

Groton Daily Independent

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Today's Calendar

United Methodist: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship (Service of Remembrance), 10:30 a.m.; Sunday school, 10:30 a.m.

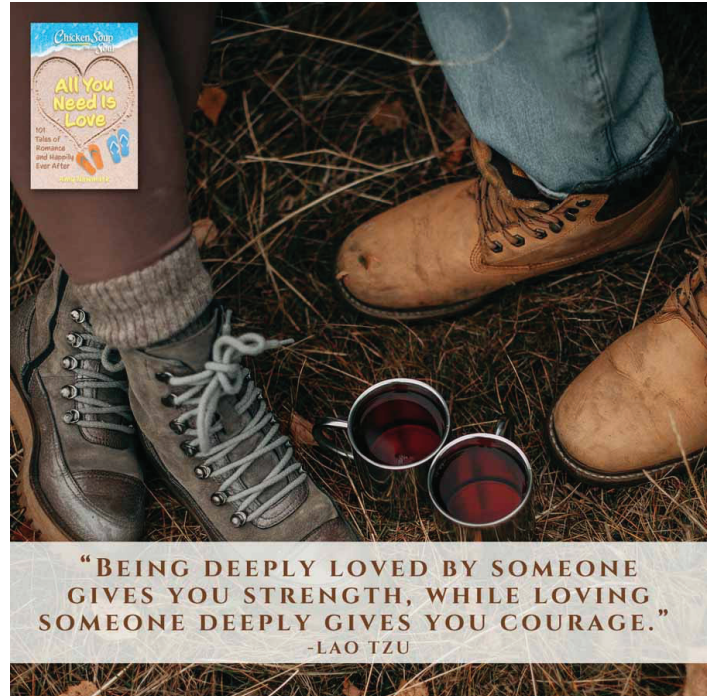
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with Communion (9 a.m. at St. John's, 11 a.m. at Zion), Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

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.; Fall Dinner, 5-7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Milestones for 3 yr olds, 2nd and 3rd graders; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.

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



"BEING DEEPLY LOVED BY SOMEONE GIVES YOU STRENGTH, WHILE LOVING SOMEONE DEEPLY GIVES YOU COURAGE."
-LAO TZU

2024 DOG LICENSES DUE BY 12/29/2023

Fines start January 1, 2024



Spayed/Neutered dogs are \$5 per dog, otherwise \$10 per dog

Proof of rabies shot information is **REQUIRED!!**

Email proof to city. kellie@nvc.net, fax to

(605) 397-4498 or bring a copy to City Hall!!

Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have a dog(s) that were previously licensed!

Questions call (605) 397-8422

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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GHS Interns Series

Bisbee interns with Zoellner in second grade

by Dorene Nelson

Anna Bisbee, a senior at Groton Area High School, is interning with Anne Zoellner in the second grade. "I chose the second grade class since I expect to meet students of this age when I work as a K-12 music teacher," Anna explained.

"Since I really like singing and being in chorus and on the dance team, it just seemed natural for me to major in music," Anna said. "I have already been accepted into the Northern State University music program!"

"In addition to the dance team, I am also on the cheer team and a leader in Fellowship of Christian Students," she listed. "I have been selected to participate in the All State Choir and Orchestra Concert which was held in Rapid City, SD."

"I'm in chorus, but not band, for a very good reason," Anna smiled. "I really tried hard to be in band too but changed my mind when I broke my flute trying to get through the doorway!"

"The hardest part of my job as the second grade intern was getting used to communicating with little kids," she explained. "It's not the same as talking to my classmates."

"In spite of that challenge, the part that I found the easiest was getting along with these little ones," Anna stated. "I am rather surprised at how easily the kids accepted me and willingly work with me."

"The most difficult job in the classroom is keeping everything organized so that when Mrs. Zoellner or I need something, we know exactly where to look!"

Anna is the daughter of Tony and Amanda Bisbee.



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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



Frosty is Back!!!

Please check the Groton Daily Independent for daily clues as to who the Groton Area Mystery Frosty is. The unveiling of Frosty will take place at the Groton Area Snow Queen and Talent Contest on Sunday, November 26th at 4:00pm. The Groton Chamber voted to gift Snow Queen \$100 in Chamber Bucks for the winner of the Mystery Frosty competition.



2023 Frosty Clues

I....

5.) MUCH prefer hot weather over cold weather

Groton Post No. 39 American Legion

Annual Turkey Party

Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023

Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Groton Legion Post Home, 10 N. Main.

Turkey, Ham and Bacon
to be given away

FREE ADMISSION

**DOOR
PRIZE!**

Lunch served
by Auxiliary



Columbia residents decorating the city park



Larry Vietmeier and Emily Eichler are looking over the plans for decorating the city park in Columbia. The lighting ceremony will be held December 9th from 5-7 p.m. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Ray Larson, Julie Milbrandt Lillis, Emily Eichler, Cyndy Larson and Larry Vietmeier figure out where to put these wreaths in the park. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Larry Vietmeier is putting in hooks in the shelter for lights. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Cheryl Kampa reaches high to get to the peak of this tree. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Larry Vietmeier brought his extended stick and shows how it works as Julie Milbrandt Lillis helps with the string of lights and Emily Eichler looking on. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Julie Milbrandt Lillis started putting up the lights in one of the shelters. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Paul Kosel assisted with putting lights on the trees with Julie Milbrandt Lillis assisting. (Photo by Emily Eichler)

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The geese are making their way south and started settling in the James River yesterday.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

COMMENTARY

An invitation from SD's new poet laureate: Tell me the what and the why of your life

BRUCE ROSELAND

NOVEMBER 4, 2023 1:00 PM

EDITOR'S NOTE: This commentary is adapted with permission from a speech by Bruce Roseland, South Dakota's new poet laureate, in September 2023 at the South Dakota Festival of Books in Deadwood.

For the next four years, I am the ambassador for poetry in South Dakota, and I take this seriously. I see much of living one's life as art. Poetry is art through words.

I ranch and farm the same land as my great-grandfather. He didn't write anything down, and I always wondered what it would be like to have him tell me about a day in his life. I'm sure he would've thought it was just ho-hum, no big deal. But that was back in the 1880s, and it would have been remarkable.

That's why I got started writing. I thought, maybe my ancestors didn't tell their stories, but I could start recording my experiences for my grandchildren.

It ended up that my way of sharing stories is through free-verse poetry. I started recording my times and the stories I've been told by neighbors.

So that's the why — that's what motivated me, because I wanted the future to know. I wanted my great-grandchildren to know my stories. At that time I didn't have grandchildren, but they were my audience.

Poetry is storytelling. Poetry helps us think clearly. Poetry leads us to truth. Writing and sharing poetry are powerful ways to convey what we value, what's in our lives, our passions.

By listening to the poetry of others, we find commonalities and step into their shoes, walk their mile, see what they see, hear what they hear, feel what they feel. Poetry does not have to be complicated, but it has to be honest. It has to come from the heart.

I encourage people from all walks of life to write. That is my goal as ambassador of poetry for the next four years: encourage people to write poetry and share it with each other. If you write and keep it to yourself, it's just a diary. It takes courage to read and share your work publicly.

I want people to tell me the why, tell me about a day in your life. There's no such thing as an unremarkable day in anyone's life. That I firmly believe.

It's hard to write a book. Writing a good poem is also hard to do, but I think it's more achievable. A poem is something we can write in the between times of our life, 15 minutes here, 15 minutes there. Over a course of a lifetime, we end up recording what's in our heart, what's in our life, and we're able to share that forward into the future, to give this gift of ourselves, our time and place. We're allowing others to know us, to find what connects us.

That's what poetry does. It connects us. That is the great power of words as art — finding our connection and our common humanity. When we write a poem, we help the arc of history bend a little further toward the light.

So tell me the what, tell me the why of your life. I want to hear your stories.

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Celebrate: We want to know

By Bruce Roseland

Sing to me of South Dakota, tell it
like Carl Sandburg did about Chicago's big shoulders.
Tell me about the workers
of infinite variety within this state.
How goes their day?
Tell me the what, tell me the why,
tell me about a day in your life.
Did Spring creep up on you one fine morning
on cats' feet as you beheld your first crocus
with the snow of winter barely gone?
Who has not had a night of the dark soul
that broke on through to the other side?
Did you light your candle on both ends with a
flame oh so bright and now, years later,
are you ever more wise?
Have you climbed the former Harney's Peak and
from that vantage point seen five different states?
Standing on the dome, did you hear Black Elk speak?
Were the words whispered? Did they roar?
Tell me.
Tell me if Sioux Falls is the best little city,
on a summer Friday evening's air,
as the young and the restless,
arm in arm, slow dance down the sculpture walk
on Philips Avenue.
Tell me about the endless prairie,
quarter sectioned, row cropped and drilled.
Tell me of short grass, cattle and small town bars,
blue skies and red tail hawks,
until you reach the distant Hills.
Then sing to me of Rapid City's
Main Street Square popping
to sounds of music
mingling with the sunset colors rainbowing
from the pulsing water fountain's spray.
Sing me all of South Dakota,
sing me your life,
for the good of poetry
is the celebrating, the telling
of the Golden Age of We.
All that is blessed, all that is struggle, tell me your heart.
Sing of yourself, sing South Dakota.
I want to hear the voices of angels,
I want to hear Walt Whitman's barbaric yelps
singing through you.

Bruce Roseland farms and ranches in central South Dakota and serves as the state's eighth poet laureate. He has written seven books of poetry, four of which have won national awards, including "The Last Buffalo" (2006, winner of the 2007 Wrangler Award), and "A Prairie Prayer" (2008), "Cowman" (2018) and "Heart of the Prairie" (2021), winners of the 2009, 2019 and 2022 Will Rogers Medallion.

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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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NSU Volleyball

Winona State Pulls Away from Northern in NSIC Volleyball Action

Winona, Minn. – The Northern State University volleyball team lost a four set battle on the road at Winona State Saturday afternoon. The Wolves fell 25-23 in the opening set and rallied back for a 25-20 set two victory, before 25-16 and 25-20 losses in the final two frames.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 1, WSU 3

Records: NSU 17-8 (9-7 NSIC), WSU 18-7 (10-6 NSIC)

Attendance: 411

HOW IT HAPPENED

The Wolves out-played the Warriors in the second set, notching 16 kills with a .386 attack percentage, however Winona State led the match in kills, assists, digs, blocks, and aces

Northern tallied 47 kills, 40 assists, 65 digs, ten aces, and four blocks in the loss, while Winona notched 63 kills, 60 assists, 82 digs, 12 aces, and five blocks

Morissen Samuels led the offense with 12 kills, hitting a career high .429

Keri Walker dished out 35 assists and led the team matching her own career high of six aces

Abby Meister and Reese Johnson led the defense with 27 and 12 digs respectively

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Morissen Samuels: 12 kills, .429 attack%

Abby Brooks: 11 kills, .379 attack%, 3 blocks

Keri Walker: 35 assists, 7 digs, 6 aces

Abby Meister: 27 digs, 1 ace

Reese Johnson: 12 digs, 2 aces

UP NEXT

Northern closes out the regular season next Friday and Saturday hosting Minnesota Stat and Minnesota Duluth. Start times are set for 6 p.m. on Friday against the Mavericks and 2 p.m. on Saturday versus the Bulldogs.

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NSU Football

Northern Battles in Loss to No. 21 Augustana

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University football team closed out the 2023 home season falling to No. 21 Augustana University. The Wolves trailed by 17 at the half but rallied back with all 21 of their points in the second.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 21, AU 31

Records: NSU 4-6 (4-6 NSIC), AU 9-1 (8-1 NSIC)

Attendance: 4519

HOW IT HAPPENED

The Vikings tallied 14 points in the first, three in second, and 14 in the fourth, while the Wolves tallied seven points in the third and 14 in the fourth

Jacob Van Landingham broke through for the Wolves first points of the contest on a goal line rush at 8:51 in the third; the score brought NSU within ten

Augustana answered and extended their lead with a touchdown to open the fourth as the two teams traded scores in the quarter

Dewaylon Ingram tallied both fourth quarter touchdowns, kicked off by a 16-yard reception at 8:58

AU added a 14-yard rush about three minutes later and NSU trailed 31-14 with just over five to play

The Wolves stormed down the field as the clock ticked down, scoring on a 1-yard pass from Van Landingham to Ingram with 18 seconds remaining

Northern led the contest with 25 first downs, 319 yards passing, and 433 yards of total offense

They added 114 yards rushing and converted both of their fourth down attempts

The NSU defense tallied one sack by Ian Marshall and Gabe Gutierrez, and added three tackles for a loss

Van Landingham threw for 298 yards with two touchdowns, completing 22-of-29 attempts

Hank Kraft had a career day for the Wolves with 82 yards rushing, averaging 5.5 yards per carry

Ingram and Dakota Larson led all receivers with 145 and 125 yards respectively

Trey King and Jake Adams led the defensive effort with ten and nine tackles apiece, each notching one tackle for a loss

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Jacob Van Landingham: 22-of-29, 298 yards, 2 passing touchdowns, 1 rushing touchdown

Hank Kraft: 82 yards rushing (career high), 27 kick return yards

Dewaylon Ingram: 145 yards receiving, 2 touchdowns

Trey King: 10 tackles, 1.0 tackle for a loss

UP NEXT

Northern State closes out the regular season next Saturday at Northern Michigan in a non-conference match-up. Kick-off is set for 12 p.m. from Marquette.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*All Scripture is given by inspiration
of God, and is profitable for doctrine,
for reproof, for correction,
for instruction in righteousness,
that the man of God may be
complete, thoroughly equipped
for every good work.*

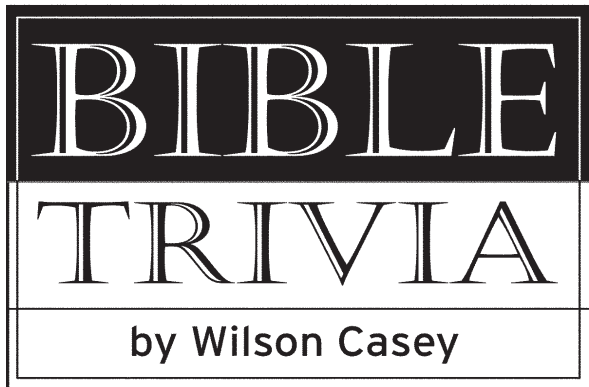
2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17



Detail of "Portrait of E.H."
by Erich Heckel (1917)

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

2. What harlot's household was saved in the Jericho siege by displaying a scarlet thread in the window? *Milcah, Rahab, Rachel, Jezebel*

3. Who answered the Lord about from where he came, "From walking up and down in it (the earth)"? *Moses, Abraham, Satan, Aaron*

4. From Genesis 25, who was the first woman to inquire of the Lord? *Eve, Adonijah, Rebekah, Ruth*

5. Whose death caused Jesus to weep in John 11:35? *Jehu, Lazarus, Simeon, Elijah*

6. Whose wife urged him to curse God and die? *Job, Boaz, Samson, Dan*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Rahab, 3) Satan, 4) Rebekah, 5) Lazarus, 6) Job

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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MY NAME'S **FLASH GORDON**

AND I DON'T THINK I'M ALL THAT COMPLICATED.

I JUST WANT PEOPLE TO BE SAFE TO LIVE, LOVE AND PROSPER...

...AND IF SOMEBODY GETS IN THE WAY OF THAT, I MAKE THEM MY PROBLEM.

THAT'S MORE OR LESS HOW I ENDED UP FIGHTING IN AN ALIEN REVOLUTION.

WHICH, HERE IN THE DECISIVE BATTLE OF THE WAR, INVOLVES ME FLYING A DART PLANE INTO THE IMPERIAL FLAGSHIP.

MY MISSION HAS TWO PARTS.

ONE: RESCUE PRINCE BARIN, RIGHTFUL KING OF MONGO... AND MY FRIEND.

TWO: GET US BOTH OUT BEFORE THE GADGET DR. ZARKOV BUILT INTO THE DART DETONATES--

--KNOCKING OUT THE FLAGSHIP'S ENGINES AND NIXING THE EMPIRE'S LAST SHOT AT SURVIVAL.

WE HEAD TO THE ESCAPE PODS... AND FIND EMPEROR MING WAITING FOR US LIKE A GOLD-PLATED VULTURE.

HE KNOWS HE'S LOST THE WAR, BUT HE DOESN'T WANT ME ALIVE TO ENJOY IT.

THIS MAN BRUTALIZED HIS PLANET. HE TRIED TO DESTROY MINE.

I'M READY TO END THIS HERE AND NOW...

...BUT THEN BARIN SCREAMS THAT THIS IS HIS FIGHT.

MING'S BEEN WORKING HIM OVER FOR A WEEK-- HIS HEAD'S NOT RIGHT--

HE SHOVS ME INTO AN ESCAPE POD -- -- I BASH MY HEAD PRETTY BAD --

-- BEFORE I KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING, I'M SEALED INSIDE --

-- BLACKING OUT IN A TIN CAN FORTY THOUSAND FEET ABOVE THE GROUND --

-- LEAVING BARIN ALONE WITH THE DEADLIEST MAN IN THE UNIVERSE... NEXT: CASUALTY

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

BEWARE OF EXCESSIVE PRACTICE-TEE EXPERIMENTATION WHEN SEEKING TO FIX A SLUMP IN FORM.

THAT WAY YOU COULD DESTROY YOUR GOOD MOVES WITHOUT FINDING THE ANSWER TO THE OVERALL PROBLEM.

WHENEVER I'VE REACHED A POINT OF BEING UNABLE TO RESOLVE A SERIOUS SWING PROBLEM, I'VE GONE TO MY TEACHER'S FOR HELP.

BY FINDING YOURSELF AN INSTRUCTOR WHO WILL REALLY GET TO KNOW YOUR GAME, YOU CAN SAVE YOURSELF LOTS OF CONFUSION AND FRUSTRATION.



Hyaluronic Acid Can Improve Joint Pain, but Isn't Recommended

DEAR DR. ROACH: A friend recommended hyaluronic acid for joint pain in my wrist and hand. I have been taking 180 mg once a day for a couple months now and have experienced notable success. I also feel that my neck pain and range of motion in my neck have improved. My question is, what exactly is hyaluronic acid? Is it safe, and are there any side effects I should be aware of? — *T.E.*

ANSWER: Hyaluronic acid is a naturally occurring substance composed of long strings of sugar. Because of this structure, it carries a great deal of water, so it acts as a shock absorber and lubricant for several places in the body, including the joints. Hyaluronic supplements are usually purified from chicken cartilage, but can also be produced by bacterial fermentation. The body makes about 5,000 mg of hyaluronic acid daily.

Multiple studies on injections of hyaluronic acid have shown that it is only slightly better than a placebo at treating arthritis, especially of the knee. I have stopped recommending injection treatments to my patients with knee arthritis, as they are quite expensive. Oral hyaluronic acid, however, is inexpensive. There have been several small studies showing benefit (again, mostly for the knee rather than the neck), but I couldn't find any well-done large studies that were convincing.

There is very little harm from hyaluronic acid. None of the studies I've read found any serious side effects; however,

since supplements aren't regulated the way prescription medicines are. But I can conclude that oral hyaluronic acid is possibly effective and probably safe for treatment of osteoarthritis.

The studies have mostly used doses in the 100-200 mg range, but I have seen supplements for sale that have 20 mg or less of hyaluronic acid. I'm glad you are taking a similar dosage to what is shown to be effective.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have had muscle twitches in virtually every part of my body for about 50 years now. These fasciculations usually occur somewhere on my body every day. My legs and arms are the most common areas. There is no discomfort, and they rarely last more than a minute or two. Why do these occur, and should they be of any concern? I am an active, healthy 58-year-old male who isn't on any medication. — *D.I.*

ANSWER: Muscle fasciculations are common. Most people get them from time to time, sometimes in the small muscles like the eyelid and sometimes in the large muscles like your legs and arms. Fasciculation can be a sign of a serious neurological problem, such as a lower motor neuron disease. If the muscle doesn't receive proper neurological signals, it increases its receptors so that the muscle can be easily stimulated, causing twitching.

If you had suddenly developed this, especially with weakness or atrophy of your muscles, that would be very worrisome, and you should see a neurologist right away. However, since it has been going on so long, it is very unlikely to be a serious disease.

You probably have benign fasciculation syndrome, which, as its name suggests, is not a worrisome condition and usually does not worsen over time.

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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"The Curse" (TV-MA) -- Known usually for beautifully captivating the big screen in films like "La La Land" and "Cruella," actress Emma Stone decided to produce and star in a television series that premieres on Nov. 10! Stone portrays Whitney Siegel, wife of Asher (Nathan Fielder), and together, the pair star in a home-improvement show called "Flipanthropy." The concept of the show is simple: Whitney and Asher flip buildings in the lower-class area of Espanola in ways that are supposed to reflect the community. But when their careless

actions don't reflect their "honest" intentions, a young girl from the community places a curse on them just as they are trying to conceive their first child. The genre-bending series is an intriguing caricature of how gentrification runs rampant in our society through the pretense of being virtuous. (Paramount+)

"The Buccaneers" (TV-MA) -- Move over, "Bridgerton." There's another high-society drama series in town with even more of a modern twist. Taking place in the 1870s, a group of five American girls are graciously invited to London by Lord Richard Marable (Josh Dylan) for the debutante's ball. Once the girls arrive, however, their new-money culture clashes with Britain's old-money traditions, and things don't kick off as smoothly as expected. But with their best friends by their side, and whirlwind romances in ample supply, the girls still plan to make special memories for a lifetime. Starring "Mad Men's" Christina Hendricks, "Looking for Alaska's" Kristine Froseth and Alisha Boe of "13 Reasons Why," this series premieres its first three episodes on Nov. 8, with episodes following every Wednesday thereafter. (Apple TV+)

"The Killer" (R) -- Director David Fincher ("Gone Girl") went neo-noir for his latest action thriller, which premieres on Nov. 10. Fincher also brought actor Michael Fassbender ("X-Men: Dark Phoenix") back to the big screen after a four-year hiatus from movies. Starring in the lead role, Fassbender plays a haunting professional assassin deemed "The Killer," who is a master of his craft. Even though he thinks he has his fatal methods down to a science, one of his hits goes left. Once the cracks start to appear in his previously sturdy foundation, he's on the fast track to a terrible psychological crisis. Tilda Swinton ("Asteroid City") and Charles Parnell ("Top Gun: Maverick") also co-star. (Netflix)

"Fool's Paradise" (R) -- Another comedic actor -- Charlie Day ("It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia") -- has decided to put on his director's hat for the first time. In this satirical comedy out on Nov. 10, Day stars as a patient who gets released from a mental hospital that can no longer afford to treat him. He resorts to selling oranges on the street, where he is then found by a Hollywood producer who claims he has an uncanny resemblance to the failing method actor Sir Tom Bingsley (also played by Day). The producer then hires him to replace Bingsley, which quickly propels him from homelessness into stardom. Even though the cast is full of heavy hitters -- Ken Jeong, Adrien Brody, Jason Sudeikis, Edie Falco, Jason Bateman, and even a posthumous performance from Ray Liotta -- the film received generally negative reviews. (Hulu)

Michael Fassbender stars as an assassin in "The Killer."

Courtesy of Netflix

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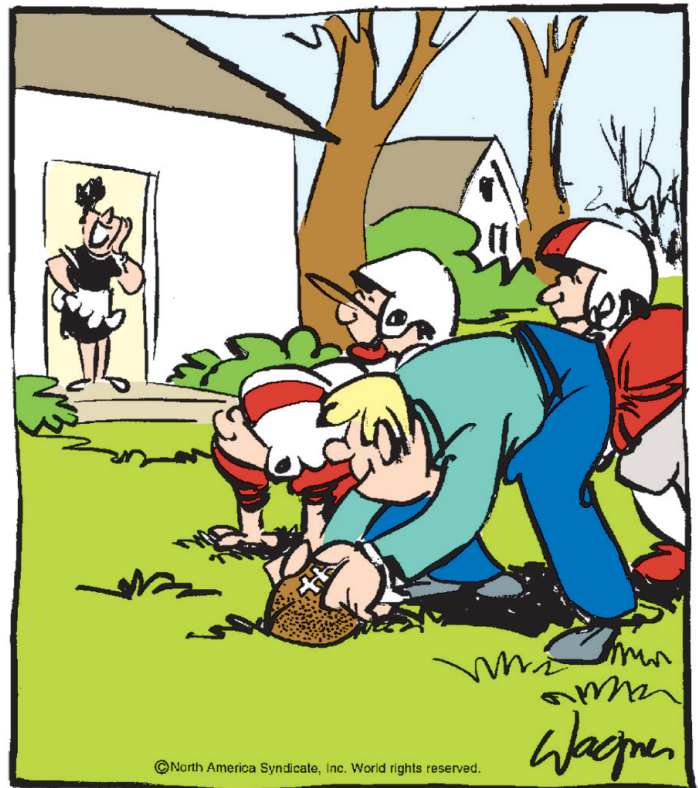
1. What was the Bristol Stomp?
2. Name the first chart topper for Gladys Knight & the Pips.
3. Which group released "In the Still of the Night"?
4. Who was Jiles Perry Richardson Jr.?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Come bring me your softness, Comfort me through all this madness."

