

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, Oct. 29

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.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion (Milestones for JK and Kindergarten), 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 7 p.m.

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

Monday, Oct. 30

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, pineapple/mandarin oranges, peanut butter cookie, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Chicken fries mashed with gravy.

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

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

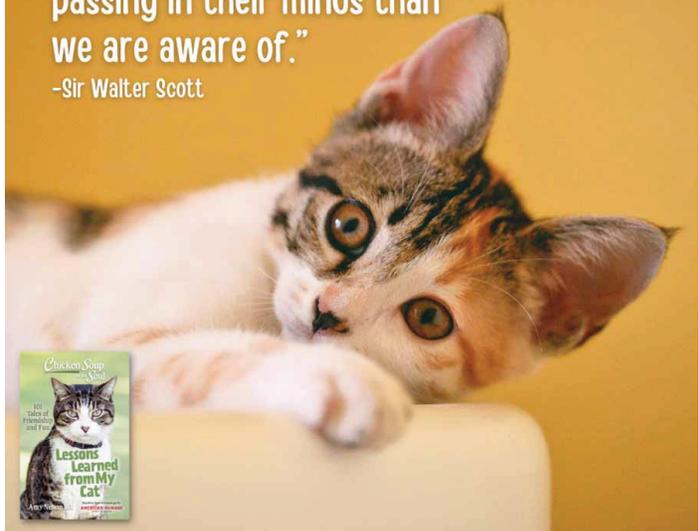
FCCLA Blood Drive at High School

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

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.
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"Cats are a mysterious kind of folk--there is more passing in their minds than we are aware of."

-Sir Walter Scott



Death Notice: Collette Baker

Collette Baker, 55, of San Francisco, CA and formerly of Groton passed away October 25, 2023 at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital in San Francisco. Services will be held at a later date under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli, fruit, orange sherbert, garlic toast.

School Breakfast: Waffles.

School Lunch: Werewolf burgers (hamburgers), white trees (cooked cauliflower)

Thrift Store open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Food Pantry open 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Downtown Trick or Treat, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

United Methodist Trunk or Treat, 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Region 1A Volleyball Tournament at Groton

6 p.m: Groton Area vs. Waubay-Summit

7:30 p.m.: Redfield vs. Sisseton

NCRC Test for Seniors, 8:40 a.m. to Noon

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NSU Football

Wolves fall as CSP Pulls Away from NSU in the Second Half

St. Paul, Minn. – On a cool fall day from Sea Foam Stadium, the Northern State University football team dropped their fifth contest of the season to Concordia-St. Paul. The Wolves scored all 14 of their points in the second quarter, with the Golden Bears scoring in all four.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 14 CSP 20

Records: NSU 4-5 (4-5 NSIC), CSP 3-6 (2-6 NSIC)

Attendance: 799

HOW IT HAPPENED

Concordia-St. Paul recorded a touchdown in both the first and second quarters and added field goals in the third and fourth

Clayton Grueneich scored his first touchdown of the 2023 season at 14:21 in the second quarter on a 1-yard pass from Colton Hackel

The Grueneich score tied the contest at 7-all and the Wolves took their first and only lead before the quarter was done

It was a day of season first for NSU, as Hackel hit Gavin Giesler on a 7-yard passing touchdown for his first receiving touchdown

With under a minute in the half, Concordia tallied a 2-yard rushing touchdown and tied the game at 14 as the two teams entered the locker room

It was all CSP in the second half with two field goals to grab and extend the lead; a 29-yarder in the third and 45-yarder in the fourth

Northern recorded 15 first downs on offense with 112 yards rushing and 138 yards passing

They converted on 7-of-12 third downs and scored two of the three times they entered the red-zone; however six Golden Bear sacks hampered the Wolves offensive attempts

The NSU defense forced an interception and held CSP to 5-of-14 on third down, but the Golden Bears responded going 4-for-4 on fourth down and 3-for-4 in the red-zone

Hackel completed 11-of-18 passing attempts for 138 yards and two touchdowns with one interception

Brett Brenton rushed for a team leading 69 yards, while Dewaylon Ingram added a team leading 89 receiving yards

Jake Adams continued to shine for the Wolves defense, shattering his previous single game high with a team leading 14 tackles, including one tackle for a loss

Lynden Williams added 11 tackles of his own, as well as the team's interception with a 12-yard return

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Brett Brenton: 69 yards rushing, 87 kick return yards

Colton Hackel: 11-18-1 passing, 138 passing yards, 2 touchdowns

Dewaylon Ingram: 89 receiving yards

Jake Adams: 14 tackles, 8 solo stop, 1.0 tackle for a loss

Lynden Williams: 11 tackles, 1 interception

Luke Gunderson: 10 tackles, 1.5 tackles for a loss, 0.5 sack

UP NEXT

The Wolves close out their home slate next Saturday hosting Augustana. Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. against the Vikings from Dacotah Bank Stadium.

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NSU Volleyball

Three Wolves Record Double Figure Kills in Road Win

Sioux Falls, S.D. – The Northern State University volleyball team bounced back on Saturday afternoon, defeating Augustana University 3-1 from the Elmen Center. The Wolves grabbed their ninth league win of the season and improved to 17-6 overall.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 3, AU 1

Records: NSU 17-6 (9-5 NSIC), AU 9-14 (6-8 NSIC)

Attendance: 438

HOW IT HAPPENED

The Wolves opened with a 25-22 victory in set one, however fell 25-23 in set two
NSU rallied back from behind in the third taking a 26-24 set victory and sealed the match with a 25-19 win in set four

Northern recorded a match high 54 kills, 53 assists, 92 digs, and 14 blocks, adding six service aces

The 92 digs is a 4-set match high for the Wolves this season and the 14 blocks land one behind their current season high

Abby Brooks led three Wolves in double figures with 18 kills, hitting a team leading .484

Follow that up with Abby-squared, Abby Meister notching a team leading 27 digs, averaging 6.75 per set

Reese Johnson followed with 16 digs, while the pair each recorded two aces

Keri Walker dished out 49 assists, averaging 12.25 per set, and added 11 digs and four blocks

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Abby Brooks: 18 kills, .484 attack%, 4 blocks, 3 digs

Hanna Thompson: 15 kills, .295 attack%, 3 digs, 1 block

Natalia Szybinska: 11 kills, 7 digs, 6 blocks (career high)

Keri Walker: 49 assists, 11 digs, 4 blocks, 2 kills

Abby Meister: 27 digs, 2 aces

Reese Johnson: 16 digs, 2 aces

Sara Moberg: 14 digs

UP NEXT

The Wolves continue their road trip next Friday and Saturday opening the month of November at Concordia-St. Paul and Winona State. Serve start times are set for 6 p.m. on Friday in St. Paul and 4 p.m. on Saturday in Winona.



ALL OVER ROOFING

RAISING THE ROOFING STANDARDS,
ALL OVER YOUR TOWN!

FREE HAIL STORM ESTIMATES!

605.759.0000

1205 6TH AVE SW SUITE 2, ABERDEEN, SD 57401



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Groton Wage Memorial Library

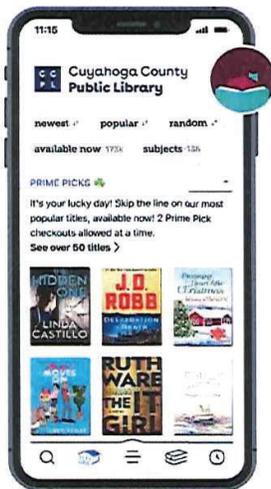


120 N Main St – Groton, SD – (605) 397-8422

Open Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

- Library Cards are FREE to ALL Groton Area Residents!
- Offer a variety of books, magazines, audiobooks and DVDs!
- Offer printing, copying, faxing and scanning services!
- Computer Lab, laptops and tablets available for public use!
- Now offering e-books and audiobooks with the FREE OverDrive/Libby App!

Discover new reads on Libby, the free app from your local library that allows you to borrow ebooks, audiobooks & more on your phone or tablet.



Why you'll love Libby:

- Quick and easy setup! Just follow the prompts to start reading
- A unified bookshelf for all your loans and holds
- Unlimited custom tags to categorize books however you'd like
- Push notifications so you never miss a thing, including available holds
- Easily find the next book in a series
- Preferences to only see the content you like
- More ways to listen on the go with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto

With the classic OverDrive app being discontinued soon, it's time to read on Libby. The award-winning Libby app by OverDrive offers a fresh, easy-to-use design with access to the same great titles from your library.



Visit overdrive.com/libby to get started with Libby today!



Summer Storytime EVERY Thursday in the Summer June-August!
'1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program' is NOW available!

FREE UPCOMING EVENTS: *MUST PREREGISTER BY CALLING LIBRARY*

Saturday, October 28th 3pm-5pm: Halloween Movie Event: Featuring Hocus Pocus 2!

Saturday, December 9th 11am-1pm: Christmas Movie Event (TBA). Jungle Pizza will be served!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

Fall Dinner

NOVEMBER 5TH, 5PM TO 7PM

TOSSED SALAD, LASAGNA, GARLIC BREAD,
ICE CREAM SUNDAE BAR

.....
FREE WILL OFFERING
.....

BINGO, BINGO, BINGO!



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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

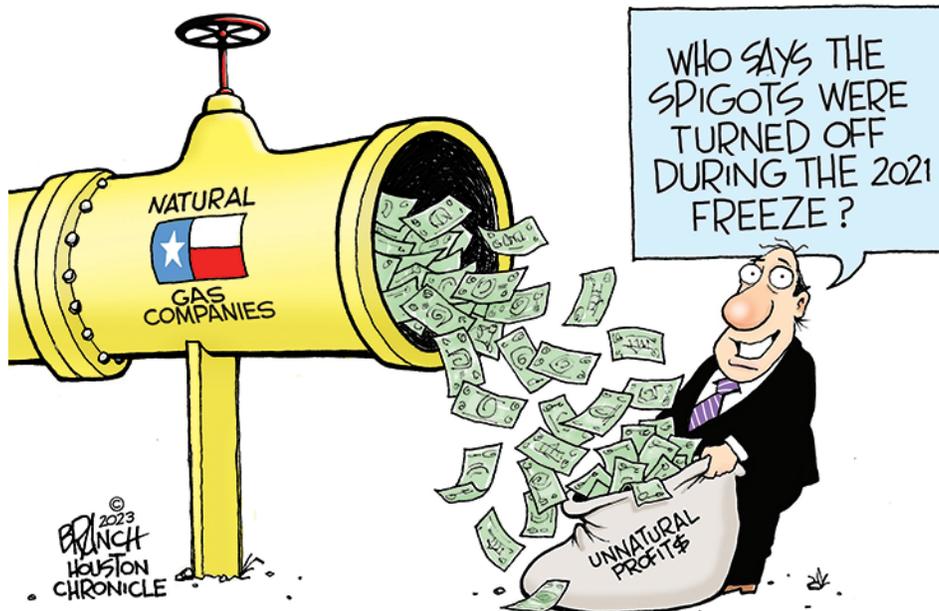
"Untitled (Shepherd)" by Marc Chagall (1958)



*The Lord is their strength,
and He is the saving refuge of
His anointed. Save Your people,
and bless Your inheritance;
shepherd them also,
and bear them up forever.*

Psalm 28:8,9

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BIBLIE
TRIVIA
by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Matthew 12, when an evil spirit returns to a person, how many companions does it bring? 2, 3, 7, 16

3. In which book's 22:18 does it state, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live"? *Exodus, Numbers, Isaiah, Hebrews*

4. The mark of the beast number (666) is found in which chapter of Revelation? 1, 7, 11, 13

5. From 1 Samuel 16, which king of Israel was tormented by an evil spirit? *Solomon, David, Elah, Saul*

6. Who called the city of Nineveh the mistress of witchcraft? *Ahab, Nahum, Lucifer, Peter*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) 7, 3) Exodus, 4) 13:18, 5) Saul, 6) Nahum

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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FLASH GORDON

THE REVOLUTION AGAINST EMPEROR MING STANDS ON A RAZOR'S EDGE.

SUPPLIES ARE SPARSE. FORCES ARE EXHAUSTED.

IT'S ANYONE'S GAME...



THE COMMAND SHIP OF THE ALLIED MONGOTHIC NATIONS:

--LOST OUR LAST VALKRIAN GUNSHIP--

--HAWKMEN DROPPING LIKE FLIES--

--CAN'T GET THROUGH THAT LIGHTNING SHIELD--!



DOCTOR...

ALMOST THERE, PRINCESS!

WE MUST LAUNCH RIGHT AS THE SHIELD'S FLUX PATTERN REFRESHES--!

HEY! HEY!!

IT'S HAPPENING!



DALE ARDEN.

ANXIOUS. OBSERVANT. UNDERESTIMATED.

FLASH!

IT'S TIME!



DR. HANS ZARKOV (PH.D., M.SC., D.SC.).

ERRATIC. PATERNAL. BRILLIANT.

REMEMBER, MY BOY!

ONCE YOU BREACH THE LIGHTNING SHIELD, YOU'LL ONLY HAVE 2.6 SECONDS OF POWER!



AURA: REBEL DAUGHTER OF MING.

CUNNING. DEADLY. REGAL.

THIS IS OUR ONE CHANCE. OUR LAST CHANCE.

ARE YOU READY?



FLASH GORDON.

ME?

3RD-DEGREE BLACK BELT. A-RATED FENCER. TEN-GOAL POLO HANDICAP.

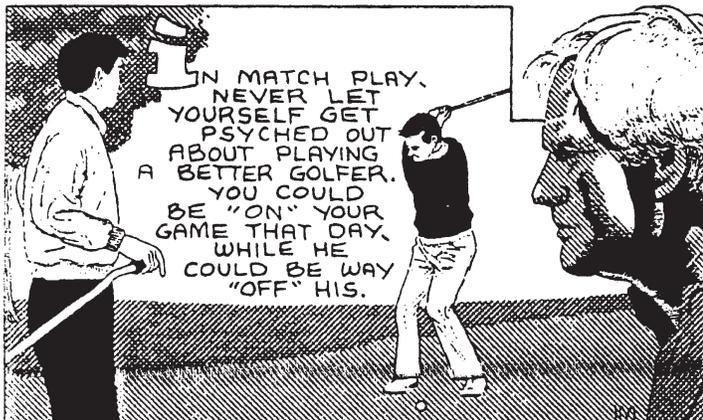


ALWAYS.

FEARLESS.

NEXT: SALVAGE

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



IN MATCH PLAY, NEVER LET YOURSELF GET PSYCHED OUT ABOUT PLAYING A BETTER GOLFER. YOU COULD BE "ON" YOUR GAME THAT DAY, WHILE HE COULD BE WAY "OFF" HIS.



ALWAYS PLAY YOUR OWN GAME AGAINST THE SCORECARD, REMEMBERING THAT PAR GOLF WILL USUALLY ADVANCE YOUR CAUSE IN MATCH PLAY.

ONLY GAMBLE WHEN YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY FORCED TO.

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Paget's Disease Causes Arthritis, Pain, Deformities and More

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband has been diagnosed with Paget's disease. I would like to know more about it; this is the first time I have ever heard of it. I would like to know the treatments and how much damage affects the bones. He is 76, had prostate cancer and underwent radiation treatment. — C.W.

ANSWER: Paget's disease of the bone is a common disease in people of European ancestry, with a lifetime prevalence of approximately 3%, although it remains undiagnosed in many. The cause of the disease appears to be a defect in bone reabsorption by the osteoclast, a specialized cell that normally helps maintain bone health. Paget's disease is not a cancer. It is normally diagnosed over the age of 55.

Most cases of Paget's disease are asymptomatic; however, without treatment, some people will develop arthritis, pain, deformities and fractures. The bone deformities may lead to nerve compression and, in the case of the tiny bones in the ear, hearing loss. X-rays and a high alkaline phosphatase (ALP) blood test are suggestive of the diagnosis. A bone scan is recommended to see the extent of damage from the disease.

Fortunately, highly effective treatments are available. Bisphosphonate drugs, the same drugs that are used to treat many people with osteoporosis, are very effective. A single treatment with zoledronic acid is effective at stopping (not reversing) the progression of the disease, and fewer than 20% of people will need a second dose. Diagnosing and treating early are ideal.

I don't think his prostate cancer or radi-

his diagnosis of Paget's.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 76-year-old male who was recently diagnosed with transitional cell carcinoma of the ureter, but I don't have a history of smoking or any occupational exposure to chemicals, plastics, rubber or dyes. My cancer was found through a CT scan with contrast dye after having asymptomatic hematuria. It's isolated to the proximal ureter and a kidney. How rare is that?

I have to have the kidney and ureter removed. Can you talk about living with one kidney and the adjustments that I'll have to make? — R.P.

ANSWER: Urothelial cancers (the new name for transitional cell cancers) come from the lining of the urinary tract and can be present in the kidneys, ureters (the tubes that carry urine from the kidneys to the bladder), bladder and urethra (the tube that carries urine outside of the body). They are not common, about one per 100,000 people per year.

About 17% of people with cancer in the ureter will also have cancer in the bladder at the same time, and almost half will develop cancer in the bladder later in life. Careful screening, such as a look inside the bladder every six months, is essential.

You are correct that smoking and certain industrial exposures are risk factors for developing these cancers, but so is the place of origin; cancer syndromes such as Lynch syndrome; other toxins such as the drug phenacetin; and traditional Chinese herbs containing aristolochic acid. For localized diseases, complete removal is the safest approach, since there may be multiple small areas affected by cancer.

Living with one kidney is not that different from living with two, as the other kidney somewhat compensates for the missing one. Some medications may need to have lower doses, but usually, this is not the case.

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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"Fellow Travelers" (TV-MA) --Matt Bomer ("American Horror Story") and Jonathan Bailey ("Bridgerton") take on this steamy seven-episode miniseries that stretches from the 1950 Lavender Scare in the U.S. to the 1980 AIDS crisis. Bomer plays Hawkins Fuller, while Bailey portrays Tim Laughlin; the pair are political staffers who begin a forbidden and volatile relationship that starts in Washington, D.C. With Hawkins being a more serious and stoic man, the idealistic Tim divulges a different side to him, amid the fact that their

From left, Bobby Cannavale, Bokeem Woodbine and Bill Burr star in "Old Dads." Courtesy of Netflix

political careers could be disintegrated in seconds if their affair was to be discovered. Allison Williams ("Get Out") and Jelani Alladin ("Tick, Tick ... Boom!") also star in this political thriller series. The first episode is out now, with subsequent episodes releasing every Sunday. (Paramount+)

"Old Dads" (R) -- In this comedy film out now, stand-up comedian and actor Bill Burr ("The Mandalorian") decides to take a seat in the director's chair for the first time. Burr, Bobby Cannavale ("The Watcher") and Bokeem Woodbine ("Ray") play a trio of out-of-touch Gen Xers struggling to find their place in the modern world after selling their vintage sports jersey business. Watching as their prized business gets gutted from the inside out and revamped by a younger boss, the three men are at a loss on how to find their way in a world that they barely recognize. Burr tied in many common grievances about political correctness that are often voiced by his generation, which might incite a laugh here and there, but doesn't necessarily make for great comedy. (Netflix)

"Book Club: The Next Chapter" (PG-13) -- The sequel to the 2018 rom-com "Book Club," starring Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda, Candice Bergen and Mary Steenburgen, premieres Oct. 31 on streaming after bombing at the box office this May. Having continued their book club virtually through COVID-19, the four ladies reunite in-person after the worst of the pandemic and decide to take a trip to Italy in celebration of Vivian's (Fonda) engagement. Of course, nothing goes as planned once their trip begins, but they use the current book that they're reading -- Paulo Coelho's "The Alchemist" -- as motivation for continuing their haphazard, yet surprisingly delightful adventure. Andy Garcia, Don Johnson and Craig T. Nelson also co-star. (Prime Video)

"Nocebo" (NR) -- As the Halloween season ends, so does the Huluween horror movie event. This year's event featured a handful of lesser-known movies, but it didn't mean that the horror was in short supply. This Filipino-Irish psychological thriller is no different. Eva Green ("Dark Shadows") plays children's fashion designer Christine, who viewers meet just as she develops a strange illness from a tick. Shortly thereafter, a woman named Diane (Chai Fonacier) appears at Christine's house to be her caretaker. While her unorthodox black magic practices turn off Christine and her family, Diane continues to miraculously treat Christine, but her appearing at Christine's house is far from a miracle -- or a coincidence. Out now. (Hulu)

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1. How did Wayne Fontana (born Glyn Geoffrey Ellis) of the Mindbenders come up with his stage name?
2. Which artist released "Sea Cruise"?
3. Name the group that released "Looking Out My Back Door."
4. The four Beatles were married a total of nine times. Name the remaining Beatles and their current wives.
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Why am I losin' sleep over you? Relivin' precious moments we knew? So many days have gone by, Still I'm so lonely."

Answers

1. He took the name from a combination of actor John Wayne and Elvis Presley's drummer, Dominic Joseph (D.J.) Fontana.
2. Frankie Ford, in 1959. Since then the song has been covered by Herman's Hermits, Freddy Cannon and Jimmy Buffett, among many others.
3. Creedence Clearwater Revival, in 1970. The song topped the charts in Sweden, Norway, Canada, Austria and Australia, as well as the U.S. CashBox.
4. Paul McCartney is married to Nancy Shevell, and Ringo Starr to Barbara Bach.
5. "Over You," by Gary Puckett & the Union Gap, in 1968. Surprisingly enough, none of the Gap's songs ever topped the charts in the U.S., with only "Young Girl" going to No. 1 in the U.K.

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GRIN and BEAR IT



"We have a crisis! The Lincoln bedroom has been overbooked!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

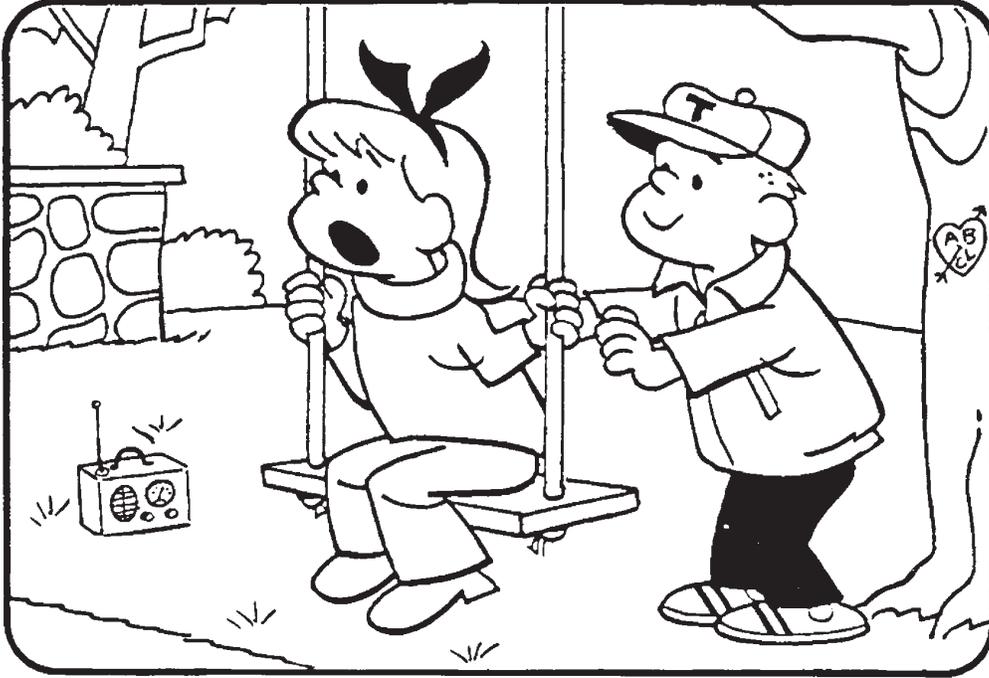


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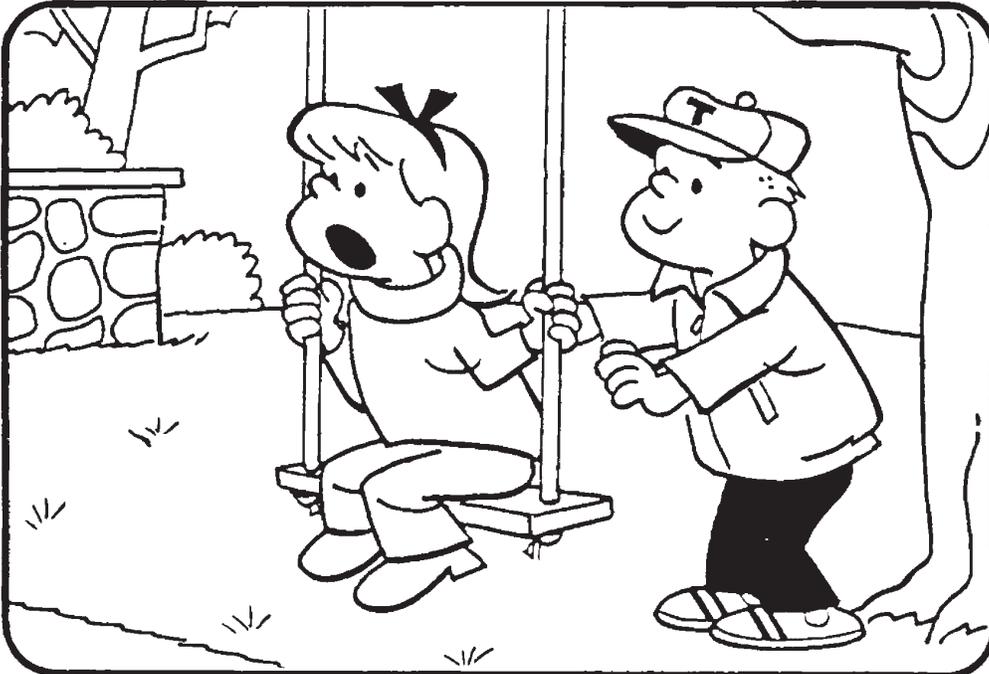
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Radio is missing. 2. Bow is smaller. 3. Swing seat is smaller. 4. Girl's legs are shorter. 5. Arm is missing. 6. Tree carving is missing.

