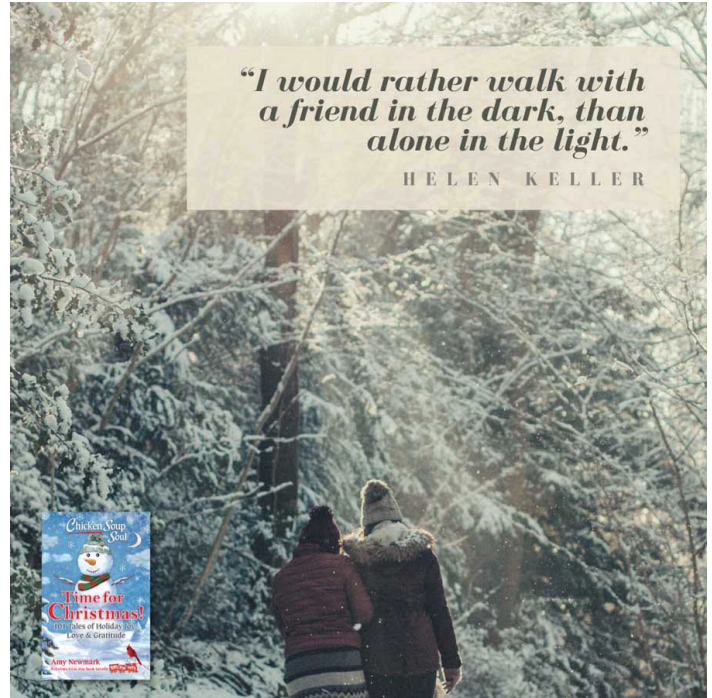


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Coming up

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 cans.

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

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The Bulletin by Newsweek

World in Brief

Charlie Munger Dies: Berkshire Hathaway vice-chair and veteran investor Warren Buffett's trusted confidante, Charlie Munger, has passed away at the age of 99.

Pacific Missile Plan: China's state media lashed out at the U.S. over plans to deploy longer-range missiles to the Pacific, a move to deter the Chinese leadership's designs on Taiwan and other claimed territories in the region.

Indians Rescued: All 41 Indian workers trapped in a collapsed Himalayan tunnel for 17 days were successfully rescued on Tuesday, despite the rescue mission being hit by multiple obstacles and delays.

War in Ukraine: Crimea lost a naval defense line in a storm that battered the annexed Black Sea peninsula over the weekend and into Monday, satellite photos showed. The structures in Sevastopol, which housed Russia's trained dolphins protecting its Black Sea fleet and Crimea, appear to have been lost.

Unconventional: Newsweek Editor-at-Large and host of Unconventional Naveed Jamali got to ride along on a pre-deployment training raid with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Watch the latest episode of Unconventional to see how infantry Marines train, take a look inside an Osprey, and more, as Naveed embeds with the unit for 36 hours.

GDILIVE.COM

Groton Area
Tigers
GT

Any interest in any of
these basketball games on
GDILIVE.COM?
They are \$25 each.

Girls James Valley Christian JV
Boys Hamlin JV
Girls Hamlin JV
Boys Sisseton JV
Girls Sisseton JV
Girls Roncalli C
Girls Roncalli JV
Boys Roncalli C
Boys Roncalli JV
Girls Aberdeen Christian JV

Text Paul at 605-397-7460

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Students shown: Axel Warrington, May Dellaire, Corbin Weismantel, Garrett Schultz and Jameson Penning.

Robotics take part in Harrisburg Tournament

The Groton Robotics Team traveled to Harrisburg on November 18th for the third tournament of the season. Kids had their strongest tournament to date with three out of four teams getting to the quarter-finals. The teams of Galaxy and Gladiators teaming up in Alliance selection above.

Our next tournament is on January 6th in Groton with a start time of 10 a.m. We are also fundraising to assist us in purchasing new tournament travel cases, tournament boxes and computers for our kids.

- Melissa Schultz

Names Released in Spink County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash
Where: SD Hwy 20, Mile Marker 327, 5 miles East of Mellette, SD
When: 8:59 p.m., Thursday, November 23, 2023
Driver 1: Wendell Leigh Vankley, 68, Glenham, SD, Fatal injuries
Passenger 1: Logan Vankley, 34, Glenham, SD, Serious, non-life threatening injuries
Vehicle 1: 2011 Chevrolet Suburban

Spink County, S.D.- A 68 year old man has been identified as the person who died Friday morning resulting from injuries sustained in a one vehicle crash which occurred Thursday evening in Spink County.

Preliminary crash information indicates a 2011 Chevrolet Suburban was traveling westbound on SD 20 around 9 p.m. Thursday, November 23, when it entered the south ditch and struck an approach in the ditch. The driver, Wendell Leigh Vankley of Glenham, SD, was flown to a hospital in Sioux Falls for medical treatment but passed away on Friday morning. The passenger, Logan Vankley, 34, also from Glenham, sustained serious, non-life-threatening injuries.

The driver and passenger were not wearing seatbelts.

The South Dakota 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.

Names Released in Lincoln County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash
Where: Interstate 29, Mile Marker 61, 4 miles Southwest of Worthing, SD
When: 8:58 a.m., Saturday, November 25, 2023
Driver 1: Janita Mitchell, 61, Hornbeck, LA, Serious, non-life-threatening injuries
Passenger 1: James A. Browning III, 79, Hornbeck, LA, Serious, non-life-threatening injuries
Passenger 2: Michael Dale Mitchell, 64, Hornbeck, LA, Fatal injuries
Vehicle 1: 2008 Chevrolet Suburban

Lincoln County, S.D.- A 64-year-old man has been identified as the person who died Saturday morning resulting from injuries sustained in a one vehicle crash in Lincoln County.

The driver and front seat passenger sustained serious, non-life-threatening injuries.

Preliminary crash information indicates a 2008 Chevrolet Suburban was traveling southbound on Interstate 29 near mile marker 61 around 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, and lost control of the vehicle and entered the median where the vehicle rolled. The driver, 61-year-old Janita Mitchell of Hornbeck, Louisiana and front seat passenger, James A. Browning III, 79, also from Hornbeck, were transported to a nearby hospital with serious, non-life-threatening injuries. They were wearing seatbelts.

The backseat passenger, 64-year-old Michael Dale Mitchell of Hornbeck, was ejected from the vehicle and sustained fatal injuries. He was not wearing a seatbelt.

The South Dakota 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.

Gov. Noem Supports Congressman Mike Gallagher's Bill Protecting U.S. Farmland from Foreign Adversaries

PIERRE, S.D. – Today, Governor Kristi Noem announced her support for Congressman Mike Gallagher's bill preventing the Chinese Communist Party and other nations that hate America from owning American agricultural land. She made this announcement in a letter to Congressman Gallagher, who is the Chairman of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party.

"I write to you out of mutual concern for the threat posed by the Chinese Communist Party. I offer my support for H.R. 4577 and urge that it be added to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)," Governor Noem wrote to Chairman Gallagher. "Food security is a matter of national security... We have seen China use fear and control to perpetuate their agenda for generations. If they successfully control our food supply, they will be able to control the United States."

From 2010 to 2020, China's holdings of American ag land increased by 5,300%. H.R. 4577 protects U.S. farmland from foreign adversaries by giving the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States greater jurisdiction over land purchases tied to "foreign adversaries," the same six countries that Governor Noem listed as "Evil Foreign Governments," including Communist China.

"The states and Congress must work together to defend our nation from the Chinese Communist Party, especially given the lack of sufficient action from the Biden Administration," continued Governor Noem. "This legislation is an important step in that effort – but getting it passed as part of the NDAA will be no small lift."

Governor Noem ended the letter to Chairman Gallagher by offering to testify before the Select Committee in support of this legislation.

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No Contracts!



Angel Tree Cards Still Left

There are still plenty of cards left on Groton's Angel Trees. The left one is at Lori's Pharmacy on the counter. The right one is at Dollar General right when you walk in.

Travel South Dakota Awards \$215k With New Tourism Grant **28 event-based entities received funds from new TAP Grant**

PIERRE, S.D. – Travel South Dakota’s new Tourism Advertising Promotion (TAP) Grant program has awarded a total of \$215,025 to assist South Dakota’s tourism industry and increase visitation to tourism-related events.

“These funds will help unique South Dakota events attract more visitors, especially lesser-known events that deserve a larger audience,” said James Hagen, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Tourism. “We are so excited to see the powerful effects these investments have on some amazing South Dakota events.”

The purpose of this new grant is to provide marketing funds to tourism-related events such as festivals, concerts, rodeos, and powwows. This grant program is focused on providing funding to events in smaller towns, cities, and rural areas of the state, but entities and events of all sizes were encouraged to apply. The grants range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Award recipients include: Annual Archaeological Excavation/Archaeology Awareness Days (Mitchell), Barn Raisin BBQ (Salem), Black Hills Bluegrass Festival (Sturgis), Black Hills Institute 50th Anniversary Celebration (Hill City), Black Hills Renaissance Festival (Lead), Black Hills Winter Festival (Hill City), Casey Tibbs Rodeo (Fort Pierre), Celebration Sisseton Days (Sisseton), Cheese Fest at Farm Life (Ethan), Christmas in Belle Fourche (Belle Fourche), Crystal Springs Rodeo (Clear Lake), Czech Days (Tabor), Danish Days (Viborg), Deadwood 3 Wheeler Rally (Deadwood), Deadwood Snocross 2024 (Deadwood), Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival (Hot Springs), Festival of Lights (Brookings), Gold Discovery Days (Custer), Irene Rodeo (Irene), Kadoka Buffalo Stampede (Kadoka), Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant (De Smet), Mead Museum Hall of Trees (Yankton), Mobridge Indian Relays (Mobridge), Quarry Days (Dell Rapids), Schmeckfest (Lead), Sunflower Festival (Highmore), Wild West Days (Faulkton), and Wylie Park Family Fun Weekend (Aberdeen).

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Sod taken off skating rink

The sod was taken off the skating rink this week in preparation for getting it ready for the season. Now all that remains is waiting for cold weather to arrive.



The photo below shows the benches were all given a new coat of paint.



Conde National League

Nov. 27 Team Standings: Cubs 28, Giants 25½, Mets 25, Tigers 24½, Braves 23, Pirates 18

Men's High Games: Chad Furney 199, Butch Farmen 190, Ryan Bethke 190, Austin Schuelke 183

Men's High Series: Ryan Bethke 561, Butch Farmen 501, Russ Bethke 465

Women's High Games: Nancy Radke 178, Cheryl Reyalts 170, Suzi Easthouse 166

Women's High Series: Nancy Radke 436, Suzi Easthouse 432, Vickie Kramp 429



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Lincoln could become sixth county to regulate location of carbon pipelines

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - NOVEMBER 28, 2023 4:39 PM

CANTON — Lincoln County could become the sixth county in the state to enact regulations on the location of carbon dioxide pipelines.

Brown, McPherson, Minnehaha, Moody and Spink counties already have “setback” ordinances that mandate minimum distances between pipelines and residential areas, livestock facilities, nursing homes and other existing features.

The Lincoln County Commission rejected a setback proposal earlier this year due to concerns about the county’s authority to enact such an ordinance. Since then, state regulators told county officials they do in fact have the authority, according to Eric Scott, who serves on the county’s new Carbon Dioxide Transport and Storage Advisory Committee, which is tasked with preparing an ordinance recommendation.

In September, the state Public Utilities Commission denied permits for two companies seeking to build carbon pipelines in the state. Commissioners cited conflicts between the pipeline routes and county setback ordinances as a reason for the denials. Commissioners also declined to overrule the county setback ordinances.

One company, Navigator CO2, has since withdrawn its plan. The other, Summit Carbon Solutions, plans to resubmit an application after modifying its route. The company aims to capture carbon dioxide emissions from ethanol plants and transport them in liquefied form for underground storage in North Dakota, thereby making the project eligible for federal tax credits that incentivize the removal of heat-trapping gasses from the atmosphere.

The Lincoln County pipeline committee held its second meeting Tuesday to discuss four proposals ranging from aggressive setback distances favored by pipeline opponents to lesser distances they oppose.

County Commissioner Joel Arends suggested the committee should first hear from out-of-state carbon pipeline operators and regulators. He said that while the current proposals may be informed by other South Dakota county ordinances, he wants to “hear from people who have real-world experience regulating these things.”

From there, the discussion pivoted from discussing the proposals on the table to discussing who should be at the table. Some members suggested South Dakota state and county officials would suffice.

“I don’t know how many outside people we need to come in and tell us how to write our ordinance,” committee member Eric Scott said.

Committee member Anthony Ventura said the listening sessions would only mean kicking discussion of the proposals — two of which he introduced — further down the road.

“I think we’re dragging our heels here,” Ventura said.

The committee will continue discussing the issues at its next meeting.

Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

Secretary of state releases election integrity brochure, urges voters to trust officials

BY: JOHN HULT - NOVEMBER 28, 2023 4:25 PM

A new brochure from Secretary of State Monae Johnson aims to address common election integrity questions in advance of the 2024 election, according to a Tuesday news release.

The brochure, titled "A Guide to Secure Elections in South Dakota," is designed to explain "different security measures South Dakota has put in place to protect our elections," according to the release.

