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Coming up

Monday, Nov. 27

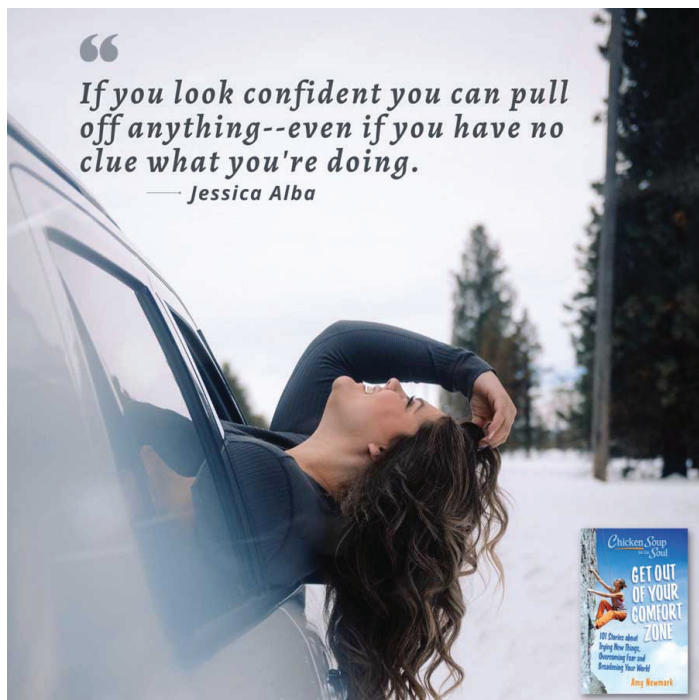
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center with potluck at noon.
JH GBB hosts Clark/Willow Lake (7th at 6 p.m., 8th at 7 p.m.)
Pantry Open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Oatmeal.
School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes.

Tuesday, Nov. 28

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
James Valley Telecommunications Holiday Open House, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
JH GBB at Redfield (7th at 6:15 p.m., 8th at 7:15 p.m.)
Thrift Store open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Food Pantry open 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Senior Menu: Tuna noodle hot dish, peas, Califor-

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

The shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.



“
If you look confident you can pull off anything--even if you have no clue what you're doing.

— Jessica Alba

nia blend, Swedish apple pie square, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Monty Cristo sandwich.

School Lunch: Scalloped potatoes with ham, corn.

Wednesday, Nov. 29

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

St. John's Lutheran: Bible Study, 2:45 p.m.; Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 6 p.m.

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

Senior Menu: Vegetable beef soup, chicken salad sandwich, mandarin oranges, cookie.

School Breakfast: Muffins.

School Lunch: Corndogs, fries.

Thursday, Nov. 30

Fall Sports Awards Night, 7 p.m.

Senior Menu: Baked chicken breast, mashed potatoes with gravy, California blend vegetables, lemon tart bar, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Muffins.

School Lunch: Corndogs, fries.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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2024 Snow Queen Royalty

Pictured are Senior Snow Queen Faith Flihs, daughter of Raechel Otter and Bret Flihs; and Junior Snow Queen McKenna Tietz, daughter of Tom and Lindsey Tietz. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Dilly Bars, donated by the Groton Dairy Queen, were sold at intermission of the Snow Queen Festival. (Photo by Paul Kosel)





2024 Snow Queens and their courts and helpers

Pictured standing, left to right, are senior snow queen candidate Cadence Feist, Miss Congenialty Ava Wienk, Usher Colby Dunker, MC Lane Tietz, junior snow queen candidates Claire Schuelke, Teagan Hanten and first runner-up Ashlynn Warrington, usher Holden Sippel, and junior snow queen candidates Emerlee Jones and Avery Crank; sitting are Senior Snow Queen Faith Flihs and Junior Snow Queen McKenna Tietz; and on the floor are Snow Prince Kase Ronning, son of Blake and Leah Ronning, and Snow Princess Kayleigh Raba, daughter of Chris and Erica Raba. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Snow Princess and Snow Prince candidates were interviewed by Peterson and Wright. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

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Frosty was Sarah Schuster as she was revealed by 2023 Senior Snow Queen Shaylee Peterson and 2023 Junior Snow Queen Talli Wright. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



2024 Snow Queen chairman Becca Johnson talks with the judges during intermission.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Snow Queen Chairman Becca Johnson, chats with the ushers, Colby Dunker and Holden Sippel. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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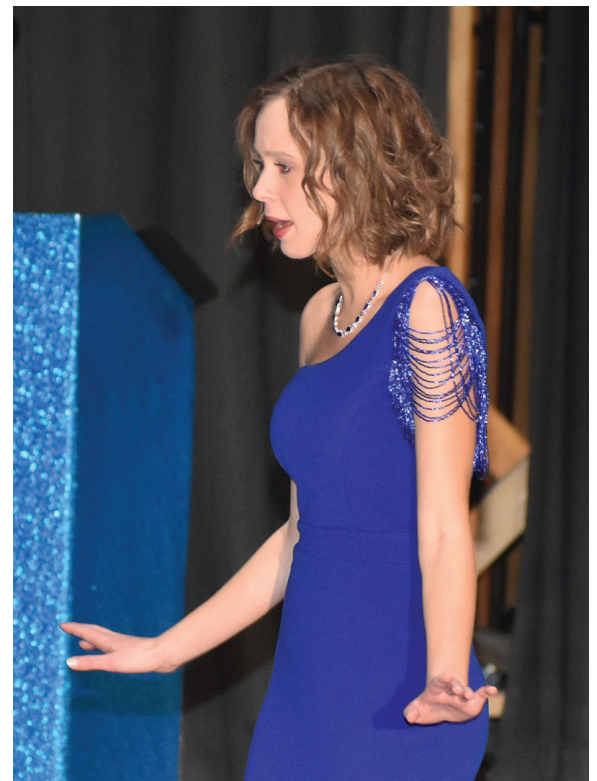
The senior talent winners went to Camryn Kurtz and Gavin Kroll, accompanied by Desiree Yeigh, as they performed Billy Joel's "Piano Man." Kroll bought a harmonica at All State Band and quickly learned how to play it.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Kianna Sander, left, sung a song dedicated to her grandfather who recently passed away. Anna Bisbee, right, challenged herself to sing an acappella. (Photos by

Paul Kosel)



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Kyrie Yeigh sang a song about her dad as she was accompanied by her mom, Desiree Yeigh, which took first place in the junior talent division. Kyrie performed an original song, "Warrior" that they wrote almost four years ago when Kyrie's dad was deployed. Kyrie put together the lyrics and her mom helped with the music.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Others doing a junior talent performance were Emma Woizeschke, Lillian Olson, and the duet of Addison Hoeft and Libby Cole. (Photos by Paul Kosel)

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RAISING THE ROOFING STANDARDS,
ALL OVER YOUR TOWN!
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ALL OVER ROOFING

605.759.0000

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



JVT/NVC HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSES

Groton - Tues, Nov. 28th 10am-4pm
Redfield - Wed, Nov. 29th 11am-2pm
Aberdeen - Thurs, Nov. 30th 10am-4pm

DOOR PRIZES - CHRISTMAS TREATS

Plus, register in stores or online at
nvc.net for the **12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS!**

WITTE EXTERIORS LLC

Specializing in Asphalt and Wood Shingles

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Webster, SD
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MEMBER FDIC

Cookies & CALENDARS OPEN HOUSE

Stop into the Dacotah Bank Lobby for
cider, coffee, a cookie and a 2024 calendar

TUES., DEC. 5 9:00 - 4:00 PM

7 East US HWY 12 | Groton

DACOTAH BANK



Pennington County Fatal Crash

What: Single Vehicle Fatal crash
Where: I-90, MM 123, 13 miles east of Wall, S.D.
When: 6:40 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023

Driver No. 1: Male, 26, fatal injuries
Vehicle No. 1: 2014 Nissan Titan

PENNINGTON COUNTY, S.D.- One person has died from injuries sustained in a single-vehicle crash Saturday, 13 miles east of Wall, S.D.

The name of the person involved has not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates a 2014 Nissan Titan pickup truck was traveling westbound on I 90 near mile marker 123. The Nissan left it's lane to the right, overcorrected to the left, and went into the median. When it entered the median the truck rolled over and the driver was ejected from the vehicle.

The 26-year-old male driver of the Nissan Titan sustained fatal injuries and was deceased at the scene. He was not wearing a seatbelt.

South Dakota's Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

100 more, and still short: State money helps Mitchell build houses for workers

Nobody's built a starter home in 20 years, local leader says

BY: JOHN HULT - NOVEMBER 26, 2023 7:02 AM

About a tenth of the 450 employees at Trail King in Mitchell drive 100 miles a day to get there and back from Huron.

The pay is worth the drive, according to Trail King's Lee Anderson, but that doesn't mean they like it. Most would happily move to Mitchell, he said – at least they would if the city had a few more houses for them.

"The trick was our families from Huron, they don't want apartments," Anderson said. "That's a temporary option, right? We employ blue-collar employees who want a garage."

Trail King could hire 30 welders any day of the week, he said, but couldn't promise them a place to stay. The workforce shortage has pushed wait times for customers from six months to one year.

"Because we can't get enough employees, we can't produce trailers fast," Anderson said.

Trail King is among the Mitchell businesses that need employees — some to expand, others just to keep up.

Toshiba needs people to make printer toner. Performance Pet Products, the nation's second-largest maker of wet pet food, also needs people. So do Enertech, which manufactures geothermal energy systems, and Boyd's Gunstocks.

The city's Avera hospital, meanwhile, is looking for nurses, and Gov. Kristi Noem was there in September for the groundbreaking of a \$500 million soybean processing plant.

The jobs offer good pay and benefits, but that doesn't mean the people who take them would be in the market for \$350,000 homes — a common price tag for Mitchell's newest houses.

That's why Avera gave Mitchell Area Housing Incorporated (MAHI) 22 acres of land for middle income homes in 2019.

"They have a need for nurses, just like any medical facility out there," said Mike Lauritsen of the Mitchell Area Economic Development Corporation. "Everybody's short on nurses, so they get the benefit of it."

The organization's two housing projects got around \$2 million in grants from the state's \$200 million Housing Infrastructure Financing Program.

The program has awarded \$77 million to 46 projects so far, after two successive legislatures passed bills to allocate \$200 million in state and federal funding. The first year's efforts were hamstrung by question-
sover the housing authority's legal ability to award money to projects untethered from affordable housing guidelines. The 2023 legislature adjusted the bill to give the authority the power to award the money.

Starter homes in short supply

The two-year-old MAHI organization aims to fill the housing gap in a city the group says will need 400 total homes in the next 10 years.

"We've been averaging 25 a year for the past 10 years," Lauritsen said. "We're going to add around 100, and we're still going to be short."

Organizations like MAHI have been around for years in cities like Brookings and Aberdeen, according to Terry Sabers, the retired Muth Electric executive who now leads the Mitchell housing group as a volunteer.

"No one's built a starter home in Mitchell in 20 years," said Sabers. "There's not been a champion to take it on."

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The grant-supported homes should cost less than \$250,000, Sabers said, though sizes and prices will vary. On Nov. 14, the state housing authority awarded MAHI the second of two grants meant to cover a third of the cost for streets, water and sewer and street lights for the new homes. Half the homes will be near the city's hospital; the others will be north of Lakeview Golf Course in the northwestern edge of town.

The infrastructure money directly lowers the price for the buyer, Lauritsen said, as will the partnership with Mitchell Technical College, whose students will help build the homes.

"If we were to distribute the cost of the infrastructure back into the lots, you're almost at \$100,000 just for the lot," Lauritsen said.

The infrastructure grants can only cover a third of the infrastructure cost, though, which means "you've still got to borrow the other two-thirds," Sabers said.

"It's the best of times because you have free land and grants, but it's the worst of times because look at the interest rates," he said.

Interest rates for a 30-year fixed mortgage are above 7%.

Housing brings former Mitchell resident home

The developers are pushing forward regardless. Barring unforeseen hurdles, Sabers said, construction will begin next spring.

That will be welcome news for people like Ellie Hohn. The 24-year-old Mitchell native became the beneficiary of MAHI when she bought a Governor's House near Dakota Wesleyan University.

The homes are built by inmates at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, then shipped to their final location upon sale through South Dakota Housing.

Hohn's post-college job search had her considering places like Sioux Falls and smaller towns around Mitchell, where she reckoned she might have an easier time finding a house.

Were she willing to dump half her money into mortgage payments, she said, moving to Mitchell would've been simpler.

"I wanted something I could afford and still have a life," Hohn said.

She thought about the Governor's House program, but "wasn't sure how to go about it." Then she saw a notice in the Mitchell Republic on MAHI's efforts to bring one to town. She reached out to Sabers, and soon had the keys to her home.

"This was where I wanted to be," Hohn said.

If someone isn't committed to Mitchell already, the city has another enticement: \$1,000 payments to anyone from the outside who puts down roots.

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.

Landlords for teachers: Housing projects aim to keep pace with reservation school expansion

Lakota Tech hopes new state infrastructure funding helps with staff shortage

BY: JOHN HULT - NOVEMBER 26, 2023 7:01 AM

One of the newest, most modern tech high schools in South Dakota is in one of the poorest counties in the United States.

Lakota Tech High School, the only public high school in Oglala Lakota County, didn't exist until a few years ago. It owes its existence to a \$50 million flurry of activity that included the school and multiple building expansions, spurred in part by an influx of federal money tied to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pace of construction has been dizzying, and the still-expanding high school continues to educate more students than the district initially projected.

The pace of teacher hiring is another story.

The district could easily fill empty science, art and computer classrooms with students – if only it could

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find teachers and homes to put them in.

More than 40% of the district's teachers travel more than an hour each way for work, from places like Rapid City, New Underwood and Box Elder.

That's what made infrastructure grant funding from the South Dakota Housing Development Authority so enticing. Between the grants for roads, water pipes and street lights and the district's other federal funding sources, the district aims to put dozens of teachers in five-plexes and houses just across the highway from Lakota Tech.

The school is an island of educational activity, a little over five miles east of Pine Ridge and 40 miles west of Martin.

"There's nothing to rent around here," said Principal Chanda Spotted Eagle, who has a home in Rapid City but lives in a district-built apartment during the school year. "That's why you have generational homes of people who are actually from here. So it's an opportunity for me to pull in prospective teachers from other areas of South Dakota and other countries, so that I can offer them something close to campus."

The state's Housing Infrastructure Financing Program has so far awarded a total of \$77 million to 46 projects, after two successive legislatures passed bills to allocate \$200 million in state and federal funding. The first year's efforts were hamstrung by questions over the housing authority's legal ability to award money to projects untethered from affordable housing guidelines. The 2023 legislature adjusted the bill to give the authority the power to award the money. The grant for teacher housing was awarded in October.

More jobs than homes

Lakota Tech is the only high school on the Pine Ridge Reservation not affiliated with a church or the Bureau of Indian Education.

On Nov. 14, the day the school board signed off on funding for a cache of pre-built homes set to be shipped and placed by next summer, Spotted Eagle had 19 job openings for teachers and others who work directly with students.

Just before Thanksgiving, there were 51 total openings at the high school and 101 openings district-wide, according to the district's jobs site.

The openings are the result of the district's rapid expansion. In less than four years, the Oglala Lakota County School District built and opened the high school, expecting 300 students in its first year of operation in 2020 but enrolling 311. Fall enrollment the following year stood at 453, according to the state Department of Education.

The district also expanded two of its existing preschool-eighth grade schools, completed the first phase of a new football field and cleared ground for what will be an automotive and welding facility on the grounds of the Lakota Tech campus. A water tower on the grounds of the high school and Wolf Creek School supplies both buildings, as does a newly built geothermal energy system.

Each school has an on-site day care for the children of teachers, currently at no cost.

The tech school has opened up career-focused learning tracks that the district hopes will pay off handsomely for students, employers and the Pine Ridge Reservation as a whole in the years to come.

At this point, he said the housing projects are critical to that vision, according to Darrell "Brownie" Eagle Bull, a longtime principal of Wolf Creek School who now serves as the district's transportation coordinator.

The district starts teachers north of \$50,000 – one of the highest starting wages in South Dakota – but it's not an easy sell when the job includes a daily commute. The five-plexes that opened this year have already made an impact, he said.

"We just hired a math teacher," said Eagle Bull. "We got the math teacher because we opened the apartments. So I imagine if we get more apartments, they'll come."

Options open with housing

Lakota Tech was an easy sell for librarian Josephine Richey. The 40-year educator had worked with Native American students in the past and has a passion for the community. She heard about the school from a fellow teacher during a visit to the Lakota Nation Invitational basketball tournament and cultural festival in 2019.

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Between an apartment in Martin and her house in Rapid City, Richey put in a lot of windshield time for work in those first two years.

"I drove from Martin every day, and then I'd always go home on the weekends," said Richey, who moved into one of the teacher apartments. "Now I'm across the road, and it's awesome."

Richey, like Principal Spotted Eagle, counts herself lucky to be able to rent the apartments while maintaining homes in other cities. That's not the case for other possible teachers.

The housing infrastructure grant funding helped to pave the roads around Richey's home, and will also help lay out the remaining homes on the district's construction docket.

Work continued this month on the foundations for 15 single family Governor's House homes, which are built by inmates at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield. The district is also planning to place 12 Governor's House duplexes which, like the single family homes, will have three bedrooms apiece.

Lakota Tech students will pitch in, finishing out the basements as part of their coursework.

It all adds up to a unique setup for a school district.

"This time next year, we will have 50 to 54 units out there," Eagle Bull said. "We're going to be landlords for a lot of buildings."

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.

Housing infrastructure funding helps Chamberlain over the hill

Promise of free lots alone not enough to draw new residents at first

BY: JOHN HULT - NOVEMBER 26, 2023 7:00 AM

Chamberlain's greatest asset is the Missouri River, whose choppy, sea green waves paint picturesque scenes within walking distance of downtown and a fair share of its established homes.

Chamberlain's also landlocked, to an extent.

The ground best suited for building was built upon decades ago, forming a teardrop-shaped thicket of urban activity along the river's edge. A swath of hilly forested ground to the southeast separates the city core from its high school and hospital, as well as from the hotels and amenities visible from Interstate 90.

There are a handful of homes on that side of the city of 2,500, but that land nearest to the interstate has always been a challenge, according to City Administrator Clint Soulek.

Such a challenge, in fact, that a few years ago the city decided to give away land to anyone who'd build a house on it within a year.

Chamberlain city government got involved in land purchases years ago, because city officials just weren't seeing the interest from the private sector.

"Cities don't do a lot of development," Soulek said. "But it's hard to find a developer that will come out and put that kind of money into a smaller community."

Developing over the hill

About two decades ago, the city purchased land on the eastern side of the hills for development, but it was a stop-and-start affair. The last home in that first development sold this spring.

In 2020, the city picked up more land for a new neighborhood. Initially, it held a lottery for 11 of the lots. The move drew plenty of media attention, but not as much interest from the public. More than two years after the free lots announcement, three of those lots remain unspoken for.

The gravel road situation continued to be a stumbling block. The enticement of a free lot had to be balanced against not only the logistics of finding and hiring a builder, but against the reality that a new home in the "Smokey Groves" development would sit along that road, surrounded by pushed earth and prairie grass.

That's why the city was keen on the opportunity for infrastructure funding from the South Dakota Housing Development Authority. The \$1.5 million in funding will allow the city to cover the cost of transforming the land upon which 42 total homes and one apartment complex are planned into something more akin

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to a neighborhood through the addition of roads, curb and gutter, street lights and water and sewer lines.

The infrastructure program has recently awarded a total of \$77 million to 46 projects, after two successive legislatures passed bills to allocate \$200 million in state and federal funding. The first year's efforts were hamstrung by question over the housing authority's legal ability to award money to projects untethered from affordable housing guidelines. The 2023 legislature adjusted the bill to give the authority the power to award the money.

A road to home building

Spiking interest rates have cooled homeowner enthusiasm all across the state in the years between Chamberlain's free lot enticement and today, but the cost for infrastructure — typically paid for up front by developers and then built back into the price of a home — has swollen more quickly than it has for other materials.

"Until we get that infrastructure and the roads, your curb and gutter, people are still kind of hesitant," Soulek said.