Answers

1. A dance done to the song of the same name by The Dovells in 1961. See YouTube for examples of the dance. Don't miss the grandma in the patched jeans demonstrating the dance.
2. "Every Beat of My Heart," in 1961. They didn't have another No. 1 hit until "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" in 1967 and "If I Were Your Woman" in 1970.
3. The Five Satins, in 1956. It's been covered by numerous others and used in several films, including "Dirty Dancing" in 1987 and "The Irishman" in 2019.
4. Richardson, or JP, was The Big Bopper, who wrote and released "Chantilly Lace" as well as many others. He died in 1959 in the plane crash that also killed Buddy Holly and Ritchie Valens.
5. "With You I'm Born Again," by Billy Preston and Syreeta Wright, in 1979. The song was used in the soundtrack of the 1979 film "Fast Break."

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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{Wagner}

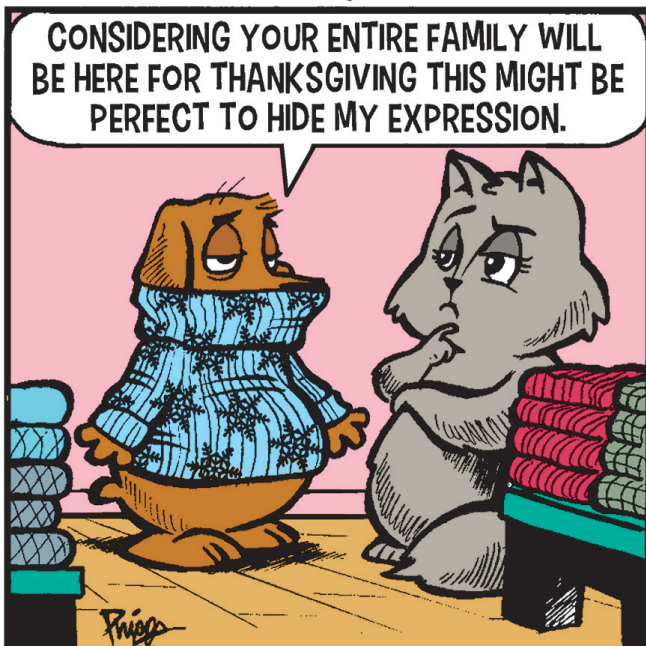


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"Concession stand's open!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



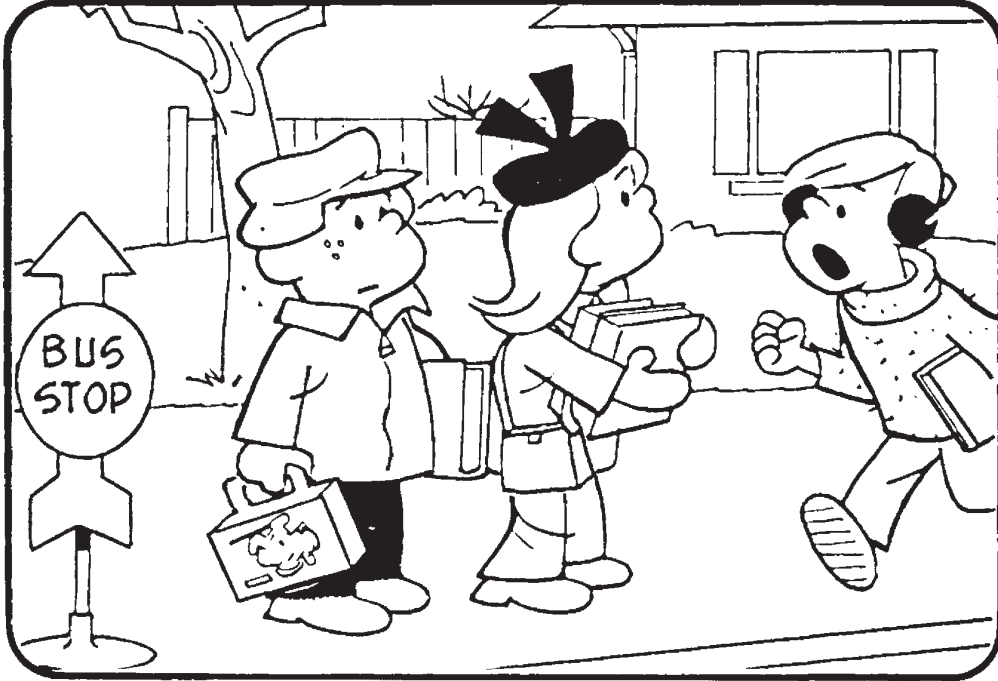
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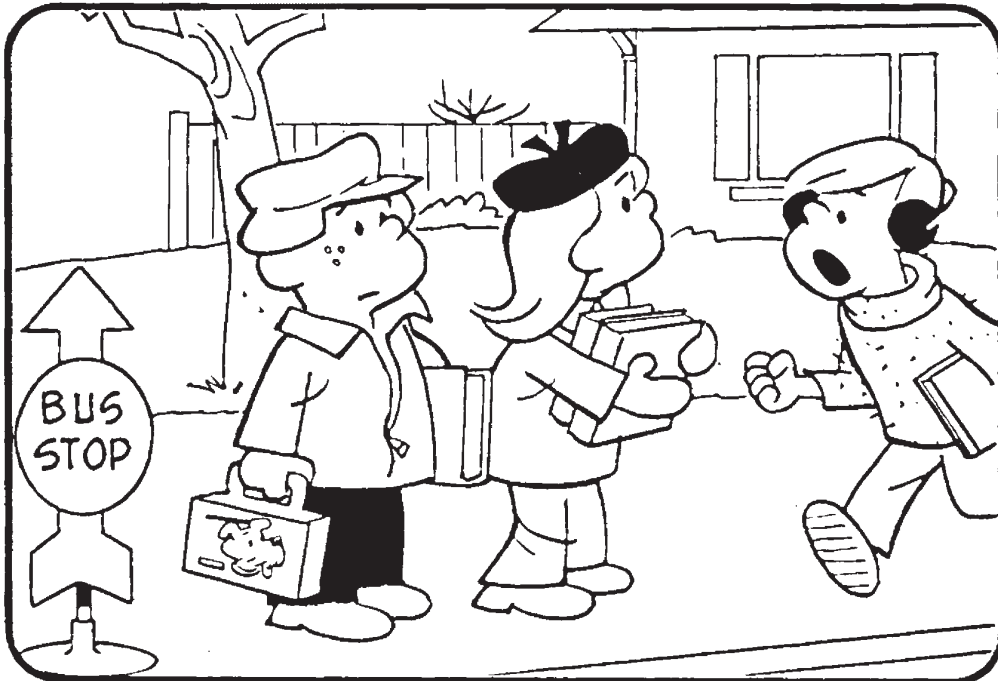
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sign is shorter. 2. Lunchbox is moved. 3. Jacket is opened. 4. Hat bow is smaller. 5. Purse is missing. 6. Arm is lower.

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* "For that nagging toilet where the chain on the flush lever keeps getting stuck, here's what I do: Trash that chain and use some curling ribbon. Tie it on and adjust the length. Once you've got it set, you shouldn't have to mess with it again for a very long time!" -- M. in Minnesota

* Need pumpkin pie spice? Mix 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/4 teaspoon ginger, 1/8 teaspoon nutmeg and 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves for each teaspoon needed.

* "Clearance aisles and sales are a savvy shopper's best friend. I buy age-appropriate games and toys all year from sales rack and with coupons, so that I am always armed with birthday presents and donations to holiday drives." -- A.P. in Pennsylvania

* "I try to keep a backpack of 'just in case' items in my car trunk. In the summer it has sunblock and bug spray, etc. I have just refilled it for winter. There is a bottle of water, snack items as well as large towels that double as blankets, tools and a road flare, socks, an extra pair of shoes, etc. It pays to be safe!" -- C.C. in North Carolina

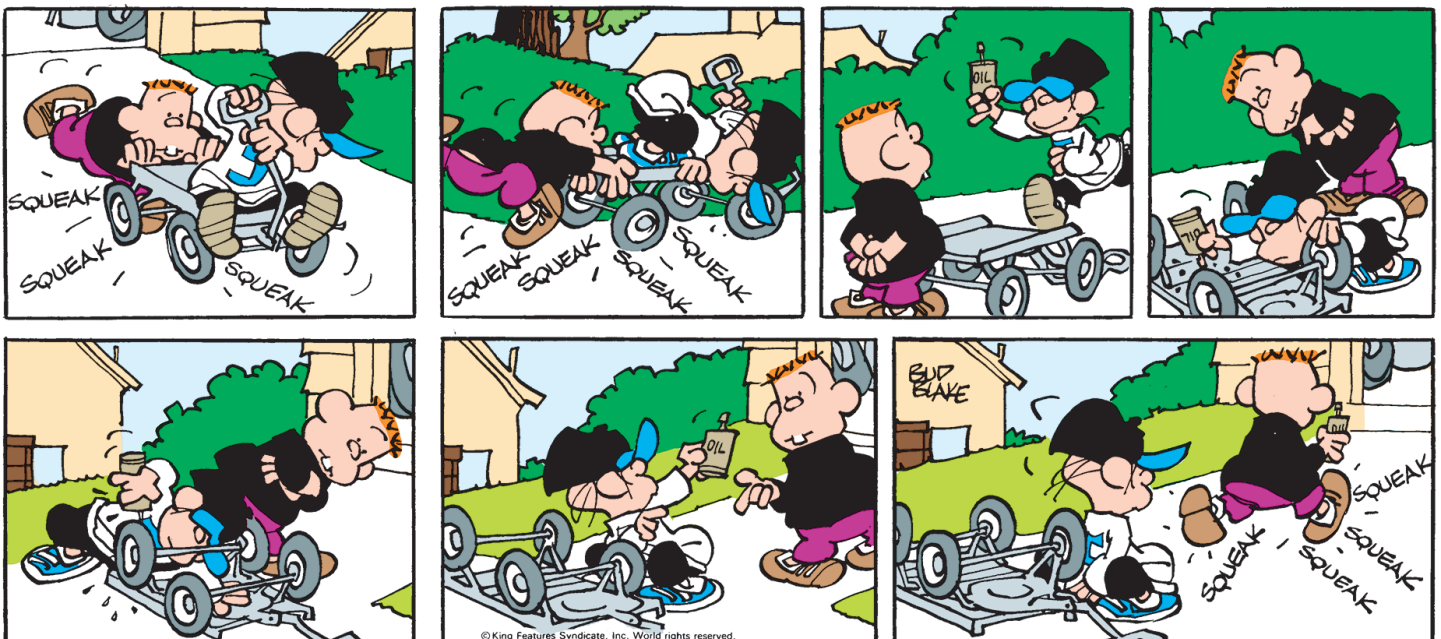
* Make your own "hot pocket" using rice: Fill an empty sock with rice to about three-fourths full. Tie or sew closed. Create a pouch by using a bandana to wrap it up; either tie or sew the bandana into a removable pocket. To use, microwave the sock for 1 to 1 1/2 minutes. Remove carefully. Remove bandana and wash from time to time.

* Here's a great cooking hint: When you want to sear meat, make sure you pat it dry using either paper towels or a kitchen cloth specifically for that purpose. Any moisture on the meat will cause it to steam cook. Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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 **TIGER**

by **BUD BLAKE**



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Angelic ring
- 5 Little rascal
- 8 Burlap fiber
- 12 Switchboard worker
- 14 Barak of Israel
- 15 Longtime CBS News anchor Walter
- 16 Chinese secret society
- 17 Aachen article
- 18 Glide
- 20 Long
- 23 Pack of cards
- 24 Wan
- 25 Wood eater
- 28 1959 Kingston Trio hit

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
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	32		33						34			
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37	38	39					40					
41					42	43				44	45	46
47					48							
49					50				51			

- 29 Relinquish
- 30 Flamenco cheer
- 32 "Charlotte's Web" author
- 34 Boring
- 35 Unctuous
- 36 Test versions
- 37 Catch some Z's
- 40 Flow out
- 41 Young cow
- 42 Almost
- 47 Leer at
- 48 Acts altruistically
- 49 Despot
- 50 "Mayday!"
- 51 Phoenix cagers
- 10 Casserole base
- 11 Jittery
- 13 Related
- 19 Summit
- 20 Orange veggie
- 21 Noble Italian family
- 22 Pequod captain
- 23 God
- 25 Hindmost parts
- 26 Talk up
- 27 First lady of scat
- 29 Brainiac
- 31 Golfer Ernie
- 33 Stereo component
- 34 Fixes, as software
- 36 Cookouts, briefly
- 37 Highlander
- 38 Kvetches
- 39 Stewpot
- 40 Summers in Paris
- 43 Tic-tac-toe win
- 44 Debtor's note
- 45 Heavy weight
- 46 Mag. staff

DOWN

- 1 Ad —
- 2 Earth Day mo.
- 3 Zodiac cat
- 4 Cantankerous
- 5 "Don't rub —!"
- 6 Witticism
- 7 Keep from spoiling
- 8 Lakeside rental
- 9 "Oops!"

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— King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

Out on a Limb

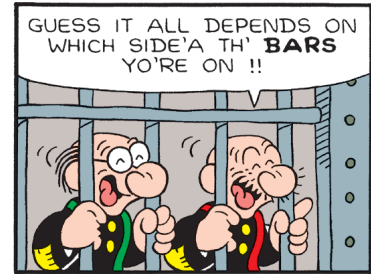
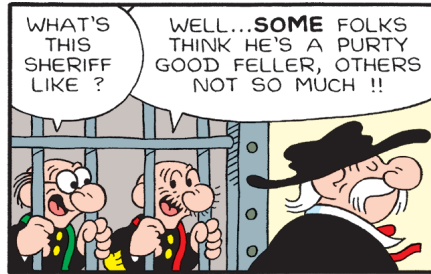
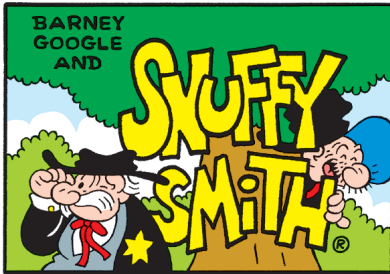
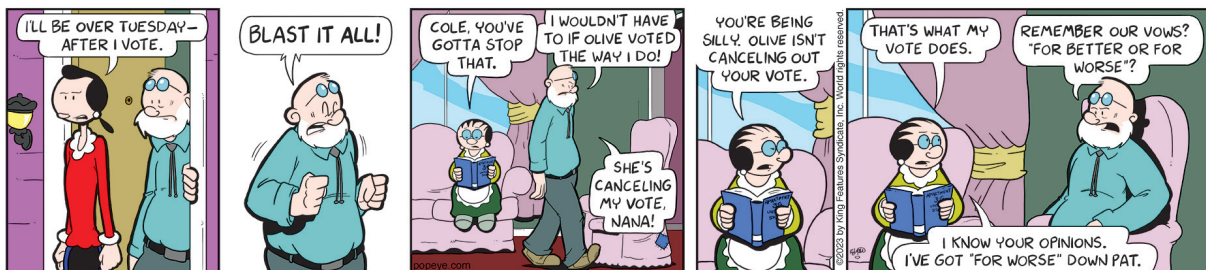


by Gary Kopervas



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Hal Foster's ©
Prince Valiant
 BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES



IN THE HANDS OF GRUNYARD'S KIDNAPPERS, VAL IS DIPLOMATIC: "KILLING US WILL ONLY ENGAGE CAMELOT'S ATTENTION..."



...WHILE GAWAIN HAS BECOME DISTURBINGLY ENTRANCED BY THEIR LEADER: "DEAR LADY, WE WOULD ONLY SEEK TO HELP ONE SO BEAUTIFUL..."

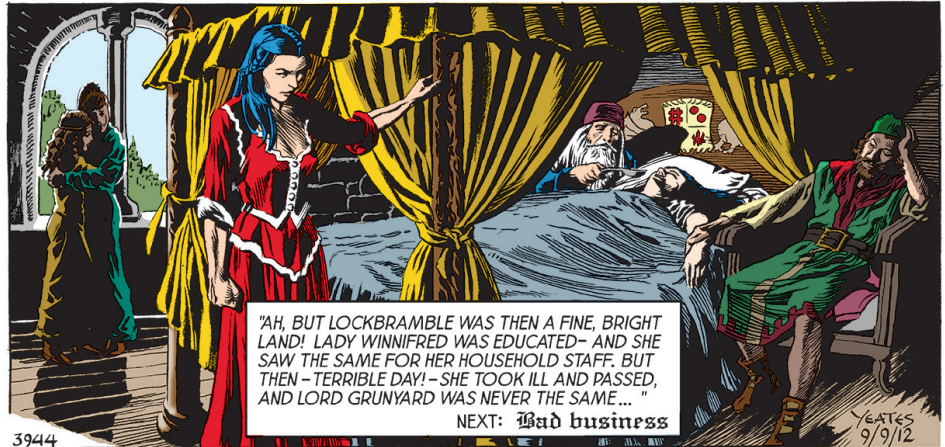


THE BRIGANDS ARE INDEED BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE - KNIGHTS FROM CAMELOT DO NOT DISAPPEAR WITHOUT NOTICE. THE LADY SIGHS: "VERY WELL, BLAST YOU! OUR PLANS ARE RUINED SHOULD ARTHUR'S LAW BE BROUGHT TO BEAR..."



"I AM RHODA - NOW CALLED THE RED HOOD. I WAS FORMERLY A SERVANT TO THE HOUSE OF LORD GRUNYARD. MAID TO THE MISTRESS OF LOCKBRAMBLE, LADY WINNIFRED.

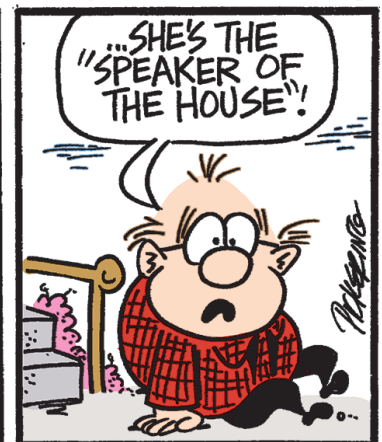
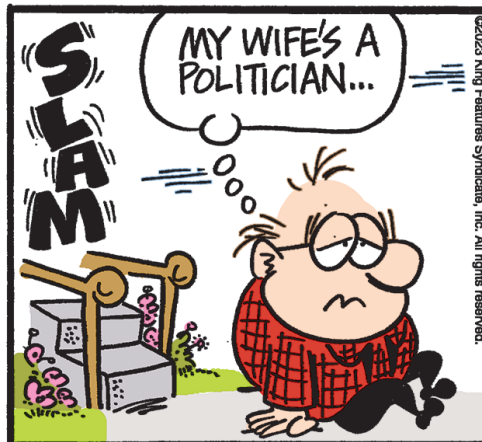
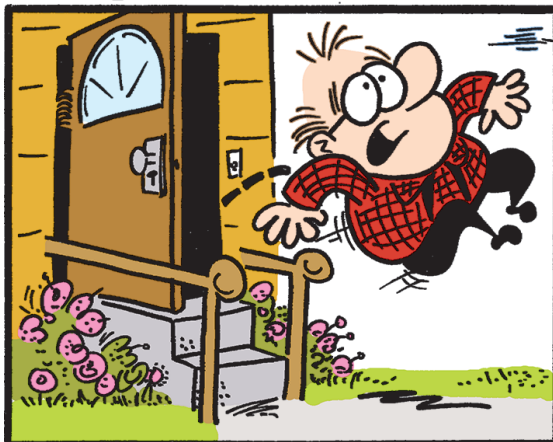
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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Early Resolutions for 2024

Having stuck with less than half of the New Year's resolutions I made for January 2023, I decided that for 2024 I need to give much more thought to what I commit to. In other words, not to take on more than I can actually do ... and to give a much longer period of consideration to the whole thing. Hence this early start in talking about resolutions.

I'm leaning toward one-time efforts, things I commit to doing once, not whole lifestyle changes that, frankly, I'm probably too old to actually make at this point. I'm looking for success in smaller areas.

To that end, I can likely accomplish the following in 2024:

Hire someone to paint the bathroom. Surely the neighborhood handyman will be looking for extra cash. Better for him, rather than me, to climb a ladder and hang out over the tub to paint the wall.

Sell my father's coin collection, specifically the tiny gold coins I found in his jewelry box. I'm already watching the price of gold, and when it reaches a certain number, I will pounce and head for the coin shop where I've already made inquiries.

Visit the local gym and try out ellipticals and stair climbers, which will surely convince me once and for all that I do not need one in the house.

Learn to juggle. Yes, this is something that will take more than one attempt, but once I learn to juggle three soft balls (they come in a kit on Amazon, along with a how-to booklet), I'll be able to cross that particular accomplishment off my life list.

A final resolution that will need lengthy consideration: adopting a young kitten for my cat, to give him a little pal.

I think I'll be more successful with this list of resolutions than I've ever been before. It will certainly be more fun.

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1. Who portrayed sportscaster Howard Cosell in the 2002 TV movie "Monday Night Mayhem," which dramatized the origins of "Monday Night Football"?

2. Name the Indian-American gymnast who won a silver medal at the 2004 Athens Summer Olympics and has an uneven bars salto named after her in the Code of Points.

3. The Norfolk Neptunes, Hartford Charter Oaks, Wheeling Ironmen and Charleston Rockets were teams in what pro football league that played five seasons from 1965-69?

4. What two English Premier League football clubs from the West Midlands compete in a rivalry known as the Black Country derby?

5. What boxer, known as "The Harlem Hammer," was sentenced to nearly 30 years in prison for the 2004 slaying of sports journalist Sam Kellerman?

6. In 1995, sportscaster Bob Papa succeeded Jim Gordon as the radio play-by-play voice of what NFL team?

7. What member of the Kentucky Colonels was selected No. 1 overall by the Chicago Bulls in the 1976 ABA dispersal draft?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. John Turturro.

2. Mohini Bhardwaj.

3. The Continental Football League (COFL).

4. Wolverhampton Wanderers and West Bromwich Albion.

5. James Butler Jr.

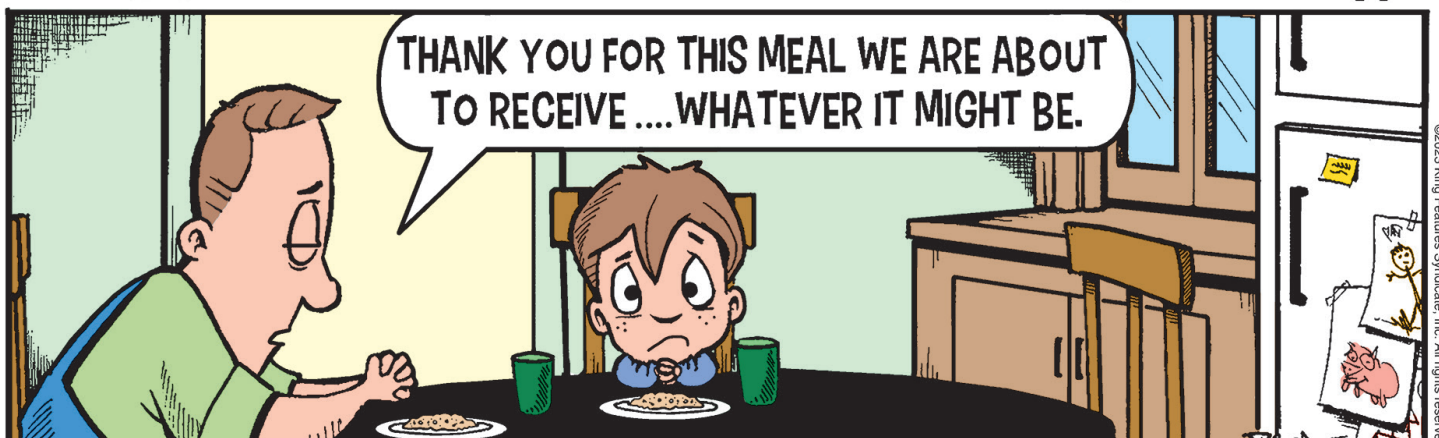
6. The New York Giants.

7. Artis Gilmore.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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Behaving Well Around Service Animals

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Can you kindly remind your readers that service animals and companion animals are not there for other people's amusement? Too often, people who see a service dog in public will rush up and try to pet the dog or even hug them. Please educate them on the proper etiquette when they see a service pet. -- Janine D. in Syracuse, New York

DEAR JANINE: Thank you for this timely reminder. Service animals are highly trained to provide assistance to their owners for specific health or mobility issues. Companion animals provide crucial emotional

support to owners as well.

With any pet, it's not just good manners to ask before approaching or trying to touch them. It's also a safe way to interact with pets and their owners.

This is especially important with service and companion animals. They're doing a job when out in public. For example, seizure alert dogs are trained to detect an approaching seizure and will gently warn their owners to get to a safe place. Mobility assistance dogs help owners maintain their balance, or with tasks like pressing buttons and opening doors.