The pamphlet notes that the state uses paper ballots, that the tabulator machines used to tally votes are not connected to the internet, and that state and local authorities regularly review the eligibility of registered voters and purge ineligible voters from the rolls.

It also trumpets South Dakota's voter identification rules, which require photo ID checks by poll workers on election day. Voters without an acceptable photo ID can cast a provisional ballot.

The South Dakota brochure is tied to an educational push from the National Association of Secretaries of State dubbed #TrustedInfo2024. The national website says the campaign is meant to bolster the importance of state-level election officials as "trusted sources of election information during the 2024 election cycle and beyond."

Johnson's news release includes a nod to her role as that information source in South Dakota.

"My number one job as Chief Election Officer is to ensure that we conduct fair and accurate elections for the citizens of South Dakota," the release says. "Our office will continue to focus our resources on the protection of our election systems and overall election security."

The term "election integrity" has come to carry additional weight in the years since the 2020 election. Former President Donald Trump consistently claims, without evidence, that he won the presidential race that year, and some polling suggests that a third of Americans agree.

In South Dakota, Johnson's rise to the state's top election post was fueled in part by promises to protect elections. Her campaign materials leaned into election integrity language, citing opposition to voter fraud, online voting and online voter registration, and she refused to affirm the legitimacy of the 2020 presidential election when questioned by reporters.

She secured her place on the 2022 ballot by earning more state GOP convention support than former Secretary of State Steve Barnett.

She lobbied for post-election audits in early 2023, a move that sailed through the 2023 Legislature with wide support from state lawmakers and Gov. Kristi Noem, who signed the audit bill into law.

Meanwhile, voter integrity activists in the state, some affiliated with organizations called the South Dakota Canvassing Group and Midwest Swamp Watch, have expanded their public engagement. Minnehaha County commissioners frequently field public comments on election integrity, for example, and activists offered point-by-point feedback on election rules written and refined this summer and fall following the establishment of post-election audits.

In addition to a link to the new brochure, Johnson's news release encourages voters to reach out to their county auditors if they'd like to participate directly in elections as poll watchers or election workers.

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.

COMMENTARY

Climate change makes farm bill conservation programs crucial

TRAVIS ENTENMAN

While people from around the country think of South Dakota as the home of Mount Rushmore, Badlands National Park and the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, we are at our core a state powered and defined by our farms and ranches. Agriculture is the South Dakota's top producing industry, generating almost \$12 billion for the economy each year and supporting 1 in 5 jobs across the state.

Unfortunately, the climate conditions that agriculture requires to thrive are becoming less predictable and more extreme. From the Missouri River to the Black Hills and the grasslands in between, South Dakota will experience wetter springs and hotter and drier summers, in addition to heavier blizzards, followed by rapid snowmelt.

It's a daunting reality that will require collaboration between private landowners and the public sector to ensure that our farmlands not only survive but remain successful for generations to come.

As anybody who is familiar with farmers knows, they are not ones to lie down and give up — adapting is in their blood. Many are already buying into what is broadly categorized as "sustainable agriculture," which refers to a variety of conservation practices that preserve the environment for future use. This includes tactics like cover cropping, crop rotation and no-till farming.

Conservation is a win-win-win for agriculture producers, the land, and the climate. Unfortunately, despite positive intentions, many landowners lack the financial support and technical expertise to adopt such practices. Given that over 93 percent of South Dakota's land is privately owned, even commonsense policies can be difficult to implement.

Thankfully, there is already policy infrastructure in place to tackle this divide. Within the farm bill that Congress passes every five years is funding for U.S. Department of Agriculture programs that offer grants and technical assistance to farmers, landowners and ranchers to meet conservation goals. These voluntary, incentive-based programs are extremely popular, to the point they are badly oversubscribed. Nationally, as many as 75% of qualified applicants are turned away, which means that demand for conservation on 13.8 million acres goes unmet because of inadequate funding every year.

Last year, a coalition of businesses, farms and groups fought to fix this shortage, and succeeded in securing \$20 billion for farm bill conservation programs through the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest investment in conservation since the Dust Bowl.

Specific to South Dakota, we have proof that incentive-based programs work. For years, grasslands throughout the Great Plains have been converted to cropland at an unsustainable rate — partially to feed a growing population, but also because of a disconnect between public policy and on-the-ground reality. Sodsaver, which has been implemented in South Dakota and other states in the region, addressed that disconnect by reducing crop insurance assistance for farmers who choose to break up native sod and convert it to cropland. Now, Sens. John Thune, R-South Dakota, and Amy Klobuchar, D-Minnesota, are aiming to take Sodsaver nationwide through the American Prairie Conservation Act.

Thune, who authored Sodsaver provisions in the 2008, 2014 and 2018 farm bills, is an example of a policymaker who understands the value of good-government, cost-saving solutions.

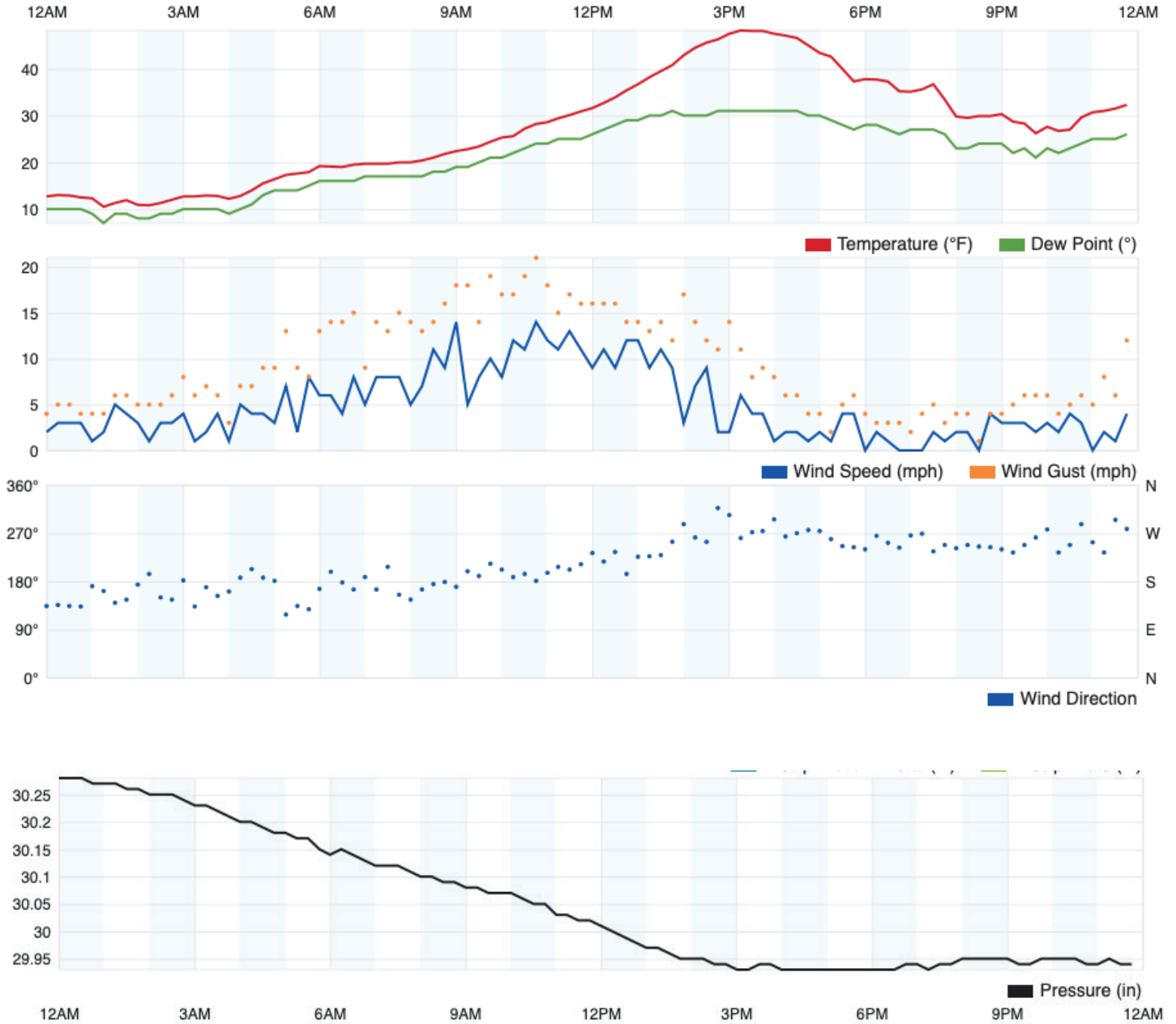
Now, Congress is negotiating the details of a farm bill that could touch \$1 trillion, which is why the \$20 billion promise to arm farmers with conservation tools is so important. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

Travis Entenman is the managing director of Friends of the Big Sioux River, executive director of Northern Prairies Land Trust, and sits on the board of supervisors at the Minnehaha Conservation District. He received his bachelor's degree in journalism from South Dakota State University and his master's in environmental law and policy from Vermont Law School.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Day	Wed Nov 29	Thu Nov 30	Fri Dec 1	Sat Dec 2	Sun Dec 3	Mon Dec 4	Tue Dec 5
Weather							
High	44°F	36°F	33°F	37°F	40°F	39°F	41°F
Low	22°F	15°F	24°F	22°F	19°F	24°F	27°F
Wind	SW 8 MPH	NNW 8 MPH	SSE 6 MPH	SSE 15 MPH	SSW 9 MPH	WNW 6 MPH	WSW 10 MPH

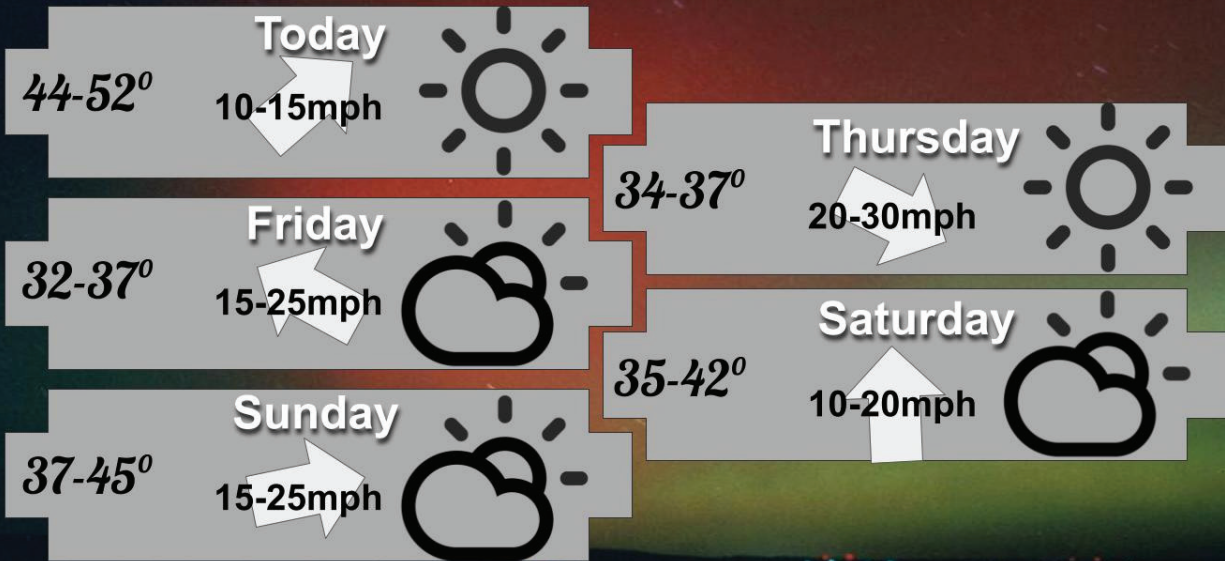


Another Mild Day Today

November 29, 2023

3:36 AM

...More Seasonal Late Week/Weekend



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Mostly dry forecast next few days, with another mild day today with more seasonal temperatures late week/weekend. Another shot at very mild air is possible next week as well.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 48 °F at 3:14 PM

Low Temp: 10 °F at 1:14 AM

Wind: 21 mph at 10:42 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 9 hours, 5 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 60 in 2021