The housing grant program took far longer to emerge than economic development officials in communities like Chamberlain had hoped. The \$200 million program's initial creation by the state Legislature in 2022 was hamstrung by legal concerns over verbiage, which lawmakers moved quickly to address in the 2023 session. A rulemaking lag time put the money out of reach for most of this year's construction season, as well, with the first set of awards appearing in September.

Chamberlain was in line in 2022, and was among the first grant recipients in September the following year.

"It was like a 50-50 shot that we would get it," Soulek said.

Now that the city has cash in hand for infrastructure, Chamberlain School District math teacher Alyssa Juelfs and her husband might be in line for a few new neighbors.

Juelfs and her husband were among the first to sign on for a free lot. They'd have considered a home in nearby towns like Pukwana, even as both fielded job offers in the River City.

They were moving to town from Elk Point and wanted to be in another small town, but the options were slim.

"As we were looking, we could not find anything for sale anywhere near the area," Juelfs said.

A friend in the National Guard gave Juelfs a head's-up about the free lot offer, which seemed "too good to be true," in 2022.

The couple got a lot and worked with a Mitchell company to move a pre-built home onto it, a process that finished up in May. The Juelfs aren't looking forward to winter snow on their gravel streets, but the grant funding for pavement and other infrastructure in their emergent neighborhood was welcome news.

"Hopefully the roads get done next summer," she said.

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.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Why is concrete production bad for the planet? Are there sustainable options?

-- James B., Milwaukee, WI

Concrete is undeniably one of the largest contributors to environmental degradation around the world, not just because it is used to pave over nature but also because of its huge production and distribution carbon footprint. Creating concrete involves extracting raw materials like limestone, which releases large amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere. And the production process is energy-intensive, requiring high temperatures at the factory and transportation of heavy materials for hundreds of miles.

Indeed, the concrete industry is responsible for a whopping eight percent of global CO₂ emissions, making it one of the world's worst climate villains. The chemical reaction involved in producing concrete generates nearly one ton of CO₂ for every ton of concrete produced. These emissions significantly contribute to climate change, exacerbating global warming and its associated consequences. Moreover, the extraction of raw materials for concrete causes habitat destruction, landscape alteration, and can deplete water reserves and other natural resources. The demand for sand, a key component in concrete, has led to illegal and environmentally destructive mining practices around the world as well.

In response to environmental concerns, researchers and innovators are actively seeking more sustainable alternatives to traditional concrete. One promising alternative gaining traction is "green concrete" which uses alternative materials like fly ash, slag or silica fume as partial replacements for cement, concrete's primary ingredient. Additionally, incorporating industrial by-products like recycled glass or plastic in the mixtures can enhance the final product's sustainability. Advancements in technology have also led to the development of novel construction materials like geopolymers, which relies on industrial waste by-products to create a durable, eco-friendly alternative. These substitutes often offer comparable or even superior performance to traditional concrete while greatly reducing carbon emissions during production.

Another sustainable approach involves exploring "biomimicry," drawing inspiration from nature to create materials that imitate natural processes. Some researchers are investigating the use of bio-based materials like hempcrete, made from hemp fibers and a lime-based binder, which possess impressive insulation properties and a smaller environmental footprint compared to conventional concrete.

Additionally, advancements in construction techniques, such as 3D printing using recycled materials, offer innovative ways to reduce waste and energy consumption in building construction. These methods have the potential to revolutionize the construction industry by minimizing resource extraction and energy usage while offering greater design flexibility. While these sustainable alternatives show promise, widespread adoption and implementation require further research, development, and investment to scale up production and make them economically competitive with traditional concrete.

The detrimental environmental impact of concrete requires urgent action. Exploring and investing in sustainable alternatives is crucial to mitigate the environmental damage caused by construction activities and pave the way for a more sustainable and eco-friendly future in the construction industry.

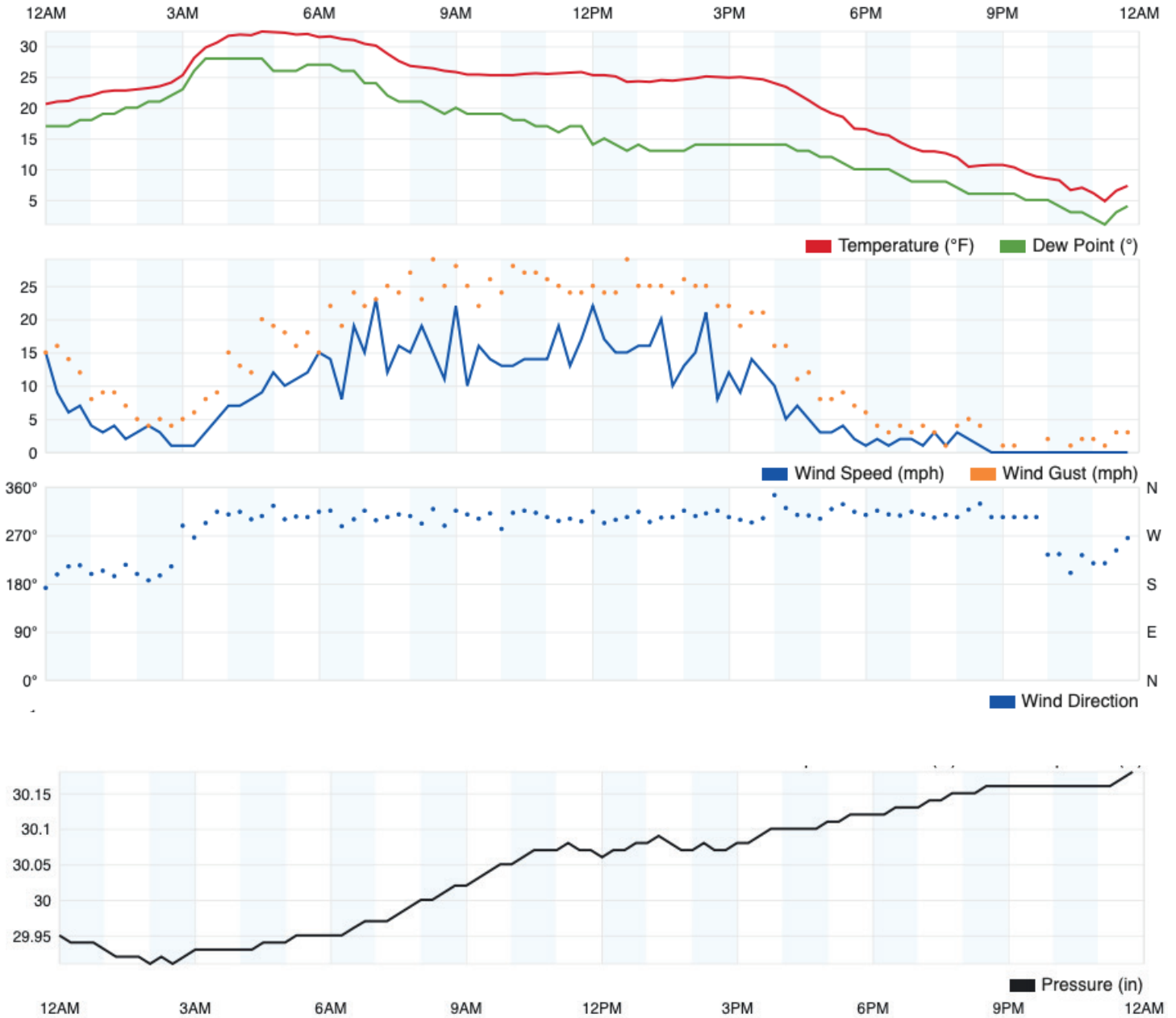


Hempcrete is a promising alternative to concrete. Jnzl's Photos, FlickrCC.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Nov 27	Nov 28	Nov 29	Nov 30	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3
26°F	40°F	43°F	36°F	35°F	39°F	42°F
12°F	21°F	19°F	12°F	24°F	21°F	22°F
NW	S	WSW	NNE	NW	S	SSW
11 MPH	14 MPH	7 MPH	9 MPH	6 MPH	17 MPH	10 MPH



Seasonally Mild Temperatures This Week

November 27, 2023

3:22 AM

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
20-36°	38-49°	40-48°	32-37°	32-39°
Morning Flurries	Breezy (20-35mph)		Breezy (~30mph)	

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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Temperatures through the week will top out between 5 to 15 degrees above normal with generally dry conditions.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 32 °F at 4:47 AM

Low Temp: 5 °F at 11:11 PM

Wind: 30 mph at 10:21 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 9 hours, 9 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 70 in 1914

Record Low: -18 in 1985

Average High: 37

Average Low: 15

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.68

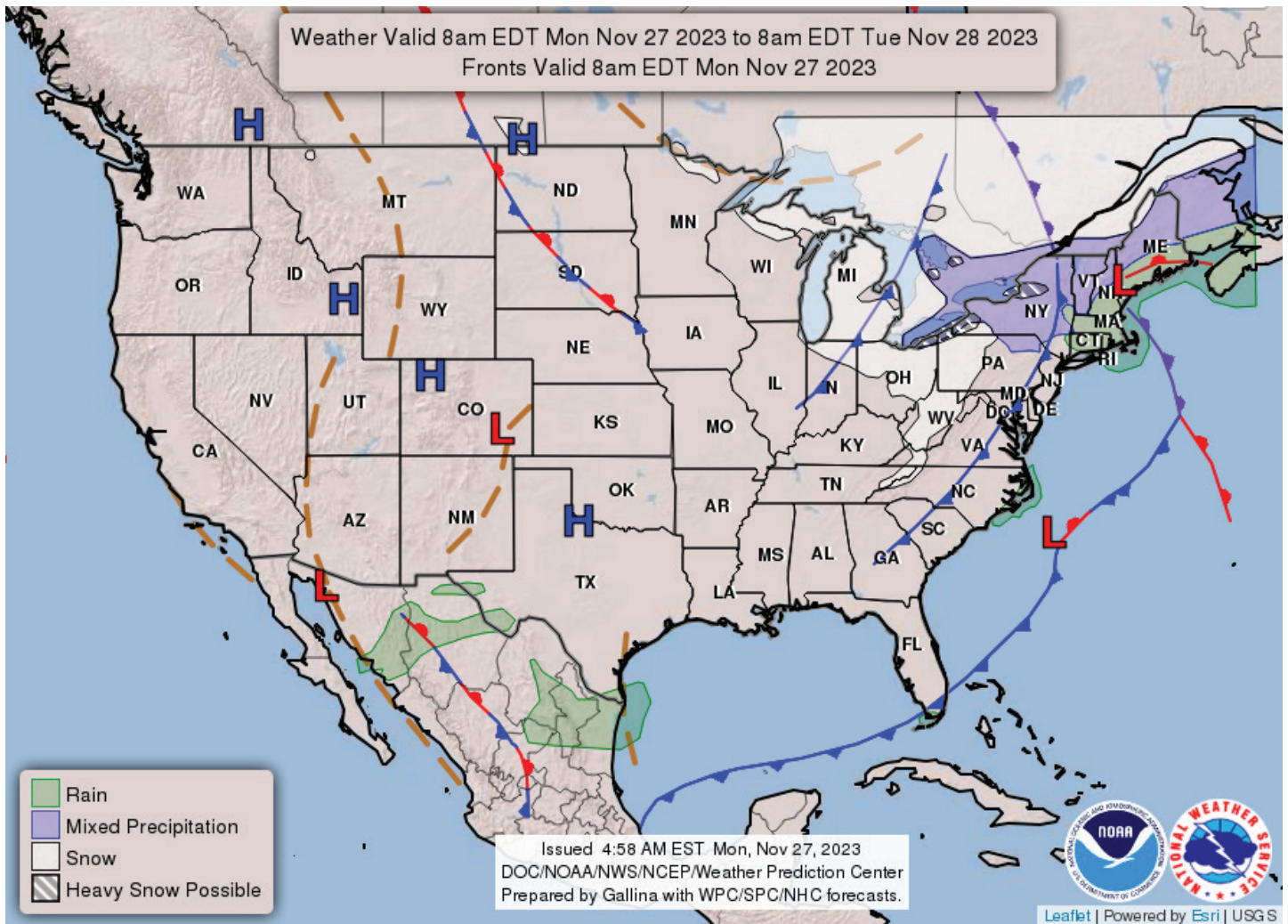
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.19

Average Precip to date: 21.15

Precip Year to Date: 23.17

Sunset Tonight: 4:54:37 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:46:36 AM



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Today in Weather History

November 27, 1960: An ice storm occurred from 40 miles on either side of a line from Pipestone to Brainerd, Minnesota. Power and communication lines were downed, leaving at least 22 communities isolated. Ice coating reported ranged from one half to three fourth of an inch at Lake Benton. Heavy snow fell in eastern North Dakota with blizzard conditions throughout the state. In South Dakota, this storm began as freezing rain on the 27th and remained largely as such in the southeast quarter of the state. The remainder of the experienced blizzard conditions with 5 to 10 inches of snow and winds gusting to 30 to 60 mph. These horrible caused extensive closing of schools and businesses, blocked highways, and disrupted telephone and power services. Slippery highways caused many auto accidents. Some loss of livestock was reported, such as 1,000 turkeys in Gettysburg. Restoration of telephone service alone was estimated to have cost \$210,000 and required up to three days after the storm.

November 27, 1983: A weekend storm that began with light snow on the 26th continued to gather strength, culminating in a blizzard that was accompanied by thunder and lightning during the evening hours on the 27th. The heaviest snowfall occurred from Marshall County SSE to Gregory County in South Dakota, with the heaviest snow falling as thunder snow showers. Snow amounts ranged from 4 to 18 inches. Strong winds up to 50 mph created near zero visibilities and difficult driving conditions as numerous roads drifted shut with up to eight-foot drifts. Numerous accidents ensued, with many people forced to stay overnight in their stranded vehicles. Airlines were forced to cancel all flights as airports were closed into midday on the 28th. Almost all schools and businesses were closed on the 28th and even on the 29th in many areas. Storm total snowfall amounts included 8 inches at Clark; 7 inches at Artichoke Lake, Bryant 1NE, Clear Lake, Victor 4 NNE, and Browns Valley; 6 inches at Wheaton, Wilmot, and Harrold 12 SSW; 5 inches at Kennebec, Sisseton, and Mellette 4W; 4 inches at Watertown, Highmore 1W, Murdo, Redfield, Waubay, Ashton 2S, and Britton; and 3 inches at Aberdeen, Castlewood, Columbia 8N, Onida 4NW, and Pierre.

November 27, 1994: Low pressure developed over eastern Colorado late Saturday the 26th and strengthened over Kansas early on the 27th. By late in the day on the 27th, the low pressure system had developed into the first winter storm for Minnesota. By the early morning hours of the 28th, a swath of snow in excess of 6 inches had blanketed much of southwest through central into northeast Minnesota.

Snowfalls of 6 inches or more occurred south of a line from Gunflint Lake in Cook County to near Ortonville in Big Stone County and along and north of a line from near Blue Earth in Faribault county to Red Wing in Goodhue county. The snow closed the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport for a short time on the 27th, and contributed to hundreds of accidents and at least three fatalities. The greatest snowfall was 14.1 inches in Duluth. In addition, very strong east winds gusted over 50 mph in Duluth causing blizzard conditions. The high winds brought waves in excess of 16 feet crashing against the Lake Superior shoreline in Duluth, covering the Duluth Canal Park Lake Walk with extensive debris. A buildup of ice and snow in combination with strong winds resulted in numerous downed power lines in southeast Minnesota. Widespread heavy snow fell over mostly the eastern half of South Dakota on November 27-28. Peak accumulations were 10 inches at Sioux Falls and 9 inches at Howard and near Canton. Damage resulted mainly from numerous minor traffic accidents. Storm snowfall amounts in this area included 8 inches at Eureka; 7 inches at Victor 4NNE, Leola, Onaka 2N, Roscoe, Faulkton, Columbia 8N, Aberdeen, and Selby; 6 inches at Redfield, Mellette 4W, Bryant 1NE, Blunt, Wheaton, and Raymond 3NE; 5 inches at Pollock, Miller, Milbank 2SSW, Ipswich, Harrold 12SSW, Eagle Butte, Clark, Artichoke Lake, and Onida 4NW; 4 inches at Mobridge, Timber Lake, McIntosh 6SE, Conde, Clear Lake, Pierre, and Ashton 2S; 3 inches at Sisseton, Webster, Waubay, Summit 1W, Presho 7NW, Kennebec, Highmore 1W, Gann Valley 4NW, Castlewood, Browns Valley, Watertown, and Wilmot.

November 27, 1701: Anders Celsius, the astronomer who invented the Celsius, often called the centigrade thermometer scale was born on this date.

November 27, 1898: A powerful storm, known as the "Portland Gale" impacted the coastal areas of New England on November 26 - 27, 1898. The storm formed when two areas of low pressures merged off the coast of New Jersey and traveled up the east coast. This storm produced hurricane force winds in Nantucket and sank more than 150 boats and ships.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

CHANGE YOUR COURSE!

It was a stormy night. The waves were high, the winds fierce, and the stars hidden behind angry clouds. Suddenly, from the bridge of his ship, the captain saw lights in front of him in the distance. He immediately had his signalman send a message: "I'm the captain of a large battleship. Change your course ten degrees."

Back came a reply: "I'm a seaman first class, Sir. You change your course ten degrees."

"I said I'm a captain. You are a seaman. I order you to change your course ten degrees," replied the captain.

"I would, Sir, but I'm in a lighthouse and can't change my course," came the message from the seaman.

We find some great advice in the book of Proverbs: "There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death." It is one of the most famous Proverbs for its significant and predictable advice. The paths that many individuals travel may "seem right" but are not right. Their "enticing" ways may offer many options and choices that seem exciting and fun-filled, but ultimately, and unfortunately, destroys their lives and ends in despair and death.

The right choice often requires hard work, difficult decisions, self-sacrifice, and even ridicule. Many times the "right choice" may demand a change in lifestyle and force us to give up attractive surroundings and pleasurable experiences.

We must always remember that giving in to the passing pleasures of life often requires us to give up what matters most in life: living to please God and being blessed by Him.

Prayer: Often in life, Heavenly Father, we know the right thing to do. But knowing what is right and doing it is often difficult. Give us Your strength, we pray, to "do right." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. Proverbs 14:12



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

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2023 Community Events

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

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The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.24.23

6 15 45 59 68 1

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$335,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 24
DRAW: Mins 29 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.25.23

3 11 18 38 41 1

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,450,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 39 Mins 29
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.26.23

5 30 31 33 40 7

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 16 Hrs 54 Mins
DRAW: 29 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.25.23

10 12 14 26 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$68,000

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 54
DRAW: Mins 29 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.25.23

1 27 30 49 62 20

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 23 Mins 29
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.25.23

27 33 63 66 68 9

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$352,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 23 Mins 29
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Police arrest suspect in the shooting of 3 men of Palestinian descent near the University of Vermont

By KATHY McCORMACK Associated Press

Police have arrested a suspect in the shooting of three young men of Palestinian descent who were attending a Thanksgiving holiday gathering near the University of Vermont campus Saturday evening.

Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives arrested Jason J. Eaton, 48, while conducting a search of the shooting area in Burlington at 3:38 p.m. Sunday, the Burlington Police Department said in a statement.

Authorities collected evidence during a search of Eaton's apartment in a building in front of the shooting location. He is scheduled to be arraigned Monday, police said.

The attack that injured the three men around 6:25 p.m. Saturday may have been a hate crime, authorities previously said.

Two of the men were in stable condition and the other suffered "much more serious injuries," Burlington Police Chief Jon Murad said in a statement Sunday. The three, all age 20, were walking during a visit to the home of one of the victim's relatives when they were confronted by a white man with a handgun, police said.

"Without speaking, he discharged at least four rounds from the pistol and is believed to have fled," Murad said. "All three victims were struck, two in their torsos and one in the lower extremities."

The victims are all of Palestinian descent. Two are U.S. citizens and the third is a legal resident. Two of the men were wearing the black-and-white Palestinian keffiyeh scarves, Murad said.

Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger is expected to join Murad at a press conference Monday to discuss the investigation.

Murad, who expressed sympathies for the victims and their families, said there is no additional information to suggest a motive.