It isn't always evident that they're working, either. For example, you may see an autism support dog sitting or lying next to their owner. They're not off duty; they're helping their person stay calmer in a social setting.

Some good behaviors around service animals include:

- Speak to the owner/handler, not to the animal.
- Don't touch, talk to, feed or handle the service animal.
- Guide/service dogs have the right of way.

Here are a few more helpful guidelines from the Guide Dog Foundation: <https://tinyurl.com/yspwk6er>

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backward. In fact, they're so impressive in the air that they've been referred to as the "flying ninja."

* And speaking of flying, fruit flies can turn in midair simply by shrugging their shoulders.

* Want to feel safer while driving? White cars are considered the safest color because they typically stand out against black roads. Statistics have also shown that they're 12% less likely to be involved in an accident than black cars.

* Forefingers possess the highest dexterity among their eight neighbors.

* If you ever visit China, don't hug a tree! The act was forbidden after a mass tree hugging occurred outside of China's imperial garden and the Chinese government speculated that the huggers were part of a suspicious cult.

* Until it actually blows against something, wind makes no sound.

* Gold will never erode because it is chemically inert, meaning it doesn't react to oxygen in the atmosphere.


* Earlier this year, Taylor Swift's "Eras" tour performances registered as a 2.3 earthquake on seismometers in Seattle due to the collective dancing of her enthusiastic fans. The activity was compared to 2011's "Beast Quake," in which Seattle Seahawks fans shook the ground as they celebrated a touchdown, but Ms. Swift's lasted longer.

* During the 12th century, tennis was first played in France, but without rackets. Instead, players used the palms of their hands to lob the ball back to their opponents.

* Humans' ability to detect and discern scents fluctuates throughout the day, peaking during the late hours when environmental stimuli decrease, likely due to changes in body temperature and brain activity.

Thought for the Day: "For pilgrims walking ... every footfall is doubled, landing at once on the actual road and also on the path of faith." -- Robert Macfarlane

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The Garden Bug **Cranberries**

Commercially-grown cranberries grow in bogs, but cranberries can be grown on dry land. Determine the pH of your garden soil, as cranberries need a soil pH of less than 5; also, make sure you have very well-draining soil. Cranberry plants need about three months of temps in the 32°–45°F. range to trigger a dormant phase. Fruit of the cranberry plants may appear the year after planting, but more likely the second year depending on the number of pollinators visiting your plantings. - *Brenda Weaver*

Source: www.gardeningknowhow.com



by Freddy Groves

Losing It All in the St. Louis Fire

On July 12, 1973, a fire in St. Louis, Missouri, at the National Personnel Records Center destroyed between 16 and 18 million military personnel files. My mother's file was one of those.

The files covered the period from pre-World War 1 to 1963. There began decades of veterans struggling to prove military service in order to access their benefits.

When I sent away for my mother's records, what I received back was a certificate, similar to a Little League participation certificate. It has the information that I had provided: dates of service, branch of service, rank, but not much more. Thankfully, I'd had enough information on hand to send them to prove service, including a copy of a newspaper photo taken as she took the oath.

But what of people who don't have even those things? What if you have ... nothing?

After the fire, the Records Center started a new rule for all military facilities: Save everything. No matter where in the country a record was likely to be found, it was to be saved and indexed. In this way they were able to index approximately 6 million files. When a claim for benefits came in from a veteran whose file was burned, instructions were sent out to attempt to reconstruct the file from the pieces here and there.

The Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General was asked to audit the process of reconstructing a file. Here is what they found:

Last year it was taking an average of 450 days from time of claim to a claim decision, compared to 146 days for a non-fire claim.

Staff were not following the steps outlined in their instructions, thereby adding 73 days to the process.

Staff did not complete follow-up procedures 25% of the time due to lack of training.

If there's good news, I'll never have to send away for my father's military records. The man saved everything, and I mean everything: every transfer, pay stub, promotion notice, TDY order ... everything.

Perhaps you should do the same.

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Wishing Well®

5	7	3	2	5	6	2	8	6	8	2	6	4
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2	3	2	4	7	2	5	7	4	7	4	7	4
U	E	T	A	N	H	E	E	R	W	T	S	Y

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

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1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the second-largest country in South America?
2. COMICS: What is Dennis the Menace's last name?
3. SCIENCE: Who established the universal laws of motion in the 17th century?
4. MOVIES: What is the name of Marlon Brando's character in "A Streetcar Named Desire"?
5. FOOD & DRINK: What is The Dude's favorite beverage in "The Big Lebowski"?
6. TELEVISION: Which long-running TV comedy features a character named Diane Chambers?
7. AD SLOGANS: What item did this ad slogan say you should not leave home without?
8. LANGUAGE: What is chiaroscuro?
9. HISTORY: What was the name of the building where the former Beatle John Lennon was shot to death in 1980?
10. ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar system is covered in sulphuric acid clouds?

Answers

1. Argentina.
2. Mitchell.
3. Isaac Newton.
4. Stanley Kowalski.
5. White Russian.
6. "Cheers."
7. The American Express card.
8. Distribution of light and dark in drawing and painting.
9. The Dakota apartment building.
10. Venus.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Know Where You Stand: The Fight for Fairness in Girls' Sports

It's plain and simple – only girls should play girls' sports. This is a matter of basic biological fairness.

Many Republican governors across the country have signed laws protecting girls' sports. I signed the toughest women's sports bill in the nation last year to ensure that sports in South Dakota would remain fair. But signing bills into law is not the finish line. We cross the finish line when we can promise fairness for all women in athletics across the nation.

I recently led eight of my fellow Republican governors in urging the NCAA to rewrite its Transgender Student Athlete Policy. The policy currently holds that "transgender student-athlete participation for each sport [is] to be determined by the policy for the national governing body of that sport."

This policy does not protect fairness in women's sports. I was proud to step up and call on the NCAA to change their rule.

Earlier this year, I participated in a roundtable on protecting girls' sports with Riley Gaines. Riley worked her entire life to compete at the collegiate level, but Lia Thomas, a biological male, was allowed to compete in women's swimming. Against all odds, Riley tied with Lia. Now, normally, when two swimmers tie for first place, they share the top spot on the podium. That wasn't the case for Riley – she was told "we just have to give the trophy to Lia."

Suddenly, the decade of hard work and the countless hours spent in the pool meant nothing. Riley's lifetime of achievement was ripped away by someone who shouldn't have even been in the race – all for a photo op.

Riley's story is powerful – and she's not the only athlete that this has happened to. I commend her for speaking up and fighting for what is right.

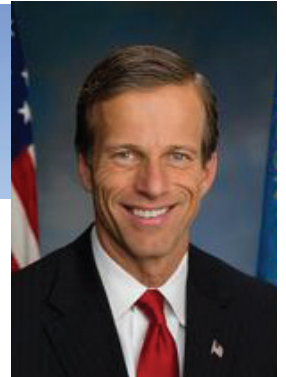
I have had excellent conversations with NCAA President, and former Republican Governor of Massachusetts, Charlie Baker. He understands my concern and has been eager to find the best path forward to protect the integrity of college athletics. I hope that he will continue to drive the Committee on Competitive Safeguards to rewrite this Transgender Student Athlete Policy.

This is an effort that every Republican Governor should stand up and support – especially those who claim to be conservatives.

As governors, we can't just sit at our desks and sign bills. We have to enforce those laws. We have to take action to ensure the integrity of those laws. And we have to step up to protect, preserve, and encourage fairness for our citizens.

I know where I stand. I stand with our young women and girls.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Service and Sacrifice

Etched into stone at the Korean War Memorial are the words, "Freedom is not free." The generations of Americans who have made immense sacrifices in service to the United States know all too well what it costs to defend our country and secure our freedoms. They know what they sacrificed – their families do too – and they know others who made the ultimate sacrifice. They are all heroes, and on Veterans Day, we have a special opportunity to honor their service.

One of the greatest honors I have as a U.S. senator is thanking veterans for their service on behalf of a grateful nation. It's always humbling to present a veteran with medals earned in service to our country or to meet veterans as I travel around South Dakota. I have also had the chance to welcome hundreds of South Dakota veterans on Honor Flights as they visit the memorials built in their honor, sometimes for the very first time.

Honor Flights bring veterans to Washington, D.C., at no cost to visit the memorials representing the conflicts in which they fought. Having the opportunity to welcome these brave men and women to the nation's capital and to be at the memorials with them is an incredible experience. Each mission often brings together generations of veterans – from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf War – whose military service is a common bond. It's moving to hear the veterans exchange stories and to reflect on the people they served with, especially those who did not come home.

Midwest Honor Flight, which serves South Dakota, has its own remarkable story. In 2017, Aaron Van Beek was in his junior year at Iowa's Dordt University. He learned about the Honor Flight program and saw the need to expand the organization's reach into his part of the country. So, he got to work building an organization, thinking he would only coordinate a few flights for local World War II veterans. But Aaron did much more than that. He expanded the mission to Korean War and Vietnam War veterans, and in just six years, Midwest Honor Flight has flown 17 missions, bringing 1,487 veterans to Washington, D.C. His dedication to honoring veterans is admirable, to say the least.

South Dakota takes great pride in the men and women who have stepped forward to serve our country in uniform. Veterans Day celebrations occur in towns big and small across South Dakota. I can remember gathering in the auditorium at Jones County High School to hear from local veterans. Hearing their stories helped instill a strong sense of patriotism and an understanding of what it takes to keep America safe and free.

Veterans Day also makes me think of my dad, Harold Thune, who was a Navy pilot during World War II. Dad flew Hellcats off the USS Intrepid during the war. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, but anytime he talked about his service he would talk about the heroes he served with – great pilots like Cecil Harris from Cresbard, the Navy's second-highest scoring ace in the war – and what they did, rather than his own achievements. My family and I were honored earlier this year when a banner for my dad was added to Rapid City's Veterans Honor Banner Project. I hope that these reminders of American heroes inspire the next generation to continue to serve our great country and the values for which it stands.

To those who have served our country in uniform: Thank you. Your service and sacrifice have secured America's promise of freedom for another generation, and we owe you a debt of gratitude for all you have done. God bless our troops, and God bless these United States of America. Happy Veterans Day.

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



The Big Three – Groundhog Day, Again

BIG Update

On Monday, I hosted my first Level Up Youth Conference in Rapid City. Over 350 students from more than a dozen West River schools attended to hear from a variety of speakers about how they can become more engaged citizens – and even learned some tips on how to better chat with Uncle Bob about politics during Thanksgiving dinner.

Divisive political discourse, 24/7 news and media consumption, and low civic engagement among youth paint a bleak picture for our nation's future, but it's not too late to get us back on the right track. These students are our future leaders and there's no doubt they will be part of the solution.

BIG Idea

Earlier today, I had the opportunity to testify before the House Committee on the Judiciary about my Constitutional amendment to limit the size of the U.S. Supreme Court to nine Justices. Recent years have brought more calls from the Left to pack or expand the Court, and I think that is a terrible idea.

Any efforts to turn the Supreme Court into a political football will further erode public trust in our institutions. 140 members of Congress agree with me and have co-sponsored this amendment. I encouraged the Judiciary Committee to consider Keep the Nine soon.

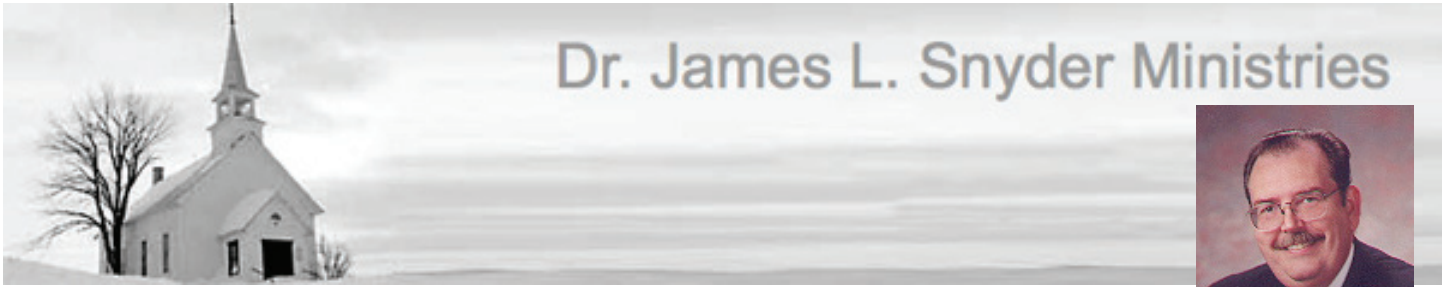
BIG News

House Republicans have now passed appropriations bills funding more than 80% of the dollars needed to fund the government in Fiscal Year 2024. There's no doubt we still have a lot of work to do but we will be back in D.C. next week to continue our progress.

I was proud to co-sponsor the Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act which provides \$14.3 billion to provide military assistance to Israel and funding for the protection of U.S. personnel and emergency evacuations of American citizens. This bill passed the House on Thursday afternoon. I will continue to support Israel in its fight against Hamas and this is one step in the right direction.

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I Don't Believe in Superstition...But



I don't believe in any of the superstitious nonsense that seems to be going around these days. Some people have a fear of numbers like 13 and 666. What in the world does a number have to do with anything?

When I am around people who are superstitious like that, I'm afraid I lean toward the naughty side and harass them a little bit. It's not my fault they're afraid of some number. But I believe I do have a responsibility to myself to take advantage of situations like that.

Not being superstitious, there are times I am slightly confused about life. Something happens that I don't feel I'm in charge of. I won't go to the superstitious side of the road because I don't believe in that. But sometimes, things happen that I really can't explain.

For example, the other morning, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage entered the living room, where I was sitting on my easy chair drinking coffee. With a huge smile, she said, "I got you an Apple Fritter for this morning." And she gave it to me, smiled at me, and then walked away.

Now, I'm supposed to accept this as normal? Absolutely not. There is no reason why she would bring me an Apple Fritter without something attached to it. For the life of me, I could not figure out what was behind this Apple Fritter. There had to be something because The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage never does anything without some reasoning behind it.

Not knowing what to do, I took a little bite of the Apple Fritter, which brought me to a wonderful place of enjoyment. I drank my coffee and ate my Apple Fritter, and my life seemed to be very spectacular at that time.

When I finished the Apple Fritter, I returned to normality and tried to figure out what was behind all of this. There had to be something behind it, and I could not figure it out.

At my stage in life, I wouldn't ask any questions because I never got the answer I wanted. I just decided to accept it and move on with the day.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage went about the day as though nothing strange had happened. I decided to go along with her on that. After all, I don't know what is behind this.

The following day, I got up and got my coffee, went out to my easy chair in the living room, and started to sip it very carefully. Every morning starts great with a cup of coffee.

As I was getting situated, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage walked in, and I saw in her hand another Apple Fritter. "Here, my dear, is an Apple Fritter. I think you'll enjoy this today."

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I possibly could process yesterday's Apple Fritter, but two days in a row was beyond my processing ability. Something is going on, and I have no idea what it is. Being that as it is, I enjoyed that Apple Fritter to the last delicious crumb.

Again, nothing was said to indicate what was behind this Apple Fritter. I was getting a little itchy, and I wanted to find out what was going on. But I didn't want to sabotage my situation at this time.. After all, an Apple Fritter is worth the pain.

The day went normal, and she never mentioned the Apple Fritter.

By the time we came to go to bed, nothing was said concerning that. It was just a coincidence, and I could not explain it satisfactorily.

Again, I got up the following day, went and got my coffee, and sat in my easy chair. In a few moments, in walks The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, and in her hand is another Apple Fritter. Obviously, I did not get up this morning and was still in bed, sleeping and dreaming. This does not happen in real life. I was afraid to do anything for fear of waking up out of this dreamland.

"Here's an Apple Fritter for you this morning. I think you'll enjoy it today." She smiled at me, turned around, and returned to the kitchen.

I held that Apple Fritter in my hand for a few moments, basking in its deliciousness, and then began to eat it slowly and enjoyably.

Three Apple Fritters in a row has to be some record. It's not that I can't handle an Apple Fritter because I can. It's the fact that someone is bringing these Apple Fritters to me who does not like Apple Fritters. Something is happening behind the scenes, and I'm anxious to find out.

The next day, the same thing happened. To have four Apple Fritters in a row is okay with me, but now I'm getting to be suspicious. What in the world am I missing here?

Not wanting to sabotage my good luck the last four days, I kept silent and enjoyed the Apple Fritter. Whatever is behind this, I may never know, but I will enjoy it for whatever it is worth.

I'm expecting the day when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will say, "Remember those Apple Fritters I gave you?"

I couldn't help thinking of a Bible verse, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9).

Sometimes, the best thing to do is NOTHING and let God have it.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Do mainstream laundry soaps contain chemicals that are bad for human health and/or the environment? Are any brands safer than others in this regard? – P.V., via email

For centuries, soaps made from natural substances were used to cleanse our skin and clothes. Synthetic detergents were developed in the early 20th century to create products that cleaned our laundry better and more conveniently. These days we may buy them based on a nice smell or how bright our clothes look, and take for granted that they are safe for us and for the environment.

Sadly, that doesn't seem to be the case. Consumer Reports recently looked for potentially dangerous chemicals in several laundry detergents and found quite the selection of "nasties." One of the worst is 1,4-dioxane, an industrial solvent that's readily absorbed through the skin, lungs and gastrointestinal tract and is considered a probable human carcinogen. In 2022, New York State banned laundry detergents containing unsafe levels of 1,4-dioxane. Arm & Hammer Clean Burst, Tide Original and Gain Original + Aroma Boost are among those detergents no longer available in New York as a result.

Other common yet dangerous detergent ingredients to watch out for include: neurotoxin heavy metals such as arsenic, cadmium and lead; phthalates that make fragrances last longer but disrupt the body's hormonal systems; phosphorus that helps separate dirt from fabric but has links to negative human health effects including the aggravation of cardiovascular problems and osteoporosis; and sodium lauryl sulfate (SLS) and sodium laureate sulfate (SLES), scrubbing agents that can irritate the skin, eyes and lungs. Many common detergents contain synthetic dyes, fragrances and so-called "synthetic optical brighteners" that don't actually clean but can cause allergic reactions and skin irritation and harm downstream wildlife.

Beyond the immediate health and environmental threats many of these synthetic chemicals pose, they also are not easily broken down over time and as such accumulate in the environment over decades. They can accumulate in water to toxic levels, affecting wildlife that is exposed, be carried by waterways or by water extraction for irrigation and can then get into food crops and animals. Like the pesticide DDT, the chemicals may accumulate in the body tissues of organisms living in polluted areas, but more crucially for us, in the body tissues of the top predators in food chains, which are in many cases...us.

New York's decision to ban these hazardous detergents is a significant step toward establishing a safer and healthier environment, and emphasizes the importance of selecting eco-friendly products. Cheri Peele of Toxic-Free Future, a nonprofit that aims to reduce the use of dangerous ingredients in consumer products, urges consumers to "choose detergents with the U.S. EPA Safer Choice label."

Boosting consumer awareness of this problem has become more mainstream recently. The Good Housekeeping Institute trialed some of the more eco-friendly brands. Its researchers gave high marks to Ecover, Smol, Splish, Method and Bio D. Ecology Works produces a 100 percent biodegradable anti-allergen laundry detergent. Seventh Generation is also highly regarded as eco-friendly. Happy washing!

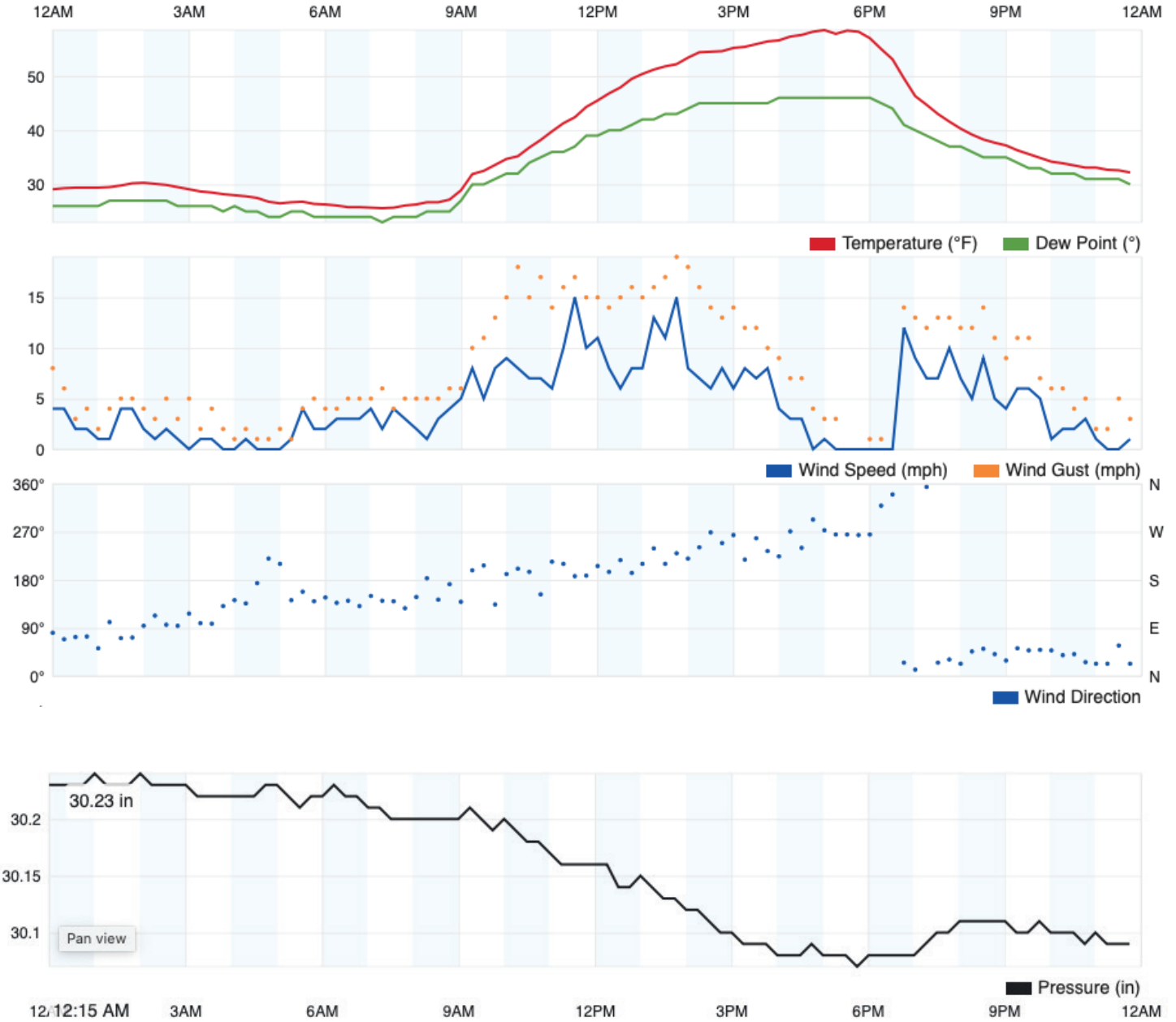


A new generation of laundry detergents trades in the synthetic chemicals for essential oils and other all-natural ingredients. Credit: Pexels.com.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Sun Nov 5	Mon Nov 6	Tue Nov 7	Wed Nov 8	Thu Nov 9	Fri Nov 10	Sat Nov 11
58°F	52°F	54°F	51°F	47°F	44°F	46°F
41°F	35°F	34°F	32°F	27°F	27°F	28°F
SE	WNW	E	W	WNW	WNW	SSE
16 MPH	14 MPH	16 MPH	15 MPH	15 MPH	11 MPH	15 MPH



Foggy Conditions Hampering Travel This Morning

November 5, 2023

4:11 AM

Areas Of Dense Fog This Morning

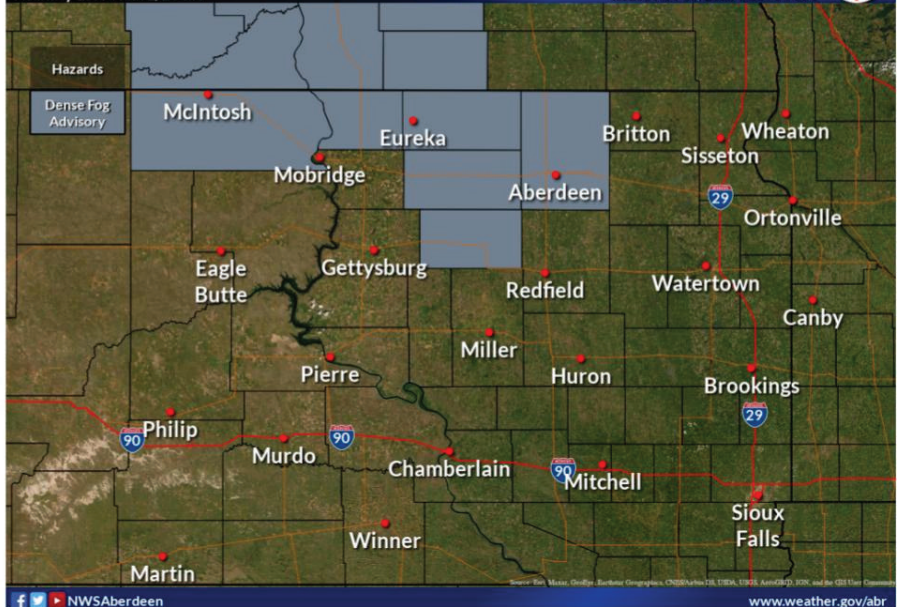
Weather Forecast Office

Aberdeen, SD

Issued Nov 05, 2023 3:33 AM CST



Visibility Less Than 1/2 Mile



Key Points

- Dense Fog Over Portions Of North Central And Northeast South Dakota
- Expect Visibility Less Than 1/2 Mile At Times
- Slow Down In Foggy Conditions
- Arrive Alive!



