a limited gag order prohibiting personal attacks against court personnel following a social media post that maligned the judge's principal clerk.

Special counsel Jack Smith's team envisions a broader order, seeking to bar Trump from making inflammatory and intimidating comments about lawyers, witnesses and others involved in the case that accuses the former president of illegally plotting to overturn his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden. Trump's lawyers call it a "desperate effort at censorship" that would prevent Trump from telling his side of the story while campaigning.

A complicating factor is that many of the potential witnesses in the case are themselves public figures. In the case of Trump's vice president, Mike Pence is also running against Trump for the GOP nomination. That could open the door for Trump's team to argue that he should be permitted to respond to public broadsides he sees on television or seek a competitive edge by denouncing a political rival for the White House.

Burt Neuborne, a longtime civil liberties lawyer who challenged gag orders on behalf of defendants and lawyers in other cases, questioned whether a formal order was necessary because witness intimidation is already a crime and the court can guard against a tainted jury by carefully questioning prospective jurors before trial. A gag order may also slow down the case because it's likely Trump either violates it and the judge will want to punish him or Trump will challenge the order in advance, he said.

"And so in some sense, you may be playing directly into his hands by essentially creating yet another mechanism for him to try to push this until after the 2024 election because my sense is that any gag order that she issues will eventually reach the Supreme Court," Neuborne said.

But Barbara McQuade, a former U.S. attorney in Michigan, said she believes the judge can issue a narrow enough order that withstands legal challenges and protects both the case and Trump's abilities to campaign.

"Especially in this case, where Donald Trump has made it apparent that he will say all kinds of outrageous and vitriolic things about the parties, about the judge, about witnesses unless she acts," said McQuade, a University of Michigan Law School professor. "So in some ways she has, I think, a responsibility to act here."

There is some limited precedent for restricting speech of political candidates who are criminal defendants.

In one case, a federal appeals court in 1987 lifted a gag order on U.S. Rep. Harold Ford Sr., a Tennessee Democrat charged in a fraud case. Ford, who was ultimately acquitted, claimed the case brought under Republican President Ronald Reagan's administration was racially and politically motivated.

Ford's gag order prohibited him from even sharing his opinion of or discussing facts of the case. The court noted that Ford would soon be up for reelection and said the gag order would unfairly prevent him from responding to attacks from his political opponents and block his constituents from hearing the "views of their congressman on this issue of undoubted public importance."

Another appeals court in 2000 upheld a gag order challenged by then-Louisiana Insurance Commissioner Jim Brown in a fraud case, noting the order allowed assertions of innocence and other general statements about the case.

The court, however, also noted that the judge briefly lifted the gag order to avoid interfering with Brown's reelection campaign, saying that the "urgency of a campaign, which may well require that a candidate, for the benefit of the electorate as well as himself, have absolute freedom to discuss his qualifications, has passed."

Chutkan herself has experience with gag orders.

In 2018, she imposed an order restricting the comments of lawyers in the case of Maria Butina, a Russian gun activist who pleaded guilty to working in America as a secret agent for Moscow. The order followed

prosecutors' admission that they had wrongly accused Butina of trading sex for access as well as public comments by her lawyer that Chutkan said had "crossed the line."

The next year, U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson imposed a gag order on Trump ally Roger Stone in his obstruction and witness tampering case after he posted a photo of judge with what appeared to be crosshairs of a gun. Though she warned she could jail him if he violated the order, she instead barred him from using social media months later after he again publicly disparaged the case against him.

But that order was in direct response to a specific action, said Bruce Rogow, Stone's attorney in that case. He said he was dubious that Trump's attacks, "while in very poor taste," posed the kind of danger to merit a gag order.

"Trump's talk may be déclassé, but the First Amendment defends his right to present his distorted view of the world up to the point that he presents a true threat to people or the administration of justice. Not easy to measure," Rogow wrote in an email. "Like obscenity, one knows it when you see it."

Piper Laurie, 3-time Oscar nominee with film credits such as 'The Hustler' and 'Carrie,' dies at 91

By BOB THOMAS Associated Press

Piper Laurie, the strong-willed, Oscar-nominated actor who performed in acclaimed roles despite at one point abandoning acting altogether in search of a "more meaningful" life, died early Saturday at her home in Los Angeles. She was 91.

Laurie died of old age, her manager, Marion Rosenberg, told The Associated Press via email, adding that she was "a superb talent and a wonderful human being."

Laurie arrived in Hollywood in 1949 as Rosetta Jacobs and was quickly given a contract with Universal-International, a new name that she hated and a string of starring roles with Ronald Reagan, Rock Hudson and Tony Curtis, among others.

She went on to receive Academy Award nominations for three distinct films: The 1961 poolroom drama "The Hustler"; the film version of Stephen King's horror classic "Carrie," in 1976; and the romantic drama "Children of a Lesser God," in 1986. She also appeared in several acclaimed roles on television and the stage, including in David Lynch's "Twin Peaks" in the 1990s as the villainous Catherine Martell.

Laurie made her debut at 17 in "Louisa," playing Reagan's daughter, then appeared opposite Francis the talking mule in "Francis Goes to the Races." She made several films with Curtis, whom she once dated, including "The Prince Who Was a Thief," "No Room for the Groom," "Son of Ali Baba" and "Johnny Dark."

Fed up, she walked out on her \$2,000-a-week contract in 1955, vowing she wouldn't work again unless offered a decent part.

She moved to New York, where she found the roles she was seeking in theater and live television drama.

Performances in "Days of Wine and Roses," "The Deaf Heart" and "The Road That Led After" brought her Emmy nominations and paved the way for a return to films, including in an acclaimed role as Paul Newman's troubled girlfriend in "The Hustler."

For many years after, Laurie turned her back on acting. She married film critic Joseph Morgenstern, welcomed a daughter, Ann Grace, and moved to a farmhouse in Woodstock, New York. She said later that the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War had influenced her decision to make the change.

"I was disenchanted and looking for an existence more meaningful for me," she recalled, adding that she never regretted the move.

"My life was full," she said in 1990. "I always liked using my hands, and I always painted."

Laurie also became noted as a baker, with her recipes appearing in The New York Times.

Her only performing during that time came when she joined a dozen musicians and actors in a tour of college campuses to support Sen. George McGovern's 1972 presidential bid.

Laurie was finally ready to return to acting when director Brian De Palma called her about playing the deranged mother of Sissy Spacek in "Carrie."

At first she felt the script was junk, and then she decided she should play the role for laughs. Not until De

Palma chided her for putting a comedic turn on a scene did she realize he meant the film to be a thriller. "Carrie" became a box-office smash, launching a craze for movies about teenagers in jeopardy, and Spacek and Laurie were both nominated for Academy Awards.

Her desire to act rekindled, Laurie resumed a busy career that spanned decades. On television, she appeared in such series as "Matlock," "Murder, She Wrote" and "Frasier" and played George Clooney's mother on "ER."

In first call with Palestinian president Abbas, Biden discusses support for humanitarian aid to Gaza

By MATTHEW LEE and LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — President Joe Biden on Saturday spoke with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, urging the leaders to allow humanitarian aid to the region and affirmed his support for efforts to protect civilians.