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* Mail service is a wonderful thing. Order what you want on the internet and it's in your mailbox or on your doorstep tomorrow. From efficiency to penny pinching, you can use the mail order to help out in numerous ways. Or, use it to bring a smile to someone's face: Keep a stack of stamped postcards with you. Jot a note and mail one off whenever the mood strikes. I almost guarantee a great response from the recipient! Who doesn't love real snail mail? -- JoAnn

* To save on prescription costs, ask if your health insurance participates in a mail order service where you can get three months of a drug for a discounted cost. Mine costs less for three months than it does for one month in my local drugstore, and I don't even have to go pick it

up. -- B.W. in Virginia

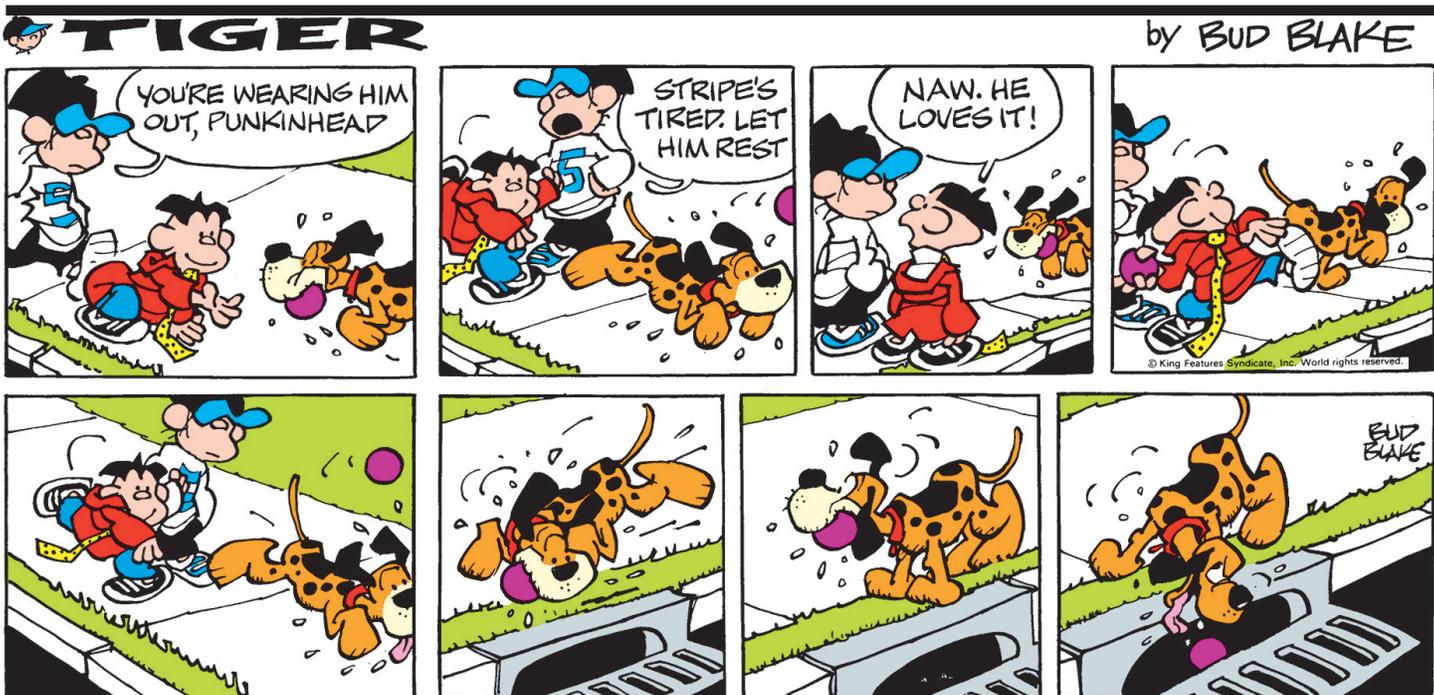
* I love to shop, and for the best deals, I go online to trusted e-retailers. When shopping online, don't forget to factor in shipping and handling, as some companies offer free shipping on orders over a certain dollar amount; some don't!

* One of the greatest assets in our communities is the public library, and mine has just added a new service that I'm over the moon about: delivery! I can search the card catalog from home and have the books I want delivered right to my house. It's so convenient. -- J.H. in Florida

* My uncle is really hard to buy for. He doesn't get out much, and he has everything he could ever need in his apartment. I hit gold with gift mail order memberships. We've done beer, cheese and fruit, and this year is meat! They send a different one every month. You can find these services on the web. Thought I'd pass it along as a gift idea. -- W.L. in Arkansas

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

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Netting
- 5 Composer Porter
- 9 "I'm not impressed"
- 12 Dog food brand
- 13 Send forth
- 14 Chopper
- 15 "Arrivederci!"
- 16 Marathon fraction
- 17 Blemish
- 18 Difficult
- 19 JFK info
- 20 Gentle soul
- 21 Victory
- 23 Greek X
- 25 Quick run
- 28 Cry of distress
- 32 Exact moment

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
18					19			20				
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39	40	41			42	43			44	45	46	47
48				49					50			
51					52				53			
54					55				56			

- 33 Broadcast again
- 34 Rouse
- 36 Caviar provider
- 37 "Xanadu" band
- 38 "— Blue?"
- 39 Family fight
- 42 Zodiac animal
- 44 Frost
- 48 Hostel
- 49 Future tulip
- 50 Tex. neighbor
- 51 Scribble (down)
- 52 Regarding
- 53 Paris airport
- 54 Equi-
- 55 "Scram!"
- 56 Calendar squares
- DOWN**
- 1 Jet speed measure
- 2 Director Kazan
- 3 Practice pugilism
- 4 Bamboozled
- 5 Solidify
- 6 Skip
- 7 Fragrant flowers
- 8 Summer on the Seine
- 9 Crib cry
- 10 Physical
- 11 Basil or thyme
- 20 Bread and butter, so to speak
- 22 Chip giant
- 24 Seraglio
- 25 Resort
- 26 "Wham!"
- 27 Estuary
- 29 — de cologne
- 30 "Top Gun" target
- 31 Historic time
- 35 "Take your time"
- 36 Panda's diet
- 39 South Pacific nation
- 40 Eve's grandson
- 41 "Do — others ..."
- 43 Sax range
- 45 Gumbo veggie
- 46 Friend
- 47 Beams
- 49 Some coll. degrees

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Out on a Limb



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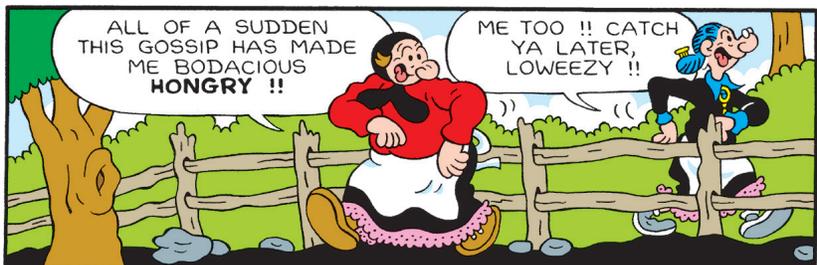
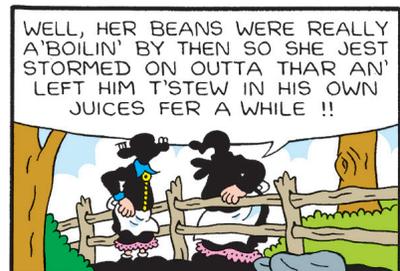
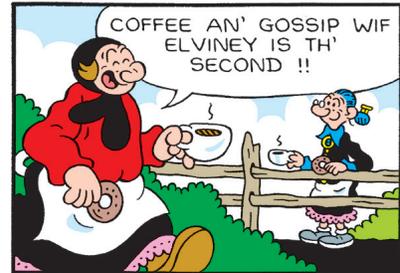
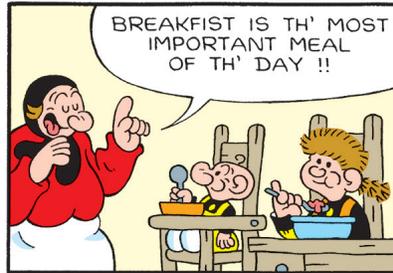
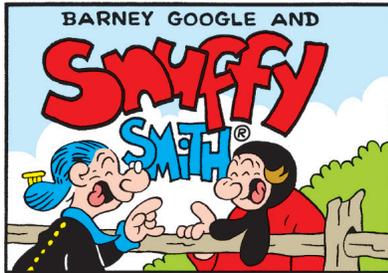
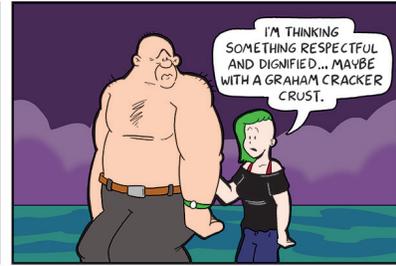
by Gary Kopervas

A NIGHT OUT
WITH SKIP AND BUZZ.

KOPERVAS

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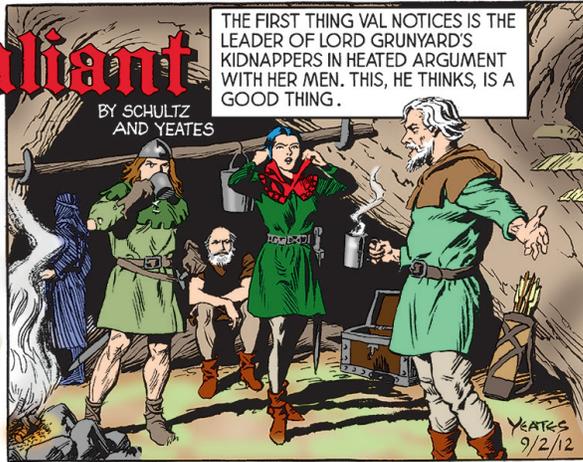


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HAL FOSTER'S Prince Valiant

BEATEN INTO SUBMISSION BY THE BRIGANDS WHOM THEY HAD INFILTRATED, VAL AND GAWAIN REVIVE WITH SPLITTING HEADACHES.



THE FIRST THING VAL NOTICES IS THE LEADER OF LORD GRUNYARD'S KIDNAPPERS IN HEATED ARGUMENT WITH HER MEN. THIS, HE THINKS, IS A GOOD THING.

BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

YEATES 9/2/12



"WE HAVE CAUSED QUITE A DILEMMA FOR YOU, HAVEN'T WE? IT IS CLEAR THAT YOU ARE INTELLIGENT- YOU REALIZE THAT IF WE DISAPPEAR, THERE WILL COME AN ARMY FROM CAMELOT, SWARMING OVER LOCKBRAMBLE."



"NO- YOU ARE NOT BASE KIDNAPPERS - AND WE HAVE SEEN THAT SOMETHING ABOUT THE REGENCY OF LOCKBRAMBLE UNDER SIR ROGER SMELLS BAD. IF WE KNEW MORE..."

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BUT BEFORE VAL CAN PROCEED WITH HIS CASE, HE IS CUT OFF - "THE SMELL COMING OFF ROGER RUNETYNNE IS THAT OF ROT!"

3943

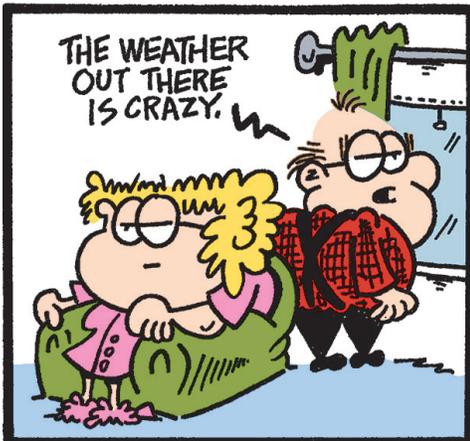
AND THEN GAWAIN REACTS IN A MOST UNLIKELY MANNER: "WHAT A MAGNIFICENT WOMAN!" VAL DID NOT SEE THAT COMING.

NEXT:
The plot thickens

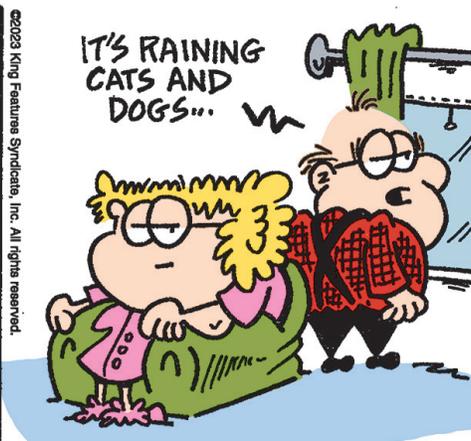


The Spats

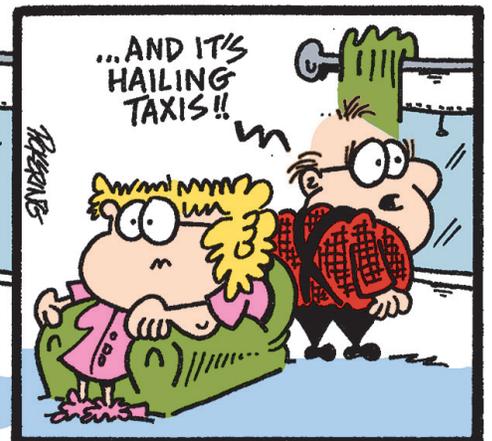
by Jeff Pickering



THE WEATHER OUT THERE IS CRAZY.



IT'S RAINING CATS AND DOGS...



...AND IT'S HAILING TAXIS!!

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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

How Much Exercise Do We Need?

What does "vigorous physical activity" mean? Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it means the hard stuff, like playing basketball or singles tennis, or swimming laps or running, ideally for 75 minutes per week. "Moderate intensive activity," such as playing doubles tennis or pushing a lawn mower, requires that we double the number to 150 minutes per week.

Those are the kinds of numbers that will keep the sedentary among us from even trying. The first step would be to check in with our doctor, certainly, to make sure we can start vigorous exercise. And the second step would be to find a basketball court. At the very least, for moderate exercise, we would need a walking partner or a lawn to mow.

Leave it to the Brits to come up with a study that we can get behind. This study concluded that a mere 15 to 20 minutes of vigorous physical activity per week was associated with a 16-40% lower mortality. Bump that up to 50 or 57 minutes per week, and the numbers are even better. What this says to us is that small amounts of exercise per week can add up to reduced mortality and chronic disease.

Even the CDC agrees that at least some amount of physical activity is better than none.

Get out of the chair, walk around ... take an exercise class for seniors.

SilverSneakers, a seniors exercise program, is available online if you have a membership. If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, see if the SilverSneakers membership is part of your plan. If so, you can attend in person in your area or sign in and watch online.

The National Institute on Aging has a section with exercise information videos for seniors (www.youtube.com/@NIHAging). Included are videos on balance, endurance, flexibility, strength and standing on one foot.

While you're on YouTube, do a search for "exercise for seniors" and see if anything appeals to you.

It only takes a few minutes.

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1. What member of the Los Angeles Rams' "Fear-some Foursome" defensive line of the 1960s was a commercial spokesman for FTD Florists?

2. Suzyn Waldman, Major League Baseball's first full-time female color commentator, works radio broadcasts for what team?

3. How many goals did Hockey Hall of Fame goalie Martin Brodeur score in his NHL career?

4. In Major League Baseball player trades, the abbreviation PTBNL stands for what?

5. What driver won the first NASCAR Cup Series ROVAL (road course and oval) race at Charlotte Motor Speedway in September 2018?

6. Who was the first person to win an NCAA women's basketball national championship as a player, assistant coach and head coach?

7. What actor, known for TV's "Grey's Anatomy," has competed in the 24 Hours of Le Mans and Rolex 24 at Daytona sportscar races?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Merlin Olsen.

2. The New York Yankees.

3. Three (Two regular season, one playoff).

4. Player to Be Named Later.

5. Ryan Blaney.

6. Kim Mulkey.

7. Patrick Dempsey.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Basic Training

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: You often mention that owners should spend time with their dogs in basic obedience training. What are "the basics" exactly?
-- Ferris T., Huntington, N.Y.

A: While the specifics of basic obedience training for dogs are better detailed through books or by professional trainers, I can list these training requirements here.

-- Houstraining: The most basic and most important to you and your dog's peace of mind. Teaching a new dog where and when to eliminate, and training yourself to keep a proper schedule, is a crucial initial

step.

-- Heel: Your dog should walk calmly alongside you, and not struggle against the leash, pull you down the street or chase after birds, cars or other dogs.

-- Sit: A well-trained dog will sit on command. When training on the leash, have the dog sit on your left side.

-- Down: The dog should lie down (on his belly, paws forward) on command.

-- Stay: In the "sit" or "down" position, the dog should not move until you release him with a verbal command.

-- Come: At your command, the dog should come to you, or respond to further directional commands (such as tugging the leash right or left to signal a turn).

That's essentially it: five basic commands and houstraining. It doesn't sound like much, but teaching a dog of any age these skills will take at least several weeks, if not months. And they must be taught correctly: no hitting or yelling, maintaining dominance over the dog. Training books provide many more details on effective ways to do this, while a professional trainer can demonstrate additional effective techniques to ease the basic training process.

Remember that basic obedience training doesn't stop once these skills have been learned. Dogs need regular reinforcement, even if it's just a five-minute review during their daily walks.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Australia is the only continent without an active volcano.

* A world championship for throwing mobile phones has been held annually in Finland since 2010. Contestants are judged on their technique as well as the length of their throw.

* The Sky Beam that shoots out of Las Vegas's Luxor Hotel attracts so many insects that it's established a new ecosystem of moths, bats and owls.

* Sponges hold more cold water than hot.

* You've undoubtedly heard of wishing upon a star, but how about an eyelash? An old superstition held that if one lost an eyelash, they should place it on the back of their hand, then throw it over their shoulder while picturing their desire. Or they could place it on the tip of their nose, then blow it off. But if the lash got stuck, they were out of luck!

* The term "grumble" is used to refer to a group of pug dogs.

* According to Greek historian Herodotus, a solar eclipse ended a six-year war in 583 B.C. when the act of "day turning into night" resulted in a draw that led to a peace treaty.

* A statue of Nikola Tesla in Silicon Valley provides free Wi-Fi.

* Not that we expect them to attempt it anytime soon, but cows cannot descend stairs. First, they can't easily see the ground after their feet, but their knees and hips also make it difficult for them to move at a downward angle (like some humans!). Plus, their weight would leave them off-balance and at risk of toppling.

Thought for the Day: "Few people know how to take a walk. The qualifications are endurance, plain clothes, old shoes, an eye for nature, good humor, vast curiosity, good speech, good silence and nothing too much." -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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The Garden Bug

Clivia blooms

In autumn, stop fertilizing your clivia plant and place it in a cool room for about 6-8 weeks; this is essential for flower bud formation. Water very sparingly until flower buds appear. Just as winter enters its bleakest stage, you will be rewarded with a bouquet of lovely bright-colored flowers. When the flowers fade, cut the stalk at its base to prevent seeding. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.chicagobotanic.org, worldoffloweringplants.com





by Freddy Groves

Educational Benefits Scam

You wouldn't think that a barber school would be a hotbed of scams and schemes, but apparently it can be. A barber school in a southern state was caught defrauding the Department of Veterans Affairs by stealing money from veterans' education benefits.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill program pays schools directly to cover the tuition and fees for veterans attending those schools. To be paid, the schools need to submit a thick stack of documents, including an initial application. Once approved, they then need to provide

information about the courses, the number of hours per week, the dates of enrollment, the costs and so on. Part of this is an agreement to charge veterans the same tuition and fees that civilian students pay.

That is where this particular barber school went over to the dark side. Where civilian students were charged \$2,400, veterans were charged \$22,400 for the course. Not only did the owner charge more for veterans, but accurate records weren't kept, and worse, the students weren't given their certificates of completion when they finished. The total scammed was in excess of \$235,000. The government is seeking treble damages, three times that amount, as penalty.

Thankfully, not all schools engage in scams and theft like the barber school. Most are probably legit. If you want to go to school, the VA might pay for it if you qualify. Take a look at www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11 for the dates and number of days of service required. On this page you'll also find information on benefits such as payment for tuition and fees, textbooks, housing ... and even moving expenses. (If you're in a very rural area with fewer than six people per square mile, you could qualify.)

To compare the various VA educational benefits at different schools, see www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool. Or call the GI Bill Hotline for more information: 888-GIBILL-1 (888-442-4551).

Remember: If you see something wrong, some type of fraud or a scam or scheme, report it. It's veterans' benefits that you'll be protecting.

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Wishing Well®

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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. SCIENCE: What was Joseph Lister's main contribution to science?
2. HISTORY: Which pro football team won the very first Super Bowl?
3. MUSIC: What is the title of the Rolling Stones' 2023 album?
4. MOVIES: Who played the monster in Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein"?
5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: How much of the popular vote did Abraham Lincoln receive when he was elected president in 1860?
6. GEOGRAPHY: In which country is the ancient city of Petra located?
7. AD SLOGANS: What product was advertised by a man who kept saying, "I can't believe I ate the whole thing"?
8. FOOD & DRINK: What is often called the national dish of Canada?
9. LANGUAGE: What does an oologist study?
10. TELEVISION: What does SVU stand for in "Law & Order: SVU"?

Answers

1. Antiseptic surgery.
2. Green Bay Packers.
3. "Hackney Diamonds."
4. Peter Boyle.
5. Less than 40%.
6. Jordan.
7. Alka-Seltzer.
8. Poutine: potato fries, cheese curds and gravy.
9. Eggs.
10. Special Victims Unit.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Buckle Down and Budget: Looking Forward to Legislative Session

As we close in on the start of legislative session, I have been meeting with my team to discuss how we can deliver the best possible results for the people of South Dakota during those weeks.

I am also working on my budget. While South Dakota has seen unprecedented growth, we have not been immune from the burdensome regulations and inflation inflicted by the federal government, and America's national economy continues to tank because of the extremist policies of the Biden Administration. Thanks to South Dakota's conservative fiscal policies, our state economy is still strong. However, it is important to realize that this year's budget will look more "normal" than it has the last several years.