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Dense fog has materialized this morning. If you drive into a fog bank, slow down! The visibility could drop below 1/2 mile.

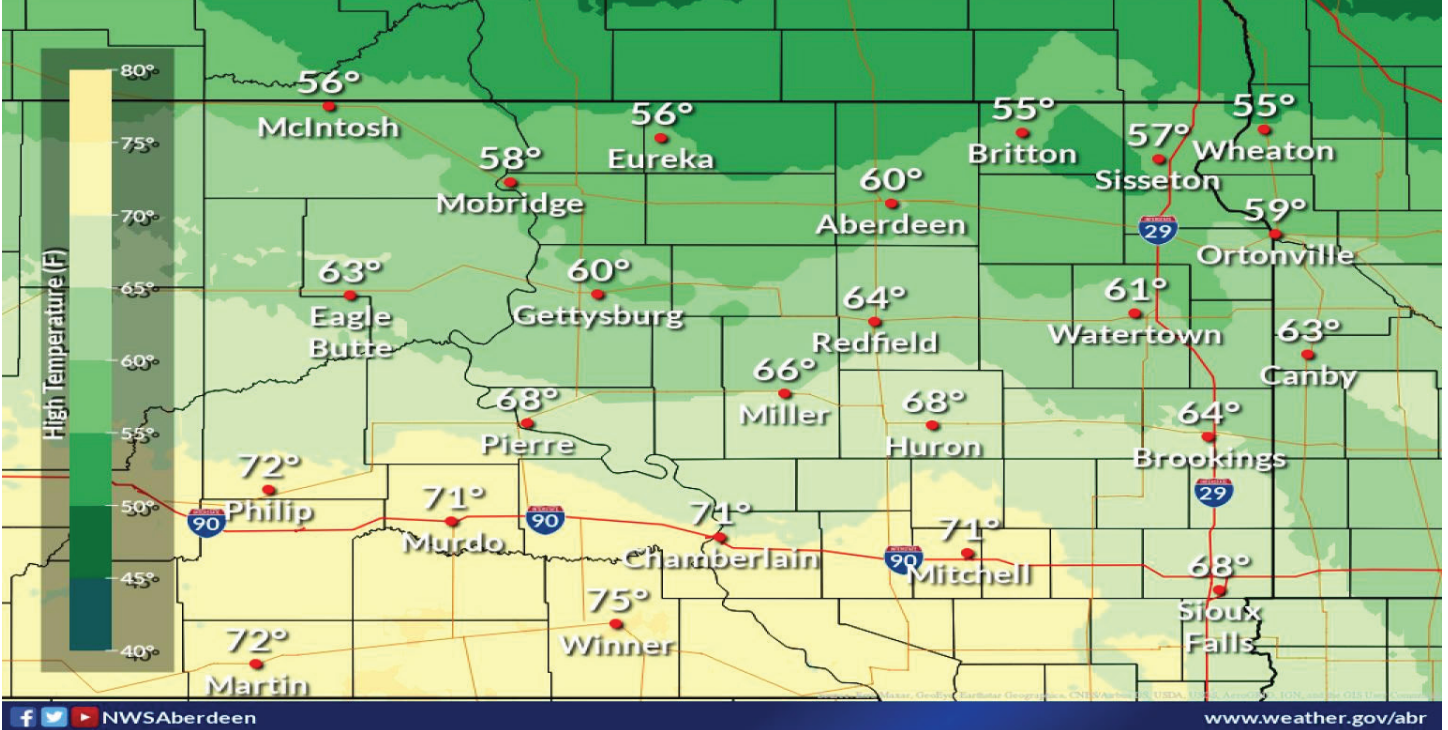
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Warmer Than Normal For November 5th

Temperatures Ranging, At Least, A Good 5 To 15 Degrees Above Normal

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued Nov 05, 2023 3:59 AM CST



For early November, temperatures ranging from the upper 50s to the lower 70s are a gift. Look for increasing cloudiness late, with rain chances developing for some areas over north central and northeast South Dakota by early this evening.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 59 °F at 5:36 PM

Low Temp: 26 °F at 7:16 AM

Wind: 19 mph at 1:43 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 10 hours, 0 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 76 in 2016

Record Low: -6 in 2003

Average High: 48

Average Low: 24

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.17

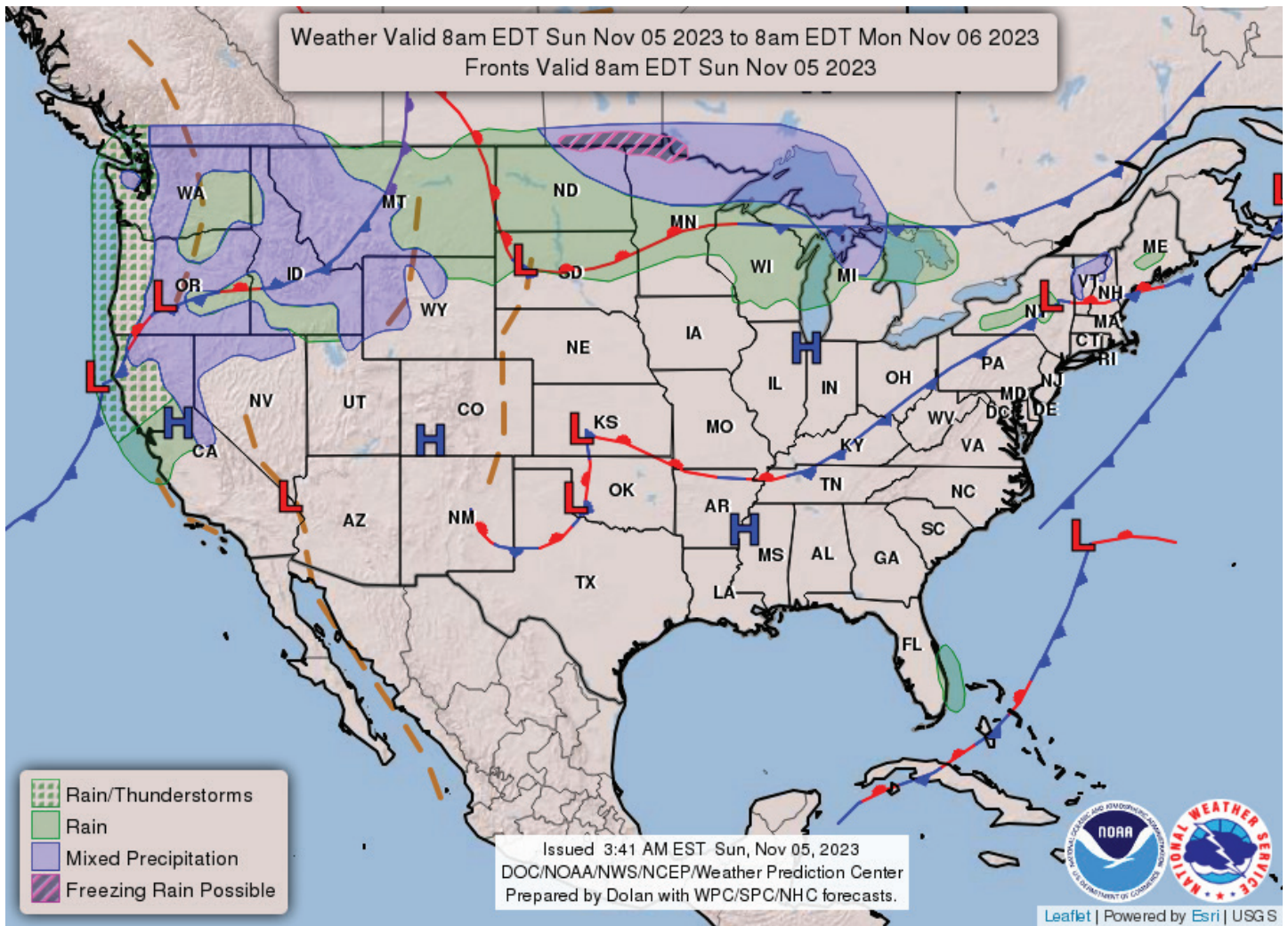
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.64

Precip Year to Date: 22.98

Sunset Tonight: 5:16:07 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:17:14 AM



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Today in Weather History

November 5th, 1959: A strong cold front brought near blizzard conditions and bitterly cold temperatures. As a result, high temperatures in many locations only reached the upper teens. Some daytime highs include; 19 degrees in Pierre and Waubay; 18 degrees in Aberdeen, Faulkton, Kennebec, Pollock, and Roscoe; 17 degrees in Eureka, Gettysburg, Mobridge, and Watertown; and 15 degrees in Timber Lake and near McIntosh. Some record or near-record lows also occurred near midnight on the 5th. Some lows include; 2 degrees in Aberdeen; 1 degree near McIntosh; 0 degrees in Timber Lake and Pollock; and 2 degrees below zero in Kennebec.

1894: A significant snowstorm impacted New England on November 5th through 6th. It formed off the New Jersey coast on the 5th and passed east of Connecticut with rapidly increasing heavy rain, snow, and high winds. The heavy snow and high winds caused significant damage to trees and brought down telegraph poles by the hundreds. As a result, all southern New England's telegraph and telephone services were crippled, and fallen poles and trees delayed railroad trains.

1961 - Strong Santa Ana winds fanned the flames of the Bel Air and Brentwood fires in southern California destroying many homes. At 10 PM the Los Angeles Civic Center reported a temperature of 74 degrees along with a dew point of 5 degrees. On the 6th, Burbank reported a relative humidity of three percent. (The Weather Channel)

1977 - A slow moving storm produced five to nine inch rains across northern Georgia causing the Toccoa Dam to burst. As the earthen dam collapsed the waters rushed through the Toccoa Falls Bible College killing three persons in the dorms. Thirty-eight persons perished at a trailer park along the stream. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Low pressure off the California coast produced stormy weather in the southwestern U.S. Flash flooding stranded 8000 persons in the Death Valley National Park of southern California. Thunderstorms over southern Nevada produced dime size hail and wind gusts to 68 mph around Las Vegas. Unseasonably mild weather in the northeastern U.S. was replaced with snow and gale force winds. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988: An F1 tornado touched down south of Altoona near Hollidaysburg. Several homes were damaged with roofs torn off and broken windows, numerous trees were toppled, and garages and other outbuildings were destroyed.

1988 - A powerful low pressure system produced high winds from the Great Plains to New England, and produced heavy snow in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Winds gusted to 64 mph at Knoxville TN, and reached 80 mph at Pleasant Valley VT. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Temperatures warmed into the 80s across much of Texas. Highs of 86 degrees at Abilene, Fort Worth and San Angelo were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

2002 - Severe thunderstorms moved across southeastern Alabama and the Florida panhandle, producing wind damage and several tornadoes. A tornado struck the Alabama town of Abbeville killing 2 people and injuring 25 (Associated Press).

1991: Nearly 3,000 individuals were killed in the Philippines when Tropical Storm Thelma produced massive flooding on this day. The storm was the second major disaster of the year as Mount Pinatubo violently erupted on June 12th.

2017: A classic Tornado Debris Signature (TBS) was observed in Washington County, Indiana.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

AN UNDERSTANDING HEART

A young boy with braces up to his knees on both legs hobbled into a pet store. Noticing the difficulty he had in walking, the owner approached him and said in a kind voice, "How can I help you?"

"I want to buy the puppy in the window," he said.

"But, son," said the owner, "that puppy has problems. He has a crippled leg and will need someone who can take care of him."

Pulling up the legs of his trousers he said, "I understand. I have the same problem. So no one will love him more or take care of him better than me."

One fact that should fill our minds and hearts with hope and encouragement comes from Hebrews: "This High Priest of ours - Jesus - understands our weaknesses for He faced the same temptations we do, yet He was without sin."

Thank God for the fact that Jesus was as human as we are. We can take great comfort in knowing that He faced everything that we face: hunger, loneliness, abandonment, pain, sorrow, grief, temptation, rejection - even death. And yet He never gave in or gave up His faith in His Heavenly Father. Jesus proved the fact that we do not need to give in to temptation and sin. If He was able to reject sin's power through faith in His Father's power, so can we! He is the only one who ever lived that was faithful and true and lived a life of perfection for us to follow.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for the example Your Son, our Savior, set for us to follow. When we face temptation, give us Your strength to stand firm and not sin. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: This High Priest of ours - Jesus - understands our weaknesses for He faced the same temptations we do, yet He was without sin. Hebrews 4:15-16



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

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2023 Community Events

- 01/29/2023 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 01/29/2023 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 01/31/2023-02/03/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Drop Off 6-9pm, Community Center
- 02/04/2023-02/05/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Sale 1-5pm, Community Center
- 02/25/2023 Littles and Me, Art Making 10-11:30am, Wage Memorial Library
- 03/25/2023 Spring Vendor Fair, 10am-3pm, Community Center
- 04/01/2023 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
- 04/06/2023 Groton Career Development Event
- 04/08/2023 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
- 04/22/2023 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 04/23/2023 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)
- 05/06/2023 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/29/2023 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/16/2023 SDSU Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament
- 06/17/2023 Groton Triathlon
- 07/04/2023 Couples Firecracker Golf Tournament
- 07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/26/2023 GGA Burger Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 08/04/2023 Wine on Nine 6pm
- 08/10/2023 Family Fun Fest, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 08/11/2023 GHS Basketball Golf Tournament
- 09/08/2023 Family Fun Fest 3:30-5:30pm
- 09/09/2023 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 09/09-10/2023 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
- 09/10/2023 Couples Sunflower Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
- 09/10/2023 Emmanuel Lutheran Church Sunday School Rally 9:00am
- 09/10/2023 7th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 4-6pm
- 09/15/2023 Homecoming Parade
- 10/13/2023 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
- 10/14/2023 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 10/31/2023 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 10/31/2023 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
- 11/05/2023 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

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The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.03.23

15 32 38 47 65 12

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$196,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.04.23

8 11 23 47 48 4

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$2,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.04.23

10 12 20 28 48 11

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 53 Mins 38 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.04.23

3 18 20 22 26

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$44,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.04.23

5 15 22 47 66 26

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.04.23

1 28 30 34 52 6

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$179,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the Associated Press

Victims of abusive Native American boarding schools to share experiences in Montana

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

BOZEMAN, Mont. (AP) — Victims of government-backed Native American boarding schools are expected to share their experiences Sunday as U.S. officials make a final stop in Montana on their yearlong tour to confront the institutions that regularly abused students to assimilate them into white society.

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, a member of Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico, has prioritized examining the trauma caused by the schools. She was scheduled to visit Montana State University in Bozeman to wrap up her "Road to Healing" tour.

For over 150 years, Indigenous children were taken from their communities and forced into the boarding schools. Religious and private institutions ran many of the schools and received federal funding as partners in government programs to "civilize" Indigenous students.

The U.S. enacted laws and policies in 1819 to support the schools and some continued to operate through the 1960s. An investigative report released last year by the Interior Department identified 408 government-backed schools in 37 states or then-territories, including Alaska and Hawaii.

The schools renamed children from Indian to English names, organized them into military drills and compelled them to do manual labor such as farming, brick-making and working on the railroad system, according to federal officials. A least 500 children died at the schools, according to the report — a figure that's expected to increase dramatically as research continues.

One of Haaland's deputies, Rosebud Sioux member Wizipan Garriott, has accompanied her on the tour. Garriott has described boarding schools as part of a long history of injustices against his people that began with the widespread extermination of their main food source — bison, also known as buffalo. Tribes also lost their land base and were forced onto reservations sometimes far from their homelands.

Victims and survivors of the schools have shared tearful recollections of their traumas during 11 previous stops along Haaland's tour, including in Oklahoma, South Dakota, Michigan, Arizona, and Alaska.

They've told stories of being punished for speaking their native language, getting locked in basements and their hair being cut to stamp out their identities. They were sometimes subjected to solitary confinement, beatings and withholding food. Many emerged from the schools with only basic vocational skills that left them with few job prospects, officials said.

A second investigative report is expected in coming months. It will focus on burial sites, the schools' impact on Indigenous communities and also try to account for federal funds spent on the troubled program.

Montana had 16 of the schools — including on or near the Crow, Blackfeet, Fort Peck and Fort Belknap reservations. Most shut down early last century. Others were around recently enough that their former students are still alive.

A Native American boarding school school in the town of St. Ignatius on the Flathead Reservation was open until at least 1973. In southeastern Montana the Tongue River Boarding School operated under various names until at least 1970, when the Northern Cheyenne Tribe contracted it as a tribal school, according to government records.

The St. Labre school at the edge of the Northern Cheyenne continues to operate but has not received federal money in more than a century, according to government records.

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition has tallied an additional 113 schools not on the government list that were run by churches and with no evidence of federal support. By 1926, more than 80% of Indigenous school-age children — some 60,000 children — were attending boarding schools that were run either by the federal government or religious organizations, according to the coalition.

Saturday's Scores

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Scoreboard

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL=

SDHSAA Playoffs=

All Nations A=

State Championship=

Todd County 28, Winnebago, Neb. 13

All Nations B=

State Championship=

Lower Brule 42, Tiospa Zina Tribal 0

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Sioux Falls Lincoln High School def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-16, 25-20, 25-6

Sioux Falls Washington def. Rapid City Central, 25-11, 25-7, 25-11

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

FCS No. 1 South Dakota State runs win streak to 23 with 33-16 win over North Dakota State

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mark Gronowski threw a pair of touchdown passes to Jadon Janke, Hunter Dustman kicked four field goals and FCS top-ranked South Dakota State beat North Dakota State 33-16 on Saturday for the Jackrabbits' 23rd consecutive win.

South Dakota State (9-0, 5-0 Missouri Valley Football Conference) ran its home win streak to 17 and has beaten the Bison (6-3, 3-3) five straight times, including last year's FCS title game.

The Bison held a 9-7 lead in the second quarter before the Jackrabbits rallied on the first two Dustman field goals and Gronowski's 46-yard touchdown pass to Janke in the final seven-plus minutes of the first half for a 20-9 lead.

Janke's 7-yard touchdown throw to Janke made it 27-9 in the third quarter.

Gronowski threw for 213 yards with Janke totaling 89 yards receiving on five catches. Isaiah Davis ran for 106 yards and a touchdown on 17 carries.

Cam Miller was 18-of-30 passing for 167 yards and threw two touchdown passes and two interceptions for the Bison, ranked 10th in the coaches poll.

South Dakota hangs on to beat Southern Illinois 14-7

CARBONDALE, Ill. (AP) — Aidan Bouman and Travis Theis scored on 1-yard touchdown runs and Brendan Webb capped a big defensive day with a pass deflection for an interception in the final seconds of South Dakota's 14-7 win over Southern Illinois on Saturday.

After Aidan Quinn threw a 6-yard TD pass to Nic Baker to cut South Dakota's lead to 14-7 with three minutes left, the Salukis (6-3, 3-3) got the ball back a minute later on their 47-yard line. D'Ante Cox made a juggling catch while falling to the turf for a 27-yard completion and a first-and-goal from the 5 with under a minute left. It was fourth-and-2 when Webb deflected Baker's pass and Blake Holden grabbed it to secure the win.

Webb also had four sacks with two pass breakups for South Dakota (7-2, 5-1).

The Salukis outgained the Coyotes 333-196. Baker threw for 228 yards. Ro Elliott had 57 yards rushing, putting him over the 2,000-yard career mark.

The Salukis came in ranked 11th in the FCS coaches' poll and the Coyotes No. 12.

Warplanes strike Gaza refugee camp as Israel rejects US push for a pause in fighting

By NAJIB JOBAIN, WAFAA SHURAFI and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli warplanes struck a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip early Sunday, killing at least 40 people and wounding dozens, health officials said. The strike came as Israel said it would press on with its offensive to crush the territory's Hamas rulers, despite U.S. appeals for a pause to get aid to desperate civilians.

The soaring death toll in Gaza has sparked growing international anger, with tens of thousands from Washington to Berlin taking to the streets Saturday to demand an immediate cease-fire.

Israel has rejected the idea of halting its offensive, even for brief humanitarian pauses proposed by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken during his current tour of the region. Instead, it said that Hamas was "encountering the full force" of its troops.

"Anyone in Gaza City is risking their life," Israel's Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant said.

Large columns of smoke rose as Israel's military said it had encircled Gaza City, the initial target of its offensive. Gaza's Health Ministry has said more than 9,400 Palestinians have been killed in the territory in nearly a month of war, and that number is likely to rise as the assault continues.

Airstrikes hit the Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza overnight, killing at least 40 people and wounding 34 others, the Health Ministry said. It said first responders and residents were still digging through the rubble, hoping to find survivors.

An Associated Press reporter at a nearby hospital saw the bodies of at least five small children, including an infant, who had been pulled from the rubble.

Arafat Abu Mashaia, who lives in the camp, said the Israeli airstrike flattened several multi-story homes where people forced out of other parts of Gaza were sheltering.

"It was a true massacre," he said early Sunday while standing on the wreckage of destroyed homes. "All here are peaceful people. I challenge anyone who says there were resistance (fighters) here."

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

The camp, a built-up residential area, is located in the evacuation zone where Israel's military had urged Palestinian civilians in Gaza to seek refuge as it focuses its military offensive on the north.

Despite such appeals, Israel has continued its bombardment across Gaza, saying it is targeting Hamas fighters and assets everywhere and accusing it of using civilians as human shields. Critics say Israel's strikes are often disproportionate, considering the large number of women and children killed.

A separate strike on Sunday leveled a building near the Al-Quds Hospital in Gaza City, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent rescue service. The charity posted a video showing medical workers rushing a wounded man to the hospital as a woman and children ran behind them.

Blinken met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the occupied West Bank on Sunday, according to an AP reporter covering the visit at the invitation of the Palestinian Authority. Blinken previously met with Arab foreign ministers in Jordan as well as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who insisted there could be no temporary cease-fire until all hostages held by Hamas are released.

After meeting with Blinken on Saturday, Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said Arab countries want an immediate cease-fire, saying "the whole region is sinking in a sea of hatred that will define generations to come."

Blinken, however, said "it is our view now that a cease-fire would simply leave Hamas in place, able to regroup and repeat what it did on Oct. 7," when the group launched a wide-ranging attack from Gaza into southern Israel, triggering the war.

He said humanitarian pauses can be critical in protecting civilians, getting aid in and getting foreign nationals out, "while still enabling Israel to achieve its objective, the defeat of Hamas."

Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan told reporters in Beirut that Blinken "should stop the aggression and should not come up with ideas that cannot be implemented."

Egyptian officials said they and Qatar were proposing humanitarian pauses for six to 12 hours daily to

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allow aid in and casualties to be evacuated. They were also asking for Israel to release a number of women and elderly prisoners in exchange for hostages, suggestions Israel seemed unlikely to accept. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the press on the discussions.

Israel on Saturday offered a three-hour window for residents of northern Gaza to flee south. An Associated Press journalist on the road, however, saw nobody coming.

Israel asserted that Hamas "exploited" the window to move south and attack its forces. There was no immediate Hamas comment on that claim, which was impossible to verify. Israeli planes dropped leaflets urging people to head south during another window on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Swaths of residential neighborhoods in northern Gaza have been leveled in airstrikes. U.N. monitors say more than half of northern Gaza's remaining residents, estimated at around 300,000, are sheltering in U.N.-run facilities. But deadly Israeli strikes have also repeatedly hit and damaged those shelters. The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees has said it has lost contact with many in the north.

An Israeli airstrike overnight struck a water well in Tal al-Zatar in northern Gaza, cutting off water for tens of thousands of people in the area, the Hamas-run municipality in the town of Beit Lahia said in a statement early Sunday.

The U.N. said about 1.5 million people in Gaza, or 70% of the population, have fled their homes. Food, water and the fuel needed for generators that power hospitals and other facilities is running out.

The war has stoked tensions across the region, with Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group repeatedly trading fire along the border.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, at least two Palestinians were shot dead during an Israeli arrest raid in Abu Dis, just outside of Jerusalem, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. At least 150 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank since the start of the war, mainly during violent protests and gun battles during arrest raids.

