

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Coming up

### Sunday, Nov. 19

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

St. John's Lutheran: (Holy Communion) St. John's worship, 9 a.m.; Zion worship, 11 a.m.; 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.

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

### Monday, Nov. 20

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

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

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

JH GBB hosts Britton-Hecla (7th at 6 p.m., 8th at 7 p.m.)

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

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

**The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.**



*"Family faces are magic mirrors. Looking at people who belong to us, we see the past, present, and future."*

GAIL LUMET BUCKLEY

Senior Menu: Spanish rice with hamburger, green beans, mandarin oranges, vanilla pudding, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: French bread pizza, green beans.

### Tuesday, Nov. 21

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

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

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

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

Senior Menu: Ham and bean soup, egg salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, fruit.

School Breakfast: Waffles.

School Lunch: Chicken Alfredo, cooked carrots.

### Wednesday, Nov. 22

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Bible Study, 2:45 p.m.; Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7 p.m.

No School - Thanksgiving Break

Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, sweet potatoes, vegetable carpi blend, chocolate pudding with bananas, whole wheat bread.

## **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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## 2023 River Otter Harvest Limit Met

PIERRE, S.D. – The 2023 river otter season harvest limit of 20 was reached on November 18, at 11 a.m. central time, and the season is now closed. River otters captured in existing traps in the next 24 hours are legal catches. It is illegal to harvest river otters by hunting now that the harvest limit has been reached.

Furbearer license holders now have until November 19, 11 a.m. central time (24 hours since the season closed) to report any trapped river otters to GFP by calling 605.353.7319. After this time, any harvested river otter is considered incidental take and will be surrendered to GFP.

If the incidentally trapped river otter is alive, the trapper must immediately release the river otter and should notify a GFP representative.

If the incidentally captured river otter is found dead in a trap, the trapper is required to leave the river otter undisturbed and contact a GFP representative within 12 hours.

All river otter pelts are required to be tagged through the eyeholes with a CITES tag provided by GFP within five days of harvest, and the carcass must be surrendered to GFP.

A person may only possess, purchase, or sell raw river otter pelts that are tagged by GFP or if taken from another jurisdiction, properly and securely tagged with a tag supplied by the governmental entity issuing the license. If the governmental entity issuing the license does not issue a tag, other proof that the river otter has been lawfully taken is required.

South Dakota's river otter trapping season began at sunrise on November 1 and marked the fourth season in the state. This trapping season was initiated in 2020 to create a new and exciting opportunity for trappers during the fall. For more information about the river otter trapping season, please visit the GFP website at: <https://gfp.sd.gov/river-otter/>.

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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....

19.) make a mean chili

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## NSU Women's Basketball

### **Wolves Triumph Over the Hardrockers in Friday Win**

Spearfish, S.D. – The Northern State women's basketball team took down South Dakota Mines, 77-64, to start the weekend. The Wolves grabbed control of the game in the second half after 35-35 tie at the break.

#### **THE QUICK DETAILS**

Final Score: NSU 77, MINES 64

Records: NSU 2-1, MINES 0-3

Attendance: 236

#### **HOW IT HAPPENED**

Northern State notched 14 points in the first quarter, 21 in the second, 25 in the third, and 17 in the fourth; out-scoring the Hardrockers 7 in the third

The Wolves were efficient offensively, shooting 29-of-58 (50.0%) from the floor with five made 3-pointers

NSU racked up 38 points inside the paint and 19 from the bench, led by Brylie Schultz with 11 off the bench

In addition, the Wolves tallied 36 assists, eight assists, four steals, and four blocks in the win

Madelyn Bragg led NSU scoring 21 points, hitting 9-of-11 from the floor and 3-of-4 from the free throw line

Rianna Fillipi dished out a team leading four assists, while Deontee Smith tallied a career high eight rebounds to lead NSU

#### **NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS**

Madelyn Bragg: 21 points, 81.8 FG%, 5 rebounds

Rianna Fillipi: 17 points, 100.0 FT%, 4 assists

Brylie Schulz: 11 points (career high), 57.1 FG%, 3 rebounds

### **Wolves Close Out the Weekend With a Win Over the Yellow Jackets**

Spearfish, S.D. – The Northern State women's basketball team tallied their third win of the 2023-24 season Saturday evening defeating Black Hills State University, 58-52. The win saw Alayna Benike notch a career high with seven rebounds as the Wolves out-rebounded the Yellow Jackets by 11.

#### **THE QUICK DETAILS**

Final Score: NSU 58, BHSU 52

Records: NSU 3-1, BHSU 2-1

Attendance: 757

#### **HOW IT HAPPENED**

Northern State put up 11 points in the first quarter, 14 in the second, 19 in the third, and 14 in the fourth

The Wolves scored 24 points from inside the paint and added ten off the bench

In addition, NSU tallied 46 rebounds to BHSU's 35 and racked up 11 assists and four steals

Madelyn Bragg led NSU scoring 21 points, hitting 8-of-11 from the floor and 5-of-7 from the free throw line; she added a career high nine rebounds

Off the bench, Deontee Smith scored eight points and grabbed eight rebounds in the win

#### **NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS**

Madelyn Bragg: 21 points, 72.7 FG%, 9 rebounds (career high), 2 blocks

Alayna Benike: 14 points, 37.5 3 PT%, 7 rebounds (career high)

Deontee Smith: 8 points, 60.0 FG%, 8 rebounds

#### **UP NEXT**

Northern is back in action, facing off against the University of Mary and Sioux Falls next Tuesday and Saturday. NSU will open their league slate at UMary on November 21 with a 7:30 p.m. tip and host Sioux Falls at 3 p.m. on November 25 in non-conference action.

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## NSU Men's Basketball

### **Costly Turnovers Loom over No. 21 Northern State in Loss to Upper Iowa**

Aberdeen, S.D. – The No. 21 Northern State University men's basketball team held a 5-point lead in the second half against Upper Iowa, however, could not come away with their first win of the 2023-24 season. Jacksen Moni dropped a season high 29 points in the contest and earned Small College Basketball Champions Classic All-Tournament team accolades.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 78, UIU 84

Records: NSU 0-4, UIU 2-2

Attendance: 2077

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern was out-scored in each half by Upper Iowa, recording 38 points in the first and 40 in the second. The Wolves shot 43.1% from the floor, 34.6% from the 3-point line, and 86.7% from the foul line in the game, scoring 34 points in the paint, seven points off turnovers, and seven points off nine offense boards.

They tallied 35 rebounds, nine made 3-pointers, three blocks, and a game high 15 assists.

The Peacocks forced eight Wolf turnovers resulting in 11 points and out-rebounded NSU by six.

Moni led four of the five starters in double figures, knocking down 29 points and ten rebounds for his first double-double of the season.

Moni's high school teammate, Michael Nhial also notched a double-double with ten points and ten rebounds.

Josh Dilling and Trey Longstreet added 20 and 12 points apiece and a combined 11 of the team's 15 assists.

#### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Jacksen Moni: 29 points, 42.1 FG%, 10 rebounds

Josh Dilling: 20 points, 50.0 FG%, 7 assists

Trey Longstreet: 12 points (career high), 50.0 FG%, 4 assists

Michael Nhial: 10 points, 44.4 FG%, 10 rebounds

#### UP NEXT

The Wolves open NSIC play on Tuesday, November 21 visiting the University of Mary. Tip-off is set for 5:30 p.m. in Bismarck. Northern will then host Peru State and Trinity Bible for the Dacotah Bank Classic November 24 and 25 with tip-off times set for 7:30 p.m. on Friday and 5 p.m. on Saturday.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **Migrant officers flock to South Dakota police departments**

**Pace of reciprocity requests from out-of-state law enforcement picked up after 2020**

**BY: JOHN HULT - SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2023 8:00 AM**

Hours before the sun rose over Champaign, Illinois, on the morning of May 19, 2021, Champaign Police Officer Chris Oberheim and his partner were called to the scene of a domestic disturbance.

Darion Lafayette was there to meet them and exchanged fire with both officers, killing Oberheim. Lafayette was also killed.

Within a day, the slain 44-year-old officer's squad car was parked outside the department, decorated as a memorial to the father of four and 20-year law enforcement veteran.

The memorial was vandalized in less than 24 hours.

Erik Kaldahl was about two years into his career as a Champaign police officer when his two colleagues were assaulted. By then, he said, he'd grown accustomed to "verbal abuse" from citizens. Bystanders had blocked him and other officers from accessing homicide victims, he said. He and his fellow officers had been ordered not to make arrests for low-level crimes like trespassing, he said, and his short-staffed department didn't bother with most accident reports. There were too many violent crimes for them to attend to fender-benders.

That's around the time Kaldahl "basically threw a dart at the map" to find somewhere – anywhere, really – that would offer him and his family more support.

"I didn't want to raise my daughters in a place where their dad is seen as a villain," Kaldahl said.

He eventually landed at the Sioux Falls Police Department. He was impressed by the way Sioux Falls Police Chief Jon Thum conducted himself in a press conference after an officer-involved shooting, and felt welcomed by the local officers who explained the job in Sioux Falls.

There'd be no income tax in South Dakota, he learned. He'd deal with less violent crime, and he learned he'd be free to enforce the law in a way he felt he hadn't been in Illinois.

"This just happened to be the first one I came to and visited in person," Kaldahl said. "The folks I spoke to here sold it pretty well."

### **Police hiring trends**

Kaldahl is far from alone.

The promise of a supportive community – alongside Republican-dominated politics, a lower cost of living, good schools and, for some, lax COVID vaccination policies – has drawn dozens of out-of-state officers to the Rushmore State in recent years.

A South Dakota Searchlight analysis found that at least 90 such officers have been granted reciprocity or a chance to earn it since 2018. That figure doesn't count migrant officers who've been sponsored but have yet to make an official reciprocity request.

Taken together, the 90 officers represent more than 900 years of policing experience.

There are a few ways to become a certified officer in South Dakota. An agency can hire you and send you to the law enforcement academy, where certification comes with graduation. Students at technical colleges with accredited programs can apply for reciprocity, which lets them use their degree and passage of a series of post-graduate skills tests to earn the certificate without a 13-week stint at the academy.

There are two other pathways. If you've been out of law enforcement for two years, you can request a chance to test your way back in from the state's Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Training Commission. Pass those tests, and the commission can take a second vote to grant you certification. If you're

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certified in another state, you can start the testing and weeklong reciprocity course right away, seeing the commission just once to finalize certification.

Those last two pathways are the ones used by current or former officers to get a Rushmore State badge.

The pace of officer in-migration quickened significantly since the outrage and protests sparked by the 2020 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Since that year, one in which Gov. Kristi Noem visited Los Angeles to sell the state to dissatisfied police, South Dakota law enforcement agencies have welcomed officers from San Francisco, Orange County and San Diego in California; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Austin, Texas; Madison, Wisconsin; and Denver, Colorado. Still more came from Midwestern or Southern states, including Louisiana, Missouri, Tennessee, Nebraska, North Dakota and Minnesota.

Some agencies, the Sioux Falls Police Department among them, have hired multiple out-of-state officers. The list of 90 includes 19 SFPD officers, and two others await a hearing before the state commission.

Five members of the 11-person Box Elder Police Department are South Dakota transplants, as is one of two police officers in Lake Norden, who came from California.

The chief of police in Brookings, about 40 miles southeast of Lake Norden, retired as a major from the New York State Police after 27 years and now addresses his South Dakota officers in a New England brogue.

The Highway Patrol, Division of Criminal Investigation and Department of Game, Fish and Parks have also hired out-of-state officers.

Everyone has their own story, said Sioux Falls Police Captain and recruiter Jon Lohr, but there are common themes.

COVID mandates were a big one a few years ago, he said. Income taxes and the low cost of living continue to be major selling points, especially for those whose urban homes are sure to fetch far higher prices than similar homes in South Dakota.

Ultimately, Lohr said, support from all levels of government in the state and a general pro-police sentiment are prime enticements.

"They recognize that they're probably going to be moving to a little bit safer environment, where people probably have a little more positive feeling about their law enforcement and the officers that are doing the job," Lohr said.

There's another reason Sioux Falls works to be welcoming: The city and its police force are growing. Out-of-state recruits can help fill the dozen or more open positions the SFPD typically has at any given time, a number that holds steady even with the promise of a \$5,000 bonus for officers who make it through their 15-month probationary period.

## Reciprocity process

Officers certified in another state can't just walk through the doors of a South Dakota department, fill out an application and be accepted into the fold of sworn South Dakota law enforcement. Reciprocity testing involves a 200-question written test to show basic competence and three proficiency exams, in firearms, use of force and emergency vehicle operations. In addition, they need to spend a week in a reciprocity class to learn the ins and outs of South Dakota law.

That process also involves a background check, according to Hank Prim, the training administrator with the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation.

Prim's office uses a database called the National Decertification Index to screen reciprocity candidates for suspensions and revocations of an applicant's law enforcement certification. That check is separate from any background investigations conducted by the hiring agency, which typically involve calls to references and previous employers and sometimes, particularly in larger departments like the SFPD, psychological evaluations and even polygraph tests.

"We're trying to make sure that a bad officer isn't trying to escape another state and lay their nest here," Prim said.

None of the officers granted reciprocity or eligibility for it had their certification revoked prior to their arrival in South Dakota, according to the state commission meeting minutes. The lack of a revocation isn't

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a guarantee of good behavior, however. The commission relies heavily on the background checks done by the hiring agencies, which may vary from agency to agency and may not flag all potential issues.

The commission offered a shot at reciprocity for a Pierre police officer named Jeremiah Erickson in mid-2022, but he was let go from the department before becoming certified after picking up a drunken driving charge.

The 90 out-of-state officers who've requested reciprocity or eligibility since 2018 only represent a fraction of total reciprocity requests. Tech school graduates from South Dakota and surrounding state represent a larger share of the total.

Even so, the impact of the pandemic and other cultural factors is reflected in overall reciprocity certifications. The commission granted 26 requests in fiscal year 2021, which began in mid-2020. It granted 61 the following fiscal year and 65 in each of the two fiscal years that followed.

On a single day in July 2022, the commission approved reciprocity or eligibility for 14 out-of-state officers.

The promise of support, Prim said, is "not a secret" outside the state's borders.

"That secret's come out, and that's a good thing," Prim said.

## Welcoming community

Former Scottsdale, Arizona, officer Joseph Young joined the Box Elder force last fall. The California native and seven-year veteran of policing in the Phoenix suburb is in the process of obtaining reciprocity from South Dakota's law enforcement commission.

Young followed his family back to South Dakota, where his grandparents grew up. He didn't leave Scottsdale because of increased scrutiny of law enforcement, he said, but the shifting attitudes made the decision easier.

His months in Box Elder have been a culture shock for Young.

It's not just the slower pace of life in the city of 11,000 or the reality of more frequent interactions — at grocery stores or community events, for example — with people he may have arrested or ticketed. It's the time — time to meet people and get to know them between calls for service, and the time people make for him.

"There's a lady I talk to almost every day who's always out and about in her neighborhood," said Young, who works the overnight shift. "She jogs every night. When she sees me, she starts to talk to me every time. We never had time for that in Scottsdale."

It's been a welcome change of pace, Young said. That slower pace has also meant a safer work environment. His father was part of the California Highway Patrol and didn't wear a Kevlar vest for protection during the first two decades of his career, Young said.

South Dakota feels like a place where the now-standard vest feels more like a failsafe than a reminder of near-constant threat.

Young was proud to work in Scottsdale and had a larger salary there, but he doesn't see himself leaving the community that's embraced him.

"At the end of the day, when I go home, I feel like I've done my job more than I ever did in Scottsdale," Young said.

## South Dakota as retirement haven

Adam Masters was going to retire in South Dakota, with or without a job in policing.

The Texas native and his wife are "horse people" and love the Black Hills for the trails and open spaces to ride.

Even so, politics and police reforms had a hand in the timing of his retirement from Austin, Texas. Masters spent more than two decades in the city, an artsy, liberal island in Texas' Republican political sea, and said he enjoyed nearly all of those years.

It took a while to get used to Austin when he first moved there decades ago, Masters said, but he came to love it and rarely doubted the community's appreciation for the role of policing.

The death of George Floyd and ensuing calls to defund the police shattered that certainty, Masters said.

"We always assumed that the silent majority still supported us and backed us, and it became apparent



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pretty quickly that there wasn't much of a solid majority left in Austin," Masters said. "I don't want to speak for anybody else, but, based off the number of resignations and retirements, I think a lot of people felt the same way I did."

The city cut funding for its police department in 2020, and elected a district attorney who ran on a platform of prosecuting officers for misconduct. Masters and his wife decided it was time to head to the Black Hills.

He wasn't planning to join the ranks of law enforcement in South Dakota, but he's also young enough to keep working. In May, he took on a part-time gig as an investigator for the state Brand Board, which manages ownership inspections and investigates fraud in livestock.

Masters was surprised by the number of experienced officers he met in his reciprocity class. He walked in thinking he'd meet a lot of younger officers from the Midwest, but met seasoned officers from all over the country.

"I kind of thought I would be one of the only ones with the amount of experience that I had from as far away as I came, but that wasn't the case at all," Masters said.

He hasn't regretted his decision to move to the state. Its conservative political environment suits Masters as well as the trails do – police represent "a very conservative-minded group of people," he said – and like Young, he's been pleasantly surprised by how welcoming the state has been.

"We knew nobody in South Dakota, but you meet your neighbors and get to know people pretty quick," Masters said. "It feels like home now."

Back in Sioux Falls, Kaldahl has started to feel at home, as well. He loves the school system, has sampled chislic and looks forward to going out to hunt.

That so many of his fellow officers are learning the same lessons about South Dakota at the same time has been a help.

"We have no family here. We had no friends, we have no ties," Kaldahl said. "And I've run into quite a few people who are going through that exact same thing."

*John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.*

## **Migrant officers sponsored by agency**

Sioux Falls Police Department: 19

Pennington County Sheriff's Office: 10

Rapid City Police Department: 8

South Dakota Highway Patrol: 8

Box Elder Police Department: 3

Division of Criminal Investigation: 5

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office: 3

Faith Police Department: 2

Game, Fish and Parks: 2

Aberdeen Police Department: 2

Gregory Police Department: 2

Yankton Police Department: 2

Pierre Police Department: 2

Winner Police Department: 1

South Dakota State Brand Board: 1

Mitchell Police Department: 1

Deadwood Police Department: 1

Brandon Police Department: 1

Butte County Sheriff's Office: 1

Brookings Police Department: 1

Roberts County Sheriff's Office: 1

Tea Police Department: 1

Brookings County Sheriff's Office: 1

Bennett County Sheriff's Office: 1

Hughes County Sheriff's Office: 1

Lake Norden Police Department: 1

Fall River County Sheriff's Office: 1

Spearfish Police Department: 1

Lennox Police Department: 1

Freeman Police Department: 1

Hamlin County Sheriff's Office: 1

Custer County Sheriff's Office: 1

Charles Mix County Sheriff's Office: 1

McCook County Sheriff's Office: 1

Clark Police Department: 1

\*Does not include officers in the process of earning reciprocity

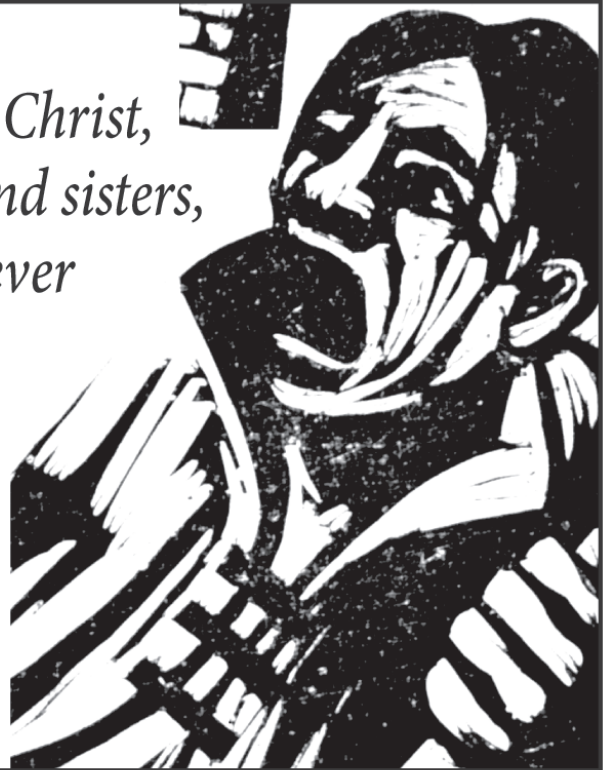
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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

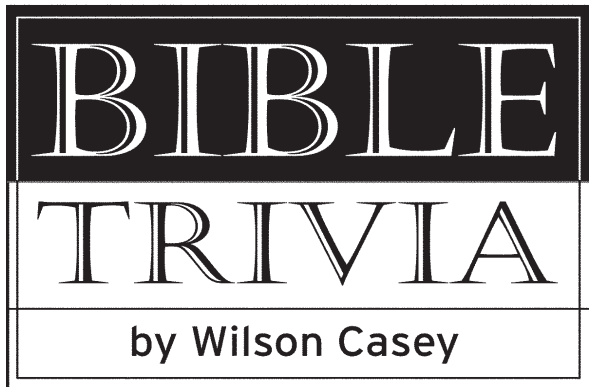
*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
we command you, brothers and sisters,  
to keep away from every believer  
who is idle and disruptive  
and does not live according  
to the teaching you received  
from us.* ✠ 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6



Detail of "To the Front!" by Hu Yichuan (1932)

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1. Who wrote in Ephesians 5:20, “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”? *Matthew, Peter, Paul, Jude*

2. From Psalms 107:1 and 118:1, we should give thanks to the Lord, because He is ...? *Evermore, Good, Watching, Hopeful*

3. Which book of the Bible (KJV) mentions the word “thanksgiving” the most times at eight? *Genesis, Nehemiah, Psalms, Isaiah*

4. In 2 Timothy 3:1-2, what human qualities does Paul list as being signs of the last days? *Adulterers, Sun worshipers, Renegades, Unthankful people*

5. In Leviticus 22, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is most meaningful when it is ...? *Sincere, Often, At your own will, Extravagant*

6. Who were commanded in 1 Chronicles 16:4 to thank God? *Levites, Ammonites, Benjaminites, Danites*

ANSWERS: 1) Paul, 2) Good, 3) Psalms, 4) Unthankful people, 5) At your own will, 6) Levites

*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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**FLASH GORDON**

MY NAME'S DALE, AND I'M NOT FROM AROUND HERE.

A COUPLE YEARS AGO, I WAS TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM SOMETHING. NEVER MIND WHAT.

JUST SOME STUFF I LEFT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GALAXY.

I'M ON MONGO NOW, WHERE EVERYTHING'S STRANGE AND DEADLY AND BIGGER THAN ME.

I GUESS PROBLEMS ARE ALL RELATIVE, AREN'T THEY?

THERE'S ONLY THREE HUMANS HERE ON MONGO. ONE'S ME-- DALE ARDEN. ONE'S FLASH.

LAST WEEK, HE ALMOST DIED BRINGING DOWN MING'S FLAGSHIP.

THERE'S SOMETHING BETWEEN FLASH AND ME. IT'S POWERFUL. I'VE BEEN SCARED TO PUT A NAME TO IT.

AND A GLOBAL REVOLUTION WAS A GREAT EXCUSE TO AVOID THAT CONVERSATION.

PRINCESS AURA TOLD FLASH THAT PRINCE BARIN IS MISSING, PUTTING MONGO'S FUTURE IN DANGER.

NOW HE'S BACK ON HIS FEET LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED, WITH HIS SMILE AND HIS CLUNKY LITTLE JOKES.

BUT IT TURNS OUT THE WAR'S NOT QUITE OVER YET.

THE ONLY CLUE IS A SCRAP OF BARIN'S SHIRT IN AN EMPTY ESCAPE POD FROM MING'S SHIP.

WE BRING IT TO MONGO'S ONLY OTHER EARTHLING-- DOCTOR ZARKOV.

HE'S THE ONE WHO CRASH-LANDED US HERE... POOR MAN'S BEEN TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR IT EVER SINCE.

HE FIGURED OUT THE ESCAPE PODS LEAVE AN ENERGY TRACE ON ANYTHING THAT'S BEEN NEAR THEM.

DAN SCHKADE 11-19-23

WE CAN USE IT TO TRACK BARIN-- OR AT LEAST GIVE US A START.

BARIN HAS TO BE FOUND. THE PEACE DEPENDS ON IT.

NO ONE ELSE FROM MONGO CAN KNOW ABOUT THIS...

...SO IT'S ALL DOWN TO US THREE ALIENS.