South Dakota has had a balanced budget for 134 years. Now, our revenue rates are going back to normal, and we will have to rely on our tradition of smart money management to achieve our 135th year with a balanced budget.

We are a state that values fiscally conservative policies. We have no state income tax. We have a AAA credit rating. We have one of the only fully-funded pensions in the country. We make it a priority to cut government red tape wherever we can. And we let the taxpayers keep as many of their hard-earned dollars in their pockets as possible.

South Dakota has reaped the benefits of those conservative policies. We have had record surpluses and sales tax revenue over the last several years – and we have been able to use those dollars to give back to the people of our state.

Our budget for Fiscal Year 2024 funded important needs like K-12 education, healthcare providers, and state employees. It also included funding for the operation of regional behavioral health centers, 100% tuition assistance for our National Guard soldiers, and targeted increases for our state employee workforce and community service providers.

The legislature also chose to give the people of South Dakota a sales tax holiday to ease the burden of inflation. While it's no secret that this was not the tax cut I wanted to deliver for the people last session, I'm hopeful the legislature will make this tax cut permanent. Instead, there is already talk among legislators about repealing the sales tax holiday to free up money for more spending.

I point all of this out because there are many members of our state legislature that have not experienced a "normal budget year." 51 of the 105 members of our legislature have only been serving since 2020. That means that 49% of South Dakota's legislative body has not experienced a fiscal year without record-breaking economic growth. These legislators are used to having huge revenues and surpluses to spend on whatever they want. They have not had to do what more and more families across America are having to do – stick to a tight budget.

Don't get me wrong, we've accomplished some great things with our revenues and surpluses, but now it's time for us to get back to conservative spending.

We cannot raise taxes on South Dakota families. They deserve to keep their hard-earned dollars. They deserve a permanent tax cut. What we can do is limit government spending and focus on the needs of our people.

"Under God, the People Rule." We need to remember those five words that make up our state motto all 38 days of legislative session. We work for the people of South Dakota, and we owe it to them to deliver the sound fiscal policies that have made our economy the strongest in the nation.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Israel Should Not Tolerate Terrorists on Its Border

I recently returned from a bipartisan congressional delegation trip to the Middle East, including Israel. Our trip was in direct response to Hamas' savage attack on innocent men, women, and children. We went to show our support for Israel and to deliver a clear message with one voice: The United States stands with Israel.

For nearly 20 years, Israel has had to live with a terrorist organization on its border whose sole mission is killing Jews and wiping Israel off the map. And during that time Hamas has loomed as a persistent threat to Israel, attacking, kidnapping, and killing Israelis. But the barbarism and brutality Hamas displayed in its October 7 attacks revealed an evil that had reached new heights.

During my recent visit, Israeli defense officials updated us on the war. They showed us video evidence of the unnerving atrocities committed against innocent people – horrific images that I will not soon forget. In Tel Aviv, we met with the families of hostages being held in Gaza, including Americans, who shared their painful stories. These experiences made crystal clear the imperative of Israel defeating Hamas once and for all.

Prime Minister Netanyahu made a point about the war that is especially chilling as an American. He pointed out that on 9/11, America's enemies were thousands of miles away, but today, Israel's enemy is only one kilometer away. Hamas represents an evil not seen in generations, and, for Israel, this threat is existential. Israel knows it has to eliminate Hamas. Their cause is just, their resolve is firm, and every peace-loving nation on earth should be on its side.

If Hamas and its reign of terror are allowed to continue, no nation in the region or beyond will be able to live in peace and security. It's really that simple. We need to get hostages freed and Americans out of harm's way and give Israel the space to get this job done.

The United States and the world also need to be clear-eyed about how Iran is involved in, and benefits from, this brutal bloodshed. Their goal is to bring chaos, violence, and death to anyone who does not share their extreme and militant religious ideology, which includes wiping Israel off the face of the earth. Ninety percent of Hamas' military budget comes from Iran, and numerous other proxy terrorist groups in the Middle East are also financed, armed, and trained by Iran. Through its proxies, Iran is literally getting away with murder, and it must be made clear to Iran that if they do not stand down or if they escalate this war, the United States and our allies will have no choice but to respond forcefully.

Hamas' atrocities against Israelis, including against children, their use of Palestinians as human shields, and their lies to undermine the civilian evacuation of Gaza, are truly depraved. Their actions cannot be rationalized yet we have seen some in our own country attempt to do just that in recent weeks. As Americans, we must be uncompromising in our rejection of antisemitism and hate in all its forms. And we must stand united in asserting that hate is not welcome in our communities, in South Dakota, or in any corner of America.

The world hasn't seen this kind of evil in generations, and it has to be confronted. If it's not, we will see death and destruction on a scale akin to the horrors of the last century. I will continue working with my colleagues in Congress to ensure the United States' support of Israel is unwavering. Kimberley and I continue to pray for the victims of Hamas' terrorism, for the success of Israel's efforts, and for a lasting peace in Israel and the Middle East.

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



The Big Three – Fighting for South Dakotans

BIG Update

Mexico's ban on imports of genetically modified corn from the U.S. and Brazil's unfair tariffs on our ethanol are hurting producers who rely on exporting their products.

This week, I joined a group of Midwest Republican congressmen in a meeting with Doug McKalip, the Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the office of the U.S. Trade Representative. We talked about the need to reestablish markets with Brazil and Mexico and to encourage U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai to pressure Brazil and Mexico to end these policies. South Dakota exports around 40% of its corn—having these markets back online would benefit South Dakota producers.

We must work together to negotiate trade agreements that benefit U.S. agriculture.

BIG Idea

Most of us in South Dakota know how unrealistic the Biden Administration's desire to make an immediate switch to electric vehicles (EVs) is for rural America. Our cold weather, long distances between destinations, and lack of charging stations make it almost impossible to switch to EVs. I met with South Dakota members of the Community Transportation Association of America to discuss rural transit services, propane buses, and how to best serve our communities.

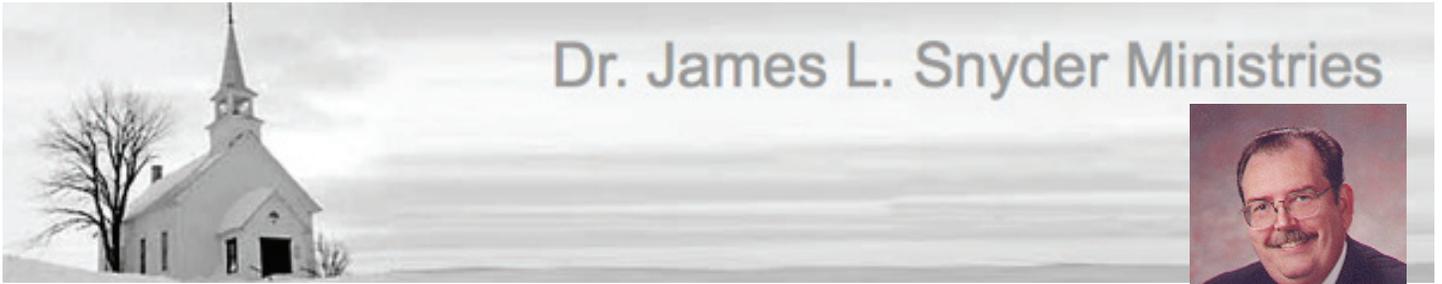
BIG News

The House elected Speaker Johnson this week. No, not me, but Rep. Mike Johnson of Louisiana. I was proud to vote for him so we could restore order to the House of Representatives. I look forward to working with him as we pass legislation to secure the southern border, tackle the national debt, and avoid a government shutdown.

The House was in an unfortunate stalemate for three weeks. Our first action after installing Speaker Mike Johnson was passing a bill to support Israel and condemn Hamas for their acts of terror on our ally, Israel. Yesterday, we passed another appropriations bill, getting us one step closer to fully funding the government. I'm glad we've hit the ground running.

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Do I Need a New Mask for Halloween?

The older I get, the less patience I have for holidays. I certainly am not a holiday guru in any sense of the word.

When I was younger, my favorite holiday was Christmas because of all the presents I got. I could never get enough gifts for Christmas.

When I got older, got married and had children, I realized that somebody had to pay for those Christmas presents, and I was elected for the job. Holidays really cost a lot, and usually, it's the father that pays the bill.

I suppose my least favorite holiday is Halloween. I'm unsure who came up with this idea, and I don't have the time to research it and find out. If I knew its roots, I might like it less than I do today.

People dress up in scary costumes and go door-to-door collecting candy on Halloween. But what does candy have to do with it?

Today, a holiday is celebrated every month and sometimes every week. Who has the time to invent all of these holidays, and who has the time to celebrate them all?

Don't get me wrong, no holiday in the year upsets me, and I don't care how many holidays somebody else celebrates. I'm only concerned about celebrating my holiday.

Some people think their birthday is the best holiday of the year.

That was true for me for several years until I realized I was getting one year older every time I celebrated a birthday.

I wonder if I missed celebrating my birthday a year would I get any older? It's worth a try.

A year ago, I tried that and it worked out pretty well until, on my birthday, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage brought me a birthday card she made in her craft room and then wished me a happy birthday. If she wishes me a happy birthday, it must be my birthday.

One of the things about birthdays is that the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's birthday is two days after mine. Now I know why she makes me a birthday card: to remind me that her birthday is coming up.

I've been tempted to make her a birthday card, that just might end the matter because my craftsmanship crashed the day I was born.

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Not only is her birthday two days after mine, but it is also two years before mine. I used to remind her of that, but I have grown accustomed to living healthy.

We celebrate Valentine's Day because that was the day I proposed marriage to her, even though I had no idea what I was doing.

I like some holidays, for instance, Easter Sunday, which I prefer to call Resurrection Sunday. That's a holiday I like to celebrate.

I used to like Christmas until I started to pay the bill for all the gifts under the tree. When the children were young, I could buy them something they would like, not caring about the price.

As they got older, they got more sophisticated in the gifts they wanted. I use the word "sophisticated" because that has everything to do with money. The more a gift cost, the better it was received.

Because I grew up in Pennsylvania, I like to remember Groundhog Day with Punxsutawney Phil. I'm not sure who came up with this holiday, but it's probably the stupidest of the year. And yet, it is celebrated across the country.

The Halloween holiday is quite exciting now that the kids have grown up and moved into their own homes and families. We do have kids in the neighborhood who come by dressed in Halloween costumes, looking for candy. They don't have to beg when they come to my house; they just stand there, and I can't give it out fast enough. How much do the parents understand that candy is not healthy for their children?

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is not too excited about Halloween, but I always buy bags of candy I hide so she can't see them. And my goal is to give them all away to kids that come to the door. What she doesn't know does not hurt me.

Usually, I dress up in some scary costume to give the candy to the kids to come to the door.

I like to stay current, so the other day, I asked The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage a very serious question that I don't think she took seriously. I looked at her and said, "Do you think I need a new mask for Halloween this year?" Now, that was a very serious, straightforward question.

Looking at me as usual, she said, "Oh, no, you silly boy. The mask you're wearing now is good enough for this Halloween."

She walked away before I could tell her I was not wearing a mask.

I was thinking about this matter of celebration when I remember a verse of scripture I read recently. Psalm 95:2, "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."

The thing I need to celebrate each day is my relationship with God. Nothing is more important to me daily than to recognize all that God has done for me throughout my life. I have so much to be thankful for in my life and not a day should pass in my life that I should not be thankful to God for something.

EARTHTALK ™

Biden White House Ramps Up Offshore Wind Development

Keya Ravindra Jejurikar October 26, 2023

Dear EarthTalk: Has the Biden administration been able to ramp up the development of wind power (especially offshore) as promised?

—Vera Wingate, via email

In 2021, President Biden pledged to cut U.S. fossil fuel emissions by 50 percent from 2005 levels by 2030, promising to build 30,000 megawatts of offshore wind by then, enough to power 10 million homes!

Several European and Asian nations have dabbled in offshore wind for decades, but the U.S. has yet to unleash its potential here. Offshore is preferable to onshore because of more frequent winds, higher wind speeds, lower transmission costs and more energy efficiency. Also, offshore creates many jobs. Biden's plan could lead to employing more than 77,000 workers in and related to offshore wind by 2030.

Since Biden's pledge, his administration has approved four commercial scale offshore wind projects. The first announced were the Vineyard Wind project off Massachusetts (May 2021) and the South Fork Wind projects off Rhode Island and New York (November 2021). Both projects are under construction and being built by union labor. This past July, Biden approved the largest offshore wind energy project yet in U.S. waters off the coast of New Jersey, approving up to 98 turbines, as well as three offshore substations to help transmit the electricity to shore. When completed, the New Jersey project could generate some 1.1 gigawatts which could power over 600,000 homes. It is projected to create over 3,000 jobs over its three-year creation period. This past August, another project off Rhode Island was announced. The project will have an estimated capacity of 704 megawatts of clean energy, capable of powering nearly 250,000 homes.

According to a White House Fact Sheet, the Biden administration is on track to review at least 16 offshore wind project plans by 2025. These could collectively power 6 million homes. By conducting thorough assessment of the potential impact on the environment, wildlife and local communities, the Biden administration is demonstrating its commitment to responsible and sustainable clean energy expansion.

However, the progress isn't without challenges. For one, the intricate permitting process, involving multiple federal agencies, state governments and various stakeholders, can lead to lengthy delays. Also, opposition from various stakeholders, including local communities and environmental groups, can impede progress. Other issues include the high upfront costs and the low availability of offshore wind sites.

But the Biden administration is trying to speed up the process. They are streamlining the permitting process, making it quicker for offshore wind projects to gain approval. They are conducting thorough environmental assessments. They are investing in research to improve technology and reduce costs (they announced \$72 million in funding to support research in September 2023). And they are providing financial incentives to encourage private investment in offshore projects. Overall, the administration is focused on reaching its clean energy goals and is making the most of offshore wind to help get there..

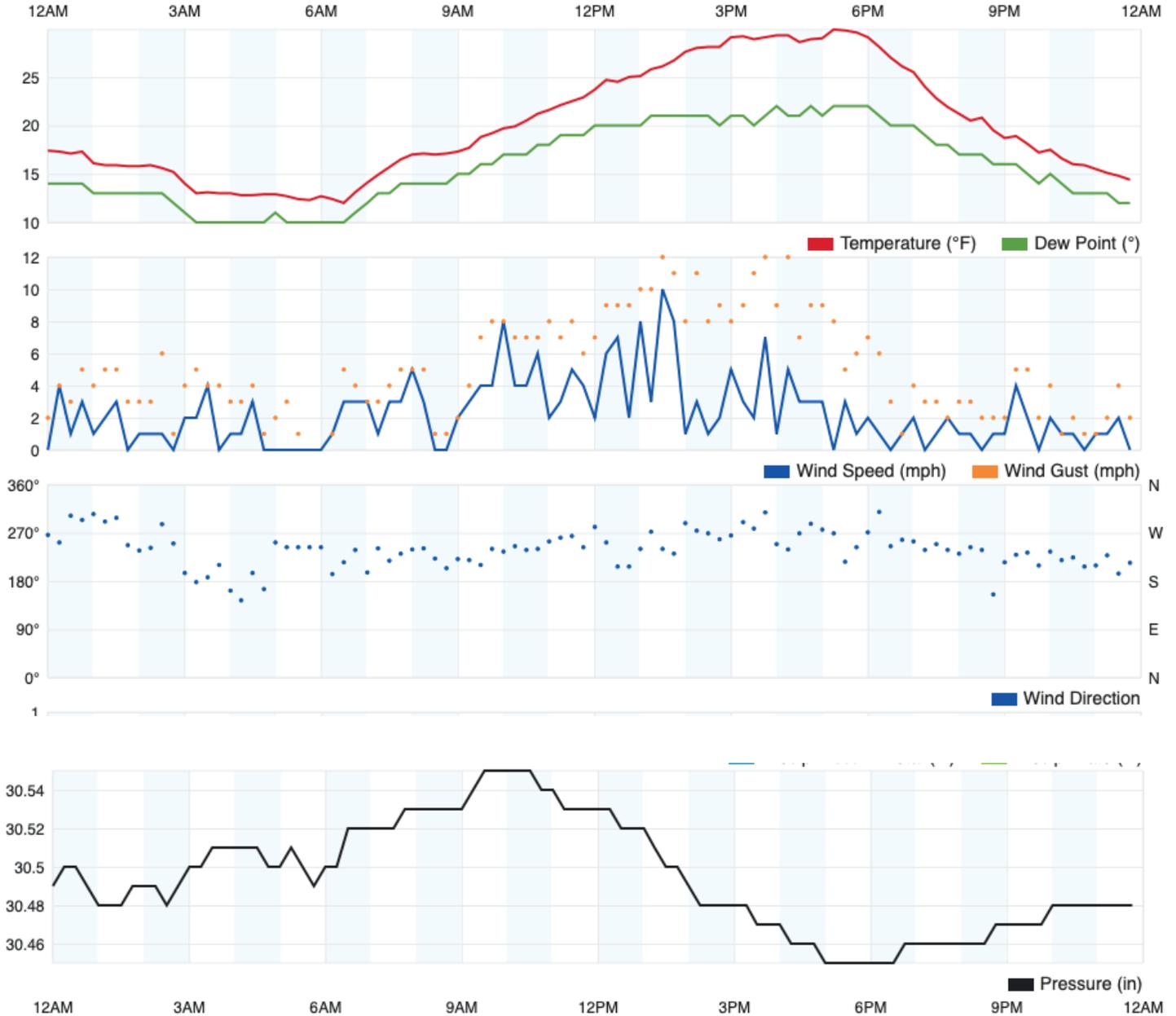


The Biden administration is moving full stream ahead on its ambitious plans to expand America's offshore wind energy capacity. Credit: Nina Ali, FlickrCC.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Sun Oct 29	Mon Oct 30	Tue Oct 31	Wed Nov 1	Thu Nov 2	Fri Nov 3	Sat Nov 4
31°F	35°F	30°F	39°F	40°F	44°F	33°F
15°F	13°F	16°F	18°F	27°F	22°F	26°F
SSW	SW	NW	S	WNW	S	N
13 MPH	23 MPH	13 MPH	12 MPH	9 MPH	11 MPH	11 MPH

 **Continued Cold** October 29, 2023
3:55 AM
Windy With Snow Showers Monday Night



Today
Partly Cloudy
Northwest Winds 20 - 30 mph
Highs 29 - 32 degrees

Tonight
Clear
Light Winds
Lows 13 - 20 degrees

Monday
Partly Cloudy
Northwest Winds 15 - 30 mph
Highs 32 - 42 degrees

Monday Night
Snow Showers
Northwest Winds 20 - 40 mph
Lows 6 - 20 degrees

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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Expect continued cold weather with a stiff breeze today and windy conditions late Monday into Monday night. Just a low chance (20-30%) for light accumulating snow late Monday as well.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 30 °F at 4:06 PM

Low Temp: 12 °F at 6:20 AM

Wind: 12 mph at 1:28 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 10 hours, 19 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 79 in 1937

Record Low: -5 in 1925

Average High: 52

Average Low: 27

Average Precip in Oct.: 2.05

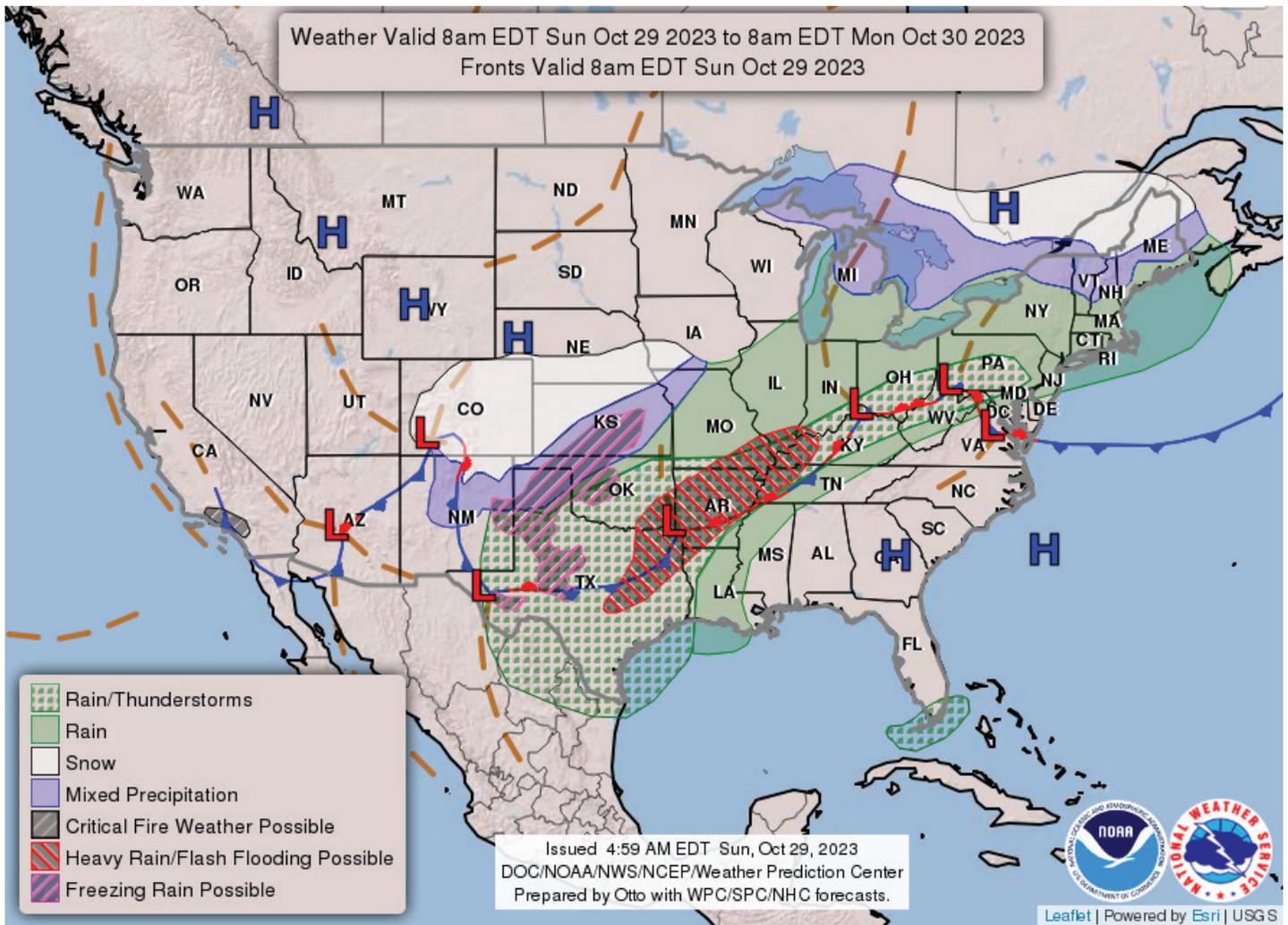
Precip to date in Oct.: 1.21

Average Precip to date: 20.38

Precip Year to Date: 22.98

Sunset Tonight: 6:26:05 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:07:30 AM



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Today in Weather History

October 29, 1925: Record cold occurred across the area on this date in 1925. The record lows were 9 at Wheaton, Minnesota, 2 degrees below zero at Watertown, 5 degrees below zero at Aberdeen, 7 degrees below zero southeast of McInstosh, and a frigid late October 19 degrees below zero at Kennebec.

1693: From the Royal Society of London: "There happened a most violent storm in Virginia which stopped the course of ancient channels and made some where there never were any." Known as the Accomack Storm, this event likely caused changes to the Delmarva shoreline, and coastal inlets.

1917 - The temperature at Denver, CO, dipped to zero, and at Soda Butte, WY, the mercury plunged to 33 degrees below zero, a U.S. record for the month of October. (David Ludlum)

1942 - A tornado struck the town of Berryville in northwest Arkansas killing 20 persons and causing half a million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1948: An historic smog event occurred in the town of Donora, Pennsylvania. The smog killed 20 people and sickened 7,000 more.