The weekend calls in Washington came ahead of Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's announcement that the U.S. was moving up a second carrier strike group in support of Israel. Secretary of State Antony Blinken intensified diplomatic outreach across the Middle East and beyond to rally an international response to prevent the Israel-Hamas war from expanding.

The broad U.S. efforts reflect the international concern about the number of civilians at risk and the potential ramifications of a prolonged war as Israel told Gaza residents to move south and Hamas urged people to remain in their homes. The Biden administration has not publicly urged Israel to restrain its response after the Hamas attack a week ago, but has emphasized the country's commitment to following the rules of war.

Addressing a Human Rights Campaign dinner Saturday in Washington, Biden linked the humanitarian crisis in Gaza to different versions of hate that he said must be stopped.

"A week ago we saw hate manifest another way in the worst massacre of the Jewish people since the Holocaust," Biden said, citing the 1,300 lives lost in Israel as well as "children, grandparents alike kidnapped, held hostage by Hamas."

"The humanitarian crisis in Gaza — innocent Palestinian families and the vast majority that have nothing to do with Hamas — they're being used as human shields," he said. "We have to reject hate in every form."

Blinken met with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan in Riyadh before stopping in the United Arab Emirates as he sought ways to help civilians trapped in between the fighting and to address the growing humanitarian crisis.

He also called his Chinese counterpart as Palestinians struggled to flee from areas of Gaza targeted by the Israeli military before an expected land offensive.

Austin as well on Saturday spoke with Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant, stressing the importance of safeguarding civilians. Austin offered updates on U.S. efforts to boost air defense capabilities and munitions for Israeli forces that he noted were aimed at stemming escalation of war, according to a readout of the call.

Austin said the Biden administration was sending the additional carrier strike group to the Eastern Mediterranean. The Eisenhower will join the USS Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group, which is already sailing near Israel, to bolster U.S. presence there with a host of destroyers, fighter aircraft and cruisers.

In a statement announcing the deployment, Austin said sending the second carrier was "part of our effort to deter hostile actions against Israel or any efforts toward widening this war following Hamas's attack on Israel."

While Biden has spoken to Netanyahu multiple times since the Hamas attack, Saturday's call was his first to Abbas, who runs the Palestinian Authority which controls the West Bank. According to a readout of the call, Abbas briefed the president on efforts to bring aid to Palestinian people, particularly in Gaza.

Biden reiterated to Abbas that "Hamas does not stand for the Palestinian people's right to dignity and self-determination," according to the readout.

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Biden spoke with Netanyahu to "reiterate unwavering U.S. support for Israel," according to the readout. He briefed the Israeli leader on regional efforts to ensure civilian access to food, water and medical care.

The number of U.S. citizens killed rose to 29, U.S. officials said Saturday, and 15 were unaccounted for, as well as one lawful permanent resident.

Blinken, in his visits with Saudi and UAE leaders, also cited the need for humanitarian assistance and safe passage from those who wish to leave Gaza as he spoke to Arab audiences from their home turf, where his hosts put that issue at the top of their concerns.

An Israeli ground assault would worsen the plight of civilians in Gaza who are without power, fresh water or access to aid. Egyptian officials said the southern Rafah crossing would open later Saturday for the first time in days to allow foreigners out. Israel has advised all Palestinian civilians to flee south to avoid Israel's continued offensive against Hamas militants in Gaza City.

Blinken also called Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to seek his country's help in preventing the war from spreading, asking Beijing to use whatever influence it has in the Mideast. Blinken's spokesman declined to characterize Wang's response but said the U.S. believes it and China have a shared interest in the region's stability.

In Riyadh, Blinken and Prince Faisal stressed the importance of minimizing the harm to civilians as Israel prepared for an anticipated incursion against Hamas a week after the militant group's unprecedented attack against Israel.

"As Israel pursues its legitimate right, to defending its people and to trying to ensure that this never happens again, it is vitally important that all of us look out for civilians, and we're working together to do exactly that," Blinken said.

"None of us want to see suffering by civilians on any side, whether it's in Israel, whether it's in Gaza, whether it's anywhere else," Blinken said.

The Saudi minister said the kingdom was committed to the protection of civilians.

"It's a disturbing situation," he said. "It's a very difficult situation. And, as you know, the primary sufferer of this situation are civilians, and civilian populations on both sides are being affected and it's important, I think, that we all condemn the targeting of civilians in any form at any time by anyone."

A U.S. official said Saturday that Washington did not ask Israel to slow or hold off on the evacuation plan. The official said the discussions with Israeli leaders did stress the importance of taking into account the safety of civilians as Israel's military moved to enforce the evacuation demand.

The official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the private discussions and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Israeli leaders acknowledged the guidance and took it under advisement.

The U.S. worked out an agreement involving to allow Americans and other foreigners in Gaza to cross the Rafah border into Egypt, but the crossing remained blocked Saturday, with no sign that those gathered would be allowed through. There are an estimated 500 Americans living in Gaza, but that number is imprecise, officials have said.

The U.S. State Department on Saturday authorized the departure of nonemergency U.S. government personnel and their family members from the American Embassy in Jerusalem and an office in Tel Aviv.

Prince Faisal said it was imperative for the violence between Israel and Hamas to end.

"We need to work together to find a way out of this cycle of violence," he said. "Without a concerted effort to end this constant return to violence, it will always be the civilians that suffer first, it will always be civilians on both sides that end up paying the price."

While in Abu Dhabi, Blinken visited the Abrahamic Family House, a complex consisting of a church, a mosque and a synagogue representing the three Abrahamic faiths. He signed a tile with the words "Light in the Darkness."

Blinken returned to Saudi Arabia ahead of an expected stop in Egypt on Sunday. He has already visited Israel, Jordan, Qatar and Bahrain.

Lack of water worsens misery in besieged Gaza as Israeli airstrikes continue

By ISABEL DEBRE and WAFAA SHURAF A Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — As Israel pounds the Gaza Strip with airstrikes, Laila Abu Samhadaneh, 65, is anxious about water.

The besieged Gaza Strip's 2.3 million people don't have access to clean, running water after Israel cut off water and electricity to the enclave as it intensifies its air attacks in response to a bloody Hamas attack last week.

The chokehold has seen taps run dry across the territory. When water does trickle from pipes, the meager flow lasts no more than 30 minutes each day and is so contaminated with sewage and seawater that it's undrinkable, residents said.

"I don't know what we're going to do tomorrow," Abu Samhadaneh said from her three-room home in the southern town of Rafah, which turned into a de facto shelter after Israel demanded everyone in Gaza evacuate south. She said she rations just a few liters among dozens of friends and relatives each day. "We're going crazy."

The deprivation has plunged Gaza's population deeper into misery as Israel's bombardment intensifies one week after Hamas fighters surged across Israel's separation fence, killing 1,300 Israelis and abducting dozens. Israel's retaliatory strikes have crushed hundreds of buildings in Gaza and killed more than 2,200 Palestinians.

Even as terrified families flee their homes — squeezing into United Nations shelters or the bloody and chaotic halls of Gaza's biggest hospital in fear for their safety — the desperate search for water remains a constant.