"In this charged moment, no one can look at this incident and not suspect that it may have been a hate-motivated crime. And I have already been in touch with federal investigatory and prosecutorial partners to prepare for that if it's proven," he said.

"The fact is that we don't yet know as much as we want to right now," Murad added. "But I urge the public to avoid making conclusions based on statements from uninvolved parties who know even less."

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee released a statement Sunday saying that the victims were Palestinian American college students and that there is "reason to believe this shooting occurred because the victims are Arab."

A man shouted and harassed the victims, who were conversing in Arabic, then proceeded to shoot them, the committee's statement said.

The FBI in Albany, New York, posted a statement late Sunday on X, formerly Twitter, saying the bureau is actively investigating the shooting with the Burlington Police Department, the ATF and other federal, state and local agencies.

The White House said President Joe Biden was briefed on the shooting and would continue to receive law enforcement updates.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations released a statement offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest or conviction of the person or people responsible for the shootings.

The Institute for Middle East Understanding posted a statement on X that the institute said was from the victims' families.

"We are extremely concerned about the safety and well-being of our children," the statement said. "We call on law enforcement to conduct a thorough investigation, including treating this as a hate crime. We will not be comfortable until the shooter is brought to justice."

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Ramallah Friends School posted a statement on Facebook saying the three young men were graduates of the private school in the West Bank.

"While we are relieved to know that they are alive, we remain uncertain about their condition and hold them in the light," the school said. "We stand united in hope and support for their well-being during this challenging time."

In response to the shooting, U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries encouraged people to "un- equivocally denounce the startling rise of anti-Arab hate and Islamophobia in America."

"No one should ever be targeted for their ethnicity or religious affiliation in our country," the New York Democrat said in the statement posted on X. "We will not let hatred win."

Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Vermont Independent, also denounced the shooting.

"It is shocking and deeply upsetting that three young Palestinians were shot here in Burlington, VT. Hate has no place here, or anywhere. I look forward to a full investigation," Sanders said in a statement.

Gov. Phil Scott called the shooting a tragedy, calling on the state's residents to unite and "not let this incident incite more hate or divisiveness."

The Vermont-New Hampshire chapter of Jewish Voice For Peace, which has urged an end to the Israel-Hamas war, released a statement saying it was "appalled by the shooting."

"We are in solidarity with the students, their families and all those affected by this clear act of hate," the organization said Sunday. "We are in solidarity with all Palestinian people in occupied Palestine, around the world, and here in Vermont — and we are committed to creating a Vermont that is safe and welcoming for all."

The American Jewish Committee, an advocacy organization for Jewish people worldwide, also said via X it was "horrified" by the attack and urged "law enforcement to investigate this act as a possible hate crime."

Last month, an Illinois landlord was charged with a hate crime after being accused of fatally stabbing a 6-year-old Muslim boy and seriously wounding his mother in Chicago. Police and relatives said he singled out the victims because of their faith.

Demonstrations have been widespread and tensions in the U.S. have escalated as the death toll rises in the Israel-Hamas war. A fragile cease-fire between Israel and Hamas was back on track Sunday as the militants freed more hostages and Israel released 39 Palestinian prisoners. It was the third exchange under a four-day truce deal.

Israel and Hamas look to extend cease-fire on its final day, with one more hostage swap planned

By TIA GOLDENBERG and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — International mediators were pressing to extend a cease-fire in Gaza that has halted the deadliest Israeli-Palestinian violence in decades but is set to expire after Monday, as Israel and Hamas prepared for a fourth exchange of militant-held hostages for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel.

Israel has said it would extend the cease-fire by one day for every 10 additional hostages released. Hamas has also said it hopes to extend the four-day truce, which came into effect Friday after several weeks of indirect negotiations mediated by the United States, Qatar and Egypt.

But Israel also says it remains committed to crushing Hamas' military capabilities and ending its 16-year rule over Gaza. That would likely mean expanding its ground offensive from devastated northern Gaza to the south, where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have crammed into United Nations shelters, and where dire conditions persist despite the ramping up of aid delivery under the truce.

The release of dozens of people — mostly women and children — who were among the roughly 240 captured by Hamas in its wide-ranging Oct. 7 attack into southern Israel that ignited the war has rallied Israelis behind calls to return the rest of them.

Sixty-two hostages have been released, one was freed by Israeli forces, and two were found dead inside Gaza.

"We can get all hostages back home. We have to keep pushing," two relatives of Abigail Edan, a 4-year-

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old girl and dual Israeli American citizen who was released Sunday, said in a statement.

Families of the hostages have led mass marches and demonstrations accusing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of not doing enough to bring them home, and the mounting pressure could push him to extend the truce and make additional concessions to Hamas. But Israel also remains deeply shaken by the Oct. 7 attack and determined to remove the militant group as a threat.

"At the end of the day we will return every one," Netanyahu said of the hostages, as he donned body armor and paid a rare visit Sunday to troops inside Gaza. "We are continuing until the end, until victory. Nothing will stop us."

A THIRD RELEASE OF HOSTAGES AND PRISONERS

On Sunday, Hamas freed 17 more hostages, including 14 Israelis, in a third exchange under the four-day truce. In turn, Israel released 39 Palestinian prisoners.

Most hostages appeared to be physically well, but 84-year-old Elma Avraham was airlifted to Israel's Soroka Medical Center in life-threatening condition because of inadequate care, the hospital said.

Those released Sunday included nine children and three Thai nationals. With a total of 17 freed, Thailand said it was pursuing the safe return of the 15 remaining Thai hostages, who were the largest single group of foreigners held by the militant group. Thais working in Israel are mostly employed as semi-skilled farm laborers.

The Palestinian prisoners released were mostly teenagers accused of throwing stones and firebombs during confrontations with Israeli forces, or of less-serious offenses. Many Palestinians view prisoners held by Israel, including those implicated in attacks, as heroes resisting occupation.

A fourth exchange is expected on Monday, for a total of 50 Israeli hostages and 150 Palestinian prisoners as agreed upon in the cease-fire deal.

The freed hostages have mostly stayed out of the public eye, but details of their captivity have started to trickle out.

Merav Raviv, whose three relatives were released on Friday, said they had been fed irregularly and lost weight. One reported eating mainly bread and rice and sleeping on a makeshift bed of chairs pushed together. Hostages sometimes had to wait for hours to use the bathroom, she said.

RESPIRE IN GAZA

More than 13,300 Palestinians have been killed since the war began, roughly two thirds of them women and minors, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza, which does not differentiate between civilians and combatants. More than 1,200 people have been killed on the Israeli side, mostly civilians killed in the initial attack. Some 77 soldiers have been killed in Israel's ground offensive.

The pause has given some respite to Gaza's 2.3 million people after weeks of relentless Israeli bombardment that has driven three-quarters of the population from their homes and leveled entire neighborhoods.

But many say it's not nearly enough.

Amani Taha, a widow and mother of three who fled from northern Gaza to stay with a host family in the southern city of Rafah, said she had only managed to get one canned meal from a U.N. distribution center since the cease-fire began. She helps other families in the neighborhood cook over firewood in return for food for her sons, ages 4 to 10.

She said the crowds have overwhelmed local markets and gas stations as people try to stock up on basics. "People were desperate and went out to buy whenever they could," she said. "They are extremely worried that the war will return."

Palestinians who remained in northern Gaza, which was home to more than a million people before the war, have emerged to scenes of widespread devastation, with building after building either demolished or heavily damaged. The Israeli military has barred Palestinians who fled south from returning.

The U.N. says the truce made it possible to scale up the delivery of food, water and medicine to the largest volume since the start of the war. But the 160 to 200 trucks a day is still less than half what Gaza was importing before the fighting, even as humanitarian needs have soared.

Hamas releases a third group of hostages as part of truce, and says it will seek to extend the deal

By WAFAA SHURAF A and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — The fragile cease-fire between Israel and Hamas was back on track Sunday as the militants freed 17 more hostages, including 14 Israelis and the first American, in a third exchange under a four-day truce that the United States said it hoped would be extended. In turn, Israel released 39 Palestinian prisoners.

Most hostages were handed over directly to Israel, waving to a cheering crowd as they arrived at an air force base. Others left through Egypt. Israel's army said one was airlifted to a hospital, and the director of Soroka Medical Center said Elma Avraham, 84, was in life-threatening condition as "a result of an extended period of time when an elderly woman was not taken care of as needed."

The youngest hostage released was Abigail Edan, a 4-year-old girl and dual Israeli-American citizen whose parents were killed in the Hamas attack that started the war on Oct. 7.

"What she endured was unthinkable," U.S. President Joe Biden said of the first American freed under the truce. He did not know her condition and did not provide updates on other American hostages. Biden said his goal was to extend the cease-fire deal as long as possible.

In all, nine children ages 17 and younger were on the list, according to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office. Three more Thai nationals were released. Separately, Hamas said it released a Russian hostage "in response to the efforts of Russian President Vladimir Putin."

The three Thai nationals were undergoing health checks at a medical center in Israel and brought the total number of Thai hostages released to 17, Thailand's Foreign Ministry said. The ministry said it was pursuing efforts for the safe release of the 15 remaining Thai hostages. Thais working in Israel are mostly employed as semi-skilled farm laborers, at wages considerably higher than those at they can earn at home.

The Palestinian prisoners released were children and young men, ages 15-19, largely accused of public disorder, property damage and in some cases causing or threatening physical harm to Israeli officers by throwing stones and Molotov cocktails. Many were scooped up from protests and confrontations with troops. In turn, many Palestinians view prisoners held by Israel, including those implicated in attacks, as heroes resisting occupation.

A fourth exchange is expected on Monday — the last day of the cease-fire during which a total of 50 hostages and 150 Palestinian prisoners are to be freed. Most are women and minors.

International mediators led by the U.S., Egypt and Qatar were trying to extend the cease-fire that began Friday.

"We can get all hostages back home. We have to keep pushing," said two of Edan's relatives, a great aunt and cousin, in a statement thanking mediators.

Hamas for the first time said it would seek to extend the deal by looking to release a larger number of hostages. Netanyahu issued a statement saying he had spoken to Biden and reiterated his offer to extend the cease-fire by an additional day for every 10 hostages Hamas releases. But he said Israel would resume its offensive "with all of our might" once the truce expires.

Ahead of the latest hostage release, Netanyahu donned body armor and visited the Gaza Strip, where he spoke with troops.

"At the end of the day we will return every one," he said of the hostages, adding that "we are continuing until the end, until victory. Nothing will stop us." It was not clear where he went inside Gaza.

This is the first significant pause in seven weeks of war, marked by the deadliest Israeli-Palestinian violence in decades. More than 13,300 Palestinians have been killed, roughly two thirds of them women and minors, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza, which does not differentiate between civilians and combatants. The war has claimed more than 1,200 Israelis, mostly civilians killed in the initial attack.

In New York, hundreds of Jewish protesters and allies demanding a permanent cease-fire in Gaza shut down vehicle traffic on the Manhattan Bridge in both directions for several hours Sunday. A New York police spokesperson said one person was arrested for reckless endangerment and two others were issued

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summonses for disorderly conduct.

LIFE IN CAPTIVITY

Hamas' military wing released a video showing militants handing over the hostages to Red Cross workers and paramedics, with some of the balaclava-wearing fighters and hostages waving goodbye to each other.

Families from the southern Israeli town of Kfar Aza embraced, cried, and applauded Sunday at the news that hostages from their town had arrived in Israel. More than 70 members of the kibbutz of around 700 people were killed and 18 were kidnapped.

The freed hostages have mostly stayed out of the public eye. Hospitals said their physical condition has largely been good. Little is publicly known about the conditions of their captivity.

Merav Raviv, whose three relatives were released on Friday, said they had been fed irregularly and lost weight. One reported eating mainly bread and rice and sleeping on a makeshift bed of chairs pushed together. Hostages sometimes had to wait for hours to use the bathroom, she said.

Pressure from families has sharpened the dilemma facing Israel's leaders, who seek to eliminate Hamas as a military and governing power. Hamas and other militant groups seized around 240 people during the incursion into southern Israel that ignited the war. Fifty-eight have been released, one was freed by Israeli forces and two were found dead inside Gaza.

AID TO NORTHERN GAZA

The pause has given some respite to Gaza's 2.3 million people, still reeling from relentless Israeli bombardment that has driven three-quarters of the population from their homes and leveled residential areas. Rocket fire from Gaza militants into Israel also went silent.

War-weary Palestinians in northern Gaza, where the offensive has been focused, made their way through entire city blocks gutted by airstrikes.

But those among the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who fled the north have been turned back by Israeli troops while trying to return to check their homes.

"They open fire on anyone approaching from the south," said Rami Hazarein, who fled Gaza City.

The Israeli military has ordered Palestinians not to return to the north or approach within a kilometer (around a half-mile) of the border fence. The Palestinian Red Crescent rescue service said Israeli forces opened fire Sunday on two farmers in central Gaza, killing one and wounding the other. An Israeli military spokesperson said they weren't aware of the episode.

The United Nations says the truce made it possible to scale up the delivery of food, water and medicine to the largest volume since the start of the war, but it calls the 160 to 200 trucks a day "hardly enough."

It was able to deliver fuel for the first time since the war began, and to reach areas in the north for the first time in a month. The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said 50 Egyptian aid trucks crossed through Israeli checkpoints to reach Gaza City and northern areas Sunday.

HAMAS COMMANDER KILLED

Hamas announced the death of Ahmed al-Ghandour, who was in charge of northern Gaza and a member of its top military council. He is the highest-ranking militant known to have been killed in the fighting. Israel's military confirmed the death.

Al-Ghandour had survived at least three Israeli attempts on his life and was involved in a cross-border attack in 2006 in which Palestinian militants captured an Israeli soldier, according to the Counter Extremism Project, an advocacy group based in Washington.

Hamas said he was killed along with three other senior militants, including Ayman Siam, who Israel says was in charge of Hamas' rocket-firing unit. The Israeli military mentioned both men in a Nov. 16 statement, saying it had targeted an underground complex where Hamas leaders were hiding.

The Israeli military claims to have killed thousands of militants, without providing evidence.

The war has been accompanied by a surge in violence in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Palestinian health authorities said Sunday that five Palestinians were killed in an Israeli military raid in the West Bank city of Jenin that began the day before. The war toll in the West Bank is now 239.

The Israeli army has conducted frequent raids and arrested hundreds of Palestinians since the start of

the war, mostly people it suspects of being Hamas members.

Ukraine is shipping more grain through the Black Sea despite threat from Russia

By HANNA ARHIROVA and COURTNEY BONNELL Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Grain thunders into rail cars and trucks zip around a storage facility in central Ukraine, a place that growing numbers of companies turned to as they struggled to export their food to people facing hunger around the world.

Now, more of the grain is getting unloaded from overcrowded silos and heading to ports on the Black Sea, set to traverse a fledgling shipping corridor launched after Russia pulled out of a U.N.-brokered agreement this summer that allowed food to flow safely from Ukraine during the war.

"It was tight, but we kept working ... we sought how to accept every ton of products needed for our partners," facility general director Roman Andreikiv said about the end of the grain deal in July. Ukraine's new corridor, protected by the military, has now allowed him to "free up warehouse space and increase activity."

Growing numbers of ships are streaming toward Ukraine's Black Sea ports and heading out loaded with grain, metals and other cargo despite the threat of attack and floating explosive mines. It's giving a boost to Ukraine's agriculture-dependent economy and bringing back a key source of wheat, corn, barley, sunflower oil and other affordable food products for parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia where local prices have risen and food insecurity is growing.

"We are seeing renewed confidence among commercial operators keen to take Ukrainian grain cargoes," said Munro Anderson, head of operations for Vessel Protect, which assesses war risks at sea and provides insurance with backing from Lloyd's, whose members make up the world's largest insurance marketplace.

Ihor Osmachko, general director of Agroprosperis Group, one of Ukraine's biggest agricultural producers and exporters, says he's feeling "more optimistic than two months ago."

"At that time, it was completely unclear how to survive," he said.

Since the company's first vessel departed in mid-September, it says it has shipped more than 300,000 metric tons of grain to Egypt, Spain, China, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Tunisia and Turkey.

After ending the agreement brokered by the U.N. and Turkey, Russia has attacked Ukraine's Black Sea ports — a vital connection to global trade — and grain infrastructure, destroying enough food to feed over 1 million people for a year, the U.K. government said.

The risk to vessels is the main hurdle for the new shipping corridor. Russia, whose officials haven't commented on the corridor, warned this summer that ships heading to Ukraine's Black Sea ports would be assumed to be carrying weapons.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that allies had agreed to provide ships to help his country protect commercial vessels in the Black Sea but that more air defense systems were needed.

"Air defense is in short supply," he told reporters Saturday at an international food security summit in Kyiv. "But what's important is that we have agreements, we have a positive signal and the corridor is operational."

While a deadly missile strike on the port of Odesa hit a Liberian-flagged commercial ship this month, not long afterward, insurers, brokers and banks teamed up with the Ukrainian government to announce affordable coverage for Black Sea grain shipments, offering shippers peace of mind.

Despite such attacks, Ukraine has exported over 5.6 million metric tons of grain and other products through the new corridor, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink tweeted Friday. Before the war, it was nearly double that per month, Ukrainian Deputy Economy Minister Taras Kachka said.

"The way that they're transporting right now, it's certainly much more expensive and time consuming," said Kelly Goughary, a senior research analyst at agriculture data and analytics firm Gro Intelligence.

"But they are getting product out the door, which is better than I think many were anticipating with the grain initiative coming to an end," she said.

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Farmers also are facing low prices for their grain, which makes sending trucks to Odesa's often-attacked port not worth the risk for one agricultural company near the front line.

Instead, Slavhorod, which farms near the border with Russia in the Sumy province that faces daily shelling, has chosen to store its peas, wheat, soybeans, sunflower and corn in warehouses.

There's risk in keeping the 3,500-hectare (8,650-acre) farm running at all: Signs warned of explosive mines near where workers were collecting corn in a field 3 kilometers (nearly 2 miles) from Russia.

But "who, if not us? It's the only industry that brings some income to the country," said Slavhorod's chief agronomist, Oleksandr Kubrakov, who survived driving over a mine last year.

But it's becoming increasingly challenging to maintain morale.

"This year, there is less enthusiasm because grain prices are low, the product remains near the border and at any moment" it could be destroyed, he said. "It's a big risk."

Since the war started, Ukraine has struggled to get its food supplies to countries in need. Even during the yearlong U.N. deal, when Ukraine shipped nearly 33 million metric tons of food, Russia was accused of slowing down ship inspections required to be done by all sides.

"That corridor worked in an unpredictable way for us," said Mykola Horbachov, president of the Ukrainian Grain Association.

Now, the Ukrainian military decides when it's safe to sail.

"This may incur additional costs, but it is still more predictable than it was before," Horbachov said.

Osmachko of Agroprosperis Group agrees. Before the invasion, the exporter paid \$50 per metric ton to ship grain through the Black Sea. Alternatives since the war — including river routes through Europe — cost the company nearly three times more, Osmachko said. Under Ukraine's new corridor, the company pays \$70 to 80 per metric ton.

"It's more efficient, more profitable," he said.

Plus, Ukraine's shipping corridor allows vessels to travel less in dangerous areas compared with the grain deal and avoid those often-delayed inspections, said Anderson of Vessel Protect.

Agroprosperis Group no longer needs to pay for ships to wait around. Inspection delays cost the company \$30 million in losses during the yearlong grain deal, Osmachko said.

While the delays are gone, there still "is military risk, safety risk, war risk. And not all of the insurance companies are ready to take this risk," Osmachko said.

To ease that hurdle, an insurance program launched this month to provide affordable coverage to shippers carrying food from Ukraine's Black Sea ports. The partnership between insurance broker Marsh McLennan, Lloyd's, two Ukrainian state banks and the government offers up to \$50 million for each of two types of coverage protecting against damage and other losses.

In another boost, a humanitarian program was extended Saturday that donates Ukrainian grain to nations facing food shortages with support from countries worldwide. Next, it will bring enough grain to help nearly 400,000 people in Nigeria, Zelenskyy said.

The goal for the new shipping corridor is to export at least 6 million metric tons of grain a month, Ukrainian Agriculture Minister Mykola Solskyi said. It has a lot of work to do: Ukraine exported 4.3 million metric tons of grain in October through all routes, the ministry said.