**NEXT: AIRBORNE**

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

NO "ZIP" IN YOUR SHOTS?

TAKE A GOLF BALL IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND AND SEE HOW FAR YOU CAN THROW IT. REPEAT WITH THE BALL HELD IN THE FINGERS OF THAT HAND.

JM

THE SECOND THROW WILL GO MUCH FARTHER THAN THE FIRST.

WHICH IS WHY THE CLUB SHOULD BE HELD MOSTLY BY THE FINGERS OF YOUR TRAILING HAND.

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## Mail-Order Meds Lose Efficacy if They're Not Stored Properly

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I am concerned, and have been for some time, about whether my prescriptions that arrive by mail are compromised, since they sit in vehicles with the sun beating through the windows, heating them up.

Also, the plastic bottles in which the prescriptions are stored give off toxic emissions as they “broil” in the sun. The instructions that come with some of the meds warn about heat as well.

My pharmacist told me that heat does affect a medication's effectiveness negatively. So, if this is true, millions of us are taking important medications that are basically not doing the job. After all, the meds that arrive at pharmacies come in hot vehicles, too. What's your take? — J.Z.

**ANSWER:** All medicines should be stored in a cool, dark place, as direct sunlight and heat can damage their effectiveness. Studies have proven that medicines sent by mail order can indeed get out of their published temperature range. While this happens most often in mailboxes, I understand your point about medications “broiling” in hot temperatures during the shipment itself.

Liquid medicines, hormones and nitroglycerin are among the most sensitive. Medicines that need to be dosed exactly, such as transplant rejection medicines, biologicals, and seizure medicines, are also particularly likely to cause problems if they are damaged during shipping. Although some medicines are supposed to be shipped in packaging with cold packs and insulation, this isn't always the case.

I recommend using a local pharmacy, but many people have prescription plans that require them to use mail order.

customers using retail pharmacies. If that's not the case for you, try to make sure that the medicine will be delivered when you are available to receive it.

If you have a temperature-sensitive medicine, such as the ones I mention above (you can ask your pharmacist about others), request that your mail-order pharmacy sends it in special packaging during warm weather. You might also consider having them shipped to a place where they will be put into a temperature-controlled environment right away.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** Since I developed bronchiectasis, I have lost 15 pounds. I can't seem to get an answer as to why this disease would result in weight loss. Can you shed any light on this? — E.K.G.

**ANSWER:** Bronchiectasis is a lung condition similar to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). It develops after a lung infection occurs in a person who is at risk due to a number of possible underlying conditions.

Weight loss with chronic lung disease, like COPD and bronchiectasis, is common. There are many possible reasons. One is that breathing can be hard work! It takes extra energy (as much as 10 times more energy) to breathe with chronic lung disease. Some medications used for bronchiectasis promote weight loss, often through poor appetite. Bronchiectasis is an inflammatory condition, so this can also lead to appetite suppression.

Although many healthy people want to lose weight, losing weight with chronic lung disease is a bad sign and a reason to make some dietary changes. I've often advocated for nuts and nut butters; the healthy fat in them contains a lot of calories, and fat is easier on your lungs, since it makes less CO<sub>2</sub> than protein or carbohydrates. You also need to maintain muscle strength.

Finally, a new serious diagnosis always leads to a change in how we think of our bodies, so depression (which often exacerbates weight loss) is not uncommon. Your doctor or a mental health professional can help.

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

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**Kel Mitchell, left, and Kenan Thompson reprise their roles as burger slingers in "Good Burger 2."**  
Courtesy of Paramount+

"Oppenheimer" (R) -- Christopher Nolan's three-hour film on J. Robert Oppenheimer, a key player of the Manhattan Project, is available on streaming Nov. 21! It reached almost \$1 billion in the box office since its side-by-side release with "Barbie" in July, making it the third highest-grossing film of the year. Starring a chilling Cillian Murphy ("Peaky

Blinders") in the titular role, the film follows Oppenheimer from his time as a doctoral student in Cambridge all the way to his time leading the construction of an atomic bomb at the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos, New Mexico. The imagery in this film is hauntingly stunning, having been shot in 65-mm film, and there's no doubt that the cast and crew of "Oppenheimer" will be well-decorated after next year's award season. (Prime Video)

"No Hard Feelings" (R) -- While there's a great draw in having such a talented actress like Jennifer Lawrence ("Don't Look Up") in the lead role, her efforts might have been better suited far away from this rom-com. Lawrence portrays 32-year-old Maddie, an Uber driver and bartender who barely makes ends meet enough to hold onto her mother's home. After her car is repossessed, Maddie takes up an opportunity offered by two parents who are giving away a car in exchange for their 19-year-old son getting taken out on a date without his knowledge. With a plot like that, there is plenty of space for comedic potential, but if done clumsily -- as this film does -- it only creates cringe-worthy moments and an utter lack of believability that makes sitting through scenes difficult. Out now. (Netflix)

"Good Burger 2" (TV-PG) -- The original "Good Burger" film, based on a comedy sketch in the Nickelodeon series "All That," was released back in 1997. Now 26 years later, in the age of reboots and remakes galore, its sequel has arrived. "Saturday Night Live" veteran Kenan Thompson and Kel Mitchell reprise their roles as burger slingers Dexter and Ed, as they reunite to work together once again after Dexter's inventions fall flat. But the corporation MegaCorp has plans to expand Good Burger into a massive worldwide chain and replace all the workers with robots. It's up to Dexter and Ed to see if they can save their jobs and the sanctity of their beloved restaurant. Jillian Bell ("I'm Totally Fine") and Lil Rey Howery ("Get Out") portray the power-hungry CEO and lawyer of MegaCorp, respectively. The film also features appearances from Marsai Martin, Carmen Electra, Rob Gronkowski and Mark Cuban. Out on Nov. 22. (Paramount+)

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1. Name the Beatles song that begins with the music of a national anthem.
2. How did Chubby Checker get his name?
3. Name the debut album by Simon & Garfunkel.
4. The Fab Four named themselves the Beatles because of which group?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Hey, have you ever tried, Really reaching out for the other side? I may be climbing on rainbows, But baby here goes."

## Answers

1. "All You Need Is Love" begins with the French national anthem, "La Marseillaise." Also heard through the song are notes from "In the Mood," "Greensleeves" and even a bit of Bach.
2. Legend says he got his stage name from a play on the name of another entertainer, Fats Domino. Fats = Chubby, and Domino = Checker.
3. "Wednesday Morning, 3 A.M." It was released in 1964 and was then re-released in 1966.
4. Buddy Holly & The Crickets, after experimenting with the Silver Beetles and others.
5. "I Want to Make It With You," by Bread, in 1970. The song was written by a member of the band, David Gates, and was the only Bread song to ever top the Billboard charts.

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## GRIN *and* BEAR IT <sup>Wagner</sup>



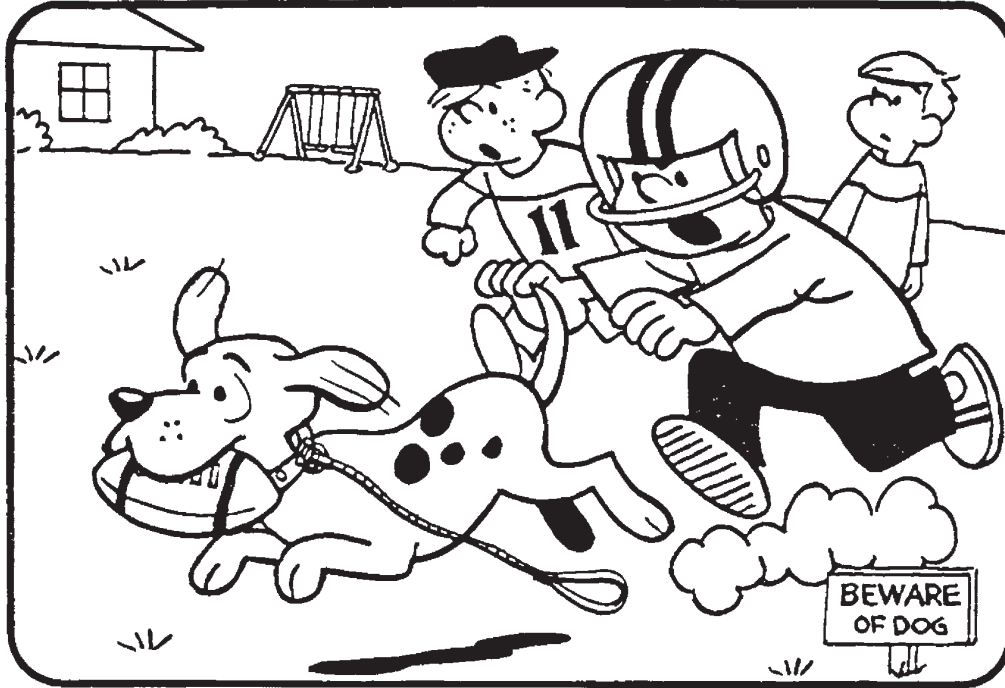
"This is the first forest you couldn't see for the trees!"

## Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

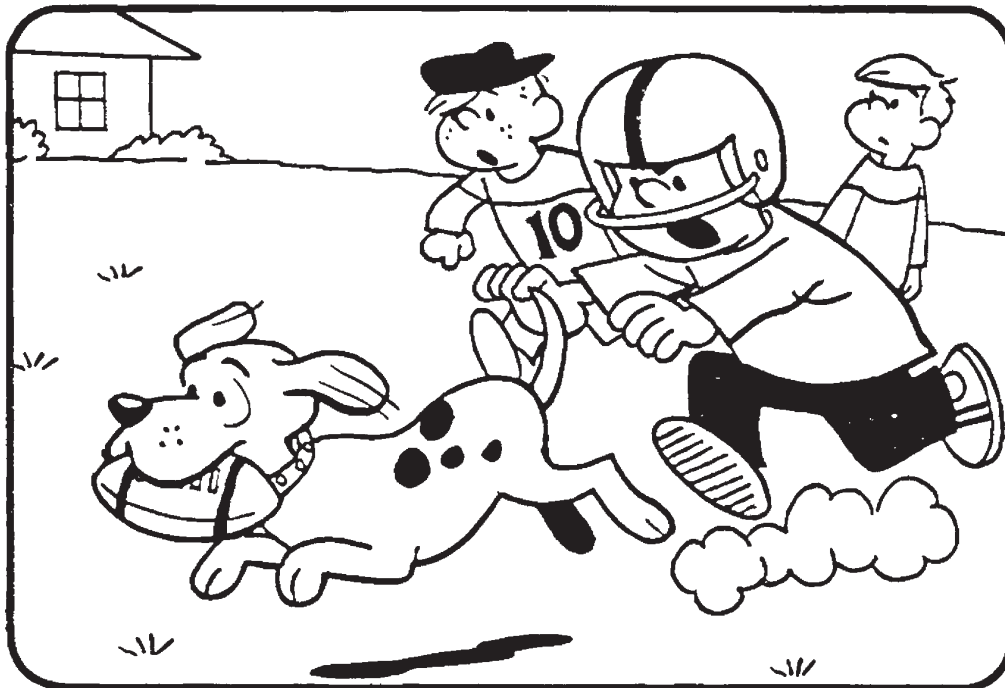


## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Swing set is missing. 2. Dog's ear is different. 3. Number is different. 4. Leash is missing. 5. Helmet stripe is missing. 6. Sign is missing.



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by  
Jo Ann  
Derson

\* Don't throw away that damaged garden hose. Here are three great uses: 1. Use as a weather strip along the bottom of your garage door. 2. Use sections to protect the blades on your ice skates. 3. Use as a safety edge on your saws in the shop. Cut to fit and slip it over the blade.

\* "If a small screw keeps coming loose on something, remove it, paint it with clear nail polish and rescrew quickly. This often does the trick. Makes it more grippy." -- I.W. in Minnesota

\* Doggie got a greasy coat, but it's too cold for a bath? Liberally sprinkle your pup with baking soda or cornstarch. Rub into coat and brush out.

\* "Those little soft cardboard sleeves that light bulbs come in are really great for mailing photos. If you fold them flat, you can slip your pics inside, and it goes right in the envelope. They'll be nice and protected."

-- D.L. in Georgia

\* "If your curling broom is losing its spring, try trimming the bristles a little bit. This worked for me." -- R.D. in Canada (Tipsters: Curling is an ice sport.)

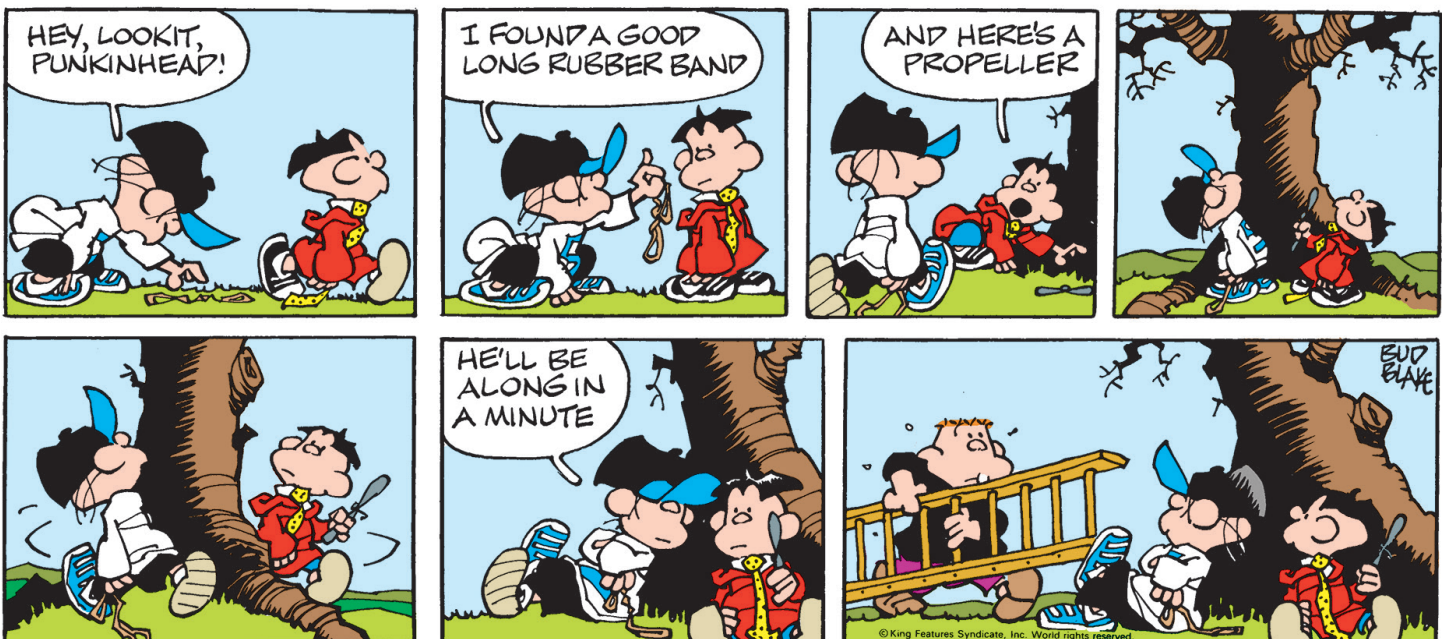
\* Defog your mirror with shaving cream. Smear it over the entire surface and then wipe away with a clean towel. Keep cleaning until clear. It works for at least two weeks -- NO FOG!

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 Squid squirt
- 4 Beloved
- 8 "Ditto"
- 12 "The Simpsons" barkeep
- 13 Killer whale
- 14 Director Kazan
- 15 Get older
- 16 Feel elated
- 18 Two-dot punctuation mark
- 20 Triage ctrs.
- 21 Calendar entry (Abbr.)
- 24 Smiles broadly
- 28 Flight costs
- 32 "Phooey!"
- 33 Hosp. area
- 34 Rich cake
- 36 Quarterback Manning
- 37 Arrears
- 39 NPR show hosted by Terry Gross
- 41 Thoreau piece
- 43 Gym site, for short
- 44 Promptly
- 46 Film trophy
- 50 Rock fan's imaginary instrument
- 55 Employ

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
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			44		45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- 56 Satan's purchase
- 57 Separate
- 58 Crib
- 59 Ginormous
- 60 Cookware
- 61 Newt
- 7 Yard tool
- 8 Had a hunch
- 9 Carte lead-in
- 10 Roman 1002
- 11 Corn spike
- 17 Sphere
- 19 Klutz
- 22 Campus VIP
- 23 Towel material
- 25 Vicinity
- 26 Niger's neighbor
- 27 Swizzle
- 28 Staffer
- 29 Frozen deserts
- 30 Abrades
- 31 Goblet feature
- 35 Prom dates
- 38 Snarl
- 40 Owns
- 42 One of us
- 45 Trace
- 47 Rubik's baffler
- 48 "Dream on!"
- 49 Monopoly payment
- 50 Bonfire residue
- 51 Debtor's note
- 52 Bad hairpiece
- 53 Overly
- 54 Illustrations

### DOWN

# Groton Daily Independent

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## — King Crossword —

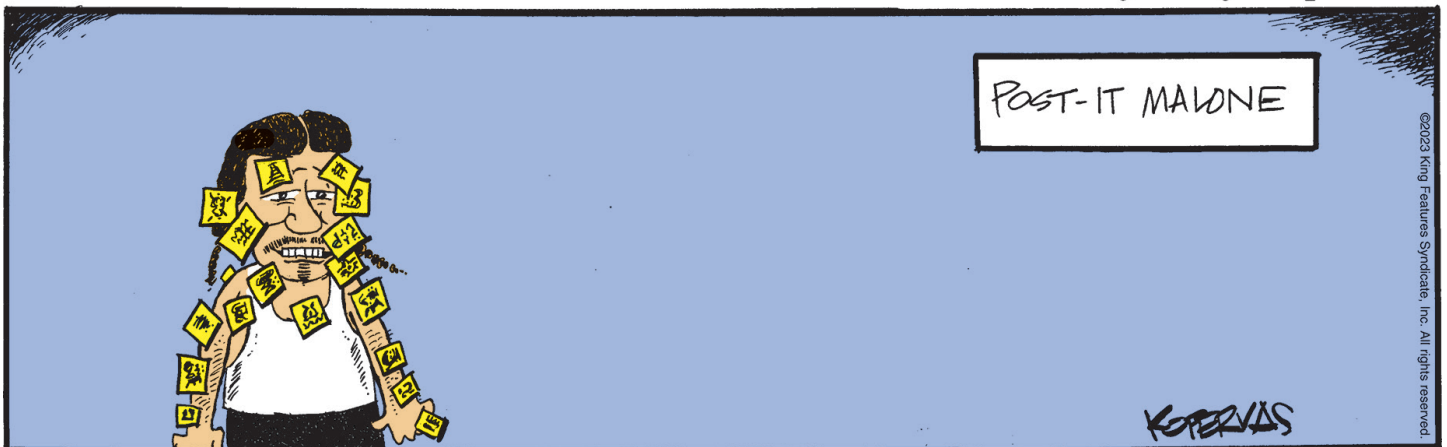
Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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C	O	L	O	N				E	R	S			
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A	I	R	F	A	R	E	S		D	R	A	T	
I	C	U		T	O	R	T	E		E	L	I	
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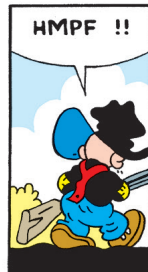
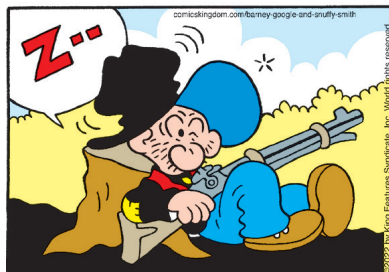
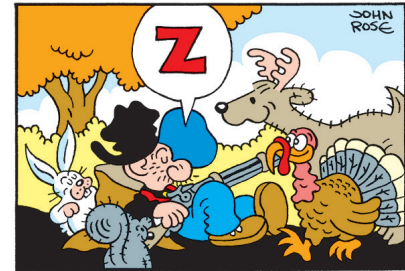
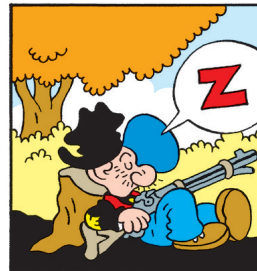
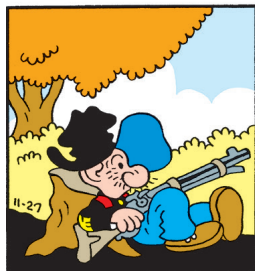
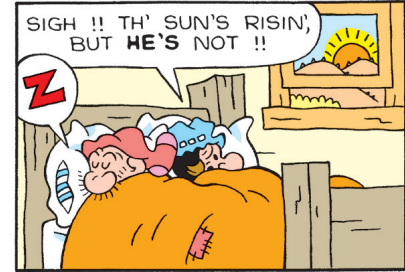
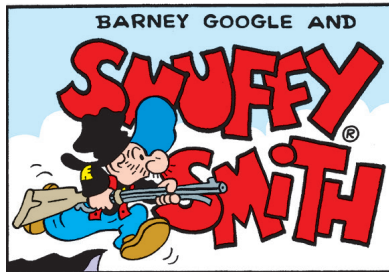
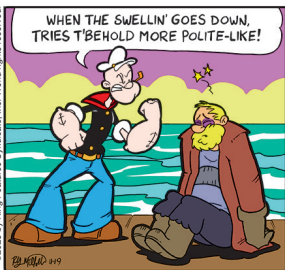
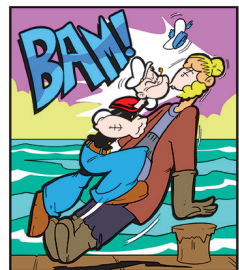
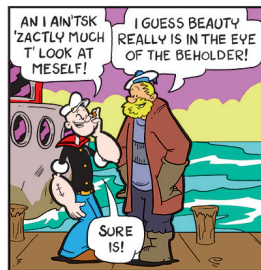
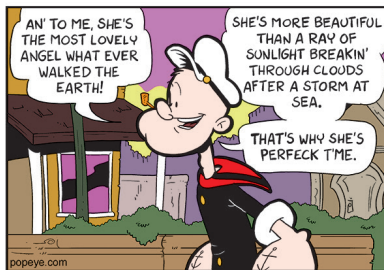
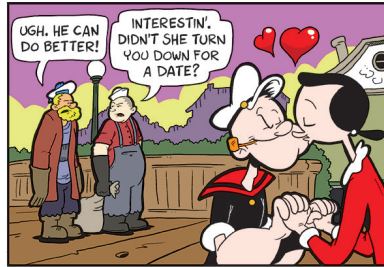
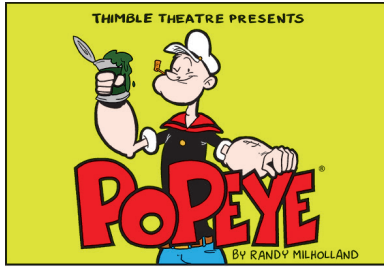
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



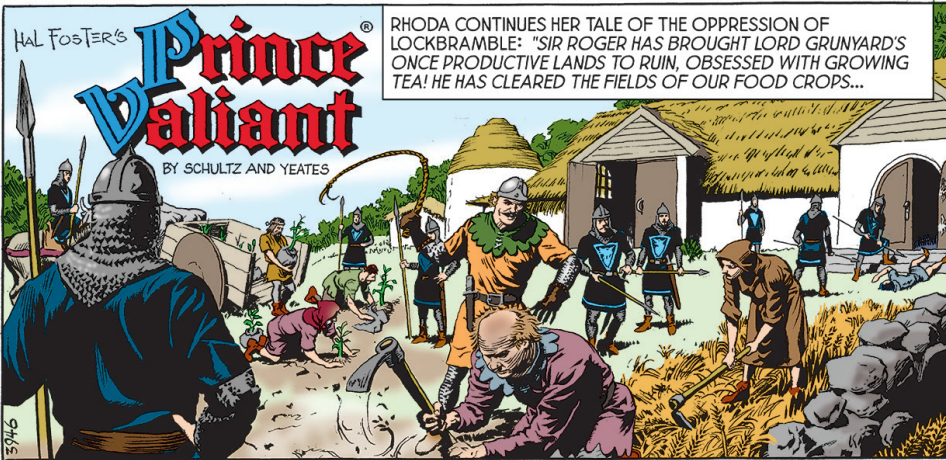
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HAL FOSTER'S **Prince Valiant**  
BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

RHODA CONTINUES HER TALE OF THE OPPRESSION OF LOCKBRAMBLE: "SIR ROGER HAS BROUGHT LORD GRUNYARD'S ONCE PRODUCTIVE LANDS TO RUIN, OBSESSED WITH GROWING TEA! HE HAS CLEARED THE FIELDS OF OUR FOOD CROPS..."