U.N. agencies and aid groups are beseeching Israel to permit emergency deliveries of fuel and other supplies into the Gaza Strip.

"There really can't be a justification for this kind of targeting of civilians," said Miriam Marmor, a spokesperson for Gisha, an Israeli human rights group.

The U.N. Palestinian refugee agency called the water crisis a "matter of life or death."

If fuel and water don't arrive soon, the agency's commissioner general Philippe Lazzarini said, "people will start dying of severe dehydration."

In normal times, the coastal enclave — which has struggled under an Israeli-Egyptian blockade since Hamas seized control of Gaza in 2007 — relies on Israel for one-third of all available drinking water, the territory's water authority says.

Its other water sources include desalination plants in the Mediterranean Sea and a subterranean aquifer, drained and damaged from years of overuse. When Israel severed electricity to Gaza, the desalination plants all shut down. So did the wastewater treatment stations.

That has left the entire territory without running water. People buy dwindling jugs from municipal sanitation stations, scour for bottles in supermarkets or drink whatever fetid liquid may dribble out of their pipes.

Quenching thirst has become more difficult in the past day, even for those with means to shell out for bottled water. It took 35-year-old Noor Swirki two hours on Saturday to find a box of six bottles she will try to stretch throughout the coming days. She took her first shower in a week Saturday, using a cup of polluted tap water and splashing it over her husband and two children before rubbing the remaining moisture on her skin.

"We are here without anything, even the most basic thing," she said, shouting over the persistent noise of crying children in the U.N. shelter in southern Khan Younis, where she sought refuge after an airstrike demolished her Gaza City apartment. "We're worried about our safety in the bombing and now there's this other issue of survival."

She and six other Palestinians interviewed across Gaza said they drink no more than half a liter of water a day. They said they urinate once a day or every other day.

The World Health Organization says that 50 to 100 liters per day per person are needed to ensure proper hydration and sanitation. The U.S. National Academies of Science and Medicine say men need to drink about

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3.7 liters (125 ounces) and women need about 2.7 liters (91 ounces) per day to be adequately hydrated.

"It's like we're in the stone ages," said 28-year-old Khalil Abu Yahia in the central town of Deir al-Balah.

Drinking dirty water and poor sanitation due to lack of water can lead to terrible diseases, experts say, including cholera, dysentery, typhoid and polio. For the past week, the water along Gaza's coast tastes like salt, residents say.

Drinking salt water can lead to even more dehydration.

"It tastes bad, it smells bad," said 25-year-old Mohammed Bashir about the tap water in western Gaza City, which is mixed with untreated wastewater and seawater. "But we have no choice. My kids are crying because they're thirsty."

Among the dozens of Palestinians with shrapnel wounds in their legs and arms from airstrikes that Dr. Husom Safiyah treated Saturday in northern Gaza, there were 15 children, including infants, with bacterial dysentery caused by the water shortage, he said.

"The situation is disastrous, and it will become even more so after two or three days," said Safiyah, a physician with MedGlobal, an organization that sends medical teams to disaster regions. He spoke as explosions thundered outside and medics around him rushed to handle the latest influx of victims.

He said he had to go and help them. An airstrike near the Jabaliya refugee camp had just killed at least 27 people, mostly women and children, according to Hamas authorities, and dozens were wounded. When asked how he would clean their wounds, he said that he would use what little tap water they had, even if it was mixed with sewage.

"We have no alternative," he said.

Far from Israel, Jews grieve and pray for peace in Shabbat services held as Israel-Hamas war rages

By The Associated Press undefined

Jews in communities far from Israel gathered at synagogues this weekend for Shabbat services held amid the ongoing war ignited by Hamas militants' attack on Israel a week earlier. Rabbis led prayers of peace and shared grief with their congregations. At many synagogues security was tight.

PITTSBURGH RABBI SAYS HAMAS ATTACK RESURFACES GENERATIONS OF TRAUMA FOR JEWISH PEOPLE

The deadly Hamas attack is not just another geopolitical event for Jewish people, explained one U.S. rabbi. It is dredging up generations of visceral trauma, especially in Pittsburgh – the city scarred by the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history.

"More Jews were killed last Shabbat ... than on any other day since the Holocaust," said Rabbi Daniel Fellman during a service at Temple Sinai. "It isn't that Hamas wants the destruction of Israel. It's that Hamas wants the destruction of you and me."

"The world deserves better, the Palestinian people deserve better and we need to do better."

Despite that anguish, Fellman's congregation – and others across the world – heeded the words of an Israeli soldier who had urged worshippers "to go sing and dance, go make sure that every person in the world hears us singing this prayer this Shabbat."

Fellman urged an understanding that all people are connected, including Jews, Christians and Muslims.

"They are all our brothers and sisters, and when one of us hurts, we all hurt."

For Rabbi Seth Adelson of Congregation Beth Shalom in Pittsburgh, learning of the attack last Saturday as he headed to worship brought back traumatic memories of Oct. 27, 2018. That Sabbath morning was shattered by news that a gunman attacked the nearby Tree of Life synagogue, killing 11 people from three congregations meeting there.

The difference, he said in an interview, was "we just could not comprehend the idea of a shooting at a synagogue in Pittsburgh." By comparison, the Hamas attack was "tragic and horrifying and gut wrenching, but it was believable."

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After the Pittsburgh attack, "we felt the whole community embraced us," Adelson said. "One of the things that many of us are feeling right now is that we are not feeling that embrace. We are really a community in pain and we don't feel support."

But they are carrying on with the rhythms of ritual life, Adelson said. Saturday's service at Beth Shalom included a bar mitzvah, a young man's coming-of-age initiation.

"Sometimes we celebrate, even as we know we must grieve," he said.

— Peter Smith and Jessie Wardarski in Pittsburgh

AT OTHER US SYNAGOGUES, TEARS, PRAYERS, ANGER — AND POLICE DEPLOYMENTS

In Pennsylvania, a SWAT officer guarded the entrance at the Shul at Newtown during its service. Outside, Edward Mackouse, 80, said he was carrying a concealed gun to protect the Orthodox synagogue — part of Chabad Lubavitch, a Hasidic movement. "We cannot be too prepared," he said.

Inside, Rabbi Aryeh Weinstein denounced those who justify the attacks by Hamas.

"There's something very wrong with a mind when it thinks it can justify the enormity of the tragedy," he said.

He told congregants that if someone questions them about the Jewish right to Israel, they should not engage in intellectual debate.

"It's very simple: because there's a God in the world. God created the world. And God decided that he wants to give us that land — and therefore, it is our land."

In Washington, D.C., police cruisers with flashing lights parked outside during services at Adas Israel Congregation, a prominent Conservative synagogue. Rabbi Aaron Alexander reminded congregants that this week's liturgy repeated the Hebrew refrain to "free the captives." He evoked the Israelis held hostage and Palestinians trapped in Gaza.

Alexander noted there were worshippers connected to those killed by Hamas: a rabbi on staff lost a cousin on the Gaza border; a friend of his was being held hostage.

The rabbi paused at times, overcome with emotion. Worshippers wiped their eyes.

"No matter whose fault it may be, if we can't well up for innocent humans lost, for babies and for children, even within enemy territory, we have lost some part of us that God has given us — the peace that makes us utterly special and unique among all creations," Alexander said.