Thousands of Israelis protested outside Netanyahu's official residence in Jerusalem on Saturday, urging him to resign and calling for the return of roughly 240 hostages held by Hamas. Netanyahu has refused to take responsibility for the Oct. 7 attack in southern Israel that killed more than 1,400 people. Ongoing Palestinian rocket fire has forced tens of thousands of people in Israel to evacuate their homes.

In another reflection of widespread anger in Israel, a junior government minister, Amihai Eliyahu, suggested in a radio interview Sunday that Israel could drop an atomic bomb on Gaza. He later walked back the remarks, saying they were "metaphorical." Netanyahu issued a statement saying the minister's comments were "not based in reality" and that Israel would continue to try to avoid harming civilians.

Among the Palestinians killed in Gaza are more than 3,900 Palestinian children, the Gaza Health Ministry said, without providing a breakdown of civilians and fighters.

The Israeli military said four more soldiers have died during the Gaza ground operation, bringing the confirmed death toll to 28.

A Ukrainian missile strike on a shipyard in Crimea damages a Russian ship

By The Associated Press undefined

The Russian military said a Ukrainian missile strike on a shipyard in annexed Crimea had damaged a Russian ship.

The Russian Defense Ministry said late Saturday that Ukrainian forces fired 15 cruise missiles at the Zaliz shipyard in Kerch, a city in the east of the Crimean Peninsula. Air defenses shot down 13 missiles but others hit the shipyard and damaged a vessel, a statement from the ministry said.

The ministry didn't give details about the ship or the extent of the damage.

The Ukrainian air force commander, Mykola Oleshchuk, said in a statement that at the time of the attack carried out by Ukrainian tactical aviation, "one of the most modern ships of Russia's Black Sea fleet was at the shipyard — carrier of the Kalibr cruise missiles." He didn't say directly, however, that this particular ship was damaged by the strike.

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The Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014, has been a frequent target since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of Ukraine 20 months ago. Crimea has served as the key hub supporting the invasion.

Ukraine has increasingly targeted naval facilities in Crimea in recent months. In September, a Ukrainian missile strike on a strategic shipyard in the port city of Sevastopol damaged two Russian ships and wounded 24 people. Later that same month, a missile strike blasted the Crimean headquarters of Russia's navy in Sevastopol.

Commenting on Saturday's strike, head of Ukraine's presidential office Andriy Yermak said in a Telegram post on Sunday morning that "life constantly proves that there won't be (Russia's) Black Sea fleet in Crimea."

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian military said a Russian missile strike killed troops and injured civilians in the Zaporizhzhia area late Friday. Details about the attack, reportedly carried out by an Iskander ballistic missile, have not been made public.

A video posted on social media claimed the strike landed on a group of soldiers gathered for a ceremony to honor fellow soldiers. There was no immediate confirmation on the number of dead and injured. Ukraine's Defense Minister Rustem Umerov said he has ordered an investigation.

A deadly missile strike on a Ukrainian village on Oct. 5 killed 59 civilians attending the wake for a local soldier who died fighting Russian troops.

Nepal villagers cremate loved ones who perished in earthquake that shook its northwest, killing 157

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Villagers in the mountains of northwest Nepal cremated the bodies of some who perished in an earthquake that shook the area Friday night. The strong tremor killed 157 people and left thousands homeless.

The 13 bodies were carried on Sunday to the banks of the Bheri River and placed on pyres made of stacked wood. Priests chanted Hindu prayers while family members cried as they covered the bodies of loved ones with flowers before setting them on fire in a cremation ceremony.

All 13 were from Chiuri village in Jajarkot district, which authorities said was the epicenter of the quake, and where at least 105 people were confirmed dead. Another 52 were killed in the neighboring Rukum district, officials said. Some 184 people were injured.

Most of the houses in Jajarkot — usually made by stacking rocks and logs — either collapsed or were severely damaged by the sudden earthquake, while the few concrete houses in towns were also damaged. The majority of those killed were crushed by debris.

Thousands spent Saturday night in the bitter cold.

People used whatever they could find to set up shelter for the night, using plastic sheets and old clothes to keep them warm. Most people have been unable to retrieve their belongings from under the rubble.

Many were looking to the government for help.

"Our situation has gotten so worse that we do not even have anything left to eat. Whatever food we had is buried underneath the rubble of our fallen house," Samkhana Bika, who had lost her home, said Sunday.

Her house at Chepare village had fallen. She sat around a fire near their fallen home to keep warm with her six family members.

"Someone else gave us some rice, a little oil and some salt out of which we made a stew last night and ate that," she said.

Nepal's government said it is trying to get aid to the affected areas.

A cabinet meeting held on Sunday announced that aid would be immediately transported. Minister Rekha Sharma told reporters that supplying food and setting up temporary shelters were the main focus while working on plans to reconstruct damaged houses.

As rescuers were scrambling to rush aid, operations were hampered by the fact that many of the moun-

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tainous villages could only be reached by foot. Roads were also blocked by landslides triggered by the earthquake. Soldiers could be seen trying to clear the blocked roads.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the earthquake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.6 and occurred at a depth of 11 miles (18 kilometers). Nepal's National Earthquake Monitoring & Research Center confirmed the epicenter was in Jajarkot, which is about 400 kilometers (250 miles) northeast of the capital, Kathmandu.

At the regional hospital in the city of Nepalgunj, more than 100 beds were made available and teams of doctors stood by to help the injured.

"My arms are totally broken, I have injuries in my head and my back hurts but thankfully it is not fractured. It was hurt when I had bent down and had firewood fall on my back," said Kunjan Pun on Sunday from a hospital bed where she is waiting for surgery.

Apart from rescue helicopters, small government and army planes able to land in the short mountain strips were also used to ferry the wounded to Nepalgunj.

The quake, which hit when many people were already asleep in their homes, was also felt in India's capital, New Delhi, more than 800 kilometers (500 miles) away.

Earthquakes are common in mountainous Nepal. A 7.8 magnitude earthquake in 2015 killed some 9,000 people and damaged about 1 million structures.

Californians bet farming agave for spirits holds key to weathering drought and groundwater limits

By AMY TAXIN Associated Press

MURRIETA, Calif. (AP) — Leo Ortega started growing spiky blue agave plants on the arid hillsides around his Southern California home because his wife liked the way they looked.

A decade later, his property is now dotted with thousands of what he and others hope is a promising new crop for the state following years of punishing drought and a push to scale back on groundwater pumping.

The 49-year-old mechanical engineer is one of a growing number of Californians planting agave to be harvested and used to make spirits, much like the way tequila and mezcal are made in Mexico. The trend is fueled by the need to find hardy crops that don't need much water and a booming appetite for premium alcoholic beverages since the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's attracted entrepreneurs such as Ortega, as well as some California farmers. They're seeking to shift to more water-efficient crops and irrigation methods to avoid following their fields with looming limits on how much groundwater they can pump, as well as more extreme weather patterns anticipated with climate change. Agave, unlike most other crops, thrives on almost no water.

"When we were watering them, they didn't really grow much, and the ones that weren't watered were actually growing better," Ortega said, walking past rows of the succulents.

He is now investing in a distillery after his initial batches of spirits, made from *Agave americana*, sold for \$160 a bottle.

Consumers started spending more on high-quality spirits during the pandemic shutdowns, which spurred a rise in premium beverage products, said Erlinda A. Doherty, an agave spirits expert and consultant.

Tequila and mezcal were the second-fastest growing spirit category in the country in 2022, according to the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States.

Both are proprietary spirits under Mexican laws, which are recognized in U.S. trade agreements. Much like how champagne hails from a region of France, anything called tequila must contain at least 51% blue Weber agave and be distilled in Jalisco or a handful of other Mexican states. Mezcal can be made from a variety of agave types but must be produced in certain Mexican states.

Agave growers and distillers in California — as well as some in Texas and Arizona — are betting there is an appetite for more agave-based spirits even if they are produced outside of Mexico and not called tequila or mezcal.

"We seem to have this insatiable thirst for agave, so why not have a domestically grown supply?" Doherty said. "I am kind of bullish on it."

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Alfonso Mojica Navarro, director of the Mexican Chamber of the Tequila Industry, said tequila has a lengthy history, global reputation for excellence and close connection with Mexican culture. While he didn't comment specifically on California's foray into agave spirits, he said he believes Mexico can respond to the growing demand.

"The tequila industry is concerned that each time there are more players trying to take advantage of tequila's success by producing agave spirits, liqueurs or other beverages that allude to the Mexican drink, its origins and characteristics despite not being the same," he said in a statement.

Agave isn't grown on a large scale in California yet, and it would take years for that to happen. But spirits, made by cooking the plant's core to produce sugars that are fermented, are proving popular, said Ventura Spirits owner Henry Tarmy, who distilled his first batch five years ago.

"We've sold everything we've made," he said.

Much like Mexico has, California is taking steps to protect its nascent industry. The state legislature enacted a law last year requiring "California agave spirits" be made solely with plants grown in the state and without additives.

A dozen growers and a handful of distillers also formed the California Agave Council last year, and the group has tripled in size since then, said Craig Reynolds, the founding director who planted agave in the Northern California community of Davis. He said those making agave spirits have a deep appreciation for Mexican tequila.

"We have about 45 member growers," he said. "All of them want more plants."

Agave takes little water but presents other challenges. The plant typically takes at least seven years to grow and is tough to harvest, and a mature plant can weigh hundreds of pounds. Once cut, it has to be grown all over again.

Still, many see agave as a viable alternative as California — which supplies the bulk of the country's produce — explores ways to cut back water use.

While record rain and snowfall over the winter mostly ended a three-year drought in California, more dry periods are likely in store. The state enacted a law nearly a decade ago to regulate the pumping of groundwater after excessive pumping led some residents' wells to run dry and the land to sink. Scientists expect extreme weather patterns will become even more common as the planet warms, causing more drought.

Stuart Woolf, who grows tomatoes and almonds in the state's crop-rich Central Valley, said he started thinking about agave after estimating he'll only be able to farm about 60% of his land in 20 years due to water limitations. And that's despite investing in solar energy and groundwater recharge projects to protect the farm that has been in his family for generations.

After trying out a test plot a few years ago, Woolf went on to plant some 200,000 agave on land he otherwise would have fallowed. Each acre of agave is taking only 3 inches (7.6 centimeters) of water a year — a tenth of what row crops demand and even less than pistachio and almond trees, he said.

Woolf and his wife Lisa gave a \$100,000 donation to the University of California, Davis, which formed a research fund to look at the succulent's varieties and its potential as a low-water crop.

"I have been trying to figure out what is a crop that I can grow that is somewhat climate-resilient, drought-tolerant, so I can utilize our land," Woolf said. "The amount of water I am giving them is so low, I don't think I am ever going to have a problem."

German police advise travelers to avoid Hamburg airport due to an ongoing hostage situation

BERLIN (AP) — German police advised travelers on Sunday not to use Hamburg airport due to a developing hostage situation.

The airport in the northern part of the city has been closed to passengers and flights canceled since Saturday night when an armed man broke through an airport gate with his vehicle and fired twice into the air with a weapon, according to German news agency dpa. Authorities also said the man's wife had

previously contacted them about a child abduction.

Police said that the 35-year-old man had his 4-year-old daughter inside the car whom he had reportedly taken by force from the mother in a possible custody battle.

A psychologist has been negotiating with the man for hours and there was no indication other people could be harmed since all passengers had evacuated the airport, police said.

"We must currently assume that he is in possession of a live firearm and possibly also explosive devices of an unknown type," police wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"Our top priority is to protect the child. According to our current knowledge, the child is physically well," they added.

Hundreds of people whose flights couldn't depart on Saturday night because of the situation were put up at hotels close by. Arriving planes were either rerouted to other German airports or canceled.

Stage set for conflict at COP28 with mixed response to outcome of key climate talks

By SIBI ARASU Associated Press

BENGALURU, India (AP) — Tense negotiations at the final meeting on a climate-related loss and damages fund — an international fund to help poor countries hit hard by a warming planet — ended Saturday in Abu Dhabi, with participants agreeing that the World Bank would temporarily host the fund for the next four years.

The United States and several developing countries expressed disappointment in the draft agreement, which will be sent for global leaders to sign at the COP28 climate conference, which begins in Dubai later this month.

The U.S. State Department, whose officials joined the negotiations in Abu Dhabi, said in a statement it was "pleased with an agreement being reached" but regretted that it does not make contributions to the fund voluntary.

The agreement lays out basic goals for the fund, including for its planned launch in 2024, and specifies how it will be administered and who will oversee it, including a requirement for developing countries to have a seat on the board, in addition to the World Bank's role.

Avinash Persaud, a special envoy to Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley on climate finance, said the agreement was "a challenging but critical outcome. It was one of those things where success can be measured in the equality of discomfort." Persaud negotiated on behalf of Latin America and the Caribbean in the meetings.

He said that failure to reach an agreement would have "cast a long shadow over COP."

Mohamed Nasr, the lead negotiator from Egypt, last year's climate conference host, said, "It falls short on some items, particularly the scale and the sources (of funding), and (an) acknowledgment of cost incurred by developing countries."

The demand for establishing a fund to help poor countries hit hard by climate change has been a focus of U.N. climate talks ever since they started 30 years ago and was finally realized at last year's climate conference in Egypt.

Since then, a smaller group of negotiators representing both rich and developing countries have met multiple times to finalize the details of the fund. Their last meeting in the city of Aswan in Egypt in November ended in a stalemate.

While acknowledging that an agreement on the fund is better than a stalemate, climate policy analysts say there are still numerous gaps that must be filled if the fund is to be effective in helping poor and vulnerable communities around the world hit by increasingly frequent climate-related disasters.

The meetings delivered on that mandate but were "the furthest thing imaginable from a success," said Brandon Wu of ActionAid USA who has followed the talks over the last year. Wu said the fund "requires almost nothing of developed countries. ... At the same time, it meets very few of the priorities of developing countries — the very countries, need it be said again, that are supposed to benefit from this fund."

Sultan al-Jaber, a federal minister with the United Arab Emirates and CEO of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company who will oversee COP28 next month, welcomed the outcome of the meetings.

"Billions of people, lives and livelihoods who are vulnerable to the effects of climate change depend upon the adoption of this recommended approach at COP28," he said.

Ukrainian war veterans with amputated limbs find freedom in the practice of jiu-jitsu

By HANNA ARHIROVA and VASILISA STEPANENKO Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Nervous ahead of their first jiu-jitsu championship, the war veterans gathered in a group to share jokes and help each other tie the belts of their kimonos. Many of them had suffered severe battlefield injuries requiring amputations.

Now they were assembled to perform in the "para jiu jitsu" category at the Ukrainian national competition before hundreds of spectators on amphitheater-style benches in one of Kyiv's sports complexes.

More than 20,000 people in Ukraine have lost limbs because of injuries since the start of Russia's brutal war there, many of them soldiers. A handful of them have dealt with their psychological trauma by practicing a form of Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

"This gives us freedom. We don't feel like we're lacking anything," said Artem Kuzmich, who started practicing jiu-jitsu classes after losing a leg on the battlefield in 2019.

Kuzmich is Belorussian and voluntarily joined the Ukrainian army to fight Russian aggression in Eastern Ukraine starting in 2014. Now, he mentors soldiers who have recently suffered similar injuries and find salvation in jiu-jitsu.

Much of the martial art of jiu-jitsu involves moves and holds aimed at using an opponent's own force against them.

It's a sport that can easily be adapted for people who have had amputations, with no prosthetics needed, Kuzmich said.

"We work with what we have and can achieve victories with what life has left us," he said.

The tournament — on a recent weekend — commenced with the Ukrainian anthem, expressions of gratitude to the nation's defenders, and a minute of silence in remembrance of those who perished on the battlefield.

Five out of the six athletes competing in the "para jiu-jitsu" category began their training at the TMS Hub, a safe space for veterans in Kyiv that also offers psychological rehabilitation for veterans. They opened their first jiu-jitsu practice area two months ago.

TMS Hub offers free practice of jiu-jitsu primarily to veterans of the Russian-Ukrainian war who have suffered the loss of a limb through combat. The program is aimed at providing them with a community of people with a similar experience, to help with their psychological rehabilitation.

"Being among their peers is more comfortable for them," explained Serhii Pohosyan, co-founder of TMS Hub.

Just two months into training, five veterans at the TMS Hub gym were ready for the national competition.

One of them was 26-year-old Vasyl Oksyntiuk, who lost both of his legs when a shell hit his car near Bakhmut last December during intense battles for the city.

Before his match, he carefully removed both of his prosthetics and left them outside the competition area. He was dressed in a kimono, with short hair and a black mustache. With a determined gaze, he relied on both of his arms as he made his way to center of the mat to meet his opponent.

"You feel completely different; you forget that you're lacking something," Oksyntiuk said.

He volunteered to go to war in February when Russia invaded Ukraine. "In the Constitution and in the heart, it's written to protect your loved ones, your family, and your home. When the enemies came, something had to be done about it," he said.

Nearly a year after his injury he has learned to walk confidently on prosthetic limbs, but still looks for

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new ways to spend his free time.

"I had always wanted to try martial arts, but I thought I was too old for it," Oksyntiuk said. "Then I lost my legs, saw on the internet that there was this opportunity, and decided to give it a try. I really enjoyed it."

At his first Ukrainian Jiu-Jitsu Championship, Oksyntiuk won a silver medal in the "para jiu-jitsu" category. Pohosyan, the TMS Hub co-founder, said the gym has specially equipped bathrooms and other facilities to ensure the comfort of disabled veterans. He said around 20 veterans attend the gym's jiu-jitsu practices regularly, and the program wants to add more such gyms, including outside the capital. But that will depend on money because the project relies on donations, he said.

After the tournament's medals were distributed, the former soldiers, overwhelmed with emotion, approached Pohosyan to convey their gratitude, and to say the experience was exactly what they needed. "This is the greatest reward for us," Pohosyan said.

Afghan farmers lose income of more than \$1 billion after the Taliban banned poppy cultivation

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghan farmers have lost income of more than \$1 billion from opium sales after the Taliban outlawed poppy cultivation, according to a report from the U.N. drugs agency published Sunday.

Afghanistan was the world's biggest opium producer and a major source for heroin in Europe and Asia when the Taliban seized power in August 2021.

They pledged to wipe out the country's drug cultivation industry and imposed a formal ban in April 2022, dealing a heavy blow to hundreds of thousands of farmers and day laborers who relied on proceeds from the crop to survive. Opium cultivation crashed by 95% after the ban, the report from the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime said.

Until 2023, the value of Afghanistan's opiate exports frequently outstripped the value of its legal exports. U.N. officials said the strong contraction of the opium economy is expected to have far-reaching consequences for the country as opiate exports before the ban accounted for between 9-14% of the national GDP.

Afghans need urgent humanitarian assistance to meet their most immediate needs, absorb the shock of lost income and save lives, said UNODC executive director, Ghada Waly.

"Afghanistan is in dire need of strong investment in sustainable livelihoods to provide Afghans with opportunities away from opium," she said.

Afghans are dealing with drought, severe economic hardship and the continued consequences of decades of war and natural disasters.

The downturn, along with the halt of international financing that propped up the economy of the former Western-backed government, is driving people into poverty, hunger, and addiction.

A September report from the UNODC said that Afghanistan is the world's fastest-growing maker of methamphetamine, with seizures of the synthetic drug increasing as poppy cultivation shrinks.

Lower incomes along the opiate supply chain could stimulate other illegal activities like the trafficking of arms, people or synthetic drugs, the most recent UNODC report said.

U.S. regulators will review car-tire chemical that kills salmon, upon request from West Coast tribes

By MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

U.S. regulators say they will review the use of a chemical found in almost every tire after a petition from West Coast Native American tribes that want it banned because it kills salmon as they return from the ocean to their natal streams to spawn.

The Yurok tribe in California and the Port Gamble S'Klallam and Puyallup tribes in Washington asked the Environmental Protection Agency to prohibit the rubber preservative 6PPD earlier this year, saying it kills fish — especially coho salmon — when rains wash it from roadways into rivers. Washington, Oregon, Vermont, Rhode Island and Connecticut also wrote the EPA, citing the chemical's "unreasonable threat"

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to their waters and fisheries.

The agency's decision to grant the petition last week is the start of a long regulatory process that could see the chemical banned. Tire manufacturers are already looking for an alternative that still meets federal safety requirements.

"We could not sit idle while 6PPD kills the fish that sustain us," Joseph L. James, chairperson of the Yurok Tribe, told The Associated Press. "This lethal toxin has no business in any salmon-bearing watershed."

6PPD has been used as a rubber preservative in tires for 60 years. It is also found in footwear, synthetic turf and playground equipment.

As tires wear, tiny particles of rubber are left behind on roads and parking lots. The chemical breaks down into a byproduct, 6PPD-quinone, that is deadly to salmon, steelhead trout and other aquatic wildlife. Coho appear to be especially sensitive; it can kill them within hours, the tribes argued.

The salmon are important to the diet and culture of Pacific Northwest and California tribes, which have fought for decades to protect the dwindling fish from climate change, pollution, development and dams that block their way to spawning grounds.

The chemical's effect on coho was noted in 2020 by scientists in Washington state, who were studying why coho populations that had been restored in the Puget Sound years earlier were struggling.

"This is a significant first step in regulating what has been a devastating chemical in the environment for decades," said Elizabeth Forsyth, an attorney for Earthjustice, an environmental law firm that represents the tribes.

She called it "one of the biggest environmental issues that the world hasn't known about."

The U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association said in a statement that an analysis is underway to identify alternatives to 6PPD that can meet federal safety standards, though none has yet been found.

"Any premature prohibition on the use of 6PPD in tires would be detrimental to public safety and the national economy," the statement said.

The Puyallup Tribal Council called the EPA's decision "a victory for salmon and all species and people."

The agency plans by next fall to begin gathering more information that could inform proposed regulations. It also plans to require manufacturers and importers of 6PPD to report unpublished health and safety studies by the end of next year. There is no timeframe for a final decision.

"These salmon and other fish have suffered dramatic decreases in population over the years. Addressing 6PPD-quinone in the environment, and the use of its parent, 6PPD, is one way we can work to reverse this trend," Michal Freedhoff, an assistant administrator in the EPA's chemical safety and pollution prevention office, said in a statement.

The chemical's effect on human health is unknown, the EPA noted.

Suanne Brander, an associate professor and ecotoxicologist at Oregon State University, called the decision a great move, but cautioned that the lethal impacts on salmon are likely from more than just 6PPD. She said she is also concerned about whatever chemical tire manufacturers eventually use to replace it.

"As someone who's been studying chemicals and micro-plastics for a while now, my concern is we're really focused on this one chemical but in the end, it's the mixture," she said. "It's many different chemicals that fish are being exposed to simultaneously that are concerning."

US and Arab partners disagree on the need for a cease-fire as Israeli airstrikes kill more civilians

By NAJIB JOBAIN, BASSEM MROUE and CARA ANNA Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — The United States and Arab partners disagreed Saturday on the need for an immediate cease-fire in the Gaza Strip as Israeli military strikes killed civilians at a U.N. shelter and a hospital, and Israel said the besieged enclave's Hamas rulers were "encountering the full force" of its troops.

Large columns of smoke rose as Israel's military said it had encircled Gaza City, the initial target of its offensive to crush Hamas. Gaza's Health Ministry has said more than 9,400 Palestinians have been killed

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in the territory in nearly a month of war, and that number is likely to rise as the assault continues.

"Anyone in Gaza City is risking their life," Israel's Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant said.

In the night from Saturday to Sunday, airstrikes hit the Maghazi refugee camp in the central area of Gaza, and Palestinian health officials reported multiple casualties. Maghazi is in the evacuation zone where Israel had urged Palestinians to seek refuge.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Arab foreign ministers in Jordan on Saturday after talks in Israel with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who insisted there could be no temporary cease-fire until all hostages held by Hamas are released.

Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said Arab countries want an immediate cease-fire, saying "the whole region is sinking in a sea of hatred that will define generations to come."

Blinken, however, said "it is our view now that a cease-fire would simply leave Hamas in place, able to regroup and repeat what it did on Oct. 7." He said humanitarian pauses can be critical in protecting civilians, getting aid in and getting foreign nationals out, "while still enabling Israel to achieve its objective, the defeat of Hamas."

As he left church in Delaware on Sunday, U.S. President Joe Biden hinted at progress in efforts to convince Israel to agree to a humanitarian pause, responding "Yes," to reporters' questions about any forward movement on the subject. He did not elaborate.

Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan told reporters in Beirut that Blinken "should stop the aggression and should not come up with ideas that cannot be implemented." The spokesman of the Hamas military wing, who goes by Abu Obeida, said in a speech that fighters had destroyed 24 Israeli vehicles and inflicted casualties in the past two days.

Egyptian officials said they and Qatar were proposing humanitarian pauses for six to 12 hours daily to allow aid in and casualties to be evacuated. They were also asking for Israel to release a number of women and elderly prisoners in exchange for hostages, suggestions Israel seemed unlikely to accept. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the press on the discussions.

Israel has repeatedly demanded that northern Gaza's 1.1 million residents flee south, and on Saturday it offered a three-hour window for residents to do so. An Associated Press journalist on the road, however, saw nobody coming. The head of the government media office in Gaza, Salama Maarouf, said no one went south because the Israeli military had damaged the road.