...AND BLAMES THE FARMERS WHEN HIS TEA PLANTS FAIL! I KNOW NOT IF IT IS THE SOIL, THE WEATHER OR GOD'S WILL, BUT THESE PLANTS WILL NOT GROW HERE.

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"YET STILL ROGER INSISTS THAT HE WILL HAVE TEA! HE DRIVES THOSE HE WAS ASSIGNED TO PROTECT TO THEIR DEATHS, IN THRALL TO HIS HOPELESS FOLLY."



"THIS IS LOCKBRAMBLE TODAY - A MISERABLE WASTELAND RULED BY A MADMAN APPOINTED BY OUR HEREDITARY LORD, AND SO PROTECTED BY THE LAWS OF ARTHUR. WE CAN EXPECT NO AID NOR JUSTICE FROM OUTSIDE, AND SO LOOK TO OURSELVES-AND REBEL!"

NEXT:  
Grunyard revealed

YEATES 9/23/12

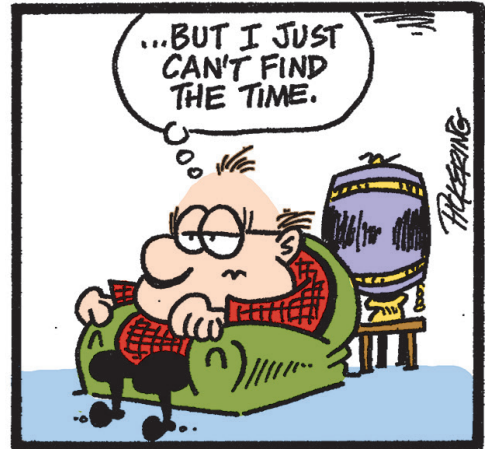
## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



I SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR MY LOST WATCH...

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...BUT I JUST CAN'T FIND THE TIME.

PICKERING

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Seasonal Affective Disorder

Have you recovered from the latest time change? The one that sent the clocks back an hour, pushing us into darkness in what used to be the end of the afternoon?

Seasonal Affective Disorder, also called SAD, is a type of winter depression that can be found in the young as well as the old. The decrease in daylight can affect us, as can the lack of sunshine, which lowers our production of the mood regulator serotonin. It doesn't help that not only is there little sunshine, but often it's too cold or snowy to make a trek outdoors.

Symptoms can look a lot like depression but only appear in the winter. Typical signs are lack of energy, restlessness, lack of interest in things we used to enjoy, feeling sad, different sleep patterns and changes in appetite.

A short visit with your physician to ask for a test to learn your vitamin D level might be in order. If the answer is yes, your vitamin D level is low, ask your physician how it can be fixed. Sometimes they'll suggest a light therapy box, a gadget that can increase your exposure to light. If so, ask for the name of a specific brand as well as how long and how often you should use it.

Don't try to solve the problem with over-the-counter vitamin D supplements without your physician instructing you about how much to take.

To beat SAD, sometimes it only takes a few changes to how you spend your days. Try to establish a routine of talking to friends or family every day that you can't get out. Get a little exercise (try YouTube videos for senior exercise). Vow to eat better, even if it means just an additional piece of fruit every day.

Every step you take can have a positive impact on your mental state.

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1. What film and television producer was part of the ownership group that founded the NHL's Seattle Kraken?

2. Name the Basketball Hall of Famer, known as "The Big O," who won the NBA MVP award as a member of the Cincinnati Royals in 1964.

3. What Greek tennis player upset French Open champion Justine Henin in the first round at Wimbledon in 2005?

4. Former Indianapolis Colts wide receiver Anthony Gonzalez served in the U.S. House of Representatives for what state from 2019-23?

5. What Brazilian footballer, nicknamed "O Fenomeno" (The Phenomenon), won the 1997 Ballon d'Or at age 21?

6. American athlete Al Oerter won gold medals at four straight Olympics from 1956-68 competing in what track and field event?

7. In 1988, what LPGA Tour golfer started a tradition at the Nabisco Dinah Shore tournament by taking a victory plunge into a pond surrounding the 18th green?



by Ryan A. Berenz

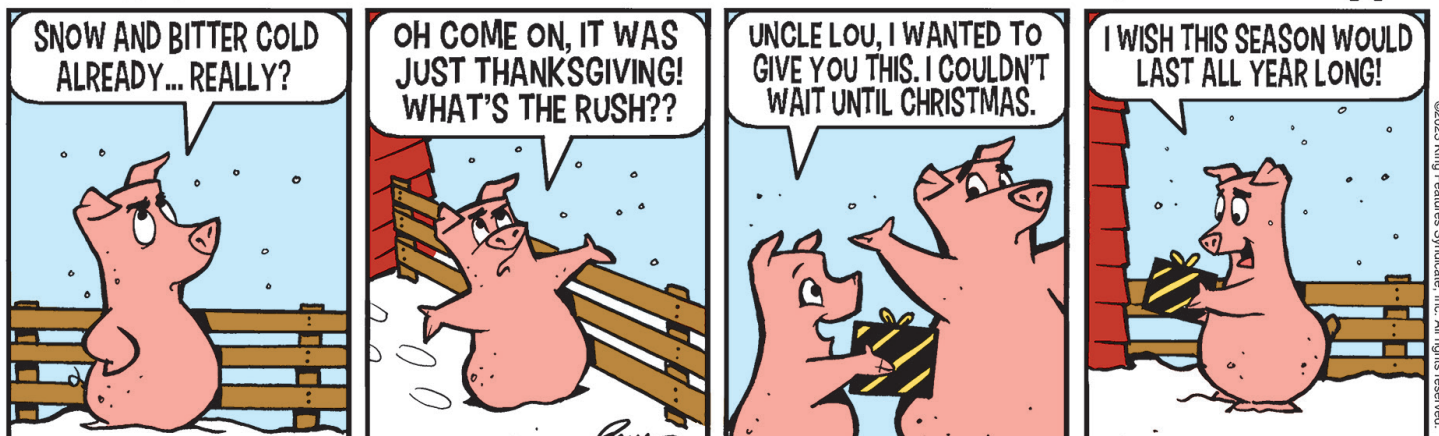
## Answers

1. Jerry Bruckheimer.
2. Oscar Robertson.
3. Eleni Daniilidou.
4. Ohio.
5. Ronaldo.
6. Discus throw.
7. Amy Alcott.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## Hold That Turkey Leg: It's the Annual Thanksgiving Pet Safety Brief

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Can you remind me what foods are unsafe to give to pets? I know onions are bad for dogs, but I'm not clear on other ingredients. My dog loves scraps from the table, and I want to make sure my Thanksgiving dinner guests don't feed him something dangerous. -- Manuel C., San Antonio, Texas

DEAR MANUEL: It may be difficult to keep tabs on all of your dinner guests, so consider placing your dog in a room or in his kennel during the meal and

then rewarding him after with some tasty leftovers.

When he does get his treat, make sure that it doesn't include the following ingredients: onions, garlic, raisins or avocado. Turkey is fine; take the skin off to remove extra salt and seasonings that might upset his stomach. Avoid feeding him stuffing. The mashed potatoes should be plain, and hold the gravy. A little apple or pumpkin pie should be fine, but keep him away from chocolate. And try to limit the amount of fat in the leftovers, because too much can cause some messy digestive problems.

The same rules apply to cats, by the way. Because they're small, they may have a more severe reaction to ingredients like grapes, avocados or onions.

It can be difficult to keep track of what your pet is eating during the busy holiday season, especially during big meals. That's why I recommend placing pets in a separate room until people are done eating and the food is put away out of reach. You still need to control their diet, and you can't always catch Aunt Gladys sneaking peanut butter cups to the dog. Enjoy your holiday, and thanks for keeping your pet safe!

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- \* Six hundred Americans die each year from falling out of bed.
  - \* A 99-year-old man divorced his 96-year-old wife after 77 years of wedlock when he discovered she'd had an affair in the 1940s.
  - \* Elvis Presley failed a music class in high school.
  - \* On average, people who complain live longer! Verbally releasing their grievances boosts their health by increasing their immunity. Of course, some of us may wish to keep that nugget of information to ourselves.
  - \* Oxford University researchers discovered that people who opt for genetic research have a genetic predisposition to do so.
  - \* George Washington stopped the Revolutionary War by ordering a ceasefire in order to return a lost terrier that belonged to British Gen. William Howe, via one of Washington's aides under a flag of truce, after having the dog fed, cleaned and brushed in Washington's own tent.
  - \* Leo Fender, inventor of the Telecaster and Stratocaster guitars, could not actually play the instrument himself.
  - \* Despite its nickname, Florida isn't the sunniest state. Arizona is.
- \*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "Success is peace of mind, which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to become the best of which you are capable." -- John Wooden

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\* To visit every child in the world, Santa Claus would need to travel at 3,000 times the speed of sound. But who says he couldn't? Not us! He's Santa!

\* If you were drafted during the American Civil War, you could legally pay someone \$300 (roughly equivalent to \$5,000 earned by an unskilled worker in 2018) to go in your place. The practice, known as commutation, was actually intended to raise money for the war effort.

\* Need a morning pick-me-up? A cup of java is most effective if consumed between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.



### Fresh herbs turkey rub

For a 10- to 12-pound turkey, use a ¼ cup of freshly-minced herbs such as parsley, thyme, rosemary, sage, oregano and/or marjoram. Mix them in a bowl with oil, salt and pepper. Rub the mixture all over your turkey, including under the skin. Place 1¼ cups of herb sprigs with onions, apples, lemons and/or oranges (cut into cubes) into the cavity. Tuck the wing tips under the turkey and tie the legs together

with string. - Brenda Weaver

Source: [www.eatingwell.com](http://www.eatingwell.com)



by Freddy Groves

## Veterans Legacy Memorial Expanded

This is certainly welcome news: The Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) website now contains the names of 10 million veterans who are buried across the country. Those locations include the national cemeteries, DOD cemeteries, National Park Service national cemeteries, and now civilian and non-VA cemeteries are also included.

Another piece of good news: Earlier this year the site indicated that only veterans would be listed, not their spouses. However, I've just now found the mother of a good friend; she is buried with her veteran husband at Arlington National.

The Veterans Legacy Memorial website ([www.vlm.cem.va.gov](http://www.vlm.cem.va.gov)) is quite an undertaking. Each veteran has an individual page that includes a bio with branch of service, dates of birth and death, war period, rank, decorations and more. And in this digital age, family and friends can upload stories, photos and historical documents.

Not all cemeteries and veterans have been covered yet. I'm unable to find one uncle -- so far I've found the rest of my veteran relatives: my grandfather, father, mother and another uncle -- perhaps because he's in a very small cemetery in a very rural area. I have hope that he'll eventually be included as well.

Do you qualify for burial in a national veterans cemetery? You can apply for pre-need approval, if you wish. (Go to [va.gov/burials-memorials](http://va.gov/burials-memorials) and click on "Eligibility.") You'll need several documents to send with your application (VA Form 40-10007), such as DD-214. Choose a VA national cemetery. Call 800-535-1117 if you need help with the paperwork.

Then, with the future comfort of your family and friends in mind, go the extra mile and gather up a few things you'd like to see on your eventual memorial page, perhaps a special photo or a story from your past. Include a note that points to the Follow a Veteran alert, which can tell your family and friends when something has been added to your listing. Add in this number -- 866-245-1490 -- for help with uploading photos to the site.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. TELEVISION: Who starred in the drama "Knight Rider"?
2. U.S. STATES: What is the capital of Washington state?
3. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How long does the average housefly live?
4. LITERATURE: Which mid-20th century novel about animals has the subtitle, "A Fairy Story"?
5. SCIENCE: What is the softest mineral in the world?
6. GEOGRAPHY: Which major river flows through London, England?
7. MEDICAL: What is a common name for the condition veisalgia?
8. MOVIES: In which movie did the actress Gal Gadot make her debut?
9. HISTORY: Where was the first Disney park built?
10. LANGUAGE: What is the British term for a flashlight?

### Answers

1. David Hasselhoff.
2. Olympia.
3. 15-30 days.
4. "Animal Farm."
5. Talc.
6. The River Thames.
7. Hangover.
8. "Fast & Furious" (2009).
9. Anaheim, California (1955).
10. Torch.

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## Giving Thanks

Thanksgiving kicks off the holiday season. As we spend time with family and friends during this special time of year, many of us may have a tradition of going around the table and sharing what we're thankful for. It is important to take this time to think of all the things in our lives we can be grateful for. But it is even more important for us to remember to be thankful all year long.

The first verse of Psalm 136 reads, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever." This verse doesn't tell us to give thanks to the Lord on Thanksgiving or to give thanks to the Lord on Christmas and Easter. It simply tells us to give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. We can be thankful for the gifts that God has given us every single day.

In America, we have even more to be grateful for. Our founders built this nation on the ideal that each and every one of us have God-given rights that no government can take away. Brave men and women throughout history have fought and died to preserve those rights. Today, we get to enjoy our rights and our Freedoms because of the sacrifices made by those who came before us.

This Thanksgiving, and every day of the year, I am thankful for South Dakota. I am proud to be from a state that still respects those core principles and ideals that our founders risked their lives for. I am proud to be from a state that embodies the true meaning of the American Dream. And I am proud to be from a state that values hard work, personal responsibility, and patriotism.

More than just the state itself, I am grateful for the people of South Dakota. They inspire me daily. I have watched South Dakotans get up and work hard my entire life. I truly believe that you cannot find a harder working group of people.

South Dakotans work to take care of their families. They do not do anything halfheartedly. When a South Dakotan sets their mind to something, you can rest assured that they're going to accomplish it. Our state has thrived because of our people and because of our attitude.

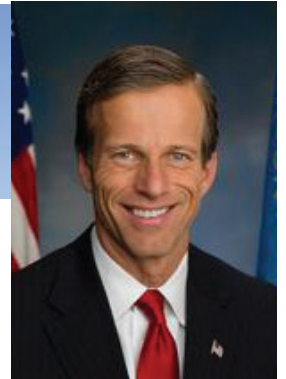
In South Dakota, we never give up. We never say, "good enough." We know that we can always do better, always strive for more. That is the attitude that I have every day when I go to work. And I am thankful that it is the attitude of so many folks across our great state.

This holiday season, I hope you are able to spend time with those closest to you. I hope you share what you are thankful for. But I also hope that you keep the spirit of the holidays with you all year round.

To the people of South Dakota, thank you for all the work you do to make this the greatest state in the nation.

God bless you – and happy Thanksgiving!

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



## Food, Family, and Faith

There's a beautiful simplicity that I love about Thanksgiving. It consists of just three basic parts: food, family, and faith. Our forebearers saw fit that Americans should have a day dedicated solely to giving thanks for all that we have, and generations of Americans have looked forward to pausing from the buzz of daily life on Thanksgiving Day for just this reason.

Like nearly every Thanksgiving, I'll be home in South Dakota, celebrating with my family: my wife, my daughters, my sons-in-law, and my five grandchildren. We have our family traditions. I'll be on turkey-carving duty – and helping with the dishes. We'll have plenty of pies on the table, including my favorite: anything in the cream pie family. And we'll likely spend some time outdoors throwing around the football with the grandkids.

My family has a tradition of going around the table and sharing something for which we're thankful every year. It's a long list and each item on it brings a little more joy to our table. I consider myself a lottery winner for being lucky enough to be born in the greatest country on earth. I'm grateful to live in a country whose foundation is freedom, where we can freely live out our faith, and pursue a better life for the next generation. I'm thankful to be from, and to have raised my family in, South Dakota, where people work hard and help each other out, where the bounties of our agriculture industry feed the world, and where the natural beauty of creation is all around us.

I am also profoundly grateful for the brave men and women who serve our country in the Armed Forces. They have answered the call to defend our country and protect the freedoms we hold dear, often at great sacrifice for themselves and their families. Each Thanksgiving, I think of these Americans whose duties require them to be away from their families, sometimes in harm's way, during the holiday season. Please keep them in your prayers.

As my family goes around the table, I reflect on how each of our blessings comes from God. For my family, our faith in Him is the guiding light that keeps us focused. On Thanksgiving, we remember that we can lean on His wisdom and guidance every day, and that His strength is always with us.

In his 1986 Thanksgiving Proclamation, President Reagan eloquently expressed the simplicity of Thanksgiving. He wrote, "Let us pause from our many activities to give thanks to Almighty God for our bountiful harvests and abundant freedoms. Let us call upon Him for continued guidance and assistance in all our endeavors. And let us ever be mindful of the faith and spiritual values that have made our Nation great and that alone can keep us great."

I wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving!

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



## Looking for Change

### **BIG Update**

Interest rates are at a 16-year high. This doesn't just impact homebuyers or businesses needing loans. Governments around the world pay interest on their debts. America's high interest rates and bloated national debt have created a problem that may take generations to tackle. American taxpayers are footing the bill for the reckless spending in Washington that led to our \$33 trillion debt and high interest rates. In fact, the U.S. pays more on interest on government debt than any other country in the world.

Last week, Moody's Investors Service lowered its fiscal outlook for the U.S. government from stable to negative due to high interest rates and historic spending in Washington over the past few years.

House Republicans are working to cut spending and right-size government programs. I've opposed nearly \$13 trillion in excessive spending proposed by the Democrats since 2021, and there is more work to do. Congress must work toward balancing the budget and getting our fiscal house in order.

### **BIG Idea**

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe President Anthony Reider came to discuss one of the tribe's projects and permitting reforms. Earlier this year, House Republicans passed the most significant permitting reforms in more than 40 years, which would greatly benefit the tribe's project. These reforms were signed into law, cutting bureaucratic red tape and lowering costs for Americans.

### **BIG News**

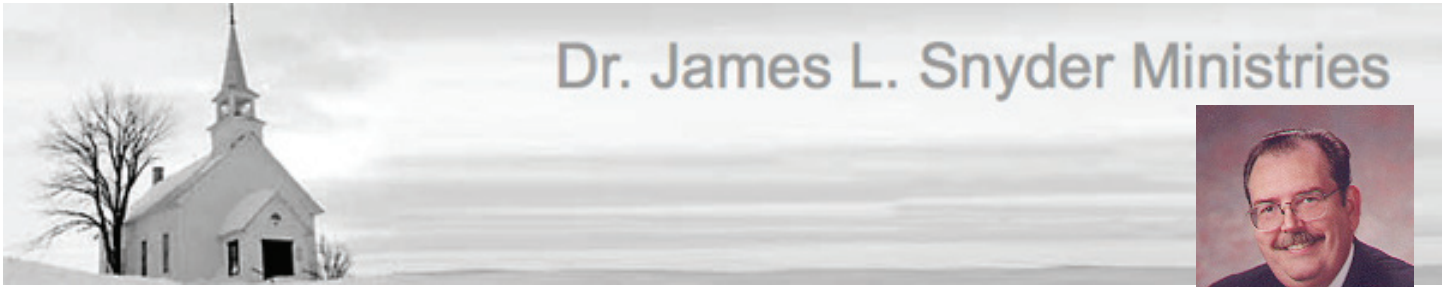
On Wednesday, President Biden and China's President Xi Jinping met for the second time since Biden took office. Before this meeting, the Select Committee on China sent a letter to Biden with a list of realistic demands the People's Republic of China must fulfill to show they are serious when it comes to engaging with the United States.

Reports express the meeting was cordial and while this could be positive, America should not try to curry favor with the CCP. These meetings cannot be filled with empty pleasantries. President Biden must stand against tyranny every chance he gets.

The Biden Administration's weak foreign policy has invited countries and terrorist groups to think they can get away with invading and attacking innocent civilians. Strong American leadership on the global stage establishes peace and security. When we retreat from this position, we create space for our enemies to expand. From Ukraine to Israel, we must stand for freedom around the globe.

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## I Don't Eat Crow on Holidays



I enjoy the holiday season because of the food I get to eat. From Halloween to New Year's Day, the focus is food. Some of the best food of the whole year is during this time.

In true confession, throughout the rest of the year, I eat Crow almost every day. It is a diet developed by The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. It has taken some time for her to create such a diet for me, and she's done a marvelous job.

It took me quite a while to understand this diet of eating crow. But if I understand it correctly, it means admitting you're wrong and were not right about what you thought or a statement you made to others. That's quite a definition, and I'm not sure I understand it even today.

I must admit that throughout the year, I vehemently made statements that were not true. It's not how many true statements I make throughout the year but the false statements I make that matter.

How many times I've been wrong is beyond my calculation.

Oh, if I only was 16 again when I knew everything.

Sometimes, we will be with a group of friends, and I'll be telling a story that happened recently, and then in the middle of that story, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will jump in and say, "No, it didn't happen that way." Then she will correct my story, and I'm standing there eating crow.

One of these days, I'm going to figure out a way so that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can find out what it means to eat Crow. So far, I have yet to come to any conclusion here. But I am working very hard to find something along this line.

She was telling about our wedding one time, and I interrupted her and said, "No, my dear, the wedding was on August 14."

Looking at me with a confused look, she said, "That's what I just said. Our wedding was August 14."

"I'm sorry; I thought you said our wedding was August 14."

Do you know what a pleasure it is to see so many people confused, especially The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage? Sometimes, it does pay to catch people off their guard, and you end up eating crow.

Sometimes, eating crow is worth the situation you find yourself in. I don't always create chaos in my life, but I try to make the best of it when it does happen.

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I'm looking for the opportunity when I catch my wife on something that will cause her to eat crow. I will not give up on this adventure.

But there is so much more to eat during the holiday season than crow. I could spend the rest of my time naming all the ingredients of our holiday meals.

During this holiday season, I don't have time to eat Crow. All of the beautiful meals that are set before us have my attention all the way through.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I are a fantastic team. She loves to cook, and I love to eat. What better partnership can you have? All the crow I eat during the rest of the year is worth all the holiday meals at this time.

I must confess that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is very careful how I eat Crow. She rarely lets me do it in front of people. I may be telling some story, but she doesn't correct me when people are around.

On our way home from that gathering, she will begin the conversation by saying, "Soooo, is that really how that situation happened?"

Usually, I'm not sure what she's talking about, and I respond by saying, "What situation?"

Then begins the crow-eating marathon. I always get things wrong, and she loves correcting me, but usually when we are alone.

I would probably get my name wrong if she weren't there to correct me. It's not that I don't like her correcting me because I do. It's agitating at the time, but in the long run, eating crow does have its advantages.

If the truth were known, she has a way of preparing my crow, so I, to some degree, enjoy eating it. How she does it, I don't know; maybe I should begin taking notes.

My problem is when she is talking about a situation in front of a group of people with me there, I really don't know if it's true or not. I assume what she is saying is true.

Driving home from one of those meetings, she was quiet for a moment and then said something to the effect, "Well, did you get all the mistakes I made in that story I told?"

She told the story and twisted it so much that nothing was true, and I never recognized it. That made me think she could get away with anything as far as I was concerned. Now, that's a different piece of crow to eat that I've never had before.

Thinking about that a verse of scripture came to mind. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

Probably the hardest thing I can do is to confess my sin and ask for forgiveness. However, it is the best thing to do. Eating crow sometimes is worth it.



## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: How is the Northern Spotted Owl—the once endangered poster bird for old growth forest conservation in the Pacific Northwest—doing these days?  
-- P. J., Seattle, WA

Distinguished by dark-brown white-speckled feathers, the Northern Spotted Owl was the symbol of conservation in the Pacific Northwest in the 1990s. This period saw scientists and conservationists rallying against the rapid destruction of old-growth forests that the owl relied upon for survival.

In 1990, the U.S. government listed the species as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act, leading to the establishment of “critical habitat” areas. Despite these measures, deforestation and resulting habitat loss have been shrinking the bird’s population by about 2.9 percent annually. In British Columbia, where these owls also once thrived, over 97 percent of the old-growth forests are now gone. And the increase in forest fires, worsened by rising global temperatures, has further reduced the shrinking habitat.

Furthermore, the emergence of an invasive species, the Barred Owl, has pushed the Northern Spotted Owls to the brink of extinction. Historically inhabiting East Coast forests, Barred Owls have expanded their range westward in the last 50 years, enabled by habitat changes, human activity and climate change.

Barred owls are generalists, consuming a variety of food ranging from small mammals to reptiles and even other birds. In contrast, Northern Spotted Owls are specialized, predominantly relying on small mammals, particularly flying squirrels and woodrats. Northern Spotted Owl pairs typically do not breed annually. When they do reproduce, they only lay one to two eggs and use large amounts of resources to invest in their roles as parents. The presence of barred owls has prompted Northern Spotted Owls to disperse from their preferred breeding territories, impacting their already limited reproductive habits.