"We maintain cautious optimism, based on the fact that we have been fighting before and will continue to fight further," he said.

Trump hints at expanded role for the military within the US. A legacy law gives him few guardrails

By GARY FIELDS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Campaigning in Iowa this year, Donald Trump said he was prevented during his presidency from using the military to quell violence in primarily Democratic cities and states.

Calling New York City and Chicago "crime dens," the front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination told his audience, "The next time, I'm not waiting. One of the things I did was let them run it

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and we're going to show how bad a job they do," he said. "Well, we did that. We don't have to wait any longer."

Trump has not spelled out precisely how he might use the military during a second term, although he and his advisers have suggested they would have wide latitude to call up units. While deploying the military regularly within the country's borders would be a departure from tradition, the former president already has signaled an aggressive agenda if he wins, from mass deportations to travel bans imposed on certain Muslim-majority countries.

A law first crafted in the nation's infancy would give Trump as commander in chief almost unfettered power to do so, military and legal experts said in a series of interviews.

The Insurrection Act allows presidents to call on reserve or active-duty military units to respond to unrest in the states, an authority that is not reviewable by the courts. One of its few guardrails merely requires the president to request that the participants disperse.

"The principal constraint on the president's use of the Insurrection Act is basically political, that presidents don't want to be the guy who sent tanks rolling down Main Street," said Joseph Nunn, a national security expert with the Brennan Center for Justice. "There's not much really in the law to stay the president's hand."

A spokesman for Trump's campaign did not respond to multiple requests for comment about what authority Trump might use to pursue his plans.

Congress passed the act in 1792, just four years after the Constitution was ratified. Nunn said it's an amalgamation of different statutes enacted between then and the 1870s, a time when there was little in the way of local law enforcement.

"It is a law that in many ways was created for a country that doesn't exist anymore," he said.

It also is one of the most substantial exceptions to the Posse Comitatus Act, which generally prohibits using the military for law enforcement purposes.

Trump has spoken openly about his plans should he win the presidency, including using the military at the border and in cities struggling with violent crime. His plans also have included using the military against foreign drug cartels, a view echoed by other Republican primary candidates such as Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley, the former U.N. ambassador and South Carolina governor.

The threats have raised questions about the meaning of military oaths, presidential power and who Trump could appoint to support his approach.

Trump already has suggested he might bring back retired Army Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, who served briefly as Trump's national security adviser and twice pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI during its Russian influence probe before being pardoned by Trump. Flynn suggested in the aftermath of the 2020 election that Trump could seize voting machines and order the military in some states to help rerun the election.

Attempts to invoke the Insurrection Act and use the military for domestic policing would likely elicit push-back from the Pentagon, where the new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is Gen. Charles Q. Brown. He was one of the eight members of the Joint Chiefs who signed a memo to military personnel in the aftermath of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. The memo emphasized the oaths they took and called the events of that day, which were intended to stop certification of Democrat Joe Biden's victory over Trump, "sedition and insurrection."

Trump and his party nevertheless retain wide support among those who have served in the military. AP VoteCast, an in-depth survey of more than 94,000 voters nationwide, showed that 59% of U.S. military veterans voted for Trump in the 2020 presidential election. In the 2022 midterms, 57% of military veterans supported Republican candidates.

Presidents have issued a total of 40 proclamations invoking the law, some of those done multiple times for the same crisis, Nunn said. Lyndon Johnson invoked it three times — in Baltimore, Chicago and Washington — in response to the unrest in cities after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968.

During the Civil Rights era, Presidents Johnson, John F. Kennedy and Dwight Eisenhower used the law to protect activists and students desegregating schools. Eisenhower sent the 101st Airborne to Little Rock, Arkansas, to protect Black students integrating Central High School after that state's governor activated the National Guard to keep the students out.

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George H.W. Bush was the last president to use the Insurrection Act, a response to riots in Los Angeles in 1992 after the acquittal of the white police officers who beat Black motorist Rodney King in an incident that was videotaped.

Repeated attempts to invoke the act in a new Trump presidency could put pressure on military leaders, who could face consequences for their actions even if done at the direction of the president.

Michael O'Hanlon, director of research in foreign policy at the Brookings Institution think tank, said the question is whether the military is being imaginative enough with the scenarios it has been presenting to future officers. Ambiguity, especially when force is involved, is not something military personnel are comfortable with, he said.

"There are a lot of institutional checks and balances in our country that are pretty well-developed legally, and it'll make it hard for a president to just do something randomly out of the blue," said O'Hanlon, who specializes in U.S. defense strategy and the use of military force. "But Trump is good at developing a semi-logical train of thought that might lead to a place where there's enough mayhem, there's enough violence and legal murkiness" to call in the military.

Democratic Rep. Pat Ryan of New York, the first graduate of the U.S. Military Academy to represent the congressional district that includes West Point, said he took the oath three times while he was at the school and additional times during his military career. He said there was extensive classroom focus on an officer's responsibilities to the Constitution and the people under his or her command.

"They really hammer into us the seriousness of the oath and who it was to, and who it wasn't to," he said.

Ryan said he thought it was universally understood, but Jan. 6 "was deeply disturbing and a wakeup call for me." Several veterans and active-duty military personnel were charged with crimes in connection with the assault.

While those connections were troubling, he said he thinks those who harbor similar sentiments make up a very small percentage of the military.

William Banks, a Syracuse University law professor and expert in national security law, said a military officer is not forced to follow "unlawful orders." That could create a difficult situation for leaders whose units are called on for domestic policing, since they can face charges for taking unlawful actions.

"But there is a big thumb on the scale in favor of the president's interpretation of whether the order is lawful," Banks said. "You'd have a really big row to hoe and you would have a big fuss inside the military if you chose not to follow a presidential order."

Nunn, who has suggested steps to restrict the invocation of the law, said military personnel cannot be ordered to break the law.

"Members of the military are legally obliged to disobey an unlawful order. At the same time, that is a lot to ask of the military because they are also obliged to obey orders," he said. "And the punishment for disobeying an order that turns out to be lawful is your career is over, and you may well be going to jail for a very long time. The stakes for them are extraordinarily high."

Rosalynn Carter tributes will highlight her reach as first lady, humanitarian and small-town Baptist

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

AMERICUS, Ga. (AP) — Rosalynn Carter will make her final journey to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Center on Monday as her family begins three days of memorials for the former first lady and global humanitarian who died Nov. 19 at the age of 96.

After brief ceremonies in the Carters' native Sumter County in south Georgia, Rosalynn Carter's remains will travel by motorcade to Atlanta, where she will lie in repose at The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum.

The library will be open from 6 to 10 p.m., offering the most direct opportunity for the public to pay their respects during the three-day tribute. Two funerals, set for Tuesday in Atlanta and Wednesday in

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the Carters' tiny hometown of Plains, are for invited guests.

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden, longtime friends of the Carters, lead the dignitaries expected to attend the Atlanta service. Motorcade routes will be open throughout the schedule. Rosalynn Carter's burial Wednesday in Plains is private.

It is not known whether the former president, who is 99 and in his 10th month of hospice care, will take part in the events. Those close to his immediate family have said he will make every effort as he grieves his partner of more than 77 years.

The schedule, a product of detailed planning that involved the former first couple, reflects the range of Rosalynn Carter's interests and impact. That includes her advocacy for better mental health treatment and the elevation of caregiving, her role as Jimmy Carter's closest adviser and her status as matriarch of Plains and Maranatha Baptist Church, where she and the former president served in various roles after leaving the White House in 1981.

"All over the world, people are celebrating her life," said Kim Fuller, the Carters' niece, while teaching a Bible lesson Sunday at Maranatha. "And of course we're coming into a week now where we're gonna celebrate even more."

A detailed schedule is available online. Events will be streamed and broadcast by independent media.

Some well-wishers began honoring Rosalynn Carter soon after her death, including an uptick in visitors to the Presidential Center campus.

"Mental health is more openly talked about" because of Rosalynn Carter's work to reduce the stigma attached to the conditions, said Brendan Green, a high school guidance counselor who came from Chicago.

"She was a pioneer in that field," Green said. "What a great legacy."

Formal ceremonies begin Monday at Phoebe Sumter Medical Center in Americus, near Plains. Rosalynn Carter's remains will be transferred to a hearse there, accompanied by members of her Secret Service detail, past and present. A motorcade will travel to Georgia Southwestern State University, where the former first lady graduated in 1946 when it was Georgia Southwestern College.

At the campus's Rosalynn Carter Health and Human Sciences Complex, there will be a wreath-laying ceremony attended by the current leadership of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving. She founded the institute to advocate for the millions of unpaid caregivers in American households.

The motorcade then departs for Atlanta. A brief service of repose is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. — before public access — once her remains arrive at Carter Presidential Center.

The campus, near downtown, includes the library and museum, and The Carter Center. The former first couple founded the center in 1982 to champion democracy, mediate international conflicts and fight disease in the developing world. Their work around the world redefined what former White House occupants can do after ceding political power.

Streets around the campus will be closed Monday. Parking and a shuttle will be available at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 435 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta.

The largest single service will be held Tuesday at Glenn Memorial Church on the Emory University campus. Emory helped the former first couple establish The Carter Center. Besides the Bidens, Vice President Kamala Harris and her husband, Doug Emhoff, have announced plans to attend. Other former first ladies and possibly former presidents are expected, as well.

Glenn is a Methodist congregation. The Carters married in 1946 at Plains Methodist Church, where Rosalynn Carter attended growing up. She joined her husband as a Baptist throughout their marriage.

Her final services at Maranatha will reflect their small-town Protestant roots: Church members are invited and also will eat a funeral meal with the Carter family the day of the service.

During her Sunday School hour, Fuller reminded her fellow Maranatha members that they are expected to provide dessert. "Whatever you want to bring is fine," Fuller told them as she explained drop-off instructions. "Spread the word if you don't mind."

How did humans get to the brink of crashing climate?

A long push for progress and energy to fuel it

By DANA BELTAJI Associated Press

Amidst record-high temperatures, deluges, droughts and wildfires, leaders are convening for another round of United Nations climate talks later this month that seek to curb the centuries-long trend of humans spewing ever more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

For hundreds of years, people have shaped the world around them for their benefit: They drained lakes to protect infrastructure, wealth and people. They dug up billions of tons of coal, and then oil and gas, to fuel empires and economies. The allure of exploiting nature and burning fossil fuels as a path to prosperity hopped from nation to nation, each eager to secure their own energy.

People who claimed the power to control nature and the energy resources around them saw the environment as a tool to be used for progress, historians say. Over hundreds of years, that impulse has remade the planet's climate, too — and brought its inhabitants to the brink of catastrophe.

CONTROLLING THE ENVIRONMENT

Mexico City traces its roots to a settlement centuries ago on islands in the midst of Lake Texcoco. These days, most of the lake is gone, drained long ago to make room for the building and growth that today has more than 22 million people sprawling toward the edges of the Valley of Mexico.

Getting water in the arid valley — a need that has spiked as droughts have worsened — relies on pumping from deep underground. The toll of centuries of such pumping can be seen in curbs that crumble and structures that tilt atop the resulting subsidence, with some areas sinking around 30 centimeters (11.8 inches) a year. At the same time, neighborhoods are at increased risk of severe flooding because of climate change-fueled extreme rain events and drainage systems that are less effective because of the subsidence.

"Nature doesn't create these huge problems," said Luis Zambrano, professor of ecology at the National University Autónoma of Mexico. "Nature behaves as nature ... we are increasing our vulnerability by allowing the city to sink by pumping as much water as we possibly can from the aquifer."

Mexico City is just one example of people and empires altering their natural environments in ways they believe will benefit themselves and the land. Elsewhere, huge swathes of land have been deforested for agriculture or livestock grazing, or degraded and contaminated by quarrying and mining for metals and minerals. Tapping nature for its resources drove progress and productivity for some, but it's also been a major driver of emissions and environmental degradation.

Anya Zilberstein, a historian of climate science at Concordia University in Montreal, highlighted the example of Europeans colonizing the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries as an early catalyst for modern-day climate and environmental crises.

"They bring with them this idea that conquest and then the development of the cultivation of landscapes, like taking down trees, opening up lands to European style agriculture, that the draining of swamps ... will also change the climate, usually for the better," Zilberstein said.

The Aztecs built Tenochtitlán — what became Mexico City — on the lake's islands and chinampas — small, artificial fields. When the city later fell under Spain's rule, it was seen as the "most gorgeous jewel in the Spanish empire," with ornate palaces and commercial hubs, said Vera S. Candiani, a historian of Latin America at Princeton.

Catastrophic flooding in the mid-16th century led the Spanish to pursue drainage projects that aimed to keep the city dry and prosperous, and stretched on for three centuries, Candiani said.

But not everyone benefited equally.

Candiani said that capital-owning elites got technicians, engineers and other professionals to implement a system of extracting resources and labor from the countryside to benefit the city in colonial Mexico, and more broadly from the colonies for the gain of the home country. Rural populations, who contributed the most to the project through coerced labor, didn't benefit.

Jan Golinski, a professor of history at the University of New Hampshire, said Europeans of the time

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thought that their changes — cutting down forests, draining swamps, plowing land — would change the climate as well, to something closer to their homelands. He said they saw this engineering as positive.

“They believed that their society was making progress, that it was gaining greater control over nature, that they were becoming more civilized and were civilizing the environment around them,” Golinski said.

It’s a belief that several historians say is rooted in feelings of racial and cultural superiority.

“We hear echoes of these tropes” in the present day, said Deborah Coen, a historian of science at Yale. Being more vulnerable to climate extremes is associated with populations of color, and at the same time, “we find white elites pursuing projects of climate adaptation that protect themselves at the expense of communities of color,” she said. For example, residents in areas that were deemed safer from extreme weather following wildfires in Maui this summer are now getting priced out of their own neighborhoods.

The early modern period’s ideas on race have “long tentacles into the present,” said Zilberstein, and also solidified notions of environmental control, productivity and growth as positive, making it harder to tackle the current climate crisis.

“There are plenty of people who would say, yes, I believe climate change is real and I’ll go on a march, but I can’t accept de-growth,” she said. “And I understand why businesses won’t commit to it and nations won’t commit to it. It’s sort of unfathomable. It goes against the deeply held ideology of progress.”

THE FOSSIL FUEL ECONOMY

While Mexico City was built over water, Britain was sitting on vast expanses of coal that would eventually help form the blanket of carbon dioxide emissions that now clogs the atmosphere.

Coal had long been used in homes on the island for heating and cooking. It wasn’t the only source of energy — timber, water and peat were in use as well — but the balance tipped dramatically in its favor through the late 18th and early 19th centuries through technological inventions like steam power, new transportation routes like canals and later railroads, and a desire to better control how, when and where energy was used.

When the steam economy arrived — engines fueled by coal to heat water and make steam power — it made it easier for factory owners to control labor and nature than an economy based on water power, for example, said Andreas Malm, an associate professor of human ecology at Lund University in Sweden.

“Steam engines were mobile in space, so you could erect them anywhere, and the great benefit of this was that you could concentrate steam factories in towns where there was access to cheap and disciplined labor power,” said Malm. Steam power was also less vulnerable to the droughts, floods and storms that could affect water power: “You could just turn it on at any point in the day, regardless of the weather outside.”

It made coal the central energy-maker for British manufacturing and transport.

“Britain forcibly exported this model and integrated other countries such as India or Egypt or what became Nigeria into a kind of an economy that was dependent on fossil fuel,” said Malm.

By the mid-19th century, steam power was adopted in manufacturing, cotton mills, steam ships and locomotives around the world, turning coal into a global trade.

On Barak, a historian at Tel Aviv University and co-founder of the Laboratory for the History of Climate Change, likened steam engines and coal to the British empire giving other states coffee machines and capsules. Nations consistently needed to buy new capsules, or coal, for their coffee machines, or steam engines, feeding an ongoing addiction.

“This kickstarts ... searching for fossil fuels in various places in the Ottoman Empire, in the Indian sub-continent and elsewhere,” he said. And while it led to some discoveries, other empires and nations kept coming back to the more energy-rich British coal.

Centuries later, the United Kingdom has nearly weaned itself off coal, with weeks or months at a stretch where the national grid gets no coal power. The U.K. plans to stop using coal for the production of electricity by the end of next year, although it’s still used in heavy industry like steel-making, with a new coal mine approved in Cumbria as late as 2022.

But the country’s move away from coal wasn’t before its empire left its sooty footprint around the world. Its legacy can also be seen at home, where many of the mining and port towns in the north of England and parts of Wales and Scotland once buoyed by coal now languish, and abandoned mines and heaps of

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waste and debris scar the landscape.

A GLOBAL PROBLEM

Previous centuries created the right conditions for human-caused climate change, but the last few generations made it a reality. In 1960, humans put about 9 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the air; in 2021, they produced more than four times that amount, according to the Global Carbon Project.

Energy use skyrocketed as cars, air travel and technology became more affordable in many North American and European countries. Other nations such as China, Japan and India were assembling their own energy regimes based on fossil fuels. And this all happened amid growing understanding and concern about heat-trapping gases.

Oil use grew in the late 19th century because it wasn't as labor-intensive as coal, an industry whose workers now had strong unions in some Western nations, historians say.

Like coal, oil was easy to store. It is more energy-rich than coal, and it's easier to move; as a liquid it can be shipped through pipes, as well as by trucks, tankers and railcars, said J.R. McNeill, a historian at Georgetown University.

The rise of automobiles in the 1920s led the U.S. to build its energy system and much of its technology around internal combustion engines that still dominate cars, ships and planes. And as Europe and Japan followed suit, it made the global investment in an oil-dominated fossil fuel regime "gigantic and harder, but not impossible, to reverse or replace," McNeill said.

Meanwhile, coal kept its place in the global economy.

In China and Japan, growing consumption was a barometer of economic development by the early 20th century, said Harvard historian of science Victor Seow.

After the Communist Revolution in 1949, the Chinese government measured growth by its production of items like cloth, electricity, wheat, iron, steel — and coal, too, which was key measure of growth. Japan studied Western mining to develop its own coal fields in both its home islands and empire.

China is the world's current largest greenhouse gas emitter, although the United States still trumps it historically.

In India, too, which was part of the British Empire until it gained independence in 1947, coal was used to further the country's development and help state governments win popular support, said Elizabeth Chatterjee, a historian at the University of Chicago.

India set up state-owned coal-fired plants and started electrifying its cities and larger farms, with many other rural areas not coming online until the early 21st century. And they electrified while also understanding the environmental risks of coal, she said.

"Indira Gandhi, as early as 1981, spoke publicly about climate change, for example, as a threat, but plowed on with this (coal) regardless," Chatterjee said. "If you're a country with few resources, what choice do you have?"

In the United States, environmental issues started gaining traction in the 1960s and '70s, with the first Earth Day in 1970, said Joshua Howe, an environmental historian at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. He cited major legislation — to create the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Endangered Species Act — as "really big responses to that really big moment."

But tackling fossil fuels — what Howe called "the center of the global economy" — was more difficult.

Yale's Coen described fear in the U.S. around discussing how to adapt to weather extremes caused by climate change that were already unavoidable in the late 20th century. Talking about adaptation was seen as a risk to detract from the will to slash emissions, she said.

Howe also noted unwillingness to join international climate agreements, including a unanimous U.S. Senate vote in 1997 against signing any climate treaty that would mandate cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

That vote "was, in my opinion, pretty much when optimism for a national-level commitment to climate mitigation — especially via international agreements — went up in smoke," Howe said.

But many historians agree, amid the gloom of spiraling concerns about the climate and environment, that radical shifts away from centuries-old ideas of progress can shape a better future.

Fredrik Albritton Jonsson, a historian at the University of Chicago, said if humans rethink the need for persistent growth, societies can operate within the restrictions of finite resources and atmospheric limits.

"There are two kinds of boundaries to this economy," said Jonsson. "One is a sort of upper boundary of planetary limits" of what our natural world can withstand, "and then there's a lower boundary, that would guarantee minimum social needs, entitlements, the right to education, the right to clean water, the right to a steady income."

US Navy seizes attackers who held Israel-linked tanker. Missiles from rebel-controlled Yemen follow

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Armed assailants seized and later let go of a tanker linked to Israel off the coast of Yemen on Sunday before being apprehended by the United States Navy, officials said. Two ballistic missiles fired from Houthi-controlled Yemen then landed near a U.S. warship aiding the tanker in the Gulf of Aden, raising the stakes amid a series of ship attacks linked to the Israel-Hamas war.