1956 - A violent tornado, or series of tornadoes, moved along a path more than 100 miles in length from south of North Platte NE into Rock County NE. It was an unusually late occurrence so far north and west in the U.S. for such a storm. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in Arizona produced wind gusts to 86 mph at the Glendale Airport near Phoenix, baseball size hail and 70 mph winds at Wickenburg, and up to an inch of rain in fifteen minutes in Yavapai County and northwest Maricopa County. Arizona Public Service alone reported 2.5 million dollars damage from the storms. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Wintry weather prevailed in the Upper Midwest. South Bend, IN, equalled their record for October with a morning low of 23 degrees. International Falls MN reported a record low of 11 degrees in the morning, then dipped down to 8 degrees above zero late in the evening. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in Oklahoma and north central Texas during the late afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced weak tornadoes near Snyder and Davidson, and produced hail two inches in diameter at Altus. Large hail damaged 60 to 80 percent of the cotton crop in Tillman County OK. Nine cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 70s. For Marquette MI it marked their fifth straight day of record warmth. Arctic cold invaded the western U.S. Lows of 7 degrees at Alamosa CO and 9 degrees at Elko NV were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

2011 - New York City received one inch of snow, the earliest they had received that much snow since records began. It was also only the fourth times since the Civil War snow had fallen in New York City in October. The storm also left over three million people without power including 62% of the customers of Connecticut Light and Power.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

MAKE YOUR PLANS LARGE!"

One of my most prized possessions is my mother's Bible. Shortly after she went to be with the Lord, I was leafing through the well-worn and tear-stained pages. In the margin next to Ephesians 3:20 she wrote in red letters: "If God is your partner, make your plans large."

In that passage of Scripture, Paul wrote, "Now unto Him, who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." What power, Paul?

Here Paul is speaking about the mighty power - the very same power - that raised Christ from the dead: the power that is available to Christians that comes from the living God - Creator and Sustainer of the universe. This power from God enables us to accomplish not only more than we can imagine and is possible for us to do on our own - but we are empowered by God Himself to accomplish exceedingly abundantly more than we might even be able to ask or think!

God wants to work in and through the lives of His children - you and me. He wants to make His mighty power that raised His Son, Jesus Christ, from the death and the grave available to each of us. So we must expand how we think - and that comes from studying His word.

"Exceedingly" in this verse suggests excessiveness and "abundantly" means overflowing, or an overabundance of something. But he does not end with those words. He continues by adding: more than we can ask or think! And, that's difficult for anyone to imagine! But...

If we sincerely take God at His Word, the only limitations on Christians are the ones we place on God.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, it is beyond our abilities to truly understand the "mighty power" that is available to us. Increase our faith so we, in turn, can do more for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Now unto Him, who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us. Ephesians 3:20



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
- 11/05/2023 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Fall Dinner, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- 11/11/2023 Groton American Legion Annual Turkey Party 6:30 pm.
- 11/23/2023 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
- 11/26/2023 Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m.
- 12/02/2023 Live & Silent Auctions at Olive Grove Golf Course 4pm-close
- 12/09/2023 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9-11am

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.27.23

11 32 43 57 70 6

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$159,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.28.23

12 25 36 39 46 9

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$3,340,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.28.23

2 13 19 44 46 6

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 31 Mins 18 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.28.23

2 10 12 21 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$37,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.28.23

34 48 50 52 66 11

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.28.23

14 24 50 59 64 2

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$137,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

SDHSAA Playoffs

All Nations A

State Semifinal

Winnebago, Neb. 45, Pine Ridge 20

All Nations B

State Semifinal

Lower Brule 38, McLaughlin 16

Tiospa Zina Tribal 29, Omaha Nation, Neb. 6

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

South Dakota State alone atop MVFC after beating South Dakota 37-3

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Amar Johnson ran for pair of touchdowns and South Dakota State shut down South Dakota 37-3 on Saturday to take sole possession of first place in the Missouri Valley Football Conference.

The Jackrabbits (8-0, 5-0), ranked No. 1 in the FCS coaches' poll, and the ninth-ranked Coyotes (6-2, 4-1) came in as the last two teams unbeaten in conference play. But it was South Dakota State emerging with its 22nd straight victory and 13th over a ranked team in that span. It was also the Jackrabbits' 14th straight conference win.

The Jackrabbits rolled up 473 yards offense and held South Dakota to 183, including just 50 on the ground.

The Coyotes scored first on Will Leyland's 50-yard field goal in the first quarter but the Jackrabbits dominated thereafter, leading 17-3 at halftime on touchdown runs by Jadon Janke and Johnson and the first of three Hunter Dustman field goals. Johnson's second TD came midway through the fourth quarter and Angel Johnson added the final points in the final minute with a short TD run.

Mark Gronowski threw for 207 yards with an interception for South Dakota State. Six Jackrabbits shared in 266 yards rushing. Jaxon Janke had 93 yards receiving.

Aidan Bouman was 17-of-31 passing for 133 yards and two interceptions for the Coyotes.

Thousands loot UN aid warehouses in Gaza as desperation grows and Israel widens ground offensive

By WAFAA SHURAFI and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Thousands of people broke into aid warehouses in Gaza to take flour and basic hygiene products, a U.N. agency said Sunday, in a mark of growing desperation and the breakdown of public order three weeks into the war between Israel and Gaza's militant Hamas rulers.

Tanks and infantry pushed into Gaza over the weekend as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced a "second stage" in the war, three weeks after Hamas launched a brutal incursion into Israel. The widening ground offensive came as Israel pounded the territory from air, land and sea.

The bombardment — described by Gaza residents as the most intense of the war — knocked out most communications in the territory late Friday, largely cutting off the besieged enclave's 2.3 million people from the world. Communications were restored to much of Gaza early Sunday.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, provides basic services to hundreds of thousands of people in Gaza. Its schools across the territory have been transformed into packed shelters

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housing Palestinians displaced by the conflict. Israel has allowed only a small trickle of aid to enter from Egypt, some of which was stored in one of the warehouses that was broken into, UNRWA said.

Thomas White, the agency's Gaza director, said the break-ins were "a worrying sign that civil order is starting to break down after three weeks of war and a tight siege on Gaza. People are scared, frustrated and desperate," he said.

Juliette Touma, a spokesperson for the agency, said the crowds broke into four facilities on Saturday. She said the warehouses did not contain any fuel, which has been in critically short supply since Israel cut off all shipments after the start of the war.

Residents living near Shifa Hospital, Gaza's largest, meanwhile said Israeli airstrikes overnight Sunday hit near the hospital complex and blocked many roads leading to it. Israel accuses Hamas of having a secret command post beneath the hospital, without providing much evidence.

Tens of thousands of civilians are sheltering in Shifa, which is also packed with patients wounded in the strikes.

"Reaching the hospital has become increasingly difficult," Mahmoud al-Sawah, who is sheltering in the hospital, said over the phone. "It seems they want to cut off the area." Another Gaza City resident, Abdallah Sayed, said the Israeli bombing over the past two days was "the most violent and intense" since the war started.

Israel says most residents have heeded its orders to flee to the south, but hundreds of thousands remain in the north, in part because Israel has also bombarded targets in so-called safe zones.

An Israeli airstrike hit a two-story house in the southern city of Khan Younis on Sunday, killing at least 13 people, including 10 from one family. The bodies were brought to the nearby Nasser Hospital, according to an Associated Press journalist at the scene.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment when asked about reports of strikes near Shifa. The army said it had struck over 450 militant targets over the last 24 hours, including Hamas command centers, observation posts and anti-tank missile launching positions.

The military also said more forces were sent into Gaza overnight.

The army recently released computer-generated images showing what it said were Hamas installations in and around Shifa Hospital, as well as interrogations of captured Hamas fighters who might have been speaking under duress. Israel has made similar claims before, but has not substantiated them.

Little is known about Hamas' tunnels and other infrastructure, and the claims could not be independently verified. Hamas' government dismissed the allegations as "lies" and said they were "a precursor for striking this facility."

The escalation ratcheted up domestic pressure on Israel's government to secure the release of some 230 hostages seized in the Oct. 7 rampage, when Hamas fighters from Gaza breached Israel's defenses and stormed into nearby towns, gunning down civilians and soldiers in a surprise attack.

Desperate family members met with Netanyahu on Saturday and expressed support for an exchange for Palestinian prisoners held in Israel.

Hamas' top leader in Gaza, Yehia Sinwar, said Palestinian militants "are ready immediately" to release all hostages if Israel releases all of the thousands of Palestinians held in its prisons. Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, an Israeli military spokesman, dismissed the offer as "psychological terror."

Netanyahu told the nationally televised news conference that Israel is determined to bring back all the hostages, and maintained that the expanding ground operation "will help us in this mission." He said he couldn't reveal everything that is being done due to the sensitivity and secrecy of the efforts.

"This is the second stage of the war, whose objectives are clear: to destroy the military and governmental capabilities of Hamas and bring the hostages home," he said in his first time taking questions from journalists since the war began.

Netanyahu also acknowledged that the Oct. 7 "debacle," in which more than 1,400 people were killed, would need a thorough investigation, adding that "everyone will have to answer questions, including me."

The Israeli military said it was gradually expanding its ground operations inside Gaza, while stopping short of calling it an all-out invasion. Casualties on both sides are expected to rise sharply as Israeli forces

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and Palestinian militants battle in dense residential areas.

Despite the Israeli offensive, Palestinian militants have continued firing rockets into Israel, with the constant sirens in southern Israel a reminder of the threat.

The Palestinian death toll in Gaza rose Saturday to just over 7,700 people since the war began, with 377 deaths reported since late Friday, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Most of those killed have been women and minors, the ministry said.

An estimated 1,700 people remain trapped beneath the rubble, according to the Health Ministry, which has said it bases its estimates on distress calls it received.

Israel says its strikes target Hamas fighters and infrastructure and that the militants operate among civilians, putting them in danger.

More than 1.4 million people across Gaza have fled their homes, nearly half crowding into U.N. schools and shelters, following repeated warnings by the Israeli military that they would be in danger if they remained in northern Gaza.

Gaza's sole power plant shut down shortly after the start of the war, and Israel has allowed no fuel to enter, saying Hamas would use it for military purposes.

Hospitals are struggling to keep emergency generators running to operate incubators and other life-saving equipment, and the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees is also trying to keep water pumps and bakeries running to meet essential needs.

Matthew Perry, Emmy-nominated 'Friends' star, dead at 54

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Friends" star Matthew Perry, the Emmy-nominated actor whose sarcastic, but lovable Chandler Bing was among television's most famous and most quotable characters, has died at 54.

The actor was found dead of an apparent drowning at his Los Angeles home Saturday, according to the Los Angeles Times and celebrity website TMZ, which was the first to report the news. Both outlets cited unnamed sources confirming Perry's death.

"Matthew was an incredibly gifted actor and an indelible part of the Warner Bros. Television Group family," the company said in a statement. "The impact of his comedic genius was felt around the world, and his legacy will live on in the hearts of so many. This is a heartbreaking day, and we send our love to his family, his loved ones, and all of his devoted fans."

Perry's publicists and other representatives did not immediately respond to messages from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Asked to confirm police response to what was listed as Perry's home address, LAPD Officer Drake Madison told the AP that officers had gone to that block "for a death investigation of a male in his 50s."

Perry's 10 seasons on "Friends" made him one of Hollywood's most recognizable actors, starring opposite Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Matt LeBlanc, Lisa Kudrow and David Schwimmer as a friend group in New York.

As Chandler, he played the quick-witted, insecure and neurotic roommate of LeBlanc's Joey and a close friend of Schwimmer's Ross. During the show's hijinks, he could be counted on to chime in with a line like "Could this BE any more awkward?" or another well-timed quip.

Perry was open about his long and public struggle with addiction, writing at the beginning of his 2022 million-selling memoir: "Hi, my name is Matthew, although you may know me by another name. My friends call me Matty. And I should be dead."

"Friends" ran from 1994 until 2004, winning one best comedy series Emmy Award in 2002. The cast notably banded together for later seasons to obtain a salary of \$1 million per episode for each.

By the "Friends" finale, Chandler is married to Cox's Monica and they have a family, reflecting the journey of the core cast from single New Yorkers trying to figure their lives out to several of them married and starting families.

The series was one of television's biggest hits and has taken on a new life — and found surprising popularity with younger fans — in recent years on streaming services.

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Perry described reading the "Friends" script for the first time in his memoir, "Friends, Lovers and the Big Terrible Thing."

"It was as if someone had followed me around for a year, stealing my jokes, copying my mannerisms, photocopying my world-weary yet witty view of life. One character in particular stood out to me: it wasn't that I thought I could 'play' Chandler. I 'was' Chandler."

Unknown at the time was the struggle Perry had with addiction and an intense desire to please audiences.

"Friends" was huge. I couldn't jeopardize that. I loved the script. I loved my co-actors. I loved the scripts. I loved everything about the show but I was struggling with my addictions which only added to my sense of shame," he wrote in his memoir. "I had a secret and no one could know."

"I felt like I was gonna die if the live audience didn't laugh, and that's not healthy for sure. But I could sometimes say a line and the audience wouldn't laugh and I would sweat and sometimes go into convulsions," Perry wrote. "If I didn't get the laugh I was supposed to get I would freak out. I felt that every single night. This pressure left me in a bad place. I also knew of the six people making that show, only one of them was sick."

He recalled in his memoir that Aniston confronted him about being inebriated while filming.

"I know you're drinking," he remembered her telling him once. "We can smell it," she said, in what Perry called a "kind of weird but loving way, and the plural 'we' hit me like a sledgehammer."

In the foreword to Perry's memoir, Lisa Kudrow described him as "whip smart, charming, sweet, sensitive, very reasonable, and rational." She added, "That guy, with everything he was battling, was still there."

An HBO Max reunion special in 2021 was hosted by James Corden and fed into huge interest in seeing the cast together again, although the program consisted of the actors discussing the show and was not a continuation of their characters' storylines.

Perry received one Emmy nomination for his "Friends" role and two more for appearances as an associate White House counsel on "The West Wing."

Perry also had several notable film roles, starring opposite Salma Hayek in the rom-com "Fools Rush In" and Bruce Willis in the crime comedy "The Whole Nine Yards."

He worked consistently after "Friends," though never in a role that brought him as much attention or acclaim.

In 2015, he played Oscar for a CBS reboot of "The Odd Couple" that aired for two seasons. He told the AP that playing Oscar Madison, the character originally made famous in the 1960s series by Walter Matthau, was a "dream role." He also said he was surprised how much he enjoyed being filmed again in front of a live audience.

"I didn't realize I missed it really until it actually happened, til we actually shot the pilot and there was a studio audience there and I realized, 'Wow, I really like this. This is nice,'" he said. "You kind of ham up for the people in the audience. My performance never got better than when there was an audience there."

Perry was born Aug. 19, 1969, in Williamstown, Massachusetts. His father is actor John Bennett Perry and his mother, Suzanne, served as press secretary of Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and is married to "Dateline" correspondent Keith Morrison.

Kelly dominates after Korea detour as Diamondbacks rout Rangers 9-1 to tie World Series 1-all

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Merrill Kelly called his four-season detour to South Korea a "Lost in Translation" experience. When he made his World Series debut, it was Texas Rangers batters who were disoriented.

The 35-year-old right-hander pitched three-hit ball over seven innings, Ketel Marte extended his post-season hitting streak to a record 18 games and the Arizona Diamondbacks routed Texas 9-1 on Saturday night to even the World Series at one game apiece.

"At this point in my career, nothing is going to shock me," Kelly said. "I think going over to Korea as a 26-year-old is way scarier than pitching in the big leagues or even in the World Series."

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Kelly struck out nine, walked none and allowed his only run on Mitch Garver's leadoff homer in the fifth on a sinker at the bottom of the strike zone. His 22 called strikes were the most for a Series pitcher since Stephen Strasburg in Game 6 for the 2019 Washington Nationals.

"I thought he might go nine innings today at one point," Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said, contemplating what would have been the first complete game in the World Series since 2015. "But for that to happen, 89 pitches, you've got to jump him up probably another 35. I wasn't going to let him throw 120 pitches."

Gabriel Moreno hit a go-ahead homer in a two-run fourth against Jordan Montgomery, and Tommy Pham went 4 for 4 with a pair of doubles. Arizona batters broke it open late as the young Diamondbacks rebounded quickly from an agonizing defeat the night before.

Marte had a two-run single in a three-run eighth, snapping a tie for the longest postseason hitting streak with Derek Jeter, Manny Ramirez and Hank Bauer. Marte has a hit in every postseason game he's ever played.

A night after wasting a two-run, ninth-inning lead in a 6-5, 11-inning loss, the Diamondbacks outhit Texas 16-4 — the most hits for one team in a Series game in nine years.

Emmanuel Rivera also had a two-run single, and rookie Corbin Carroll had a pair of RBI singles. Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and 38-year-old Evan Longoria each singled in a run for Arizona, which got its first World Series road win after four losses dating to 2001.

The best-of-seven Series, just the third between wild-card teams, shifts to Arizona for Game 3 on Monday in the first Series game at Phoenix since 2001.

Texas has won all eight of its road games this postseason, equaling a major league record.

"We'd be naive to think that we're going to run away with four in a row against a team that really fights hard like the same way we did," Rangers first baseman Nathaniel Lowe said.

Kelly was drafted by Tampa Bay in 2010 and had spent six seasons in the minors when he was told by pitcher Doug Mathis he had been spotted by a South Korean scout while pitching in Rochester, New York. Kelly's agents at Apex Baseball arranged a contract and Kelly spent 2015-18 with SK Wyverns in Incheon.

"I definitely had visions and images about me sitting on this podium," Kelly said in the postgame interview room, recounting how he got up each morning, made coffee and checked MLB games. "It felt literally and figuratively miles away."

In an on-field interview with MLB Network, he called it "Lost in Translation" type stuff, referring to the 2003 Sofia Coppola movie of cultural displacement, saying "as far as how they view pitching, for four years I pretty much had to figure it out myself."

"The coaches that I had, the translation factor, obviously, is a bit of a hindrance," he said later in the interview room. "At the end of the day, I think what helped over there the most is almost being my own voice and my own pitching coach."

Kelly made his big league debut with Arizona in 2019 and is 48-43. He went 12-8 with a 3.29 ERA in 30 starts this season and is 3-1 with a 2.25 ERA in four postseason starts.

He went to only one three-ball count Saturday.

"Just great command. He hit his spots all night, four pitches. He was on," Rangers manager Bruce Bochy said.

Kelly's grandmother June was at the game and he looked forward to seeing her for the first time since a 2011 visit when he was driving to spring training with his wife.

Kelly's brother Reed also was in the stands. Last year, Merrill took Reed to Game 3 of the World Series in Philadelphia.

"His birthday is Halloween," Merrill Kelly said. "He texted me the other day saying that obviously this is probably the best birthday present I could give him."

PHAM-TASTIC

Pham, a trade-deadline acquisition from the New York Mets, entered in a 3-for-29 skid that included a Game 1 homer. He singled in the second, hit opposite-field doubles to right in the fourth and sixth, and

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singled in the eighth. He also was picked off second base by Montgomery.

Pham was inspired by Kurt Reece's self-help book "Good Is The Enemy Of Great."

"One of my mentors, who the St. Louis Cardinals hired, he gave it to a group of us to read that were hand-chosen from the Cardinals to work with him," Pham said. "Highly recommend it."

SLOW DOWN

Montgomery, coming off his second big league relief appearance, a win in Game 7 of the ALCS at Houston on Monday, had a velocity dip of about 1.5 mph from his season average. Diamondbacks batters failed to make contact on just two of the 37 pitches they swung at.

"Sometimes you've just got to grit," he said.

FAST PACE

At 2 hours, 59 minutes, it was the quickest World Series game since 2017.

WEB GEMS

Rangers rookie third baseman Josh Jung dove into foul territory to snag Christian Walker's fourth-inning grounder, then popped to his feet to throw out Walker at first. ... Walker leaped to make a barehand grab of Jonah Heim's fifth-inning grounder that hit first base and flipped to Kelly covering for the out.

UP NEXT

Texas RHP Max Scherzer, who is 0-1 with a 9.45 ERA in a pair of postseason starts this year, appears for his third different World Series team in Game 3 after pitching for Detroit and Washington. Rookie RHP Brandon Pfaadt has a 2.70 ERA without a decision in four postseason games for Arizona.

More help arrives in Acapulco, and hurricane's death toll rises to 39 as searchers comb debris

By MEGAN JANETSKY Associated Press

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP) — More resources are arriving on Mexico's battered Pacific coast, and the death toll from Hurricane Otis is growing as searchers recover more bodies from Acapulco's harbor and under fallen trees and other storm debris.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Saturday that his opponents are trying to inflate the toll to damage him politically, but few expect the latest mark of 39 dead to be where it stops. Hundreds of families are still awaiting word from loved ones.

Otis roared ashore early Wednesday with devastating 165 mph (266 kph) winds after strengthening so rapidly that people had little time to prepare.

Kristian Vera stood on an Acapulco beach Saturday looking out toward dozens of sunken boats, including three of her own, all marked by floating buoys or just poking out of the water.

Despite losing her livelihood in Otis' brutal pass through Mexico's over Pacific coast, the 44-year-old fisher felt fortunate. Earlier in the day, she watched a body pulled from the water and saw families coming and going, looking for their loved ones.

Mexican authorities raised Otis' official toll to 39 dead and 10 missing Saturday. But Vera and others suggested that number will likely grow, in part because of the number of people who rode out on boats during what had started as a tropical storm and in just 12 hours powered up into a catastrophic Category 5 hurricane.

Vera took turns with four others swimming out with empty gas jugs for flotation to try to raise their sunken boats from the shallow harbor.

Leaning against a small wooden fishing boat like her own, tipped on its side on a beach strewn with trash and fallen trees, she explained that some of the people who died were either fishers caring for their boats or yacht captains who were told by their owners that they needed to make sure their boats were OK when Otis was still a tropical storm.

"That night I was so worried because I live off of this, it's how I feed my kids," Vera said. "But when I began to feel how strong the wind was, I said, 'Tomorrow I won't have a boat, but God willing Acapulco will see another day.'"

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Earlier Saturday, Security Secretary Rosa Icela Rodríguez said in a recorded video message with López Obrador posted to the platform X that the probable cause of death for the 39 was "suffocation by submersion." She said that the victims had not yet been identified and that investigations continued.

The new death toll was an increase of 12 over the initial tally of 27 announced Thursday. But the storm's human toll was becoming a point of contention. Rodríguez also said the number of missing rose to 10.

In Acapulco, government workers and volunteers cleared streets, gas station lines wrapped around the block for what fuel was to be had, and some lucky families found food essentials as a more organized relief operation took shape four days after the storm hit.

Military personnel and volunteers worked along Acapulco's main tourist strip. They sliced through fallen palm trees and metal signs. Cellphone signals were partially recovered near some of the most luxurious hotels, and authorities placed a charging station for people to charge their phones.

But on the periphery of the city, neighborhoods remained in total chaos. The government presence found in the touristic center was not visible in other areas. With no signal, no water and no food, people young and old trudged through foot-deep mud and flooded streets to get to large warehouses someone had found full of food. They carried away bags of food and liquids.

Aid has been slow to arrive. The storm's destruction cut off the city of nearly 1 million people for the first day, and because it intensified so quickly on Tuesday little to nothing had been staged in advance.

Authorities had the difficult task of searching for the dead and missing.

One military officer, who did not want to give his name because he was not authorized to speak to media, said that searchers in his area had found at least six bodies and that his own unit had found one. It was difficult to find bodies because they were often covered in trees and other debris, he said.

Most families anxiously hunted for water, with some saying they were rationing their supplies. The municipal water system was out because its pumps had no power.

Officials said the military presence would grow to 15,000 in the area, and López Obrador called on the armed forces to set up checkpoints in the city to avoid robberies.

The president said the national electric company told him that service had been restored to 55% of customers in the affected area but that more than 200,000 homes and businesses remained without power.

The federal civil defense agency tallied 220,000 homes that were damaged by the storm, he said.

Internet, phone service gradually returns after vanishing for most of Gaza amid heavy bombardment

By NAJIB JOBAIN, SAMYA KULLAB and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Two days after cellular and internet service abruptly vanished for most of Gaza amid a heavy Israeli bombardment, the crowded enclave was coming back online Sunday as communications systems were gradually being restored.