Beyond protections against logging, Northern Spotted Owls would benefit from the prohibition of pesticides in areas surrounding their habitat. Recent studies in Washington, Oregon, California forests showed a presence of anticoagulant rodenticides (ARs). This raises concerns about the Northern Spotted Owls due to their rodent-heavy diets. Though some raise concerns over the ethics of lethally removing barred owls, studies show that the resulting reduction of competition for resources would help Northern Spotted Owls’ adult survival rates, breeding attempts, and reproductive viability.

Efforts to increase the wild Northern Spotted Owl population have been attempted with limited success. A Canadian program spent over 15 years diligently incubating eggs and hand-rearing chicks. In August 2022, the program released three captive-born male owls into a forest. However, by May 2023, two had died and another had been hit by a train and put into rehabilitation. Despite these disappointing results, scientists continue to improve their practices by studying other species of owls.

The Northern Spotted Owl faces a web of challenges from habitat loss to invasive species, but ongoing conservation efforts underscore a collective commitment to securing their survival.



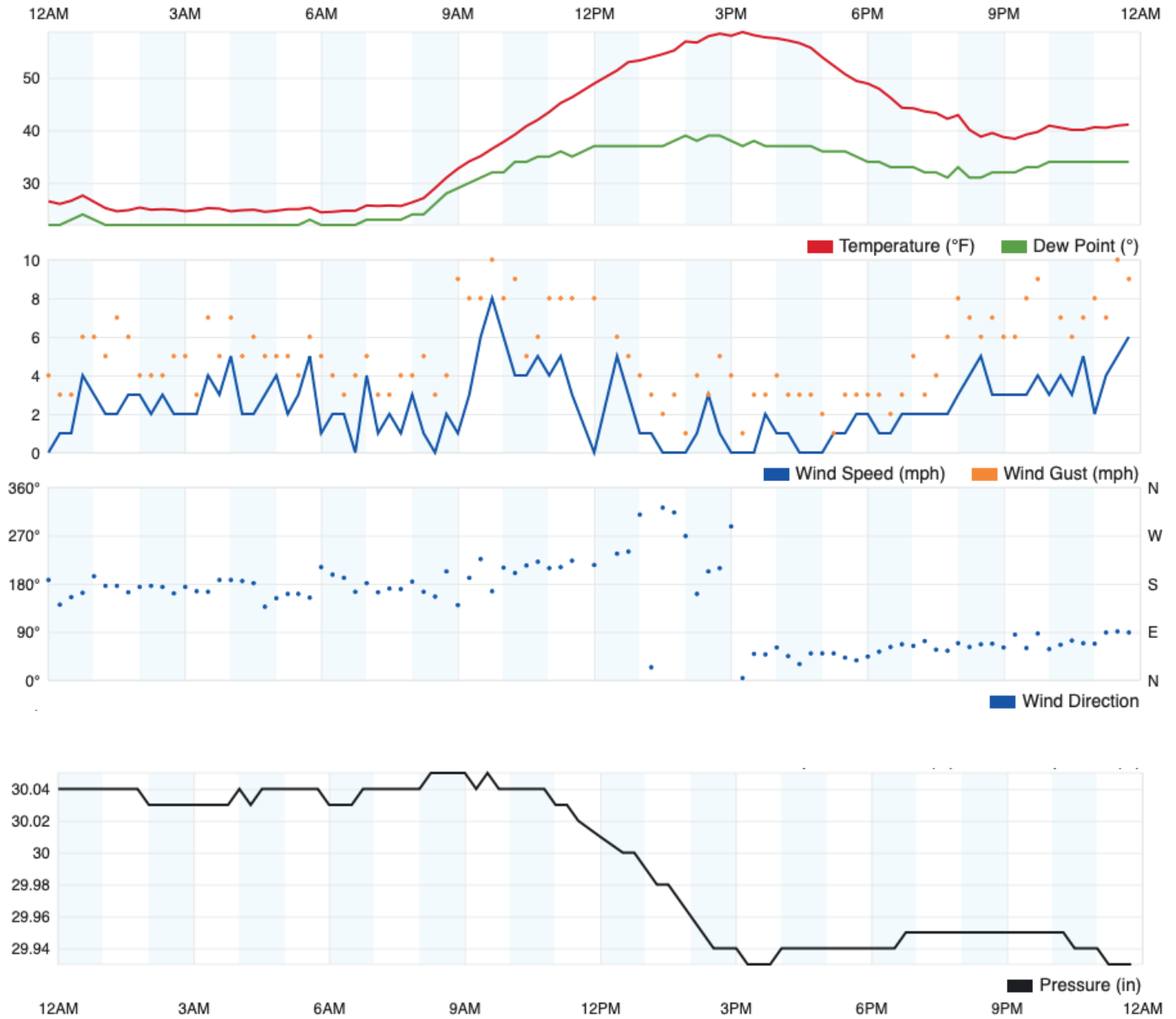
**The Northern Spotted Owl—pictured here is an immature owlet—is still on the ropes 30+ years after environmentalists “saved” it.** Credit: Zia

Fukuda, U.S. BLM, FlickrCC.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Sun Nov 19	Mon Nov 20	Tue Nov 21	Wed Nov 22	Thu Nov 23	Fri Nov 24	Sat Nov 25
57°F 42°F	49°F 26°F	40°F 26°F	40°F 19°F	30°F 14°F	26°F 13°F	27°F 19°F
E 9 MPH	ESE 7 MPH 10%	NNW 21 MPH	SSW 15 MPH	NNW 13 MPH	N 13 MPH	WNW 12 MPH



## Weather Outlook: Chance of Rain This Evening!

Today



Highs: 51 to 56°  
Lows: 36 to 41°

Chance of light rain this evening continuing into Monday morning

Monday



Highs: 47 to 50°  
Lows: 24 to 29°

Slight chance of rain over Coteau in the evening.

Tuesday



Highs: 37 to 45°  
Lows: 21 to 27°

Wednesday



Highs: 43 to 52°  
Lows: 18 to 24°

[weather.gov/aberdeen](http://weather.gov/aberdeen)

We have rain in the forecast for most of the area this evening lasting into early Monday morning. Accumulations generally between 0.1 and 0.25 inches (higher amounts south). Temperatures will be in the 40s and 50s the next few days.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 59 °F at 2:50 PM

Low Temp: 24 °F at 6:03 AM

Wind: 11 mph at 11:18 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 9 hours, 25 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 75 in 1908

Record Low: -11 in 1914

Average High: 41

Average Low: 18

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.51

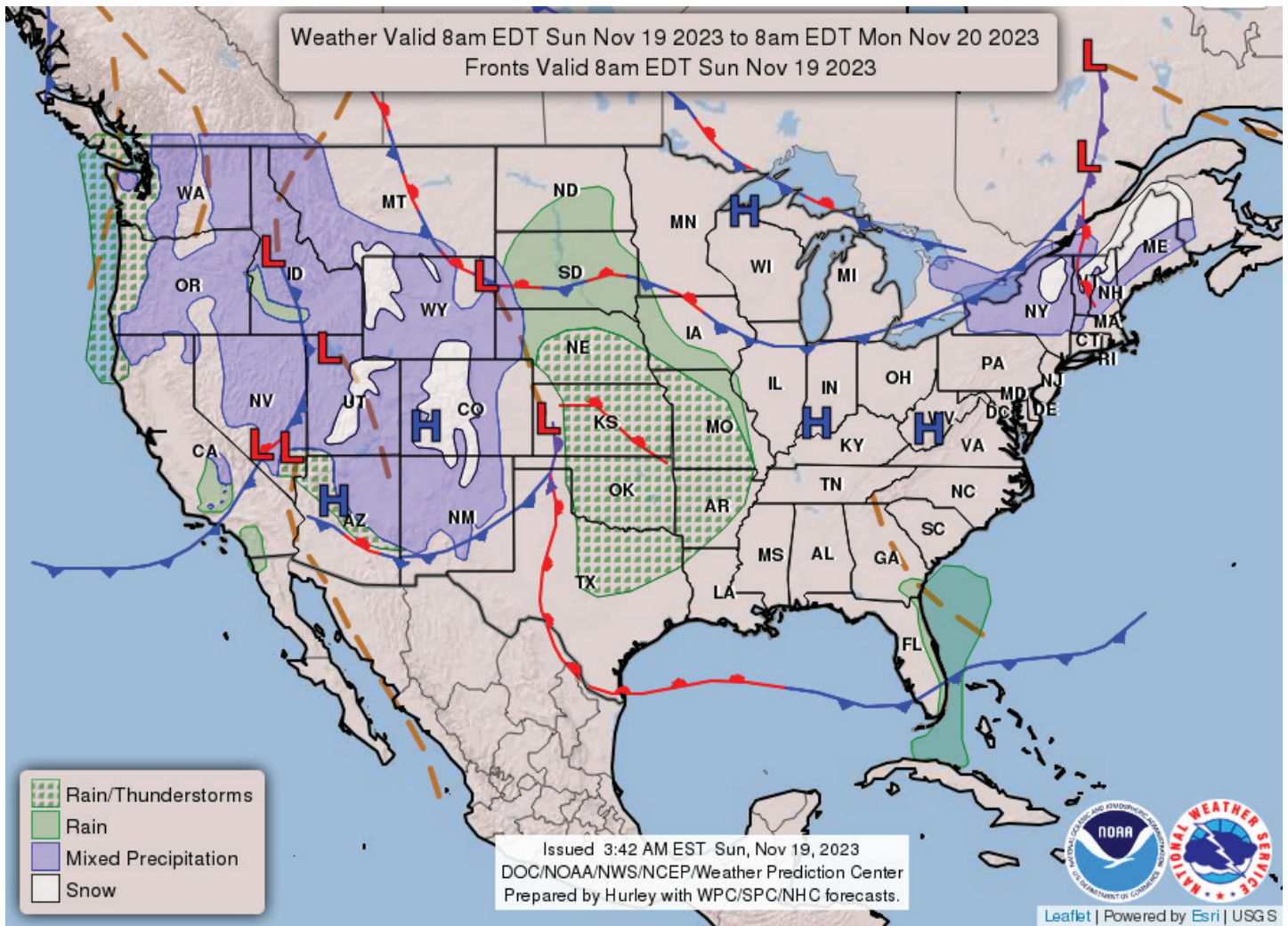
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.17

Average Precip to date: 20.98

Precip Year to Date: 23.15

Sunset Tonight: 5:00:26 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:36:26 AM



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## Today in Weather History

November 19, 1981: A storm system moved from southeast Nebraska through Iowa on the 18th and spread rain and sleet as well as a few thunderstorms into southern Minnesota. Rain and sleet began changing over to snow during the afternoon on the 18th and continued through the 19th. The most substantial snowfall was in the Minneapolis area. The 10.4 inches of snow reported from the National Weather Service office in the Twin Cities was the heaviest snowfall recorded at the office since March 22nd, to the 23rd, 1965 when 13.6 inches fell. The storm knocked out power and phones to many in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Damage was also done to the Humber H. Humphrey Metrodome, where the weight of the heavy snow caused the newly inflated, fabric dome collapsed and ripped.

November 19, 1996: Widespread freezing rain spread a layer of ice across a large area before changing over to snow during November 19-20. Snowfall amounts were 1 to 3 inches in central South Dakota, 3 to 7 inches across north central South Dakota, 5 to 6 inches in west central Minnesota, and 4 to 12 inches across northeast South Dakota. Travel was difficult, and several schools were closed or delayed. Mail delivery was also slowed or postponed for a day or two. Several, mainly minor accidents, resulting in several minor injuries, occurred as a result of the ice and snow covered roads. Two Milbank buses slid into ditches. Strong north winds led to near-blizzard conditions across northeast South Dakota on the 20th. Some snowfall totals included; 12.0 inches in Clear Lake and near Milbank; 10.1 inches near Mellette; 9.0 inches in Browns Valley; 8.3 inches near Big Stone City; 8.0 inches in Faulkton; and 7.0 inches in Britton and Conde.

1921: The Columbia Gorge ice storm finally came to an end. In Oregon, 54 inches of snow, sleet, and glaze blocked the Columbia River Highway at The Dalles. Apart from traffic on the river itself, all transportation between Walla Walla WA and Portland, OR came to a halt. Nine trains were stopped as railroads were blocked for several days.

1930: A rare, estimated F4 tornado struck the town of Bethany, Oklahoma. Between 9:30 am and 9:58 am CST, it moved north-northeast from 3 miles west of the Oklahoma City limits, and hit the eastern part of Bethany. About 110 homes and 700 other buildings, or about a fourth of the town, were damaged or destroyed. Near the end of the damage path, 3.5 miles northeast of Wiley Post Airfield, the tornado hit the Camel Creek School. Buildings blew apart just as the students were falling to the floor and looking for shelter, and five students and a teacher were killed. A total of 23 people were killed and another 150 injured, with 77 being seriously injured. Damage estimates were listed at \$500,000.

1981 - An unusually early snowstorm struck the Twin Cities of Minnesota, with as much as a foot of snow reported. The weight of the heavy snow caused the newly inflated fabric dome of the Hubert Humphrey Metrodome in downtown Minneapolis to collapse and rip. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A sharp cold front pushed across the Great Lakes Region and the Mississippi Valley. Northwest winds gusting to 50 mph in Iowa caused some property damage around Ottumwa, and wind chill readings reached 16 degrees below zero at Hibbing MN. Showers and thunderstorms over Florida produced 5.80 inches of rain in six hours at Cocoa Beach. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Strong thunderstorms developed during the mid morning hours and produced severe weather across eastern Texas and the Lower Mississippi Valley into the wee hours of the night. Thunderstorms spawned twenty-one tornadoes, including thirteen in Mississippi. One tornado killed two persons and injured eleven others at Nettleton MS, and another tornado injured eight persons at Tuscaloosa AL. Thunderstorms produced baseball size hail in east Texas and northern Louisiana, and Summit MS was deluged with six inches of rain in four hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Gale force winds continued to produce squalls in the Lower Great Lakes Region early in the day. Snowfall totals in western New York State reached 24 inches in southern Lewis County, with 21 inches reported at Highmarket. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the Northern and Central Plains Region. Eight cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Denver CO with a reading of 79 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2003 - Flooding affected the central Appalachians and Eastern Seaboard, with some isolated 8-inch rainfall totals across mountainous areas. There were 11 deaths caused by flooding in the region (Associated Press).

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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### "FOR US OR AGAINST US?"

It was the final football game of the season. The winning team would win the conference championship. Every player was giving their best and fighting with all their strength to win. Unfortunately, the quarterback of one team was severely injured and had to be carried off the field. His backup walked confidently onto the field to take his place.

On the first play, he fumbled the ball but quickly fell upon it and avoided a costly mistake. Then he threw an incomplete pass. On his third play, he threw an interception, and the player who caught the ball ran the length of the field, giving the opposing team a victory and the championship.

After the game, when the team assembled in the locker room, the coach said to the losing quarterback, "Son, which side were you on?"

In the book of Exodus, we read of a situation where Moses confronted the people after Aaron allowed them to get entirely out of control. He refused to let things remain as they were and challenged them by saying: "All of you who are on the Lord's side, come here and join me!"

Perhaps each of us needs to respond to that very same statement. We may attend church, carry a Bible, sing hymns, and even pray. But when we get into the "game of life," do those around us know, "which side we are on?" Does what we say and do represent the Lord favorably? What we do and how we do it is what proves to others whose side we are on.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we know that there have been times when the world does not know which side we are on. Give us courage and strength to represent You. For Jesus' sake! Amen.

Scripture For Today: All of you who are on the Lord's side, come here and join me. Exodus 32:25-26



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

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## 2023 Community Events

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

Password \_\_\_\_\_

Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

[paypal.me/paperpaul](https://paypal.me/paperpaul)





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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.17.23

6 12 31 33 69 17

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$289,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.18.23

9 18 22 26 34 6

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$2,300,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.18.23

1 2 3 27 30 5

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 23 Mins 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.18.23

2 7 14 15 28

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$61,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.18.23

27 32 40 45 47 8

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.18.23

34 50 51 61 67 20

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$295,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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## News from the Associated Press

### Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press  
PREP VOLLEYBALL  
SDHSAA State Playoffs

#### Class A

Consolation Champion: Dakota Valley def. Platte-Geddes, 23-25, 25-20, 25-21, 25-16

Seventh Place: Wagner def. Lennox, 25-20, 25-19, 25-18

State Champion: Sioux Falls Christian def. Rapid City Christian, 25-15, 22-25, 25-23, 25-14

Third Place: Dell Rapids def. Miller, 25-15, 25-20, 25-21

#### Class AA

Consolation Champion: Watertown def. Brandon Valley, 25-20, 25-21, 21-25, 25-19

Seventh Place: Sioux Falls Lincoln High School def. Aberdeen Central, 25-21, 23-25, 25-15, 25-17

State Champion: Harrisburg def. Sioux Falls Washington, 25-18, 15-25, 25-22, 25-20

Third Place: Sioux Falls Jefferson def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 25-17, 25-12, 25-21

#### Class B

Consolation Champion: Colman-Egan def. Wolsey-Wessington, 22-25, 20-25, 25-12, 25-20, 15-12

Seventh Place: Faulkton def. Gayville-Volin High School, 25-21, 25-15, 25-15

State Champion: Chester def. Warner, 20-25, 25-23, 25-17, 18-25, 15-13

Third Place: Burke def. Castlewood, 25-22, 25-23, 25-21

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

### Nebraska thumps Oregon 84-63 for first 5-0 start in 15 seasons

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Brice Williams scored 25 points, Rienk Mast had a double-double and Nebraska beat Oregon State 84-63 on Saturday.

Mast scored 15 points and collected 13 rebounds. Reserve Juwan Gary scored 12 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Cornhuskers. Nebraska is 5-0 for the first time since the 2008-09 season.

Sam Hoiberg's 3-pointer with 13:14 left before halftime gave Nebraska a 13-11 lead and they never trailed again. Nebraska went to the break up 44-24 and led by double figures throughout the second half. Mast made a pair of foul shots with 13:24 left to put Nebraska ahead 61-30.

Nebraska's 21-point win came despite a 16-for-26 effort from the foul line and 8-for-24 shooting from 3-point range.

Jordan Pope scored 25 points and Tyler Bilodeau scored 15 for the Beavers (3-1).

### Bouman, Phillips get loose for South Dakota in 48-6 romp over Western Illinois

MACOMB, Ill. (AP) — Aidan Bouman threw for 268 yards and two touchdowns and L.J. Phillips Jr. ran for two touchdowns and South Dakota beat Western Illinois 48-6 on Saturday.

The Coyotes (9-2, 7-1 Missouri Valley Football Conference) took the lead for the remainder when Bouman threw a 54-yard score to Keyondray Jones for a 10-6 lead with 3:39 left in the first quarter.

South Dakota broke it open with a three-touchdown third which included Phillips' scoring runs of 6 and 5 yards to make it 41-6.

Western Illinois took its lone lead when Matt Morrissey threw a 15-yard score to Tre Maronic for a 6-3 advantage following the failed two-point conversion with 4:37 left in the first.

Nate Thomas ran for 102 yards on eight carries and a touchdown on a run that covered 59 yards. Phil-

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lips ran for 93 yards on 15 carries. Carter Bell had 142 receiving yards on seven receptions for the FCS No. 5-ranked Coyotes.

Morrissey threw for 120 yards for Western Illinois (0-11, 0-8).

## **Jackson's 19 lead Purdue Fort Wayne past South Dakota 93-81**

By The Associated Press undefined

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Jalen Jackson's 19 points helped Purdue Fort Wayne defeat South Dakota 93-81 on Saturday night at the Arizona Tip-Off.

Jackson shot 7 of 11 from the field and 4 for 5 from the line for the Mastodons (5-0). Quinton Morton-Robertson scored 17 points while going 5 of 13 from the floor, including 4 for 9 from 3-point range, and 3 for 4 from the line. Rasheed Bello had 15 points and shot 5 for 16, including 3 for 8 from beyond the arc.

The Coyotes (3-2) were led in scoring by Max Burchill, who finished with 18 points. Bostyn Holt added 15 points and four assists for South Dakota. In addition, Felix Brostrom finished with 11 points.

## **South Dakota State beats Missouri State 35-17, clinches second straight MVFC title**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mark Gronowski passed for a career-high 323 yards and two touchdowns as unbeaten South Dakota State, ranked No. 1 in the FCS, closed out the regular season with a 35-17 victory over Missouri State on Saturday.

The victory earns the Jackrabbits (11-0, 8-0) their second straight Missouri Valley Football Conference title. South Dakota State has earned the conference's automatic playoff bid in three of the last four seasons. The Jackrabbits had not won back-to-back conference titles since winning three in a row while a member of the North Central Conference from 1961-63.

South Dakota State finished undefeated and untied for the first time in program history. The 1926 team finished 8-0-3, while the 1950 edition went 9-0-1.

Gronowski used his legs to give the Jackrabbits a lead they never relinquished, scoring on a 2-yard run less than five minutes into the game. He connected with Zach Heins for a 31-yard touchdown and a 14-3 lead after one quarter. Isaiah Davis' 1-yard plunge was the only score of the second quarter, giving South Dakota State a 21-3 lead at the half.

Jordan Pachot had a 3-yard scoring toss to Hunter Wood midway through the third quarter to pull Missouri State within 21-10. Amar Johnson answered with a 2-yard scoring run and the Jackrabbits led 28-10 heading to the final period.

Gronowski fired a 36-yard scoring strike to Jadon Janke to complete the scoring for SDSU with 4:38 left to play. Pachot hit Wood for a 40-yard touchdown with 94 seconds to go.

Gronowski completed 16 of 23 passes for the Jackrabbits. He also rushed seven times for 25 yards. Janke had career highs of 10 catches and 187 yards receiving. Davis rushed for 85 yards on 17 carries.

Jordan Pachot totaled 261 yards on 23-of-35 passing for the Bears (4-7, 3-5).

## **Argentines begin voting in an election that could lead a Trump-admiring populist to the presidency**

By DANIEL POLITI and DAVID BILLER Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentines began voting Sunday in a presidential runoff pitting the candidate of the ruling Peronist party against a populist, anti-establishment candidate whose election could swing the country to the right amid discontent over soaring inflation.

Pre-election polls, which have been notoriously wrong in the past, show a statistical tie between Javier Milei, a self-described anarcho-capitalist who has drawn frequent comparisons to former U.S. President Donald Trump, and Economy Minister Sergio Massa.

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Polls opened at 8 a.m. and were scheduled to close 10 hours later. Results are expected to start rolling in around three hours after polls close.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Voters in Argentina head to the polls Sunday in a presidential runoff election that will determine whether South America's second-largest economy will take a rightward shift.

Populist Javier Milei, an upstart candidate who got his start as a television talking head, has frequently been compared to former U.S. President Donald Trump. He faces Economy Minister Sergio Massa of the Peronist party, which has been a leading force in Argentine politics for decades.

On Massa's watch, inflation has soared to more than 140% and poverty has increased. Milei, a self-described anarcho-capitalist, proposes to slash the size of the state and rein in inflation, while Massa has warned people about the negative impacts of such policies.

The highly polarizing election is forcing many to decide which of the two they consider to be the least bad option.

"Whatever happens in this election will be incredible," said Lucas Romero, director of local political consultancy Synopsis. "It would be incredible for Massa to win in this economic context or for Milei to win facing a candidate as professional as Massa."

Voting stations open at 8 a.m. (1100 GMT) and close 10 hours later. Voting is conducted with paper ballots, making the count unpredictable, but initial results were expected around three hours after polls close.

Milei went from blasting the country's "political caste" on TV to winning a lawmaker seat two years ago. The economist's screeds resonated widely with Argentines angered by their struggle to make ends meet, particularly young men.

"Money covers less and less each day. I'm a qualified individual, and my salary isn't enough for anything," Esteban Medina, a 26-year-old physical therapist from Ezeiza, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, told The Associated Press on the sidelines of a Milei rally earlier this week.

Massa, as one of the most prominent figures in a deeply unpopular administration, was once seen as having little chance of victory. But he managed to mobilize the networks of his Peronist party and clinched a decisive first-place finish in the first round of voting.

His campaign has cautioned Argentines that his libertarian opponent's plan to eliminate key ministries and otherwise sharply curtail the state would threaten public services, including health and education, and welfare programs many rely on. Massa has also drawn attention to his opponent's often aggressive rhetoric and has openly questioned his mental acuity; ahead of the first round, Milei sometimes carried a revving chainsaw at rallies.

Massa's "only chance to win this election when people want change ... is to make this election a referendum on whether Milei is fit to be president or not," said Ana Iparraguirre, partner at pollster GBAO Strategies.