At Temple Adas Israel in Sag Harbor, New York, Rabbi Daniel Geffen urged his congregation to stay strong and uphold the teachings of the Torah.

"I understand the anger. I share that anger. I don't think I've been angrier," said Geffen. "Tradition teaches us another way."

As he spoke, Geffen dabbed away his tears with tissues. The rabbi, a pacifist, explained how that ideology was being tested by the attack.

It's a "slippery slope of rage," he said, and now is the time to unite behind Israel. "Do not abandon our people."

In Los Angeles, Rabbi Nicole Guzik strongly denounced the Hamas attack and praised her Sinai Temple community for its resilience amid their heartbreak.

"You are showing Hamas — the bearers of evil, the champions of terror — that they will never break the Jewish spirit," she said to applause from the 1,200 or so congregants.

Some had spent the week raising money, including more than \$220,000 to pay for an ambulance to be sent to Israel, and collecting supplies to be shipped to Israel Defense Forces.

The worshippers, many with family in Israel, were on edge after recent pro-Palestinian rallies elsewhere in Los Angeles. The Shabbat service, themed "Sinai Temple Stands with Israel," featured prayers and songs for Israel, including the national anthem that stirred several people to wave small Israeli flags at the close.

— Luis Andres Henao in Newtown, Pa.; Tiffany Stanley in Washington; Julie Walker in Sag Harbor, New York; Stefanie Dazio in Los Angeles.

IN BERLIN, HEIGHTENED SECURITY AT SYNAGOGUES

Police in Germany's capital, Berlin, visibly increased security in front of synagogues as worshippers flocked to Shabbat services.

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The heightened safety measures come in reaction to global tensions triggered by Hamas' attack, and Israel's subsequent bombing of Gaza, as well as calls on social media to protest in front of Jewish institutions in Germany.

At Berlin's Chabad community in Berlin's Wilmersdorf neighborhood, the street leading to the synagogue and adjacent community center was blocked to traffic. Police and private security service patrolled as congregants arrived for worship.

Some men wore their yarmulkes hidden under baseball hats; others didn't wear skullcaps until they entered the synagogue.

Rabbi Yehuda Teichtal, head of the local Chabad community, told The Associated Press on Friday evening that "this is a very challenging moment for the Jewish people."

"At the same time we will stand together with resilience and complete trust in God," Teichtal added. "There is nothing more than the terrorists want than to demoralize us — they've achieved the opposite."

— Kirsten Grieshaber in Berlin

AT INDONESIA'S ONLY SYNAGOGUE, RABBI CALLS FOR FIGHTING TO END

An Indonesian rabbi at the only synagogue in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation called for peace Saturday and an end to the fighting in the Israel-Hamas war.

"We call and pray for peace," Modechai Ben Avraham said, "Because when peace is restored to our lives, we can carry out any activity and worship peacefully."

The rabbi, who led prayers at Shaar Hashamayim synagogue in Tondano city on Sulawesi island, said the conflict has not caused anxiety or fear for the synagogue and its worshippers "because people know our community only focuses on carrying out religious services."

Shaar Hashamayim is currently the only synagogue in Indonesia; it has served a local Jewish community of some 50 people in Tondano since 2019. Judaism is not recognized as one of the country's six major religions, but its practices are allowed under Indonesia's constitution.

There are an estimated 550 Indonesian Jews, mostly in North Sulawesi, a province of more than 2.6 million people who are mainly Christian.

— Fadlan Syam in Tondano, Indonesia

STRONG EMOTIONS AT SYNAGOGUE IN MIAMI BEACH

As his parents hunkered down in their safe room in northern Israel, Juval Porat tried to remain focused on preparing a mix of joyful and comforting hymns for the Shabbat services at his Miami Beach, Fla., synagogue.

"For the life of me, I'm not going to cry," the cantor said before Friday evening services in Temple Beth Sholom. "I need to be strong, so that other people can cry."

Tears did flow as Porat and the rabbis led 300 congregants in praying for peace, for safety for the people of Israel and the soldiers defending it, and especially for the hostages.

"It's the first time I cried," said Michael Conway, who wore a white kippah decorated with blue doves as symbols of peace.

The prayers in Hebrew and English were "a chance to release the pent-up emotion of the week, and to be with a lot of people who knew how I feel," he added.

In her sermon, Senior Rabbi Gayle Pomerantz named those emotions — fear, anger, shock that Israel and the Jewish people are facing "an existential moment."

"We want to pummel Hamas with our own hands," she told the congregation sitting in silence after she shared testimonials from survivors of a now-devastated kibbutz where, as a student, she had celebrated many Shabbats.

"But hate will never repair what is broken," she said, urging the faithful instead to show solidarity and to support Israel's relief efforts.

Rabbi Robert Davis struck the same note as he lit a candle to commemorate the hostages and those killed by Hamas — "the infants and children and teens, the soldiers, the concert-goers, and people waiting for the bus."

"There aren't enough candles," Davis said. "Let us be the lights."
— Giovanna Dell'Orto in Miami Beach

At least 27 dead with dozens more missing after boat capsizes in northwest Congo

BY JEAN-YVES KAMALE Associated Press

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — A boat capsized in Congo's northwest killing at least 27 people, and more than 70 others were missing, a senior government official said Saturday as rescuers searched frantically for survivors.

The locally made boat capsized late Friday in the city of Mbandaka in Equateur Province as it transported more than 100 passengers along the Congo River to the town of Bolomba, according to Taylor Nganzi, deputy provincial governor.

"Already 27 bodies of victims have been removed from the waters (and) transported to the morgue of the general hospital in Mbandaka," said Nganzi, adding that an investigation to find out the cause of the accident had begun.

The New Civil Society of Congo, a local civil society group, said 49 people died in the accident, which it said occurred after an engine failure. "Everything started to sink," Jean-Pierre Wangela, president of the group, told reporters.

The contradictory death tolls, which is common in such incidents in Congo, could not immediately be reconciled.

Volunteers joined rescuers in the search for survivors and for bodies, while families mourned loved ones who were among the victims.

"We are supervising the search for bodies with the river services and accompanied by the victims' families," said Nganzi.

Boat accidents are common on the Congo River and on the nation's lakes because of the prevalent use of makeshift boats that are often overloaded. The majority of the population in the country's northwest use the rivers to travel because of a lack of good roads and because it is a less expensive.

The Congolese government had banned night travel throughout the country to avoid accidents, although many defy the directive.

An American mom and daughter are missing in Israel. Their family says Hamas is holding them hostage

By MELISSA PEREZ WINDER and CLAIRE SAVAGE Associated Press/Report for America

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP) — Judith Raanan and her teenage daughter, Natalie Raanan, were excited to travel to Israel to celebrate a relative's 85th birthday and the Jewish holiday season, according to their rabbi.

The pair had been sending updates as the trip progressed and were enjoying "this really special mom and daughter time together," Meir Hecht said.

The family hasn't heard from either mother or daughter since a week ago, after Hamas launched an unprecedented surprise attack. The community in their suburb north of Chicago fears they are among roughly 150 people abducted by Hamas militants.