But Israel asserted that Hamas "exploited" the window to move south and attack its forces. There was no immediate Hamas comment on that claim, which was impossible to verify.

Some Palestinians said they didn't flee because they feared Israeli bombardment.

"We don't trust them," said Mohamed Abed, who sheltered with his wife and children on the grounds of al-Shifa hospital, one of thousands of Palestinians seeking safety at medical centers in the north.

Swaths of residential neighborhoods in northern Gaza have been leveled in airstrikes. U.N. monitors say more than half of northern Gaza's remaining residents, estimated at around 300,000, are sheltering in U.N.-run facilities. But deadly Israeli strikes have also repeatedly hit and damaged those shelters. The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees has said it has lost contact with many in the north.

On Saturday, two strikes hit a U.N. school sheltering thousands just north of Gaza City, killing several people in tents in the schoolyard and women who were baking bread inside the building, according to the U.N. agency. Initial reports indicated that 20 people were killed, said spokeswoman Juliette Touma. The health ministry in Gaza said 15 people were killed at the school and another 70 wounded.

Also Saturday, two people were killed in a strike by the gate of al-Nasser Hospital in Gaza City, according to Medhat Abbas, health ministry spokesman. And a strike hit near the entrance to the emergency ward of al-Quds Hospital in Gaza City, injuring at least 21, the Palestinian Red Crescent said.

The World Health Organization called attacks on health care in Gaza "unacceptable."

Also hit was the family home of Hamas' exiled leader Ismail Haniyeh in the Shati refugee camp on the northern edge of Gaza City, according to the Hamas-run media office in Gaza. It had no immediate details on damage or casualties.

Israel has continued bombing in the south, saying it is striking Hamas targets.

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An airstrike early Saturday destroyed a home in the southern town of Khan Younis, with first responders pulling three bodies and six injured people from the rubble. Among those killed was a child, according to an AP cameraman at the scene.

"The sound of explosions never stops," said Raed Mattar, who was sheltering in a school in Khan Younis after fleeing the north.

At least 1,115 Palestinian dual nationals and wounded have exited Gaza into Egypt, but on Saturday authorities in Gaza didn't allow foreign passport holders to leave because Israel was preventing the evacuation of Palestinian patients for treatment in Egypt, said Wael Abu Omar, a spokesman for the Palestinian Crossings Authority.

The U.N. said about 1.5 million people in Gaza, or 70% of the population, have fled their homes.

Food, water and the fuel needed for generators that power hospitals and other facilities is running out. Anger over the war and civilian deaths in Gaza sparked large demonstrations in Paris, Washington, London, Pakistan and elsewhere on Saturday. "Against apartheid, free Palestinians," a banner in Rome read.

Turkey said it was recalling its ambassador to Israel for consultations, and Turkish media reported that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he could no longer speak to Netanyahu in light of the bombardment.

Thousands of Israelis protested outside Netanyahu's official residence in Jerusalem, urging him to resign and calling for the return of roughly 240 hostages held by Hamas. Netanyahu has refused to take responsibility for the Oct. 7 attack in southern Israel that killed more than 1,400 people.

"I find it difficult to understand why trucks with humanitarian aid are going to monsters," said Ella Ben Ami, whose parents were abducted. She called for aid to be halted until the hostages are released.

Thousands of people also joined a demonstration of hostages' families in Tel Aviv.

Air raid sirens sounded Saturday evening in southern Israel as Hamas launched rockets into Ashkelon. Rocket fire has continued in the area throughout the conflict, forcing tens of thousands of people to evacuate their homes.

Fears continued of a new front opening along Israel's border with Lebanon. The Israeli military said it had struck militant cells in Lebanon trying to fire at Israel, as well as an observation post for Hezbollah, an ally of Hamas. Throughout the war, Israel and Hezbollah have traded fire almost daily. Hezbollah and Israel fought a monthlong war in 2006 that ended in a tense stalemate.

"We are not interested in a northern front, but we are prepared for any task," Gallant, Israel's defense minister, said after touring the border. He said the Air Force is "preserving most of its might for the Lebanon front," according to a video statement.

Among the Palestinians killed in Gaza are more than 3,900 Palestinian children, the Gaza Health Ministry said, without providing a breakdown of civilians and fighters.

The Israeli military said four more soldiers have died during the Gaza ground operation, bringing the confirmed death toll to 28.

Protest marches from US to Berlin call for immediate halt to Israeli bombing of Gaza

By FATIMA HUSSEIN and OLEG CETINIC Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — From Washington to Milan to Paris, tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators marched Saturday, calling for a halt to Israel's bombardment of Gaza.

The marches reflected growing disquiet about the mounting civilian casualty toll and suffering from the Israel-Hamas war. Protesters, particularly in countries with large Muslim populations, including the U.S., U.K. and France, expressed disillusionment with their governments for supporting Israel while its bombardments of hospitals and residential areas in the Gaza strip intensify.

The Palestinian death toll in the Israel-Hamas war has reached 9,448, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry in Gaza. In Israel, more than 1,400 people have been killed, most of them in the Oct. 7 Hamas attack that started the war.

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In the U.S., thousands converged on the nation's capital to protest the Biden administration's support of Israel and its continued military campaign in Gaza. "Palestine will be free," demonstrators donning black and white keffiyehs chanted as an enormous Palestinian flag was unfurled by a crowd that filled Pennsylvania Avenue — the street leading up to the White House.

Leveling direct criticism of President Joe Biden, Renad Dayem of Cleveland said she made the trip with her family so her children would know "the Palestinian people are resilient — and we want a leader who won't be a puppet to the Israeli government."

Dozens of small white body bags with the names of children killed by Israeli missiles lined the street and demonstrators held signs calling for an immediate cease-fire.

Protesters held signs and banners with messages such as "Biden betrays us" and "In November we remember," highlighting how the issue could be a factor in Biden's reelection bid.

Jinane Ennasri, a 27 year-old New York resident, said the Biden administration's support of Israel despite the thousands of Palestinian deaths has made her rethink voting in the 2024 presidential election, where Biden will likely face GOP front-runner Donald Trump. "We thought he would represent us, but he doesn't," she said, "and our generation is not afraid to put elected officials in their place."

Ennasri, like many demonstrators, said they would likely sit out the 2024 election.

Biden was in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, for the weekend and didn't comment on the protests. In a brief exchange with reporters as he left St. Edmond Roman Catholic Church on Saturday, he suggested there has been some forward movement in the U.S efforts to persuade Israel to agree to a humanitarian pause, answering "yes" when asked if there was progress.

Steve Strauss, a 73 year-old Baltimore resident, said he is one of many Jewish people protesting Israel's treatment of Palestinians. "They are trying to kill as many Palestinians as they can get away with," Strauss said. "I am here to stand up and be a voice for the people who are oppressed."

In Paris, several thousand protesters called for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza and some shouted "Israel, assassin!"

Banners on a sound-system truck at the Paris march through rain-dampened streets read: "Stop the massacre in Gaza." Demonstrators, many carrying Palestinian flags, chanted "Palestine will live, Palestine will win."

Demonstrators also took aim at French President Emmanuel Macron, chanting "Macron, accomplice."

Paris' police chief authorized the march from République to Nation, two large plazas in eastern Paris, but vowed that any behavior deemed antisemitic or sympathetic to terrorism would not be tolerated.

Multiple countries in Europe have reported increasing antisemitic attacks and incidents since Oct. 7.

In an attack Saturday, an assailant knocked on the door of a Jewish woman in the French city of Lyon and, when she opened, said "Hello" before stabbing her twice in the stomach, according to the woman's lawyer, Stéphane Draï, who spoke to broadcaster BFM. He said police also found a swastika on the woman's door. The woman was being treated in a hospital and her life was not in danger, the lawyer said.

At the London rally, the Metropolitan Police said its officers made 11 arrests, including one on a terrorism charge for displaying a placard that could incite hatred. The police force had forewarned that it would also monitor social media and use facial recognition to spot criminal behavior.

On Friday, two women who attended a pro-Palestinian march three weeks ago were charged under the U.K.'s Terrorism Act for displaying images on their clothing of paragliders. In its Oct. 7 surprise attack on Israel, Hamas employed paragliders to get some fighters across the border between Gaza and southern Israel. Prosecutors said the images aroused suspicion they were supporters of Hamas, which U.K. authorities regard as a terrorist group.

In Berlin, around 1,000 police officers were deployed to ensure order after previous pro-Palestinian protests turned violent. German news agency dpa reported that about 6,000 protesters marched through the center of the German capital. Police banned any kind of public or written statements that are antisemitic, anti-Israeli or glorify violence or terror. Several thousand protesters also marched through the west German city of Duesseldorf.

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In Romania's capital, hundreds gathered in central Bucharest, many waving Palestinian flags and chanting "Save the children from Gaza."

At a rally by several thousand people in Milan, Matteo Salvini, a deputy prime minister, spoke out against antisemitism, calling it "a cancer, a virulent plague, something disgusting."

In another part of Milan, a pro-Palestinian rally drew about 4,000 people and there was also a march by several thousand in Rome. Yara Abushab, a 22-year-old medical student from Gaza University, who has been in Italy since Oct. 1, was among the participants and described Oct. 7 as a watershed for her.

"They bombed my university, my hospital. I lost a lot of loved ones and right now the last time I heard something from my family was a week ago," she said. "The situation is indescribable."

Donald Trump's strength is clear in Florida as Gov. Ron DeSantis tries to move past 'nonsense'

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and BILL BARROW Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — A booth at the Florida Republican Party's Freedom Summit made swift business of Donald Trump merchandise on Saturday, selling everything from socks to bathtub rubber ducks that paid tribute to the former president.

Vendor Peter Crotty also had Ron DeSantis T-shirts. But he reduced those items from their original \$25 down to \$5, an 80% discount on the Florida governor's name. The excess inventory needed to go, Crotty said.

It was just one sign of DeSantis' challenges in the 2024 Republican primary fight. Barely two months from the first nominating ballots being cast, Trump is flaunting his advantages by trying to embarrass the governor in the two rivals' shared home state, where party activists on Saturday cheered any mention of the former president and booed at any criticisms of the GOP 2024 front-runner.

"We're going to win the Florida primary for the third straight time, and we're going to win the state by a landslide next November," Trump told a boisterous crowd Saturday evening, before calling to the stage several Florida lawmakers who switched their endorsements from DeSantis ahead of Saturday's Florida Freedom Summit.

Trump and his newest backers stood beneath graphics that read: "Florida is Trump Country."

It was a show of strength for Trump in a state where DeSantis has controlled state politics since garnering Trump's endorsement in 2018 on his way to winning the first of two gubernatorial elections. Now, two months before the first balloting in the 2024 presidential nomination process, the two men have an increasingly personal and crude rivalry, and the second-term governor faces the reality that Trump has dominated national Republican politics since he launched his first White House bid in 2015, when DeSantis was a little-known Florida congressman.

Trump was more than a half-hour into a stemwinding speech Saturday before he mentioned DeSantis, and he did so by ticking through polling results suggesting his wide national lead among Republican voters.

Trump later said, in a mocking tone, that DeSantis begged for his backing in 2018: "I endorsed him and he became a rocket ship in 24 hours. ... Now he's like a wounded falling bird from the sky."

DeSantis sidestepped the former president altogether while on stage Saturday afternoon, instead sticking with his argument that his results in Tallahassee prove his conservative mettle.

"Florida has shown the way forward for the Republican Party," DeSantis told the crowd, drawing applause for a litany of conservative policy victories in the state. "No state has done more to beat the left at the institutional level than we have in the state of Florida."

DeSantis, Trump and other candidates signed qualifying paperwork Saturday for Florida's March 2024 primary. The primary could prove critical, but only if the governor or other candidates can diminish Trump's strength in the early nominating states that come before.

"Weakening DeSantis' standing in Florida is a clear objective of the Trump campaign," said Alex Conant, a Republican strategist who worked on the 2016 presidential campaign of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. "His entire message is built on the idea that he is a terrific governor. When Republican officials in Florida are

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choosing Trump over DeSantis, it really weakens the core of DeSantis' pitch."

Trump's campaign first announced the new slate of Florida endorsements hours before DeSantis took the stage. Trump already had secured support from a majority of Florida's U.S. House delegation. The latest flips, first reported by The Messenger, came two days after U.S. Sen. Rick Scott, DeSantis' predecessor as governor, announced his support for Trump, and when Scott reaffirmed his choice Saturday, Florida Republicans roared.

"You might have seen that I endorsed President Trump," Scott said with a smile, pausing for the sustained ovation. "I don't think there's any question in my mind. He is the one person running that can really bring strength back to our country."

Scott never mentioned DeSantis.

Another 2024 candidate, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, drew boos when he said Trump is wrong for the country and his party. He alluded to Trump's multiple pending indictments. The former president also is set to testify Monday in New York as part of a civil fraud trial in which Trump is accused of deceiving banks and insurers by exaggerating his wealth on his annual financial statements.

"Go back to New Jersey!" some activists yelled at Christie. Unbowed, he chided his fellow Republicans: "Your anger against the truth is reprehensible."

Off stage, DeSantis downplayed Trump's latest show of Florida support.

"This happens in these things," he told reporters, flanked by top legislative leaders, Florida Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nuñez and several sheriffs. "We've had flips the other way in other states. It's a dynamic thing. Politicians do what they're going to do."

This coming week, DeSantis will join several candidates in Miami for the third Republican debate. Trump will skip, again, and hold a competing event in the nearby suburb of Hialeah.

DeSantis was initially expected to be Trump's top rival after winning reelection as governor by a huge margin last November. But DeSantis has struggled since he launched his campaign in May and is a distant second now. A Des Moines Register poll published Monday finds him tied in Iowa with Nikki Haley, the former South Carolina governor who served as U.N. ambassador under Trump. Both stood at 16%, 27 percentage points behind the former president.

Trump has for months ripped DeSantis as disloyal for running against him and did so again Saturday. The Trump campaign also has mocked DeSantis' laugh and interactions with voters. DeSantis has pointed to Trump's gaffes and suggested that Trump no longer has the same energy he once did.

Trump's allies have boosted headlines suggesting DeSantis wears lifts in his boots. DeSantis told Newsmax that if "Donald Trump can summon the balls to show up to the debate, I'll wear a boot on my head."

DeSantis' super political action committee then began selling a set of golf balls with the inscription, "Ron DeSantis has a pair." Responded Trump spokesperson Steven Cheung: "Ron DeSantis is so broke he needs to sell his balls to strangers in order (to) make rent and keep the lights on."

The governor told reporters Saturday that he "just responded to their nonsense." He dismissed "trivialities" of the campaign as less important than the issues at stake. "We've got a job to do," he said. "We have a country that we have to fight for."

The campaign references to male anatomy are reminiscent of another Floridian's presidential bid against Trump. Rubio in 2016 joked about Trump's "small hands" in response to Trump's personal attacks. Rubio dropped out of the race after losing Florida's primary.

State party members gave Trump a symbolic win in September, when they voted against requiring Florida primary candidates to pledge to support the eventual nominee in order to run next March. Trump has refused to take a similar pledge required for candidates to participate in national GOP debates.

Zelenskyy hosts EU official von der Leyen as Russian attacks wound at least 14 people in Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian attacks in Ukraine wounded at least 14 civilians over the past day, officials said Saturday, as the president of the European Union's executive arm returned to the Ukrainian capital to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The governor of the Zaporizhzhia region, Yuri Malashko, said that nine people were wounded in a Russian rocket strike on the village of Zarichne. Overall, 26 cities and settlements in the region came under attack over the past day, he said.

In the Kherson region, five people were wounded, said Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin. He said that attacks in the region came from artillery, mortars, drones, warplanes and tanks.

Nikopol, a city of the opposite bank of the Dnieper River from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Europe's largest, came under fire, but no injuries were immediately reported, according to Dnipropetrovsk regional Gov. Serhii Lysak.

On Saturday evening, the Russia-appointed governor of the annexed Crimean Peninsula said that air defense missiles were fired in the city of Kerch and that fragments fell on a shipyard. He didn't give further details.

Kerch is at the western end of the bridge to Russia's Krasnodar region, which is a crucial conduit for food and military supplies. The bridge has been hit by significant attacks twice.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen arrived in Kyiv on Saturday morning and was met by Zelenskyy at the train station.

She tweeted that talks during her sixth visit would focus on the path for Ukraine to join the EU "and how we will continue to make Russia pay for its war of aggression."

The visit came a week before she was due to present a report on the enlargement of the EU, which von der Leyen said will note Kyiv's progress on its path to membership in the 27-member bloc.

"I must say you have made excellent progress. This is impressive to see," von der Leyen said after the meeting with Zelenskyy. "We should never forget you are fighting an existential war and at the same time you are deeply reforming your country."

Right turn on red? With pedestrian deaths rising, US cities are considering bans

By JEFF McMURRAY Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Sophee Langerman was on her way to a bicycle safety rally in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood in June when a car turning right rolled through a red light and slammed into her bike, which she was walking off the curb and into the crosswalk.

The car was moving slowly enough that Langerman escaped serious injury, but the bicycle required extensive repairs. To Langerman, it's another argument for ending a practice that almost all U.S. cities have embraced for decades: the legal prerogative for a driver to turn right after stopping at a red light.

A dramatic rise in accidents killing or injuring pedestrians and bicyclists has led to a myriad of policy and infrastructure changes, but moves to ban right on red have drawn some of the most intense sentiments on both sides.

Washington, D.C.'s City Council last year approved a right-on-red ban that takes effect in 2025. New Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson's transition plan called for "restricting right turns on red," but his administration hasn't provided specifics. The college town of Ann Arbor, Michigan, now prohibits right turns at red lights in the downtown area.

San Francisco leaders recently voted to urge their transportation agency to ban right on red across the city, and other major cities such as Los Angeles, Seattle and Denver have looked into bans as well.

"Drivers should not have the option to decide for themselves when they think it's safe," said Langerman, 26. "People are busy. People are distracted."

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But Jay Beeber, executive director for policy at the National Motorists Association, an advocacy organization for drivers, called it a “fallacy” to assume such blanket bans would make streets safer.

He cited an upcoming study by his association that analyzed California crash data from 2011-2019 and found that drivers turning right on red accounted for only about one pedestrian death and less than one bicyclist death statewide every two years.

“What’s really behind this movement is part of the agenda to make driving as miserable and as difficult as possible so people don’t drive so much,” Beeber said.

Safety advocates counter that official crash reports are often mislabeled, undercounting the dangers.

The United States is one of few major countries that generally allow right turns on red. Concerned that cars idling at stop lights could compound an energy crisis, the U.S. government warned states in the 1970s that they could risk some federal funding should cities prohibit right on red, except in specific, clearly marked areas. Although another energy-conscious provision capping speed limits at 55 mph has long been abandoned, right on red has endured.

“It’s an example of bad policy,” said Bill Schultheiss, director of engineering at Toole Design Group, which consults with public transportation agencies. “It made sense in the context of the gas crisis, but it was way oversold on what it would achieve. It’s a mandate that doesn’t consider the full consequences.”

Right on red has never been allowed across most of New York City, where large signs alert Manhattan’s visitors that the practice is prohibited there. But it was the default policy practically everywhere else in the U.S. until last year’s vote in the nation’s capital.

Safety advocates who pushed for the change in Washington, D.C., are bracing for blowback from drivers, particularly if the city also allows the so-called Idaho Stop in which cyclists are permitted to go through a red light after stopping to make sure the coast is clear.

“There are just some battles, in terms of public opinion, where you have to be content to sacrifice that for the safety of the people,” said Jonathan Kincade, communications coordinator at the Washington Area Bicyclists Association. “It doesn’t make sense to treat cars and bikes the same. They’re not the same vehicle, and we’ve seen the outcomes of that.”

Critics argue that banning right on red will not only inconvenience motorists but also slow down commuter buses and deliveries. The United Parcel Service hasn’t taken an official position on right on red but has long directed its drivers to avoid left turns whenever possible, viewing them as inefficient.

Priya Sarathy Jones, deputy executive director at the Fines and Fees Justice Center, is concerned penalties from right-on-red bans will fall disproportionately on lower-income drivers who have to drive to work because they can’t afford housing near public transit. If there’s more enforcement at red lights, more cameras are certain to follow, she said. And in the Chicago area, any discussion of red light policy often conjures up memories of the region’s vilified red-light camera program, which spurred bribery charges against public officials accused of trying to influence the high-profit contracts.

“It generates a lot of money for the city, instead of our decisions being driven by safety strategies backed by evidence,” she said, suggesting that road infrastructure improvements would be a much more effective way to reduce accidents.

There are no recent, nationwide studies of how many people are hurt or killed by right-turning drivers.

According to a national report by the Governors Highway Safety Association, more than 7,500 people walking were struck and killed by automobiles in 2022, the highest number since 1981. The spike, which included all accidents — not just those involving right turns on red, was attributed in part to an increase in larger vehicles such as SUVs and pickup trucks on the road.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that the odds a pedestrian would be killed when struck by an automobile turning right were 89% higher when the vehicle was a pickup and 63% higher when it was an SUV, due to larger blind spots and the deadlier force associated with heavier models.

“These big, blunt front hoods, they knock people down and run over them, as opposed to before when people would crumple onto the hood,” said Mike McGinn, a former Seattle mayor who is the executive director of America Walks, a national nonprofit that advocates for pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods.

Much of the research looking directly at the impact of right-on-red policies is years if not decades old,

but both sides argue it's still relevant.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in a 1994 report to Congress looked at four years of crash data from Indiana, Maryland and Missouri and three years of data from Illinois, counting a combined 558 injury crashes and four fatalities stemming from right turns on red. Advocates of a ban point out that study came before the nation's vehicle fleet grew much larger and more lethal.

But Beeber said the National Motorists Association study of California found that even when there was an accident associated with right turns on red, at least 96% of the injuries sustained by pedestrians or cyclists were minor.

"One injury or death is too many," said Washington state Sen. John Lovick, the primary sponsor of a bill this year that would have prohibited right on red statewide near schools, parks and certain other locations. "If it were me at that intersection crossing, I would want something done."

Lovick's bill didn't make it out of committee, but Seattle this year made it the default policy to prohibit right on red when new traffic signals are added.

Melinda Kasraie testified on behalf of Lovick's bill at a legislative hearing, sharing her experience being struck by a car turning right on red in Seattle. She needed a total knee replacement, had to give up her 20-year job and moved to a small town in part due to her newfound fears of crossing the street.

"He just needed to wait 20 more seconds and he would have had a green light, and that 20 seconds made a big impact on me," Kasraie said.

Chelsea's Emma Hayes expected to become US women's soccer coach, AP source says

By ANNE M. PETERSON and JAMES ROBSON AP Sports Writers

U.S. Soccer is closing in on naming Chelsea's Emma Hayes as the new coach of the women's national team, a source familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the details had not been made public. The person confirmed reports in the Washington Post and the women's soccer website, The Equalizer.

The hiring of Hayes required approval by U.S. Soccer's board of directors.

Earlier Saturday, Chelsea announced that Hayes will leave the defending Women's Super League champion at the end of the season. Chelsea said she was leaving to "pursue a new opportunity outside of the WSL and club football."

Hayes has won 14 major trophies at Chelsea, including six WSL titles.

Former U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski resigned following the Women's World Cup this past summer in Australia and New Zealand. The United States, which had won two straight World Cups, fell on penalties after a scoreless draw with Sweden in the Round of 16, the earliest-ever exit for the Americans in the tournament.

The United States had never finished worse than third at previous World Cups.

Andonovski, who was named coach of the United States in October 2019, finished 51-5-9 during his time with the team, and was 3-2-5 in major tournaments.

Last month, Andonovski was named coach of the Kansas City Current in the National Women's Soccer League. Twila Kilgore, an assistant on Andonovski's U.S. team staff, was named interim head coach of the team.

There was an urgency to hire a new U.S. coach ahead of the Paris Olympics next summer. The team has two additional exhibition matches scheduled this year, both against China, on Dec. 2 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and on Dec. 5 at Toyota Stadium outside of Dallas.

Other candidates considered for the job included former U.S. assistant Tony Gustavsson, who is currently coach of Australia's women's team, and Laura Harvey, coach of OL Reign in the NWSL.

Hayes has led Chelsea to two domestic league and cup doubles and one trophy treble since taking over the team in 2012.

"Emma has been one of the biggest drivers of change in women's football. Her achievements at Chelsea

are unrivalled and will live in the club's history forever," co-sporting directors Laurence Stewart and Paul Winstanley said in a statement. "Given everything she has contributed to Chelsea in over a decade with the club, and the legacy she leaves behind, we would never stand in her way when she felt it was the right time to pursue a new challenge."

Hayes has coached in the U.S. in the past with the Long Island Lady Riders, Iona College and the Chicago Red Stars.

She will have the chance to win a seventh WSL title before she departs.

New vehicles from Detroit's automakers are planned in contracts that ended UAW strikes

By TOM KRISHER and ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writers

DETROIT (AP) — Stellantis plans to build a new midsize pickup truck, along with battery-run versions of six Jeep, Ram and Dodge vehicles.