Milei has accused Massa and his allies of running a "campaign of fear" and he has walked back some of his most controversial proposals, such as loosening gun control. In his final campaign ad, Milei looks at the camera and assures voters he has no plans to privatize education or health care.

Most pre-election polls, which have been notoriously wrong at every step of this year's campaign, show a statistical tie between the two candidates. Voters for first-round candidates who didn't make the runoff will be key. Patricia Bullrich, who placed third, has endorsed Milei.

Javier Rojas, a 36-year-old pediatrician who voted for Bullrich in October, told The Associated Press he's leaning toward Milei, then added: "Well, to be honest, it's more of a vote against the other side than anything else."

Underscoring the bitter division this campaign has brought to the fore, Milei received both jeers and cheers on Friday night at the legendary Colón Theater in Buenos Aires.

The vote takes place amid Milei's allegations of possible electoral fraud, reminiscent of those from Trump and former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro. Without providing evidence, Milei claimed that the first round of the presidential election was plagued by irregularities that affected the result. Experts say such irregularities cannot swing an election, and that his assertions are partly aimed at firing up his base and

motivating his supporters to become monitors of voting stations.

Such claims spread widely on social media and, at Milei's rally in Ezeiza earlier this week, all those interviewed told the AP they were concerned about the integrity of the vote.

"You don't need to show statistically significant errors — if you draw enough attention to one problem in one polling station which likely doesn't affect the results in any meaningful way, people are likely to overestimate the frequency and impact of that and other problems in the elections more generally," Fernanda Buriel, of the Washington-based International Foundation for Electoral Systems, said in an e-mail.

## **Memphis shooting suspect kills self after 3 women and girl killed and teen girl wounded**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A suspect in Tennessee died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot while on the run early Sunday after he allegedly killed four and seriously injured a fifth victim during a deadly outbreak of domestic violence Saturday night, police said.

Officers found Mavis Christian Jr., 52, in his car during a manhunt following the shootings at three locations in Memphis that left three women and a teenage girl dead and critically wounded another teen girl.

Memphis Police Department officers responded to a report of a shooting at 9:22 p.m. on the 100 Block of Howard Drive. Police found a woman with an apparent gunshot wound who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Investigators determined there were two other connected fatal shootings. At Field Lark Drive, a woman and a 13-year-old girl were killed and a 15-year-old girl was critically wounded. Another woman was found fatally shot on Warrington Road, Memphis Police Officer Christopher Williams said.

Police believed Christian was responsible for all three shootings and began a search involving local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Each of the shootings was believed to be a domestic violence situation, the police said.

## **At least 30 premature babies evacuated from Gaza's main hospital and will be transferred to Egypt**

By NAJIB JOBAIN and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — At least 30 premature babies were evacuated from Gaza's main hospital on Sunday and will be transferred to facilities in Egypt, the territory's Health Ministry said, as scores of other critically wounded patients remained stranded there days after Israeli forces entered the compound.

The fate of the newborns at Shifa Hospital had captured global attention after the release of images showing doctors trying to keep them warm. A power blackout had shut down incubators and other equipment, and food, water and medical supplies ran out as Israeli forces battled Palestinian militants outside the hospital.

A World Health Organization team that visited the hospital on Saturday said 291 patients were still there, including 32 babies in extremely critical condition, trauma patients with severely infected wounds, and others with spinal injuries who are unable to move.

Medhat Abbas, a spokesman for the ministry, confirmed the evacuation of the babies in a phone call with The Associated Press, without providing further details. There was no immediate comment from the WHO, and it was not clear if all the babies had been evacuated.

Underscoring the perils of movement inside the coastal enclave, Doctors Without Borders said a convoy of clearly marked vehicles carrying staff and their families was fired upon in Gaza City on Saturday. A relative of a staff member was killed and another person was injured, the aid group said.

About 2,500 displaced people, mobile patients and medical staff left Shifa Hospital on Saturday morning, the WHO said. It said 25 medical staff remained, along with the patients.

"Patients and health staff with whom they spoke were terrified for their safety and health, and pleaded for evacuation," the agency said, describing Shifa as a death zone.

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Israel has long alleged that Hamas maintains a sprawling command post inside and under Shifa, part of its wider accusation that the fighters use civilians as cover. It has portrayed the hospital as a key target in its war to end Hamas' rule in Gaza following the militant group's wide-ranging attack into southern Israel six weeks ago, which killed over 1,200 people and triggered the war.

Hamas and hospital staff deny the allegations, and critics have held up the hospital as a symbol of what they say is Israel's reckless endangerment of civilians. Thousands have been killed in Israeli strikes, and there are severe shortages of food, water, medicine and fuel in the besieged territory.

Israeli troops who have been based at the hospital and searching its grounds for days say they have found guns and other weapons, and showed reporters the entrance to a tunnel shaft. The AP couldn't independently verify Israel's findings.

## STRIKES IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH

Elsewhere in northern Gaza, dozens of people were killed Saturday in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp when what witnesses described as an Israeli airstrike hit a crowded U.N. shelter.

"The scenes were horrifying. Corpses of women and children were on the ground. Others were screaming for help," Ahmed Radwan, who was among the wounded, said by phone. AP photos from a local hospital showed more than 20 bodies wrapped in bloodstained sheets.

The Israeli military, which has repeatedly called on Palestinians to leave northern Gaza, said only that its troops were active in the area "with the aim of hitting terrorists." It rarely comments on individual strikes.

Heavy clashes were reported in the Jabaliya camp overnight into Sunday. "There was the constant sound of gunfire and tank shelling," Yassin Sharif, who is sheltering in a U.N.-run hospital in the camp, said by phone. "It was another night of horror."

In southern Gaza, an Israeli airstrike hit a residential building near the town of Khan Younis on Saturday, killing at least 26 Palestinians, according to a doctor at the hospital where the bodies were taken.

Doctors Without Borders said staff members and their families were trying to evacuate northern Gaza in a clearly marked convoy on Saturday but turned back after shots rang out at a crowded Israeli checkpoint. On their way back, the convoy was attacked, it said, without identifying the attackers.

More than 11,500 Palestinians have been killed, according to Palestinian health authorities. Another 2,700 have been reported missing, believed buried under rubble. The count does not differentiate between civilians and combatants; Israel says it has killed thousands of militants.

## HOSTAGES AND AID

Around 1,200 people have been killed on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, in which the group also dragged some 240 captives back into Gaza. The military says 52 Israeli soldiers have been killed.

Hamas has released four hostages, Israel has rescued one, and the bodies of two hostages were found near Shifa in an area where there had been heavy fighting.

Israel, the United States and the Persian Gulf nation of Qatar, which mediates with Hamas, have been negotiating over a hostage release for weeks. On Saturday, a senior White House official suggested it would need to be completed before the entry of large amounts of desperately needed aid.

"A release of large number of hostages would result in a significant pause in fighting ... and a massive surge of humanitarian relief," Brett McGurk, the White House's National Security Council coordinator for the Middle East, said at a conference in Bahrain.

More than two-thirds of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have fled their homes. The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, is providing basic services to hundreds of thousands of people sheltering in schools and other facilities.

Over the weekend, Israel allowed UNRWA to import enough fuel to continue humanitarian operations for another couple of days, and to keep internet and telephone systems running. UNRWA had been forced to put aid operations on hold Friday during a communications blackout.

Israel cut off all fuel imports at the start of the war, causing Gaza's sole power plant and most water treatment systems to shut down, leaving most residents without electricity or running water.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Saturday that Israel's forces were expanding operations in Gaza City. "With every passing day, there are fewer places where Hamas terrorists can operate," he said, adding that the militants would learn that in southern Gaza "in the coming days."

His comments were the clearest indication yet that the military plans to expand its offensive to southern Gaza, where Israel had told Palestinian civilians to seek refuge. The evacuation zone is already crammed with displaced civilians, and it was not clear where they would go if the offensive moved closer.

## Philippines leader Marcos' visit to Hawaii boosts US-Philippines bond and recalls family history

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER and AUDREY McAVOY Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is meeting with senior U.S. military leaders and members of Hawaii's large Filipino community this weekend in a visit steeped in geopolitical and personal significance for the leader, but also drawing protests from a younger generation of Filipinos who point to the actions of his dictator father who died in exile in Hawaii.

Marcos, who stopped in Hawaii on his way home from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco, connected Saturday evening with members of Hawaii's large Filipino-American community before a planned Sunday meeting with Adm. John Aquilino, the top U.S. military commander in the Indo-Pacific region. Marcos is then due to deliver a talk about his nation's security challenges and the role of the Philippines-U.S. alliance.

Protesters gathered outside the community meeting and at the airport where he landed.

Marcos' trip comes at a time when the U.S. and the Philippines have been deepening their long-standing alliance in a shift after Marcos' predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, nurtured cozy ties with China and Russia.

The Philippines this year agreed to give the U.S. access to four more bases as America looks to deter China's increasingly aggressive actions toward Taiwan and in the South China Sea. In April, the two countries held their largest military exercises in decades.

But the trip also likely has personal resonance for the leader of the Philippines. His father, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, died in exile in Honolulu after he was ousted in a 1986 army-backed "people power" uprising.

Many Filipino immigrants in Hawaii also hail from same part of the Philippines as Marcos and revere him and his family. Filipinos are the largest single ethnic group in Hawaii, accounting for 26% of the state's population as of the 2020 census.

Winfred Damo, who immigrated to Honolulu from Marcos' province of Ilocos Norte in 1999, said being Ilocano means "we always support the Marcoses."

The 58-year-old helped campaign for Marcos Jr. in Hawaii and said the president is a different person than his father and from a different era. Philippine nationals living abroad can vote in elections back home.

"We have a better government now in the Philippines," he said. "Marcoses are good people. They did a lot in our country and they are the best."

Not all are Marcos fans. Arcy Imasa organized a protest outside the convention center where Marcos met with community members on Saturday. Her aim was to help younger Filipinos learn his family's history.

Marcos' father placed the Philippines under martial rule in 1972, a year before his term was to expire. He also padlocked Congress, ordered the arrest of political rivals and left-wing activists and ruled by decree.

A Hawaii court found the senior Marcos liable for human rights violations and awarded \$2 billion from his estate to compensate more than 9,000 Filipinos who filed a lawsuit against him for torture, incarceration, extrajudicial killings and disappearances.

Imasa, 40, who is part of Hawaii Filipinos for Truth, Justice and Democracy and grew up in the Ilocos province of Pangasinan, said the mindset of many Filipinos in Hawaii is fixed, especially those of older generations.

"They're not on the right side of history. They're not fully aware of the crimes that transpired," she said.

Satu Limaye, the vice president of the East-West Center, noted the U.S. and the Philippines have a long,

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complicated relationship. He pointed to years when the U.S. ruled the archipelago as a colony, when the two nations signed a mutual defense treaty in 1951 and when the U.S. military withdrew from major bases in the country in the 1990s.

Duterte was often critical of the U.S., at times questioning the value of the alliance and demanding more military aid to preserve the pact. Under Marcos there has been a "180-degree turn" and a massive change in cooperation and coordination with the U.S., Limaye said.

China has laid sweeping territorial claims over virtually the entire South China Sea, areas also claimed by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

China has clashed with its smaller neighbors and subsequently drawn in the U.S., which is Manila's treaty ally and China's main rival in the Asia-Pacific region. Washington and its allies have deployed navy ships and fighter aircraft to promote freedom of navigation and overflight, build up deterrence and reassure allies.

Earlier this month, dozens of Chinese coast guard and accompanying ships chased and encircled Philippine vessels during a four-hour faceoff.

Marcos in September said his country does not want a confrontation but will defend its waters after its coast guard dismantled a floating barrier placed by China at a disputed shoal.

Limaye said it's important to watch how the U.S. and the Philippines manage their nations' long and complex relationship while facing their common concern, China.

## **A law that launched 2,500 sex abuse suits is expiring. It's left a trail of claims vs. celebs, jails**

By MICHAEL HILL Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — For a year, a special New York law has cleared the way for a wave of headline-grabbing lawsuits against famous men accused of sexual misconduct, including former President Donald Trump, hip hop mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs and the comedian and actor Russell Brand.

But when the Adult Survivors Act expires after Thanksgiving, it also will have led to a multitude of legal claims by women who say they were sexually abused while serving time in the New York's prisons and jails.

More than 2,500 lawsuits have been filed so far under the law, which created a year-long suspension of the usual time limit to sue over an alleged sexual assault.

Some of those lawsuits have targeted employers, or institutions such as hospitals, accused of failing to do enough to stop abuse by doctors or other workers. The large majority, though, have been filed against the state, New York City and local counties and involve allegations of abuse at state prisons and local jail systems.

Survivors called it an opportunity to finally be heard.

"For so long, I didn't have a voice. And it didn't matter, I thought. Like, who was I?" said Alexandria Johnson, who says she was raped multiple times while incarcerated in state prison and a New York City jail. "I have to keep going forward with this because it matters. ... There's so many stories, so many, not just mine."

After Thursday, people will once again be barred from suing over abuse that happened many years ago.

New York was one of several states to revisit laws in recent years that set time limits for civil legal claims stemming from sexual assaults, though usually for people abused as children. Advocates say New York's current window gives traumatized adults a chance to seek accountability from big institutions and powerful men who can use their wealth and position to shield themselves.

"The reason we fought so hard for this bill is because trauma takes time," Safe Horizon CEO Liz Roberts said.

Precise counts for Adult Survivor Act filings were not yet available this week, but there were at least 2,587 electronic filings in state courts, with some lawsuits filed on behalf of multiple people. More than half those filings were prison-related claims against the state. Hundreds of additional filings named New York City's corrections department.

The act was modeled after a previous New York law offering people abused as children a temporary



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window to file claims. By the time the Child Victims Act's two-year window closed in August 2021, almost 11,000 people filed lawsuits, many involving the Roman Catholic Church.

Gov. Kathy Hochul said the initial law "forgot" people who suffered the same type of abuse as adults. She signed a new law opening a one-year window for adult survivors on Nov. 24, 2022.

A series of high-profile lawsuits followed.

One of the first filed after the window opened was against Trump. A jury in May found the former president liable for sexually abusing writer E. Jean Carroll in 1996 and awarded her \$5 million. Trump has denied the allegation.

Harvey Weinstein was sued last month by actress Julia Ormond, who accused the former film producer of sexually assaulting her in 1995 and then hindering her career. Weinstein, who has been convicted of rape in New York and California, denied the allegations through his lawyer.

Grammy-winning music executive Antonio "L.A." Reid was sued by Drew Dixon, who worked for Reid when he was chief executive of Arista Records. She says Reid sexually assaulted her twice in 2001, including an incident on a private plane. No attorney for Reid was listed in electronic filings.

Combs was accused in a lawsuit by R&B singer Cassie last week of subjecting her to a long-term relationship that included beatings and rape. The two artists announced a settlement a day after the filing. Combs denied the allegations.

Brand was accused in a lawsuit of sexually assaulting a film extra during the making of "Arthur" in 2010. British media outlets in September published claims by four women who said they were sexually assaulted by Brand, who says his relationships were "always consensual."

Bill Cosby was accused in a lawsuit of sexually assaulting a young comedy writer more than 50 years ago. Joan Tarshis initially made the allegations against Cosby in 2014 that are in the new lawsuit. A Cosby spokesperson did not address the specifics of Tarshis's claims, but asked of the recent lawsuits against famous men: "When is it going to stop?"

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they were sexually assaulted unless they consent to being identified or decide to tell their stories publicly, as Carroll, Ormond, Dixon, Tarshis and Cassie have done.

Many more lawsuits allege assaults by relatively unknown people at everyday locations. One woman claimed in a lawsuit against a spa that she was fondled by a masseuse. Another woman who checked in airline passengers sued her employer over abuse by a manager.

The surge of lawsuits alleging assaults behind bars illustrates what attorney Adam Slater called a "widespread and systemic" issue of assaults on inmates. His firm said it made more than 1,200 filings alleging abuse in state prisons and more than 470 alleging abuse at New York City's Rikers Island complex.

Anna Kull, who represents Johnson, expects to file up to 600 cases related to assaults in prisons and jails. "Just a staggering amount of cases where male correctional officers were sexually assaulting female inmates," Kull said.

Johnson's lawsuit against New York City says she was raped in her Rikers Island cell by four corrections officers in 2014 while being held for a parole violation on a drug charge. A separate claim against the state said she was raped several times by a guard in 2015 at a state prison north of the city while she was pregnant. The lawsuit says the last assault caused her water to break prematurely and led to the loss of her baby.

Johnson said she still struggles with the trauma.

"I had big dreams, hopes of us going to the nursery and me getting out and raising my son and getting my life together," she said. "They took that from me."

Attorneys representing the state and city have denied the allegations in court filings and have sought dismissal of the two lawsuits. The city and state corrections departments separately said they have a zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse.

Dozens more people have sued medical providers over abusive doctors in the past year.

Attorney Mallory Allen is representing more than 100 men who say they were sexually assaulted by Dr. Darius Paduch, a New York-area urologist who specialized in male reproductive health. Paduch also faces

criminal charges accusing him of abusing patients.

One former patient, James O'Connell, said he sued a hospital system over alleged abuse by Paduch after glimpsing a law firm's early morning TV ad seeking potential plaintiffs. He hopes his action helps bring change.

"I have nephews. I have a son. If I can do something to make sure that there's a far lesser chance of anything like this ever happening to them, then I'll do whatever I need," O'Connell said.

## **LGBTQ+ advocates say work remains as Colorado Springs marks anniversary of nightclub attack**

By THOMAS PEIPERT and JESSE BEDAYN Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — After the mass shooting last November at an LGBTQ+ nightclub in Colorado Springs that turned a drag queen's birthday celebration into a massacre, the conservative community was forced to reckon with its reputation for being unwelcoming to gay, lesbian and transgender people.

What motivated the shooter, who didn't grow up in Colorado Springs and is now serving life in prison, may never be known. But since the attack that killed five people, wounded 17 others and shattered the sense of safety at Club Q, which served as a refuge for the city's LGBTQ+ community, Colorado Springs has taken steps to reshape itself as inclusive and welcoming.

A new LGBTQ+ resource center is set to open in the city, where an independent candidate surprisingly defeated a longtime Republican officeholder to become the first Black mayor of the city of roughly 480,000 people. And the owners of Club Q, which has been shuttered since the Nov. 19, 2022, attack, plan to build a memorial and reopen at a new location under the rebrand The Q.

Mayor Yemi Mobolade, a West African immigrant who has been mayor since June, said Friday he knows "what it's like to feel being on the outside looking in, to be a minority. And now to be mayor of this great city, I bring that empathy to the mayor's office."

Mobolade said he created a three-person office of community affairs with one person whose emphasis "is to be very inclusive of minority communities, including the LGBTQ+ community."

Yet as the city prepares to gather Sunday to mark the shooting anniversary, some LGBTQ+ advocates say work remains.

"It feels like there's some real fear in the community and then it also feels like those who are opposed to queer rights and queer people living their lives are continuing to become entrenched in those positions and are doing more politically to see those positions forwarded," said Candace Woods, a queer minister and chaplain who has called Colorado Springs home for nearly two decades.

Additional security is planned for the memorial events in case anti-LGBTQ activists gather to protest, as they did at this summer's Pride events. Candidates supported by the conservative group Moms for Liberty, which opposes instruction on systemic racism and gender identity in the classroom, won the recent school board elections, Woods noted.

Colorado Springs, nestled at the foothills of the Rockies and home to the Air Force Academy and several conservative megachurches, has historically been conservative. Yet, the city also has a growing and diversifying population set to top Denver's by 2050, is home to a liberal arts college and has marketed itself as an outdoorsy boomtown.

On the night of the attack, Anderson Lee Aldrich walked into Club Q and began firing indiscriminately. Clubgoers dove across a bloody dance floor for cover and friends frantically tried to protect each other.

The attack was stopped when a Navy officer grabbed the barrel of the suspect's rifle, burning his hand, and an Army veteran helped subdue and beat Aldrich until police arrived, authorities said.

Sunday's gathering outside of Club Q, which Mobolade and Gov. Jared Polis are expected to attend, will allow people to "come together to stand as one community," the club said when announcing the event.

"Hate will not be tolerated in this city under my watch, and we stand resolute," Mobolade said Friday.

"Our community will not be defined by the terrible acts at Club Q, but our response to it. Our community has come a long way, and I understand that we still have a ways to go."

Aldrich, who has not publicly revealed a motivation for the shooting, pleaded guilty in June to five counts of murder and 46 counts of attempted murder for each person who was at the club during the attack. Aldrich also pleaded no contest to two hate crimes and was given five consecutive life sentences.

The attack came more than a year after Aldrich, who identifies as nonbinary and uses the pronouns they and them, was arrested for threatening their grandparents and vowing to become "the next mass killer" while stockpiling weapons, body armor and bomb-making materials.

Those charges were eventually dismissed after Aldrich's mother and grandparents refused to cooperate with prosecutors.

## **41 workers in India are stuck in a tunnel for an 8th day. Officials consider alternate rescue plans**

By BISWAJEET BANERJEE Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India (AP) — Officials trying to reach 41 workers who have been trapped in a collapsed tunnel in northern India for eight days were contemplating alternative rescue plans Sunday after snags with a drilling machine caused them to halt digging.

A new drilling machine arrived at the accident site in Uttarakhand state on Saturday to replace one that was damaged while breaking through the rocks and debris. They had been using the drill to create a space to insert wide pipes through which the trapped workers could crawl to their freedom.

Authorities have so far drilled 24 meters (79 feet) through rubble and debris, but it would require up to 60 meters (197 feet) to allow the workers to escape, said Devendra Patwal, a disaster management official.

Officials on Sunday were considering new angles for extracting the workers. Deepa Gaur, a government spokesperson, said this included possibly using the new machine to drill from the top of the hill, under which the workers have been trapped inside the collapsed tunnel.

This method would be more time-consuming, taking an additional four or five days, she added.

Earlier, rescue efforts hit a snag when a loud cracking sound was heard within the tunnel, startling those overseeing the operation, who paused the drilling and found parts of the machine damaged, said Tarun Kumar Baidya, director at the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited.

The construction workers have been trapped since Nov. 12, when a landslide caused a portion of the 4.5-kilometer (2.8-mile) tunnel they were building to collapse about 200 meters (650 feet) from the entrance. The hilly area is prone to landslides.

The site is in Uttarakhand, a mountainous state dotted with Hindu temples that attract many pilgrims and tourists. Highway and building construction has been constant to accommodate the influx. The tunnel is part of the busy Chardham all-weather road, a flagship federal project connecting various Hindu pilgrimage sites.

About 200 disaster relief personnel have been at the site using drilling equipment and excavators in the rescue operation, with the plan being to push 80-centimeter-wide (2.6-foot-wide) steel pipes through an opening of excavated debris.

Anshu Manish Khalkho, director at NHIDCL, said that after they paused the drilling on Saturday experts became concerned the drilling machine's high-intensity vibrations could cause more debris to fall and hinder efforts. The machine has a drilling capacity of up to 5 meters (16 feet) per hour and is equipped with a 99-centimeter (3.2-foot) diameter pipe to clear debris.

Khalko said drilling vertically from the top of the hill could also cause additional debris, but that they would opt for a specific technique designed for drilling through overburdened soil conditions where unstable ground make traditional methods more difficult. This method, experts hope, would lead to less debris falling.

One challenge, however, is that drilling from the top means they would need to dig 103 meters (338 feet) to reach the trapped workers — nearly double than if they carried on digging from the front.

Authorities were also contemplating drilling from the sides and the ends of the tunnel, Khulbe said.

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Vijay Singh, an official at the control room, said they had also extended the pipe installed inside the tunnel through which the trapped workers were receiving food like nuts, roasted chickpeas, popcorn, and other essential items. Oxygen supply is being administered through a separate pipe.

Doctors, officials and relatives were in constant touch with the workers, said Patwal, the disaster management official. He said two doctors at the disaster site were ensuring the workers' physical and mental well-being and that they have supplied them with vitamins and tablets to treat anxiety.

But as the rescue operation stretches into its eighth day, families of those stuck underground are growing more worried, frustrated and angry.

"I am losing my patience," said Maharaj Singh Negi, whose brother Gabbar Singh is among the trapped workers. "The officials have not even briefed us about the future plans."

## For this group of trans women, the pope and his message of inclusivity are a welcome change

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

TORVAIANICA, Italy (AP) — Pope Francis' recent gesture of welcome for transgender Catholics has resonated strongly in a working class, seaside town south of Rome, where a community of trans women has found help and hope through a remarkable relationship with the pontiff forged during the darkest times of the pandemic.

Thanks to the local parish priest, these women now make monthly visits to Francis' Wednesday general audiences, where they are given VIP seats. On any given day, they receive handouts of medicine, cash and shampoo. When COVID-19 struck, the Vatican bussed them into its health facility so they could be vaccinated ahead of most Italians.