"We received this terrible news that Judith and her daughter Natalie are missing and apparently were most likely taken as hostages to Gaza," Hecht said. "It feels like our community has been violated."

They had been celebrating Simchat Torah, a festive Jewish holiday that marks the conclusion of the annual reading of the Torah. They were in Nahal Oz, a kibbutz in Israel about a mile (1.61 kilometers) from the Gaza border.

Natalie Raanan, 17, recently graduated from high school and was looking forward to taking a break and visiting family overseas, her uncle, Avi Zamir, said at a community event for the Raanans in Evanston on Thursday evening.

"Kind person. She's a sweetheart. She loves animals," Zamir said. "We fear for her. We pray for her. We hope she's together with her mom."

Through tears, Natalie Raanan's aunt, Sigal Zamir, said: "I pray for them to come back alive. They're innocent and loving, and they didn't do anything."

Just before she left for Israel, Judith Raanan dropped off a pink prayer book for the Hechts' 7-year-old daughter, who loves the color, said Yehudis Hecht, the rabbi's wife and Judith's friend.

"Judith, we're thinking of you. Of your resilience, your hope, your love, your generosity, your faith and strength," Yehudis Hecht said. "We know you're a strong woman and we pray that we see you safely very soon with your dear Natalie."

Louvre Museum and Versailles Palace evacuated after bomb threats with France on alert

By ANGELA CHARLTON and JEFFREY SCHAEFFER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The Louvre Museum in Paris and Versailles Palace evacuated visitors and staff Saturday after receiving bomb threats, police said. The French government started deploying 7,000 troops to increase security around the country after a fatal school stabbing by a suspected Islamic extremist.

The evacuations of two of the world's most-visited tourist sites come amid heightened vigilance around France following Friday's school attack, and global tensions linked to the war between Israel and Hamas. President Emmanuel Macron's government is worried about fallout from the war in France.

Alarms rang out through the Louvre when the evacuation was announced, and in the underground shopping center beneath its signature pyramid. Paris police said officers searched the museum after it received written bomb threats. The Louvre communication service said no one was hurt and no bomb was found, so the museum will reopen as usual on Sunday.

The Louvre, home to masterpieces such as the Mona Lisa, welcomes between 30,000 and 40,000 visitors per day and several million annually.

The former royal palace at Versailles also received bomb threats, and the palace and its sprawling gardens were being evacuated while police examine the area, according to national police. A major Paris train station, Gare de Lyon, was being evacuated after the discovery of a possible bottle explosive, police said.

Earlier Saturday, Macron's office announced the mobilization of 7,000 soldiers by Monday night, after the government heightened the national threat alert in the wake of the school attack in the northern city of Arras. The "attack emergency" threat posture allows the government to temporarily deploy extra troops to protect public places, among other measures.

Counterterrorism authorities are investigating the Arras stabbing, and the suspected assailant and several others are in custody, prosecutors said. The attacker's exact motive remains unclear, and he is reportedly refusing to speak to investigators.

The suspect had been under recent surveillance by intelligence services for Islamic radicalization. He was detained Thursday for questioning based on his phone conversations in recent days, but investigators found no sign that he was preparing an attack, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said. He said French intelligence suggested a link between the war in the Middle East and the suspect's decision to act.

Court documents viewed by The Associated Press show the suspect, identified by prosecutors as Mohammed M., is from the Ingushetia region in Russia's Caucasus Mountains, which neighbors Chechnya.

Some schoolchildren, parents and personnel returned to the Gambetta-Carnot school Saturday, as police stood guard outside. Classes were canceled, but the school reopened for those who wanted to come together or seek support.

Trauma specialists described the importance of addressing the emotions and revisiting the scene soon after horrific events. One mother said she came with her 17-year-old daughter in a show of defiance against extremism, and to overcome the fear of returning to a site where children were locked down for hours after the stabbing.

Another mother came to seek guidance from counselors about how to support her two sons, who wit-

nessed the attack in their schoolyard.

"As adults, we are managing with difficulty to take a step back, but for them, they're children," said Emily Noge, arriving at the school with her sons and partner.

"It's always the same moments that come back: The schoolyard, the chairs to protect themselves, the stabbings, the whys. 'Why us? Why Arras? Why the teachers? They were good teachers. They were there to protect us,'" she said.

For many, the attack echoed the killing of another teacher, Samuel Paty, almost exactly three years ago near his Paris area school. He was beheaded by a radicalized Chechen later killed by police.

All French middle schools and high schools will open later Monday so that staff can talk about the attack, and prepare to reassure students and address what happened, the Education Ministry announced. Each establishment will hold a minute of silence to reflect and honor victims of all attacks targeting schools.

Macron urged the people of France to "stay united."

While the world is watching Gaza, violence fuels growing tensions in the occupied West Bank

By JULIA FRANKEL and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — While the world is focused on the war in Gaza, tensions have risen in the occupied West Bank, where 55 Palestinians were killed over the past week in clashes with Israeli troops, arrest raids and attacks by Jewish settlers. U.N. monitors said it was the deadliest week for Palestinians in the territory since at least 2005.

Since Hamas' deadly mass incursion into southern Israel, in which militants killed over 1,300 people and captured around 150, Israeli forces have held the West Bank under a tight grip, closing crossings into the territory and checkpoints between cities, measures they say are aimed at preventing attacks.

Friday was a particularly deadly day, with 16 Palestinians killed in different incidents in the West Bank.

The military says it has arrested 220 people in raids across the West Bank, including 130 Hamas operatives, since last weekend's attack. Hamas militants are present in the West Bank, but largely operate underground because of Israel's tight grip on the territory.

The renewed crackdown comes as Israel is concerned about the conflict escalating into a multi-front war, particularly the possibility of Lebanon's Hezbollah militia also joining the battle.

But Palestinians say the latest Israeli measures in the West Bank have only further blurred the line between security forces and radical, violent settlers. Israel's National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, a far-right settler with a long history of anti-Arab incitement, responded to the Hamas attack by distributing more weapons to the already well-armed settler population and tasking settlers with security.

In a statement earlier this week, he said his office is distributing 10,000 firearms, as well as combat gear, protective vests and helmets, to Israeli civilians — with a particular focus on residents of Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

"We will change the world so that the settlements will be protected," he said. "I have ordered the massive arming of the civilian standby units in order to protect the settlements and the cities."

On Friday, a video showed a settler with an assault rifle walking into the village of Al-Tuwani in the southern West Bank and shooting a Palestinian point blank.

Two days earlier, settlers shot dead three Palestinians in the village of Qusra, near the northern West Bank city of Nablus. On Thursday, settlers attacked their funeral, killing another two men, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. Video footage showed the settlers swerving their cars into the funeral procession before stopping and opening fire.

On Thursday, settlers arrived at Wadi Seeq, a small Bedouin village home to around 200 people in the central West Bank, as Palestinians there packed up their belongings. They had already moved all of the women, children and livestock to a safer area in recent days because of rising threats, a resident of the village said. Witnesses said that the settlers opened fire, wounding three Palestinians and driving the rest out of the village.