Record Low: -26 in 1964

Average High: 36

Average Low: 14

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.72

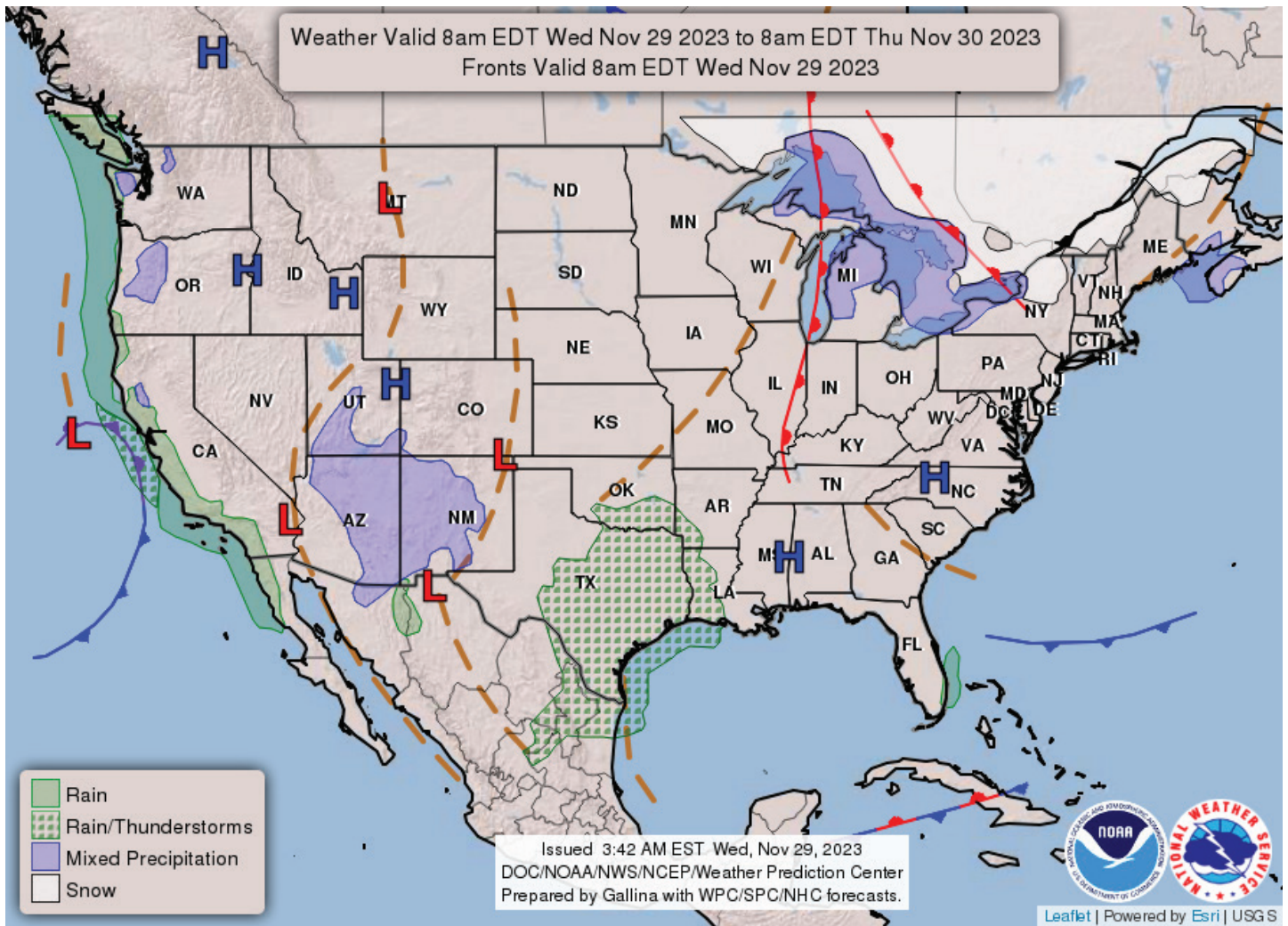
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.19

Average Precip to date: 21.19

Precip Year to Date: 23.17

Sunset Tonight: 4:53:34 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:48:59 AM



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Today in Weather History

November 29, 1896: The mercury plunged to 51 degrees below zero at Havre Montana. It marked the culmination of a two week long cold wave. A stagnate high-pressure area similar to those over Siberia during the winter was the cause. During the month of November temperatures across Montana and the Dakotas averaged 15 to 25 degrees below normal. Aberdeen's low temperature on this day was 25 degrees below zero. The average temperature for the month was 9.7 degrees, or 19.6 degrees below normal.

November 29, 1996: Widespread freezing rain laid down a thick layer of ice across a large part of north-east South Dakota and west central Minnesota on the 29th and 30th, making driving on area highways and Interstate 29 treacherous. Later on the 29th, the freezing rain changed over to snow. Snowfall amounts ranged from 2 to 4 inches across the area. Numerous accidents occurred throughout the weekend with mainly minor injuries. Many cars and trucks also went into ditches. The South Dakota Highway Patrol reported in, one three hour period that along I-29, from the Clear Lake exit to the Codington County line 40 to 45 vehicles were in the ditch. Many activities and sporting events were also postponed or cancelled.

November 29, 2002: High winds of 30 to 50 mph, gusting to near 70 mph, occurred much of the afternoon across central and north central South Dakota. A tractor-trailer, carrying a load of livestock, was overturned on Highway 12 about three miles east of Mobridge. The tractor was totaled, four cattle were killed, and the driver suffered minor injuries. High winds of 30 to 50 mph, with gusts to near 60 mph, also occurred across Roberts and Grant counties in the late afternoon hours.

1896 - The mercury plunged to 51 degrees below zero at Havre, MT. It marked the culmination of a two week long cold wave caused by a stagnate high pressure area similar to those over Siberia during the winter. During the month of November temperatures across Montana and the Dakotas averaged 15 to 25 degrees below normal. (David Ludlum)

1969 - Dense fog along the Jersey Turnpike resulted in a chain reaction of vehicle collisions during the morning rush hour. A propane truck jackknifed and was struck by a trailer truck, and other vehicles piled into the fiery mass. (David Ludlum)

1975 - Red River was buried under 34 inches of snow in 24 hours, establishing a record for the state of New Mexico. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - The temperature at Bismarck, ND, plunged to 30 degrees below zero to establish their record low for the month of November. The high that day was 4 degrees below zero. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Snow blanketed the Upper Mississippi Valley, with heavy snow reported near Lake Superior. Up to ten inches of snow was reported in Douglas County and Bayfield County of Wisconsin. Brule WI received nine inches of snow. Heavy rain soaked the Middle Atlantic Coast States, while gale force winds lashed the coastline. Flooding was reported in Maryland and Virginia. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Nine inches of snow at Alta UT brought their total for the month to 164 inches, surpassing their previous November record of 144 inches. Snowbird UT, also in the Little Cottonwood Valley, surpassed their November record of 118 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Strong Santa Ana winds diminished over southern California, but record cold was reported in some of the California valleys, with readings of 27 degrees at Redding and 31 degrees at Bakersfield. Gale force winds, gusting to 44 mph at Milwaukee WI, produced snow squalls in the Great Lakes Region. Sault Ste Marie MI finished the month of November with a record 46.8 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1991: A tornado struck southeast Springfield, Missouri, causing F4 damage. Shortly after touchdown, the tornado reached F3 intensity, approximately 3 miles north of the town of Nixa. While crossing Highway 65, the tornado picked up a truck and dropped it onto a frontage road, killing one passenger and injuring ten others. The tornado intensified to F4 strength as it moved through the Woodbridge and Natural Bridge Estates subdivisions where 15 homes were destroyed. Altogether, two people were killed and 64 others were injured.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

COMMITTED LIVING

Updated on February 6, 2023

Throughout the Book of Proverbs, Solomon does not allow "wobble" room. It is either "this is the way" or "that is the way" or "do not forget the way." It's like a visit to a physician: "If you want to be healthy, you must follow these directions and take this prescription." If anyone has a desire to honor God, live a life that is pleasing to the Lord, avoid doing what is wrong, and walk in the ways of the Lord, Solomon leaves no doubt about what we are to do. He is also very clear about the dangers and consequences of following our own ways and selfish ends.

"Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand it fully." There is little doubt about who Solomon had in mind when he wrote these words: Evil men are those who are committed to doing evil things. When we examine the lives of "evil men," we find evidence of evil thoughts, evil deeds, and evil friends. Their lives are so centered on acts of evil that they have lost their understanding of justice. Their lives are so corrupt, so devious, and so unjust that they cannot see or even recognize "right from wrong."

On the other hand, those who "seek the Lord" are fully capable of making the right choice when facing a difficult decision. From his own experience as a leader and from following the advice of his father, King David, Solomon learned that if anyone has a commitment to do what God will honor, God will grant that request and give him the power to overcome evil. When our thoughts come from God's wisdom, choices become clear, and God's power available.

Prayer: Empower us, Father, with the strength and courage that comes from Your Word, to do what is right. We know You will give us strength to live righteous lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand it fully. Proverbs 28:5



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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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.28.23

27 37 42 59 61 11

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$355,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 17 Hrs 7 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.27.23

1 8 23 25 50 4

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$2,500,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 22 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.28.23

9 15 18 31 40 16

TOP PRIZE:
\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 37 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.25.23

10 12 14 26 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$68,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 37 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.27.23

9 29 51 53 61 20

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 6 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.27.23

2 21 38 61 66 12

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$374,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 6 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Bruns scores 18 as South Dakota takes down Waldorf 93-71

By The Associated Press undefined

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Paul Bruns' 18 points helped South Dakota defeat Waldorf 93-71 on Tuesday night.

Bruns shot 5 for 10 (2 for 7 from 3-point range) and 6 of 7 from the free throw line for the Coyotes (5-3). Isaac Bruns scored 17 points while shooting 7 for 12, including 3 for 6 from beyond the arc. Bostyn Holt went 5 of 10 from the field to finish with 11 points.

Justin Wiggins led the way for the Warriors with 12 points. Khalil Grayson added 12 points for Waldorf. Kaelon Harkema also put up 11 points and three steals.

South Dakota travels to Western Illinois on Sunday.

Mediators look to extend truce in Gaza on its final day, with one more hostage swap planned

By NAJIB JOBAIN, SAMY MAGDY and MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — International mediators worked Wednesday to extend the truce in Gaza, hoping the territory's Hamas rulers will keep freeing hostages in return for the release of Palestinian prisoners and further respite from Israel's air and ground offensive. It will otherwise expire within a day.

Israel has welcomed the release of dozens of hostages in recent days and says it will maintain the truce if Hamas keeps freeing captives. But its other major goal — the annihilation of the armed group that has ruled Gaza for 16 years and orchestrated the deadly attack on Israel that triggered the war — seems less and less likely.

Weeks of heavy aerial bombardment and a ground invasion have demolished vast swaths of northern Gaza and killed thousands of Palestinians. But it seems to have had little effect on Hamas' rule, evidenced by its ability to conduct complex negotiations, enforce the cease-fire among other armed groups, and orchestrate the smooth release of hostages.

Yehya Sinwar and other Hamas leaders have likely relocated to the south, along with hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians who have packed into overflowing shelters.

An Israeli ground invasion of the south could eventually ferret out Hamas' leaders and demolish the rest of its militant infrastructure, including kilometers (miles) of tunnels, but at a cost in Palestinian lives and destruction that the United States, Israel's main ally, seems unwilling to bear.

The Biden administration has told Israel that if it resumes the offensive it must operate with far greater precision, especially in the south. That approach is unlikely to bring Hamas to its knees any time soon, and international pressure for a lasting cease-fire is already mounting.

"How far both sides will be prepared to go in trading hostages and prisoners for the pause is about to be tested, but the pressures and incentives for both to stick with it are at the moment stronger than the incentives to go back to war," Martin Indyk, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel, wrote on X.

DIPLOMACY RAMPS UP

CIA director William Burns and David Barnea, who heads Israel's Mossad spy agency, were in Qatar on Tuesday to discuss extending the cease-fire and releasing more hostages. Qatar has played a key role in mediating with Hamas.

Negotiations continued Wednesday to extend the cease-fire, according to media reports, and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who is also expected to push for a longer truce, was set to visit the region this week.

A joint statement from foreign ministers of the G7 group of wealthy democracies, which includes close allies of Israel, called for the "further extension of the pause" and for "protecting civilians and compliance

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with international law.”

The war began with Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack into southern Israel, in which it killed over 1,200 people, mostly civilians. The militants dragged some 240 people back into Gaza, including babies, children, women, soldiers, older adults and Thai farm laborers.

Israel responded with a devastating air campaign across Gaza and a ground invasion in the north. 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 toll is likely much higher, as officials have only sporadically updated the count since Nov. 11 due to the breakdown of services in the north. The ministry says thousands more people are missing and feared dead under the rubble.

Israel says 77 of its soldiers have been killed in the ground offensive, and it claims to have killed thousands of militants, without providing evidence.

ISRAEL’S HOSTAGE DILEMMA

The plight of the captives, and the lingering shock from the Oct. 7 attack, has galvanized Israeli support for the war. But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is also under intense pressure to bring the hostages home, and could find it difficult to resume the offensive if there’s a prospect for more releases.

Hamas is still believed to be holding around 150 hostages — enough to extend the cease-fire for another two weeks under the current arrangement of releasing 10 each day. But an unknown number of those are soldiers, and Hamas is expected to drive a harder bargain for them.

After being extended by two days, the cease-fire is due to end at some point after a final exchange later on Wednesday.

A total of 60 Israelis have been freed as part of the truce, most of whom appear physically well but shaken. Another 21 hostages — 19 Thais, one Filipino and one Russian-Israeli — have been released in separate negotiations since the truce began. Before the cease-fire, Hamas released four hostages, and the Israeli army rescued one. Two others were found dead in Gaza.

The latest swap brought to 180 the number of Palestinians freed from Israeli prisons. Most have been teenagers accused of throwing stones and firebombs during confrontations with Israeli forces. Several were women convicted by Israeli military courts of attempting deadly attacks.