Yemen's internationally recognized government blamed the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels for the attack, though the rebels in control of the capital, Sanaa, did not acknowledge either the seizure or the missile attack.

The attackers seized the Liberian-flagged Central Park, managed by Zodiac Maritime, in the Gulf of Aden, the company, the U.S. and British militaries and private intelligence firm Ambrey said.

The U.S. military's Central Command said in a statement early Monday that its forces and allies, including the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Mason, responded to the seizure and demanded the armed assailants release the tanker.

"Subsequently, five armed individuals debarked the ship and attempted to flee via their small boat," Central Command said. "The Mason pursued the attackers resulting in their eventual surrender."

The Central Command did not identify the attackers, but said a missile launch from Houthi-controlled Yemen followed early Monday morning.

"The missiles landed in the Gulf of Aden approximately 10 nautical miles (18.5 kilometers) from the ships," the statement said. "The USS Mason ... was concluding its response to the M/V Central Park distress call at the time of the missile launches. There was no damage or reported injuries from either vessel during this incident."

Early Monday morning, Zodiac said the vessel carrying phosphoric acid and its crew of 22 sailors from Bulgaria, Georgia, India, the Philippines, Russia, Turkey and Vietnam were unharmed.

"We would like to thank the coalition forces who responded quickly, protecting assets in the area and upholding international maritime law," the company said.

Zodiac described the vessel as being owned by Clumvez Shipping Inc., though other records directly linked Zodiac as the owner. London-based Zodiac Maritime is part of Israeli billionaire Eyal Ofer's Zodiac Group. British corporate records listed two men with the last name Ofer as a current and former director of Clumvez Shipping, including Daniel Guy Ofer, who is also a director at Zodiac Maritime.

Yemen's internationally recognized government, which is based out of nearby Aden, blamed the rebels for the seizure in a statement carried by their state-run news agency.

"The Yemeni government has renewed its denunciation of the acts of maritime piracy carried out by the terrorist Houthi militias with the support of the Iranian regime, the most recent of which was the hijacking of the Central Park," the statement read.

The attack happened in a part of the Gulf of Aden that is in theory under the control of that government's forces and is fairly distant from Houthi-controlled territory in the country. Somali pirates are not known to operate in that area.

Zodiac Maritime has been targeted previously amid a wider yearslong shadow war between Iran and Israel. In 2021, a drone attack assessed by the U.S. and other Western nations to have been carried out

by Iran killed two crew members aboard Zodiac's oil tanker Mercer Street off the coast of Oman.

The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, which provides warnings to sailors in the Middle East, had earlier issued a warning to sailors that "two black-and-white craft carrying eight persons in military-style clothing" had been seen in the area.

The UKMTO put the Central Park's location over 60 kilometers (35 miles) south of Yemen's coast, some 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of Djibouti and around 110 kilometers (70 miles) northeast of Somalia in the Gulf of Aden, a key shipping route.

The Central Park seizure comes after a container ship, CMA CGM Symi, owned by another Israeli billionaire, came under attack Friday by a suspected Iranian drone in the Indian Ocean. Iran has not acknowledged carrying out the attack, nor did it respond to questions from The Associated Press about that assault.

Both the Symi and the Central Park had been behaving as if they faced a threat in recent days.

The ships had switched off their Automatic Identification System trackers, according to data from MarineTraffic.com analyzed by the AP. Ships are supposed to keep their AIS active for safety reasons, but crews will turn them off if it appears they might be targeted. In the Central Park's case, the vessel had last transmitted four days ago after it left the Suez Canal heading south into the Red Sea.

Global shipping had increasingly been targeted as the Israel-Hamas war threatens to become a wider regional conflict — even as a truce has halted fighting and Hamas exchanges hostages for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

Earlier in November, the Houthis seized a vehicle transport ship also linked to Israel in the Red Sea off Yemen. The rebels still hold the vessel off the port city of Hodeida.

However, the Houthis had not directly targeted the Americans for some time, further raising the stakes in the growing maritime conflict. In 2016, the U.S. launched Tomahawk cruise missiles that destroyed three coastal radar sites in Houthi-controlled territory to retaliate for missiles being fired at U.S. Navy ships, including the USS Mason, at the time.

Meanwhile on Sunday, the American aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower traveled through the Strait of Hormuz and entered the Persian Gulf, the U.S. military said. The Eisenhower was accompanied by the guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea, the guided-missile destroyers USS Gravely and the USS Stethem and the French frigate Languedoc.

Court document claims Meta knowingly designed its platforms to hook kids, reports say

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Facebook parent Meta Platforms deliberately engineered its social platforms to hook kids and knew — but never disclosed — it had received millions of complaints about underage users on Instagram but only disabled a fraction of those accounts, according to a newly unsealed legal complaint described in reports from The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times.

The complaint, originally made public in redacted form, was the opening salvo in a lawsuit filed in late October by the attorneys general of 33 states.

Company documents cited in the complaint described several Meta officials acknowledging the company designed its products to exploit shortcomings in youthful psychology such as impulsive behavior, susceptibility to peer pressure and the underestimation of risks, according to the reports.

Others acknowledged Facebook and Instagram also were popular with children under age 13 who, per company policy, were not allowed to use the service.

Meta said in a statement to The Associated Press that the complaint misrepresents its work over the past decade to make the online experience safe for teens, noting it has "over 30 tools to support them and their parents."

With respect to barring younger users from the service, Meta argued age verification is a "complex industry challenge."

Instead, Meta said it favors shifting the burden of policing underage usage to app stores and parents, specifically by supporting federal legislation that would require app stores to obtain parental approval

whenever youths under 16 download apps.

One Facebook safety executive alluded to the possibility that cracking down on younger users might hurt the company's business in a 2019 email, according to the Journal report.

But a year later, the same executive expressed frustration that while Facebook readily studied the usage of underage users for business reasons, it didn't show the same enthusiasm for ways to identify younger kids and remove them from its platforms, the Journal reported.

The complaint noted that at times Meta has a backlog of up to 2.5 million accounts of younger children awaiting action, according to the newspaper reports.

Jalen Hurts runs for winning TD in overtime, Eagles rally past Josh Allen, Bills 37-34

By DAN GELSTON AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jalen Hurts walked off the Linc field with his arms extended in celebration as the Eagles crowd — which had booed the team off the field at halftime — went wild in appreciation for one more comeback, one more series of stupefying plays their franchise QB has made routine.

Consider one in the fourth quarter, when Hurts rolled to his left and almost seemed out of options. He stopped, spotted Olamide Zaccheaus through a crowd of defenders and threw a pass on the money for a go-ahead score.

Or even the winner, a designed run from a QB who played through a bruised knee this season and yet still dashed virtually untouched for a TD — oh, only his fifth scoring play of the game.

"He made a lot of really clutch plays in that second half," Philadelphia coach Nick Sirianni said. "Then the big one, obviously, at the end."

Obviously, yes. It was Hurts, after all. He zipped into the end zone from 12 yards out with 2:37 left in overtime, and the Eagles beat the Buffalo Bills 37-34 on a cold, rainy Sunday.

Hurts threw for three touchdowns and ran for two more, outdueling Buffalo's Josh Allen while rallying the Eagles from a 17-7 halftime deficit for the second straight game.

"You know he's clutch," Sirianni said. "He's been clutch for us, clutch for this city and clutch for this team for the last three years now. He just kept going, put his head down and worked."

Hurts needed some help, though. Philadelphia's Jake Elliott tied the game with a 59-yard field goal in swirling wind with 20 seconds remaining.

"Given the conditions, that was probably the toughest one I had to hit," Elliott said.

The Bills (6-6) still had 20 seconds left and a chance to at least try a desperation heave or a quick play to set up a field goal try. Coach Sean McDermott instead elected to have Allen take a knee.

After the Bills went ahead with a field goal on the first possession of OT, Hurts scooted for the score that made the Eagles the only 10-1 team in the NFL.

He hit DeVonta Smith for 17- and 11-yard receptions in OT, and D'Andre Swift had a 16-yard run to help set up the walk-off TD.

"As far as the standard I'd like to play, enough is never enough," Hurts said.

The Eagles trailed by 10 at the half, 10 in the third quarter and by three points late in regulation and early in OT.

"We found a way at the end and made it happen," Hurts said.

Allen threw for 339 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 81 yards and two scores for the Bills, who are in danger of missing the playoffs after winning the AFC East the past three years. But he was intercepted in the fourth quarter by James Bradbury, setting up Hurts' 29-yard TD pass to Zaccheaus for a 28-24 Philly lead.

Allen used a 15-yard scramble and a 15-yard roughing the passer penalty on the first drive of OT to put the Bills in position for the win. Tyler Bass — who had missed two field goals — nailed the go-ahead kick from 40 yards with 5:52 left in the extra period.

Hurts finished 18 of 31 for 200 yards with an interception in a matchup of two of the NFL's most dynamic

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QBs. He also rushed 14 times for 65 yards.

Hurts played a miserable first half, throwing for 33 yards while the Eagles had 99 yards overall.

"It couldn't have been much worse of a first half," Sirianni said. "That was an offensive explosion in the second half. It had to be."

The MVP candidate rallied his team, just as he did a week earlier at Kansas City. Hurts connected with A.J. Brown from 3 yards and Smith from 10 yards to get Philly back into the game.

"The difference is, I think it's the mindset," Eagles defensive end Brandon Graham said. "It's not like, 'Oh, Jalen threw a pick.' We don't feel that. Whatever it is, don't complain about it, go do something about it."

Given a short field after Allen's pick, the Eagles faced third-and-15. Hurts rolled left and connected with Zaccheaus, who used two hands and hugged the ball against his chest as he fell toward the back of the end zone.

"We kind of locked eyes a little bit," Zaccheaus said. "When I scrambled, I could kind of see him looking toward where I should be running."

Smith finished with seven catches for 106 yards, and Swift ran for 80 yards on 14 carries. Gabe Davis had six receptions for 105 yards and a TD for Buffalo.

The Bills finished with 505 total yards and 13 third-down conversions.

"They're defending NFC champs for a reason," Allen said. "They made plays tonight and they made enough to win the game."

INJURIES

Eagles: RT Lane Johnson was inactive with a groin injury. ... DE Fletcher Cox also suffered a groin injury.

KICKER'S BLUES

Bass had a field goal attempt blocked late in the first half and missed a 48-yarder early in the third.

RECORD SETTER

Graham set a team record by playing in his 189th career regular-season game. Kicker David Akers held the mark at 188 games.

UP NEXT

The Bills have a bye before playing at Kansas City on Dec. 10.

The Eagles host San Francisco next Sunday in an NFC championship game rematch.

Christopher Luxon sworn in as New Zealand prime minister, says priority is to improve economy

By NICK PERRY Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Christopher Luxon was sworn in as New Zealand's prime minister on Monday and said his top priority was to improve the economy.

The 53-year-old former businessman leads a conservative coalition after his National Party struck a deal Friday with two smaller parties following a general election last month.

After the swearing-in ceremony, which was presided over by Governor-General Cindy Kiro, Luxon told reporters the job was an "awesome responsibility."

He said he would hold his first Cabinet meeting Tuesday and look to quickly finalize a 100-day plan. He said he also planned a visit to Australia before Christmas Day.

Luxon said he needed to get a Treasury briefing on the state of the government's finances.

"We are concerned and worried that it's been a deteriorating picture for a number of months now," Luxon said.

Under the coalition agreement, Luxon has promised to deliver tax cuts and train 500 more police officers within two years.

He has also promised less government bureaucracy, including a 6.5% cut to the public service.

Luxon said it would be up to ministry chief executives to figure out how to make the cuts, whether by stopping programs, not filling vacancies or laying off some workers.

The new government also plans to repeal tobacco restrictions approved last year by the previous gov-

ernment, including requirements for low nicotine levels in cigarettes, fewer retailers and a lifetime ban for youth.

Luxon said his government disagreed with parts of the policy, including concentrating distribution. He said smoking rates had been coming down for 30 years.

"We will continue to make sure we have good education programs and encourage people to take up vapes as a cessation tool," Luxon said.

But critics said the plan was a setback for public health and a win for the tobacco industry.

Chris Hipkins, who officially resigned as the nation's 41st prime minister early Monday, said he wished Luxon and his coalition partners well. He said the country had been through tough times but the economy was turning a corner.

Hipkins, who held the top job for 10 months after Jacinda Ardern unexpectedly resigned in January, plans to remain in Parliament as opposition leader.

Schools in Portland, Oregon, reach tentative deal with teachers union after nearly month-long strike

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Oregon's largest school district said late Sunday it had reached a tentative agreement with its teachers union and roughly 45,000 students would be back in school Monday after more than three weeks without classes.

The agreement must still be voted on by teachers who have been on the picket line since Nov. 1 over issues of pay, class sizes and planning time. It must also be approved by the school board, but the union agreed that classes could resume while those votes go forward. Portland Public Schools students missed 11 days of school before the district began its weeklong Thanksgiving break.

"We are relieved to have our students returning to school and know that being out of school for the last three weeks — missing classmates, teachers and learning — has been hard for everyone," Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero said in a statement.

The teachers' union said the tentative deal was a big win for teachers and students alike in areas of classroom size, teachers salaries, health and safety and mental health supports for children still struggling from the pandemic. Students will make up missed school days by cutting a week off winter break and adding days in the new year.

"This contract is a watershed moment for Portland students, families, and educators" said Portland Teachers Association President Angela Bonilla. "Educators have secured improvements on all our key issues. ... Educators walked picket lines alongside families, students, and allies - and because of that, our schools are getting the added investment they need."

The deal would provide educators with a 13.8% cumulative cost-of-living increase over the next three years and about half of all educators would earn an extra 10.6% from yearly step increases, PPS said. The agreement would also add classroom time for elementary and middle grades starting next year and increase teacher planning time by 90 minutes each week for elementary and middle-aged classrooms.

The district would also triple the number of team members dedicated to supporting students' mental and emotional health.

Students last attended school on Halloween.

Many parents were supportive of the striking teachers, but as the school closures dragged on, some raised concerns about learning loss among students, especially after the long school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. There was no online instruction during the strike.

Tensions escalated as talks continued during the Thanksgiving break, with teachers marching on Tuesday across a major bridge and stopping rush-hour traffic for about 15 minutes. One school board member's rental property was vandalized and another had posters taped to his car, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported.

Even celebrities, including several actors who portray beleaguered and underfunded teachers on ABC's hit comedy show "Abbott Elementary," posted videos of support on the teachers union's Facebook.

The Portland Association of Teachers, which represents more than 4,000 educators, said it was the first teachers strike in the school district. The union has been bargaining with the district for months for a new contract after its previous one expired in June.

Teachers were angry about growing class sizes, lack of classroom support and planning time, and salaries that haven't kept up with inflation. The annual base salary in the district starts at roughly \$50,000.

Portland Public Schools repeatedly said it didn't have the money to meet the union's demands. Oregon lawmakers approved in June a record \$10.2 billion K-12 budget for the next two years, but school district representatives said that wasn't enough. Earlier this month, some state lawmakers held a news conference on the steps of the state Capitol to urge a resolution.

The district urged voters in its statement to press state lawmakers for better school funding and said it would have to make budget cuts to afford the concessions to the teachers' union.

Irregular meals, benches as beds. As freed hostages return to Israel, details of captivity emerge

By JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Plastic chairs as beds. Meals of bread and rice. Hours spent waiting for the bathroom. As former hostages return to Israel after seven weeks of Hamas captivity, information about the conditions of their confinement has emerged.

The 58 hostages freed under a cease-fire deal over the past three days have largely stayed out of the public eye, with most still in hospitals.

Nearly two months after Hamas militants dragged them into Gaza during a bloody cross-border attack on Israel that also killed 1,200 people, most freed hostages appear to be in stable physical condition.

Information about the conditions of their captivity has been tightly controlled, but family members of the released hostages have begun to share details about their loved ones' experiences.

Merav Raviv, whose three relatives were released by Hamas on Friday, said they had been fed irregularly and had eaten mainly rice and bread. She said her cousin and aunt, Keren and Ruth Munder, had each lost around 7 kilograms (15 pounds) in just 50 days.

Raviv said she'd heard from her freed family members that they had slept on rows of chairs pushed together in a room that looked like a reception area. They said they sometimes had to wait hours before going to the bathroom.

Adva Adar, the grandchild of 85-year-old released hostage Yaffa Adar, said her grandmother had also lost weight.

"She counted the days of her captivity," Adar said. "She came back and she said, 'I know that I've been there for 50 days.'"

Adar said that her grandmother was taken captive convinced that her family members were dead, only to emerge to the news that they had survived. Still, her release was bittersweet: She also found out that her house had been ravaged by militants.

"For an 85-year-old woman, usually you have your house where you raised your kids, you have your memories, your photo albums, your clothes," said Adar. "She has nothing, and in her old age she needs to start over. She mentioned that it is tough for her."

In the 50 days since the hostages were taken captive, Israel has devastated the Gaza Strip with a ground and air offensive that has killed at least 13,300 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-ruled territory. Under the current four-day cease-fire, Hamas has agreed to release a total of 50 Israeli hostages in exchange for Israel releasing 150 Palestinian security prisoners and ramping up aid to the pummeled enclave.

Eighteen foreign nationals, mostly Thais, have also been released.

Eleven more hostages are set to be released Monday on the last day of the cease-fire, leaving close to 180 hostages in the Gaza Strip. Israeli authorities have said that they are willing to extend the truce one day for every 10 hostages released by Hamas.

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The fullest image yet of life under Hamas captivity was conjured by 85-year-old Yocheved Lipschitz, a hostage who was freed before the current cease-fire. Upon her release, Lipschitz said she had been held in tunnels which stretched under Gaza "like a spider web." She said her captors "told us they are people who believe in the Quran and wouldn't hurt us."

Lifshitz said captives were treated well and received medical care, including medication. The guards kept conditions clean, she said. Hostages were given one meal a day of cheese, cucumber and pita, she said, adding that her captors ate the same.

The recently freed hostages also appeared to have been held underground. Eyal Nouri, the nephew of Adina Moshe, 72, who was freed on Friday, said his aunt "had to adjust to the sunlight" because she had been in darkness for weeks.

"She was in complete darkness," said Nouri. "She was walking with her eyes down because she was in a tunnel. She was not used to the daylight. And during her captivity, she was disconnected ... from all the outside world."

Nouri said that Moshe didn't know that she was going to be released until the last moment.

"Until she saw the Red Cross," he said. "This is the moment when she realized, okay, these horrifying seven weeks are over."

She emerged to the news that her husband had been killed by the militants and her son's family had miraculously survived.

Doctors have warned of the steep psychological toll of captivity. Israel has made counseling and other support available to those who have been released.

But most of the freed hostages have appeared to be in good physical condition, able to walk and speak normally.

But at least two needed more serious medical care. One hostage released Sunday, 84-year-old Alma Abraham, was rushed to Israel's Soroka Medical Center in the southern city of Beersheba in life-threatening condition.

The hospital's director said she had a pre-existing condition that had not been treated properly in captivity. Another young female hostage was on crutches in a video Hamas released Saturday. The girl grimaced at her captors as she entered a Red Cross vehicle bringing her out of the besieged enclave.

Yair Rotem, whose 12-year-old niece, Hila Rotem-Shoshani, was released Sunday, said he had to keep reminding her she didn't need to whisper.

"They always told them to whisper and stay quiet, so I keep telling her now she can raise her voice," said Rotem. He added that Hila, who will celebrate her 13th birthday on Monday, slept well during her first night back in Israel and has an appetite.

Ohad Munder, Raviv's nephew, was surrounded by friends soon after his release, as they celebrated his 9th birthday a month late with ice cream and pizza in a hospital ward.

Ohad's friend, Eitan Vilchik, told Israel's Channel 13 that his friend was "emotionally strong" and already able to answer their questions about what he ate and what happened to him while he was in captivity. But Ohad's friends refused to share details, saying they wanted to respect his privacy.

Vilchik said teachers have canceled Munder's homework requirements but his friends will help him make up the subjects he missed in school.