On Sunday, these women — many of whom are Latin American migrants and work as prostitutes — will join over 1,000 other poor and homeless people in the Vatican auditorium as Francis' guests for lunch to mark the Catholic Church's World Day of the Poor. For the marginalized trans community of Torvaianica, it is just the latest gesture of inclusion from a pope who has made reaching out to the LGBTQ+ community a hallmark of his papacy, in word and deed.

"Before, the church was closed to us. They didn't see us as normal people, they saw us as the devil," said Andrea Paola Torres Lopez, a Colombian transgender woman known as Consuelo, whose kitchen is decorated with pictures of Jesus. "Then Pope Francis arrived and the doors of the church opened for us."

Francis' latest initiative was a document from the Vatican's doctrine office asserting that, under some circumstances, transgender people can be baptized and can serve as godparents and witnesses in weddings. It followed another recent statement from the pope himself that suggested same-sex couples could receive church blessings.

In both cases, the new pronouncements reversed the absolute bans on transgender people serving as godparents issued by the Vatican doctrine office in 2015, and on same-sex blessings announced in 2021.

Prominent LGBTQ+ organizations have welcomed Francis' message of inclusivity, given gay and transgender people have long felt ostracized and discriminated against by a church that officially teaches that homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered."

Starting from his famous "Who am I to judge" comment in 2013 about a purportedly gay priest, to his assertion in January that "being homosexual is not a crime," Francis has evolved his position to increasingly make clear that everyone — "todos, todos, todos" — is a child of God, is loved by God and welcome in the church.

That judgment-free position is not necessarily shared by the rest of the Catholic Church. The recent Vatican gathering of bishops and laypeople, known as a synod, backed off language explicitly calling for welcoming LGBTQ+ Catholics. Conservative Catholics, including cardinals, have strongly questioned his approach. And a 2022 Pew Research Center analysis showed most U.S. Catholics, or 62%, believe that whether a person is a man or woman is determined by the sex assigned at birth, while only a minority,

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37%, said it can change.

After his latest statement about trans participation in church sacraments, GLAAD and DignityUSA said Francis' tone of inclusion would send a message to political and cultural leaders to end their persecution, exclusion and discrimination against transgender people.

For the trans community in Torvaianica, it was a more personal message, a concrete sign that the pope knew them, had heard their stories and wanted to let them know that they were part of his church.

Carla Segovia, a 46-year-old Argentine sex worker, said for transgender women like herself, being a godparent is the closest thing she will ever get to having a child of her own. She said that the new norms made her feel more comfortable about maybe one day returning fully to the faith that she was baptized in but fell away from after coming out as trans.

"This norm from Pope Francis brings me closer to finding that absolute serenity," she said, which she feels is necessary to be fully reconciled with the faith.

Claudia Vittoria Salas, a 55-year-old transgender tailor and house cleaner, said she had already served as a godparent to three of her nieces and nephews back home in Jujuy, in northern Argentina. She choked up as she recalled that her earnings from her former work as a prostitute put her godchildren through school.

"Being a godparent is a big responsibility, it's taking the place of the mother or father, it's not a game," she said as her voice broke. "You have to choose the right people who will be responsible and capable, when the parents aren't around, to send the kids to school and provide them with food and clothes."

Francis' unusual friendship with the Torvaianica trans community began during Italy's strict COVID-19 lockdown, when one, then two, and then more sex workers showed up at the Rev. Andrea Conocchia's church on the main piazza of town asking for food, because they had lost all sources of income.

Over time, Canocchia got to know the women and as the pandemic and economic hardships continued, he encouraged them to write to Francis to ask for what they needed. One night they sat around a table and composed their letters.

"The pages of the letters of the first four were bathed in tears," he recalled. "Why? Because they told me 'Father, I'm ashamed, I can't tell the pope what I have done, how I have lived.'"

But they did, and the first assistance arrived from the pope's chief almsgiver, who then accompanied the women for their COVID-19 vaccines a year later. At the time of the pandemic, many of the women weren't legally allowed to live in Italy and had no access to the vaccine.

Eventually, Francis asked to meet them.

Salas was among those who received the job at the Vatican and then joined a group from Torvaianica to thank Francis at his general audience on April 27, 2022. She brought the Argentine pope a platter of homemade chicken empanadas, a traditional comfort food from their shared homeland.

Showing the photo of the exchange on her phone, Salas remembered what Francis did next: "He told the gentleman who receives the gifts to leave them with him, saying 'I'm taking them with me for lunch,'" she said. "At that point, I started to cry."

For Canocchia, Francis' response to Salas and the others has changed him profoundly as a priest, teaching him the value of listening and being attentive to the lives and hardships of his flock, especially those most on the margins.

For the women, it is simply an acknowledgement that they matter.

"At least they remember us, that we're on Earth and we haven't been abandoned and left to the mercy of the wind," said Torres Lopez.

## **Sugar prices are rising worldwide after bad weather tied to El Nino damaged crops in Asia**

By ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL and CHINEDU ASADU Associated Press

Skyrocketing sugar prices left Ishaq Abdulraheem with few choices. Increasing the cost of bread would mean declining sales, so the Nigerian baker decided to cut his production by half.

For scores of other bakers struggling to stay afloat while enduring higher costs for fuel and flour, the

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stratospheric sugar prices proved to be the last straw, and they closed for good.

Sugar is needed to make bread, which is a staple for Nigeria's 210 million people, and for many who are struggling to put food on the table, it offers a cheap source of calories. Surging sugar prices — an increase of 55% in two months — means fewer bakers and less bread.

"It is a very serious situation," Abdulraheem said.

Sugar worldwide is trading at the highest prices since 2011, mainly due to lower global supplies after unusually dry weather damaged harvests in India and Thailand, the world's second- and third-largest exporters.

This is just the latest hit for developing nations already coping with shortages in staples like rice and bans on food trade that have added to food inflation. All of it contributes to food insecurity because of the combined effects of the naturally occurring climate phenomenon El Nino, the war in Ukraine and weaker currencies. Wealthier Western nations can absorb the higher costs, but poorer nations are struggling.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization is predicting a 2% decline in global sugar production in the 2023-24 season, compared with the previous year, translating to a loss of about 3.5 million metric tons (3.8 million U.S. tons), said Fabio Palmeri, an FAO global commodities market researcher. Increasingly, sugar is being used for biofuels like ethanol, so global reserves of sugar are at their lowest since 2009.

Brazil is the biggest sugar exporter, but its harvest will only help plug gaps later in 2024. Until then, import-dependent countries — like most of those in sub-Saharan Africa — remain vulnerable.

Nigeria, for instance, buys 98% of its raw sugar from other countries. In 2021, it banned imports of refined sugar that ran counter to a plan to build up domestic sugar processing and announced a \$73-million project to expand sugar infrastructure. But those are longer-term strategies. Abuja traders like Abba Usman are facing problems now.

The same 50-kilogram (110-pound) bag of sugar that Usman bought a week ago for \$66 now costs \$81. As prices rise, his customers are dwindling.

"The price keeps increasing every day, and we don't know why," Usman said.

It's partly due to the El Nino, a natural phenomenon that shifts global weather patterns and can cause extreme weather conditions ranging from drought to flooding. Scientists believe climate change is making El Nino stronger.

India endured its driest August in over a century, and crops in the western state of Maharashtra, which accounts for over a third of its sugarcane production, were stunted during the crucial growing phase.

India's sugar production is likely to decline by 8% this year, according to the Indian Sugar Mills Association. The world's most populated nation is also the biggest consumer of sugar and is now restricting sugar exports.

In Thailand, El Nino effects early in the growing season altered not just the quantity but also the quality of the harvest, said Naradhip Anantasuk, leader of the Thailand Sugar Planters Association. He expects only 76 million metric tons (84 million U.S. tons) of sugarcane to be milled in the 2024 harvest season, compared with 93 million metric tons (103 million U.S. tons) this year.

A report by U.S. Department of Agriculture predicted a 15% dip in output in Thailand in October.

Thailand reversed a hike in sugar prices within days, imposing price controls for the first time since 2018. Anantasuk said this would discourage farmers from growing sugar by capping their income.

"It's like preventing the industry from growing, preventing an open competition," he said.

Wholesale prices had been allowed to rise to help farmers cope with higher costs — partly due to government demands that they not burn their fields, which makes harvesting cheaper but envelops much of Thailand in heavy smog.

Looking ahead, Brazil's harvest is forecast to be 20% bigger than last year's, said Kelly Goughary, a senior research analyst at the agriculture data and analytics firm Gro Intelligence. But since the country is in the Southern Hemisphere, the boost to global supplies won't come until March.

This is because of favorable weather earlier this year in Brazil along with an increase in areas where sugarcane was planted, according to the USDA.

The next few months are the greatest concern, said the FAO's Palmeri. Population growth and rising sugar consumption will further strain sugar reserves, he said.

The world now has less than 68 days of sugar in stockpiles to meet its needs, compared with 106 days when they began declining in 2020, according to data from the USDA.

"It's at the lowest levels since 2010," said Joseph Glauber, senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute.

Indonesia — the biggest sugar importer last year, according to the USDA — has cut back on imports and China, the No. 2 importer, was forced to release sugar from its stocks to offset high prices domestically for the first time in six years, Palmeri said.

For some countries, importing more expensive sugar eats up reserves of foreign currency like dollars and euros that also are needed to pay for oil and other crucial commodities, said El Mamoun Amrouk, an FAO economist.

That includes Kenya. Once self-sufficient in sugar, it now imports 200,000 metric tons (110,000 U.S. tons) a year from a regional trade bloc. In 2021, the government limited imports to protect local farmers from foreign competition, but it reversed that decision as harvests shrank due to insufficient rain and mismanagement.

The amount of sugar milled in Kenya fell steadily from June to August. To compensate, monthly imports doubled from September to October. Meanwhile, a 50-kilogram (110-pound) bag of local sugar doubled in price to \$60, shopkeeper Joseph Kuraru said.

Back in Africa's largest economy, the struggle of Nigerian bakers is a microcosm of the effects of rising food and fuel costs and the outsized impact of high sugar prices because it's so ubiquitous. Abuja's many bakeries use sugar both to sweeten cakes and to feed the yeast that makes bread rise.

Bread is often the only food poor households can afford. When bakers raise bread prices, as they did by 15% earlier this year, some people go hungry.

Not passing along higher costs is not an option, said Mansur Umar, president of the Nigerian Bakers' Association.

"There is no way you can buy high and you sell low," he said.

## **Oregon's first-in-the-nation drug decriminalization law faces growing pushback amid fentanyl crisis**

By CLAIRE RUSH Associated Press/Report for America

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Oregon's first-in-the-nation law that decriminalized the possession of small amounts of heroin, cocaine and other illicit drugs in favor of an emphasis on addiction treatment is facing strong headwinds in the progressive state after an explosion of public drug use fueled by the proliferation of fentanyl and a surge in deaths from opioids, including those of children.

"The inability for people to live their day-to-day life without encountering open-air drug use is so pressing on urban folks' minds," said John Horvick, vice president of polling firm DHM Research. "That has very much changed people's perspective about what they think Measure 110 is."

When the law was approved by 58% of Oregon voters three years ago, supporters championed Measure 110 as a revolutionary approach that would transform addiction by minimizing penalties for drug use and investing instead in recovery.

But even top Democratic lawmakers who backed the law, which will likely dominate the upcoming legislative session, say they're now open to revisiting it after the biggest increase in synthetic opioid deaths among states that have reported their numbers.

The cycle of addiction and homelessness spurred by fentanyl is most visible in Portland, where it's not unusual to see people shooting up in broad daylight on busy city streets.

"Everything's on the table," said Democratic state Sen. Kate Lieber, co-chair of a new joint legislative committee created to tackle addiction. "We have got to do something to make sure that we have safer

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streets and that we're saving lives."

Measure 110 directed the state's cannabis tax revenue toward drug addiction treatment services while decriminalizing the possession of so-called "personal use" amounts of illicit drugs. Possession of under a gram of heroin, for example, is only subject to a ticket and a maximum fine of \$100.

Those caught with small amounts of drugs can have the citation dismissed by calling a 24-hour hotline to complete an addiction screening within 45 days, but those who don't do a screening are not penalized for failing to pay the fine. In the first year after the law took effect in February 2021, only 1% of people who received citations for possession sought help via the hotline, state auditors found.

Critics of the law say this doesn't create an incentive to seek treatment.

Republican lawmakers have urged Democratic Gov. Tina Kotek to call a special session to address the issue before the Legislature reconvenes in February. They have proposed harsher sanctions for possession and other drug-related offenses, such as mandatory treatment and easing restrictions on placing people under the influence on holds in facilities such as hospitals if they pose a danger to themselves or others.

"Treatment should be a requirement, not a suggestion," a group of Republican state representatives said in a letter to Kotek.

Law enforcement officials who have testified before the new legislative committee on addiction have proposed reestablishing drug possession as a class A misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to a year in jail or a \$6,250 fine.

"We don't believe a return to incarceration is the answer, but restoring a (class A) misdemeanor for possession with diversion opportunities is critically important," Jason Edmiston, chief of police in the small, rural city of Hermiston in northeast Oregon, told the committee.

However, data shows decades of criminalizing possession hasn't deterred people from using drugs. In 2022, nearly 25 million Americans, roughly 8% of the population, reported using illicit drugs other than marijuana in the previous year, according to the annual National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

Some lawmakers have suggested focusing on criminalizing public drug use rather than possession. Alex Kreit, assistant professor of law at Northern Kentucky University and director of its Center on Addiction Law and Policy, said such an approach could help curb visible drug use on city streets but wouldn't address what's largely seen as the root cause: homelessness.

"There are states that don't have decriminalization that have these same difficult problems with public health and public order and just quality-of-life issues related to large-scale homeless populations in downtown areas," he said, mentioning California as an example.

Backers of Oregon's approach say decriminalization isn't necessarily to blame, as many other states with stricter drug laws have also reported increases in fentanyl deaths.

But estimates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show, among the states reporting data, Oregon had the highest increase in synthetic opioid overdose fatalities when comparing 2019 and the 12-month period ending June 30, a 13-fold surge from 84 deaths to more than 1,100.

Among the next highest was neighboring Washington state, which saw its estimated synthetic opioid overdose deaths increase seven-fold when comparing those same time periods, CDC data shows.

Nationally, overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids such as fentanyl roughly doubled over that time span. Roughly two-thirds of all deadly overdoses in the U.S. in the 12 months ending June 30 involved synthetic opioids, federal data shows.

Supporters of Oregon's law say it was confronted by a perfect storm of broader forces, including the COVID-19 pandemic, a mental health workforce shortage and the fentanyl crisis, which didn't reach fever pitch until after the law took effect in early 2021.

A group of Oregon lawmakers recently traveled to Portugal, which decriminalized the personal possession of drugs in 2001, to learn more about its policy. State Rep. Lily Morgan, the only Republican legislator on the trip, said Portugal's approach was interesting but couldn't necessarily be applied to Oregon.

"The biggest glaring difference is they're still not dealing with fentanyl and meth," she said, noting the country also has universal health care.

Despite public perception, the law has made some progress by directing \$265 million dollars of cannabis



tax revenue toward standing up the state's new addiction treatment infrastructure.

The law also created what are known as Behavioral Health Resource Networks in every county, which provide care regardless of the ability to pay. The networks have ensured about 7,000 people entered treatment from January to March of this year, doubling from nearly 3,500 people from July through September 2022, state data shows.

The law's funding also has been key for providers of mental health and addiction services because it has "created a sustainable, predictable funding home for services that never had that before," said Heather Jefferis, executive director of Oregon Council for Behavioral Health, which represents such providers.

Horvick, the pollster, said public support for expanding treatment remains high despite pushback against the law.

"It would be a mistake to overturn 110 right now because I think that would make us go backwards," Lieber, the Democratic state senator, said. "Just repealing it will not solve our problem. Even if we didn't have 110, we would still be having significant issues."

## **32 babies in critical condition are among the patients left at Gaza's main hospital, UN team says**

By NAJIB JOBAIN, BASSEM MROUE and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — A United Nations team said Sunday that 291 patients were left at Gaza's largest hospital after Israeli troops had others evacuate. Those left included 32 babies in extremely critical condition, trauma patients with severely infected wounds and others with spinal injuries who are unable to move.

The team was able to tour Shifa Hospital for an hour after about 2,500 displaced people, mobile patients and medical staff left the sprawling compound Saturday morning, said the World Health Organization, which led the mission.

"Patients and health staff with whom they spoke were terrified for their safety and health, and pleaded for evacuation," the agency said, describing Shifa as a death zone. It said more teams will attempt to reach Shifa in coming days to try to evacuate the patients to southern Gaza, where hospitals are also overwhelmed.

Israeli troops are staying in the hospital. Israel's military has been searching Gaza City's Shifa Hospital for a Hamas command center that it alleges is located under the facility — a claim Hamas and hospital staff deny.

Saturday's mass departure was portrayed by Israel as voluntary, but described by some of those leaving as a forced exodus.

"We left at gunpoint," Mahmoud Abu Auf told The Associated Press by phone after he and his family left the crowded hospital. "Tanks and snipers were everywhere inside and outside." He said he saw Israeli troops detain three men.

Elsewhere in northern Gaza, dozens of people were killed in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp when what witnesses described as an Israeli airstrike hit a crowded U.N. shelter in the main combat zone. It caused massive destruction in the camp's Fakhoura school, said wounded survivors Ahmed Radwan and Yassin Sharif.

"The scenes were horrifying. Corpses of women and children were on the ground. Others were screaming for help," Radwan said by phone. AP photos from a local hospital showed more than 20 bodies wrapped in bloodstained sheets.

The Israeli military, which had warned Jabaliya residents and others in a social media post in Arabic to leave, said only that its troops were active in the area "with the aim of hitting terrorists." It rarely comments on individual strikes, saying only that it targets Hamas while trying to minimize civilian harm.

"Receiving horrifying images & footage of scores of people killed and injured in another UNRWA school sheltering thousands of displaced," Philippe Lazzarini, the commissioner general of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, or UNRWA, said on X, formerly Twitter.

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In southern Gaza, an Israeli airstrike hit a residential building on the outskirts of the town of Khan Younis, killing at least 26 Palestinians, according to a doctor at the hospital where the bodies were taken.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Israel's forces have begun operating in eastern Gaza City while continuing its mission in western areas. "With every passing day, there are fewer places where Hamas terrorists can operate," he said, adding that the militants would learn that in southern Gaza "in the coming days."

His comments were the clearest indication yet that the military plans to expand its offensive to southern Gaza, where Israel had told Palestinian civilians to flee early in the war.

The evacuation zone is already crammed with displaced civilians, and it was not clear where they would go if the offensive moves closer.

What led to the Shifa Hospital evacuation wasn't immediately known. Israel's military said it was asked by the hospital's director to help those who would like to leave do so, and that it did not order an evacuation. But Medhat Abbas, a spokesperson for the Health Ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza, said the military ordered the facility cleared and gave the hospital an hour to get people out.

The U.N. team visiting after the evacuation said 25 medical staff remained, along with the patients. The World Health Organization said that in the next 24–72 hours, pending guarantees of safe passage, more missions were being arranged to evacuate to the Nasser Medical Complex and the European Gaza Hospital in southern Gaza.

Twenty-five of Gaza's hospitals aren't functioning due to a lack of fuel, damage and other problems, and the other 11 are only partially operational, according to the World Health Organization.

Israel has said hospitals in northern Gaza were a key target of its ground offensive, claiming they were used as militant command centers and weapons depots, which both Hamas and medical staff deny.

Internet and phone services were restored Saturday to Gaza, ending a telecommunications outage that had forced the United Nations to shut down critical aid deliveries.

The war was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack in southern Israel, in which militants killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted some 240 others. Fifty-two Israeli soldiers have been killed.

More than 11,500 Palestinians have been killed, according to Palestinian health authorities. Another 2,700 have been reported missing, believed buried under rubble. The count does not differentiate between civilians and combatants; Israel says it has killed thousands of militants.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Saturday that the Israeli military would have "full freedom" to operate within the territory after the war. The comments again put him in conflict with U.S. visions for a post-war Gaza.

In an op-ed published Saturday in The Washington Post, United States President Joe Biden said Gaza and the West Bank should be reunited and governed under a "revitalized Palestinian Authority" while world leaders work toward a peaceful two-state solution. Netanyahu has long opposed a Palestinian state.

The U.S. is providing weapons and intelligence support to Israel in its offensive to root out Hamas.

## GROWING FRUSTRATION

Gaza's main power plant shut down early in the war, and Israel has cut off electricity. That makes fuel necessary to power generators needed to run water treatment plants, sanitation facilities, hospitals and other critical infrastructure for Gaza's 2.3 million people.

UNRWA spokesperson Juliette Touma said 120,000 liters (31,700 gallons) of fuel arrived for the U.N.'s use, meant to last for two days, after Israel agreed to the shipment. Israel also is allowing 10,000 liters (2,642 gallons) to keep internet and telephone systems running. It wasn't immediately clear when UNRWA would resume aid that was put on hold Friday during the communications blackout.

Gaza has received only 10% of its required food supplies each day in shipments from Egypt, according to the U.N., and the water system shutdown has left most of the population drinking contaminated water. Dehydration and malnutrition are growing, according to the U.N.'s World Food Program.

In Jerusalem, thousands of marchers — including family members and supporters of about 240 hostages held in Gaza by Hamas — arrived on the last leg of a five-day trek from Tel Aviv to plead with the government to do more to bring their loved ones home.

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The Israeli military said its aircraft struck what it described as a hideout for militants in the urban refugee camp of Balata in the occupied West Bank. The Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance service said five Palestinians were killed. The deaths raised the number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since the war began to 212.

## Trump celebrates win in Colorado election case during return visit to Iowa

By HANNAH FINGERHUT, JILL COLVIN and THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

FORT DODGE, Iowa (AP) — Former President Donald Trump celebrated a win in a closely watched election case during a return visit to Iowa Saturday, where he blasted his political foes and encouraged his supporters to not move past their grievances with President Joe Biden.

A Colorado judge Friday rejected an effort to keep the GOP front-runner off the state's primary ballot, concluding that Trump had engaged in insurrection during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol but that it was unclear whether a Civil War-era constitutional amendment barring insurrectionists from public office applied to the presidency. It was Trump's latest win following rulings in similar cases in Minnesota and Michigan.

Trump, campaigning in west-central Iowa, called the decision "a gigantic court victory" as he panned what he called "an outrageous attempt to disenfranchise millions of voters by getting us thrown off the ballot."

"Our opponents are showing every day that they hate democracy," he charged before a crowd of about 2,000 people at a commit-to-caucus event at a high school in Fort Dodge, Iowa, where supporters decked out in Trump gear had lined up for hours to get a seat in the gymnasium.

Trump's visit was part of his fall push to sign up supporters and volunteers before the state's fast-approaching caucuses that will kick off the race for the Republican presidential nomination. It was the latest in a series of targeted regional stops aimed at seizing on the large crowds the former president draws to press attendees to commit to vote for him and serve as precinct leaders on Jan. 15.

While Trump boasted that polls show him far ahead of other contenders, he urged those in attendance Saturday to turn out on caucus day to "make sure we have a big victory" that would signal to other candidates that they should drop out.

"Will you please give me a good showing?" Trump asked the crowd to applause. "That's the least you can do."

While Trump has a comfortable edge over his top rivals, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, in early polls of likely caucus participants, Trump's campaign has been more aggressive in Iowa than in any of the other early-voting states.

And he continued to attack both DeSantis and Haley during his appearance Saturday, slamming the Florida governor over his past opposition to federal ethanol mandates and for running against Trump.

Trump in a Thursday radio interview had mocked DeSantis for his standing in the polls even after receiving the endorsement of Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, who broke with the general practice of declining to support a candidate before the caucuses.

"I don't think it's made any difference," he said of her backing.

DeSantis, who stopped by his campaign's new office in Urbandale on Saturday, told reporters that Trump was making missteps by attacking Reynolds and focusing on larger rallies.

"I think it's been a mistake how he's not been willing to engage with Iowans outside of swooping in and doing, you know, a speech and then just leaving," DeSantis said. "I think you got to get on the ground, you got to shake the hands, you got to answer their questions."

DeSantis was campaigning across southern Iowa, moving closer to his goal of campaigning in all 99 counties. That's a traditional marker some candidates have tried to reach to show their commitment to Iowa.

Despite DeSantis' push, Dale Mason, a construction worker from Fort Dodge, is a solid Trump backer.

"Trump's already proven himself to me. If it works, then why mess with it?" Mason said. "I feel like it worked when he was in office."