Ford envisions at least three new electric vehicles that will preserve jobs at several factories.

General Motors plans to build at least six new electric vehicles, including a full-size SUV.

Those and other closely held production plans by Detroit's automakers have emerged in details of the tentative contract agreements that ended the six-week strikes by the United Auto Workers union.

Under the new agreements, the three companies will significantly boost pay and benefits and improve job security. But the agreements also provide a blueprint for which cars and trucks they intend to build in the coming years and where they will do so. Many of the plans will continue the manufacture of vehicles that the automakers already build. But the production of some new vehicles over the next few years is being planned, too.

About 146,000 union members will vote on the contracts in the next two weeks. Workers at 10 Ford facilities who have already voted have overwhelmingly favored the agreements, which will be in effect through April 2028.

The UAW's success in gaining commitments from the companies to build new electric vehicles at several factories represented a particular achievement. The expansion of EV production will preserve jobs and could create new ones, depending on how fast the nation transitions from gas engines to batteries.

The automakers have all embraced the transition to electric vehicles as a large-scale and long-term commitment. The companies have set goals of having EVs represent roughly half their U.S. sales by 2030. Adopting the same goal, the Biden administration's 2022 Inflation Reduction Act increased federal tax credits to buyers of new and used EVs.

What's not yet known is whether consumer demand for EVs in the coming years will justify the automakers' plans to accelerate their production. In the meantime, the companies are moving ahead with their ambitious EV production plans.

In Belvidere, Illinois, according to the union, Stellantis will construct an EV battery factory that would create 1,300 jobs. And at its Toledo Assembly Complex, Stellantis plans to build a battery-electric version of the rugged Jeep Wrangler SUV and another with an unknown new powertrain.

In addition, the union said, the company plans to build battery electric versions of the Jeep Wagoneer and Grand Wagoneer large SUVs at a plant in Warren, Michigan. The Ram REV battery-electric truck is expected to be built starting next year at the plant in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

And at the Detroit Assembly Complex, Stellantis plans to build the next generation of the Dodge Durango and Jeep Grand Cherokee SUV. Both are to have fully electric versions.

Ford, according to contract highlights released by the UAW, has agreed to \$8.1 billion in new investments at its factories during the contract, including for at least three new electric vehicles. A new electric truck will be built in an EV plant inside Ford's Rouge complex in its hometown of Dearborn, Michigan.

At the Kentucky Truck Plant in Louisville, Ford will add gas-electric hybrid versions of the Expedition and Lincoln Navigator giant SUVs. Another assembly plant in Louisville that now makes Ford Escape and

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Lincoln Corsair small SUVs will get an unspecified new electric vehicle.

The Ohio Assembly Plant near Cleveland will build a new EV van in addition to the medium-duty trucks and van chassis it now produces. And an unspecified new vehicle will be built at a factory in Flat Rock, Michigan, that has been building the Mustang muscle car, pending Ford's approval to move forward with it.

As for GM it plans to keep several factories busy building new electric vehicles, according to the union. In addition to producing the Cadillac Lyriq electric SUV, GM's Spring Hill Assembly Plant in Tennessee will manufacture one new EV and one for a future partner, which is likely to be Honda.

An electric full-size SUV will be built at GM's Factory Zero in Detroit, a designated electric vehicle center. And unspecified future electric vehicles will be assembled at a factory in Orion Township, Michigan. The company has already announced that the plant will build electric versions of the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra full-size pickup trucks.

And GM will build future electric vehicles at both its Fairfax Assembly Plant in Kansas City, Kansas, and its Grand River Assembly Plant in Lansing, Michigan.

Stellantis and Ford declined to comment on future vehicle plans. GM said it would provide more details on its production plans "moving forward."

At most of the Detroit automakers' assembly plants, the current vehicles they make will continue through their product life cycles.

And not all the companies' production plans under the contract, of course, involve electric vehicles. The union says Stellantis has agreed to \$19 billion worth of investments by the end of the contract, including plans to build its new midsize pickup in Belvidere, Illinois, where it had been moving toward closing a factory. The production of the truck, which will compete with the hot-selling Toyota Tacoma, would produce about 1,200 jobs.

War in the Middle East upends the dynamics of 2024 House Democratic primaries

By JIM SALTER and MARC LEVY Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Most members of Congress have stood firmly behind Israel since the Hamas attack last month, but not Cori Bush. The Missouri Democrat called Israel's response a "war crime" and an "ethnic cleansing campaign," and was among the few House members who opposed a resolution supporting Israel.

Her unwavering stance has angered some in her district. St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Wesley Bell on Monday dropped a U.S. Senate bid to challenge Bush in next year's 1st District Democratic primary, and moderate Democrats believe he could win.

Bush isn't alone. She's among a small group of Democrats viewed by critics as insufficiently supportive of Israel — both long before and now after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel — or insufficiently critical of Hamas. Across those districts, moderates like Bell are being encouraged to run. In particular, Summer Lee in Pennsylvania, Jamaal Bowman in New York, Ilhan Omar in Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib in Michigan probably will face challengers.

All five have condemned Hamas' attack and antisemitism, but they've all made statements seen as inflammatory by Israel's staunchest supporters and been critical of U.S. military aid to Israel.

Bush and Omar accused Israel of "ethnic cleansing." Summer Lee said it had committed "human rights violations." And at a recent cease-fire rally, Bowman said: "We cannot allow the lives of anyone to be erased. This erasure of Palestinian lives and experience has been happening for decades."

Adding to the fraught politics for Democrats is the fact that others could face pressure for the opposite reason — such as Shri Thanedar in Detroit, who represents a heavily Democratic district with a big Muslim population but has backed Israel.

Last week, the House overwhelmingly passed a resolution supporting Israel. Bush, Bowman, Lee, Omar and Tlaib were among nine Democrats who opposed the measure, saying it failed to call for a cease-fire, create a pathway to peace or express the need to protect Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

Bowman, Lee, Omar and Tlaib also were among the 17 sponsors of Bush's resolution asking the Biden

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administration to call for a cease-fire. Critics of that resolution said it failed to mention Hamas' unprovoked attack on Israel, hostages held by Hamas or that the U.S. considers Hamas a terrorist organization.

All five are considered progressives in the Democratic caucus and represent strongly Democratic districts, so the main threat to their re-election prospects would probably come from the Democratic Party.

Challenges to Bush and the others were possible even before the Hamas attack on Oct. 7 or Israel's subsequent attack on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. But their stances after Oct. 7 have fueled calls for primary challengers.

Lee and Omar — who narrowly held off primary competitors in 2022 — may be particularly vulnerable.

The progressive group Justice Democrats, which has backed primary challengers against moderate Democrats around the country, blamed the primary challenges on the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC, and a network of Republican donors who help fund AIPAC's efforts to elect unequivocal allies of Israel.

"Democratic members are truly out of step with their voters and their bases who do not want to see us barreling toward another war on their taxpayer dollars," Justice Democrats' spokesperson Usamah Andrabi said.

It is unfortunate, Andrabi said, that the House Democratic leadership has not taken a stronger stance against AIPAC's efforts to knock off rank-and-file Democrats.

It remains unclear whether House Democrats will help incumbents fend off primary challengers through campaign fundraising arms. One organization, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said it could potentially get involved in a primary race to protect an incumbent, but declined to discuss specifics.

Before Oct. 7, House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., issued statements of support for Omar and others, saying he will support the reelection of every House Democratic incumbent, regardless of ideology.

AIPAC declined to discuss its campaign efforts, saying "there will be a time for political action, but right now our priority is building and sustaining congressional support for Israel's fight to permanently dismantle Hamas, which perpetrated this barbaric, terrorist attack on the Jewish state."

Tlaib, the lone Palestinian American in Congress, has been an outspoken opponent of the Biden administration's response to the conflict. On Friday, she posted a video on social media showing anti-war protests across the United States and accusing President Joe Biden of supporting what she said was genocide against the Palestinian people. "We will remember in 2024," she said. The White House declined comment Saturday on the video.

While Tlaib defeated her primary opponent handily last year, pro-Israel groups have already signaled that they will focus on defeating her in 2024. The Democratic Majority for Israel — which bills itself as the "voice of pro-Israel Democrats" — began running ads against Tlaib in Detroit this week.

Tlaib's metro Detroit House district includes a large Arab American population in Dearborn and a substantial Jewish constituency in Southfield.

Her congressional neighbor, however, is in a different situation: Tlaib and Thanedar have feuded publicly since he criticized her statements on Hamas' attack on Israel, and Thanedar — a freshman who represents Detroit — has since drawn criticism from Tlaib on how he runs his office.

Thanedar's Detroit district has been a center of pro-Palestinian pushback in the state, with thousands of demonstrators calling for a cease-fire in the city's downtown on Oct. 28.

He has a primary challenger in former state Sen. Adam Hollier — Thanedar beat Hollier by 5 percentage points in a nine-way primary in 2022 — but Hollier's campaign said his run isn't a response to Thanedar's stance on Israel.

In Pittsburgh, Lee has faced broad criticism from the Jewish community, where members just marked the five-year anniversary of a gunman's rampage through the Tree of Life synagogue, killing 11 people in the worst attack on Jews on American soil.

On Tuesday, a group of 36 rabbis and four cantors released a letter criticizing Lee for voting against the House resolution expressing support for Israel and for supporting Bush's cease-fire resolution.

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"It's a rare day in any Jewish community when you have Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Chabad and Reconstructionists together on one page," said Rabbi Daniel Fellman of Pittsburgh's Temple Sinai, who helped organize the effort. "But the reality is that Rep. Lee isn't representing her constituents."

Lee already has one declared opponent, and more may be coming.

Bhavini Patel, 29, said she would have run regardless of Lee's stance on Israel. But, she said, Lee's standing in the Jewish community shows how Lee doesn't try to understand the people she represents.

In Minneapolis, a former school board member, Don Samuels, is considering a second campaign against Omar after he came within 2 percentage points of unseating her in 2022's primary election.

That close race turned mostly on the future of policing in the city where George Floyd was murdered. It remains to be seen how Omar's stance on Israel will play out in her district, which has a large Somali American Muslim population.

Omar has long been dogged by accusations that she is anti-Israel and antisemitic — accusations that have intensified since the Hamas attack. Since then she has criticized both Hamas for its decision to attack Israel and the Israeli government's response. Her main focus has been the impact on civilians in the Gaza Strip. She has called for a cease-fire and for Hamas to release hostages.

In New York, current Westchester County Executive George Latimer is considering challenging Bowman.

Latimer said people had encouraged him to challenge Bowman long before Oct. 7, including overtures that had nothing to do with Israel. After Hamas' attack, however, some in the Jewish community have intensified their efforts.

A group of more than two dozen rabbis last month publicized a letter they wrote asking Latimer to challenge Bowman, citing the congressman's posture on Israel.

Latimer said he would decide in the coming months.

In Missouri, Bush — who has called Israel an "apartheid" state — said she is pushing a "pro-peace agenda."

Writing on social media, she said, "Israel's collective punishment against Palestinians for Hamas's actions is a war crime. I strongly condemn Hamas & their appalling violations of human rights, but violations of human rights don't justify more human rights violations in retaliation."

Her challenger, Bell, said those types of comments "send the wrong message and we need to be sending to rogue nations and dictators and terrorist groups the message that that they cannot have missiles trained on Israel like we see with Hamas, like we see with Iran."

The Rev. Darryl Gray, who like Bush is a leading civil rights activist in St. Louis, said he saw Bush as an advocate for peace. He said she believes that Israeli leaders are "not looking for de-escalation, not looking for cease-fire, but looking for revenge."

GOP Rep. Ken Buck plans to challenge his party's direction under Trump as he leaves the House

By STEPHEN GROVES and FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Ken Buck has had enough.

When the Colorado Republican announced this past week that he would not seek reelection, he began with the type of criticism of Democratic policies that is standard fare for a hard-line conservative. But then Buck turned his ire to fellow Republicans, spending most of the three-minute announcement video accusing them of being "obsessively fixated on retribution and vengeance for contrived injustices of the past."

Buck's scorched-earth approach caught few on Capitol Hill by surprise.

With a deadpan demeanor, an independent streak and a background as a federal prosecutor, Buck has gained national prominence as a House Republican fed up with Donald Trump's lies about the 2020 presidential election he lost to Democrat Joe Biden and the Trump allies in Congress who amplify them. It's a stand few others in the GOP are taking and is a remarkable turn that shows just how deeply Trump's once-fringe lies about that race have settled into the Republican mainstream.

Buck regularly appears on networks such as CNN and, with no plans to leave Congress before the end of his term, he probably will be a prominent foil to Republicans during his final months in office. His political

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heresy extends to the impeachment inquiry into Biden, which Buck has dismissed as baseless.

"Our nation is on a collision course with reality, and a steadfast commitment to truth — even uncomfortable truths — is the only way forward," Buck said in the video.

Yet under political pressure in Colorado, Buck decided there was no way forward for him in Congress.

Trump celebrated Buck's impending departure, saying on social media that the congressman "knew long ago he could never win against MAGA, so now he is, like some past and present, auditioning" for a network television job. "MAGA" is short for the 2016 Trump campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again."

Buck is hardly the first GOP lawmaker to step away from Capitol Hill in frustration in recent years. But unlike other outspoken House Republicans who grew alienated from their colleagues before leaving office, such as former Reps. Liz Cheney of Wyoming or Adam Kinzinger of Illinois, Buck hails from the far-right House Freedom Caucus, putting him at the center of the conservative movement.

Nearly every week, Buck leaves the Capitol complex to attend caucus meetings, where lawmakers strategize about how to disrupt business as usual in Washington. He has proposed drastic budget reductions, strict sanctions against TikTok and cuts for educational material that teaches slavery was central to the nation's founding.

Buck was also among the eight Republicans who voted to remove Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif. as speaker and accused him of failing to follow through on his promise to slash spending.

"The critical issue for me is to bend the spending curve and you do that with institutional changes," Buck told The Associated Press in September. "Nobody has been willing to change this place."

While Buck in his five House terms has aggressively pushed policy to the right, he has simultaneously resisted what he calls "a populist flavor in the party" that has ascended with Trump.

"Ken is a constitutionalist who tries to make good decisions based on principle," said Texas Rep. Chip Roy, a fellow caucus member. "I think he's an important voice, and I'll certainly miss him."

Buck has publicly feuded with Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., a high-profile Trump ally who calls Buck a "CNN wannabe." Buck has criticized how Greene and other Republicans have become public advocates for people charged in the Capitol riot on Jan. 6, 2021.

"When I was teaching law school, I learned and taught certain constitutional principles," Buck told a Denver radio show, referencing his time at the University of Denver. "When Marjorie Taylor Greene was teaching CrossFit, she learned a whole different set of values, evidently, because my idea of what this country should be like is based on the Constitution." Greene was once a co-owner of CrossFit affiliate gym in Georgia.

Buck's experience in constitutional law predates his time teaching law school. After completing a bachelor's degree at Princeton University and a law degree at the University of Wyoming, Buck worked for then-Wyoming Rep. Dick Cheney, who was the top Republican on the committee investigating the Reagan administration for the Iran-Contra affair. Cheney, who is Liz Cheney's father, eventually issued a minority report that argued that President Ronald Reagan had wide latitude to conduct foreign policy and described the president's actions as "mistakes in judgment, and nothing more."

Buck called Iran-Contra a "constitutional crisis" that impressed upon him the importance of Congress not overstepping its powers. He also said a different approach to politics ruled Washington in those days: Democratic and Republican lawmakers were genuinely friends and built trust that led to bipartisan achievements.

Buck later returned to the West and a law career that included directing the criminal division of the U.S. attorney's office in Colorado. He departed the office after receiving a reprimand for remarks he made about a case to a defense attorney for gun dealers that undermined the prosecution. Buck was later elected as a district attorney in northeast Colorado.

Buck reentered national politics as the tea party gained prominence, and he ran against Democratic Sen. Michael Bennet in 2010. Buck lost, and Colorado, then a battleground state, has become increasingly dominated by Democrats.

In 2014, Buck made a comeback, winning a House district that spans the entire eastern third of the

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state, from ranch land to Denver suburbs.

During his five terms in Congress, Buck for a time held a spot on the powerful House Rules Committee, where he sat next to Liz Cheney. He also was the top Republican on the House Judiciary's antitrust subcommittee. He gained a reputation as a strict conservative who would listen to Democrats and work with them on occasion.

"I've always found him to be incredibly straightforward, intellectually curious, willing to disagree without being disagreeable," said Rep. Joe Neguse, a Colorado Democrat who represents a district adjacent to Buck's.

Buck formed an unlikely alliance with former Rep. David Cicilline when the Rhode Island Democrat was chairman of the antitrust panel. They managed to advance a series of bills that sought to diminish the power that tech companies such as Amazon, Apple, Meta and Google hold in the online market. Some bills were signed into law by Biden.

Cicilline said Buck defied the will of both Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan, who was the Judiciary Committee's top Republican and is now the chairman, and McCarthy, who was the House Republican leader before becoming speaker, as Buck worked on the investigations into the tech companies.

"He has demonstrated that he does what he thinks is right, even if it means standing up to his own party leadership," said Cicilline, who left office in May to head a nonprofit.

In recent weeks, Buck was at the center of moves against both McCarthy and Jordan. He provided a crucial vote to oust McCarthy. Then when hard-line conservatives made Jordan the Republican nominee for speaker, Buck voted against him. Alone among Republicans, Buck said he was opposing Jordan because he had not clearly stated that Biden won the 2020 election.

Buck said opposing Jordan unleashed a wave of vitriol from Republican activists and led to him being evicted from a district office in Colorado.

This past week, Trump called Buck a "weak and ineffective Super RINO," or Republicans In Name Only. The next day, Buck testified about a legal effort in Colorado to ban Trump from the ballot under the Constitution's "insurrection clause." True to form, Buck's stance defied easy categorization. He testified against banning Trump from the election.

Buck said the events of recent weeks showed him the House no longer allowed for reasonable disagreement.

"This is a real honor to serve here," he said, "But it's also a pain in the rear end."

Her daughter was killed in the Robb Elementary shooting. Now she's running for mayor of Uvalde

By ACACIA CORONADO Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas (AP) — On a sticky Texas morning, Kimberly Mata-Rubio is lacing up her running shoes ahead of two races she is running in Uvalde in tribute to her daughter Lexi, who was killed in the 2022 Robb Elementary School shooting.

First up is a charity run honoring Lexi's life. Then it's back to a tougher contest: Campaigning to become mayor of Uvalde, a town still divided after one of America's deadliest mass shootings and a botched police response that is still under investigation.

"One thing I hear with all of my children, and it echoes my own belief, is that right now Lexi's legacy is our priority and we just want to honor her with action," Mata-Rubio said.

On Tuesday, Uvalde voters will pick a new mayor for the first time since the May 2022 attack that killed 19 students and two teachers. The election is a test of how the town chooses to move forward from a tragedy that some residents are ready to put in the past while others are still demanding answers.

Across the U.S. survivors of gun violence and families have run for office, with mixed results. In 2016, the father of a man killed in a Colorado movie theater shooting lost his first bid for state senate but won two years later. Democratic U.S. Rep. Lucy McBath, the mother of a 17-year-old slain in a Florida gas station shooting, also won a seat for Congress in 2018.

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For Mata-Rubio, who would become Uvalde's first female mayor, part of the challenge in her campaign is convincing the small town of 15,000 people to choose a new direction.

A year ago, Uvalde County voters rejected Democrat Beto O'Rourke in the governor's race and a father who ran as a write-in candidate for county commissioner after his 9-year-old daughter was also killed at the school. Months later, the Texas Legislature brushed off calls by Mata-Rubio and other Uvalde parents to raise the minimum purchase age for some firearms — which, they say, could have prevented the tragic shooting.

This time Mata-Rubio, 34, has put herself on the ballot in the open race against two other candidates, a former Uvalde mayor and a local teacher.

"Now more than ever it can't just be a few people that are trying to look after the kids," said Madelynn Mize, a Uvalde teacher who was still undecided on how she would vote. "We all have to do that."

Running for mayor is the latest way Mata-Rubio has channeled her grief into action over the past year and a half. The shooting upended her previous life as a soft-spoken reporter at the Uvalde Leader-News who was content with small-town living alongside her six children and husband, a local sheriff's deputy.

After her daughter's death, though, Mata-Rubio became one of Uvalde's most outspoken proponents for tougher gun laws, including testifying before Congress. She also decried the slow response by hundreds of law enforcement officers, who waited outside Lexi's classroom for more than an hour before confronting the gunman.

Mata-Rubio said those experiences have inspired her to begin healing and change for her community from the ground up. Her campaign slogan is "Moving Forward, Together." A cornerstone of her platform is promising to give residents a seat at the table regardless of their background or income, she says. In the mostly Latino town, roughly 1 in 5 residents live in poverty, according to Census Bureau estimates.

On a recent weekend after the charity run — called the Lexi Legacy 5K — Mata-Rubio kept on her running shoes and started knocking on doors. When one resident spotted her on the other side of the street, she crossed the sidewalk to meet Mata-Rubio.

"You're so young," Antonia Rios, 80, said.

Mata-Rubio greeted her with a smile and stopped to chat.

Outside another house, a yard sign for Cody Smith, a former Uvalde mayor and one of Mata-Rubio's opponents, was planted in the lawn. But seeing Rubio approach, the homeowner invited her to place a sign, too.

"Her candidacy may have a little bit more movement because she knows the people in that town and she understands the hurt that this event caused," said Brandon Rottinghaus, a political science professor at the University of Houston.

Smith, the former Uvalde mayor who left office in 2012, declined an interview. On a local radio show recently, he advocated for helping residents regain their footing without directly mentioning the shooting. He spoke proudly of his son, a member of the Uvalde High School football team who was picked to wear No. 21 in remembrance of the number of victims.

"We are divided right now, you can sense it," said Veronica Martinez, the other candidate in the race, who is an arts teacher at an elementary school. "Right now we just have those that were affected and those who want to move forward but don't know what it feels like to be affected."

A day before the race, Mata-Rubio and her husband, Felix, stood in the town square next to a cross with Lexi's name. On what would have been her 12th birthday, the couple placed balloons around the memorial.

On race day, elements reminiscent of Lexi filled the early morning. A tent nearby served Lexi's favorite Starbucks drink — a sweet concoction — as her family passed out yellow bracelets, her favorite color, and played her favorite music. Later, they huddled for a picture under a mural of Lexi.

"I am never stopping as her mom, as an advocate, but as running for mayor my main focus is bringing the community back together because we cannot move forward, we cannot see progress until we are on the same page," Mata-Rubio said.

Kenneth Woods, a Uvalde resident for two decades, is eager for an office shake-up in the wake of the

shooting.

"I think she is going to change a lot of things," Woods said of Rubio. "But it is going to take the people to back her up."

Chiefs want to be 'world's team' by going global with star power and Super Bowl success

By KEN MAGUIRE AP Sports Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Patrick Mahomes circled the Frankfurt game on his calendar when the NFL schedule was announced.

"It's really cool just to be on this stage, the world stage, in Germany," the Kansas City Chiefs quarterback said Friday. "I'm excited to be able to play out here."

The Chiefs are excited, too, because the game against the Miami Dolphins on Sunday at Deutsche Bank Park is a big step for an organization with global ambitions to become the "world's team."

The blueprint is simple enough. They have won two of the past four Super Bowls, they have dynamic stars in reigning MVP Mahomes and All-Pro tight end Travis Kelce, and the NFL has prioritized international growth. Taylor Swift just adds to their good timing.

"We feel like this is our era," Chiefs president Mark Donovan said. "Based on the timing, the success and the stars, it's a responsibility to take advantage of this. If we don't aggressively take advantage of this, that's a failure."

The Chiefs have commercial rights in Germany under the league's global markets program, meaning they can sign corporate sponsorship deals, hold events to attract fans and sell merchandise as they do in their home markets. That country list includes Austria and Switzerland, as well as Mexico.

The NFL added a 17th game to the schedule to facilitate playing more games abroad, and it is reviewing Spain and Brazil as future hosts, one of them possibly for the 2024 season.

"It can be looked at as maybe arrogant. I like to look at it as ambitious, but we want to be the world's team," Donovan said. "We think the opportunity exists today for us to set a foothold that we are the world's team, that people look at the Chiefs as an international representation of the NFL."

They say they have some numbers to back it up, too. The NFL told the Chiefs that they are No. 2 in "revenue generated from the international markets," Donovan said. He declined to say which team is first, and the NFL didn't comment.

The Chiefs have played two other regular-season international games, winning in Mexico City in 2019 and in London four years earlier.

This one is different, though. The global markets program only took effect in January 2022, the Chiefs have another Lombardi Trophy, and Mahomes is increasingly the face of the league following the retirement of Tom Brady.

"From our standpoint, we're going to be aggressive in looking at additional markets, and we're going to be aggressive in looking at additional games," Donovan said. "We think games are the best way to have that foothold activation."

With the league studying Spain and Brazil, those two countries are atop Kansas City's list of potential next markets, Donovan said.