Palestinians have celebrated the release of people they see as having resisted Israel’s decadeslong military occupation of lands they want for a future state.

TENSE CALM IN GAZA

Ordinary Palestinians fear the resumption of the war, which has brought unprecedented levels of death, destruction and displacement across Gaza.

“We are fed up,” said Omar al-Darawi, who works at the overwhelmed Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in central Gaza. “We want this war to stop.”

Israel’s bombardment and ground offensive have displaced more than 1.8 million people inside Gaza, nearly 80% of the territory’s population, and most have sought refuge in the south, according to the U.N.

The cease-fire has allowed more aid to be delivered to Gaza, up to 200 trucks a day, but that is less than half what the enclave was importing before the fighting, even as needs have soared. People stocking up on fuel and other basics have had to wait for hours in long lines that form before dawn.

As U.N.-run shelters have overflowed, many have been forced to sleep on the streets outside in cold, rainy weather. The head of the World Health Organization warned Wednesday that “more people could die from disease than bombings.”

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said some 111,000 people have respiratory infections and 75,000 have diarrhea, more than half of them under 5 years old. He, too, urged a sustained truce, calling it “a matter of life and death.”

US military Osprey aircraft with 6 aboard crashes off southern Japan, at least 1 dead

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — A crew member who was recovered from the ocean after a U.S. military Osprey aircraft carrying six people crashed Wednesday off southern Japan has been pronounced dead, coast guard officials said.

The cause of the crash and the status of the five others on the aircraft were not immediately known, coast guard spokesperson Kazuo Ogawa said. Initial reports said the aircraft was carrying eight people, but the U.S. military later revised the number to six, he said.

The coast guard received an emergency call from a fishing boat near the crash site off Yakushima, an island south of Kagoshima on the southern main island of Kyushu, he said.

Coast guard aircraft and patrol boats found one person, who was later pronounced dead at a nearby hospital, and gray-colored debris believed to be from the aircraft, Ogawa said. They were found about 1 kilometer (0.6 mile) off the eastern coast of Yakushima. An empty inflatable life raft was also found in the area.

"The government will confirm information about the damage and place the highest priority on saving lives," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters.

The Osprey is a hybrid aircraft that takes off and lands like a helicopter, but during flight can rotate its propellers forward and cruise much faster like an airplane. Versions of the aircraft are flown by the U.S. Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force.

Ogawa said the aircraft had departed from the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in Yamaguchi prefecture and crashed on its way to Kadena Air Base on Okinawa.

Japanese Vice Defense Minister Hiroyuki Miyazawa said the Osprey had attempted an emergency sea landing.

Kyodo News agency, quoting Kagoshima prefectural officials, said witnesses reported seeing fire coming from the Osprey's left engine.

It said a Japanese military base in Saga in southern Japan decided to postpone planned Osprey flight exercises on Thursday.

U.S. and Japanese officials said the aircraft belonged to Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo. U.S. Air Force officials at Yokota said they were still confirming information and had no immediate comment.

Ospreys have had a number of accidents in the past, including in Japan, where they are deployed at both U.S. and Japanese military bases. In Okinawa, where about half of the 50,000 American troops in Japan are based, Gov. Denny Tamaki told reporters Wednesday that he will ask the U.S. military to suspend all Osprey flights in Japan.

In December 2016, a U.S. Marine Corps Osprey crashed off the Okinawa coast, injuring two of the five crew members and triggering complaints among local residents about the U.S. bases and the Osprey's safety record.

A U.S. Marine Corps Osprey with 23 Marines aboard crashed on a north Australian island in August, killing at least three and critically injuring at least five during a multinational training exercise.

It was the fifth fatal crash of a Marine Osprey since 2012, bringing the death toll at that time to at least 19.

An ailing Pope Francis tells the public he's better than a day earlier but has aides read speeches

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis presided at his weekly audience with the public at the Vatican, but he said that he's still unwell and asked an aide to read his remarks for him on Wednesday, a day after canceling an overseas trip.

Francis, who will turn 87 on Dec. 17 and had part of one lung removed as a young man, coughed near

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the end of the hourlong audience in a Vatican auditorium as he made some final comments, then stood up from his chair on the stage to give his blessing.

With a soft voice, barely above a whisper, Francis told the public that "since I am not well," his reading of his speech wouldn't sound "pretty." He then handed the printed speech to the aide.

But Francis did speak at the end of the audience, voicing his contentment over the truce in fighting between Israel and Hamas, and saying he hopes it continues "so that all the hostages are released and access necessary to permit humanitarian aid" to reach Gaza is provided.

"They lack bread, water, the people are suffering," Francis said.

On Tuesday, the Vatican announced that doctors had asked the pope, who has a lung inflammation causing breathing problems, to skip a three-day trip to a U.N. climate conference, known as COP28, in Dubai. The trip would have begun on Friday and have seen the pontiff return to Rome on Sunday.

The Holy See's announcement of the canceled trip also said that his medical condition had improved, but noted that the pope had the flu and "inflammation of the respiratory airways."

The pontiff, who has made caring for the environment a priority of his papacy, wants in some way to participate in the discussions in the United Arab Emirates, according to the Holy See. It was unclear if Francis might read his address to the climate conference by videoconference or take part in some other form.

The Vatican said the pope had acquiesced to the doctors' request "with great regret."

Before the pope came onstage for the weekly audience, he met with members of Celtic, a soccer team from Glasgow, Scotland, which has strong Catholic roots.

"Excuse me, but with this cold, I cannot speak much, but I am better than yesterday," Francis told team members.

While he let a priest read his remarks, at the end, the pope praised the "beauty of playing together." The pontiff, an avid soccer fan from Argentina, told the players that he would greet them one by one.

"It doesn't matter if we have won or haven't won," Francis told the team, which was eliminated Tuesday night from the Champions League, Europe's elite soccer competition, after losing 2-0 to a Rome team, Lazio.

Toward the end of Wednesday's audience, circus performers came on stage to entertain the pope with an acrobatic act. Francis looked amused as he watched the performers, including acrobats and a juggler. He posed with the group for a photo.

"I want to say thanks for this moment of joy," Francis said, adding that the circus expresses the human dimension of "simple joy," and asking the audience to applaud.

Francis was hospitalized earlier this year for three days for intravenous treatment with antibiotics of what the Vatican then said was bronchitis.

The Vatican said the pontiff in his current illness was receiving antibiotics intravenously. In a televised appearance on Sunday, a cannula for intravenous use was visible on his right hand. A CT scan, performed at a Rome hospital on Nov. 25, had ruled out pneumonia, according to the Vatican.

US life expectancy rose last year, but it remains below its pre-pandemic level

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. life expectancy rose last year — by more than a year — but still isn't close to what it was before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2022 rise was mainly due to the waning pandemic, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention researchers said Wednesday. But even with the large increase, U.S. life expectancy is only back to 77 years, 6 months — about what it was two decades ago.

Life expectancy is an estimate of the average number of years a baby born in a given year might expect to live, assuming the death rates at that time hold constant. The snapshot statistic is considered one of the most important measures of the health of the U.S. population. The 2022 calculations released Wednesday are provisional, and could change a little as the math is finalized.

For decades, U.S. life expectancy rose a little nearly every year. But about a decade ago, the trend flat-

tened and even declined some years — a stall blamed largely on overdose deaths and suicides.

Then came the coronavirus, which has killed more than 1.1 million people in the U.S. since early 2020. The measure of American longevity plunged, dropping from 78 years, 10 months in 2019 to 77 years in 2020, and then to 76 years, 5 months in 2021.

“We basically have lost 20 years of gains,” said the CDC’s Elizabeth Arias.

A decline in COVID-19 deaths drove 2022’s improvement.

In 2021, COVID was the nation’s third leading cause of death (after heart disease and cancer). Last year, it fell to the fourth leading cause. With more than a month left in the current year, preliminary data suggests COVID-19 could end up being the ninth or 10th leading cause of death in 2023.

But the U.S. is battling other issues, including drug overdose deaths and suicides.

The number of U.S. suicides reached an all-time high last year, and the national suicide rate was the highest seen since 1941, according to a second CDC report released Wednesday.

Drug overdose deaths in the U.S. went up slightly last year after two big leaps at the beginning of the pandemic. And through the first six months of this year, the estimated overdose death toll continued to inch up.

U.S. life expectancy also continues to be lower than that of dozens of other countries. It also didn’t rebound as quickly as it did in other places, including France, Italy, Spain and Sweden.

Steven Woolf, a mortality researcher at Virginia Commonwealth University, said he expects the U.S. to eventually get back to the pre-pandemic life expectancy.

But “what I’m trying to say is: That is not a great place to be,” he added.

Some other highlights from the new report:

— Life expectancy increased for both men and women, and for every racial and ethnic group.

— The decline in COVID-19 deaths drove 84% of the increase in life expectancy. The next largest contributor was a decline in heart disease deaths, credited with about 4% of the increase. But experts note that heart disease deaths increased during COVID-19, and both factored into many pandemic-era deaths.

— Changes in life expectancy varied by race and ethnicity. Hispanic Americans and American Indians and Alaska Natives saw life expectancy rise more than two years in 2022. Black life expectancy rose more than 1 1/2 years. Asian American life expectancy rose one year and white life expectancy rose about 10 months.

But the changes are relative, because Hispanic Americans and Native Americans were hit harder at the beginning of COVID-19. Hispanic life expectancy dropped more than four years between 2019 and 2021, and Native American life expectancy fell more than six years.

“A lot of the large increases in life expectancy are coming from the groups that suffered the most from COVID,” said Mark Hayward, a University of Texas sociology professor who researches how different factors affect adult deaths. “They had more to rebound from.”

Charlie Munger, who helped Warren Buffett build investment powerhouse Berkshire Hathaway, dies at 99

By JOSH FUNK AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Charlie Munger, who helped Warren Buffett build Berkshire Hathaway into an investment powerhouse, has died at a California hospital. He was 99.

Berkshire Hathaway said in a statement that Munger’s family told the company that he died Tuesday morning at the hospital just over a month before his 100th birthday.

“Berkshire Hathaway could not have been built to its present status without Charlie’s inspiration, wisdom and participation,” Buffett said in a statement. The famous investor also devoted part of his annual letter to Berkshire shareholders earlier this year to a tribute to Munger.

Munger served as Buffett’s sounding board on investments and business decisions and helped lead Berkshire for more than five decades and served as its longtime vice chairman.

Munger had been using a wheelchair to get around for several years but he had remained mentally

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sharp. That was on display while he fielded hours of questions at the annual meetings of Berkshire and the Daily Journal Corp. earlier this year, and in recent interviews on an investing podcast and also with The Wall Street Journal and CNBC.

Munger preferred to stay in the background and let Buffett be the face of Berkshire, and he often downplayed his contributions to the company's remarkable success.

But Buffett always credited Munger with pushing him beyond his early value investing strategies to buy great businesses at good prices like See's Candy.

"Charlie has taught me a lot about valuing businesses and about human nature," Buffett said in 2008.

Buffett's early successes were based on what he learned from former Columbia University professor Ben Graham. He would buy stock in companies that were selling cheaply for less than their assets were worth, and then, when the market price improved, sell the shares.

Munger and Buffett began buying Berkshire Hathaway shares in 1962 for \$7 and \$8 per share, and they took control of the New England textile mill in 1965. Over time, the two men reshaped Berkshire into the conglomerate it is today by using proceeds from its businesses to buy other companies like Geico insurance and BNSF railroad, while also maintaining a high-profile stock portfolio with major investments in Apple and Coca-Cola. The shares have grown to \$546,869 Tuesday, and many investors became wealthy by holding onto the stock.

Munger gave an extended interview to CNBC earlier this month in preparation for his 100th birthday, and the business network showed clips from that Tuesday. In his characteristic self-deprecating manner, Munger summed up the secret to Berkshire's success as avoiding mistakes and continuing to work well into his and Buffett's 90s.

"We got a little less crazy than most people and a little less stupid than most people and that really helped us," Munger said. He went into more detail about the reasons for Berkshire's success in a special letter he wrote in 2014 to mark 50 years of helping lead the company.

During the entire time they worked together, Buffett and Munger lived more than 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometers) apart, but Buffett said he would call Munger in Los Angeles or Pasadena to consult on every major decision he made.

"He will be greatly missed by many, perhaps by nobody more than Mr. Buffett, who relied heavily on his wisdom and counsel. I was envious of their friendship. They challenged each other yet seemed to really enjoy being in each other's company," Edward Jones analyst Jim Shanahan said.

Berkshire will likely be OK without Munger, CFRA Research analyst Cathy Seifert said, but there's no way to replace the role he played. After all, Munger may have been one of the few people in the world willing to tell Buffett he is wrong about something.

"The most pronounced impact, I think, is going to be over the next several years as we see Buffett navigate without him," Seifert said.

Munger grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, about five blocks away from Buffett's current home, but because Munger is seven years older the two men didn't meet as children, even though both worked at the grocery store Buffett's grandfather and uncle ran.

When the two men met in 1959 at an Omaha dinner party, Munger was practicing law in Southern California and Buffett was running an investment partnership in Omaha.