That's a welcome development for Gaza following a communications blackout that began late Friday as Israel expanded ground operations and launched intense airstrikes that illuminated the night sky with furious orange flashes. A rare few Palestinians with international SIM cards or satellite phones took it upon themselves to get the news out.

By Sunday morning, though, phone and internet communications had been restored to many people in Gaza, according to telecommunications providers in the area, Internet-access advocacy group NetBlocks.org and confirmation on the ground.

After weeks of a total Israeli siege, Palestinians in Gaza felt the vise tightening. Social media had been a lifeline for Palestinians desperate to get news and to share their terrifying plight with the world. Now even that was gone. Many were consumed with hopelessness and fear as the Israeli military announced a new stage in its war, launched in a response to a bloody cross-border attack by Hamas on Oct. 7, and troops crossed into Gaza.

Exhausted and afraid her link to the world was so tenuous it could drop at any moment, 28-year-old Palestinian journalist Hind al-Khoudary said the massive airstrikes that shook the ground exceeded anything

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she had experienced over the past three weeks or any of the four previous Israel-Hamas wars.

"It was crazy," she said.

Residents on Saturday darted across dilapidated neighborhoods under heavy bombardment to check on loved ones. Medics chased the thunder of artillery and bombs because they couldn't receive distress calls. Survivors pulled the dead from the rubble with bare hands and loaded them into cars and donkey-drawn carts.

"It's a catastrophe," said Anas al-Sharif, a freelance journalist. "Entire families remain under the rubble."

Reached by WhatsApp, freelance photojournalist Ashraf Abu Amra in northern Gaza said panic and confusion surrounded him.

"It's barely possible to send this message," he said. "All I want to convey is that the international community must intervene and save the people of Gaza from death immediately."

Local journalists posting daily on social media scavenged the 360-square-kilometer (140-square-mile) territory to find even a spotty connection. Some moved closer to the southern border with Egypt, hoping to pick up that country's network. Others had foreign SIM cards and special routers that connected to Israel's network.

Mohammed Abdel Rahman, a journalist in northern Gaza, kept track of Israeli airstrikes all night, noticing the raids were concentrated along the strip's northern border with Israel.

"A new bombing is happening right now as we speak," he said, as the roar of explosions resounded in the background. "There is an explosion, gunfire, and clashes are heard near the border."

"We do not know if there are (dead) or wounded because of the lack of communication," Abdel Rahman added.

When the pace of bombardment slowed Saturday morning, residents rushed to the homes of loved ones with whom they had lost touch overnight.

"People right now are walking, using their cars because there isn't internet," al-Khoudary said. "Everyone is checking on us, seeing us, and now we are going to check on others."

She went directly to Shifa Hospital, Gaza's largest, where doctors, exhausted from operating on patient after patient with dwindling fuel and medical supplies, pressed on, despite the crowds of some 50,000 people sheltering in the compound.

The wounded poured in from Shati refugee camp in Gaza City, al-Khoudary said, where Israeli bombs wrought destruction the night before.

Health authorities in Gaza and U.N. agencies warned that the blackout has exacerbated Gaza's humanitarian crisis.

Gaza's Hamas-run Health Ministry said the communication outages had paralyzed an overwhelmed health system. As ministry spokesperson Ashraf al-Qidra addressed reporters at a press conference livestreamed by the Al Jazeera satellite network from the hospital, an older bespectacled man positioned himself just behind the podium.

While al-Qidra spoke, the man waved into the camera and pointed his hands upward to the heavens — apparently hoping to reassure someone far away that he was alive.

International aid organizations, whose limited operations inside the enclave have teetered on collapse, said they couldn't reach their staff nearly 24 hours after the blackout.

The chief of the U.N. Palestinian Refugee Agency, Philippe Lazzarini, penned a public letter to his staff in Gaza expressing "immense worry" for their safety.

"I am constantly hoping that this hell on earth will soon come to an end and that you and your families are safe," he wrote. "You are the face of humanity during one of its darkest hours."

Doctors Without Borders said the group had not communicated with its team in Gaza since since 8 p.m. Friday.

"We are not able to send our team to different facilities because we have no way to coordinate with them," Guillemette Thomas, the regional medical coordinator, said from Paris. "That's really a critical situation."

Boys graduate high school at lower rates than girls, with lifelong consequences

By CAROLYN THOMPSON Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — They attend the same classes with access to the same programs, and even come from the same families. But girls consistently are outperforming boys, graduating at higher rates at public high schools around the country.

The gap between them is wide, often as wide as the achievement gap between students from affluent and low-income families, a problem that officials have tracked closely for years. But the reasons why boys are falling short are not as clear.

Interviews with students, educators and researchers point to several factors. Men generally can earn the same wages as women with less education. But boys also are more likely to face suspensions or other discipline knocking them off track, and they don't pursue help as often when they face mental health challenges.

Some boys are fine when they first drop out, landing jobs providing steady incomes. But over the long term, lacking a high school degree can hold men back. Studies show young men who drop out of high school earn less over their lifetimes and are more likely to end up in jail.

Bryant West was halfway through high school in Pascagoula, Mississippi, when he dropped out in 2020. Instead of learning algebra and other things he couldn't imagine ever needing, he felt his time was better spent working at Popeye's and on landscaping crews to help his mother with bills.

"I feel like it was pointless," he said.

West, 18, planned instead to earn his GED, which he received three years later, in September. "It was just another way that I wanted to do it," he said.

In some cases, boys like West aren't in as much of a hurry to graduate as girls because they haven't needed a high school degree to cover rent and groceries, said Beth Jarosz, a program director at research organization PRB.

A man without a high school diploma often earns as much as a woman who has completed a year or two of college, Jarosz said.

The U.S. government doesn't require states to report graduation data by gender the way they must break it out by racial and ethnic groups and for children with disabilities, English language learners and homeless students. But in every state reporting high school graduation rates by gender, research shows female students graduate at higher rates.

More than 45,000 fewer boys than girls graduated high school in 2018, according to an estimate by researcher Richard Reeves based on data available from 37 reporting states.

That year, about 88% of girls graduated on time compared with 82% of boys, according to Reeves, who this year left the Brookings Institution to launch the American Institute for Boys and Men. The gap was still 6 percentage points in 2021, according to a follow-up analysis this year.

The gender gap has gone largely unaddressed by schools, but some have found effective strategies.

The city of Yonkers, New York, raised graduation rates for boys of color through supports such as mentoring. Former Superintendent Edwin Quezada said addressing the racial gap in graduation rates was useful toward understanding the overall gender gap, which was 7 percentage points in 2022.

Boys are referred to special education at higher rates than girls in early grades and are suspended at higher rates throughout school, all of which can derail plans for an on-time graduation, Quezada said.

"When the decks are stacked differently for young men than they are for young ladies, why should we expect different outcomes?" asked Quezada, who retired from the district in July.

In Buffalo, Benjamin Nichols' troubles in school started early. After his parents divorced when he was 6, he started acting out and was held back. By the time he turned things around in high school, Nichols was older than his classmates and a better fit for an accelerated-credit night program, he said. He enrolled, only to be told the program was being shut down.

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"I was lashing out because I wasn't OK," said Nichols, who ended up leaving high school after ninth grade. "The more and more of me getting punished and reprimanded, I just lashed out more."

There would be more than 10 years of starts and stops before he earned his GED in 2019. Nichols, now 33, earned a two-year degree in electrical construction and maintenance this past year.

"The best piece of advice that I probably would have given teachers back then when dealing with me is to ask if I'm OK," he said. "No one even bothered really to ask the question."

Like Yonkers, Buffalo schools have incorporated initiatives from "My Brother's Keeper," the program started by former President Barack Obama to help boys succeed in school. Buffalo also has enlisted education advocacy group Say Yes Buffalo to provide mentoring to male students and recruit men to teach, spokesman Jeffrey Hammond said. Still, the urban district posted a 10-point graduation gender gap in 2022 (84%-74%) and an 11-point gap (84%-73%) in 2021.

Research is clear, Hammond wrote in an email: "Girls nationally succeed in school over boys because they are more apt to plan ahead, set academic goals and put forth effort in achieving these goals." Plus, he said, girls receive fewer school suspensions, showing they are generally more likely to follow rules and receive more close instruction from teachers.

Only 10 states reporting graduation rates by gender break it down further by race, making it difficult to understand how much race is a factor in the gender gap. But Reeves found in his latest analysis that the gender gaps in the five largest states in the group were much larger between Black girls and boys than they were between white girls and boys or Asian girls and boys.

The graduation gender gap "is harder to explain than some of the other disparities we see," PRB's Jarosz said. "We know that structural racism is part of the explanation for why Black youth and Hispanic, Latino youth and American Indian youth are less likely to graduate."

"But it's not a structural racism issue for boys versus girls," she said.

Live updates | Israel pounds Gaza Strip, dismissing calls for cease-fire

By The Associated Press undefined

Israel entered a new phase of its war on Hamas on Saturday, expanding its ground attacks after blacking out nearly all communication in the Gaza Strip with increased bombardment and artillery fire. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called it a war for Israel's existence, and said "'Never again' is now."

Gaza residents described the massive bombardment from the land, air and sea as the most intense of the 3-week-old Israel-Hamas war. It knocked out most communications in the territory late Friday and largely cut off the besieged enclave's 2.3 million people from the world.

Communications were restored to many people in Gaza early Sunday, according to the telecoms company Paltel, Internet-access advocacy group NetBlocks.org and confirmation on the ground.

The Palestinian death toll passed 7,700, most of them women and children, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza. In the occupied West Bank, more than 110 Palestinians have been killed in violence and Israeli raids.

More than 1,400 people were slain in Israel during a surprise incursion by Hamas militants, including at least 310 soldiers, according to the Israeli government. At least 229 hostages were taken into Gaza, and four hostages have been released.

Currently:

1. Spider web of Hamas tunnels raises risks for Israeli ground offensive in Gaza Strip
2. Horror, hopelessness take hold with Palestinians cut off from outside world.
3. Mass graves, unclaimed bodies and overcrowded cemeteries replace funeral rites
4. AP Photos: Scenes of sorrow and despair on both sides of Israel-Gaza border on week 3 of war
5. U.S. Republican presidential candidates unbridled in support of Israel.
6. Find more of AP's coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/israel-hamas-war>.

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

INTERNET AND TELEPHONE CONNECTIVITY RESTORED FOR MANY IN GAZA

CAIRO — Internet and telephone connectivity has been restored for many people in Gaza, according

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to the telecoms company Paltel, Internet-access advocacy group NetBlocks.org and confirmation on the ground.

The besieged Gaza Strip had suffered a communication blackout since late Friday, leaving its 2.3 million residents cut off from the outside world amid heavy Israeli air and land bombardment.

RED CRESCENT SAYS BLACKOUT KEEPING AID OUTSIDE GAZA

JERUSALEM — No international aid entered the Gaza Strip on Saturday, as the communications blackout created by Israel continued.

Nebal Farsakh, a spokesperson for the Palestinian Red Crescent, told The Associated Press that no aid trucks entered Gaza on Saturday because communication was impossible and teams inside Gaza couldn't connect with Egyptian Red Crescent or United Nations personnel.

Before Saturday, a total of 84 aid trucks were let into Gaza, a tiny amount for a population of 2.3 million people in need of power, food, medical supplies and clean drinking water.

2nd US AIRCRAFT CARRIER GROUP MOVES INTO MEDITERRANEAN

WASHINGTON — The USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier and its strike group has moved through the Strait of Gibraltar, putting two American carriers in the Mediterranean Sea, a rare sight in recent years.

The USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group is already in the eastern Mediterranean, part of a buildup of forces as the U.S. supports Israel in its war against Hamas.

The Eisenhower sailed into the Mediterranean on Saturday and is slated to move through the Suez Canal to the U.S. Central Command region as the American forces expand their presence in the Middle East to deter Iran and its proxy militant groups from trying to widen the war.

COMMUNICATIONS BLACKOUT HAS PALESTINIANS PANICKING

Now that Israeli bombs have cut off cellular and internet service for most of the 2.3 million people in the Gaza Strip, it has fallen to a rare few Palestinians with international SIM cards or powered-up satellite phones to get the news out.

They described scenes of panic and confusion as Israel's military attacks from the air, land and sea in the most intense bombing yet in the three week war. Without social media to share their plight with the world, many seem consumed with fear and hopelessness.

Reached by WhatsApp, freelance photojournalist Ashraf Abu Amra in northern Gaza said the international community must intervene to save the people of Gaza from immediate death. Palestinian journalist Hind al-Khoudary reported that some 50,000 people have converged on Gaza's largest hospital, where doctors are exhausted from operating on patient after patient using dwindling fuel and medical supplies.

GOP CANDIDATES OFFER UNBRIDLED SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

LAS VEGAS — Republican presidential candidates are professing unbridled support for Israel in speeches to an influential GOP Jewish group in Las Vegas. The campaign stop came as Israel entered a new phase of its war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Former Vice President Mike Pence suspended his campaign and used his last speech as a candidate to called on Democratic President Joe Biden to unconditionally support Israel's response to a Hamas attack that killed more than 1,000 Israelis.

Candidates Tim Scott and Vivek Ramaswamy also said Israel's right to defend itself is unequivocal. Nikki Haley noted that former President Donald Trump had lashed out at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after the Hamas attack and referred to the militant group Hezbollah as "very smart." Trump, the frontrunner, called himself "the best friend Israel ever had."

ISRAEL CALLS HAMAS PRISONER SWAP OFFER 'PSYCHOLOGICAL TERROR'

JERUSALEM — Hamas's top leader in Gaza Yehia Sinwar said the Palestinian militant groups are ready to release Israeli hostages in return for Palestinian prisoners in Israel's jails.

"We are ready immediately to have an exchange deal that includes releasing all prisoners in the prisons of the Zionist occupation enemy in return for the release of all prisoners held by the resistance," he said in a comment posted Saturday evening on Hamas media groups.

The Israeli military spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, dismissed the offer as "psychological terror"

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andsaid Israel is working on multiple channels to free the hostages.

ISRAEL SAYS ITS WARPLANES HIT 150 UNDERGROUND TARGETS

JERUSALEM — Israel's military said Saturday that its warplanes struck 150 underground Hamas targets in northern Gaza, including tunnels, combat spaces and other infrastructure. But the extensive labyrinth of tunnels built by Hamas is believed to stretch for hundreds of miles (kilometers), hiding fighters, an arsenal of rockets and now more than 200 Israeli hostages.

Clearing and collapsing those tunnels is crucial to dismantling Hamas. But Israeli's military could be at a serious disadvantage underground. Urban warfare experts say the militants can be hiding in millions of places, choosing when and where to ambush their enemies.

Former Israeli soldier Ariel Bernstein described urban combat in northern Gaza as a mix of ambushes, traps, hideouts and snipers in tunnels so disorienting that it was like he was fighting ghosts.

ISRAELI PM SAYS GAZA WAR IS EXISTENTIAL, 'NEVER AGAIN IS NOW'

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says the war against Hamas will be "long and difficult," calling it a battle of good versus evil and a struggle for Israel's existence.

Netanyahu told the nation in a televised news conference Saturday night that Israel has opened a "new phase" in the war – by sending ground forces into Gaza and expanding attacks from the ground, air and sea. He said these activities would only increase as Israel prepares for a broad ground invasion.

The goal, he said, is the complete destruction of Hamas.

"We always said, 'Never again,'" he said. "'Never again' is now."

ROCKETS, AIR STRIKES AND ANOTHER HOSPITAL HIT

A Palestinian militant group in Gaza said it fired barrage of rockets Saturday evening on Tel Aviv and on Ashkelon and Ashdod in southern Israel. The rockets by Al-Quds Brigades, the military arm of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, was the latest in a series of rocket attacks on Israel on Saturday.

Israeli forces continued a relentless bombardment. One Israeli airstrike late Saturday afternoon damaged the Indonesian hospital in Beit Lahia, according to freelance journalist Anas al-Sharif, one of the few journalists in Gaza able to connect to the outside world. He shared images of the hospital's damaged roof.

The Israeli strikes cut off telecommunications and internet access for Gaza's 2.3 million people, disrupting ambulances and aid groups and enabling Israel to control the narrative in the new stage of fighting.

Earlier Saturday, Israeli videos showed columns of armored vehicles moving slowly inside Gaza, the first visual confirmation of ground troops.

PROTESTS SPREAD, CALLING ON ISRAEL TO STOP GAZA WAR

PARIS — Police encircled hundreds of people who defied a ban on a pro-Palestinian demonstration Saturday in central Paris. The officers tried to contain the protest but fired tear gas when tensions rose as a breakaway group tried to march.

The protest collective known as Urgence Palestine called for a cease-fire in the increasingly intense war between Israel and Hamas. Other pro-Palestinian demonstrations were held in Marseille and Strasbourg in the east.

Demonstrations also took place Saturday in Turkey, London, Indonesia, Pakistan, Italy, Norway, Switzerland and New York, where protesters marched across the Brooklyn Bridge a day after filling Grand Central Station, many wearing black T-shirts saying "Jews say cease-fire now" and "Not in our name."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told a rally of hundreds of thousands that Western nations are responsible and that "Israel, we will proclaim you as a war criminal to the world."

ISRAEL DISMISSES CALLS FOR CEASE-FIRE AND HOSTAGE-SWAP

JERUSALEM — As Israeli airstrikes and an intensified ground attack pounded northern Gaza on Saturday, a representative for the families of the hostages held by Hamas told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu they support a prisoner swap.

"As far as the families are concerned, a deal of a return of our family members immediately in the framework of "all for all" is feasible, and there will be wide national support for this," said MeIraV Gonen, the representative. Her daughter, RoMi, is one of the hostages.

Israel's government has not yet commented on Hamas's offer to free all the hostages in exchange for

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Israel releasing all Palestinians held in Israeli jails. It was unclear if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed the possibility of a prisoner swap during the meeting with the families, or if he specified any military or diplomatic plan to achieve the release of hostages.

Israel's military has said it will be able to continue its devastating campaign on Gaza while rescuing the hostages, and has dismissed the possibility of a Hamas-proposed cease-fire deal in exchange for their release. Spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said Saturday that by proposing the cease-fire, Hamas was engaged in a "cynical exploitation" of their families' anxieties.

NETANYAHU MEETS FAMILIES OF HOSTAGES AS TUNNELS ARE BOMBED

TEL AVIV, Israel -- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said he told representatives of the families of hostages that Israel will exhaust every possibility to bring them home.

The Israeli military says Hamas militants kidnapped more than 200 people on Oct. 7 and took them into a network of tunnels inside the densely populated Gaza Strip. In the night from Friday to Saturday, Israeli war planes bombed Hamas tunnels and underground bunkers in dozens of strikes, heightening the concerns of relatives of hostages over the fate of their loved ones.

Netanyahu and his wife Sara told the families in Tel Aviv that getting abductees released is one of the goals of the war and that the greater the pressure, the greater the chances for bringing them home.

Hundreds of family members had demonstrated in Tel Aviv earlier Saturday, expressing fears that military leaders are being cavalier with the lives of the hostages. "The families feel like they're left behind and no one is really caring about them," said Miki Haimovitz, a former lawmaker.

UN LEADER RENEWS CEASE-FIRE PLEA: 'HISTORY WILL JUDGE US ALL'

CAIRO — U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres has reiterated his appeal for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza, the unconditional release of hostages and a delivery of humanitarian aid to the strip's 2.3 million people.

"This situation must be reversed," he said Saturday in a statement following his meeting in Doha with Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani. "This is the moment of truth. Everyone must assume their responsibilities. History will judge us all."

He warned that the ongoing escalation, including relentless Israeli bombardment and a communication blackout, would have devastating impacts and undermine "the referred humanitarian objectives."

OMAN ACCUSES ISRAEL OF WAR CRIMES, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

CAIRO — Oman's Foreign Ministry says Israel's siege and bombardment of Gaza amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Omani ministry said in a statement that a wide-scale Israeli ground invasion of Gaza would have "serious catastrophic consequences on the region and the world, and the prospects of achieving peace and stability."

Oman has a long record of serving as a key broker between Iran and the West when regional tensions flare.

The ministry called for the international community to immediately intervene to stop the Israel-Hamas war and to speed humanitarian aid deliveries to Gaza.

HAMAS REPORTS FIRING ROCKETS AT ISRAELI CITY OF DIMONA

BEIRUT — A top Hamas official said Saturday that by shutting down most communications, Israel aims to prevent "the truth" about what is happening in the Gaza Strip from reaching the world.

Speaking to reporters in Beirut, Ghazi Hamad said Israel has made "baseless claims and lies" about Hamas militants hiding in tunnels under the Al Shifa hospital in Gaza "to justify the targeting of the hospital."

He said that Israel has forced Palestinians south with plans to try to push them to move to Egypt.

"We strongly reject that and say that our Palestinians will stay in their land," Hamad said.

But he called on the international community to allow humanitarian aid to reach Gaza from Egypt, specifically medical equipment and fuel.

Meanwhile, Hamas' military arm, Qassam Brigades, said Saturday afternoon it fired a barrage of rockets on Dimona, a southern Israeli city on the edge of the Negev Desert.

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ISRAEL REPORTS STRIKING HEZBOLLAH SITES IN LEBANON

JERUSALEM — Israel's military says it is striking Hezbollah military infrastructure in Lebanon after "several anti-tank missile and mortar shell launches were identified from Lebanese territory toward Israel," including Israeli military posts along the Israel-Lebanon border.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said a shell fired by Israeli troops hit the wall surrounding the headquarters of the U.N. peacekeeping force in the Lebanese coastal border town of Naqoura.

Andrea Tenenti, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL, confirmed that the shell only caused some damage and no injuries.

There has been concern that the Israel-Hamas war could expand into Lebanon and northern Israel if Hezbollah decides to join the conflict.

GAZA HEALTH MINISTRY: ISRAELIS KILLED 377 SINCE FRIDAY NIGHT

BEIRUT — The Hamas-run Health Ministry in Gaza said 377 people have been killed since Israel expanded its large ground offensive on Friday evening.

Ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qedra told reporters Saturday that Israel "totally paralyzed" the health network in Gaza by cutting off internet and cellular service.

"Israel has turned Gaza into pieces of fire," al-Qedra said, adding that the bombardment is the most intense since Hamas' deadly incursion in southern Israel three weeks ago.

Al-Qedra said the 377 people killed in the past day raises the death total in the Gaza to 7,703 people, including 3,195 children and 1,863 women.

He called on people in Gaza to donate blood, requested delivery of all blood types from the International committee of the Red Cross and urged the opening of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt to allow medical supplies and fuel to enter and the evacuation of seriously wounded people.

Netanyahu says the Gaza war has entered a new stage and will be 'long and difficult'

By ISABEL DEBRE, JULIA FRANKEL and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the nation Saturday night that the military has opened a "second stage" in the war against Hamas by sending ground forces into Gaza and expanding attacks from the ground, air and sea.

Casting the war as a fight for his country's very survival, he warned that the assault would only intensify ahead of a broad ground invasion into the territory.

"There are moments in which a nation faces two possibilities: to do or die," Netanyahu said. "We now face that test and I have no doubt how it will end: We will be the victors. We will do and we will be the victors."

The bombardment — described by Gaza residents as the most intense of the war — knocked out most communications in the territory late Friday and largely cut off the besieged enclave's 2.3 million people from the world. Communications were restored to many people in Gaza early Sunday, according to the telecoms company, Internet-access advocacy group NetBlocks.org and confirmation on the ground.

Highlighting the ongoing attacks, the Israeli military released grainy images showing tank columns moving slowly in open areas of Gaza, many apparently near the border, and said warplanes bombed dozens of Hamas tunnels and underground bunkers. The underground sites are a key target in Israel's campaign to crush the territory's ruling group after its bloody incursion into Israel three weeks ago.

The escalation ratcheted up domestic pressure on Israel's government to secure the release of dozens of hostages seized in the Oct. 7 rampage by Hamas, when militants stormed from Gaza into nearby Israeli towns and gunned down civilians and soldiers. The unprecedented attack during a major Jewish holiday initiated a war between Israel and Hamas that could spread into a broader Mideast conflict.