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The 31-year-old single father said he lives paycheck to paycheck and worries about being able to feed his 12-year-old daughter or put gas in the car. Trump "made it easier for us to get by," Mason said, adding, "He supported us so I think it's our turn to give back to him."

Sue Hewett, who hadn't seen Trump campaign in person before, agreed. "There's isn't anybody coming across like he does," said Hewett, 68, who lives in Fort Dodge. "They don't have the draw." She said she was open to considering different candidates, but so far hasn't been persuaded by any of the other contenders.

Trump, in his speech, continued to cast Biden as incompetent and weak as he looks toward a potential general election rematch. And he continued to air his grievances about the 2020 election, pressing conspiracies and falsely insisting he had won, even though top state and federal election officials, including his own attorney general, as well as numerous courts found no evidence of the widespread fraud he alleges.

"We can never forget. We can never let history go," Trump said.

He also continued to rail against his legal challenges, including his civil fraud trial in New York, where a judge has already ruled that Trump committed years of fraud while building his real estate empire.

Trump earlier Saturday escalated his attacks on the judge, Arthur Engoron, his clerk and New York Attorney General Letitia James, saying on his social media site that the three "should be sanctioned and prosecuted over this complete and very obvious MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE!!!"

The attack came two days after an appeals court judge temporary lifted a gag order that had barred Trump from commenting on court personnel, including the clerk. James' office declined comment on the attacks. Judges have broad immunity for judicial decisions.

Trump has also been indicted four times and faces a total of 91 felony counts.

In his remarks, Trump continued to lay out a second-term agenda that would be far more radical than his first, and announced that he planned to begin implementing his plans before returning to the Oval Office. He said he intended to sign "four or five different documents" on the steps of the Capitol during his inauguration ceremony.

"I may even have a very tiny little desk put on the 20th stair," he said.

Trump has made regular stops in Iowa, appearing at eight events before audiences totaling more than 16,000, according to Trump's Secret Service detail, in the past eight weeks.

It's part of a 2024 strategy that stresses organization more than his campaign did in 2016, when he finished in second place.

Rivals, especially DeSantis, have visited Iowa more often as they hope to score a better-than-expected finish against Trump that they hope can catapult them into a one-on-one matchup against the front-runner in later contests.

A recent memo to donors from DeSantis' campaign suggested that DeSantis' all-in strategy in Iowa was in keeping with his hope to rob Trump of "a big win in Iowa."

## French Holocaust survivors are recoiling at new antisemitism, and activists are pleading for peace

By JEFFREY SCHAEFFER and HELENA ALVES Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Survivors of Nazi atrocities joined young Jewish activists outside the Paris Holocaust memorial Saturday to sound the alarm about resurgent antisemitic hate speech, graffiti and abuse linked to the Israel-Hamas war.

The impact of the conflict is drawing increasing concern in France and beyond. Thousands of pro-Palestinian and left-wing activists rallied in Paris and around Britain on Saturday to call for a cease-fire, the latest of several such protests in major cities around the world since the war began.

France is home to the largest Jewish population outside Israel and the U.S., and western Europe's largest Muslim population. The war has re-opened the doors to anti-Jewish sentiment in a country whose wartime collaboration with the Nazis left deep scars. Some 100,000 people marched through Paris last week to denounce antisemitism.

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Esther Senot, 96, said the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7 stirred up her memories of World War II. "Massacres like that, I have lived through," she said at the Paris Holocaust Memorial. "I saw people die in front of me."

Her sister was among them: "They brought her to the gas chamber in front of my eyes," she said.

Most of Senot's family members died. She survived 17 months in Auschwitz-Birkenau and other death camps and made it back to France at age 17, weighing just 32 kilograms (70 pounds).

Senot was speaking at an event organized by Jewish youth organization Hachomer Hatzai, at which teenage activists drew parallels between what's happening now and the leadup to World War II. They held a sign saying "We will not let history repeat itself."

France's Interior Ministry said this week that 1,762 antisemitic acts have been reported this year, as well as 131 anti-Muslim acts and 564 anti-Christian acts. Half of the antisemitic acts involve graffiti, posters or protest banners bearing Nazi symbols or violent anti-Jewish messages. They also include physical attacks on people and Jewish sites, and online threats. Most were registered after the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7, the ministry said.

Serge Klarsfeld, a renowned Nazi hunter and head of the Sons and Daughters of Jewish Deportees from France, noted that anger at the Israeli government's actions often gets mixed with anti-Jewish sentiment. While he is concerned about the current atmosphere in France, he sought to put it in perspective.

"Certainly there are antisemitic acts (in France), but they are not at an urgent level," he said. He expressed hope in "the wisdom of the two communities, who know how lucky they are to live in this exceptional country."

France has citizens directly affected by the war: The initial Hamas attack killed 40 French people, and French Defense Minister Sebastien Lecornu is shuttling around the Middle East this week to try to negotiate the release of eight French citizens held hostage by Hamas.

Two French children have also been killed in Israel's subsequent offensive on Gaza, according to the Foreign Ministry, which is pushing for humanitarian help for Gaza's civilians.

On Sunday, hundreds of French entertainment stars from different cultural and religious backgrounds plan a silent march in central Paris to call for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. They will march from the Arab World Institute to the Museum of Art and History of Judaism.

Like France and some other countries, Britain has seen protests to demand a cease-fire each weekend since the war began. Organizers from Palestinian organizations and left-wing groups said rallies and marches were held in dozens of towns and cities across the U.K. on Saturday.

Some staged sit-in protests in busy railway stations, while hundreds of people demonstrated outside the north London office of opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer. His refusal to call for a cease-fire and instead to advocate a "humanitarian pause" has angered some members of the left-of-center party.

## **Taylor Swift postpones Rio de Janeiro show, citing record heat a day after fan dies during concert**

By DIANE JEANTET Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Taylor Swift postponed an Eras Tour concert in Rio de Janeiro Saturday after a 23-year-old fan died during her Friday night show, according to a message posted on the singer's Instagram.

"I'm writing this from my dressing room in the stadium. The decision has been made to postpone tonight's show due to the extreme temperatures in Rio," the singer said in a handwritten note on Instagram. "The safety and well being of my fans, fellow performers, and crew has to and always will come first."

The cause of death for Ana Clara Benevides Machado, the young woman who sought medical attention at Nilton Santos Olympic Stadium during Friday's show, has not yet been announced. The office of Rio's public prosecutor opened a criminal investigation and said Benevides' body was being examined.

Benevides' death shook many people in Brazil. She had taken her first flight ever to travel from the country's center-west region to Rio to see her favorite musician. She also created a WhatsApp group to

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keep her family updated, sending photos and videos every step of the way, family members told online news site G1.

Fans and politicians reacted to her death with outrage, speculating it was linked to extreme heat.

Concertgoers complained they were not allowed to take water into the stadium despite the stifling weather. As temperatures continued to rise Saturday and with two more shows to go at the time, federal authorities announced that free water would now be made available at concerts and other large events.

One of Benevides' friends, who also went to the concert, told local outlets they had both been given water while waiting to enter the stadium.

In a previous statement shared on her social media Saturday morning, Swift said she had a "shattered heart."

"There's very little information I have other than the fact that she was so incredibly beautiful and far too young," the singer wrote of the young woman.

The show's organizer, Time4Fun, said on Instagram that paramedics attended to Benevides after she reported feeling unwell. She was taken to a first-aid center and then to a hospital, where she died an hour later, the statement from the Brazilian live entertainment company said.

Fans who attended the Friday show said they were not allowed to bring water bottles into the stadium even though Rio and most of Brazil have had record-breaking temperatures this week amid a dangerous and lasting heat wave. The daytime high in Rio on Friday was 39.1 degrees Celsius (102.4 degrees Fahrenheit), but it felt much hotter.

Apparent temperature — a combination of temperature and humidity — hit 59 C (138 F) Friday morning in Rio, the highest index ever recorded there.

Elizabeth Morin, 26, who recently moved to Rio from Los Angeles, described "sauna-like" conditions inside the stadium.

"It was extremely hot. My hair got so wet from sweat as soon as I came in," she said. "There was a point at which I had to check my breathing to make sure I wasn't going to pass out."

Morin said she drank plenty of water but saw "a good amount of people looking distressed" and others "yelling for water." She said she was able to get water from the sidelines of the area she was standing in, but that water was a lot harder to access from other parts of the stadium, "especially if you were concerned about losing your specific position."

During the show, Swift paused her performance and asked from the stage for water to be brought to a group of people who had successfully caught the singer's attention, according to Morin.

"They were holding up their phones saying 'We need water,'" she recalled.

Two other concertgoers interviewed by The Associated Press said they witnessed people feeling unwell from the heat during the show.

On her way to Rio, Benevides sent a video to family members that was broadcast by TV channel Globo News, telling them: "Mom, look at the plane, it's moving. Mom, I'm on the plane. My God in heaven! I'm happy!"

Then before the concert, she posted a video of herself on Instagram wearing a Taylor Swift T-shirt and friendship bracelets, seeking shade under an umbrella while waiting in line to enter the stadium.

Like her, thousands of fans waited hours in the sun before being allowed inside.

She told her followers while fanning her face that she'd arrived at 11 a.m. — the show began around 7:30 p.m. — and was "still in the mess."

Benevides' friend, Daniele Menin, who attended the concert with her, told online news site G1 that her friend passed out at the beginning of the concert, as Swift performed her second song, "Cruel Summer."

"We always said that when (Taylor Swift) came to Brazil we would find a way to go. The ticket was very expensive, but we still found a way," Menin told G1.

Justice Minister Flávio Dino said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that going forward in Brazil, "water bottles for personal use, in suitable material, will be allowed" at concerts and festivals and that show producers must provide free and easily accessible drinking water.

Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes wrote on X that the “loss of a young woman’s life ... is unacceptable” and demanded more brigades and ambulances at future shows.

Still, the concert was postponed.

“We are on the train. And everyone is so disappointed,” said Hely Olivares, a 41 year-old Venezuelan who had traveled from Panama to see the artist.

Before postponing the concert, Swift wrote on Instagram that she would not address the death from stage “because I feel overwhelmed by grief when I even try to talk about it.”

“I want to say now I feel this loss deeply and my broken heart goes out to her family and friends,” she said.

## Climate change is hurting coral worldwide. But these reefs off the Texas coast are thriving

By JAMIE STENGLE, LM OTERO and KENDRIA LaFLEUR Associated Press

OFF THE COAST OF GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — Divers descending into azure waters far off the Texas coast dip below a horizon dotted with oil and gas platforms into an otherworldly landscape of undersea mountains crusted with yellow, orange and pink coral as far as the eye can see.

Some of the world’s healthiest coral reefs can be found in the Gulf of Mexico, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) off the Texas coast. Sheltered in a deep, cool habitat far from shore, the reefs in the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary boast a stunning amount of coral coverage. But scientists say that like all reefs, they are fragile, and their location will only offer protection for so long in the face of a warming climate.

“To see that much coral in one place is really magnificent — an experience that most people don’t get on reefs in this day and age,” said Michelle Johnston, the acting superintendent and research coordinator for the federally protected area.

The sanctuary had some moderate bleaching this year but nothing like the devastation that hit other reefs during the summer’s record-breaking heat. Still, Johnston said that’s among her top concerns for the sanctuary’s future. Waters that get too warm cause corals to expel their colorful algae and turn white. They can survive if temperatures fall but they are left more vulnerable to disease and may eventually die.

Florida’s coral reef — the world’s third-largest — experienced an unprecedented and potentially deadly level of bleaching over the summer. Derek Manzello, coordinator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Coral Reef Watch, said that so far this year, at least 35 countries and territories across five oceans and seas have experienced mass coral bleaching. He said it’s too early to know how much of Florida’s reefs will recover since coral may die as much as a year or two after the bleaching.

Manzello said climate models suggest that all of the world’s coral will be suffering severe bleaching every year beginning around 2040.

“If you have severe bleaching events every year, the prognosis is not good because that basically means the corals aren’t going to have a chance to recover,” he said.

Sanctuary officials say even in the occasional years when Flower Garden Banks has experienced more serious bleaching than this year, it has bounced back quickly thanks to its overall health and depth, and it’s already recovering this year.

A report expected in the coming months will look at the sanctuary’s vulnerability to the projected effects of climate change.

The Flower Garden Banks stands out for its amount of coral cover — an average of over 50 percent across some areas of the sanctuary — compared with around 10 percent cover in the Caribbean and Northwest Atlantic region, Manzello said. Its corals are also about 60 feet (18 meters) below the surface and surrounded by even deeper waters, compared with many reefs where corals are in shallower water just offshore.

In the early 1900s, fishermen told of peering into the Gulf’s waters and seeing a colorful display that reminded them of a blooming garden, but it was such an unusual spot so far from shore that scientists

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making the initial dives in the 1960s were surprised to actually find thriving coral reefs.

The corals in the Flower Garden Banks were able to flourish so far from shore because of mountain-like formations called salt domes, which lifted the corals high enough to catch the light, Johnston said.

Divers travel from around the world to see the reefs at Flower Garden Banks, where colorful fish, manta rays, sharks and sea turtles waft through and worms that look like Christmas trees pop in and out of corals.

Andy Lewis, a Houston attorney, said he knew from his first trip to the sanctuary about a decade ago that it was "going to have to be part of my life." Lewis became a divemaster and is now president of Texas Caribbean Charters, which takes about 1,000 people a year out on diving trips there, with about half making a return trip.

"It's just a real adventure," said Lewis, who also serves on the sanctuary's advisory board. "I love getting on the boat."

That boat leaves from a spot near Galveston, where currents from Mississippi River drop sediment that turns the water near shore a murky brown. By the time the boat motors out to the sanctuary, the water is clear and blue.

"You drop down and you are on top of live coral as far as you can see," Lewis said.

Lauren Tinnes, a nurse from Colorado, described rounding a bluff on her dive this fall and being surrounded by massive reefs as schools of fish darted through. She found the description from so long ago apt: "It's like a field of flowers," she said.

The Flower Garden Banks is one of 15 national marine sanctuaries and two national marine monuments protected by the NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, and the only one in the Gulf of Mexico.

The sanctuary is made up of 17 separate banks that cover 160 square miles (414 square kilometers). When it was designated in 1992, the sanctuary had two banks. Its largest and most recent expansion of 14 banks came in 2021, a process that included input from the advisory committee, which includes representatives from industries that rely on the Gulf, from oil and gas to recreation to fishing.

Johnston said that one way to help the reefs stay healthy is to reduce stresses. That includes making sure mooring buoys offer boats a place to tie up so their anchors don't damage reefs, and removing invasive species that could cause the number of fish to decline.

Manzello said efforts like those are being done in hopes that greenhouse gas emissions will also be cut globally.

"We need all of these things happening in concert to really shepherd coral reefs through the next 20, 30, 40 years," Manzello said.

Coral reefs support about a fourth of all marine species at some point in their life cycle. They are also economic drivers. By providing a home for fish that keeps them healthy, they support commercial fishing in addition to bringing in tourism revenue.

"Because coral reefs are declining all over the globe, when we find ones that are healthy, we want to keep them that way," said Kelly Drinnen, education and outreach specialist for the Flower Garden Banks. "And they kind of serve as the repositories for what could help restore some other reef potentially in the future."

In fact, samples of healthy corals from the sanctuary are being banked and studied in a lab at Galveston Island's Moody Gardens, a tourist destination that includes an aquarium. That includes growing out fragments of coral with hopes of someday replanting them.

The Flower Garden Banks weren't damaged by the massive oil spill that followed the deadly 2010 explosion on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig, but other reefs in the Gulf were. Data gathered from studying the sanctuary's deeper habitat is being used to help guide restoration of those reefs.

Researchers are also studying the genetics of the Flower Garden Banks coral, including whether it's different than species in Florida.

"The more knowledge we have, the better we are equipped to try to protect that reef," said Brooke Zurita, a senior biologist at Moody Gardens.



## Officials stock up on overdose antidote naloxone after fentanyl-laced letters disrupt vote counting

By GENE JOHNSON and ED KOMENDA Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — The suspicious letters sent to vote centers and government buildings in six states this month were undeniably scary, some containing traces of fentanyl or white powder, accompanied by not-so-veiled threats and dubious political symbols.

Harkening back to the anthrax attacks that killed five people in 2001, the mailings are prompting elections officials already frustrated with ongoing harassment and threats to reach out to local police, fire and health departments for help stocking up on the overdose reversal medication naloxone.

Even if there's little risk from incidental contact with the synthetic opioid, having the antidote on hand isn't a bad idea amid an addiction epidemic that is killing more than 100,000 people in the U.S. every year — and it can provide some assurance for stressed ballot workers, election managers say.

"My team is usually in the direct fire just because we're opening up thousands of millions of ballots, depending on the election," said Eldon Miller, who leads the ballot-opening staff at King County Elections in Seattle, which stocked up on naloxone after receiving a fentanyl-laced letter in August. "I always say to my team, 'Your safety is my utmost importance.'"

The letters were sent this month to vote centers or government buildings in six states: Georgia, Nevada, California, Oregon, Washington and Kansas. Some were intercepted before they arrived, but others were delivered, prompting evacuations and briefly delaying vote counts in local elections. The FBI and U.S. Postal Inspection Service are investigating.

Some of the letters featured an antifascist symbol, a progress pride flag and a pentagram. While the symbols have sometimes been associated with leftist politics, they also have been used by conservative figures to label and stereotype the left. The sender's political leanings were unclear.

Fentanyl, an opioid that can be 50 times as powerful as the same amount of heroin, is driving an overdose crisis as it is pressed into pills or mixed into other drugs. Briefly touching it cannot cause an overdose, and researchers have found the risk of fatal overdose from accidental exposure is low, unlike with powdered anthrax that can float in the air and cause deadly infections when inhaled.

Election workers across the country have been besieged by threats, harassment and intimidation since former President Donald Trump and his supporters began spreading false election claims after he lost the 2020 election.

"I hope we encourage people to not hurt election officials," said Anne Dover, the elections director in suburban Atlanta's Cherokee County, which did not receive a suspicious letter. "A lot of people are leaving the field. It's not just threats of physical harm. There's a lot of emotional and psychological abuse."

Dover reached out this month to fire department officials, who provided Narcan, the nasal spray version of naloxone. Naloxone can be obtained over the counter, given to people of all ages and does not harm people who do not have opioids in their system.

Her office also is taking new precautions with mail: leaving it in a particular spot and having one person designated to open it wearing gloves and a mask.

Lane County, Oregon, which received a suspicious letter, will provide naloxone kits and train elections staff on administering it. So will Lincoln County, Nevada, which did not get a suspicious letter.

The office of Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger said this week that it will provide naloxone to any of the state's 159 counties after a letter intercepted on its way to elections officials in Atlanta's Fulton County tested positive for opioids.

Condemning the letters, Raffensperger noted one of his sons died of a fentanyl overdose about five years ago: "We know how deadly this stuff is."

Some of the letters, including ones sent to King and Pierce counties in Washington state, bore striking similarities to the one King County received while counting votes in this year's August primary. The incident prompted King County Elections to procure naloxone, though the antidote was not needed then nor when its Renton office received a second fentanyl-laced letter this month.

"We felt like it was just a good idea to have on hand for all kinds of scenarios these days," King County Elections spokeswoman Halei Watkins said. "We have it in a few spots in the building, and include it with the first aid and emergency kits that go to our off-site vote centers."

Maya Doe-Simkins, co-director of Remedy Alliance/For The People, which launched last year to provide low-cost or free naloxone to community-based, harm-reduction programs, said governments should be more focused on providing the antidote to those who work with people likely to overdose.

There is no shortage of naloxone, which is available online and at some pharmacies, but its distribution leaves something to be desired, Doe-Simkins said.

"It is an absolute gross misuse of resources to spend money on ensuring that election officials have naloxone," Doe-Simkins said, especially because "the actual appropriate and evidence-based intervention for naloxone distribution is underfunded and under-resourced."

Chris Anderson, the elections supervisor in Seminole County, Florida, said his office hasn't received any envelopes containing fentanyl in the mail, but obtained several doses of Narcan this month from the fire department, which said it had plenty of supply.

"We can immediately save a life with those," Anderson said. "I appreciate the advice given to us from medical professionals, and we certainly will do everything we can not to have to use Narcan, but in that one instance where it's needed, I'd rather have and not need than need and not have."

In Tacoma, Washington, Pierce County Auditor Linda Farmer said her office obtained naloxone after neighboring King County's experience in August. The office received a threatening letter this month containing baking soda and took the occasion to reemphasize that naloxone is available.

"We reminded staff last week of where to find it," Farmer said.

## SpaceX launched its giant new rocket but explosions end the second test flight

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

SpaceX launched its mega rocket Starship but lost both the booster and the spacecraft in a pair of explosions minutes into Saturday's test flight.

The rocketship reached space following liftoff from South Texas before communication suddenly was lost. SpaceX officials said it appears the ship's self-destruct system blew it up over the Gulf of Mexico.

Minutes earlier, the separated booster had exploded over the gulf. By then, though, its job was done.

Saturday's demo lasted eight or so minutes, about twice as long as the first test in April, which also ended in an explosion. The latest flight came to an end as the ship's six engines were almost done firing to put it on an around-the-world path.

At nearly 400 feet (121 meters), Starship is the biggest and most powerful rocket ever built, with the goal of ferrying people to the moon and Mars.

"The real topping on the cake today, that successful liftoff," said SpaceX commentator John Insprucker, noting that all 33 booster engines fired as designed, unlike last time. The booster also separated seamlessly from the spaceship, which reached an altitude of 92 miles (148 kilometers).

Added commentator Kate Tice: "We got so much data, and that will all help us to improve for our next flight."

SpaceX founder Elon Musk watched from behind launch controllers at the southern tip of Texas near the Mexico border, near Boca Chica Beach. At company headquarters in Hawthorne, California, employees cheered as Starship soared at daybreak. The room grew quiet once it was clear that the spaceship had been destroyed.

SpaceX had been aiming for an altitude of 150 miles (240 kilometers), just high enough to send the bullet-shaped spacecraft around the globe before ditching into the Pacific near Hawaii about 1 1/2 hours after liftoff, short of a full orbit.

Following April's flight demo, SpaceX made dozens of improvements to the rocket as well as the launch pad. The Federal Aviation Administration cleared the rocket for flight on Wednesday, after confirming that

all safety and environmental concerns had been met.

After Saturday's launch, the FAA said no injuries or public damage had been reported and that an investigation was underway to determine what went wrong. SpaceX cannot launch another Starship until the review is complete and corrections made, the FAA added.

NASA is counting on Starship to land astronauts on the moon by the end of 2025 or shortly thereafter. The space agency awarded SpaceX a \$3 billion contract to make it happen, by transferring astronauts from its Orion capsule to Starship in lunar orbit before heading down to the surface.

"Today's test is an opportunity to learn — then fly again," noted NASA Administrator Bill Nelson via X, formerly known as Twitter.

Starship is 34 feet (10 meters) taller than NASA's Saturn V rocket which carried men to the moon more than a half-century ago, and 75 feet (23 meters) taller than NASA's Space Launch System rocket that flew around the moon and back, without a crew, last year. And it's got approximately double the liftoff thrust.

Like before, nothing of value was aboard Starship for the trial run.

Once Starship is proven, Musk plans to use the fully reusable mega rockets to launch satellites into orbit around Earth and equipment and people to the moon, and eventually, to Mars.

## Fears of political violence are growing as the 2024 campaign heats up and conspiracy theories evolve

By ALI SWENSON and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

The man who bludgeoned former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband with a hammer last year consumed a steady diet of right-wing conspiracy theories before an attack that took place with the midterm elections less than two weeks away.

As the 2024 presidential campaign heats up, experts on extremism fear the threat of politically motivated violence will intensify. From "Pizzagate" to QAnon and to "Stop the Steal," conspiracy theories that demonized Donald Trump's enemies are morphing and spreading as the front-runner for the 2024 Republican nomination aims for a return to the White House.

"No longer are these conspiracy theories and very divisive and vicious ideologies separated at the fringes," said Jacob Ware, a research fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations who focuses on domestic terrorism. "They're now infiltrating American society on a massive scale."

A federal jury on Thursday convicted David DePape of attacking Paul Pelosi at his San Francisco home on Oct. 28, 2022. Before the verdict, DePape testified that he had intended to hold Nancy Pelosi hostage and "break her kneecaps" if the Democratic lawmaker lied to him while he questioned her about what he viewed as government corruption. She was in Washington at the time of the assault.

In online rants before the attack, DePape echoed tenets of QAnon, a pro-Trump conspiracy theory that has been linked to killings and other crimes. A core belief for QAnon adherents is that Trump has tried to expose a Satan-worshipping, child sex trafficking cabal of prominent Democrats and Hollywood elites.