Buffett and Munger hit it off at that initial meeting and then kept in touch through frequent telephone calls and lengthy letters, according to the biography in the definitive book on Munger called "Poor Charlie's Almanack: The Wit and Wisdom of Charles T. Munger."

The two men shared investment ideas and occasionally bought into the same companies during the 1960s and '70s. They became the two biggest shareholders in one of their common investments, trading stamp maker Blue Chip Stamp Co., and through that acquired See's Candy, the Buffalo News and Wesco. Munger became Berkshire's vice chairman in 1978, and chairman and president of Wesco Financial in 1984.

Berkshire's legions of devoted shareholders who regularly packed an Omaha arena to listen to the two men will remember the curmudgeonly quips Munger offered while answering questions alongside Buffett at the annual meetings.

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Munger was known for repeating "I have nothing to add" after many of Buffett's expansive answers at the Berkshire meetings. But Munger also often offered sharp answers that cut straight to the heart of an issue, such as the advice he offered in 2012 on spotting a good investment.

"If it's got a really high commission on it, don't bother looking at it," he said.

Investor Whitney Tilson has attended the past 26 years of Berkshire Hathaway annual meetings for the chance to learn from Munger and Buffett, who doled out life lessons along with investing tips. Tilson said Munger advised that after achieving some success "your whole approach to life should be how not to screw it up, how not to lose what you've got" because reputation and integrity are the most valuable assets, and both can be lost in a heartbeat.

"In the investment world, it's the same thing is in your personal world, which is your main goal should be avoiding the catastrophic mistakes that could destroy an investment record, that can destroy a life," Tilson said.

Munger famously summed that advice up humorously by saying, "All I want to know is where I'm going to die so (that) I never go there."

Munger was known as a voracious reader and a student of human behavior. He employed a variety of different models borrowed from disciplines like psychology, physics and mathematics to evaluate potential investments.

Munger studied mathematics at the University of Michigan in the 1940s, but dropped out of college to serve as a meteorologist in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

Then he went on to earn a law degree from Harvard University in 1948 even though he hadn't finished an undergraduate degree. He co-founded a law firm in Los Angeles that still bears his name, but decided before long that he preferred investing.

Munger built a fortune worth more than \$2 billion at one point and earned a spot on the list of the richest Americans. Munger's wealth decreased over time as he gave more of his fortune away, but the ever increasing value of Berkshire's stock kept him wealthy.

Munger has given significant gifts to Harvard-Westlake, Stanford University Law School, the University of Michigan and the Huntington Library as well as other charities. He also gave a significant portion of his Berkshire stock to his eight children after his wife died in 2010.

Munger also served on the boards of Good Samaritan Hospital and the private Harvard-Westlake School in Los Angeles. And Munger served on the board of Costco Wholesale Corp. and for years as chairman of the Daily Journal Corp.

Rosalynn Carter set for funeral and burial in the town where she and her husband were born

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

PLAINS, Ga. (AP) — Rosalynn Carter will receive her final farewells Wednesday in the same tiny town where she was born and that served as a home base as she and her husband, former President Jimmy Carter, climbed to the White House and spent four decades thereafter as global humanitarians.

The former first lady, who died Nov. 19 at the age of 96, will have her hometown funeral at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, where she and her husband spent decades welcoming guests when they were not traveling. The service comes on the last of a three-day public tribute that began Monday in nearby Americus and continued in Atlanta.

Rosalynn Carter will be buried in a plot she will one day share with her husband, the 99-year-old former president who first met his wife of 77 years when she was a newborn, a few days after his mother delivered her.

"She was born just a few years after women got the right to vote in this small town in the South where people were still plowing their fields behind mules," grandson Jason Carter said Tuesday during a memorial service in Atlanta.

Coming from that town of about 600 — then and now — Rosalynn Carter became a global figure whose

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"effort changed lives," her grandson said. She was Jimmy Carter's closest political adviser and a political force in her own right, and she advocated for better mental health care in America and brought attention to underappreciated caregivers in millions of U.S. households. She traveled as first lady and afterward to more than 120 countries, concentrating on the developing nations, where she fought disease, famine and abuse of women and girls.

Even so, Jason Carter said his grandmother never stopped being the small-town Southerner whose cooking repertoire leaned heavily on mayonnaise and pimento cheese.

Indeed, the Atlanta portion of the tribute schedule this week has reflected the grandest chapters of Rosalynn Carter's life — lying in repose steps away from The Carter Center that she and her husband co-founded after leaving the White House, then a funeral filled with the music of a symphony chorus and majestic pipe organ as President Joe Biden, former President Bill Clinton and every living U.S. first lady sat in the front row with Jimmy Carter and the couple's four children.

The proceedings Wednesday will underscore the simpler constants in Rosalynn Carter's life. The sanctuary in Plains seats fewer people than the balcony at Glenn Memorial Church where she was honored Tuesday. Maranatha, tucked away at the edge of Plains where the town gives way to cotton fields, has no powerful organ. But there is a wooden cross that Jimmy Carter fashioned in his woodshop and offering plates that he turned on his lathe.

Church members, who are included in the invitation-only congregation, rarely talk of "President Carter" or "Mrs. Carter." They are supporting "Mr. Jimmy" as he grieves for "Ms. Rosalynn."

When the motorcade leaves Maranatha, it will carry Rosalynn Carter for the last time past the old high school where she was valedictorian during World War II, through the commercial district where she became Jimmy's indispensable partner in their peanut business, and past the old train depot where she helped run the winning 1976 presidential campaign.

Barricades are set up along the route for the public to pay their respects.

Her hearse will pass Plains Methodist Church where she married young Navy Lt. Jimmy Carter in 1946. And it will return, finally, to what locals call "the Carter compound," property that includes the former first couple's one-story ranch house, the pond where she fished, the security outposts for the Secret Service agents who protected her for 47 years.

She will be buried in view of the front porch of the home where the 39th American president still lives.

Trump embraces the Jan. 6 rioters on the trail. In court, his lawyers hope to distance him from them

By ERIC TUCKER and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump has embraced the rioters who attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 as patriots, vowed to pardon a large portion of them if he wins a second term and even collaborated on a song with a group of jailed defendants.

In his election interference case in Washington, his lawyers are taking a different tack.

Despite losing a bid to strike from the indictment references to that day's violence, defense attorneys have made clear their strategy involves distancing the former president from the horde of rioters, whom they describe as "independent actors at the Capitol." At the same time, special counsel Jack Smith's team has signaled it will make the case that Trump is responsible for the chaos that unfolded, and point to Trump's continued support of the Jan. 6 defendants to help establish his criminal intent.

The competing arguments highlight the extent to which the riot serves as an inescapable backdrop in a landmark trial set to begin on March 4 in a courthouse just blocks away from the Capitol.

It also reflects a point of separation between Trump and his legal team in the case accusing the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination of conspiring to overturn his 2020 election loss. While Trump's glorification of Jan. 6 defendants may boost him politically as he vies to retake the White House in 2024, his lawyers' approach lays bare a concern that arguments linking him to the rioters could harm him in front of a jury.

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Though Trump is not charged with inciting the riot, any success he hopes to have at trial may turn in part on his defense team's ability to neutralize, or at least minimize, the ghoulish images of the violence that prosecutors cite as a natural extension of the former president's repeated lies about a stolen election.

Much may depend as well on the evidence permitted by U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan. Trump's lawyers have signaled they will try to block prosecutors from presenting at trial evidence related to the actions of the rioters, who shattered windows, beat police officers, and sent lawmakers running into hiding.

"What's likely to happen here is for the judge to strike some type of reasonable balance, which will allow prosecutors to admit some portion of the evidence about the conduct and some of the violence that went on during that day, but will put some kinds of limits on just how far prosecutors can go in presenting evidence of violent conduct," said Robert Mintz, a defense attorney and former federal prosecutor in New Jersey who has followed the case.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing in the case, which he has characterized as politically motivated.

In separate civil cases seeking to hold Trump liable for the Capitol attack, his lawyers have argued he encouraged his supporters to peacefully protest the results of the election and never called for any violence. The federal appeals court in Washington is currently weighing whether Trump can be sued by lawmakers and police officers, who have accused him of inciting the riot.

Trump will stand trial in the same courthouse where roughly 1,200 of his supporters have been charged in the largest investigation in Justice Department history. More than 800 of them have pleaded guilty or been convicted at trial of federal crimes stemming from the riot, including seditious conspiracy and assaulting police officers. About two-thirds of those sentenced so far have received prison time.

The former president often speaks on the campaign trail about what he says is the mistreatment of those defendants, many of whom have argued in court that they were following his instructions to go to Washington and to the Capitol on Jan. 6. Judges and juries, however, have rejected the argument that rioters who said they were acting at Trump's direction can't be held responsible for their crimes.

At a recent rally in Houston, Trump took the stage to a song titled "Justice For All," featuring a choir of jailed Jan. 6 participants and Trump reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. He told the crowd: "I call them the J6 hostages, not prisoners."

In court, however, his lawyers argued that references to the rioters' conduct are irrelevant and that details of that day's violence would only prejudice the jury against their client because they "may wrongfully impute fault to President Trump for these actions." They are also seeking to force prosecutors to hand over the defense statements by prosecutors in Jan. 6 rioters' cases they say undercuts Smith's argument that Trump is responsible for the violence.

Judge Chutkan recently rejected Trump's bid to strike references to the riot from the indictment, saying he "has not satisfied his burden to clearly show that they are prejudicial."

Smith's team has previewed how prosecutors will make the case that Trump used the angry mob as "a tool" in his campaign to pressure then-Vice President Mike Pence and obstruct the certification of Biden's victory in a bid to desperate bid to subvert the will of voters.

Prosecutors have suggested they will show jurors the video of Trump's speech before the riot in which he urged the crowd to go to the Capitol and "fight like hell." They have also indicated they may seek to call rioters as witnesses, saying they will provide testimony that people who were at the Ellipse when Trump told them to "fight" went on to violently attack the Capitol. And they plan to highlight Trump's continued embrace of the rioters to make the case that he intended for the chaos at the Capitol that day.

"There is a robust public record of how rioters' actions at the Capitol on January 6 were extraordinarily violent and destructive, including attacks on law enforcement officers with flag poles, tasers, bear spray, and stolen riot shields and batons," Smith's team wrote in a recent court filing. "Despite this, the defendant has never wavered in his support of January 6 offenders."

Though it's easy to see why the defense team would push to limit such references, it's also clear why prosecutors would see his encouragement and supportive words for the rioters as incriminating evidence that speaks to a criminal intent about his desire to overturn an election he had lost, said Tim Belevetz, a

Washington attorney and former Justice Department prosecutor.

"The charges in the indictment require proof that President Trump acted knowingly and corruptly to overturn the election results," he said, adding that from the Smith's team perspective, "the actions at the Capitol that day are relevant to his state of mind, his intent and motive," he said.

Climate contradictions key at UN talks. Less future warming projected, yet there's more current pain

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

The world is heading for considerably less warming than projected a decade ago, but that good news is overwhelmed by much more pain from current climate change than scientists anticipated, experts said.

That's just one of a set of seemingly contradictory conditions facing climate negotiators who this week gather in Dubai for marathon United Nations talks that include a first-ever assessment of how well the world is doing in its battle against global warming. It's also a conference where one of the central topics will be whether fossil fuels should be phased out, but it will be run by the CEO of an oil company.

Key to the session is the first "global stocktake" on climate, when countries look at what's happened since the 2015 Paris climate agreement, how off-track it is and probably say what's needed to get back on track.

Even though emissions of heat-trapping gases are still rising every year, they're rising more slowly than projected from 2000 to 2015. Before the Paris deal, scientists at Climate Action Tracker and the United Nations Environment Programme were projecting about 3.5 degrees Celsius (6.3 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming over pre-industrial levels based on how much carbon dioxide countries were spewing and what they planned to do about it.

That 3.5 "is totally out of the picture. It will not happen," said NewClimate Institute scientist Niklas Hohne, who works on Climate Action Tracker. "Our number is 2.7 (4.9 degrees Fahrenheit). It could be even lower with pledges and with net zero targets."

UNEP's Emissions Gap projected 2.5 to 2.9 degrees (4.5 to 5.2 degrees Fahrenheit). The global goal is 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Countries are promising and even starting on actions that should eventually reduce emissions, but those cuts haven't materialized yet, said Climate Analytics CEO Bill Hare, also of Climate Action Tracker.

"So things aren't as bad as they could have been or as we worried they might be 20 years ago, but they're still far from where we need to be," said Stanford University climate scientist Rob Jackson, who heads scientists who annual track world emissions in the Global Carbon Project.

When he looks at the impacts of just 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming — about what the world has gotten so far — World Resources Institute CEO Ani Dasgupta said he wants to scream from the rooftops about how "unfair and unequal the devastation is."

"No one who has half a brain can be happy where we are," Dasgupta said.

Scientists underestimated for decades how much destruction just a little warming would cause, several scientists said. And that damage we are feeling far outweighs the gains made in reducing future warming projections, they said.

Hare points to more than 60,000 heat deaths in Europe in 2022. Others point to thousands dead from flooding in Pakistan and Libya.

"The more we know, the more severe impacts we see at lower temperature changes," said Anne Olhoff, chief author of the UNEP Emissions Gap report. "The impacts happen much faster than we thought previously and much harder than we thought previously."