Desperate family members met with Netanyahu on Saturday and expressed support for an exchange for Palestinian prisoners held in Israel, a swap floated by the top Hamas leader in Gaza.

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Netanyahu told the nationally televised news conference that Israel is determined to bring back all the hostages, and maintained that the expanding ground operation "will help us in this mission." He said he couldn't reveal everything that is being done due to the sensitivity and secrecy of the efforts.

"This is the second stage of the war, whose objectives are clear: to destroy the military and governmental capabilities of Hamas and bring the hostages home," he said in his first time taking questions from journalists since the war began.

He didn't address calls for a cease-fire, but in a speech peppered with references to centuries of Jewish history and military conflicts, made clear his view that Israel's future depends on its success against "enemy" forces.

"Our heroic soldiers have one supreme goal: to destroy the murderous enemy and ensure our existence in our land. We have always said, 'Never again,'" he said. "'Never again' is now."

Netanyahu also acknowledged that the Oct. 7 "debacle," in which more than 1,400 people were killed, would need a thorough investigation, adding that "everyone will have to answer questions, including me."

The Israeli military said it was gradually expanding its ground operations inside Gaza, while stopping short of calling it an all-out invasion.

"We are proceeding with the stages of the war according to an organized plan," said the chief military spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari. The comments hinted at a strategy of a staged escalation, instead of a massive and overwhelming offensive.

Early in the war, Israel amassed hundreds of thousands of troops along the border. Until now, troops had conducted brief nightly ground incursions before returning to Israel.

Despite the Israeli offensive, Palestinian militants have continued firing rockets into Israel, with the constant sirens in southern Israel a reminder of the threat.

The Palestinian death toll in Gaza rose Saturday to just over 7,700 people since the war began, with 377 deaths reported since late Friday, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Most of those killed have been women and minors, the ministry said.

Ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qidra told reporters that the disruption of communications has "totally paralyzed" the health network. Residents had no way of calling ambulances, and emergency teams were chasing the sounds of artillery barrages and airstrikes.

An estimated 1,700 people remain trapped beneath the rubble, according to the health ministry, which has said it bases its estimates on distress calls it received.

Some civilians were using their bare hands to pull injured people from the rubble and loading them into personal cars or donkey carts. In a video posted by local news media, Palestinians sprinted down a street with a wounded man covered in the dust of a building's collapse. "Ambulance! Ambulance!" the men shouted as they shoved the stretcher into a truck and shouted, "Go! Go!"

Some Gaza residents traveled by foot or car to check on relatives and friends. "The bombs were everywhere, the building was shaking," said Hind al-Khudary, a journalist in central Gaza and one of a few people with cellphone service. "We can't reach anyone or contact anyone. I do not know where my family is."

Israel says its strikes target Hamas fighters and infrastructure and that the militants operate from among civilians, putting them in danger.

The World Health Organization appealed to "the humanity in all those who have the power to do so to end the fighting now" in Gaza. "There are more wounded every hour. But ambulances cannot reach them in the communications blackout. Morgues are full. More than half of the dead are women and children," it said.

Palestinians say the war also robbed them of the funeral rites that long have offered mourners some dignity and closure. Overcrowded cemeteries have compelled families to dig up long-buried bodies and deepen the holes.

More than 1.4 million people across Gaza have fled their homes, nearly half crowding into U.N. schools and shelters, following repeated warnings by the Israeli military that they would be in danger if they remained in northern Gaza.

A large number of residents have not evacuated to the south, in part because Israel has also bombarded

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targets in so-called safe zones where conditions are increasingly dire. Food and water supplies were running out. Israel knocked out electricity early in the war.

Humanitarian workers say the trickle of aid Israel has allowed to enter from Egypt in the past week is a tiny fraction of what is needed. Gaza hospitals have been scrounging for fuel to run emergency generators that power incubators and other life-saving equipment.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, which runs a network of shelters and schools for nearly half the displaced Gaza residents, has lost contact with most staff, spokeswoman Juliette Touma said, and coordinating aid efforts was now "extremely challenging."

The intensified air and ground campaign raised new concerns about hostages dragged into Gaza. On Saturday, hundreds of relatives gathered in Tel Aviv and demanded that the government put the return of their loved ones ahead of military objectives.

In comments likely to inflame these tensions, Hamas' top leader in Gaza, Yehia Sinwar, said the Palestinian militant groups "are ready immediately" to release all hostages if Israel releases all Palestinians held in Israeli prisons.

Hagari, the Israeli military spokesman, dismissed the offer as "psychological terror."

In Cairo, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi said his government was working to de-escalate the conflict through talks with the warring parties to release prisoners and hostages. On Saturday, he spoke with U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, his office said.

Guterres in a statement said he was "surprised by an unprecedented escalation of the bombardments and their devastating impacts" in Gaza.

Among many, impatience was growing. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told hundreds of thousands of people at a pro-Palestinian rally in Istanbul that his country was preparing to proclaim Israel a "war criminal" for its actions in Gaza. He did not give details.

Israel's foreign minister said he ordered the return of Israel's diplomatic mission from Turkey to re-assess ties.

The overall number of deaths in Gaza and Israel far exceeds the combined toll of all four previous Israel-Hamas wars, estimated at around 4,000.

The conflict has threatened to ignite a wider war across the region. Arab nations — including U.S. allies and ones that have reached peace deals or normalized ties with Israel — have raised increasing alarm over a potential ground invasion.

Pence ends White House campaign after struggling to gain traction. 'This is not my time,' he says

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Vice President Mike Pence on Saturday dropped his bid for the Republican presidential nomination, ending his campaign for the White House after struggling to raise money and gain traction in the polls.

"It's become clear to me: This is not my time," Pence said at the Republican Jewish Coalition's annual gathering in Las Vegas. "So after much prayer and deliberation, I have decided to suspend my campaign for president effective today."

"We always knew this would be an uphill battle, but I have no regrets," Pence went on to tell the friendly audience, which reacted with audible surprise to the announcement and gave him multiple standing ovations.

Pence is the first major candidate to leave a race that has been dominated by his former boss-turned-rival, Donald Trump, and his struggles underscore just how much Trump has transformed the party. A former vice president would typically be seen as a formidable challenger in any primary, but Pence has struggled to find a base of support.

He chose the Las Vegas event to announce his decision, in part, so he could continue to voice his support for Israel and to make his case one last time as a candidate that the isolationist and populist tides

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that have swept the Republican Party pose a danger to its future and embolden the nation's enemies, according to two people close to Pence who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss his thinking.

Pence's decision, more than two months before the Iowa caucuses that he had staked his campaign on, saves him from accumulating additional debt, as well as the embarrassment of potentially failing to qualify for the third Republican primary debate, on Nov. 8 in Miami.

But his withdrawal is a huge blow for a politician who spent years biding his time as Trump's most loyal lieutenant, only to be scapegoated during their final days in office when Trump became convinced that Pence somehow had the power to overturn the results of the 2020 election and keep both men in office — which he did not.

While Pence averted a constitutional crisis by rejecting the scheme, he drew Trump's fury, as well as the wrath of many of Trump's supporters, who still believed his lies about the election and see Pence as a traitor.

Among Trump critics, meanwhile, Pence was seen as an enabler who defended the former president at every turn and refused to criticize even Trump's most indefensible actions.

As a result, an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research from August found that the majority of U.S. adults, 57%, viewed Pence negatively, with only 28% having a positive view.

Throughout his campaign, the former Indiana governor and congressman had insisted that while he was well-known by voters, he was not "known well" and set out to change that with an aggressive schedule that included numerous stops at diners and Pizza Ranch restaurants.

Pence had been betting on Iowa, a state with a large white Evangelical population that has a long history of elevating religious and socially conservative candidates such as former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former Pennsylvania Rick Santorum. Pence often campaigned with his wife, Karen, a Christian school teacher, and emphasized his hard-line views on issues such as abortion, which he opposes even in cases when a pregnancy is unviable. He repeatedly called on his fellow candidates to support a minimum 15-week national ban and he pushed to ban drugs used as alternatives to surgical procedures.

He tried to confront head-on his actions on Jan. 6, 2021, explaining to voters over and over that he had done his constitutional duty that day, knowing full well the political consequences. It was a strategy his campaign and outside supporters believed would help defuse the issue and earn Pence the respect of a majority of Republicans, whom they were convinced did not agree with Trump's actions.

But even in Iowa, Pence struggled to gain traction.

He had an equally uphill climb raising money, despite yearslong relationships with donors. Pence ended September with just \$1.18 million in the bank and \$621,000 in debt, according to his most recent campaign filing. That debt had grown in the weeks since and adding to it could have taken Pence, who is not independently wealthy, years to pay off.

The Associated Press first reported earlier this month that people close to Pence had begun to feel that remaining a candidate risked diminishing his long-term standing in the party, given Trump's dominating lead in the race for the 2024 nomination. While they said Pence could stick it out until the Jan. 15 Iowa caucuses if he wanted — campaigning on a shoestring budget and accumulating debt — he would have to consider how that might affect his ability to remain a leading voice in the conservative movement, as he hopes.

Some said that Hamas' attack on Israel in October, which pushed foreign policy to the forefront of the campaign, had provided Pence a renewed sense of purpose given his warnings throughout the campaign against the growing tide of isolationism in the Republican Party. Pence had argued that he was the race's most experienced candidate and decried "voices of appeasement" among Republican, arguing they had emboldened groups such as Hamas.

But ultimately, Pence concluded that he could still speak out on the issue without continuing the campaign.

Still, his announcement came as a surprise even to Matt Brooks, the CEO of the Republican Jewish Coalition, who said he spent about 10-15 minutes backstage with Pence before the former vice president's speech and had gotten no indication from Pence that he intended to end his candidacy.

"Look, he picked an incredibly appropriate audience to do this," Brooks said. "I think you saw the love

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for him in that room. And it was obviously a difficult decision for him and his family. But he was in the right place at the right time to share it with us all.”

It was unclear which, if any, candidates would benefit from Pence’s departure, given his limited support. But those hoping to see the party move on from the former president welcomed the news as a step toward consolidating around a single Trump alternative.

Pence did not endorse any of his rivals Saturday, but continued to echo language he has used to criticize Trump.

“I urge all my fellow Republicans here, give our country a Republican standard-bearer that will, as Lincoln said, appeal to the better angels of our nature,” he said, “and not only lead us to victory, but lead our nation with civility back to the time-honored principles that have always made America strong and prosperous and free.”

Trump, who spoke shortly after Pence at the RJC event, did not acknowledge his former vice president’s announcement on stage, but said Saturday night at a separate event in Las Vegas that he believed Pence owed him his support.

“He should endorse me. I chose him, made him vice president. But people in politics can be very disloyal,” he said.

Pence is expected to remain engaged in politics, in part through Advancing American Freedom, the conservative think tank he founded after leaving the vice presidency and that he envisions it as an alternative to The Heritage Foundation. He also has a book coming out next month.

Israel says its war can both destroy Hamas and rescue hostages. Their families are less certain

By JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military has sought to assure the public it can achieve the two goals of its war on Hamas simultaneously — toppling the strip’s militant rulers and rescuing some 230 hostages abducted from Israel.

But as the army ramps up airstrikes and ground incursions on the blockaded enclave, laying waste to entire neighborhoods in preparation for a broader invasion, the anguished families of hostages are growing increasingly worried those aims will collide — with devastating consequences.

Annihilating Hamas would seem to require a ground operation of unprecedented intensity fraught with the risk of harming Israeli hostages. Saving hostages stuck inside Gaza would appear to require engagement with Hamas, the group that forever traumatized the country when it sent fighters into southern Israel to brutally kill over 1,400 people and take dozens captive on Oct. 7, sparking this latest war between the bitter enemies. Over 7,700 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli offensive, according to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry.

Israel’s government has not described what a rescue mission could look like. In a televised address late Saturday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu acknowledged the agony of hostages’ families and promised their release was an “integral” part of Israel’s war effort, on par with its goal of destroying Hamas.

Hamas political leaders are in negotiations with mediators Egypt and Qatar to secure the freedom of at least some trapped Israeli civilians. Four hostages have been released so far.

Anxiety over Hamas’ hostages reached a fever pitch Saturday, as Israel intensified its air campaign and sent troops into Gaza with heavy firepower. Crowds protested outside Israel’s Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, demanding that Netanyahu and other officials address the fate of their loved ones.

It worked. Netanyahu met with the families Saturday and vowed to “exercise and exhaust every possibility to bring them home.” Defense Minister Yoav Gallant promised to meet them Sunday for what his office described as the first official meeting with them.

“We are not waiting any longer,” said protester Malki Shem-Tov, whose 21-year-old son, Omer, is being held captive in Gaza. “We want all of them back with us today. We want you, the Cabinet, the government, to imagine that these are your children.”

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The plight of the hostages has captured the nation's attention for the past three weeks. Israeli media are filled with stories about the hostages and interviews with their families.

But all of the military's options carry enormous risks. A military invasion raises the prospect of intractable warfare in densely populated cities and subterranean tunnels that could suck young soldiers into a monthslong quagmire.

With the hostages believed to be hidden in Hamas' sprawling tunnel network, heavy fighting raises the prospect of unmitigated chaos for soldiers and hostages alike.

Late on Friday as the Israeli military struck Gaza by air, land and sea with a ferocity never seen before, families of hostages were on edge, acutely aware of the dangers facing their loved ones.

"It was a long and sleepless night," said Liat Bell Sommer, a spokesperson for the families who she said suffered from "absolute uncertainty regarding the fate of the hostages held there, who were also subject to the heavy bombings."

The bombardment seemed to send a message to Hamas — if the group thought it could avoid a devastating ground invasion because of the captives in Gaza, it was wrong.

Balancing the families' interests with the military goal of destroying Hamas has presented a dilemma for Netanyahu, who is already under fire for his government's failure to prevent the worst attack in Israeli history and to swiftly come to people's aid that day.

Amos Yadlin, a retired general and former head of Israel's military intelligence, said the government's challenge was to satisfy the immense public pressure both to return the hostages safely and wipe out Hamas. He insisted the two goals could be reconciled if the government finds the "right strategy."

"Both should be handled simultaneously and should support each other," Yadlin said, without elaborating. But many experts believe the best strategy to save hostages remains diplomacy.

Hamas on Saturday offered Israel an exchange — the release of all hostages in Gaza for all Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. The plight of the prisoners is deeply emotional for Palestinians, who widely see the prisoners as freedom fighters.

Israel has a long history of agreeing to lopsided prisoner swaps. In 2011, it freed over 1,000 prisoners in exchange for Gilad Schalit, a soldier who was kidnapped and dragged across the border into Gaza. Many of those prisoners, including Hamas' top leader in Gaza, Yehia Sinwar, had been convicted in the killings of Israelis.

"If the enemy wants to end this case at once, we are ready for that," said Abu Obeida, the spokesman for Hamas' armed wing.

Israeli military spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari was evasive. He said Hamas was engaged in the "cynical exploitation" of the anxieties gripping the Israeli public.

But families who saw four women released to Israel last week following complex hostage diplomacy said they weren't convinced that the Israeli government had their best interests in mind.

"They feel like they're left behind and no one is really caring about them," said Miki Haimovitz, a former lawmaker who spoke on behalf of the hostages' families at Saturday's protest. "No one is explaining what's going on."

Maine mass killing suspect had mental health issues, purchased guns legally, authorities say

By JAKE BLEIBERG, PATRICK WHITTLE and DAVID SHARP Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine (AP) — Police missed two clear opportunities to end a dragnet that locked down and terrified Maine's second-largest city after a gunman killed 18 people at a bowling alley and a bar following a recent spiral into paranoia.

The body of Robert Card was found Friday in a trailer at a recycling center in Lisbon Falls that police had searched a day earlier. Card died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, but it was unclear when, authorities said.

The 40-year-old was suspected of also injuring 13 people during the shooting rampage on Wednesday

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night in Lewiston.

Lisbon Police Chief Ryan McGee said law enforcement scoured the Maine Recycling Corp. property, where Card once worked, and cleared it on Thursday, but did not check another part of the company's land nearby. Officers came back early Friday morning and again found nothing.

Another team returned that evening and searched the other part of the property that had not been checked, and found Card's body in the trailer along with two firearms, McGee said. A rifle had been found Wednesday night in Card's abandoned car nearby.

Authorities recovered a multitude of weapons during their search for Card and believe he had legally purchased his guns, including those recovered in his car and near his body, said Jim Ferguson, the special agent in charge of the Boston office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He declined to provide specific details about the guns, including their make and model, and wouldn't say exactly how many were found.

Investigators are still searching for a motive for the massacre, but have increasingly been focused on Card's mental health history. State Department of Public Safety Commissioner Michael Sauschuck said Card was hearing voices and had paranoia, adding that he believed "people were talking about him and there may even have been some voices at play."

Last summer Card underwent a mental health evaluation after he began acting erratically at an Army training facility in New York, officials said. A bulletin sent to police shortly after this week's attack said Card had been committed to a mental health facility for two weeks after "hearing voices and threats to shoot up" a military base.

At a news conference Saturday, Sauschuck said there was no evidence that Card had ever been involuntarily committed to a mental health facility, which could've made it illegal for him to possess guns. A simple evaluation or voluntary commitment would not have triggered such a prohibition, he said.

Under Maine's yellow flag law, law enforcement can detain someone they suspect is mentally ill and poses a threat to themselves or others. The law differs from red flag laws in that it requires police first to get a medical practitioner to evaluate the person and find them to be a threat before police can petition a judge to order the seizure of the person's firearms.

"Just because there appears to be a mental health nexus to this scenario, the vast majority of people with mental health diagnosis will never hurt anybody," Sauschuck said.

Police found a note in Card's home addressed to a loved one with the passcode to his phone and bank account number, Sauschuck said. The commissioner said he wouldn't describe it as an explicit suicide note but the tone indicated that was the intent.

Family members of Card told federal investigators that he had recently discussed hearing voices and became more focused on the bowling alley and bar, according to law enforcement officials who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in order to discuss details of the investigation.

Street life returned to Lewiston on Saturday after a dayslong lockdown in the city of 37,000. Joggers took advantage of the warm weather. People walked dogs through downtown, picked up coffee and visited other shops that had been closed since the shooting.

"Right now, we want Maine to be remembered as the community that came together after this tragic event," McGee said, recalling how he drove into town Saturday and saw "people walking the streets, people sitting on porches, waving. Giving the thumbs-up."

For many residents it was a day to reflect, mourn and, for some, take the first tentative steps toward normalcy. Some went hunting on the opening day of firearm season for deer, and one family handed out buckets of flowers in downtown. Others gathered at a makeshift memorial to the victims down the street from the bar targeted by Card.

William Brackett, whose namesake son was among those killed, visited the memorial Saturday and said he could feel pent up tension leave his body when he learned Card was dead.

"I'm telling you, if I had a bottle of champagne, I would've popped it and celebrated," he said.

Billy Brackett was shot multiple times and died on the way to the hospital, his father said. He said his

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son didn't let his deafness stop him from doing anything in life, including playing multiple sports.

"He was just a gentle person. He was big and rugged, and I guess maybe that's why all the little kids loved him. They swarmed to a bigger person," Brackett said. "Maybe they thought, 'He'll be our protector.'"

The Rev. Daniel Greenleaf of the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston said parishioners had been sharing stories about people killed in the shootings and also looking to help each other in the aftermath of the tragedy.

"To see people hurt — that's always hard for me. I can't fix this. As much as I want to, I can't fix this," Greenleaf said. "Together we can pray, and I hope it at least alleviates some of the heaviness that our own parishioners feel."

In Lisbon Falls, not far from where Card's body was found, about 150 people gathered for an evening vigil at a grassy field. They lit candles, and a volunteer group walked trauma therapy dogs around.

Ben Nitschke and Daniel Fuss, a married couple originally from Australia, drove up from their home in Portland to attend. They said Maine has been incredibly welcoming since they arrived in 2019 and they wanted to be with their adopted community as it mourns.

"This is the first time we ever experienced something like this," said Nitschke, 32. "We just wanted to come pay our respects."

Jonathan Jones, pastor of Lisbon Falls Baptist Church, read a prayer and thanked police. He then recited the first names of the 18 people killed in the shooting.

"We'll rise from these ashes by the grace and mercy of god," he said.

The deadliest shootings in Maine history stunned a state of 1.3 million people that has relatively little violent crime and had only 29 killings in all of 2022.

Three patients remained in critical condition at Central Maine Medical Center, and a fourth was stable, hospital officials said. Another patient was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital, and the rest were discharged.

A stay-at-home order in place during the massive search was lifted Friday afternoon, hours before authorities announced they had found Card's body at the Maine Recycling Corp.

The company said Card was a commercial driver for approximately one year and left his job voluntarily late last spring.

The Cards have lived in Bowdoin for generations, according to neighbors, and various members of the family own hundreds of acres in the area. The family owned the local sawmill and years ago donated the land for a local church.

Sauschuck praised the family for calling investigators to provide his name soon after police released surveillance pictures of the shooter.

"This family has been incredibly cooperative with us," Sauschuck said. "Truth be told, the first three people that called us ... were family members."

The Lewiston shootings were the 36th mass killing in the United States this year, according to a database maintained by AP and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University.

UAW and Stellantis reach tentative contract deal as union adds strike at Tennessee GM factory

By TOM KRISHER, HALELUYA HADERO and COREY WILLIAMS Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Jeep maker Stellantis reached a tentative contract agreement with the United Auto Workers union on Saturday as it escalated strikes against General Motors by adding a plant in Tennessee.

The Stellantis deal, which still must be ratified by members, leaves only GM without an agreement with the union. But the union walked out Saturday night at a GM factory in Spring Hill, Tennessee, in an effort to increase pressure on the company to reach a deal.

The Stellantis deal mirrors one reached earlier this week with Ford. The union says the contract also saves jobs at a factory in Belvidere, Illinois, that Stellantis had planned to close.

GM said it was disappointed with the additional strike at the Spring Hill assembly and propulsion systems

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plant "in light of the progress we have made." The company said in a statement that it has bargained in good faith with the union and wants to reach a deal as soon as possible.

Spring Hill is GM's largest manufacturing facility in North America with 11 million square feet of building space and almost 4,000 employees. It makes the electric Cadillac Lyriq as well as the GMC Acadia and Cadillac XT5 and XT6 crossover SUVs.

A message was left Saturday night seeking comment from the union.

UAW President Shawn Fain confirmed the Stellantis agreement in a video appearance Saturday evening and said that 43,000 members at the company still have to vote on the deal.

About 14,000 UAW workers who were on strike at two Stellantis assembly plants in Michigan and Ohio, and several parts distribution centers across the country, were told to drop their picket signs and return to work. So the agreement will end a six-week strike at the maker of Jeep and Ram vehicles.

The pact includes 25% in general wage increases over the next 4 1/2 years for top assembly plant workers, with 11% coming once the deal is ratified. Workers also will get cost-of-living pay that would bring the raises to a compounded 33%, with top assembly plant workers making more than \$42 per hour. At Stellantis, top-scale workers now make around \$31 per hour.

Like the Ford contract, the Stellantis deal would run through April 30, 2028.

Under the deal, the union said it saved jobs in Belvidere as well as at an engine plant in Trenton, Michigan, and a machining factory in Toledo, Ohio.

"We've done the impossible. We have moved mountains. We have reopened an assembly plant that was closed," Fain said.

The deal includes a commitment by Stellantis to build a new midsize truck at its factory in Belvidere, Illinois, that was slated to be closed. About 1,200 workers will be hired back, plus another 1,000 workers will be added for a new electric vehicle battery plant, the union said.

"We're bringing back both combustion vehicles and electric vehicle jobs to Belvidere," Fain said.

Vice President Rich Boyer, who led the Stellantis talks, said the workforce will be doubled at the Toledo, Ohio, machining plant. The union, he said, won \$19 billion worth of investment across the U.S.

Fain said Stellantis had proposed cutting 5,000 U.S. jobs, but the union's strike changed that to adding 5,000 jobs by the end of the contract.