The Chiefs are "talking to the league" about ways to play more international games. As is, they are a big draw around the U.S., so other teams don't want to give up the revenue that comes with a visit from Chiefs Kingdom. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, for example, rejected the Chiefs as the "away" team for their game in Munich last season, Donovan said.

Kansas City is the designated "home" team in Frankfurt, as will be the New England Patriots next week against the Indianapolis Colts.

The Chiefs have spent about \$1 million in preparation and fan events for Frankfurt — that includes docking a Chiefs-themed yacht in the Main River. Over the past nearly three years, the team has spent about \$3 million on its international efforts, with the majority invested in Germany, Donovan said.

"It's going to pay off over time," he said.

The late Lamar Hunt was an early proponent of going international. The Chiefs have played preseason games in Japan, Mexico and Germany.

A memorable preseason game took place in August 1990 when the Chiefs played the Los Angeles Rams at Olympic Stadium in West Berlin after the Berlin Wall fell and just before reunification. Media reports said there were 55,000 fans.

Growing an international fan base these days "is much easier to do now because of social media, because of the digital delivery of games," Chiefs Chairman and CEO Clark Hunt said this week.

As for becoming the world's team, Donovan acknowledges it won't be easy.

"It's a big, audacious goal," he said.

Warren Buffett's firm reports \$12.8 billion loss as investments fall but its insurers performed well

By JOSH FUNK AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Warren Buffett's company has reported a nearly \$13 billion loss in the third quarter as the paper value of its investments fell, but the companies it owns — particularly the insurers — generally performed well.

Berkshire Hathaway said Saturday that it lost \$12.8 billion, or \$8,824 per Class A share, in the quarter. That's significantly bigger than the \$2.8 billion loss, or \$1,907 per Class A share, that it reported a year ago.

But most of those investment losses are unrealized because Berkshire didn't actually sell most of its stocks with its biggest holding being a massive stake in Apple. Accounting rules require it to include the value of its investments, which it put at \$341.1 billion at the end of the quarter, in its earnings. Last quarter, it said its stock portfolio was worth \$353 billion.

That's why Buffett has long said investors are better served focusing on Berkshire's operating earnings, which exclude the value of its investments that can vary widely quarter to quarter. By that measure, Berkshire said its operating profit jumped nearly 41% to \$10.8 billion, or \$7,437.15 per Class A share. That's up from \$7.65 billion, or \$5,215.60 per Class A share, a year ago.

The three analysts surveyed by FactSet Research expected Berkshire to report operating earnings per share of \$6,540.23 on average.

Berkshire's insurance unit was helped by relatively low losses related to major catastrophes like hurricanes this year and a rebound in Geico's profits. Altogether, Berkshire's insurers contributed \$2.4 billion to its operating profit. A year ago, the insurers reported a \$1.1 billion loss in the third quarter.

CFRA Research analyst Cathy Seifert said the insurance results reflect Berkshire's pricing power in commercial and reinsurance because it was able to raise rates on many of its policies, and the changes Geico made.

Geico improved its profits by raising its rates nearly 17% over the past year and cutting the number of policies it writes by 13%. Seifert said that helps in the short run, but investors probably won't learn more about Berkshire's long-term strategy at Geico until the annual meeting next May because Berkshire doesn't take questions on its quarterly reports like most companies do.

"I think strategically investors are going to want to know what the go-forward strategy for Geico is because they're really pulling back and that's helping results. Strategically, that's not always sustainable," Seifert said.

In addition to insurers, the Omaha, Nebraska-based conglomerate owns BNSF railroad, several major utilities and an eclectic assortment of manufacturing and retail firms including aviation parts maker Precision Castparts, See's Candy, Dairy Queen and Helzberg Diamonds.

Profits fell at the railroad to \$1.2 billion from last year's \$1.4 billion as BNSF hauled nearly 5% fewer shipments with the biggest drop in volume coming in consumer products.

The utility unit contributed only \$498 million to Berkshire's operating profit, down from \$1.6 billion a year ago as its operating expenses soared 55% to \$3.7 billion. The biggest driver in that increase in expenses

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was a \$1.3 billion loss related to wildfires at its PacifiCorp unit.

Berkshire got a \$183 million boost in the quarter from its acquisition of 80% of the Pilot Flying J network of truck stops that it made at the start of the year, but the quarterly report made no mention of the lawsuit Pilot's founding family recently filed to settle a dispute over how much Berkshire will pay to eventually acquire the remaining 20%.

Edward Jones analyst Jim Shanahan said he wonders if that dispute with the Haslam family will hurt Berkshire's reputation as a benevolent acquirer of companies. Buffett is known for holding acquisitions long term and largely letting Berkshire's companies run themselves with little interference from headquarters. That hasn't been the case with Pilot, where Berkshire installed a new CEO early this year. The Haslams have said Berkshire was the only company they considered selling to back in 2017 when they agreed to the deal because of their respect for Berkshire and Buffett.

"I wonder if this has harmed his reputation in the marketplace where they might be interested in selling to Berkshire, but then they see this situation with the Haslam family and it gives them some pause," Shanahan said.

Berkshire did repurchase \$1.1 billion of its own stock in the quarter, but the pace of its buybacks is down considerably from the first quarter, when it bought \$4.4 billion of Berkshire shares. Buffett only buys back Berkshire's shares when he believes they are selling for a bargain.

Buffett continues to sit on a massive pile of cash because he hasn't made any major investments or acquisitions this year. Berkshire had \$157.2 billion in cash at the end of the quarter, up from \$147.4 billion at the end of the second quarter.

During strike talks, Biden worked to build ties to the UAW's leader. They have yet to fully pay off

By JOSH BOAK and JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden called the head of the United Auto Workers union to congratulate him this past week on getting a new contract with General Motors and to wish him a happy 55th birthday — a sign of how the relationship had evolved since their first get-to-know-you meeting in the Oval Office on July 19.

UAW President Shawn Fain launched the strike against GM, Ford and Chrysler-owner Stellantis with a willingness to force political leaders to choose between backing unions or corporations. Biden had long straddled this line. He proclaimed in speeches that unions built the middle class, but he also heralded his credentials as a former senator from the "corporate capital of the world," also known as Delaware.

The White House was determined to build trust with Fain and look past his occasional slights of Biden. That approach, which included Biden meeting with workers on the picket line in Michigan, helped to resolve the nearly 45-day set of strikes and produced significant pay raises for workers.

But even as Biden's sympathies publicly shifted toward union workers during the standoff, there are few signs that the UAW fully warmed to the Democratic president. Biden has yet to receive the union's endorsement as he seeks reelection with the message that he has delivered for blue-collar workers.

The UAW declined to talk about its relationship with the White House. No final decision on the endorsement is expected to come until after contracts with the automakers are finalized, which probably will happen later this month.

The relationship between Fain and Biden could be crucial to the outcome of the 2024 election. More than 380,000 UAW members are scattered in states that include Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, places where narrow margins have decided the overall winner of the past two presidential contests.

Gene Sperling, the White House liaison for the strike talks, was in daily contact with executives at the UAW and the three automakers. Biden tasked the economic adviser who has served in three Democratic White Houses to develop a bond with the UAW but also preserve connections with the automakers that are helping to deliver on Biden's electric vehicle agenda.

Sperling told The Associated Press that he followed a set of principles in communicating with all sides:

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"We're not here to intervene. We're not here to mediate. But we want to be in touch. We want to be helpful." As the weeks stretched on, though, Biden and his team did less straddling and publicly stepped ever closer to the union.

At one point, Sperling stressed to the automakers the UAW's position that new contracts needed a built-in cost-of-living adjustment, so that wages could be adjusted for inflation. That adjustment became part of the tentative agreement, which for GM workers also includes a 30% pay bump through April 2028, when the contract would expire.

Biden staked out his position that the autoworkers had made sacrifices during the 2008 financial crisis to keep their employers afloat. Now that automakers were pulling in billions of dollars in profits, the president said, those same workers should share in the rewards.

The politics were thorny as the president has suffered from low ratings on his economic leadership. U.S. adults have largely overlooked the healthy 3.9% unemployment rate to focus instead on inflation, including the 20% jump in new vehicle prices since he became president.

But union households have also been a decisive constituency for Democrats. They represent only 16% of voters nationwide, but Biden won the group by a solid 56% in 2020, according to AP VoteCast, a national survey of the electorate.

While organized labor has overwhelmingly backed Biden, the UAW remains a key holdout. Fain has criticized Donald Trump, the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination in 2024, yet in the weeks leading to the strike and afterward, the labor leader could be out of sync at times with Biden.

When Fain went to the White House on July 19 to meet with senior officials, Biden insisted on a 30-minute meeting in the Oval Office without aides, Sperling said.

But Labor Day showed cracks in relations between the union and the White House. Asked by reporters about prospects for a strike that had yet to be declared, Biden tried to play down the risk.

"I'm not worried about a strike until it happens," Biden said on Sept. 4. "I don't think it's going to happen."

Fain responded to a separate group of reporters by suggesting that Biden was misguided: "He must know something we don't know. Maybe the companies plan on walking in and giving us our demands on the night before. I don't know, but he's on the inside on something I don't know about."

Sperling said the president was trying to be supportive of the unions with his comment. When the president saw how his remarks were interpreted, he called Fain directly to clarify.

Biden had multiple conversations with the automakers and Fain before the Sept. 15 strike deadline. When it became clear that a targeted strike would occur at a select number of plants, Biden showed his support for the UAW. He issued a statement that borrowed UAW language and said that Sperling and acting Labor Secretary Julie Su would go to Michigan to help with talks.

But the UAW did not want administration officials to come during the first week of the strike, Sperling said, because of the message it might send about the status of negotiations. By that point, there was enough trust that the misunderstanding did little from the White House perspective to hurt the relationship. Sperling and Su met twice in-person that next week with the negotiators.

Yet Fain took umbrage at Biden publicly suggesting that the negotiations had broken down and that this had led to the strike.

"We agree with Joe Biden when he says 'record profits mean record contracts.' We don't agree when he says negotiations have broken down," Fain said in a statement.

UAW officials told Sperling that Fain really wanted Biden to visit the picket lines, not as a political event but as a show of support for workers. Biden liked the idea. After that invitation was accepted, Sperling relayed to the automakers that Biden would meet with striking workers. The companies were unhappy but it did not derail talks.

Biden's Sept. 26 visit to a Michigan picket line — a presidential first — garnered praise from Fain, but little else. Fain said that Biden "has chosen to stand up with workers" and added that "we know the president will do right by the working class and when we do right by the working class."

But the UAW president declined to endorse the president who had engaged in the historic outreach.

"We'll just see how things proceed," Fain told The Associated Press at the time. "That's up not just to

me. It's up to our leadership and our membership. And we have our process we follow. So as I said we'll do that when it's time."

Still, the White House saw itself as building trust with the UAW as the talks progressed. Ford reached a tentative deal on Oct. 25, followed by Stellantis on Oct. 28, and GM was on the verge of a deal.

Sperling, boarding an unrelated red-eye flight, texted GM CEO Mary Barra and a UAW official to message him in case there was an agreement while he was midair. As soon as a tentative agreement was in place, Barra told the gathered negotiators that she needed to text the White House.

Haley and Ramaswamy show the rising political power of Indian Americans even as they feud in debates

By DEEPA BHARATH Associated Press

The tension between Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy was hard to miss when they last met on a debate stage.

"Every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber for what you say," Haley told Ramaswamy.

Responding to the broadside, Ramaswamy argued "we will be better served as a Republican Party if we're not sitting here hurling personal insults." He later told reporters he would "use smaller words next time to make it easier" for Haley.

The two are poised to meet again on Wednesday for the third presidential debate, one of their final chances to make a case in front of a large audience before voting begins in the GOP primary next year. Though they are polling far behind former President Donald Trump in the race for the 2024 nomination, Haley and Ramaswamy represent the growing political influence of Americans of Indian descent and are a reminder of the nuanced views within the Indian diaspora.

"It is a growing, heterogeneous community," said Milan Vaishnav, the director of the South Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who co-wrote a study about how Indian Americans vote.

Haley and Ramaswamy exemplify the diversity of views among Indian Americans.

A former South Carolina governor and later U.N. ambassador for Trump, Haley generally aligns with the party's traditional establishment, particularly when it comes to foreign policy. The 51-year-old has called for continued support for Ukraine in its war with Russia and has portrayed the 38-year-old Ramaswamy as untested in world affairs. A biotech entrepreneur, Ramaswamy has pilloried the GOP's establishment wing and questioned the need for continuing to back Ukraine.

They both are out of sync with the broader community of Indian Americans, who overwhelmingly support Democrats. A recent survey by the Pew Research Center found that 68% of Indian American registered voters identified as Democrats and 29% identified as Republicans.

"What we are seeing with the Republican field is not representative of where the Indian American population is as a whole," Vaishnav said.

Republicans may not be on the verge of winning over the Indian diaspora in America. But even marginal gains could be notable in closely contested states.

There are segments of the diaspora that still support, fund and engage in advocacy related to Indian politics. But for most Indian Americans, issues stateside matter more, said Maina Chawla Singh, a scholar-in-residence at American University's School of International Service.

"The political positions for Indian Americans will be shaped by what matters within the U.S. context — whether it is reproductive freedom, anti-immigrant policies, recession or hate crimes," she said. "That is what ultimately swings it for them because it is their future."

Sangay Mishra, a political science professor at Drew University in New Jersey, said he believes Indian Americans now are well placed to produce conservative thinkers and political aspirants because they can easily get behind ideas such as a free market, low taxes and the meritocracy.

"If we say 3 out of 10 Indian Americans are Republicans, we can conclude that these candidates are not aberrations, but they also do not represent the dominant thinking in the community," he said.

Indian Americans have now "settled in and become a part of the U.S. society" compared with where they were between the 1960s and the 1980s when the first wave arrived, Mishra said.

He said Trump's election in 2016 also motivated more progressive Indian Americans to get involved in local city council and school district races.

"I've seen examples of people who felt like they needed to challenge that environment where populations such as immigrants, women and Muslims were being marginalized." The election in 2008 of Barack Obama as America's first Black president and Kamala Harris, whose is half Indian American, as vice president in 2020, also played a role, he said.

While Mishra and other researchers see no potential shift in party allegiance among younger voters, 26-year-old Rohan Pakianathan, a graduate student of public policy at Rutgers University, says he can envision himself working in a conservative think tank someday. Pakianathan is supporting Ramaswamy.

"I identify with Vivek because I think that's what the future of politics and the future of the Republican Party should be," he said.

Like Ramaswamy, Pakianathan's parents emigrated to the United States from southern India. Even though his parents are Democrats and progressive, they respect Ramaswamy's candidacy, he said.

Pakianathan, who is Christian, says Ramaswamy's Hindu faith is not an issue for him because he views America as a Christian country that was founded on Judeo-Christian values.

Pakianathan said he sometimes feels alone in his own community, with his sister and most of his friends leaning Democrat, but he has never had a problem engaging in civil debates.

"Eventually, I'd like to see America have a candidate whom both parties can acknowledge and respect," he said. "I hope we can get to a place where it doesn't have to be one side against another."

Henry Olsen, senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, said the candidacy of Indian American candidates is an extension of a "real openness" the Republican Party has shown to people of color.

"There is no barrier to the rise of talent when talent shows itself," he said.

Regardless of these candidates' prospects, the Republican Party does have an urgent need to "do well with people of color" because their share of America's electorate will continue to rise, Olsen said.

He added that the GOP might also have to position itself as "less observably and doctrinally the Christian party" in order to appeal to large swaths in diaspora communities that are not Christian, as well to those who are unaffiliated with any organized religion.

"If you tell people they are not welcome, they will most likely not knock on the door," he said.

Gov. Youngkin aims for a GOP sweep in Virginia's legislative elections. Democrats have other ideas

By SARAH RANKIN Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — In a closing message to voters in this year's closely watched Virginia legislative elections, Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin ticks off accomplishments from the first half of his term.

Tax cuts, law enforcement pay raises and more money for mental health services, Youngkin says in the political ad, adding that there's so much more he wants to get done over his next two years in office.

"Elect a Republican team to back me up and I promise, we'll deliver," Youngkin says.

Unmentioned is what Democrats warn will happen if Republicans end two years of divided government: new restrictions on abortion, a rollback of gun control laws and recently expanded voting rights, and an agenda driven by divisive social issues.

Voters could make their priorities clear Tuesday when they decide whether to give the GOP full control of state government for the first time in a decade or empower Democratic legislators to continue serving as a check on Youngkin's priorities. The outcome may hinge on what Virginians think of Youngkin's proposed new limits on abortion access in the second and third trimesters of pregnancy and whether Democrats' intense focus on that issue holds sway over Republicans' pitch, largely centered on education, crime and the economy.

No topic has been more contentious than the future of abortion policy in the dozen or so districts that

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will likely determine the balance of power in the General Assembly. The parties' approaches are being closely watched around the country.

Virginia is one of four states — the others are Louisiana, Mississippi and New Jersey — with legislative elections this year. Virginia's off-year schedule and narrowly divided politics typically mean the state is a place to test messaging and scrutinize voter sentiment before the coming year's presidential cycle.

It's also the only Southern state that has not put in place new restrictions on abortion since the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2022 overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark ruling a half-century ago that provided constitutional protections for abortion.

Youngkin and Republicans in Richmond pushed unsuccessfully earlier this year for a ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, with exceptions for rape, incest and the life of the mother. The measure was blocked by the Democratic majority in the state Senate, which has prided itself as a "brick wall" against the governor's agenda.

Youngkin wants to try again next year and says the legislation is a reasonable compromise. The state currently allows abortions through the second trimester and restricts them in the third to cases in which three doctors certify the mother's life is at risk or her mental or physical health may be "substantially and irretrievably" impaired by continuing the pregnancy.

While there's been some quiet Republican dissent about the governor's plan and a costly ad buy his political action committee made to promote it, many GOP candidates running in swing districts support his proposal.

Democrats and abortion-rights groups say the GOP plan would infringe on women's autonomy and threaten their health. While also campaigning on gun control, voting rights and environmental protections, Democrats have made their pledge to block Youngkin's proposed 15-week ban a centerpiece of their case to voters. Most Democrats say they would either protect the current law or expand abortion protections by kickstarting the multiyear process for a constitutional amendment.

Voters "know that the restriction of a right that exists today is not a compromise and it is not a consensus position. And so we continue to stand firm," Sen. Monty Mason, a Democrat in a highly competitive Tidewater district, recently told reporters.

Republicans, including Mason's opponent, retired sheriff Danny Diggs, are highlighting pledges to tighten sentences for drug dealers and other offenders, roll back environmental mandates enacted during the previous Democratic administration and cut taxes to help families. But they also are testing a new strategy on abortion, "going on offense," as one memo from Youngkin's PAC put it.

GOP strategists privately acknowledge they do not see abortion as a winning issue for their candidates in a state that Democrat Joe Biden won by 10 percentage points in the 2020 presidential election. But candidates have been urged by Youngkin's PAC and national anti-abortion groups to address the issue head-on.

Diggs, who said he would not vote for a bill more restrictive than the governor's proposal, acknowledged that he is hearing more from voters about the issue than he was in the spring. But he said he thinks the GOP's position is resonating: "We're right there in the middle."

Republicans are also hoping for a boost from a major investment in an initiative aiming to overcome GOP skepticism about early and mail voting, and get ballots banked before Election Day. An analysis by the nonpartisan Virginia Public Access Project found that six days out from the election, the share of early votes cast by likely Republican voters — Virginia doesn't have registration by party — has increased more than 2 percentage points from last year, while the GOP's share of mail votes is up by almost 4 percentage points.

"We're going to beat them at their own game," Kay James, a former Youngkin Cabinet official who now works with his PAC, said at a rally Thursday.

In the final weeks of the election cycle, which has been marked by unprecedented spending, strategists and officials from both parties say the critical races are close.

The legislative candidates are running this year under maps redrawn during the last redistricting. The new lines gave Republicans a tougher road in retaking the Senate than holding the House, said Rich Anderson,

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chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia. He said he was "cautiously confident" about the possibility of a GOP trifecta — both legislative chambers as well as the governorship.

Both parties have reason to think that what's going on in Washington may affect the Virginia races.

Democrats launched an ad last week highlighting the fractious fight over picking the new speaker of the U.S. House, warning that "MAGA Republicans" were in a complete meltdown and would bring the same governing style to Richmond, referring to former President Donald Trump's "Make American Great Again" campaign slogan.

Republicans, relieved when a federal government shutdown was averted in late September, see signs of hope in Youngkin's approval ratings, which have stayed above Biden's.

Biden, who has not announced any plans to campaign in Virginia before Tuesday, recently sent a fund-raising email on behalf of Virginia candidates and issued nearly two dozen endorsements.

Youngkin continues to be mentioned as a possible late entrant into the 2024 presidential race and hasn't publicly shut down the prospect. He has been crossing the state for rallies with candidates on a bus tour to promote early voting.

At an appearance Thursday in Yorktown with Diggs, Youngkin said it was time to "finish the work we started in 2021," when he swept into office and Republicans retook the House.

"It's time to unleash unlimited prosperity and opportunity in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It's time for us to be that shining city on the hill where the rest of the nation says, "Yes, we can do it too," he said.

Democrats have framed Tuesday's stakes in similarly sweeping terms.

"This election is about state power and the direction of Virginia's future, and we're certain an unchecked Republican trifecta would roll Virginia's progress back decades," said Heather Williams, interim president of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee.

Today in History: November 5, Fort Hood shooting kills 13

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Nov. 5, the 309th day of 2023. There are 56 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 5, 2009, a shooting rampage at the Fort Hood Army post in Texas left 13 people dead; Maj. Nidal Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, was later convicted of murder and sentenced to death. He has not yet been executed.

On this date:

In 1605, the "Gunpowder Plot" failed as Guy Fawkes was seized before he could blow up the English Parliament.

In 1872, suffragist Susan B. Anthony defied the law by attempting to cast a vote for President Ulysses S. Grant.

In 1912, Democrat Woodrow Wilson was elected president, defeating Progressive Party candidate Theodore Roosevelt, incumbent Republican William Howard Taft and Socialist Eugene V. Debs.

In 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won an unprecedented third term in office as he defeated Republican challenger Wendell L. Willkie.

In 1964, NASA launched Mariner 3, which was supposed to fly by Mars, but the spacecraft failed to reach its destination.

In 1968, Republican Richard M. Nixon won the presidency, defeating Democratic Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and American Independent candidate George C. Wallace.

In 1974, Democrat Ella T. Grasso was elected governor of Connecticut, becoming the first woman to win a gubernatorial office without succeeding her husband.

In 1992, Malice Green, a Black motorist, died after he was struck in the head 14 times with a flashlight by a Detroit police officer, Larry Nevers, outside what police said was a crack house. (Nevers and his partner, Walter Budzyn, were found guilty of second-degree murder, but the convictions were overturned;

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they were later convicted of involuntary manslaughter.)

In 1994, former President Ronald Reagan disclosed he had Alzheimer's disease.

In 2006, Saddam Hussein was convicted and sentenced by the Iraqi High Tribunal to hang for crimes against humanity.

In 2007, Hollywood writers began a three-month strike, forcing late-night talk shows to immediately start airing reruns.

In 2011, former Penn State defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky, accused of molesting eight boys, was arrested and released on \$100,000 bail after being arraigned on 40 criminal counts. (Sandusky was later convicted and sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison for the sexual abuse of 10 boys over a 15-year period.)

In 2017, a gunman armed with an assault rifle opened fire in a small South Texas church, killing more than two dozen people; the shooter, Devin Patrick Kelley, was later found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

In 2018, the U.S., under President Donald Trump, re-imposed all sanctions on Iran that had been lifted under its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

In 2021, a crush of fans during a performance by rapper Travis Scott at a Houston music festival left ten people dead, as people were squeezed so tightly they couldn't breathe.

In 2022, Aaron Carter, the singer-rapper who began performing as a child and had hit albums starting in his teen years, was found dead at his home in Southern California at age 34.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Harris Yulin is 86. Actor Chris Robinson is 85. Actor Elke Sommer is 83. Singer Art Garfunkel is 82. Singer Peter Noone is 76. TV personality Kris Jenner is 68. Actor Nestor Serrano is 68. Actor-comedian Mo Gaffney is 65. Actor Robert Patrick is 65. Singer Bryan Adams is 64. Actor Tilda Swinton is 63. Actor Michael Gaston is 61. Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid is 60. Actor Tatum O'Neal is 60. Actor Andrea McArdle is 60. Rock singer Angelo Moore (Fishbone) is 58. Actor Judy Reyes is 56. Actor Seth Gilliam is 55. Actor Sam Rockwell is 55. Actor Corin Nemec is 52. Rock musician Jonny Greenwood (Radiohead) is 52. Country singer-musician Ryan Adams is 49. Actor Sam Page is 48. Actor Sebastian Arcelus is 47. Actor Luke Hemsworth is 43. Actor Annet Mahendru (MAH'-hehn-droo) is 38. Rock musician Kevin Jonas (The Jonas Brothers) is 36. Actor Landon Gimenez is 20.