The damage the world is seeing "is scarier to me than almost anything else," Jackson said. "We are seeing the world's weather start to unravel and there's no evidence that that will stop."

When it comes to emissions, the key is what's causing them, experts say, citing fossil fuels.

"I think rightly the fundamental role of fossil fuels will take center stage" at the Dubai negotiations, called "COP" for conference of parties, said Melanie Robinson, climate director for World Resources Institute.

Heading into negotiations, world leaders have crowed about tentative agreements to triple the amount

of renewable energy use and double energy efficiency. But that's not enough, said Johan Rockstrom, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Research.

"It requires the tearing out the poisoned root of the climate crisis: fossil fuels," said United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Guterres, numerous climate scientists and environmental activists all say what's needed is a phase-out — or at the very least a phase-down — of coal, oil and gas.

But the host country runs the negotiations and appoints a president. The host country is the oil state United Arab Emirates and it has named ADNOC oil company CEO Sultan al-Jaber, who also runs a renewable energy company, as the conference president. Al-Jaber and his colleagues say by bringing fossil fuel companies to the table they can get more done and that it may take someone in the industry to get the concessions needed.

Environmental activists don't believe it.

"We cannot trust these politicians and we cannot trust the processes of the COPs because the fossil fuel industries are tightening their grip around their processes and dictating their outcomes," youth environmental activist Greta Thunberg said.

The process is in the hands of parties or nations and because of the COP rules it has to be by consensus or practically unanimous so that makes a phase-out of fossil fuels agreement unlikely, but a "phase-down of fossil fuels is inevitable," said Adnan Amir, the UAE's No.2 official for the climate talks.

"There are many different views on the fossil fuels language from many different parties and how exactly we will land it will be about how we get the right formulation," said COP28 Director-General Majid Al Suwaidi. "I think the sentiment is all the same. The language here that we're seeing between parties is really much closer than we've seen in the past."

New Climate Institute's Hohne said a phase-out is needed but doesn't think Al Jaber will allow it: "He would basically have to agree that the basis of his business model of his company would be eliminated."

Hohne, Hare, Dasgupta and others look at al-Jaber and others' heavy promotion of carbon capture and storage — technology that the scientists say hasn't proven itself -- and they worry that the climate talks will look like something significant has been accomplished when it actually hasn't.

"I think there's a high risk that it (negotiations) ends up in greenwashing, in just looking nice but not leading to much," Hohne said.

Activists and even United Nations officials also said they are disturbed by countries pointing to their efforts to reduce coal and increase renewable energy, as they also approve new oil and gas drilling projects, especially after Russia invaded Ukraine.

A report by the activist Center for Biological Diversity said that while new efforts by the Biden Administration in its Inflation Reduction Act would reduce nearly 1 billion metric tons of carbon emissions by 2030, 17 different oil and gas projects it has approved would add 1.6 billion metric tons of emissions.

"Governments can't keep pledging to cut commitments to cut emissions under the Paris Agreement and then greenlighting huge fossil fuel projects," UNEP Director Inger Andersen said. "This is throwing the global energy transition and humanity's future into question."

Coal power, traffic, waste burning a toxic smog cocktail in Indonesia's Jakarta

By EDNA TARIGAN and FADLAN SYAM Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Against the backdrop of smokestacks from a nearby coal power plant, the sky above Edy Suryana's village stays grey for months at a time, while ashes and the stench of smoke hang in the air.

Suryana has spent more than three decades living in the shadow of the power plant in northern Java, just 60 miles from Jakarta, Indonesia's most populous city. She and other villagers have watched as their loved ones suffered from coughing fits, itchy skin and other health problems that many believe are partly

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because of the ever-present smog.

Pollution is causing a rise in respiratory illnesses and deaths in northern Java, including Jakarta, experts say. Smog in the metropolis of 11.2 million people comes from a combination of the coal-fired plants, vehicle and motorcycle exhaust, trash burning and industries, and many in the city are demanding that the government take action.

Emissions from coal-fired power plants contribute to greenhouse gases that rise into the atmosphere and help heat the planet, a key focus of the United Nations climate conference, or COP28, which begins next week in Dubai.

Countries like Indonesia are struggling to balance rising demand to power industrialization with the need to cut carbon emissions and protect public health.

In 2010 Suryana watched as his sister-in-law died from lung problems. In 2019, the dirty air seemed to worsen his daughter's bout of tuberculosis.

"We've clearly suffered an impact," he told The Associated Press.

Data gathered by IQAir, a Swiss air technology company, regularly ranks Jakarta as one of the most polluted cities in the world. Blue skies are a rare sight and the air often smells like petrol or heavy smoke. Normally healthy residents complain of itchy eyes and sore throats on days when pollution levels soar past levels considered safe by the World Health Organization and Indonesian government.

Air pollution potentially contributed to more than 10,000 deaths and 5,000 hospitalizations in Jakarta in 2019, according to research conducted by Vital Strategies, a global health public health nongovernmental organization that is headquartered in New York.

Pollution levels get and stay so high that it's not safe for people to do outdoor activities without risking short and long-term damage to their health, said Ginanjar Syuhada, a health analyst at Vital Strategies.

But not everyone is able to stay inside.

Misnar, a street vendor who spends his days working outdoors -- and like many Indonesians only uses one name -- went to the hospital on September and spent days in a special air chamber to treat his pneumonia, which was worsened by routinely working outdoors in the polluted air, said Misnar's eldest daughter, Siti Nurzanah.

His doctor recommended that Misnar stay home after he left the hospital. But he makes his living selling items on the street. So his only option is to rely on face masks to help filter the dirty air he breathes.

"I want my father to stay at home. My father is old, 63, the air is bad with his health condition," Nurzanah said.

Acute respiratory infections and pneumonia cases have been increasing, according to a spokesperson from Indonesia's Ministry of Health, who also recognized that Jakarta's air pollution has exceeded WHO safe limits.

Data from the Jakarta Health Agency show that the number of residents treated for pneumonia from January to August was more than double the same period the year before, at 9,192 cases.

The number of patients visiting Jakarta's Persahabatan Hospital, a national respiratory referral hospital, with acute respiratory infections and pneumonia from January to August likewise doubled.

The heavy smog takes a toll on the economy.

"If we calculate it in terms of economic value, it could potentially cause economic losses, from a health perspective, of around 40 trillion rupiah (more than \$25.2 billion) a year," said Syuhada, the health analyst.

"It's working age people who suffer symptoms of prolonged coughs and colds," Feni Fitriani Taufik, a pulmonologist at Persahabatan Hospital told The Associated Press. "They used to have it for only three to five days. Now, after two or three weeks the cough still lingers."

Solving the pollution issue is complicated.

Emissions from burning coal, which is highly polluting but relatively cheap, contribute up to a third of Indonesia's air pollution according to Siti Nurbaya, Indonesia's Environmental and Forestry Minister. The country has pledged to cut emissions in coming decades, but it still provides most of Indonesia's energy needs.

Millions of vehicles and motorcycles spew emissions as workers commute to and within the city. The

Indonesian government has called on residents to use public transportation and has given regulation and financial incentives to residents who want to shift from using gas or diesel-fueled vehicles to electric vehicles.

Public transport remains limited and electric vehicle uptake has been slow: Transportation Minister Budi Karya Sumadi at a national seminar in September said that there were 26,100 electric vehicles and 79,700 electric motorbikes currently operating in Indonesia in 2022— less than one percent of the over 17.2 million registered cars and 125.2 million motorbikes in Indonesia.

The government is pushing to have more than 530,000 electric vehicles on the road in Indonesia by 2030.

To make a real dent in the pollution, the government also needs to tighten regulations for emissions from factories and industries in and near Jakarta, according to research from Vital Strategies.

"They should. Because industry is contributing 30% to 40% of the air pollution in Jakarta, in addition to emissions from transportation," Syuhada said.

Hunter Biden tells Congress he'd testify publicly, but Republicans demand closed-door session

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hunter Biden offered Tuesday to testify publicly before Congress, striking a defiant note in response to a subpoena from Republicans and setting up a potential high-stakes faceoff even as a separate special counsel probe unfolds and his father, President Joe Biden, campaigns for reelection.

The Democratic president's son slammed the subpoena's request for closed-door testimony, saying it can be manipulated. But Rep. James Comer of Kentucky, the chairman of the House Oversight Committee, stood firm, saying Republicans expect "full cooperation" with their original demand for a deposition.

Hunter Biden's lawyer called the inquiry a "fishing expedition," a response in line with the more forceful legal approach he's taken in recent months as congressional Republicans pursue an impeachment inquiry seeking to tie his father to his business dealings.

The early-November subpoenas to Hunter Biden and others from Comer were the inquiry's most aggressive steps yet, testing the reach of congressional oversight powers.

Republicans have so far failed to uncover evidence directly implicating President Biden in any wrongdoing. But questions have arisen about the ethics surrounding the Biden family's international business, and lawmakers insist their evidence paints a troubling picture of "influence peddling" in their business dealings, particularly with clients overseas.

Comer said Tuesday that the president's son could testify publicly in the future, but he expects him to sit for a deposition on Dec. 13 as outlined in the subpoena.

"Hunter Biden is trying to play by his own rules instead of following the rules required of everyone else. That won't stand with House Republicans," he said. Rep. Jim Jordan, chair of the House Judiciary Committee, said Republicans will stick with a private deposition first and then a public hearing. "We're happy he wants to talk," he said.

Hunter Biden, for his part, said his business dealings are legitimate and accused Republicans of seeking to contort his past struggles with addiction. His attorney Abbe Lowell said in Tuesday's letter that his client had previously offered to speak with the committee without a response. He's willing to appear publicly rather than behind closed doors because those sessions can be selectively leaked and used to manipulate the facts, Lowell said.

"If, as you claim, your efforts are important and involve issues that Americans should know about, then let the light shine on these proceedings," Lowell wrote.

Hunter Biden offered to appear on Dec. 13, the date named in the subpoena, or another day next month. Republicans have also spoken with an attorney for his uncle James Biden to determine a date for his subpoenaed testimony, Jordan said. The subpoenas to the Biden family members and others, including former business associate Rob Walker, are bitterly opposed by Democrats, and the White House has called for them to be withdrawn.

"House Republicans should really focus on American families instead of the president's family. That's what Americans want to see," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Tuesday.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, the top Democrat on the Oversight Committee, blasted the GOP rejection of Hunter Biden's offer to testify publicly on Dec. 13, saying, "What the Republicans fear most is sunlight and the truth."

Hunter Biden's response comes as he pushes back against his detractors in court, pursuing a flurry of lawsuits against Republican allies of former President Donald Trump who have traded and passed around private data from a laptop that purportedly belonged to him.

President Biden, for his part, has had little to say about his son's legal woes beyond that Hunter did nothing wrong and he loves his son. The White House strategy has generally been to keep the elder Biden focused on governing and voters focused on his policy achievements.

That could prove more difficult as Hunter Biden continues to fight both the congressional probe and a criminal case into the next year, and there are indications it's politically fraught territory for the president.

An October poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 35% of U.S. adults believe Joe Biden personally has done something illegal with regard to the business dealings of his son. An additional 33% say the president acted unethically but did not violate the law. Just 30% say Joe Biden did nothing wrong.

Hunter Biden is charged with three firearms felonies related to the 2018 purchase of a gun during a period he has acknowledged being addicted to drugs. The case was filed after an expected plea deal on tax evasion and gun charges imploded during a July hearing.

No new tax charges have been filed, but the Justice Department special counsel overseeing the long-running investigation has indicated they are possible in California, where he now lives.

41 rescued workers emerge dazed and smiling after 17 days trapped in collapsed road tunnel in India

UTTARKASHI, India (AP) — Forty-one construction workers emerged dazed and smiling late Tuesday from a collapsed tunnel where they had been stranded the last 17 days — a happy ending to an ordeal that had gripped India and involved a massive rescue operation that overcame several setbacks.

Locals, relatives and government officials erupted in joy, set off firecrackers and shouted "Bharat Mata ki Jai" — Hindi for "Long live mother India" — as happy workers walked out after receiving a brief checkup by doctors. Officials hung garlands around their necks as the crowd cheered.

Nitin Gadkari, the country's minister of road transport and highways, said in a video posted on the social media platform X that he was "completely relieved and happy" that all of the workers were rescued from the Silkyara Tunnel in Uttarkashi, a town in India's northern state of Uttarakhand.

"This was a well-coordinated effort by multiple agencies, marking one of the most significant rescue operations in recent years," Gadkari said.

No one was seriously injured or killed when a landslide caused a section of the 4.5-kilometer (2.8-mile) tunnel about 200 meters (220 yards) from the entrance to collapse early on the morning of Nov. 12. The workers were finishing their shifts and many were likely looking forward to celebrating Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, that day.

The workers had light in the collapsed tunnel, and since early in their ordeal, they were provided with food, water and oxygen through pipes. More than a dozen doctors, including psychiatrists, were also at the site monitoring their health.

Officials said all 41 workers made it through the ordeal in good health. Before emerging to the cameras and crowds and being whisked away in ambulances, each was given a checkup at a makeshift medical camp in the tunnel entrance.