He said Ohad was still able to solve a Rubik's cube in less than a minute.

Artist Zeng Fanzhi depicts 'zero-COVID' after a lifetime of service to the Chinese state

By DAKE KANG Associated Press

SHENZHEN, China (AP) — In one painting, a child sits, mouth wide open, as a worker in white medical garb extends a long cotton swab toward her tonsils. In another, a masked officer and medical workers stand guard in front of an apartment cordoned off with ropes and seals reading "CLOSED," as residents

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look on with frustration and despair.

These are some of the portraits that Zeng Fanzhi, 85, has painted to commemorate three years of China's strict "zero-COVID" controls, which sparked nationwide protests a year ago. But Zeng, a retired architect living in Shenzhen, is not a harsh critic of the measures, under which millions of people were tested, locked in apartments, or carried off to quarantine centers.

Zeng has spent much of his life in service to the Chinese state, designing monuments in Beijing's Tiananmen Square and coal plants for the Ministry of Coal. He's a member of Shenzhen's state-sponsored artist's association and his paintings feature on stamps and win prizes.

The artist has a different perspective from the young protesters — one shaped by early years in China living through war and revolution, and later years witnessing decades of prosperity and growth. To Zeng, China's adherence to "zero-COVID" controls was necessary, and its people's adherence to it heroic.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping "says that artistic creation must be from 'The People's Standpoint,'" Zeng says, explaining his focus on ordinary people. "This means art should reflect the reality of people's lives. The subjects of my paintings are aligned with this direction."

Growing up, Zeng lived through some of the most tumultuous periods in Chinese history. Born to civil servants who fled for Chongqing, China's wartime capital in World War II, Zeng grew up moving from city to city, fleeing the invading Japanese and the Chinese civil war that followed.

The Communist Party's victory in 1949 ended decades of strife in China, bringing some stability to the country. Zeng aspired to be an artist and took art school entrance exams in 1957, but failed twice. His parents encouraged him to study architecture instead.

Soon after, the founder of Communist China, Mao Zedong, launched the Great Leap Forward, an ambitious but disastrous campaign to transform the impoverished country into an industrial power. Millions starved to death, and Zeng and other students across China spent much of their time in political study sessions.

In 1962, fresh from college, Zeng was assigned to work for an architectural team in Beijing, designing stadiums and theaters around Tiananmen Square as well as the Avenue of Heavenly Peace.

A few years later, Zeng and his wife, a fellow architect, decided to move to Pingdingshan — home to one of the largest coalfields in China, nestled among mountains in the heart of the country.

There, for 20 years, they designed coal separation plants, from coal crushers to worker's dorms.

By the 1980s, the couple was getting antsy. Mao had died and a new reformist leader, Deng Xiaoping, was in charge. China was opening up, and opportunity beckoned on the coasts. They begged to be relocated.

"We felt like we weren't being put to our best use, so we want to jump ship," Zeng said.

College graduates like them were in scarce supply, and jobs were easy to find. They moved to Shenzhen, an experimental economic zone located next to Hong Kong in China's south. The '90s saw China's leaders experimenting with capitalism, and Shenzhen was rapidly developing. Zeng began working at Shenzhen University, which back then was located in the distant suburbs and built among fields with muddy roads winding up to the entrance.

In the years that followed, Shenzhen boomed, and Zeng's family prospered. Millions came to Shenzhen to work in factories that exported goods to overseas markets. Zeng and his wife designed dozens of Shenzhen's apartments and office towers, which rose like reeds out of empty fields.

Newly affluent, they bought an apartment near the center of the city, while their children went overseas for study. Today, Shenzhen has more skyscrapers than New York or Tokyo.

"We've seen a lot of ups and downs in our life," says his wife, Zhao Sirong. "Shenzhen was a fledging city, and we were pioneers."

It wasn't until Zeng turned 80 that he retired from architecture. Finally, Zeng was able to pursue his true passion: painting.

Despite his old-school training, he learned his new trade in a distinctly 21st-century fashion. Day by day, he watched tutorials of master artists online.

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Zeng's art is informed by socialist realism, a style he encountered growing up in Maoist China. He cites works by famed Russian realist painter Ilya Repin as inspiration, such as "Barge Haulers on the Volga," which shows 11 men dragging a barge, exhaustion on their faces. It's an unflinching depiction of back-breaking labor, the quiet heroism of ordinary people in harsh conditions.

"It left a deep impression on me," Zeng said.

Zeng found himself drawn to similar themes. One of his early paintings, "Life is Not Easy," portrays a migrant worker bundled in scarves, selling vegetables and shivering as snow swirls around her.

Zhao, Zeng's wife, complains about his rigorous painting routine. Zeng drives to his studio every morning, painting till late afternoon. The octogenarian works weekends, leaving his wife with only her plants to keep her company.

"What I want from my husband is that he walks slower and stops acting like a young man," Zhao said, chuckling and sighing. "Why is he working so hard? I don't understand."

But Zhao still supports her husband's craft because she believes regular activity is key to preventing mental decline. They wonder at young people who spend their days idle, swiping endlessly on cellphone videos and whiling away their savings on outdoor games of mahjong in steamy Shenzhen.

"My life is still very fulfilling," Zeng says. "Some say painting must be tiring for you. OK, sure, but is gambling tiring for you?"

As the coronavirus spread, Zeng was fascinated by how it upended daily life around him.

First he painted nurses swabbing residents, then children attending online classes. Then, last year, as controls grew strict and Zeng's compound was locked down, he spent his days sitting on his balcony, painting residents locked in their complexes, guards standing sentry, and masked delivery drivers tossing groceries over fences.

"This was an unimaginable event that's never happened before in the whole world," Zeng says.

Zeng and his wife caught the virus last winter, when controls were abruptly lifted. Though his wife recovered quickly, Zeng spent weeks recuperating. Across China, hundreds of thousands perished as the infected overran hospitals and medication ran out of stock.

"We were all infected," Zhao said. "We struggled through the past three years, and then things suddenly opened up. We weren't psychologically prepared."

Despite the pandemic's historic nature, few depictions of the era exist in China outside official exhibits and state television glorifying the government's role in combatting the virus. Under Xi, the state has tightened controls on artist expression, leading to an exodus of artistic talent abroad.

At a Beijing art exposition this fall, one of Zeng's paintings was tucked away behind a column. The censors, he said, deemed it too negative, as it depicted sprawling residents locked inside their homes.

"We couldn't put it on display," he said with a chuckle, walking out of his booth and gesturing to the painting.

But Zeng sees his art as commemoration, not criticism. He lived through a "great historical event," he says, and he sees his artwork as an observation honoring all the sacrifice and difficulty endured by ordinary people.

For Zeng and Zhao, their government benefits — including public medical care, subsidized food, free public transit, and a pension of 10,000 yuan (\$1,400) a month — is well beyond what they imagined having when they were younger, growing up in a China scarred by war.

"We understand the country's measures," Zhao says. "We all feel that on the whole, our policy was correct, because if we reopened too early, it could have been like the United States, where the death rate was very high."

Today, Zeng is hard at work on a new series portraying Chinese leader Xi Jinping, which he hopes will serve as positive "political promotion". His latest depicts Xi sitting humbly among villagers. He calls it, "Chairman Xi Taking Us on the Road to Prosperity."

"My work can play a role in promoting the superiority of our distinctive socialist system," Zeng says. "Our

current era is a great era, and I want to paint paintings that capture this era.”

Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter were not only a global power couple but also best friends and life mates

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

PLAINS, Ga. (AP) — In spring 1955, Rosalynn Carter was doing what she had sworn to avoid when she married an ambitious Naval officer: keeping house and raising children in the same tiny town where they grew up.

Then Jimmy Carter called for help from his family’s peanut farming warehouse. The future U.S. president couldn’t manage on his own, and they had no money to hire employees. So his wife gathered their sons and went to answer the company phone. Soon she was managing finances and handling customers.

Before long, “I knew more on paper about the business than he did, and he would take my advice about things,” Rosalynn Carter told The Associated Press ahead of their 75th anniversary in 2021.

Their marriage was almost a decade old when she went to the warehouse, but that was perhaps the true beginning of a partnership that won the Georgia governor’s office in 1970, the White House in 1976 and then propelled the Carters through four decades as global humanitarians. Undergirding that path was a small-town love story that spanned 77 years of marriage and two decades of family friendships before that.

Their shared journey ended Nov. 19 with Rosalynn Carter’s death at the age of 96. The former president, now 99, was with her when she died at their home in Plains, where they lived all their lives, with the exceptions of his college and Navy years, one gubernatorial term and their White House years from 1977-81.

“Rosalynn was my equal partner in everything I ever accomplished,” Jimmy Carter said in a statement released upon her death by The Carter Center, which they co-founded in 1982 after leaving Washington. “She gave me wise guidance and encouragement when I needed it. As long as Rosalynn was in the world, I always knew somebody loved and supported me.”

It is not known whether the 39th president, now mostly using a wheelchair and hospital bed in his 10th month of hospice care, will attend tributes that begin Monday. Those close to the family say they expect he will make every effort, especially for the final services: an invitation-only funeral Wednesday in Plains and private burial in a plot the couple eventually will share.

“It’s hard to think of one of them without the other,” said Jill Stuckey, a longtime friend who saw the couple often during Rosalynn Carter’s last months.

NO ‘REMAINING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US’

Rosalynn Carter often campaigned separately from her husband to expand their reach: “If I go with Jimmy I just sit there,” she once said. “I can use my time better than that.”

As president, Jimmy Carter sent her abroad as an official diplomat. She attended Cabinet meetings and discussed what she heard with him in the residence. They avoided dancing with others at White House dinners and had nightly phone calls when they traveled separately.

After the presidency, they built The Carter Center together. They met with world leaders, monitored elections and fought disease in developing nations. Sometimes she took notes, other times spoke up. There are remote villages within the 145-plus countries they visited between them where children, many now adults, were named Jimmy or Rosalynn or Carter.

They read the Bible together each night, even over the phone, a practice that endured as they aged. Sometimes they read aloud in Spanish to stay proficient in their second language, even after their international travels waned. And they held hands often: at home, in church, walking down Pennsylvania Avenue on Inauguration Day in 1977, and as she lay on her deathbed in the home they built before his first legislative election in 1962.

“We don’t go to sleep with some remaining differences between us,” the former president told AP in 2021.

A CRADLE-TO-GRAVE RELATIONSHIP

The couple’s parents were neighbors in the mid-1920s. Lillian Carter, a nurse, delivered Eleanor Rosalynn Smith and a few days later brought young Jimmy Carter back to the Smith home to meet the baby. The

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couple's earliest memories came after the Carters moved to a farm outside of town and Rosalynn became a close friend of Ruth Carter, Jimmy's younger sister.

By the time he was at the U.S. Naval Academy, Ruth was working as matchmaker. Rosalynn said she first "fell in love with Jimmy's picture" hung in Ruth's bedroom. Then in the summer of 1945, when he was home from Annapolis, Jimmy agreed to a picnic with his sister and her friend, then a date with Rosalynn. Jimmy kissed her after a movie and the next morning told his mother he would marry Rosalynn Smith.

"I had never had a boy kiss me on a first date," Rosalynn recalled.

Yet she saw seeds of something deeper than teenage romance. Usually shy, she found she "could talk to him, actually talk to him." Teasing and flirting became letters to and from Annapolis, then his proposal. She rejected it, telling him she promised her father, who had died in 1940, that she would finish college.

After both graduated, they were married on July 7, 1946.

Jimmy Carter was a smitten newlywed, writing in poetry that his wife's beauty struck songbirds into silence. But he didn't view her as a true equal yet, decades later attributing that attitude to the social and religious mores of the era.

'I NEVER FELT PUT UPON'

Rosalynn Carter had dreams of becoming an architect but saw her husband's Navy career as a way to escape rural life. Neither had intentions of returning to Plains, but when James Earl Carter Sr. died in 1953, his namesake son resigned his commission to move his family back to Georgia, where he took over the family farm. Jimmy Carter did not ask his wife. He remembered six decades later how "cool" she was to him for months. The dynamic did not thaw completely until she asserted herself as an indispensable business partner.

The future president still did not consult his wife when he launched his first political campaign. In that instance, however, she was on board and excited about his prospects. After he took his state Senate seat in Atlanta, she recognized the nature of their pairing.

"I was more of a political partner than a political wife, and I never felt put upon," she said of staying behind in Plains to run the business and care for their children. "I only had to call him home once, when one of our old brick warehouses collapsed, dumping several hundred tons of peanuts into the street."

As her husband ran for governor, she reported back to him what voters were telling her, the beginning of her half-century of advocacy for better mental health treatment in America.

On the presidential trail, she could guide him more effectively than his aides. "Jimmy, don't go into so much detail and use such big words," she would tell him. "Just explain it to them the way you do to me."

White House adviser Stuart Eizenstat said the former first lady had "uncanny political instincts."

'HOW MANY DID SHE CATCH?'

The peaks of their political life forged what family and close friends remember as a bond that thrived not just on mutual respect but competitiveness.

"My grandparents were notoriously competitive about everything," said eldest grandson Jason Carter, now Carter Center board chairman.

They raced to finish writing their next books or best the other in tennis, skiing or any other pursuit in their later years. Jason Carter laughed about fish mounts at the family's mountain cabin as one flaunted their superior catch, only to be outdone by the other.

"How many did she catch? How big were they?" Stuckey recalled the former president asking her one day as she bounced between the two on the edges of their pond in Plains. "I'd go back to Rosalynn, and she'd say, 'What'd he say? How many does he have?'"

For the former first lady, it was all part of any healthy marriage.

"Jimmy and I are always looking for things to do together," she told AP at age 93, but "each (person) should have some space. That's really important."

'FINISH EACH OTHER'S SENTENCES'

As their global footprint narrowed first to the U.S., then to The Carter Center campus in Atlanta, and finally to their home and surrounding town, even that friendly competition gave way to two nonagenarians

trying to take care of each other.

"They could finish each other's sentences," Stuckey said of her many Saturday night meals at the Carters' table or with them at hers.

Chip Carter, the couple's son who spent much of the recent months with his parents, told The Washington Post after his mother's death that as she declined rapidly in her final days, his father asked to be alone with his partner of nearly eight decades. First, Jimmy Carter sat at her bedside in his wheelchair. Later, hospice aides moved his bed to the foot of hers.

He remained there until she was gone, then asked to be with his once-shy bride one more time, just Jimmy and Rosalynn.

"They were never alone, really, during their time on this earth," Jason Carter said. "They always had each other."

Irish writer Paul Lynch wins Booker Prize with dystopian novel 'Prophet Song'

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Irish writer Paul Lynch won the Booker Prize for fiction on Sunday with what judges called a "soul-shattering" novel about a woman's struggle to protect her family as Ireland collapses into totalitarianism and war.

"Prophet Song," set in a dystopian fictional version of Dublin, was awarded the 50,000-pound (\$63,000) literary prize at a ceremony in London. Canadian writer Esi Edugyan, who chaired the judging panel, said the book is "a triumph of emotional storytelling, bracing and brave" in which Lynch "pulls off feats of language that are stunning to witness."

Lynch, 46, had been the bookies' favorite to win the prestigious prize, which usually brings a big boost in sales. His book beat five other finalists from Ireland, the U.K., the U.S. and Canada, chosen from 163 novels submitted by publishers.

"This was not an easy book to write," Lynch said after being handed the Booker trophy. "The rational part of me believed I was dooming my career by writing this novel, though I had to write the book anyway. We do not have a choice in such matters."

Lynch has called "Prophet Song," his fifth novel, an attempt at "radical empathy" that tries to plunge readers into the experience of living in a collapsing society.

"I was trying to see into the modern chaos," he told the Booker website. "The unrest in Western democracies. The problem of Syria — the implosion of an entire nation, the scale of its refugee crisis and the West's indifference. ... I wanted to deepen the reader's immersion to such a degree that by the end of the book, they would not just know, but feel this problem for themselves."

The five prize judges met to pick the winner on Saturday, less than 48 hours after far-right violence erupted in Dublin following a stabbing attack on a group of children. Edugyan said that immediate events didn't directly influence the choice of winner.

Lynch said he was "astonished" by the riots "and at the same time I recognized the truth that this kind of energy is always there under the surface."

He said "Prophet Song" — written over four years starting in 2018 — "is a counterfactual novel. It's not a prophetic statement."

"I wrote the book to articulate the message that the things that are happening in this book are occurring timelessly throughout the ages and maybe we need to deepen our own responses to that," he told reporters.

The other finalists were Irish writer Paul Murray's "The Bee Sting;" American novelist Paul Harding's "This Other Eden;" Canadian author Sarah Bernstein's "Study for Obedience;" U.S. writer Jonathan Escoffery's "If I Survive You;" and British author Chetna Maroo's "Western Lane."

Edugyan said the choice of winner wasn't unanimous, but the six-hour judges' meeting wasn't acrimonious.

"We all ultimately felt that this was the book that we wanted to present to the world and that this was

truly a masterful work of fiction," she said.

Founded in 1969, the Booker Prize is open to English-language novels from any country published in the U.K. and Ireland. and has a reputation for transforming writers' careers. Previous winners include Ian McEwan, Margaret Atwood, Salman Rushdie and Hilary Mantel.

Four Irish novelists and one from Northern Ireland have previously won the prize.

"It is with immense pleasure that I bring the Booker home to Ireland," Lynch said. Asked what he planned to do with the prize money, he said it would help him make payments on his tracker mortgage, which have soared along with inflation.

Lynch received his trophy from last year's winner, Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka, during a ceremony at Old Billingsgate, a grand former Victorian fish market in central London.

The evening included a speech from Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a British-Iranian woman who was jailed in Tehran for almost six years until 2022 on allegations of plotting the overthrow of Iran's government — a charge that she, her supporters and rights groups denied.

She talked about the books that sustained her in prison, recalling how inmates ran an underground library and circulated copies of Atwood's "The Handmaid's Tale," set in an oppressive American theocracy.

"Books helped me to take refuge into the world of others when I was incapable of making one of my own," Zaghari-Ratcliffe said. "They salvaged me by being one of the very few tools I had, together with imagination, to escape the Evin (prison) walls without physically moving."

Republicans want to pair border security with aid for Ukraine.

Here's why that makes a deal so tough

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Congress returns to session this week, lawmakers will be trying to forge an agreement on sending a new round of wartime assistance to Ukraine. But to succeed, they will have to find agreement on an issue that has confounded them for decades.

Republicans in both chambers of Congress have made clear that they will not support additional aid for Ukraine unless it is paired with border security measures to help manage the influx of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border. Their demand has injected one of the most contentious issues in American politics into a foreign policy debate that was already difficult.

Time is short for a deal.

A small, bipartisan group in the Senate is taking the lead and working to find a narrow compromise that can overcome a likely filibuster by winning 60 votes. But even if they can reach a modest agreement, there is no guarantee it would pass the House, where Republicans are insisting on wholesale changes to U.S. border and immigration policies.

Republicans hope that Democrats will feel political pressure to accept some of their border proposals after illegal crossings topped a daily average of more than 8,000 earlier this fall. President Joe Biden, who is running for reelection next year, has faced pressure even from fellow Democrats over the migrant flow.

No matter what, finding compromise will be exceedingly difficult. As they left for Thanksgiving break, Senate negotiators said they were still far apart.

A look at some of the issues under discussion and why they have proved so difficult to resolve:

Asylum and humanitarian parole

Changing the asylum system for migrants is a top priority for Republicans. They want to make it more difficult for asylum-seekers to prove in initial interviews that they have a credible fear of political, religious or racial persecution in their home country before advancing toward asylum in the United States.

Republicans in the House have passed legislation that would detain families at the border, require migrants to make the asylum claim at an official port of entry and either detain them or require them to remain outside the U.S. while their case is processed.

U.S. and international law give migrants the right to seek safety from persecution, but the number of people applying for asylum in the U.S. has reached historic highs. Critics say many people take advantage

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of the system to live and work in the U.S. while they wait for their asylum claims to be processed in court.

Arizona Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, an independent who is part of the Senate negotiations, said in an Arizona radio interview that one of lawmakers' goals is to ensure that "those who are here seeking asylum have an actual claim to asylum."

Compromise is far from certain. Many Democrats are wary of making it harder to flee persecution, and the details of each policy shift are contentious.