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Abdelrahman Kaabni, the head of the Wadi Seeq village council, said that soldiers and police had taken part in the attack, beating and arresting residents. As the villagers of Wadi Seeq fled settler violence, they left behind cisterns, livestock, solar panels and two vehicles. "The settlers took everything, and now they're squatting in our homes," Kaabni said.

Wadi Seeq is the sixth Bedouin village to have pulled up stakes in the last year in response to an uptick in settler attacks. Many more are in danger of being completely displaced, according to the West Bank Protection Consortium, a coalition of aid groups and donor countries, including the European Union, that support Palestinian communities.

Neither COGAT, the Israeli defense body responsible for civilian affairs, nor the Israeli military responded to requests for comment. In the past, authorities have said troops only open fire in response to threats or to disperse violent protests and that soldiers protect Palestinians from settler attacks.

The U.N. said last month that 1,100 Palestinians had been displaced by settler violence in the last year, an unprecedented figure. Over just the last few days, around 200 to 300 Palestinians have been displaced in Wadi Seeq and other areas, the consortium said — often by settlers who are armed.

"They're leaving now because they feel completely unprotected. They're so scared of those settlers who have come in and threatened them," said Allegra Pacheco, who heads the consortium.

Most of the attacks come from settler outposts established without government authorization but protected by the Israeli army. Over 500,000 Jewish settlers live in nearly 150 settlements across the West Bank, which is home to some 2.5 million Palestinians. The international community overwhelmingly views settlements as illegal and a major obstacle to peace. Israel captured the West Bank, along with Gaza and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 war. The Palestinians want the territories for their future state.

On Saturday, Israeli military spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari appeared to be calling on settlers to stand down, saying: "The responsibility for security in the settlements and on the roads lies with the army alone."

But messages continued to circulate on WhatsApp groups that Jewish settlers have created since the start of the war to coordinate operations in the West Bank. A description of one chat group with over 800 participants told residents to prepare for "the possibility of mobilizing for a joint activity with the security forces for the immediate demolition of terrorist houses."

The message urged residents to "eliminate" any Palestinian approaching a settlement.

"From the stories flowing in from the Gaza Strip, it is clear that we cannot rely on the army alone to be able to protect us in a time of chaos," it read. "Are you ready for war?"

Fierce fighting persists in Ukraine's east as Kyiv reports nonstop assaults by Russia on a key city

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian officials reported intense combat as Russian forces relentlessly assaulted the eastern Ukrainian city of Avdiivka for a fifth consecutive day Saturday.

City leader Vitalii Barabash reported that Moscow was deploying additional forces to encircle the strategically important city in the eastern Donetsk region, situated just north of the Russian-held regional capital, also called Donetsk.

"The enemy hasn't stopped either assaulting or shelling positions" around Avdiivka, Barabash said on Ukrainian television.

Around 1,600 civilians remain within the city, a stark contrast to its prewar population of about 31,000. Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his war against Ukraine in February 2022.

Barabash's comments came after Russia's U.N. ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, told a U.N. Security Council meeting on Friday that the intensified attacks in the east amounted to a new stage in Moscow's campaign in Ukraine.

"Russian troops have, for several days now, switched over to active combat action practically throughout the entire front line. ... The so-called Ukrainian counteroffensive can therefore be considered finished," he said.

But Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said earlier this week that Ukrainian forces were keeping Russian troops at bay and “holding our ground.”

Donetsk’s acting regional governor, Ihor Moroz, said Saturday that 22 civilians were wounded in Russian shelling in the region over the previous 24 hours.

Further north, fighting along the northern stretch of Ukraine’s eastern front has “significantly worsened” in recent days, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi, commander of Ukraine’s land forces, wrote on Facebook Saturday.

Syrskyi, who visited troops in the area, said that Russian forces had regrouped following losses and were mounting attacks around the village of Makiivka and pushing toward the city of Kupiansk, with the goal of encircling Kupiansk and reaching the Oskil River.

Also on Saturday, two women — ages 60 and 42 — were killed in two Russian shelling attacks in the city of Beryslav in Ukraine’s partly-occupied Kherson region.

In Russia, the Defense Ministry said air defense systems shot down two Ukrainian drones over the Black Sea near the southern resort city of Sochi on Saturday morning. A drone was also shot down in the Belgorod region bordering Ukraine during the afternoon, regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said. Ukrainian officials have never acknowledged responsibility for attacks on Russian territory.

Amid a mental health crisis, toy industry takes on a new role: building resilience

By ANNE D’INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As more children emerge from the pandemic grappling with mental health issues, their parents are seeking ways for them to build emotional resilience.

And toy companies are paying close attention.

While still in its early phase, a growing number of toy marketers are embracing MESH — or mental, emotional and social health — as a designation for toys that teach kids skills like how to adjust to new challenges, resolve conflict, advocate for themselves, or solve problems.

The acronym was first used in child development circles and by the American Camp Association 10 years ago and gained new resonance after the pandemic. Rachele Harmuth, head of ThinkFun, a division of toy company Ravensburger, and resilience expert and family physician Deborah Gilboa, formed a MESH taskforce earlier this year with the goal of getting manufacturers to design toys with emotional resilience in mind and to have retailers market them accordingly.

“We just need to educate parents and educators just a little bit to know that we could be using their play time a little bit intentionally,” Gilboa said.

The plan is to certify MESH toys by mid-2024 the same way the Toy Association did for STEAM toys, which emphasize science, tech, engineering, arts, and math. Adrienne Appell, a spokeswoman at the Toy Association, notes that MESH is an area it will continue to monitor as it evolves.

Many toys that could be considered MESH happen to already be in children’s toy chests — like memory games, puppets, certain types of Legos, Pokémon trading games, and Dungeons & Dragons. The concept was highlighted at the toy industry’s recent four-day annual show in New York, which featured an abundance of toys from the likes of hand2mind and Open the Joy that encourage children to express their feelings with mirrors or puppets.

James Zahn, editor-in-chief of the trade publication the Toy Book, noted the bulk of the new toys being developed with MESH in mind will be out starting next year.

But some worry the MESH approach might end up promising parents something it can’t deliver. There’s also a risk of companies preying on parents’ anxieties about their kids’ mental health.

“My fear is that MESH will be used as the next marketing gimmick,” said Chris Byrne, an independent toy analyst. “It will create a culture of fear that their children are not developing socially and emotionally. And that’s not really the job of the toy industry.”

Experts say childhood depression and anxiety were climbing for years, but the pandemic’s unrelenting stress and grief magnified the woes, particularly for those already grappling with mental health issues

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who were cut off from counselors and other school resources during remote learning. Many educators began emphasizing social emotional learning in response, which teaches children soft skills like helping them manage their emotions and create positive rapport with others.

Dave Anderson, vice president of school and community programs and a senior psychologist in the ADHD and Behavior Disorders Center at the Child Mind Institute, applauded the toy industry's efforts to likewise address emotional resilience. But he said parents need to be careful about claims that companies may be making. While there's evidence that skills highlighted by the MESH taskforce can build resilience, there's no evidence that the toys themselves will, he said.

"The concepts are evidence based; the toys themselves are not," he said.

Bryne notes that the skills being highlighted by the MESH taskforce are the basics of play, whether it's skateboarding that builds perseverance or learning how to share toys to help with conflict resolution.