The rescue was expected to be straightforward and last only a few days, but a series of setbacks led to its expansion and to the workers being trapped for more than two weeks.

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During the final stretch, about a dozen rescuers took turns digging through rocks and debris overnight Monday into Tuesday using hand-held drilling tools, said Kirti Panwar, a state government spokesperson.

Rescuers resorted to digging by hand after the machine they had been using broke down Friday. The machine had bored through about 47 meters (51 yards) of the roughly 57-60 meters (62-66 yards) needed to reach the workers.

The workers were extracted one by one on a wheeled stretcher that was pulled through a roughly meter-wide (yard-wide) tunnel of welded pipes that crews had pushed through the dug-out space.

Devender, a rescuer who only gave his first name, told the New Delhi Television channel that "the trapped workers were overjoyed when they spotted us in the tunnel. Some rushed toward me and hugged me."

Most of the workers were migrant laborers from throughout the country, and many of their families traveled to the site and camped out for days in hopes of seeing them rescued.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to some of the rescued workers over the phone and asked about their wellbeing, the Press Trust of India news agency reported. He said their courage and patience were an inspiration to everyone, and he wished them good health.

He also praised the many people who took part in the rescue.

"Everyone involved in the mission has created an amazing example of humanity and teamwork," Modi said.

The tunnel the workers were building was designed as part of the Chardham all-weather road, which will connect various Hindu pilgrimage sites. Some experts say the project, a flagship initiative of the federal government, will exacerbate fragile conditions in the upper Himalayas, where several towns are built atop landslide debris.

Large numbers of pilgrims and tourists visit Uttarakhand's many Hindu temples, with the number increasing over the years because of the continued construction of buildings and roadways.

Mark Cuban working on \$3.5B sale of Dallas Mavericks to Sands casino family, AP source says

By TIM REYNOLDS and SCHUYLER DIXON AP Sports Writers

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban is working on a deal to sell a majority stake in the NBA franchise to the family that runs the Las Vegas Sands casino company, a person with knowledge of the talks said Tuesday night.

The agreement would be in the valuation range of \$3.5 billion and take weeks for the league to process, according to the person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because details weren't being made public.

Cuban would retain control of basketball operations in the deal. NBA reporter Marc Stein was the first to report the potential sale.

The company controlled by Miriam Adelson, widow of casino magnate Sheldon Adelson, announced earlier Tuesday it was selling \$2 billion of her shares to buy an unspecified professional sports team.

Cuban said almost a year ago he was interested in partnering with Sands. He has been a proponent of legalizing gambling in Texas, an issue that didn't make it out of the state Legislature in a biennial session that ended earlier this year.

The 65-year-old Cuban, who just announced he was leaving the popular business TV program "Shark Tank" after a 16th season next year, rose to fame quickly after buying the Mavericks in 2000.

Dallas was one of the worst franchises in pro sports in the 1990s, but turned into one of the best under Cuban, with a lot of help from star forward Dirk Nowitzki.

Miriam Adelson is the controlling shareholder of Las Vegas Sands Corp., a publicly traded Las Vegas company that built the Venetian and Palazzo resorts but now only has casino operations in Macau and Singapore. Sheldon Adelson, the billionaire founder and owner of Las Vegas Sands, died in 2021 at 87.

The company revealed the sale of \$2 billion in stock in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The filing identified Adelson and the Miriam Adelson Trust as sellers but didn't specify a team, league or location.

If the entirety of the \$2 billion goes toward the purchase, it would mean Adelson could be acquiring at least 57% of the NBA team — based on the \$3.5 billion valuation.

The 78-year-old Adelson, who is a medical doctor, will retain 51.3% of company shares following the sale, according to the filing. The family also owns Nevada's largest newspaper, the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

"We have been advised by the selling stockholders that they currently intend to use the net proceeds from this offering, along with additional cash on hand, to fund the purchase of a majority interest in a professional sports franchise ... subject to customary league approvals," the company said in the SEC filing.

The vetting process for new owners in the NBA typically takes at least several weeks, and then approval must be granted by the league's Board of Governors.

Cuban also said late last year he wanted to build a new arena in downtown Dallas that would also be a casino resort, if Texas does legalize gambling.

Supporters of legalized gambling in Texas hoped to get a constitutional amendment to voters during the most recent session, but the measure didn't get far in the legislative process. The Republican-controlled Legislature doesn't meet in regular session again until 2025.

Cuban isn't likely to disappear from the spotlight since he will retain control of basketball operations. In fact, efforts to legalize gambling in Texas could end up raising the profile of a billionaire who has been highly visible in sports, business and finance for nearly 25 years.

A self-professed basketball junkie who graduated from Indiana University, Cuban is almost always court-side for Mavericks games. He has always been outspoken, too, compiling millions in fines as owner. Many of his tirades were directed at officials.

Was the Vermont shooting of 3 men of Palestinian descent a hate crime? Under state law it might be

By MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — As authorities in Vermont push forward with their investigation of the weekend shooting of three college students of Palestinian descent, they are weighing whether to treat the violence as a hate crime.

The three young men were shot and seriously injured Saturday while walking near the University of Vermont campus in Burlington. The victims were speaking in a mix of English and Arabic and two of them were also wearing the black-and-white Palestinian keffiyeh scarves, police said. The suspect, a white man in his 40s, fired at them with a handgun, police said.

Jason Eaton, 48, was arrested Sunday and has pleaded not guilty to three counts of attempted murder.

The shooting has rocked the local community and comes amid an increase in threats against Jewish, Muslim and Arab communities across the U.S. since the Israel-Hamas war began.

But whether it can be declared a hate crime is complicated, especially since authorities have said they don't yet have evidence to call it that.

WHAT DOES STATE LAW SAY?

Vermont has a hate crimes statute that applies to someone whose crime is motivated "in whole or in part, by the victim's actual or perceived protected category." That includes race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, age, service in the U.S. Armed Forces or the National Guard and disability.

Prosecutors can seek increased penalties for hate crimes, including longer jail sentences and higher fines.

A person cannot be convicted of a hate crime alone, but the charge would enhance penalties — including longer jail sentences and higher fines — for related crimes that are found to be motivated by hate, ACLU of Vermont Advocacy Director Falko Schilling said. He believes the state hate crimes statute could apply in this case.

"Based on the information that is available, it appears this crime might have been motivated by the victims' identity and, if that is true, it would be appropriate to seek the hate crimes enhancement," Schilling said, adding that the motive behind the shooting will be critical in determining whether this is treated as a hate crime.

Still, Chittenden County State's attorney Sarah George told reporters on Monday that the state doesn't "yet have evidence to support a hate crime enhancement," which under Vermont law must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

"I do want to be clear that there is no question this was a hateful act," she said.

WHAT CONSEQUENCES COULD EATON FACE?

If Eaton is charged with a hate crime under state law, it would likely be in addition to the three charges of attempted murder he already faces. George described the charges as "life felonies," which carry a sentence of 20 years to life.

For lesser charges such as crimes carrying less than five years in jail, the statute calls for an additional five years or a fine of not more than \$10,000 — or both. But for more serious charges like attempted murder, the court would most likely consider a sentence on the hate crime charges as part of the overall sentence.

The U.S. Department of Justice has said it also is investigating the case and weighing whether to bring federal civil rights charges. A Justice Department spokesperson declined to comment when asked what kind of a sentence federal charges might carry.

Loaded field of CFP contenders for last 4-team playoff fuels championship weekend drama

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

The four-team College Football Playoff is going out with the most crowded field of contenders and the most consequential championship weekend in the 10-year history of the system.

Eight teams have at least a glimmer of hope to make the field. Yes, that means you, too, Ohio State.

The penultimate CFP rankings were released Tuesday. Georgia remained No. 1. Michigan moved up a spot to second after beating Ohio State. Unbeaten Washington was third, followed by unbeaten Florida State.

Oregon remained fifth, Ohio State slipped to No. 6, Texas was seventh and Alabama eighth.

The field for the playoff will be announced Sunday.

Determining which teams are CFP contenders heading into championship weekend is a bit subjective. More often than not a Power Five team with only one loss going into the conference title games — regardless of whether that team is playing — has to be considered alive.

No team with two losses has ever made the CFP, but at least a couple of times a team with two losses had to be considered in contention when it played for a conference title. Auburn in 2017 is the most obvious example.

That season was one of the few where championship weekend had multiple games matching CFP contenders. More commonly, championship weekend hasn't been about teams playing their way into the field as much as watching for whether teams might play their way out.

Last season, when Southern California lost the Pac-12 championship game on Friday night, the field was practically set before Saturday's games kicked off.

Georgia and Michigan won their conferences to stay perfect and lock down the top two seeds, but would have gotten in regardless. TCU lost the Big 12 title game and got in. Ohio State slipped in the back door without playing.

Alabama coach Nick Saban politicked for the Tide to get in with two losses, but there was no real drama heading into selection Sunday.

This year, every conference championship has at least one CFP contender. The Pac-12 and the SEC each have two. Two-time defending champion Georgia might be able to lose to Alabama and make the field, as it did on the way to the national title in 2021, but that is far from a guarantee.

There are multiple scenarios that could play out this weekend and leave the 13-member CFP selection committee facing almost impossible choices Saturday night.

With such strong teams on top of college football this season, it would seem to be a perfect time to have a 12-team playoff to accommodate them all. That's coming next year.

Though an argument could be made if there were more seasons like this that produced dramatic cham-

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pionship weekends and intrigue heading into the selection Sunday, maybe the CFP would not have needed to expand.

Here are the paths to the final four for the contenders.

Georgia, Michigan, Washington

With perfect records, it is simple: win and you're in.

Being unbeaten provides some hope of backing in after a loss. Especially for the Bulldogs, winners of 29 straight games.

Florida State

The Seminoles are perfect and in playoff position heading into their Atlantic Coast Conference title game against Louisville, but an injury to star quarterback Jordan Travis creates some uncertainty.

"You want to be pushing and playing your best ball in November so you can go into December and have these opportunities," Florida State coach Mike Norvell said.

Leaving an unbeaten Power Five conference champion out of the playoff would be unprecedented — and some would say unfair. But the committee is instructed to judge the team as it is entering the postseason.

If Florida State muddles past Louisville and Alabama beats Georgia in a competitive game, leaving the two-time defending national champion 12-1 but without a conference title, the committee will face this question: Are the Tate Rodemaker-led Seminoles better than the Bulldogs?

"It's more than just one player, but it's a different team without Travis," selection committee chairman Boo Corrigan said on ESPN.

Oregon, Texas, Alabama

Life is more complicated for these three 11-1 teams playing for their conference titles.

The Ducks seem to have the clearest path. The committee has had them ahead of Texas for weeks, so it would stand to reason if they beat Washington and win the Pac-12 they are good to go.

Texas fans don't want to hear that and have been frustrated with the Longhorns' placement behind Oregon. It's a fair complaint, but unlikely to change now with Texas playing Oklahoma State (9-3) in the Big 12 title game and Oregon getting a chance to avenge its loss to Washington.

Texas might also have a case in a comparison against the current version of Florida State. And if Alabama can pull the upset in the SEC, that could help the 'Horns, who beat the Tide in Tuscaloosa in September. Right?

Well ... the SEC champion has never been left out of the playoff and having one that stops Georgia's 29-game winning streak be the first would be surprising.

"This is one of the most competitive venues in college football," Saban said of the SEC championship game. "We're obviously playing one of the best team's in college football. If not the best team in college football."

Among these three, Texas seems most likely to get the squeeze, and Alabama is the weekend's biggest wild card.

A Tide victory makes everything more complicated.

OHIO STATE

In a world where Florida State, Oregon, Texas and Alabama lose, the Buckeyes look like winners.

Sports Illustrated is the latest media company damaged by an AI experiment gone wrong

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Computer-generated writers ... writing computer-generated stories?

Sports Illustrated is the latest media company to see its reputation damaged by being less than forthcoming — if not outright dishonest — about who or what is writing its stories at the dawn of the artificial intelligence age.

The once-powerful publication said it was firing a company that produced articles for its website written under the byline of authors who apparently don't exist. But it denied a published report that stories

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themselves were written by an artificial intelligence tool.

Earlier this year, experiments with AI went awry at both the Gannett newspaper chain and the CNET technology website. Many companies are testing the new technology at a time when human workers fear it could cost jobs. But the process is fraught in journalism, which builds and markets its values-based products around the notions of truth and transparency.

While there's nothing wrong in media companies experimenting with artificial intelligence, "the mistake is in trying to hide it, and in doing it poorly," said Tom Rosenstiel, a University of Maryland professor who teaches journalism ethics.

"If you want to be in the truth-telling business, which journalists claim they do, you shouldn't tell lies," Rosenstiel said. "A secret is a form of lying."

CONFLICTING ACCOUNTS OF WHAT HAPPENED

Sports Illustrated, now run as a website and once-monthly publication by the Arena Group, at one time was a weekly in the Time Inc. stable of magazines known for its sterling writing. "Its ambitions were grand," said Jeff Jarvis, author of "Magazine," a book he describes as an elegy for the industry.