Hardline conservatives in the House, already unlikely to support further Ukraine aid, have also signaled they won't accept policy changes that deviate much from a bill passed in May that would have remade the U.S. immigration system. Their stance means at least some support from House Democrats will be needed to pass any agreement — no easy task.

Some progressives have already said they will oppose any Republican-led changes to immigration policy. "The cruel, inhumane, and unworkable solutions offered by Republicans will only create more disorder and confusion at the border," said Democratic Rep. Pramila Jayapal of Washington, chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Infrastructure and enforcement

Lawmakers may find it easier to reach consensus on other areas of border policy, particularly when it comes to border staffing and enforcement.

Negotiators have looked at steps that could be taken to reinforce existing infrastructure at the border, including hiring and boosting pay for border patrol officers and improving technology. One proposal advanced by a bipartisan group of senators would call for hiring of more border patrol agents, raising their pay and ensuring they receive overtime.

Biden has shown a willingness to accept tougher enforcement measures, recently resuming deportation of migrants to Venezuela and waiving federal laws to allow for the construction of border wall that began under then-President Donald Trump. The White House also wants to install new imaging technology at ports of entry that would allow authorities to quickly scan vehicles for illegal imports, including fentanyl.

Republicans say that is not enough. They want more robust improvements, including more expansive construction of a border wall.

What Biden is asking for

Biden's emergency request to Congress included aid for Ukraine, Israel and other U.S. allies, along with \$14 billion to bolster the immigration system and border security. Money would go toward hiring more border patrol agents, immigration judges and asylum officers. It's part of Biden's strategy of trying to simultaneously turn away from Trump's hard-line policies but adapt to the realities of crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Still, polls indicate widespread frustration with Biden's handling of immigration and the border, creating a political vulnerability as he seeks reelection. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told the Senate Appropriations Committee this month that the administration has been faced with a "global phenomenon" of displaced people migrating in numbers that have not been seen since World War II.

"It is unanimous that our broken immigration system is in dire need of reform," Mayorkas said.

Democrats have other immigration priorities, such as expanding legal immigration pathways or work authorizations for migrants already in the U.S. Democrats have also warned about the danger of delaying aid to Ukraine as it enters another winter of war against Russia.

Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the second-ranking Democrat in the Senate, said it's a mistake to create a situation where "we have to do significant immigration reform in the next few weeks or we won't send money to assist the people in Ukraine or other causes important to our national security."

Republicans have so far been adamant about the need to address Ukraine and the border at the same time.

Rep. Mike Turner, a strong supporter of aid to Ukraine and chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, told NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday that he thought passing Biden's package would be "very difficult" to accomplish by year's end. "The impediment currently is the White House policy on the on the southern

border," said Turner, R-Ohio.

What's likely not on the table

Lawmakers seem unlikely to address one of the nation's long-standing immigration issues: granting some form of permanent legal status to thousands of immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children. Republicans have made clear that will not be addressed in this package, which they want to be more narrowly focused on border security measures.

As Congress struggled to pass a comprehensive immigration overhaul, President Barack Obama launched the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in 2012 to shield those immigrants from deportation and allow them to work legally in the country. But it has been caught up in the courts ever since, and Trump, the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination in 2024, tried to end it when he was in the White House.

Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut, one of the Senate negotiators, would not say early last week whether his side had proposed DACA provisions as part of the talks. But he said any deal "has to respect both Republican and Democratic priorities."

"The more Republicans want, the more Democrats are going to want," Murphy said.

Republicans argue that Ukraine aid could be a tough sell to some of their voters, and the border policy is the compromise.

Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton, a Republican who has been involved in the talks, said before the Thanksgiving holiday that the negotiations were not "very close yet, because Democrats have not yet accepted that the negotiations are not border security for Democratic immigration priorities. It's border security for Ukraine aid."

So far, leaders in both parties have encouraged the talks. But as senators restart their work and face pressure to approve funding by the end of the year, some are warning that a narrow deal is likely the best that they can do.

"I don't think it's realistic to solve anywhere close to the whole problem in the next two weeks," Murphy said.

Jordan's top diplomat wants to align Europeans behind a call for a permanent cease-fire in Gaza

By RENATA BRITO Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said Sunday he hopes a meeting of Mediterranean officials will help bridge a gap between Arab and European countries in calling for a humanitarian pause in Gaza to become a permanent cease-fire.

The fragile pause in hostilities between Israel and the Hamas militant group continued Sunday with a third straight day of hostages and Palestinian prisoners released. It was originally scheduled for four days and neither side has made fully clear what comes after Monday.

Safadi said the truce was holding up but that more effort was needed to reach at least 200 daily trucks bringing aid into the Gaza Strip, and for the pause in the fighting "to immediately develop into a permanent cease-fire."

The minister spoke to The Associated Press on the eve of Monday's Union for the Mediterranean gathering that will bring to Barcelona in northern Spain 42 delegations from Europe, the Middle East and northern Africa, many of them represented by their foreign ministers.

Israel is not attending the meeting, which in past years has largely become a forum for cooperation between the European Union and the Arab world. But the meeting has taken on new significance since the Oct. 7 militant attack on Israel and Israel's ensuing war with Hamas.

Jordan, a key Western ally, signed a peace agreement with Israel in 1994. The countries maintain covert security relations and some business ties, but relations have cooled over Israel's treatment of the Palestinians.

Safadi noted that while Arab nations have demanded the end of what he called Israel's "aggression" in

Gaza, most European nations have not gone that far, instead calling for a "humanitarian pause."

"We need to bridge the gap," Safadi said, adding that the war "is producing nothing."

"What is this war achieving other than killing people, destroying their livelihoods, and again, creating an environment of hate and dehumanization that will define generations and will take us a very, very long time to navigate through toward the future that we want," he said.

Asked about the future of Gaza, the Jordanian minister said Gaza "must be part of a comprehensive plan to settle this conflict once and for all," although he refused to outline what that future will look like or which party should be in charge of the territory.

Instead, he said that "all manifestations of the reoccupation of Gaza should end, accusing Israel of "acting on the fallacy that it can parachute over the Palestinian issue and have peace, the regional peace, without solving the Palestinian problem."

"The root cause of the conflict is the Palestinian-Israeli conflict," he said. "We have a conflict because we have an occupation that Israel has been consolidating. Israel has killed hope for peace, has killed prospects for peace."

Jordan, which borders the West Bank and is home to a large Palestinian population, has rejected suggestions that it take in Palestinian refugees from Gaza.

Although some foreign passport holders and some of their relatives have been allowed to leave the territory, most of the more than 2.3 million Gaza residents have remained trapped amid the constant shelling and facing a shortage of food, water and basic needs.

Safadi said Jordan would not accept the possibility of Palestinians leaving Gaza, even if it was for their safety, given the long history of displacement and the idea that a new exodus would play into to Israel's interest.

"We believe that displacement is something that will further empty Palestine from its people," the minister said. "We in Jordan said that's a red line because we see it as a threat to our national security and will do whatever it takes to prevent this from happening."

'Hunger Games' feasts, 'Napoleon' conquers but 'Wish' doesn't come true at Thanksgiving box office

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Walt Disney Co.'s "Wish" had been expected to rule the Thanksgiving weekend box office, but moviegoers instead feasted on leftovers, as "The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" led ticket sales for the second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Neither of the weekend's top new releases — "Wish" and Ridley Scott's "Napoleon" — could keep up with Lionsgate's "Hunger Games" prequel. After debuting the previous weekend with \$44.6 million, the return to Panem proved the top draw for holiday moviegoers, grossing \$28.8 million over the weekend and \$42 million over the five-day holiday frame.

In two weeks of release, "Songbirds and Snakes" has grossed nearly \$100 million domestically and \$200 million globally.

The closer contest was for second place, where "Napoleon" narrowly outmaneuvered "Wish." Scott's epic outperformed expectations to take \$32.5 million over the five-day weekend and an estimated \$20.4 million Friday through Sunday. The film, starring Joaquin Phoenix as the French emperor and Vanessa Kirby as his wife Joséphine de Beauharnais, was also the top movie globally with \$78.8 million.

Reviews were mixed (61% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and ticket buyers were non-plussed (a "B-" CinemaScore), but "Napoleon" fared far better in theaters than its subject did at Waterloo.

"Napoleon," like Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon," is a big-budget statement by Apple Studios of the streamer's swelling Hollywood ambitions. With an estimated budget of \$200 million, "Napoleon" may still have a long road to reach profitability for Apple, which partnered with Sony to distribute "Napoleon" theatrically. But it's an undeniably strong beginning for an adult-skewing 168-minute historical drama.

"Wish," however, had been supposed to have a more starry-eyed start. Disney Animation releases like

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"Frozen II" (\$123.7 million over five days in 2019), "Ralph Breaks the Internet" (\$84.6 million in 2018) and "Coco" (\$71 million in 2017), have often owned Thanksgiving moviegoing.

But "Wish" wobbled, coming in with \$31.7 million over five days and \$19.5 million Friday through Sunday. It added \$17.3 million internationally. It had been forecast to debut closer to \$50 million.

"Wish," at least, is faring better than Disney's Thanksgiving release last year: 2022's "Strange World" bombed with a five-day \$18.9 million opening. But hopes had been higher for "Wish," co-written and co-directed by the "Frozen" team of Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee and featuring the voices of Ariana DeBose and Chris Pine. "Wish," a fairy tale centered around a wished-upon star, is also a celebration of Disney, itself, timed to the studio's 100th anniversary and rife with callbacks to Disney favorites.

Critics weren't impressed, saying "Wish" felt more like a marketing than movie magic. So instead of righting an up-and-down year for Disney, "Wish" is, for now, adding to some of the studio's recent headaches, including the underperforming "The Marvels." The Marvel sequel has limped to \$76.9 million domestically and \$110.2 million overseas in three weeks.

"Wish" also faced direct competition for families in "Trolls Band Together." The DreamWorks and Universal Pictures release opened a week prior, and took in \$17.5 million in its second frame (\$25.3 million over five days).

"Wish' ran into a much more competitive market than what Disney might normally see in the Thanksgiving corridor," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore. "We're accustomed to seeing those Disney films at the top of the chart. They kind of had to split the audience with 'Trolls.'"

Still, the storybook isn't written yet on "Wish." It could follow the lead of Pixar's "Elemental," which launched with a lukewarm \$29.6 million in June but found its legs, ultimately grossing nearly \$500 million worldwide.

Also entering wide-release over the holiday weekend was Emerald Fennell's "Saltburn," the writer-director's follow-up to 2020's "Promising Young Woman." After debuting in seven packed theaters last weekend, "Saltburn" grossed \$3.1 million over five days for Amazon and MGM. Barry Keoghan stars as an Oxford student befriended by a rich classmate (Jacob Elordi) and invited to his family's country manor.

As Hollywood's award season accelerates (Netflix debuted Bradley Cooper's "Maestro" in select theaters but didn't report grosses), Focus Features' "The Holdovers" continues to be one of the top choices in cinemas. Alexander Payne's film starring Paul Giamatti as a boarding school instructor made \$3.8 million over the five-day weekend. In five weeks, it's grossed \$12.9 million.

Ticket sales overall reached \$172 million in U.S. and Canada theaters over the five-day holiday weekend, according to Comscore. That's up significantly from recent years but well behind the typical pre-pandemic Thanksgiving weekends. (In 2019, sales boosted by "Frozen 2" surpassed \$262 million.)

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes," \$28.8 million.
2. "Napoleon," \$20.4 million.
3. "Wish," \$19.5 million.
4. "Trolls Band Together," \$17.5 million.
5. "Thanksgiving," \$7.2 million.
6. "The Marvels," \$6.4 million.
7. "The Holdovers," \$2.8 million.
8. "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour," \$2.3 million.
9. "Five Nights at Freddy's," \$1.8 million.
10. "Saltburn," \$1.7 million.

Biden says 4-year-old Abigail Edan was released by Hamas. He hopes more U.S. hostages will be freed

By SEUNG MIN KIM and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

NANTUCKET, Mass. (AP) — President Joe Biden confirmed Sunday that Abigail Edan, a 4-year-old American girl held hostage by Hamas after her parents were killed, was released as part of the cease-fire deal in the Israel-Hamas war.

“Thank God she’s home,” Biden said told reporters. “I wish I were there to hold her.”

Abigail has dual Israeli-U.S. citizenship, and Biden said she was “safely in Israel.” She was the first U.S. hostage to be released under terms of the cease-fire. Biden said he did not have immediate information on Abigail’s condition. The White House said later that the president spoke by telephone with members of the girl’s family in the United States and Israel. He also spoke with Israel’s prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Hamas militants stormed Abigail’s kibbutz, Kfar Azza, on Oct. 7 and killed her parents. She ran to a neighbor’s home for shelter, and the Brodutch family — mother Hagar and her three children — took Abigail in as the rampage raged. Then all five disappeared and were later confirmed to be captives. They were among the more than 200 people taken to Gaza in the attack that touched off the war. Abigail had a birthday while she was held.

Two of Abigail’s family members on Sunday thanked Biden, the Qatari government and others involved in securing her release, saying in a statement they remain committed to the “safe and swift return” of all hostages.

“Today’s release proves that it’s possible. We can get all hostages back home. We have to keep pushing,” said Liz Hirsh Naftali and Noa Naftali, Abigail’s great aunt and cousin.

The Brodutch family was also in the group, ranging in age from 4 to 84, released Sunday. Red Cross representatives transferred the hostages out of Gaza. Some were handed over directly to Israel, while others left through Egypt. Israel’s army said one was airlifted directly to a hospital.

“They’ve endured a terrible ordeal,” Biden said, and can now begin the “long journey toward healing.”

According to the White House, Biden and Netanyahu agreed the work was not yet done. Biden described the negotiations as a day-by-day, hour-by-hour process and said he would continue working until all hostages were free.

“Nothing is guaranteed and nothing is being taken for granted. But the proof that this is working and worth pursuing further is in every smile and every grateful tear we see on the faces of those families who are finally getting back together again. The proof is little Abigail,” the president said.

Biden said in remarks from Nantucket, the Massachusetts islands where he spent Thanksgiving with his family, that the cease-fire agreement was “delivering lifesaving results.”

Israel freed 39 Palestinian prisoners as part of the deal Sunday. A fourth exchange was expected on Monday — the last day of the cease-fire during which a total of 50 hostages and 150 Palestinian prisoners were to be freed. All are women and minors.

Netanyahu issued a video statement after speaking with Biden. He talked about the happiness of bringing Abigail home, but also the sadness that her parents were killed. “She has no parents, but she has an entire nation that hugs her, and we will take care of all her needs,” he said.

Netanyahu reiterated his offer to extend the cease-fire by an additional day for every 10 hostages Hamas releases. But he also said Israel would resume its offensive against Hamas “with all of its power” once the cease-fire expires.

International mediators led by representatives from the United States and Qatar are trying to extend the cease-fire for as long as possible.

“Critically needed aid is going in and hostages are coming out,” Biden said. “And this deal is structured so that it can be extended to keep building on these results. That’s my goal, that’s our goal to keep this pause going beyond tomorrow so that we can continue to see more hostages come out and surge more humanitarian relief into those who are in need in Gaza.”

Before the pause in fighting, the first hostages were released on Oct. 17 — Judith and Natalie Raanan, an American woman and her teenage daughter. Their release was regarded as a successful test-case for negotiating the larger deal, according to U.S. officials.

There are believed to be eight other U.S. citizens and one lawful permanent resident still held hostage. Two were women, seven were men. It's not clear whether they are alive.

Biden said he was "hopeful" the others would be released. "We will not stop working until every hostage is returned to their loved ones," he said.

The war has claimed the lives of more than 1,200 Israelis, mostly civilians killed by Hamas in the initial attack. More than 13,300 Palestinians have been killed, roughly two thirds of them women and minors, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza.

Tackling climate change and alleviating hunger: States recycle and donate food headed to landfills

By DAVID R. MARTIN and MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

ELMSFORD, N.Y. (AP) — When Sean Rafferty got his start in the grocery business, anything that wasn't sold got tossed out.

But on a recent day, Rafferty, the store manager for ShopRite of Elmsford-Greenburgh in New York, was preparing boxes of bread, donuts, fresh produce and dairy products to be picked up by a food bank. It's part of a statewide program requiring larger businesses to donate edible food and, if they can, recycle remaining food scraps.

"Years ago, everything went in the garbage ... to the landfills, the compactors or wherever it was," said Rafferty, who has 40 years in the industry. "Now, over the years, so many programs have developed where we're able to donate all this food ... where we're helping people with food insecurities."

New York is among a growing number of states targeting food waste over concerns it is taking up diminishing landfill space and contributing to global warming as meat, vegetables and dairy release the greenhouse gas methane after being dumped in a landfill. Rescuing unwanted fruits and vegetables, eggs, cereals and other food also helps to feed hungry families.

Globally, about a third of food is wasted. In the United States, it's even higher, at 40%, according to the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic. The U.S. spends about \$218 billion each year growing and producing food that is wasted. About 63 million tons (57 million metric tons) goes to waste, including 52.4 million tons (47.5 million metric tons) that ends up in landfills and 10 million tons (9 million metric tons) never harvested from farms.

"What's shocking to people often is not only how much we waste ... but also the impact," said Emily Broad Leib, a Harvard University law professor and director of the school's Food Law and Policy Clinic. "Food waste causes about 8% to 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions."

Broad Leib says 20% of water in the U.S. is used to grow food "that we then just throw away, so we're basically taking water and putting it directly into a landfill."

But she and others also note there is growing awareness of the need to do something about food waste in the U.S.

In 2015, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency announced a goal of 50% food waste reduction by 2030.

That has prompted a number of state-led initiatives, along with smaller, nonprofit efforts.

Ten states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation or executed policies to reduce, compost or donate waste. All 50 states have passed legislation shielding donors and recovery organizations from criminal and civil liability linked to donated food.

California and Vermont have launched programs converting residents' food waste into compost or energy, while Connecticut requires businesses, including larger food wholesalers and supermarkets, to recycle food waste. Farmers in Maryland can get a tax credit of up to \$5,000 per farm for food they donate.

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Several states have joined New York in setting up systems allowing food to be donated. Rhode Island requires food vendors servicing education institutions to donate any unused food to food banks, while Massachusetts limits the amount of food that businesses can send to landfills, which Broad Leib said has increased food donations in the state by 22% over two years.

New York's program is in its second year, and state officials believe it's having a significant impact.

As of late October, the program had redistributed 5 million pounds (2.3 million kilograms) of food — the equivalent of 4 million meals — through Feeding New York State, which supports the state's 10 regional food banks and is hoping to double that number next year. Among those required to donate food include colleges, prisons, amusement parks and sporting venues.

"Certainly, we should be reducing the amount we waste to start with, but then we should be feeding people before we throw food away if it's good, wholesome food," said Sally Rowland, supervisor with the state Department of Environmental Conservation's Organics, Reduction and Recycling section. "To me, it's a commonsense kind of thing and I think it's just kind of built that momentum of people understanding about how much food we're really wasting."

New York's Westchester County has eight refrigerated trucks that pick up all types of perishable food, according to Danielle Vasquez, food donations coordinator for Feeding Westchester, one of the state's food banks.

The group started working with businesses in 2014 but has seen participation ramp up since the donation law went into effect last year. Much of the food collected goes to nearly 300 programs and partners throughout the county, including a mobile food pantry and the Carver Center, a nonprofit serving Port Chester's families and children, which has a pantry.

"This time of year is very important for us and a lot of families across Westchester," Vasquez said. "There is the high cost of food. There is a high cost of living. Westchester is a very expensive county to live in. ... We are here to supplement our families as much as we can so, that way, they can focus that money on paying their bills."

Among those visiting the Carver Center earlier this month was Betsy Quiroa, who lamented how the cost of everything had gone up since the coronavirus pandemic. She was counting on getting milk, eggs, fruits and vegetables during her visit and said she didn't care if the produce was dented or slightly damaged.

"Coming here is good," said Quiroa, a mother of four who relies on Social Security. "If you are not working, you buy nothing. This is the problem."

Despite New York's success, advocates for food waste worry not enough is being done to meet the 2030 goal. Broad Leib and others have called for a national effort to coordinate the various state and local policies.