In a statement, the UAW said the Stellantis agreement has gains worth more than four times the improvements in the 2019 contract with the UAW. Through April of 2028, a top-scale assembly plant worker's base wage will increase more than all the increases in the past 22 years.

Starting wages for new hires will rise 67% including cost-of-living adjustments to over \$30 per hour, the union said. Temporary workers will get raises of more than 165%, while workers at parts centers will get an immediate 76% increase if the contract is ratified.

Like the Ford agreement, it will take just three years for new workers to get to the top of the assembly pay scale, the union said.

The union also won the right to strike over plant closures at Stellantis, and it can strike if the company doesn't meet product and investment commitments, Fain said.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Bill Foster, who represents Belvidere in Congress, said he's received indications that electric vehicles will be produced at the site. Stellantis had indefinitely shut down the plant in the spring.

Bruce Baumhower, president of the local union at a large Stellantis Jeep factory in Toledo, Ohio, that has been on strike since September, said he expects workers will vote to approve the deal because of the pay raises above 30% and a large raise immediately.

"Eleven percent is right on the hood," he said. "It's a historic agreement as far as I'm concerned."

Some union members have been complaining that Fain promised 40% raises to match what he said was given to company CEOs, but Baumhower said that was UAW President Shawn Fain's opening bid.

"Anybody who knows anything about negotiations, you always start out much higher than you think is realistic to get," he said.

Jermaine Antwine and other Stellantis workers picketing outside the automaker's Sterling Heights, Michi-

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gan, plant were excited Saturday after hearing of a tentative deal.

"Anytime you reach a tentative agreement, it's a good thing," said Antwine, 48, of Pontiac, Michigan, who has spent 24 years with the automaker and is a team leader in materials at the Sterling Heights plant. "Ultimately, the numbers they did come to agree with is what the UAW wanted."

The union and Stellantis went into intense negotiations on Thursday, the day after the Ford deal was announced, before finalizing it on Saturday.

About 18,000 workers at GM are now on strike at factories in Texas, Michigan and Missouri and Tennessee.

The union began targeted strikes against all three automakers on Sept. 15 after its contracts with the companies expired. At the peak, about 46,000 workers were on strike against all three companies, about one-third of the union's 146,000 members at the Detroit three.

With the Ford deal, which established the pattern for the other two companies, workers with pensions will see small increases when they retire, and those hired after 2007 with 401(k) plans will get large increases. For the first time, the union will have the right to go on strike over company plans to close factories. Temporary workers also will get large raises, and Ford agreed to shorten to three years the time it takes for new hires to reach the top of the pay scale.

Other union leaders who followed more aggressive bargaining strategies in recent months have also secured pay hikes and other benefits for their members. Last month, the union representing Hollywood writers called off a nearly five-month strike after scoring some wins in compensation, length of employment and other areas.

Outside the Sterling Heights plant, some workers said they looked forward to a ratification vote and going back to work.

"The tentative agreement is excellent," said Anthony Collier, 54, of Sterling Heights, Michigan. "We hear that it's going to be parity, at least, with Ford, so we believe a lot of people are looking forward to signing. Most of us had to dip into savings, get loans. Everybody knows the economy went up on all of us, so it's a little tight to be out on strike pay."

Mexican security authorities raise Hurricane Otis death toll to 39

By MEGAN JANETSKY Associated Press

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP) — Kristian Vera stood on an Acapulco beach Saturday looking out toward dozens of sunken boats, including three of her own, all marked by floating buoys or just poking out of the water.

Despite losing her livelihood in Hurricane Otis' brutal pass through Mexico's southern Pacific coast, the 44-year-old fisher felt fortunate. That morning, she had watched a body pulled from the water and had seen the families coming and going, looking for their loved ones.

Mexican authorities raised Otis' official toll to 39 dead and 10 missing Saturday. But Vera and others suggested that number will likely grow, in part because of the number of people who rode out on boats during what had started as a tropical storm and ended as a catastrophic Category 5 hurricane on Wednesday.

Vera took turns with four others swimming out with empty gas jugs for flotation to try to raise their sunken boats from the shallow harbor.

Leaning against a small wooden fishing boat like her own, tipped on its side on a beach strewn with trash and fallen trees, Vera explained that some of the people who died were either fishers caring for their boats or yacht captains who were told by their owners that they needed to make sure their boats were OK when Otis was still a tropical storm.

"That night I was so worried because I live off of this, it's how I feed my kids," Vera said. "But when I began to feel how strong the wind was, I said, 'Tomorrow I won't have a boat, but God willing Acapulco will see another day.'"

Earlier Saturday, Security Secretary Rosa Icela Rodríguez said in a recorded video message with President Andrés Manuel López Obrador posted to the platform X that the probable cause of death for the 39 was "suffocation by submersion." She said the victims had not yet been identified and that investigations continue.

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The new death toll was an increase of 12 over the initial tally of 27 announced Thursday. But the storm's human toll was becoming a point of contention as local media reported the recovery of more bodies and López Obrador criticized opponents for trying to make it a political issue.

Rodríguez also said the number of missing rose to 10. Hundreds of families have been awaiting word from loved ones.

In Acapulco, government workers and volunteers cleared streets, gas station lines wrapped around the block for what fuel was to be had, and some lucky families found food essentials as a more organized relief operation took shape four days after the storm hit.

Military personnel and volunteers worked along Acapulco's main tourist strip. They sliced through fallen palm trees and metal signs. Cellphone signals were partially recovered near some of the city's most luxurious hotels, and authorities placed a charging station for people to charge their phones.

But on the periphery of the city, neighborhoods remained in total chaos. The government presence found in the touristic center was not visible in other neighborhoods. With no signal, with no water and no food, families and the elderly trudged through foot-deep mud and flooded streets to get to large warehouses someone had found full of food, taking bags of food and liquids.

Aid has been slow to arrive. The Category 5 storm's destruction cut off the city of nearly 1 million people for the first day; it had intensified so quickly on Tuesday that little to nothing had been staged in advance.

Authorities had the difficult task of searching for the dead and missing. Many had remained incredulous that the government's initial death toll of 27 and four missing had not risen in the past two days. Hundreds of families awaited word from loved ones.

One military official, who did not want to give his name because he was not authorized to speak to media, said officials in his area had found at least six bodies and that his own unit had found one. It had been difficult to find bodies because they were often covered in trees and other debris, he said.

In another part of the city, Orlando Mendoza, 46, walked down a highway drenched in sweat carrying two bags of tuna, sardines, water, pasta and soup. He was bringing food to his wife and three young children.

"Even though it isn't much, it's something," he said as he walked down the winding mountain highway toward the city center.

A group of volunteers from the central state of Puebla who scraped together some money to help out people in the city were handing out bags of food to families like Mendoza's gathered on the side of the highway.

Abel Montoya, 67, had been waiting in line for gasoline with hundreds of other people for an hour and a half Saturday holding an empty jug. Soldiers were overseeing the distribution of gasoline, presumably to avoid the uncontrolled ransacking of stores that happened across the city in recent days.

"I need to be able to move to search for water and ice," he said. "Now there's this shortage of food and I might even have to leave Acapulco, go to (the state capital) Chilpancingo."

Gasoline had been unavailable, not because there wasn't any, but because there was no electricity to operate the pumps.

Most families anxiously hunted for water, with some saying they were rationing their supplies. The municipal water system was out because its pumps had no power.

Officials said the military presence would grow to 15,000 in the area and López Obrador called on his armed forces to set up checkpoints in the city to avoid robberies.

López Obrador said the national electric company had told him that service had been resumed to 55% of customers in the affected area but that more than 200,000 homes and businesses remained without power.

The federal civil defense agency had tallied 220,000 homes that were damaged by the storm, he said.

Maine police were alerted weeks ago about shooter's threats

By BERNARD CONDON and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

Police across Maine were alerted just last month to "veiled threats" by the U.S. Army reservist who would go on to carry out the worst mass shooting in the state's history, one of a string of missed red flags that preceded the massacre.

Two local law enforcement chiefs told The Associated Press that a statewide awareness alert was sent in mid-September to be on the lookout for Robert Card after the firearms instructor made threats against his base and fellow soldiers. But after stepped-up patrols of the base and a visit to Card's home – neither of which turned up any sign of him – they moved on.

"We added extra patrols, we did that for about two weeks. ... The guy never showed up," said Jack Clements, the police chief in Saco, home to the U.S. Army Reserve base where Card trained.

Sagadahoc County Sheriff Joel Merry, whose jurisdiction includes Card's home in Bowdoin, said the Army Reserve tipped his department in September to the reservist's threats, and the sheriff sent the awareness alert to every law enforcement agency in the state after his deputy came back empty-handed from a welfare check to Card's home.

"We couldn't locate him," Merry said, adding that he couldn't recall if there was any follow-up because "I don't have any reports in front of me."

Military officials declined to comment further about Card, specifically whether the threats relayed to the sheriff in September were new or the same ones Card had made during an Army reserve training exercise near West Point, New York, in July. That's when police say Card was committed to a mental health facility for two weeks after acting erratically and "hearing voices and threats to shoot up" a military base.

Authorities say the 40-year-old Card opened fire with a high-powered rifle on a bowling alley and then a bar in Lewiston Wednesday night, killing 18 people and wounding 13 more. After an intensive two-day search that put the state on edge, Card was found dead Friday from a self-inflicted gunshot.

Despite the earlier threats, the FBI said Saturday Card had not been on its radar, telling AP it "did not have nor did it receive any tips or information concerning Robert Card." The bureau added that its instant background check system "was not provided with or in possession of any information that would have prohibited Card from a lawful firearm purchase."

Card's case stands as a glaring example of missed red flags, with many unanswered questions about what the military, police, mental health professionals and relatives could have done to prevent the massacre.

While Maine does not have a red flag law, it does have a more limited "yellow-flag" law that would still allow police to petition a judge to take a person's firearms away if a medical practitioner deems that person to be a threat.

For his part, Saco police Chief Clements defended his department's response to the alert about Card, which he described as a "generic thing that came out saying, hey, you know, we've had some report that this guy's made some veiled threats."

Clements noted that his department gets many such alerts and that his officers gave this one its due attention, keeping an eye on the base for any sign of Card.

"Never came in contact with this guy, never received any phone calls from the reserve center saying, 'Hey, we got somebody who was causing a problem,'" he said. "We never got anything."

Another law enforcement agency that came in contact with Card was the New York State Police, which on July 16 was called in West Point by commanders of the Army Reserve's 3rd Battalion, 304th Infantry Regiment with concerns about Card's erratic behavior and "threats to other members of his military unit" during a training exercise, according to a State Police document obtained by AP. State Police troopers took Card, a sergeant 1st class, to the Keller Army Community Hospital at West Point for what would be two weeks of mental health evaluation.

What New York State Police did about Card's threats is unclear. The agency declined to comment to the AP on the case and did not respond to a request for reports or possible body-camera footage of their interactions with Card.

"This is an active investigation, and the New York State Police does not comment on active investigations, nor investigations in which we are not the lead agency," it said in a statement Friday before Card was found dead. A state police spokesman refused to comment Saturday.

Jonathan Crisp, an army lawyer for two decades before starting a criminal defense practice, said when soldiers are committed involuntarily to mental health facilities by others in the chain of command, it is a "reportable" event under Army regulations that triggers a requirement to alert others. A provost marshal enters the incident into a military database that puts the FBI on notice so it can enter the name into a background list of people prevented from buying weapons.

"If they took him and he didn't want to go and he refused to be admitted, it's a slam dunk," Crisp said. "This should have been reported."

But Maine Department of Public Safety Commissioner Michael Sauschuck said in news conference Saturday that while Card had a history of mental illness, there was no evidence that he had ever been involuntarily committed.

"Just because there appears to be a mental health nexus to this scenario, the vast majority of people with mental health diagnosis will never hurt anybody," Sauschuck said.

Jody Madeira, an Indiana University law professor who has studied gun laws, said police in one state can alert counterparts in another state that someone is a danger, and the military can do the same with local police.

She said someone dropped the ball because Card's threats and medical evaluation should have triggered a yellow flag seizure of his guns when he returned home.

"He slipped through the cracks," Madeira said. "There were warning signs."

An Iranian teenager injured on Tehran Metro while not wearing a headscarf has died, state media say

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An Iranian teenage girl injured weeks ago in a mysterious incident on Tehran's Metro while not wearing a headscarf has died, state media reported Saturday.

The death of Armita Geravand comes after her being in a coma for weeks in Tehran and after the one-year anniversary of the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini which sparked nationwide protests at the time.

Geravand's Oct. 1 injury and now her death threaten to reignite that popular anger, particularly as women in Tehran and elsewhere still defy Iran's mandatory headscarf, or hijab, law as a sign of their discontent with Iran's theocracy.

"Armita's voice has been forever silenced, preventing us from hearing her story," wrote the New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran. "Yet we do know that in a climate where Iranian authorities severely penalize women and girls for not adhering to the state's forced-hijab law, Armita courageously appeared in public without one."

It added: "As long as the Iranian government enforces its draconian mandatory hijab law, the lives of girls and women in Iran will hang in the balance, vulnerable to severe rights violations, including violence and even death."

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported Geravand's death, without noting the wider unrest surrounding the headscarf law. Geravand suffered her injury at the Meydan-E Shohada, or Martyrs' Square, Metro station in southern Tehran.

"Unfortunately, the brain damage to the victim caused her to spend some time in a coma and she died a few minutes ago," the IRNA report read. "According to the official theory of Armita Geravand's doctors, after a sudden drop in blood pressure, she suffered a fall, a brain injury, followed by continuous convulsions, decreased cerebral oxygenation and a cerebral edema."

What happened in the few seconds after Armita Geravand entered the train on Oct. 1 remains in question. While a friend told Iranian state television that she hit her head on the station's platform, the soundless footage aired by the broadcaster from outside of the car is blocked by a bystander. Just seconds later,

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her limp body is carried off.

Iranian state TV's report, however, did not include any footage from inside the train itself and offered no explanation on why it hadn't been released. Most train cars on the Tehran Metro have multiple CCTV cameras, which are viewable by security personnel.

Geravand's parents appeared in state media footage saying a blood pressure issue, a fall or perhaps both contributed to their daughter's injury.

Activists abroad have alleged Geravand may have been pushed or attacked for not wearing the hijab. They also demanded an independent investigation by the United Nations' fact-finding mission on Iran, citing the theocracy's use of pressure on victims' families and state TV's history of airing hundreds of coerced confessions.

The Associated Press has not been able to confirm the exact circumstances of what caused Geravand's injuries.

The Hengaw Organization for Human Rights, which reports on abuses in Iran's western Kurdish region and earlier published a photograph of Geravand in a coma, renewed its calls Saturday for an independent international investigation citing "the practice of the Islamic Republic in concealing the truth."

"During the last 28 days, the Islamic Republic of Iran tried to distort the narrative of the government murder of this teenage girl," the group alleged.

The Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights similarly called for an investigation.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah "Ali Khamenei is personally responsible for Armita Garavand's death unless an independent international investigation proves otherwise," said Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, the group's director.

Geravand's injury and subsequent death also comes as Iran has put its morality police — whom activists implicate in Amini's death — back on the street, and as lawmakers push to enforce even stricter penalties for those flouting the required head covering. Internationally, Geravand's injury sparked renewed criticism of Iran's treatment of women and of the mandatory hijab law.

On Saturday, U.S. Deputy Special Envoy for Iran Abram Paley wrote online that he was mourning Geravand's death.

"Iran's state-sponsored violence against women & girls has been devastating for so many families in Iran & abroad," he wrote.

Amini died in a hospital on Sept. 16, 2022, after she was detained by Iranian morality police on allegations of improperly wearing the hijab. Suspicions that she was beaten during her arrest led to mass protests that represented the largest challenge to Iran's theocratic government since the revolution.

Since those large-scale protests subsided, many women in Tehran could be seen without the hijab in defiance of the law.

Meanwhile, imprisoned Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi won the Nobel Peace Prize earlier this month in recognition of her tireless campaigning for women's rights and democracy, and against the death penalty. The Iranian government criticized her awarding of the prize as a political stunt, without acknowledging its own decadeslong campaign targeting Mohammadi for her work.

Iran remains squeezed by sanctions and faces ever-rising tensions with the West over its rapidly advancing nuclear program and its aid to regional militant groups, including a renewed focus on its relationship with Hamas following that group's unprecedented attack on and war with Israel.

For observant Muslim women, the head covering is a sign of piety before God and modesty in front of men outside their families. In Iran, the hijab — and the all-encompassing black chador worn by some — has long been a political symbol as well, particularly after becoming mandatory in the years following the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran and neighboring Taliban-ruled Afghanistan are the only countries where the hijab remains mandatory for women.

Less boo for your buck: For the second Halloween in a row, US candy inflation hits double digits

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

Spooked by the high price of Halloween candy? There's not much relief in sight.

For the second year in a row, U.S. shoppers are seeing double-digit inflation in the candy aisle. Candy and gum prices are up an average of 13% this month compared to last October, more than double the 6% increase in all grocery prices, according to Datasembly, a retail price tracker. That's on top of a 14% increase in candy and gum prices in October 2022.

"The price of candy has gotten to be outrageous," said Jessica Weathers, a small business owner in Shiloh, Illinois. "It doesn't make sense to me to spend \$100 on candy."

Weathers said she usually buys plenty of candy for trick-or-treaters and events at school and church. But this year, she only bought two bags and plans to turn off her porch light on Halloween when she runs out.

Other consumers are changing what they buy. Numerator, a market research firm, said its surveys show about one-third of U.S. consumers plan to trade down to value or store brands when buying candy for trick-or-treaters this year.

Weather is the main culprit for the higher prices. Cocoa prices are trading at 44-year highs after heavy rains in West Africa caused limited production in the season that began last fall. Now, El Nino conditions are making the region drier and are likely to linger well into the spring.

"There may be no price relief in sight, at least through the first half of 2024," said Dan Sadler, principal of client insights for Circana, a market research firm.

Kelly Goughary, a senior research analyst with Gro Intelligence, an agricultural analytics firm, said Ivory Coast — which produces around 40% of the world's cocoa — is already showing the signs of one of its worst droughts since 2003.

Meanwhile, global sugar prices are at 12-year highs, Goughary said. India, the world's second-largest sugar producer after Brazil, recently banned sugar exports for the first time in seven years after monsoon rains hurt the upcoming harvest. Thailand's output is also down.

Those costs, combined with increases for labor, packaging, and ingredients like peanuts, are pushing up prices for all kinds of candy.

Discount grocer Aldi is advertising a 250-piece variety pack of Mars Inc. chocolate bars — including Milky Way, Twix and Snickers — for \$24.98. Two years ago, the same package was advertised at \$19.54.

Hershey Co. — which has raised its prices by 7% or more in each of the last seven quarters — acknowledged this week that higher prices are taking a toll on demand. Hershey's North American confectionary sales volumes fell 1% in the July-September period.

"We know that value and affordability continue to be top-of-the-line for consumers as budgets are stretched," Hershey's President and CEO Michele Buck said Thursday on a conference call with investors.

Buck said Hershey is trying to meet consumers' needs with offerings in value stores and pack sizes at various price points.

Mass graves, unclaimed bodies and overcrowded cemeteries. The war robs Gaza of funeral rites

By ISABEL DEBRE and WAFAA SHURAFU Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — It was neither the place nor the time for a proper goodbye, said Omar Dirawi. Not here, in this dusty field strewn with dead people wrapped in blankets and zipped up in body bags. And not now, as Israeli airstrikes crashed around him for the third week, erasing more of his neighborhood and sundering hundreds of families and friendships.

Yet on this October week in Gaza's central town of Zawaideh, the 22-year-old Palestinian photojournalist buried 32 members of his family who were killed in Israeli air raids last Sunday.

Dirawi's aunts, uncles and cousins from Gaza City had heeded Israeli military evacuation orders and

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taken refuge in his home farther south. Days later Dirawi was unloading their bodies from the back of a truck, digging a narrow trench partitioned with cinder blocks and reciting abbreviated funeral prayers before nightfall, when Israeli warplanes screeched and everyone ran indoors.

"There's nothing that feels right about this," Dirawi said of the mass burial. "I haven't even grieved. But I had no choice. The cemetery was full and there was no space."

Palestinians say this war is robbing them not only of their loved ones but also of the funeral rites that long have offered mourners some dignity and closure in the midst of unbearable grief. Israeli strikes have killed so many people so quickly that they've overwhelmed hospitals and morgues, making the normal rituals of death all but impossible.

And along with everything else stolen by the bombardments, Palestinians on Saturday added another loss: cellular and internet service. A few in Gaza who managed to communicate with the outside world said people could no longer call ambulances or find out if loved ones living in different buildings were still alive.

Since Oct. 7, when Hamas mounted a bloody and unprecedented attack on Israel, the Israeli military's response has left over 7,700 Palestinians dead, said the Gaza-based Health Ministry. Of the dead, it added, nearly 300 have not been identified. Fear and panic were spreading Saturday as Israel expanded its ground incursion and intensified bombardment.

An estimated 1,700 people remain trapped beneath the rubble as Israel's air raids impede and imperil civil defense workers, one of whom was killed during a rescue mission Friday. Sometimes it takes days for medics to recover bodies. By then corpses are often too swollen and disfigured to be recognizable.

"We have hundreds of people being killed every day," said Inas Hamdan, a Gaza-based communications officer for the U.N. Palestinian refugee agency. "The whole system in Gaza is overwhelmed. People are dealing with the dead however they can."

Overcrowded cemeteries have compelled families to dig up long-buried bodies and deepen the holes. That's how survivors interred Bilal al-Hour, a professor at Gaza's Al Aqsa University, and 25 of his family members killed Friday in airstrikes that razed their four-story home in Deir al-Balah.

Al-Hour's brother, Nour, exhumed his family's old plots in the local cemetery Friday to place the newly deceased inside. His hands dark with grave dirt, he became breathless listing each relative being lowered into the ground.

"There's Bilal's son with his wife and children, his other younger son and of course his daughter who finished high school last year and was supposed to be a doctor," he said before trailing off and quoting the Quran. "To Allah we belong, and to him is our return."

Overflowing morgues have compelled hospitals to bury people before their relatives can claim them. Gravediggers have laid dozens of unidentified bodies side by side in two large backhoe-dug furrows in Gaza City now holding 63 and 46 bodies, respectively, said Mohammed Abu Selmia, the general director of Shifa Hospital.

The nightmare of ending up as an anonymous body piled up in a morgue or chucked into the dirt has increasingly haunted Palestinians in Gaza.

To increase the chances of being identified if they die, Palestinian families have begun wearing identification bracelets and scrawling names with marker on their children's arms and legs.

In some cases, bodies have decomposed so much they are unrecognizable even to their kin. In other cases, not a single family member may survive to claim the dead.

"We often find this during our work, even just (Thursday) night in Gaza City when 200 people were killed, there were names and ID numbers written in ink on the children's bodies," said Mahmoud Basal, spokesperson of the Palestinian Civil Defense. "It's a pain I can't describe, to see that."

Gaza's Awqaf ministry, which is in charge of religious matters, now urges hasty burials and authorizes the digging of mass graves due to the "large numbers of people killed and the small amount of space available." Each Gaza governorate has at least two mass graves, authorities say, some holding over 100 people.

In the crowded Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza on Wednesday, a fierce barrage of Israeli airstrikes leveled an entire block — some 20 multi-story buildings — killing 150 people and trapping more beneath

the ruins, residents said. Shell-shocked survivors staggered out of the hospital, not knowing what to do with the dead.

"We have no time to do anything and no space anywhere," said 52-year-old Khalid Abdou from the camp. "All we can do is dig a big hole with our hands. Then we throw bodies inside."

Residents of Nuseirat peered into dozens of blood-smeared body bags arranged outside Al Aqsa Martyrs Hospital on Thursday, searching for familiar faces, Abdou said. Workers labeled some body bags "unknown" before shoveling them into mass graves. Families were buried together.

When trying to sleep, Abdou said he hears sounds from that night — the thunder of the blast mixing with screams of shock and the cries of children.

But what keeps him up most, he said, is the thought that no one washed the bodies of the dead or changed their clothes before burial. No one lovingly shrouded their bodies, as is customary in Islam, or held a poignant service.