"In my opinion, if you live in a healthy home and you're having healthy play and your parents are engaged, the MESH stuff kind of happens automatically," he said.

The U.S. toy industry itself has been in need of a jolt following a weak year, particularly a lackluster holiday 2022 season when retailers were stuck with a surplus of toys after enjoying a pandemic-induced toy splurge by parents. The malaise has continued so far this year, with toy sales in the U.S. down 8% from January through August, based on Circana's retail tracking service data.

For its part, the MESH taskforce is initially working with specialty stores like Learning Express and small toy companies like Crazy Aaron's, which has expanded beyond its Thinking Putty to add activity kits that teach kids problem solving like how magnets work with putty. One game ThinkFun is marketing: Rush Hour, a sliding block logic game that has kids battle traffic gridlock.

But large retailers like Amazon are also waking up to the MESH approach.

"The rising popularity of MESH toys speaks to the power of play and the important role that toys play in our lives," said Anne Carrihill, Amazon's director of toys and games.

Richard Derr, owner of the Learning Express franchise in Lake Zurich, Illinois, said that he trained his workers on helping parents this past spring to pick the right toys. But the challenge is not to scare parents.

"You don't want to rush up to somebody and say, 'Hey, how's your mental health today of your kids?'" Derr said. "That's why local toy stores are a great place to start because of our relationships with the community, customers and teachers."

But he noted toymakers can't be overusing the word MESH without any meaning.

Sarah Davis, the mother of three boys ages 3, 6 and 9, is open to the idea of MESH toys. The Great Falls, Virginia resident said her 6-year-old had delayed speech because he was wearing a mask during the heart of the pandemic, while her 9-year-old son has some issues with social interaction after being isolated and glued to his laptop.

"My kids don't have an issue with anxiety in terms of school," she said, but added. "I still worry about the long-term effects of what that was like."

More than the promise of building emotional resilience through MESH is whether the toys themselves will actually be fun.

"Are my kids going to ask for those kind of toys for Christmas?" Davis asked. "I'm going to be really curious and I will keep an eye out for them."

An Australian referendum to create an Indigenous advocacy committee to Parliament has failed

By ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australians resoundingly rejected on Saturday a referendum proposal to create an advocacy committee to offer advice to Parliament on policies that affect Indigenous people — the nation's most disadvantaged ethnic minority.

The government proposed the first constitutional change since 1977 as a step forward in Indigenous rights. But the vote divided Indigenous leaders as well as the wider community.

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More than 59% of voters opposed the so-called Voice to Parliament with almost half the votes counted by Saturday. The loss is unofficial but is not contested.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese blamed his political opponents' campaigning against the measure for the failure. No referendum has ever succeeded without support of the major parties.

Albanese promised on the day he was elected last year to hold the referendum and accepted responsibility for his government's decision to proceed despite evidence it was doomed.

"I had a duty, as a conviction politician, to put that to the Australian people," Albanese told reporters.

Bipartisan support is widely regarded as essential for an Australian referendum's success. Only eight of 45 referendums have succeeded in the constitution's 122-year history.

Voice advocate Tanya Hosch, who spent a decade on developing the model, said she was devastated by the result.

"There's going to be a lot of pain and hurt and dismay and we're going to need to take a moment to absorb that message and what it says," Hosch said.

Voice advocates had hoped that listening to Indigenous views would lead to more effective delivery of government services and better outcomes for Indigenous lives.

Opponents said the Voice would divide Australians along racial lines without reducing Indigenous disadvantages. They also said it could be a first step toward Indigenous claims for repatriation and compensation.

Accounting for only 3.8% of the population, Indigenous Australians die on average eight years younger than the wider population, have a suicide rate twice that of the national average and suffer from diseases in the remote Outback that have been eradicated from other wealthy countries.

Opposition leader Peter Dutton accused Albanese of needlessly creating racial division over a doomed referendum.

"The prime minister was warned over the course of the last 16 or 17 months not to proceed with this divisive referendum and he owes the Australian public an apology for that," Dutton said.

Hunter Biden investigations lead to ethical concerns about President Biden, an AP-NORC poll shows

By JOSH BOAK and LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ethical concerns are casting a shadow over President Joe Biden as he seeks reelection amid investigations into his son Hunter and an impeachment inquiry, with a poll showing that 35% of U.S. adults believe the president himself has done something illegal.

An additional 33% say they think the Democratic president behaved unethically, but not illegally. And 30% say Joe Biden did nothing wrong, according to the poll. The results of the survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research reflect both a vast political divide and skepticism about the morality of government leaders.

House Republicans have launched an impeachment inquiry into Biden, seeking to tie the president to the foreign business dealings of his 53-year-old son. Hunter Biden is facing a separate criminal indictment by a special counsel after a plea deal in a tax and gun case fell apart.

Republicans have been investigating Hunter Biden for years, since his father was vice president. While questions have arisen about the ethics surrounding the Biden family's international business, no evidence has emerged so far to prove that Joe Biden, in his current or previous office, abused his role or accepted bribes.

The survey's findings point toward a U.S. political system riven with cynicism and suspicion. Having fractured along partisan lines, the public largely appears to judge Joe Biden as much based on his party affiliation as the known facts.

Roughly two-thirds of Republicans say they think Joe Biden is guilty of crimes pertaining to his son, but only 8% of Democrats and 38% of independents agree. About an additional third in each party say they think Joe Biden at least did something unethical. A solid majority of Democrats (58%) maintain that the president did nothing wrong.

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Interviews with poll respondents tapped into a deeper sense of rot within the federal government. Several said the political class as a whole was beset by greed and corruption, causing politicians to selfishly neglect the country's needs. That perspective is at odds with Biden's message of optimism about a government that is spurring investments in infrastructure, new factories and renewable energy sources.

Asked if the president had profited off his son's work abroad, Idaho resident Hank Gardiner said the evidence presented so far proved Joe Biden had.

"Absolutely. I don't think you have to be intelligent to see that," said Gardiner, 42, a Pocatello contractor who formerly worked in law enforcement. Gardiner, who voted to reelect Republican Donald Trump as president in 2020, said he feels the country is headed in the wrong direction because "our government's totally corrupt."

Joe Biden has said only that he loves and supports his son, whose drug addiction has formed the basis of a gun charge against him. Hunter Biden was silent for years as Republican attacks swirled, but has now gone on the offensive. He is suing operatives who obtained and spread his personal data. That data has been used in the GOP probes, including embarrassing images that were shown in House committee hearings.

The president has said little in an effort to avoid any appearance that he is meddling in the Justice Department probe. But it hasn't been taken that way by some voters, who see the mere existence of the investigation as proof of their own beliefs that politicians are instinctively underhanded.

With their investigation, GOP lawmakers are seeking in part to distract from the increasing legal peril of GOP front-runner Trump, who is facing four criminal cases, including a federal indictment accusing him of working to overturn the results of the 2020 election in the run-up to the violent riot by his supporters at the U.S. Capitol. Trump continues to claim — wrongly — that the election was stolen, even in the face of the mounting charges against him.