There is a goal, "but we don't really have a great roadmap ... and how we're going to actually achieve that end goal by 2030, which is kind of crazy," Broad Leib said, adding that a one-person liaison office in the USDA isn't sufficient to address the problem.

Kathryn Bender, a University of Delaware assistant professor of economics, said donation programs are helpful, but she worries they might shift the burden from businesses to nonprofits, which could struggle to distribute all the food.

"The best solution for food waste is to not have it in the first place," Bender said. "If we don't need to produce all that food, let's not put all the resources into producing that food."

Russia says it downed dozens of Ukrainian drones headed for Moscow, following a mass strike on Kyiv

By The Associated Press undefined

Ukraine tried to attack Moscow with dozens of drones, Russian authorities said Sunday, just a day after Ukrainian officials reported that Russia had launched its most intense drone attack on Kyiv since the beginning of its full-scale war in 2022.

Russian air defenses brought down at least 24 drones over the Moscow region — which surrounds but

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doesn't include the capital — and four other provinces to the south and west, the Russian Defense Ministry and Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin reported in a series of Telegram updates. Neither referenced any casualties.

Andrei Vorobyev, governor of the Moscow region, wrote on Telegram that the drone strikes damaged three unspecified buildings there, adding that no one was hurt.

One drone crashed into a 12-story apartment building in the western Russian city of Tula, about 180 kilometers (113 miles) south of Moscow, slightly wounding one resident and causing limited damage, local Gov. Aleksei Dyumin wrote on Telegram on Sunday morning.

Moscow's Vnukovo and Domodedovo airports also briefly shut down because of the drone attack, according to Russian state-run news agency Tass. Both appeared to have resumed normal operation by 6 a.m. local time Sunday, according to data from international flight tracking portals.

Russian Telegram channels speculated that Ukrainian forces had deployed a previously unseen type of drone in the purported strike, pointing out some similarities to the Iranian-made weapons Moscow routinely employs in its attacks on Ukraine.

The Russian capital has come under attack from drones regularly since May, with Russian officials blaming Ukraine. Military analysts commented at the time that the early attacks deployed Ukrainian locally-made drones, which couldn't carry as heavy a payload as the Iranian-made Shaheds used by Russia.

Ukrainian officials didn't immediately acknowledge or comment on the strikes, which came a day after Russia targeted the Ukrainian capital with more than 60 Shahed drones. At least five civilians were wounded in the hourslong assault, which saw several buildings damaged by falling debris from downed drones, including a kindergarten. The wounded included an 11-year-old child, according to Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko.

The Ukrainian air force early on Sunday said it had brought down eight of nine Shahed drones fired overnight by Russian forces.

Also on Sunday morning, the Russian Defense Ministry reported that two Soviet-made S-200 rockets fired by Kyiv were shot down over the sea of Azov, which stretches between the Crimean Peninsula and Ukraine's Russian-occupied southeastern coast.

According to local news sources, air raid sirens sounded earlier in Russian-annexed Crimea, which on Friday came under what Russian officials called a major drone attack. Road traffic was also briefly halted on Sunday morning across the 19-kilometer (12-mile) bridge that connects Crimea to the Russian mainland.

There were no reports of casualties, and no comment from officials in Kyiv.

Elsewhere, parts of Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine were left without power following a nighttime Ukrainian strike on a thermal power plant in the Donetsk region, a Moscow-installed local official reported on Telegram Sunday. According to Denis Pushilin, who heads the province that Russia illegally annexed last year, the attack on the Starobesheve plant took out the electricity in parts of the occupied cities of Donetsk and Mariupol, along with other nearby areas.

On the outskirts of Donetsk, Russian troops have continued their attempts to advance near Avdiivka, the eastern town that has been a Ukrainian stronghold and fighting hot spot since the early days of the war, according to reports by the Ukrainian General Staff and analysis by the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War.

The Ukrainian General Staff said Sunday morning that Kyiv's forces beat back Russian assaults to the northeast, west and southwest of Avdiivka over the previous 24 hours, as Moscow's troops strain to encircle the city.

Several Russian bloggers also made unconfirmed claims that Ukrainian forces had begun withdrawing from the industrial zone on Avdiivka's southern flank, although others said that Russian troops lacked complete control of the area. These claims couldn't be independently verified.

Russian shelling killed two civilians in the Donetsk region on Saturday and overnight, acting Ukrainian Gov. Ihor Moroz reported on Telegram on Sunday morning. Over that same period, Russian shells wounded one person in Ukraine's northern Sumy province, which borders Russia, according to a Telegram update by the Ukrainian regional military command.

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AP Top 25: No. 3 Washington, No. 5 Oregon move up, give Pac-12 2 in top 5 for 1st time since 2016

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

No. 3 Washington, No. 4 Florida State and No. 5 Oregon all moved up a spot in The Associated Press college football poll Sunday, giving the Pac-12 two top-five teams for the first time since the final ranking of the 2016 season.

Georgia remained No. 1 as the two-time defending national champions have been for 24 straight polls, dating back to the middle of the last season. The Bulldogs received 52 of 62 first-place votes.

Michigan returned to No. 2 following a week at No. 3 and received 10 first-place votes after beating Ohio State 30-24 in Ann Arbor on Saturday.

The Buckeyes slipped from second to No. 6, clearing the way for Washington to reach its best ranking since finishing the 2000 season at No. 3 and setting up a top-five matchup with Oregon in the Pac-12 championship game on Friday in Las Vegas.

The final Pac-12 championship game in the conference's current form before 10 members leave for other Power Five conferences will be its first matching top-five teams.

The last time there were two Pac-12 teams in the top five of the AP poll was 2016, when Southern California finished No. 3 and Washington No. 4. The last time it happened during the season was Oct. 6, 2013, when Oregon was No. 2 and Stanford was fifth.

No. 7 Texas and No. 8 Alabama held their places Sunday. Missouri moved up one spot to ninth and Penn State to No. 10.

POLL POINTS

The same eight teams have been the top eight teams in the country for five straight weeks, with the only loss among those teams during that span being Ohio State's to Michigan.

The last time there was no team turnover in the top eight for that long was 2008 in Weeks 11-15. That year Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, Alabama, USC, Penn State, Utah and Texas Tech held the top eight spots in some order for five weeks.

Among the top eight teams there are only four losses, one each for Oregon, Ohio State, Texas and Alabama. Of those four losses, three have come to other teams in the top eight: Oregon lost to Washington, Ohio State lost to Michigan and Alabama lost to Texas.

Texas' loss came to No. 12 Oklahoma. Extend it out to the top 12 to include No. 11 Mississippi and the only loss to a currently unranked team among that group is Oklahoma's to Kansas.

IN-N-OUT

North Carolina State and SMU made their AP Top 25 season debuts this week, raising to 44 the total number of teams to be ranked for at least a week this season.

Falling out for the first time this season was Tennessee, which finished its regular season 8-4 with a victory over Vanderbilt after barely hanging on at No. 25 last week.

Kansas State also dropped out again after losing a high-scoring game in the snow to Iowa State.

CONFERENCE CALL

Five teams from non-Power Five conferences in the AP Top 25 is the most since the final 2021 poll.

SEC — 5 (Nos. 1, 8, 9, 11, 13).

Pac-12 — 4 (Nos. 3, 5, 14, 21-tie).

Big Ten — 4 (Nos. 2, 6, 10, 18).

ACC — 3 (Nos. 4, 15, 21-tie).

Big 12 — 3 (Nos. 7, 12, 19).

American — 2 (Nos. 17, 25).

Conference USA — 1 (No. 20).

Sun Belt — 1 (No. 24).

Mid-American — 1 (No. 23).

Independent — 1 (No. 16).

RANKED vs. RANKED

- No. 8 Alabama vs. No. 1 Georgia in Atlanta, Southeastern Conference championship.
- No. 18 Iowa vs. No. 2 Michigan in Indianapolis, Big Ten championship.
- No. 5 Oregon vs. No. 3 Washington in Las Vegas, Pac-12 championship.
- No. 15 Louisville vs. No. 4 Florida State in Charlotte, North Carolina, Atlantic Coast Conference championship.
- No. 19 Oklahoma State vs. No. 7 Texas in Arlington, Texas, Big 12 championship.
- No. 25 SMU at No. 17 Tulane, American Athletic Conference championship.

Tens of thousands march against antisemitism in London including UK ex-Prime Minister Boris Johnson

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Tens of thousands of people including former U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson gathered in London on Sunday for a march against antisemitism, a day after large crowds turned out for a pro-Palestinian rally.

Johnson was joined by U.K. Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and other senior government officials at the march to express solidarity with the Jewish community. Organizers billed it as the largest gathering against antisemitism in London for almost a century.

Marchers waved Israeli flags and Union Jacks, and held placards reading “Never Again Is Now” and “Zero Tolerance for Antisemites.”

Sunday’s march was organized amid concerns about rising tensions sparked by the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

“Anything which is associated with the Jewish religion now feel that they’re under attack and they have to look after themselves, have their own security,” said Malcolm Canning, 75, from London. “I never thought this would get to this stage in this country. And it’s very, very upsetting to see it.”

Police detained Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, the former leader of the far-right English Defence League, at the march. Yaxley-Lennon, more widely known by his alias Tommy Robinson, was among crowds of counter-protesters who clashed with police during an Armistice Day march in London earlier this month.

Police said that he refused to leave after he was warned about concerns that his presence would cause “harassment, alarm and distress to others.”

Gideon Falter, the chief executive of Campaign Against Antisemitism, said that the rally came after weeks of pro-Palestinian protests that had made the capital a “no-go zone for Jews.”

He said that antisemitic incidents in the U.K. have surged since the war began, and condemned what he called “appalling” placards seen at the protests — including ones “showing a Star of David thrown in the bin with a caption that says ‘please keep the world clean.’”

On Saturday, tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters marched to demand a permanent ceasefire in the war.

Police said the majority protested peacefully, but 18 people were arrested for offenses including suspicion of inciting racial hatred.

The Stop the War coalition, which organized Saturday’s rally, stressed that those taking part oppose racism, antisemitism and Islamophobia.

During the Nov. 11 Armistice Day demonstration in London, pro-Palestinian protesters marched peacefully. But far-right counter-protesters whom police described as soccer “hooligans” clashed with officers trying to prevent them from attacking the march.

Organizers of Sunday’s march said that it was the largest gathering of its kind since 1936, when hundreds of thousands of people blocked a planned march by the British Union of Fascists through a Jewish neighborhood.

Israel summons Irish ambassador over tweet it alleges doesn't adequately condemn Hamas

By JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's Foreign Ministry said Sunday that it would summon the Irish ambassador over a tweet celebrating the release of a 9-year-old girl from Hamas captivity, alleging the post didn't adequately condemn the militant group.

Earlier Sunday, the Irish prime minister lauded the release of Emily Hand, an Israeli-Irish girl whose story has captivated both nations.

"An innocent child who was lost has now been found and returned, and we breathe a massive sigh of relief. Our prayers have been answered," Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar posted on the X platform, formerly known as Twitter.

The girl was initially believed to have been killed in the Oct. 7 assault on southern Israel by Hamas and other militants. A month ago, her father learned that she was actually alive and among about 240 people held hostage by Hamas in Gaza.

The Hamas attack, which killed about 1,200 people in Israel, triggered a blistering Israeli air and ground assault on Gaza in which at least 13,300 Palestinians, about two thirds of them women and children, have died.

Emily was one of 17 hostages released by Hamas on Saturday, the second day of a four-day cease-fire that allowed critical humanitarian aid into Gaza and gave civilians their first respite after seven weeks of war.

Israeli government officials criticized Varadkar's tweet, arguing that it cast what happened to Emily as a disappearance rather than a violent abduction by Hamas militants.

"Mr. Prime Minister, It seems you have lost your moral compass and need a reality check! Emily Hand was not 'lost,' she was kidnapped by a terror organization worse than ISIS," Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen tweeted. He alleged that Varadkar was "trying to legitimize and normalize terror," and summoned the Irish ambassador to Israel for a reprimand.

Irish government figures came quickly to the prime minister's defense. The Irish minister for public expenditure, Paschal Donohoe, said Varadkar has been "unambiguous in condemning the violence of Hamas and also calling for restraint from Israeli military forces."

Ireland's foreign affairs department said that the "government has been clear at every stage that all hostages abducted by Hamas should be released immediately and unconditionally." It said the Irish ambassador was to meet Israeli Foreign Ministry officials on Monday.

The summons is the third issued by Israel since the start of the Israel-Hamas war. Israel has also called in the ambassadors of Belgium and Spain after the countries' leaders criticized Israel for the high civilian death toll in Gaza. The Spanish leader also called for European Union recognition of a Palestinian state.

South Korea, Japan and China agree to resume trilateral leaders' summit, but without specific date

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Meeting for the first time in about four years, the top diplomats from South Korea, Japan and China agreed Sunday to revive cooperation among the Asian neighbors and resume their leaders' trilateral summit — but without a specific timing.

Closely linked economically and culturally with one another, the three countries together account for about 25% of the global gross domestic product. But efforts to boost cooperation have often hit a snag because of a mix of issues including historical disputes stemming from Japan's wartime aggression and the strategic competition between China and the United States.

"We three ministers agreed to restore and normalize three-nation cooperation at an early date," South Korean Foreign Minister told reporters after his meeting with Japan's Yoko Kamikawa and China's Wang Yi in Busan, South Korea.

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Park said the three ministers affirmed an earlier agreement by lower-level officials to restart the summit "at the earliest mutually convenient time" and agreed to expedite preparations for the meeting. Kamikawa separately said the ministers agreed to speed up their work to achieve the summit "at an early and appropriate timing."

The three also agreed to push for diverse cooperation projects in areas such as people-to-people exchange, trade, technology, public health, sustainable development and security, according to South Korean and Japanese statements.

The lack of an agreement on the timing for the trilateral summit would suggest the top-level gathering won't likely happen this year as South Korea, the chair of the next summit, had hoped, observers say. Still, Kamikawa said that a reactivation of a trilateral diplomacy "is an important step toward achieving an upcoming Japan-China-South Korea summit."

Since they held their first stand-alone, trilateral summit in 2008, the leaders of the three countries were supposed to meet annually. Instead, the summit has been suspended since 2019. The meeting Sunday was also the first since 2019.

South Korea and Japan are key U.S. military allies, hosting a total of 80,000 American troops on their territories. Their recent push to beef up a trilateral security cooperation with the United States has angered China, which is extremely sensitive to any moves it perceives as seeking to contain its rise to dominance in Asia.

But some observers say that the fact that Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Joe Biden struck a conciliatory tone in their first face-to-face meeting in a year earlier this month would provide Seoul, Tokyo and Beijing with diplomatic rooms to maneuver to find ways to revive three-way cooperation.

After her meeting with Wang on Saturday, Kamikawa said she renewed Japan's demand that China remove its ban on seafood imports from Japan in response to Tokyo's discharge of treated radioactive wastewater from its tsunami-hit nuclear power plant. Wang, for his part, said China opposed Japan's "irresponsible action" of releasing the wastewater and called for an independent monitoring mechanism of the process, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Ties between South Korea and Japan deteriorated severely in past years due to issues originating from Japan's 1910-45 colonization of the Korean Peninsula. But their relations have warmed significantly in recent months as the two countries took a series of major steps to move beyond history wrangling and boost cooperation in the face of North Korea's advancing nuclear program and other shared challenges.

In a reminder of their difficult relations, however, a Seoul court earlier this week ordered Japan to financially compensate Koreans forced into sexual slavery by Japanese troops during the colonial period.

During her meeting with Park earlier Sunday, Kamikawa called the court verdict "extremely regrettable" and urged South Korea to take appropriate steps to remedy the breaches of international law, according to Japan's Consulate in Busan. South Korea's Foreign Ministry said the ministers discussed the court ruling as well as ways to work together to reinvigorate three-way cooperation with China. The ministry also said that both strongly condemned the North's spy satellite launch last week.

Park also asked Wang for China to play a constructive role in persuading North Korea to halt provocations and take steps toward denuclearization, according to South Korea's Foreign Ministry.

Wang described China as "a stabilizing force" in the region that has "always played and will continue to play a constructive role in easing the situation on the peninsula," according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry. It said Wang called for stronger trade and economic ties between the two countries and criticized the "tendency to politicize economic issues."

North Korea's growing arsenal of nuclear-capable missiles poses a major security threat to South Korea and Japan. But China, North Korea's last major ally and biggest source of aid, is suspected of avoiding fully enforcing United Nations sanctions on North Korea and shipping covert assistance to the North to help its impoverished neighbor stay afloat and continue to serve as a bulwark against U.S. influences on the Korean Peninsula.

On Sunday, South Korea, Japan and the U.S. held maritime drills involving the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier near the Korean Peninsula, their latest show of force against North Korea.

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North Korea typically views such U.S.-involved military training as an invasion rehearsal.

Today in History: November 27, Harvey Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone are fatally shot

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Nov. 27, the 331st day of 2023. There are 34 days left in the year.

On Nov. 27, 1978, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone (mah-SKOH'-nee) and City Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights activist, were shot to death inside City Hall by former supervisor Dan White. (White served five years for manslaughter; he took his own life in October 1985.)

On this date:

In 1901, the U.S. Army War College was established in Washington, D.C.

In 1924, Macy's first Thanksgiving Day parade — billed as a "Christmas Parade" — took place in New York.

In 1942, during World War II, the Vichy French navy scuttled its ships and submarines in Toulon (too-LOHN') to keep them out of the hands of German troops.

In 1962, the first Boeing 727 was rolled out at the company's Renton Plant near Seattle.

In 1970, Pope Paul VI, visiting the Philippines, was slightly wounded at the Manila airport by a dagger-wielding Bolivian painter disguised as a priest.

In 1973, the Senate voted 92-3 to confirm Gerald R. Ford as vice president, succeeding Spiro T. Agnew, who'd resigned.

In 1998, answering 81 questions put to him three weeks earlier, President Bill Clinton wrote the House Judiciary Committee that his testimony in the Monica Lewinsky affair was "not false and misleading."

In 2000, a day after George W. Bush was certified the winner of Florida's presidential vote, Al Gore laid out his case for letting the courts settle the nation's long-count election.

In 2003, President George W. Bush flew to Iraq under extraordinary secrecy and security to spend Thanksgiving with U.S. troops and thank them for "defending the American people from danger."

In 2008, Iraq's parliament approved a pact requiring all U.S. troops to be out of the country by Jan. 1, 2012.

In 2015, a gunman attacked a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs, Colorado, killing three people and injuring nine. (The prosecution of suspect Robert Dear stalled in state court, and then federal court, after he was repeatedly found mentally incompetent to stand trial.)

As he tried to bolster his support in the wake of a sexual harassment allegation, Minnesota Democratic Sen. Al Franken apologized to "everyone who has counted on me to be a champion for women." (Franken would later resign.)

In 2020, President Donald Trump's legal team suffered another defeat as a federal appeals court in Philadelphia roundly rejected the campaign's latest effort to challenge Pennsylvania's election results.

In 2021, the new potentially more contagious omicron variant of the coronavirus popped up in more European countries, just days after being identified in South Africa.

In 2022, protesters pushed to the brink by China's strict COVID measures in Shanghai called for the removal of the country's all-powerful leader and clashed with police as crowds took to the streets in several cities.

Today's Birthdays: Footwear designer Manolo Blahnik is 81. Academy Award-winning director Kathryn Bigelow is 72. TV host Bill Nye (the Science Guy) is 68. Actor William Fichtner (FIHK'-nuhr) is 67. Caroline Kennedy is 66. Academy Award-winning screenwriter Callie Khouri is 66. Rock musician Charlie Burchill (Simple Minds) is 64. Actor Michael Rispoli is 63. Jazz composer/big band leader Maria Schneider is 63. Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty is 63. Rock musician Charlie Benante (Anthrax) is 61. Rock musician Mike Bordin (Faith No More) is 61. Actor Fisher Stevens is 60. Actor Robin Givens is 59. Actor Michael Vartan is 55. Actor Elizabeth Marvel is 54. Rapper Skoob (DAS EFX) is 53. Actor Kirk Acevedo is 52. Rapper Twista is 51. Actor Jaleel White is 47. Actor Arjay Smith is 40. Actor Alison Pill is 38. Actor Lashana Lynch (TV: "Still Star-Crossed") is 36.