And certainly no one served the traditional bitter coffee and sweet dates to friends and relatives paying condolences.

"In Islam we have three days of mourning. But there's no way can you observe that now," Abdou said. "Before the mourning ends you'll probably be dead, too."

New Speaker Mike Johnson holds favor with conservatives.

Can he unite the GOP where others failed?

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — New House Speaker Mike Johnson inherits many of the same problems that bedeviled Republican leaders with far more experience. At least for now, however, he holds favor with the ultra-conservative wing of his party that toppled previous House speakers. But can he unite House Republicans where others failed?

The Louisiana Republican emerged last week from the lower ranks of the House GOP leadership to ascend to speaker after lawmakers, driven by a faction of hard-liners, ousted Rep. Kevin McCarthy from the job and then rejected two more top-ranked Republicans in leadership as well as conservative favorite Rep. Jim Jordan.

To his supporters, Johnson represented a turn to "decentralizing the power" from the speaker's office, with a goal of cutting government spending and engaging forcefully on socially conservative priorities.

"The greatest threat to our national security is our nation's debt," Johnson said in a speech after taking the gavel.

While not a member of the hard-charging House Freedom Caucus, Johnson is seen by Republicans as a dyed-in-the-wool conservative unlike previous speakers such as McCarthy, R-Calif., or former Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio.

An evangelical Christian who often cites the Bible, Johnson worked as an attorney for anti-abortion and Christian groups before running for office. During his four terms in the House, he has led an ardently conservative caucus called the Republican Study Committee. He also spearheaded a legal effort, championed by then-President Donald Trump, that sought to overturn the 2020 election results in key states that the Republican incumbent lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

Johnson's role in the Trump-backed lawsuit quickly became a rallying point for Republicans, who vigorously booed a reporter's question about that election on the night that the congressman became nominee for speaker. On the House floor, many cheered when Democrats said Johnson was an architect of the objections to the 2020 results.

Trump, who is running for a second White House term, enthusiastically backed Johnson and said he will be "a fantastic speaker." Trump's allies saw Johnson's rise as a chance to give renewed rigor to their efforts to impeach Biden.

"I think Mike Johnson will approach this like a lawyer and like a tactician, not like a California lottery winner," said Rep. Matt Gaetz, taking a swipe at how McCarthy once won \$5,000 from a lotto ticket. Gaetz,

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R-Fla., was the leader of the band of Republicans who ousted McCarthy.

But Johnson faces the same questions that vexed McCarthy: How to patch together a slim Republican majority wracked by feuding? How to keep the government funded and open for business? Does Congress provide more wartime aid for Ukraine?

McCarthy had years of experience in leadership to help deal with such challenges. In the end, though, he could not unite Republicans. He failed to corral Republicans for vital legislation and his decision to rely on Democrats to help pass a short-term measure that prevented a federal shutdown gave hard-line conservatives a justification for removing McCarthy as speaker.

Gaetz said Johnson has "a lot more credibility" with conservatives than McCarthy did, even if the new speaker pushes a stopgap government funding plan to give Republicans more time to pass individual spending bills. There is a Nov. 17 deadline to approve legislation that would keep government agencies operating.

Resolving the spending fight with a longer-term bill will require Johnson to negotiate with the Democratic-run Senate and White House, and many key figures will be working with him for the first time.

Even Republicans in the Senate said they had to look up the basics of Johnson's profile when they heard he had been elected speaker.

Johnson has no prior working relationship with Biden. In a Fox News interview this past week, Johnson said he had met the president just once before Thursday, when he was invited to the White House to discuss Biden's aid request for Israel and Ukraine, as well as U.S.-Mexico border money and humanitarian assistance for Palestinians.

In the interview, the new speaker promised an adversarial relationship with the president, saying he and Biden agree "on almost no policy." Johnson spoke favorably of potentially impeaching Biden and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

But Johnson's most immediate tasks — the aid request and the funding negotiations — will require bipartisanship.

The House Republican Conference is deeply divided on those issues. Some members are already looking to leverage the prospect of a government shutdown to force the Senate to take up their proposals on immigration restrictions and border security.

Rep. Chip Roy, a Texas Republican who is a vocal member of the House Freedom Caucus, said he was willing to consider a stopgap funding bill but only if it was "tactical versus a punt."

Yet House Republicans last month failed to pass a funding proposal Roy helped design that would have cut the budgets of some agencies by up to 30% while enacting a slew of conservative border priorities. The intractability of many House Republicans forced McCarthy to turn to Democrats for help in keeping the government running.

Rep. Veronica Escobar, a Texas Democrat, said the stances of some conservatives mean that any speaker "will end up in exactly the same place as former Speaker McCarthy did: Needing Democratic votes."

The dynamics remain the same for Johnson, but may be even more daunting after lawmakers spent the last three weeks arguing over who should be McCarthy's successor.

Personal tensions are making their way onto the floor of the House, which had not considered legislation for three weeks. Several bills to censure House members could soon see a vote, and New York Republicans have moved to force a vote on expelling their GOP colleague, Rep. George Santos, as he faces criminal prosecution.

Johnson suggested that the effort to expel Santos for allegedly defrauding his political donors and constituents should be suppressed, but that is unlikely to satisfy moderate Republicans who are growing weary of the dysfunction in the party.

Some lawmakers remain upset after they received threats for refusing to support Jordan, the Ohio congressman who was the conservative's first choice for speaker. They say Jordan's House allies bear some responsibility for the vitriol.

"Some people are in denial that they're somewhat responsible for this," said Rep. Don Bacon, a Nebraska Republican who received threats for refusing to vote for Jordan.

Rep. Thomas Massie, a Kentucky Republican who is focused on cutting government spending, urged

the new speaker to quickly pass his priorities.

"Mike Johnson has a grace period here where it'll be at least 30 days before we get stabby again," he said.

Syphilis and other STDs are on the rise. States lost millions of dollars to fight and treat them

By KENYA HUNTER AP Health Writer

State and local health departments across the U.S found out in June they'd be losing the final two years of a \$1 billion investment to strengthen the ranks of people who track and try to prevent sexually transmitted diseases — especially the rapid increase of syphilis cases.

The fallout was quick: Nevada, which saw a 44 percentage-point jump in congenital syphilis from 2021 to 2022, was supposed to get more than \$10 million to bolster its STD program budget. Instead, the state's STD prevention budget went down by more than 75%, reducing its capacity to respond to syphilis, according to Dawn Cribb at the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

Several states told The Associated Press that the biggest impact from having the program canceled in the national debt ceiling deal is that they're struggling to expand their disease intervention specialist workforce. These people do contact tracing and outreach, and are a key piece of trying to stop the spread of syphilis, which reached a low point in the U.S. in 2000 but has increased almost every year since. In 2021, there were 176,713 cases — up 31% from the prior year.

"It was devastating, really, because we had worked so hard to shore up our workforce and also implement new activities," said Sam Burgess, the STD/HIV program director for the Louisiana Department of Health. His state was slated to receive more than \$14 million overall, but instead got \$8.6 million that must be spent by January 2026. "And we're still scrambling to try to figure out how we can plug some of those funding gaps."

While men who have sex with men are disproportionately impacted by syphilis, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and health officials across the country also point to the increase in pregnant women who are passing syphilis to their babies. It can cause serious health issues for infants, including blindness and bone damage, or lead to stillbirths. In 2021, there were 77.9 cases of congenital syphilis per 100,000 live births.

Disease intervention specialists often link infected mothers and their partners with care for syphilis, which has mild symptoms for adults, like fever and sores. Doing so in a timely manner can prevent congenital syphilis. The specialists also can help pregnant patients find prenatal care.

"When you have a mother who didn't know (she had syphilis), it can be very emotional trying to explain ... it could have been prevented if we could have caught it before," said Deneshun Graves, a public health investigator with the Houston Health Department.

Lupita Thornton, a public health investigator manager in the health department, said she is worried about being able to treat pregnant syphilis patients "before 30 days of delivery, for the baby's sake."

The Houston Health Department is in the midst of what it calls a "rapid community outreach response" because of syphilis cases increased by 128% among women from 2019 to 2022, and congenital syphilis cases went from 16 in 2019 to 151 in 2021.

Its STD/HIV bureau was set to receive a total of \$10.7 million from the federal grant, but will end up with about 75% of that.

The department has used the money to hire disease intervention specialists and epidemiologists — including Graves. But Thornton said she could use "double of everything," and had planned to bring down the caseload for her investigators by hiring even more people.

It would help Graves, who deals with more than 70 cases at a time.

"You got people that don't want to go in and get treatment. You have people that don't want to answer the phone, so you got to continue to call," Graves said.

Mississippi is also seeing an uptick in congenital syphilis cases, which a recently published study showed

rose tenfold between 2016 and 2022. Health officials said a combination of funding shortages and poor access to prenatal care compounds their ability to stop the spread of syphilis.

The Mississippi State Department of Health was supposed to get more than \$9 million in federal grant money over five years to expand its disease intervention workforce. Agency head Dr. Dan Edney said one of his top priorities now is finding money from other parts of the state's health budget.

He said the state has been "challenged because of limited state funding" and will need to "cannibalize resources from every program we can so that we can increase our diagnostic rates or treatment rates, and then close the loop with our investigations."

Arizona has the highest rate of congenital syphilis in the nation: 232.3 cases per 100,000 live births. The federal money helped the state Department of Health Services clear out a backlog of several thousands of non-syphilis STD investigations that had been stalled for years, said Rebecca Scranton, the deputy bureau chief of infectious disease and services.

"We were finally at the point where we were able to breathe again," Scranton said, "and start really kind of tackling it."

Scranton acknowledges syphilis will take awhile to fully address, and will look to preserve some of the unspent grant money for what lies ahead.

"You don't know what challenges are going to come. You know they're going to come, and you just keep getting creative because our job is really to get services to the folks," she said. "And that doesn't change just because you get a funding cut."

When a man began shooting in Maine, some froze while others ran. Now they're left with questions

By HOLLY RAMER and MICHELLE R. SMITH Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine (AP) — The first loud noise 10-year-old Toni Asselin heard sounded like the thwack of a ball being hit hard across a pool table. She thought the second might have been someone dropping a bowling ball.

"The third one, when I walked over to see if someone was hurt, I saw a person get shot and fall off their stool," Asselin said.

It was just before 7 p.m. Wednesday at Just-in-Time Recreation, a 34-lane bowling alley where the \$75 "Pizza, Pins and Pepsi" special included a large pizza, a pitcher of soda and two hours of bowling for six people.

One bowler had just removed his shoes when he thought he heard a balloon popping some 15 feet (4.5 meters) behind him. He turned toward the door, saw a man holding a gun, and took off running down one of the lanes.

"I slid basically into where the pins are and climbed up into the machine," he said.

The gunman, Robert Card, was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot Friday, two nights after he destroyed an innocent night of bowling and socializing and turned it into tragedy. People gunned down bowling for strikes and spares, throwing beanbags, shooting pool, having beers with friends, working the night shift.

For Asselin and her mother, Tammy, the situation was especially gut-wrenching. A coach hustled the 10-year-old and several of her youth league teammates outside. An employee hid some of the children in a backroom office while other workers barricaded themselves in a freezer. She became separated from her mother, who initially stood frozen as others fled.

Turning to run, Tammy Asselin tripped over some bowling ball bags and took a hard fall before hiding behind a flipped over table and calling 911. Authorities said the first of multiple calls came in at 6:56 p.m. Four plainclothes officers who were at a nearby shooting range arrived a minute and a half after the first call, followed by uniformed officers less than three minutes later.

At one point, a young boy turned to Asselin. "Don't cry," he told her. "It will be OK."

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Several more shots were followed by a strange silence.

"Is he hunting or is he dead?" Asselin thought. "Is it safe? Are the police here?"

"Does anyone see Toni?" she shouted before being hushed by others who worried the shooter was still there.

"I had thought maybe the last shot we heard, he had taken his life," she said.

Instead, the shooter headed 4 miles (6.44 kilometers) south to Schemengees Bar & Grille, where workers from other bars and restaurants could get 25% discounts every Wednesday night and employees were collecting Halloween-themed cocktail recipes for a cornhole tournament planned for later in the week.

The restaurant was hosting an event for members of the deaf community, and cornhole games were underway when a man entered and started shooting. In total, 18 people would be killed at the bowling alley and restaurant. Thirteen others were wounded.

Peyton Brewer-Ross, who enjoyed the game of cornhole so much that he brought out the angled boards and bags at family gatherings, had a spot next to the door and was likely one of the first at the bar to die, according to his brother.

"When he was shot, he was doing the thing he loved," Wellman Brewer said.

Bar manager Joe Walker picked up a butcher knife and tried to stop the gunman, Walker's father told multiple media outlets.

"And that's when he shot my son to death," Leroy Walker told WGME-TV.

Walker said his son was shot twice in the stomach.

"He died as a hero," he told NBC News.

Authorities received multiple calls from Schemengees at 7:08 p.m., and the first officers arrived five minutes later.

An hour later, they released a photo of the suspected shooter. By 9:30 p.m., they had received a call identifying him as Card, 40, of Bowdoin. Lewiston residents were urged to stay inside with their doors locked.

Fern Asselin and his wife were waiting outside the bowling alley Wednesday night for word about their daughter and granddaughter. Finally, after two hours he got a call from his granddaughter, Toni.

"And the words that came out were four words I'll never forget," he said. "It was: 'I'm not dead, Pepere.'"

Just before 10 p.m., police found Card's car at a boat launch in Lisbon, about 8 miles (13 kilometers) from Lewiston. Those who had been in the bowling alley were taken to the city's middle school to be reunited with their families.

"Now it's midnight and I'm just getting home," the bowler who hid in the bowling pin machinery told The Associated Press, identifying himself only as Brandon. "All my stuff's there, no shoes, just ready to go home. I'm tired."

At a late-night news conference, officials said more than 350 law enforcement personnel had joined the search for Card, a U.S. Army reservist they described as a "person of interest."

By morning, authorities were calling Card an armed and dangerous suspect who should not be approached. Authorities launched a multistate search on land and water, including patrols along the Kennebec River. Schools as far away as Kennebunk, more than 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Lewiston, closed out of caution, as did public buildings in Portland, the state's largest city.

Much of the search Thursday focused on property owned by Card's relatives in Bowdoin. Two law enforcement officials told The Associated Press that investigators found a note at a home associated with Card on Thursday addressed to his son. The officials described it as a suicide note, but said it didn't provide a specific motive for the shooting. On Friday night, authorities found Card's body at a recycling plant where he once worked.

Tammy Asselin, who later learned that her cousin Tricia was killed at the bowling alley, wondered Friday if the gunman was thinking of someone he hated as he opened fire. She said her daughter also has been asking questions.

"Why the bowling alley?" Asselin said. "Why us? Why good people? And that's what we don't know."

Jewish and Muslim chaplains navigate US campus tensions and help students roiled by Israel-Hamas war

By MARIAM FAM Associated Press

For many of the university chaplains and faith leaders caring for students angered and shaken by the Israel-Hamas war, the needs are acute, the days intense. The bloodshed has roiled campuses in the United States, at times sparking rival rallies and competing demands.

Kaiser Aslam, Muslim chaplain at the Center for Islamic Life at Rutgers University, has been helping students wrestling with complex questions and anxieties — from why there is suffering to whether public advocacy for Palestinians or criticism of Israel could jeopardize future career opportunities or spark other repercussions. Some, he said, are grieving family members killed during Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, Rabbi Esther Reed, with Rutgers Hillel, recalled trying to comfort a student who was sobbing uncontrollably on learning a friend was killed in Israel in the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas militants that triggered the latest fighting. Another student, she said, asked if police could escort her from class to her dorm, afraid to walk alone.

“Muslim students are walking around scared, just like the Jewish students are walking around scared,” Reed said.

In this charged and polarizing climate, chaplains and campus ministries are navigating tensions as they console and guide students gripped with anger, pain, confusion or fear stemming from the new violence, old grievances, and the emerging narratives of the war and the broader Israel-Palestinian conflict.

They’ve been helping organize vigils, leading prayers, providing community, lending an empathetic ear and sending messages of hope.

But it hasn’t been easy.

Some say it’s been a particularly complex and testing time because of the scope of lives lost and depth of suffering, the inflamed passions and the heated debates on some campuses — including over the positions of their own universities.

At Northwestern University, Tahera Ahmad, associate chaplain and director of interfaith engagement, helped organize a “prayers for Palestine” event where she and some students recited verses from the Quran, the Muslim holy book.

“It was an opportunity for students to just be in a space ... where they can breathe together and listen to very calming recitations,” said Ahmad, a Muslim. “There is a deep call in the Quran, or our scripture, for standing up for justice.”

Some students are trying to figure out what needs to be done now, she said.

“We may not have all the answers, but we are there ... for our students to process the grief that they’re feeling, but also to think about what does this mean,” she said. “While our role is very much one of pastoral care and ministry of presence, they are looking for us to also raise a moral consciousness because spirituality cannot be void of social justice.”

Across campuses, some students have demanded explicit and strong condemnations of the attacks by Hamas militants, who stormed from the blockaded Gaza Strip into nearby Israeli towns, killing and abducting civilians and soldiers. Others have sought acknowledgement of Palestinian suffering plus condemnation of the killing of Palestinian civilians in Israeli airstrikes that have flattened buildings and homes in Gaza and forced many to evacuate.

As colleges issued statements on the war, many faced criticisms of, among other things, not going far enough or fast enough in condemning Hamas’ attacks, or failing to denounce civilian deaths in Gaza.

Chaplains say some students have been feeling alienated, marginalized, hurt or intimidated by the rhetoric and positions of some administrators, faculty members or other students. Many students on different sides are increasingly concerned about hate and fearful of anti-Muslim and antisemitic vitriol or assaults.

Rabbi Daniel Levine with the Orange County Hillel in California views his work since the Hamas attacks and ensuing war as his most important yet.

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"You have students that are in the most need of pastoral care and also the most need in terms of helping process their own identity and understanding geopolitics," he said. The psychological toll on students, he said, comes as many are still figuring out "who they are and how connected they are to Judaism and where does Israel play a role into all that."

He's been telling students at the University of California, Irvine, that he's available for conversations.

"If they need to cry, I'm there for them," he said. "If they want to discuss the background of the geopolitical Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is obviously a very complex and intense conversation, I'm here to do that."

More students than usual have been attending Shabbat dinners, though some have worried about the safety of going to events, he said. Levine and his wife hosted local Jewish alumni and graduate students to provide community and a space to grieve.

"There's not enough time in the day to give all the students the support that they need," he said. "I wish I could clone myself."

He's been also offering hope.

"We're going to come out the other side," he said. "Don't give up on your education. Don't give up on being Jewish. Don't give up on humanity."

Back at Rutgers, where Aslam said the student body includes large Muslim and Jewish communities as well as international students, divisions have mirrored those on some other campuses.

Those who say "let's take a more balanced approach and acknowledge each other's pain" are feeling like the minority, he said.

He's been working with students with diverse needs.

"Some students are getting very significantly involved ... I want to be mindful for them to take care of themselves," he said. To those who are fearful or uncertain, he gives "consolation that your voice does matter and there are ways of maybe being involved and you can draw some strength in your faith."

While the war left some questioning the point of prayers, it's prompted many others to practice their religion more than ever, organizing vigils and prayers, he said.

"Faith allows us to get through our humanity with more beauty and eloquence," he said. "Using the theology to actually comfort them in those moments becomes a very important role."

Rabbi Reed said the Rutgers Hillel held a listening session during which counseling professionals talked to Jewish students about coping strategies and taking care of their mental health under stress.

"We have students with family members in Israel, friends in Israel," she said. "These are people we know; it's not abstract."

Hillel staff has also been tested.

"It's been exhausting," Reed said. "We have our own worries and fears and family members and perhaps losses and so there's the weight of caring for our students on top of our own concerns."

While it's been business as usual for many students, tensions have simmered among those affected by the war, mostly along political lines, she said, adding that "there are Jewish students who support the Palestinian cause; there are Muslims who care about Jewish lives lost."

Faith leaders of different religions at Rutgers discussed whether it would be fruitful to bring those of different views together for a processing session, Reed said.

Opinions varied.

Aslam said that he and some others believe dialogue can, and should, take place at such a sensitive moment. "We don't need to just protect our students," he said. "I want our students to grow in understanding that others are feeling pain, anger and insecurity."

Reed said that she's "always open to bringing people together in conversation, but it feels very raw right now." And if Israel carries out a ground operation in Gaza — which Israel said Saturday it's expanding — and the deaths further mount on both sides, she said, "it's going to be difficult for people to be able to listen to one another's stories in the middle of it."

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Today in History: October 29,

"Black Tuesday" on Wall Street sets off panic, starts Great Depression

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Oct. 29, the 302nd day of 2023. There are 63 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 29, 1929, "Black Tuesday" descended on the New York Stock Exchange. Prices collapsed amid panic selling and thousands of investors were wiped out as America's Great Depression began.

On this date:

In 1618, Sir Walter Raleigh, the English courtier, military adventurer and poet, was executed in London for treason.

In 1787, the opera "Don Giovanni" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart had its world premiere in Prague.

In 1891, actor, comedian and singer Fanny Brice was born in New York.

In 1940, a blindfolded Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson drew the first number — 158 — from a glass bowl in America's first peacetime military draft.

In 1956, during the Suez Canal crisis, Israel invaded Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

In 1960, a chartered plane carrying the California Polytechnic State University football team crashed on takeoff from Toledo, Ohio, killing 22 of the 48 people on board.

In 1987, following the confirmation defeat of Robert H. Bork to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, President Ronald Reagan announced his next choice of Douglas H. Ginsburg, a nomination that fell apart over revelations of Ginsburg's previous marijuana use.

In 1998, Sen. John Glenn, at age 77, returned to space aboard the shuttle Discovery, retracing the trail he had blazed as the first American to orbit the Earth 36 years earlier.

In 2004, Osama bin Laden, in a videotaped statement, directly admitted for the first time that he'd ordered the September 11 attacks, and told Americans "the best way to avoid another Manhattan" was to stop threatening Muslims' security.

In 2005, mourners slowly filed past the casket of civil rights icon Rosa Parks in Montgomery, Alabama, just miles from the downtown street where she'd made history by refusing to give up her seat on a city bus to a white man.

In 2012, Superstorm Sandy slammed ashore in New Jersey and slowly marched inland, devastating coastal communities and causing widespread power outages; the storm and its aftermath were blamed for at least 182 deaths in the U.S.

In 2013, a 6.4-magnitude earthquake in southwestern Pakistan killed at least 215 people.

In 2015, Paul Ryan was elected the 54th speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 2017, all but 10 members of the Houston Texans took a knee during the national anthem, reacting to a remark from team owner Bob McNair to other NFL owners that "we can't have the inmates running the prison."

In 2018, a new-generation Boeing jet operated by the Indonesian budget airline Lion Air crashed in the Java Sea minutes after takeoff from Jakarta, killing all 189 people on board.

In 2022, more than 150 people were killed and dozens more injured in South Korea after being crushed by a large crowd pushing forward on a narrow street during Halloween festivities in Seoul.

Today's Birthdays: Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is 85. Rock musician Denny Laine is 79. Singer Melba Moore is 78. Actor Richard Dreyfuss is 76. Actor Kate Jackson is 75. Actor Dan Castelloneta (TV: "The Simpsons") is 66. Comic strip artist Tom Wilson Jr. ("Ziggy") is 66. Actor Finola Hughes is 64. Singer Randy Jackson (the Jacksons) is 62. Rock musician Peter Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 58. Actor Joely Fisher is 56. Rapper Paris is 56. Actor Rufus Sewell is 56. Actor Grayson McCouch (mih-KOOCH') is 55. Rock singer SA Martinez (311) is 54. Actor Winona Ryder is 52. Actor Tracee Ellis Ross is 51. Actor Gabrielle Union is 51. Actor Trevor Lissauer is 50. Olympic gold medal bobsledder Vonetta Flowers is 50. Actor Milena Govich is 47. Actor Jon Abrahams is 46. Actor Brendan Fehr is 46. Actor Ben Foster is 43. Rock musician Chris Baio (Vampire Weekend) is 39. Actor Janet Montgomery is 38. Actor India Eisley is 30.