Trump has amplified social media accounts that promote QAnon, which grew from the far-right fringes of the internet to become a fixture of mainstream Republican politics.

Many rioters who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, espoused QAnon's apocalyptic beliefs online before traveling to the nation's capital for Trump's "Stop the Steal" rally that day. A message board formerly known as TheDonald.win was buzzing with plans for violence days before the siege.

Before QAnon, many Trump supporters embraced the debunked "Pizzagate" conspiracy theory that prominent Democrats were running a child sex trafficking ring out of a Washington pizzeria's (nonexistent) basement. In 2017, a North Carolina man was sentenced to prison for firing a rifle inside the restaurant.

In his 2024 campaign, Trump has ramped up his combative rhetoric with talk of retribution against his enemies. He recently joked about the hammer attack on Paul Pelosi and suggested that retired Gen. Mark Milley, a former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, should be executed for treason.

Threats against lawmakers and election officials are rampant, with targets spanning the nation's political divide: A California man awaits trial on charges that he plotted to kill Supreme Court Justice Brett Kava-

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naugh, a Trump nominee, at his Maryland home.

Trump's loss to Democrat Joe Biden in the 2020 election did not end the spread of QAnon-influenced conspiracy theories or its unrealized prophecies. The leaderless movement's ever-changing ideology often adopts beliefs from other conspiracy theories.

"It's been really good at evolving with the times and current events," said Sheehan Kane, data collection manager for the University of Maryland-based Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, or START.

In a 2021 article, Kane and START senior researcher Michael Jensen examined QAnon-inspired crimes committed by 125 adherents since the conspiracy theory originated on the 4chan imageboard in 2017. They found that more "extremist offenders" were connected to QAnon than any other extremist group or movement in the United States.

"In 2020, millions of people were radicalized on behalf of this conspiracy theory. It's really hard to tell who is going to mobilize on behalf of a conspiracy theory," Kane said.

DePape, the Paul Pelosi attacker, testified that his interest in right-wing conspiracy theories started with GamerGate, an online harassment campaign against feminists in the video game industry. Beginning in 2014, misogynistic gamers terrorized female game developers and other women in the industry with rape and death threats.

Brianna Wu, one of GamerGate's original targets, said she wasn't surprised to hear it linked to a politically motivated attack nearly a decade later. Wu said GamerGate emerged from the same online recesses that spawned far-right conspiracy theories such as Pizzagate and QAnon.

"This is a pattern of radicalization that we're seeing over and over and over in every single bit of politics," Wu said. "This is not a right-versus-left issue. This is a radicalization issue that is happening online. We need a policy response."

DePape testified that he went to Nancy Pelosi's home with plans to interrogate her about Russian interference in the 2016 election. He said he intended to wear an inflatable unicorn costume while recording it and then upload the video to the internet.

DePape allegedly told authorities that his other targets included a women's and queer studies professor at the University of Michigan. He told jurors that he heard about the professor while listening to a conservative commentator.

DePape's spiral into conspiracy theories is a textbook tale of radicalization, according to experts on extremism who say that the mainstreaming of false, bigoted and harmful ideas on radio shows, cable news, social media websites and other public online forums has made them far more accessible.

The problem is exacerbated by lax content moderation on social media and a growing "conspiracy-creating cottage industry" looking to use extreme rhetoric to cash in or widen their audience, said American University professor Brian Hughes, associate director of the Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab.

"Some of the people in that wide audience are going to be people like DePape, who are intentionally going to commit an act of violence based on this false and harmful information that they've been served," Hughes said.

Conspiracy theories are alluring by design, driving some who are susceptible to them to completely immerse themselves, said Amarnath Amarasingam, an extremism researcher and professor at Queen's University in Canada. DePape testified that before the attack, he frequently played video games for hours on end while listening to political podcasts.

Repeatedly hearing that the political opponents or government leaders are responsible for evil acts give believers a scapegoat for their troubles and a "moral mission" to do something about it, Amarasingam said.

American election years are often characterized by violence, said Ware, of the Council on Foreign Relations, whether it's hate crimes in response to a particular candidate's identity or violent reactions to unfavorable results. "So we should absolutely expect such incidents in 2024," he said.

Trump's return to the ballot next year, as well as his current legal battles, are sure to amplify politicized

rhetoric and could drive more extremist violence, experts said.

"Donald Trump has a knack for tacitly endorsing violence without saying anything that's really a clear endorsement of it, necessarily," Hughes said.

To combat potential violence, Americans should try to turn down the temperature of political rhetoric and look out for loved ones who may be spiraling down a path toward radicalization, experts said.

"Spending hours and hours consuming conspiracy theory material is intoxicating," Hughes said. "It anesthetizes you from the worries of your day to day life in the same way that certain drugs do. And I think that we need to reorient our thinking a little bit in that direction, so that we can begin to view this as the public health problem that it really is."

## 'Please regulate AI:' Artists push for U.S. copyright reforms but tech industry says not so fast

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

Country singers, romance novelists, video game artists and voice actors are appealing to the U.S. government for relief — as soon as possible — from the threat that artificial intelligence poses to their livelihoods.

"Please regulate AI. I'm scared," wrote a podcaster concerned about his voice being replicated by AI in one of thousands of letters recently submitted to the U.S. Copyright Office.

Technology companies, by contrast, are largely happy with the status quo that has enabled them to gobble up published works to make their AI systems better at mimicking what humans do.

The nation's top copyright official hasn't yet taken sides. She told The Associated Press she's listening to everyone as her office weighs whether copyright reforms are needed for a new era of generative AI tools that can spit out compelling imagery, music, video and passages of text.

"We've received close to 10,000 comments," said Shira Perlmutter, the U.S. register of copyrights, in an interview. "Every one of them is being read by a human being, not a computer. And I myself am reading a large part of them."

### WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Perlmutter directs the U.S. Copyright Office, which registered more than 480,000 copyrights last year covering millions of individual works but is increasingly being asked to register works that are AI-generated. So far, copyright claims for fully machine-generated content have been soundly rejected because copyright laws are designed to protect works of human authorship.

But, Perlmutter asks, as humans feed content into AI systems and give instructions to influence what comes out, "is there a point at which there's enough human involvement in controlling the expressive elements of the output that the human can be considered to have contributed authorship?"

That's one question the Copyright Office has put to the public. A bigger one — the question that's fielded thousands of comments from creative professions — is what to do about copyrighted human works that are being pulled from the internet and other sources and ingested to train AI systems, often without permission or compensation.

More than 9,700 comments were sent to the Copyright Office, part of the Library of Congress, before an initial comment period closed in late October. Another round of comments is due by Dec. 6. After that, Perlmutter's office will work to advise Congress and others on whether reforms are needed.

### WHAT ARE ARTISTS SAYING?

Addressing the "Ladies and Gentlemen of the US Copyright Office," the "Family Ties" actor and filmmaker Justine Bateman said she was disturbed that AI models were "ingesting 100 years of film" and TV in a way that could destroy the structure of the film business and replace large portions of its labor pipeline.

It "appears to many of us to be the largest copyright violation in the history of the United States," Bateman wrote. "I sincerely hope you can stop this practice of thievery."

Airing some of the same AI concerns that fueled this year's Hollywood strikes, television showrunner Lilla Zuckerman ("Poker Face") said her industry should declare war on what is "nothing more than a plagiarism machine" before Hollywood is "coopted by greedy and craven companies who want to take

human talent out of entertainment.”

The music industry is also threatened, said Nashville-based country songwriter Marc Beeson, who’s penned tunes for Carrie Underwood and Garth Brooks. Beeson said AI has potential to do good but “in some ways, it’s like a gun — in the wrong hands, with no parameters in place for its use, it could do irreparable damage to one of the last true American art forms.”

While most commenters were individuals, their concerns were echoed by big music publishers (Universal Music Group called the way AI is trained “ravenous and poorly controlled”) as well as author groups and news organizations including the New York Times and The Associated Press.

## IS IT FAIR USE?

What leading tech companies like Google, Microsoft and ChatGPT-maker OpenAI are telling the Copyright Office is that their training of AI models fits into the “fair use” doctrine that allows for limited uses of copyrighted materials such as for teaching, research or transforming the copyrighted work into something different.

“The American AI industry is built in part on the understanding that the Copyright Act does not proscribe the use of copyrighted material to train Generative AI models,” says a letter from Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp. The purpose of AI training is to identify patterns “across a broad body of content,” not to “extract or reproduce” individual works, it added.

So far, courts have largely sided with tech companies in interpreting how copyright laws should treat AI systems. In a defeat for visual artists, a federal judge in San Francisco last month dismissed much of the first big lawsuit against AI image-generators, though allowed some of the case to proceed.

Most tech companies cite as precedent Google’s success in beating back legal challenges to its online book library. The U.S. Supreme Court in 2016 let stand lower court rulings that rejected authors’ claim that Google’s digitizing of millions of books and showing snippets of them to the public amounted to copyright infringement.

But that’s a flawed comparison, argued former law professor and bestselling romance author Heidi Bond, who writes under the pen name Courtney Milan. Bond said she agrees that “fair use encompasses the right to learn from books,” but Google Books obtained legitimate copies held by libraries and institutions, whereas many AI developers are scraping works of writing through “outright piracy.”

Perlmutter said this is what the Copyright Office is trying to help sort out.

“Certainly this differs in some respects from the Google situation,” Perlmutter said. “Whether it differs enough to rule out the fair use defense is the question in hand.”

## Tempers flare and bills languish as Speaker Johnson confronts the same problems that vexed McCarthy

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — By most accounts, Speaker Mike Johnson inherited a House Republican majority in disarray after the sudden ouster of his predecessor last month.

But as Johnson, R-La., tries to rebuild that slim majority, he’s fast running into the same hard-right factions and divisions that Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., was unable to tame. That’s disrupting the party’s agenda, shelving priorities and leaving gnawing questions about any leader’s ability to govern.

Capitol Hill devolved into fresh scenes of political chaos this past week as tensions soared. A Republican senator challenged a Teamsters union boss to a brawl, one of several outbursts involving lawmakers, and the untested new speaker was forced to abandon his own party’s schedule and send everyone home early for Thanksgiving.

“This place is a pressure cooker,” Johnson lamented. Hopefully, he said, people will “cool off.”

But the outlook ahead appears no better. House Republicans who pledged to slash federal spending, investigate President Joe Biden and end a long string of Democratic policies have made only incremental progress on their priorities.

Even though McCarthy struck a surprising debt deal with Biden earlier this year that set a course to re-

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duce federal deficits by \$1.5 trillion over the next decade, a conservative victory, it exists mainly on paper.

Republicans have failed to pass all the legislation needed to put all those cuts into law and have yanked some bills from the House floor. Centrist conservatives said the measures went too far, however, as the hard-right faction demands steeper reductions in government programs.

With the days dwindling before a potential government shutdown, Congress had little choice but to pass another short-term measure that keeps federal spending on autopilot for a couple more months. That avoids a federal closure for now, but sets up the next showdown in January.

"We haven't done anything!" thundered Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, lashing into his colleagues in a lengthy speech as lawmakers fled for the exits.

Conservatives took particular umbrage at the temporary spending bill, called a continuing resolution, that maintained spending at the levels that had been agreed to last year, when Democrats had full control of Congress and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., was the speaker.

"When are we going to do what we said we were going to do?" Roy railed. "When are we going to act like a Republican majority and start fighting?"

It's the same complaint that led the hard-right bloc to oust McCarthy in October, the first unseating of a speaker in U.S. history, and will threaten Johnson's leadership.

The GOP divide on spending underscores the disconnect between Republican ideals for shrinking the size and scope of government and the reality of cutting programs and services close to home.

Rep. Nick LaLota, R-N.Y., was one of the more centrist conservatives who voted against a procedural step on legislation to fund the Justice Department, among other agencies, because he said the law enforcement cuts would hurt public safety agencies.

"My constituents don't want me voting for that," he said.

Republicans are also incensed they have been enduring countless midnight voting sessions, considering hundreds of amendments — voting to slash Biden administration salaries to \$1, trying to end "woke" policies on diversity and inclusion — on legislative packages that ultimately go nowhere.

LaLota said after 10 months in the majority, the strategy is not working. "My constituents want us to cut, but they want us to cut in the right areas," he said.

Complicating the work of Congress is a world at war.

Biden has asked Congress for a nearly \$106 billion supplemental spending package to provide military and government aid to Ukraine as it fights Russia, and to support Israel in the war with Hamas and provide relief for Palestinians in Gaza. The package carries other priorities, including strengthening U.S.-Mexico border security, which will be a top priority when lawmakers return.

On the eve of voting, Johnson laid out his strategy for the stopgap measure, drawing on the hard-right Freedom Caucus' proposal to break the spending bill into two parts, with funding set to expire on Jan. 19 for some agencies and then Feb. 2 for others.

But the conservatives panned the plan, and the caucus members said most would oppose it. Johnson rebuffed their suggestion to at least attach the House-passed Israel aid package as a way force the Senate to act.

Hard-right members rolled their eyes at Johnson's strategy. But they said they wanted to give the new speaker the grace to find his way.

"The new speaker is respected. He's admired, he's trusted," said Rep. Bob Good, R-Va. "You know, he's human. He's imperfect, like we all are."

Republicans are well aware their slim House majority is increasingly at risk heading into the 2024 election season if they are unable to deliver on their promises to voters. Many lawmakers in both parties are choosing to retire rather than keep fighting the same battles.

Johnson defended his three weeks on the job, saying, "I can't turn an aircraft carrier overnight." He insisted he's in "a very different situation" from what McCarthy faced.

"We have some great plans," he told reporters at a news conference.

But Republican Rep. Garrett Graves of Louisiana, a top McCarthy ally, said the idea that "by electing a new speaker, you are going to suddenly have all these new options I think is now being realized this is

not factual.”

He added: “I think that it’s going to continue to be a bumpy road going forward.”

After House Democrats provided the votes needed to help Johnson avert a federal shutdown, Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, whose party also delivered the votes to help oust McCarthy, said he is working to have a good relationship with the new speaker.

Asked whether he had any advice for Johnson, Jeffries said: “Good luck.”

## **Milei echoes Trump with fraud claims that inject uncertainty into Argentina’s presidential runoff**

By DAVID BILLER and DANIEL POLITI Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — This may sound familiar: A self-styled outsider aims to win the presidency and purge the political establishment so he can restore order to a broken nation — if only he can overcome a system rigged against him.

But this isn’t former President Donald Trump, or even happening in the U.S. It’s Argentine presidential candidate Javier Milei, the latest politician to follow Trump’s playbook and claim that election results are dubious and that gatekeepers may deprive him of the nation’s top job.

Analysts say it is a tactic to fire up Milei’s base and promote vigilance at polling stations, or set the stage for refusing to concede a loss.

The right-wing economist rose to fame blasting the political class on television and has welcomed comparisons to Trump. His message that a corrupt elite has left the country behind resonates with Argentines coping with rising poverty and 142% annual inflation.

Milei represents upheaval, and casting doubt on the electoral system — in a nation where it is widely trusted — is true to form. Since Argentina’s return to democracy a half-century ago, no candidate in any national race has formally challenged results, according to the electoral appeals court.

Pre-election polls in the Nov. 19 runoff between Milei and Economy Minister Sergio Massa show a dead heat.

Before the first round, most had shown Milei narrowly ahead, yet Massa won handily, by 7 percentage points. Claims of fraud exploded on social media, and some Milei supporters volunteered to monitor the vote at the country’s more than 100,000 polling stations.

Luis Paulero, 30, is one of them. He cared little for politics and, although voting is mandatory, had never before cast a ballot. But Milei “sparked passion in me,” Paulero said at a small rally in Ezeiza, about 20 miles (30 kilometers) from Argentina’s capital.

He says he is disgusted that the governing party might steal the presidency. “I’ve been watching it on TikTok videos; all the fraud that was done seems wrong, it’s undemocratic,” said Paulero, a delivery app driver.

At least partly, Milei is stoking fraud claims himself. In an interview Nov. 7, he said the first-round vote wasn’t clean.

“There were irregularities of such proportion that they put the result in doubt,” Milei said. He continued: “Whoever counts the vote controls everything.”

Earlier, Milei had said that were it not for fraud during the August primaries, he would have snagged 35% of the vote instead of 30%.

He has provided no evidence in either instance. Still, die-hard boosters have brought signs reading “Don’t Screw With My Vote!” and “One Stolen Vote is Fraud!” to small rallies.

Elections in Argentina have always had some irregularities, but not enough to alter results, said Gala Díaz Langou, executive director of Center for the Implementation of Public Policies Promoting Equity and Growth, a Buenos Aires-based think tank.

Many allegations on social media have noted that nearly 1,700 polling stations recorded zero votes for Milei in preliminary results of the first round — “statistically impossible,” Milei and his supporters said.

But an analysis by Argentine fact-checking agency Chequeado showed that nearly all those stations had no votes for any candidate, indicating their results hadn’t been uploaded. The number of stations where



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one candidate received zero votes but others had votes were comparable for Milei and Massa.

The voting process in Argentina is decidedly antiquated. Polling stations have paper ballots for each party and voters pick the one they want, put it in an envelope that they place into a cardboard ballot box.

It is easy for voters to steal ballots or rip them up because they go into a room alone where the ballots are located. Voting monitors make sure they are replaced, and oversee the vote count. Recruiting enough of them is a challenge for Milei's fledgling Liberty Advances party.

While questioning the shortcomings of Argentina's voting system shouldn't be taboo, Milei sowing doubt about it is a political strategy, said Brian Winter, a longtime Argentina expert and vice president of the New York-based Council of the Americas.

"It shows that he sees some risk that he could lose. You don't say these things from a position of strength," he said.

Milei's national network is far outmatched by the muscle of Massa's Peronism, a nebulous movement with both left- and right-wing factions that has been the dominant force in Argentine politics for decades. As such, he has summoned his faithful to monitor the election.

Milei's party on Thursday presented a complaint to an electoral judge, initially asserting "colossal fraud" and grabbing headlines, but later walked back claims and said its goal was merely to nudge authorities to take "extreme precautions."

Milei is working to "make sure he mobilizes people and gives his base a reason to fight for, make them feel they're being bullied and not considered, that Peronism is trying to impose its will on everybody else," Ana Iparraguirre, partner at pollster GBAO Strategies, said by phone from Buenos Aires.

But many Argentines are loath to spend 12 hours observing the vote then scrutinizing the count, said Carlos Andrés Ferreira, the campaign chief of Milei's party in Fiorito, a working-class city on Buenos Aires' outskirts.

In the first round, Milei's party had observers in just over half of Fiorito's 200 voting stations, Ferreira said. At one school, Ferreira was horrified to find seven of his party's eight monitors had failed to show. He said that some of his peers speculate Peronists paid them to stay home and that he believes vote counters at unmonitored tables trashed half of Milei's votes.

"They're bandits. They don't believe in democracy. They're fascists," said Ferreira, adding that the number of votes for Milei in stations where his party had monitors was about double that of other stations. "I don't believe in coincidences."

The ability to dispute results is a fundamental part of any democratic process. But there are indications that Trump-style, unsubstantiated challenges have spread around the world, Kevin Casas-Zamora, secretary-general of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, said by phone from Stockholm.

Some of Trump's statements were echoed in fraud claims by Myanmar's military-backed party after it was routed in Nov. 2020 — which were rejected by the Asian nation's election commission — as well as in unsubstantiated fraud allegations of Peruvian candidate Keiko Fujimori after she lost the 2021 race.

His clearest copycat was former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro. Like Trump, he first challenged the results that put him in the presidency; he argued his margin of victory should have been larger, though never provided any evidence. Ahead of his reelection bid, Bolsonaro attacked the reliability of the system and then sought an audit that failed. He refused to concede, and his supporters rioted in the capital.

Milei is undoubtedly "laying the groundwork to not recognize the result of the election if they lose," said Beatriz Busaniche, president of the Via Libre foundation, a nonprofit that has worked on voting reform issues.

Speaking Thursday, Massa told reporters it would be "very detrimental" to follow Trump and Bolsonaro's rejection of results.

While Milei's claims of fraud clearly reflect the influence of Trump and Bolsonaro, they represent no existential risk to Argentina's democracy that is strong, said Winter, of the Council of the Americas. And unlike the former American and Brazilian presidents, he doesn't control the levers of power he would need to overturn results.

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What's more, his new allies appear reluctant to back fraud claims.

Patricia Bullrich, the candidate for the country's main opposition coalition who placed third in the first round then endorsed Milei, said in an interview that she didn't believe there was fraud on the scale of swaying an election. At the same time, she called on supporters to become monitors.

Díaz Langou, of the Buenos Aires-based think tank, said he thinks it would be "difficult, if not impossible" to steal an election in Argentina. Fraud claims are, however, still a threat, he said.

"These rumors of fraud can erode the legitimacy of any government assuming power, regardless of the winner, and this could lead to problems in the medium term, transcending the election."

## Today in History: November 19

### Abraham Lincoln speaks at Gettysburg cemetery dedication

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Nov. 19, the 323rd day of 2023. There are 42 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln dedicated a national cemetery at the site of the Civil War battlefield of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania.

On this date:

In 1831, the 20th president of the United States, James Garfield, was born in Orange Township, Ohio.

In 1919, the U.S. Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles by a vote of 55 in favor, 39 against, short of the two-thirds majority needed for ratification.

In 1942, during World War II, Russian forces launched their winter offensive against the Germans along the Don front.

In 1959, Ford Motor Co. announced it was halting production of the unpopular Edsel.

In 1969, Apollo 12 astronauts Charles Conrad and Alan Bean made the second manned landing on the moon.

In 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to visit Israel.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev met for the first time as they began their summit in Geneva.

In 1997, Iowa seamstress Bobbi McCaughey (mihk-KOY') gave birth to the world's first set of surviving septuplets, four boys and three girls.

In 2004, in one of the worst brawls in U.S. sports history, Ron Artest (now known as Metta Sandiford-Artest) and Stephen Jackson of the Indiana Pacers charged into the stands and fought with Detroit Pistons fans, forcing officials to end the Pacers' 97-82 win with 45.9 seconds left.

In 2007, in Pakistan, a Supreme Court hand-picked by President Gen. Pervez Musharraf (pur-VEHZ' moo-SHAH'-ruhv) dismissed legal challenges to his continued rule.

In 2010, President Barack Obama, attending a NATO summit in Lisbon, Portugal, won an agreement to build a missile shield over Europe, a victory that risked further aggravating Russia.

In 2012, President Barack Obama became the first U.S. chief executive to visit Myanmar, where he promised more American help if the Asian nation kept building its new democracy.

In 2013, the Disney animated feature "Frozen" had its Hollywood premiere.

In 2017, Charles Manson, the hippie cult leader behind the gruesome murders of actress Sharon Tate and six others in Los Angeles in 1969, died in a California hospital at age 83 after nearly a half-century in prison.

In 2020, with the coronavirus surging out of control, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention pleaded with Americans not to travel for Thanksgiving and not to spend the holiday with people from outside their household.

In 2021, Kyle Rittenhouse was acquitted of all charges in the shooting deaths of two men and the wounding of a third during a night of protests over the shooting of a Black man, Jacob Blake, by a white police

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officer in Kenosha, Wisconsin, in the summer of 2020.

Today's Birthdays: Talk show host Dick Cavett is 87. Broadcasting and sports mogul Ted Turner is 85. Former Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, is 84. Former Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson is 82. Fashion designer Calvin Klein is 81. Sportscaster Ahmad Rashad is 74. Actor Robert Beltran is 70. Actor Kathleen Quinlan is 69. Actor Glynnis O'Connor is 68. Broadcast journalist Ann Curry is 67. Former NASA astronaut Eileen Collins is 67. Actor Allison Janney is 64. Rock musician Matt Sorum (Guns N' Roses, Velvet Revolver) is 63. Actor Meg Ryan is 62. Actor-director Jodie Foster is 61. Actor Terry Farrell is 60. TV chef Rocco DiSpirito is 57. Actor Jason Scott Lee is 57. Olympic gold medal runner Gail Devers is 57. Actor Erika Alexander is 54. Rock musician Travis McNabb is 54. Singer Tony Rich is 52. Actor Sandrine Holt is 51. Country singer Billy Currington is 50. Dancer-choreographer Savion Glover is 50. R&B singer Tamika Scott (Xscape) is 48. R&B singer Lil' Mo is 46. Olympic gold medal gymnast Kerri Strug is 46. Actor Reid Scott is 46. Movie director Barry Jenkins (Film: "Moonlight") is 44. Actor Katherine Kelly is 44. Actor Adam Driver is 40. Country singer Cam is 39. Actor Samantha Futerman is 36. NHL forward Patrick Kane is 35. Rapper Tyga is 34.