Trump and his Republican supporters in Congress instead say that Joe Biden and his family are getting a sweetheart deal from prosecutors, while Trump has been hung out to dry by an overly aggressive justice system that does not want to see him as president again.

Some voters see Joe Biden acting as any parent would with his son, and the GOP-led investigation into his business dealings as excessive.

"We've spent too much time on this and wasted money," said David Parrott, 57, a retired construction worker from Tennessee who voted for Trump in 2020. "If a father can take care of his son, he's going to do it. He acted like a father should act."

But Parrott does not see Joe Biden as being more ethical than Trump; he sees corruption as being endemic to the government.

"Oh, man," he said. "I don't think either one of them is very ethical at all. This country is all about the money. That's all either one of them care about: the money."

Americans are slightly more likely to disapprove (39%) than approve (33%) of the House impeachment inquiry into Joe Biden. About one-quarter say that they neither approve nor disapprove. Two-thirds of Republicans (67%) approve of the inquiry, but just 28% of independents and 7% of Democrats agree.

Terry Kilgore, a 75-year-old lawyer in Westlake, Ohio, said that Biden has behaved ethically by deferring to the Justice Department. He sees Republican lawmakers as thirsty for power with their impeachment efforts. The lone safety valve might be the Democratic majority in the Senate to block a conviction, said Kilgore, who voted for Joe Biden in 2020.

Referring to GOP senators, Kilgore added that if they had their way, "if they controlled the Senate, what would they do? You know. They would impeach him. Just because they had the manpower to do it."

An AP-NORC poll conducted in October 2019 — after the House opened the first of two impeachment inquiries into Trump — found that 47% of U.S. adults said they approved of the inquiry, while 38% disapproved. At the time, 38% of Americans said Trump acted illegally in his interactions with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and an additional 29% said he acted unethically. The former president was ultimately impeached by the House but acquitted by the Senate.

The same 2019 AP-NORC poll found that 69% of Americans said it was inappropriate for Hunter Biden

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to serve on the board of a Ukrainian energy company while Joe Biden was vice president.

In general, Democrats appear to enjoy a relative edge on ethics over Republicans, though many people don't see that as a strong suit for either party.

More U.S. adults say they trust the Democrats (28%) over the Republicans (19%) to handle corruption in government. Even more — about 4 in 10 — trust neither party while 14% trust both sides equally. Most Democrats (56%) have more faith in their party than Republicans to handle corruption, while 42% of Republicans trust their own party over Democrats. About 6 in 10 independents trust neither Republicans nor Democrats to address government corruption.

The impeachment inquiry seems to have had little impact on Biden's overall job approval.

About 4 in 10 approve of how Joe Biden is handling the presidency, while 61% disapprove. Those approval figures have stayed consistently low over the past two years as the country endured a dose of high inflation while the economy recovered from the pandemic. But many also express worries about the 80-year-old Biden's abilities given his age.

"I'm a little concerned about his competency given some of the speeches he's given," said Shae Rouzan, 34, an administrative assistant from Carson, California. "I don't think he's healthy enough or mentally competent enough to fully realize the duties of the presidential office."

Still, Rouzan, who voted for Joe Biden in 2020, said she would do so again in 2024 given the possible alternatives.

Biden earns relatively high marks on his handling of the coronavirus pandemic (52% approve, 47% disapprove).

But just 32% support Joe Biden's handling of the economy, with 67% disapproving. Only 31% back his management of the federal budget. And 41% support his handling of student debt, which involved Biden forgiving smaller sums than promised after the Supreme Court rejected his authority to write off \$400 billion in loans.

Despite the low marks, voters such as Oakley Graham said Joe Biden displayed his values by going to the picket lines of striking autoworkers in Michigan.

"He stands with workers," said Graham, 30, a homemaker from Greenwood, Missouri, who voted for Joe Biden in 2020. "Not standing with corporations shows that he does care about the American people and individual Americans' lives."

Today in History: October 15

Senate confirms Clarence Thomas despite Anita Hill allegations

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Oct. 15, the 288th day of 2023. There are 77 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On this date:

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte, the deposed French emperor, arrived on the British-ruled South Atlantic island of St. Helena, where he spent the last 5 1/2 years of his life in exile.

In 1945, the former premier of Vichy France, Pierre Laval, was executed for treason.

In 1946, Nazi war criminal Hermann Goering (GEH'-reeng) fatally poisoned himself hours before he was to have been executed.

In 1954, Hurricane Hazel made landfall on the Carolina coast as a Category 4 storm; Hazel was blamed for some 1,000 deaths in the Caribbean, 95 in the U.S. and 81 in Canada.

In 1966, the revolutionary Black Panther Party was founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale in Oakland, California.

In 1976, in the first debate of its kind between vice-presidential nominees, Democrat Walter F. Mondale and Republican Bob Dole faced off in Houston.

In 1989, South African officials released eight prominent political prisoners, including Walter Sisulu.

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In 1991, despite sexual harassment allegations by Anita Hill, the Senate narrowly confirmed the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court, 52-48.

In 1997, British Royal Air Force pilot Andy Green twice drove a jet-powered car in the Nevada desert faster than the speed of sound, officially shattering the world's land-speed record.

In 2001, Bethlehem Steel Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

In 2003, eleven people were killed when a Staten Island ferry slammed into a maintenance pier. (The ferry's pilot, who'd blacked out at the controls, later pleaded guilty to eleven counts of manslaughter.)

In 2015, President Barack Obama abandoned his pledge to end America's longest war, announcing plans to keep at least 5,500 U.S. troops in Afghanistan at the end of his term in 2017 and hand the conflict off to his successor.

In 2017, actress and activist Alyssa Milano tweeted that women who had been sexually harassed or assaulted should write "Me too" as a status; within hours, tens of thousands had taken up the #MeToo hashtag (using a phrase that had been introduced 10 years earlier by social activist Tarana Burke).

In 2018, Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen died in Seattle at age 65 from complications of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

In 2021, lawyers for accused Florida school shooter Nikolas Cruz said he would plead guilty to the 2018 massacre at a Parkland high school that killed 14 students and three staff members.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Barry McGuire is 88. Actor Linda Lavin is 86. Rock musician Don Stevenson (Moby Grape) is 81. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Palmer is 78. Singer-musician Richard Carpenter is 77. Actor Victor Banerjee is 77. Former tennis player Roscoe Tanner is 72. Singer Tito Jackson is 70. Actor-comedian Larry Miller is 70. Actor Jere Burns is 69. Movie director Mira Nair is 66. Britain's Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, is 64. Chef Emeril Lagasse (EM'-ur-ul leh-GAH'-see) is 64. Rock musician Mark Reznicek (REHZ'-nih-chehk) is 61. Singer Eric Benet (beh-NAY') is 57. Actor Vanessa Marcil is 55. Singer-actor-TV host Paige Davis is 54. Country singer Kimberly Schlapman (Little Big Town) is 54. Actor Dominic West is 54. R&B singer Ginuwine (JIHN'-yoo-wyn) is 53. Christian singer-actor Jaci (JAK'-ee) Velasquez is 44. Actor Brandon Jay McLaren is 43. R&B singer Keyshia Cole is 42. Actor Vincent Martella is 31. Actor Bailee Madison is 24.