On Monday, the Futurism website reported that Sports Illustrated used stories for product reviews that had authors it could not identify. Futurism found a picture of one author listed, Drew Ortiz, on a website that sells AI-generated portraits.

The magazine's author profile said that "Drew has spent much of his life outdoors, and is excited to guide you through his never-ending list of the best products to keep you from falling to the perils of nature."

Upon questioning Sports Illustrated, Futurism said all of the authors with AI-generated portraits disappeared from the magazine's website. No explanation was offered.

Futurism quoted an unnamed person at the magazine who said artificial intelligence was used in the creation of some content as well — "no matter how much they say that it's not."

Sports Illustrated said the articles in question were created by a third-party company, AdVon Commerce, which assured the magazine that they were written and edited by humans. AdVon had its writers use a pen name, "actions we don't condone," Sports Illustrated said.

"We are removing the content while our internal investigation continues and have since ended the partnership," the magazine said. A message to AdVon wasn't immediately returned on Tuesday.

In a statement, the Sports Illustrated Union said it was horrified by the Futurism story.

"We demand answers and transparency from Arena group management about what exactly has been published under the SI name," the union said. "We demand the company commit to adhering to basic journalistic standards, including not publishing computer-written stories by fake people."

NOT THE FIRST SUCH SITUATION

Gannett paused an experiment at some of its newspapers this summer in which AI was used to generate articles on high school sports events, after errors were discovered. The articles carried the byline "LedeAI."

Some of the unpleasant publicity that resulted might have been avoided if the newspapers had been explicit about the role of technology, and how it helped create articles that journalists might not have been available to do, Jarvis said. Gannett said a lack of staff had nothing to do with the experiment.

This past winter, it was reported that CNET had used AI to create explanatory news articles about financial service topics attributed to "CNET Money Staff." The only way for readers to learn that technology was involved in the writing was to click on that author attribution.

Only after its experiment was discovered and written about by other publications did CNET discuss it with readers. In a note, then-editor Connie Guglielmo said that 77 machine-generated stories were posted, and that several required corrections. The site subsequently made it more clear when AI is being used in story creation.

"The process may not always be easy or pretty, but we're going to continue embracing it, and any new technology that we believe makes life better," Guglielmo wrote.

Other companies have been more up front about their experiments. BuzzFeed, for example, attributed a travel article on Santa Barbara, Calif., to writer Emma Heegar and Buzzy the Robot, "our creative AI assistant."

"We'll be developing content that is AI-native — cool new things that you couldn't do at all without AI — and things that are enhanced by AI but created by humans," BuzzFeed said in a note to readers.

The Associated Press has been using technology to assist in articles about financial earnings reports since 2014, and more recently in some sports stories. At the end of each such story is a note that explains technology's role in its production, a spokeswoman said.

For instance, a short article about an upcoming NBA matchup earlier this month had this note at the end: "The Associated Press created this story using technology provided by Data Skrive and data from Sportradar."

Rosalynn Carter honored by family, friends, first ladies and presidents, including husband Jimmy

By BILL BARROW and ANDREW DeMILLO Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Rosalynn Carter was remembered Tuesday as a former U.S. first lady who leveraged her fierce intellect and political power to put her deep Christian faith into action by always helping others, especially those who needed it most.

A gathering of first ladies and presidents — including her 99-year-old husband Jimmy Carter — joined other political figures in tribute. But a parade of speakers said her global stature wasn't what defined her.

"She had met kings and queens, presidents, others in authority, powerful corporate leaders and celebrities," her son James Earl "Chip" Carter III said. "She said the people that she felt the most comfortable with and the people she enjoyed being with the most were those that lived in absolute abject poverty, the ones without adequate housing, without a proper diet and without access to health care."

The service was held during three days of events celebrating the humanitarian who died Nov. 19 at home in Plains, Georgia, at the age of 96. Tributes began Monday in the Carters' native Sumter County and continued at Glenn Memorial Church in Atlanta. Her funeral and burial are planned for Wednesday in her small hometown.

Jimmy Carter, who is 10 months into home hospice care, watched from his wheelchair, reclining and covered by a blanket featuring his wife's face. Chip and his sister, Amy, held their father's hands and were flanked by their brothers, Jeff and Jack.

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden, the Carters' longtime friends, joined them in the front row, along with former President Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the other living former first ladies, Melania Trump, Michelle Obama and Laura Bush. Vice President Kamala Harris and second gentleman Doug Emhoff paid their respects, as did Georgia's U.S. senators and Gov. Brian Kemp and his wife, Marty.

More than 1,000 people, including a sizeable contingent of Secret Service agents, filled the sanctuary. Former Presidents Donald Trump, Barack Obama and George W. Bush were invited but did not attend.

"My mother was the glue that held our family together through the ups and downs and thicks and thins of our family's politics," Chip Carter said.

The pews filled with political power players, but front and center were her children and dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren — all surrounding Jimmy Carter, her partner of 77 years.

"Their partnership and love story was a defining feature of her life," said Amy Carter, who read a love note her father wrote to her mother 75 years ago.

Journalist Judy Woodruff recalled Rosalynn Carter lobbying lawmakers, campaigning separately from her husband, attending Cabinet meetings and playing key roles — including being the first presidential adviser to suggest Camp David as a negotiating place for Egypt's Anwar Sadat and Israel's Menachem Begin. Those negotiations led to historic peace accords between the two countries.

"Without Rosalynn Carter, I don't believe there would have been a President Carter," Woodruff said.

It was Jimmy Carter's first public appearance since he entered hospice care, other than a brief ride with Rosalynn in September's Plains Peanut Festival parade, where they were visible only through the

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open windows of a Secret Service vehicle. He was with his wife during her final hours but did not appear publicly during earlier events at her alma mater, Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, and at his presidential library.

"He never wants to be very far from her," Carter Center CEO Paige Alexander said. The trip to Atlanta was "hard" for the former president but "this is her last trip up and it's probably his, too," she added. "He's determined."

The Carters married in 1946 and became the longest-married presidential couple in U.S. history. Jimmy Carter is the longest-lived president; Rosalynn Carter was the second-longest lived first lady, trailing only Bess Truman, who died at 97.

Family members described how Rosalynn Carter went from growing up in a small town where she had never spoken to a group larger than her Sunday school class to being a global figure who visited more than 120 countries.

Kathryn Cade, who stayed on as a close adviser as Rosalynn Carter helped build The Carter Center and its global reach, called Rosalynn Carter's time as first lady "really just one chapter in a life that was about caring for others."

Praised for her half-century of advocating for better mental health care in America and reducing stigmas attached to mental illness, she brought attention to the tens of millions of people who work as unpaid caregivers in U.S. households and was acclaimed for how integral she was to her husband's political rise and his terms as Georgia's governor and the 39th president.

Chip Carter recalled how his mom got him into rehab for drug and alcohol addiction.

"My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever met," he said. "And pretty to look at, too."

Jason Carter, her grandson, got laughs as he acknowledged the "remarkable sisterhood" of the first ladies in attendance, and then greeted the "lovely husbands" of Hillary Clinton and Jill Biden.

"She was so down to earth, y'all, it was amazing," Jason Carter said as he shared family stories, including the time when his grandmother made pimento cheese sandwiches and handed them out on a Delta flight.

"She loved people," he said. "She was a cool grandma."

Country music stars Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood, family friends of the Carters and their successors as Habitat for Humanity ambassadors, performed a rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine" toward the end of the service.

Though the president didn't speak at the service, he and his wife "shared a private moment" with Jimmy Carter beforehand, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said.

Joe and Jill Biden "were able to express their condolences directly to the Carter family," Jean-Pierre said, adding that the Bidens hold "the entire Carter family close to their hearts."

Rosalynn Carter's funeral will take place Wednesday in Plains, with an invitation-only service at Maranatha Baptist Church, where the Carters have been members since returning to Georgia after his presidency. She will be buried after a private graveside service in a plot the couple will share, visible from the front porch of the home they built before Jimmy Carter's first political campaign in 1962.

With deadline looming, diplomats seek to extend Gaza truce; more hostages, prisoners are freed

By WAFAA SHURAFU, JACK JEFFERY and LEE KEATH Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Hamas and Israel released more hostages and prisoners under terms of a fragile cease-fire that held for a fifth day Tuesday as international mediators in Qatar worked to extend the truce. The United States urged Israel to better protect Palestinian civilians in Gaza if it follows through on its promise to resume the war.

In the latest swap since the cease-fire began Friday, Israel said 10 of its citizens and two Thai nationals were freed by Hamas and had been returned to Israel. Soon after, Israel released 30 Palestinian prisoners. The truce is due to end after one more exchange Wednesday night.

For the first time, Israel and Hamas blamed each other for an exchange of fire between troops and

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militants in northern Gaza. There was no indication it would endanger the truce, which has enabled humanitarian aid to flow into Gaza.

CIA director William Burns and David Barnea, who heads Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, were in Qatar, a key mediator with Hamas, to discuss extending the cease-fire and releasing more hostages, a diplomat said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was set to visit the region this week.

Israel has vowed to resume the war to end Hamas' 16-year rule in Gaza and crush its military capabilities once it's clear that no more hostages will be freed under the deal. That would almost certainly require expanding its ground offensive from northern Gaza to the south, where most of Gaza's population of 2.3 million is now crowded. It's unclear where they would go if Israel does so as Egypt has refused to accept refugees and Israel has sealed its border.

The Biden administration told Israel it must avoid "significant further displacement" of and mass casualties among Palestinian civilians if it resumes its offensive, and that it must operate with more precision in southern Gaza than it has in the north, according to U.S. officials. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House.

Hamas and other militants still hold about 160 hostages out of 240 seized in their Oct. 7 assault into southern Israel that ignited the war. Israel has said it is willing to extend the cease-fire by one day for every 10 additional hostages that Hamas releases, according to the deal brokered by the Qatar, Egypt and the U.S. But Hamas is expected to make much higher demands for the release of captive Israeli soldiers.

HOSTAGES AND PRISONERS RELEASED

The latest group of Israeli hostages freed from Gaza — nine women and a 17-year-old — was flown to hospitals in Israel, the Israeli military said. The hostages were handed over on a street crowded with cheering people, AP video showed. The 17-year-old girl could be seen walking alongside Hamas militants to a waiting Red Cross Jeep with her small, white-haired dog named Bella.

Tuesday's hostage release brought to 60 the number of Israelis freed during the truce. An additional 21 hostages — 19 Thais, one Filipino and one Russian-Israeli — have been released in separate negotiations since the truce began.

Before the truce, Hamas released four Israeli hostages, and the Israeli army rescued one. Two other hostages were found dead in Gaza.

The latest swap brought to 180 the number of Palestinian women and teenagers freed from Israeli prisons. Most have been teenagers accused of throwing stones and firebombs during confrontations with Israeli forces. Several released women were convicted by Israeli military courts of attempting to carry out deadly attacks.

The prisoners are widely seen by Palestinians as heroes resisting occupation. Hundreds of Palestinians welcomed the prisoners freed Tuesday in the occupied West Bank.

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

In one of the first interviews with a freed hostage, 78-year-old Ruti Munder told Israel's Channel 13 television that she was initially fed well in captivity but that conditions worsened as shortages took hold. She said she was kept in a "suffocating" room and slept on plastic chairs with a sheet for nearly 50 days.

NORTHERN GAZA IN RUINS

The cease-fire has allowed residents who remained in Gaza City and other parts of the north to venture out to survey the destruction and try to locate and bury relatives.

In northern Gaza's Jabaliya refugee camp, which Israel bombarded heavily for weeks and which troops surrounded in heavy fighting with militants, "you come across whole city blocks that have been demolished, just a pancake of concrete layered as buildings have collapsed," said Thomas White, the Gaza director for the U.N. agency caring for Palestinian refugees.

The agency delivered six trucks of aid to the camp, including supplies for a medical center. Footage of White's visit showed streets lined with destroyed buildings, cars, and piles of rubble.

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A U.N.-led aid consortium estimates that, across Gaza, over 234,000 homes have been damaged and 46,000 completely destroyed, amounting to around 60% of the territory's housing stock. In the north, the destruction "severely compromises the ability to meet basic requirements to sustain life," it said.

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.

At least 77 soldiers have been killed in Israel's ground offensive. Israel says it has killed thousands of militants, without providing evidence.

Authorities were able to reopen the dialysis department at Gaza City's Shifa hospital after medical teams brought a small generator. Around 20 patients there had gone two or three weeks without dialysis, Dr. Mutasim Salah told Al-Jazeera TV from the hospital.

Two weeks ago, Israeli forces seized the hospital, which Israel contended was used as a major base by Hamas, an accusation that the group and hospital staff deny.

FEARS FOR THE SOUTH

Israel's bombardment and ground offensive have displaced more than 1.8 million people, nearly 80% of Gaza's population, and most have sought refuge in the south, according to the U.N. Hundreds of thousands of people have packed into U.N.-run schools and other facilities, with many forced to sleep on the streets outside because of overcrowding. Rain and cold winds sweeping across Gaza have made conditions even more miserable.

On Tuesday, Hanan Tayeh returned to her destroyed home in the central town of Johor al-Deek, searching for any belongings.

"I came to get anything for my daughters. Winter has come, and I have nothing for them to wear," she said.

The cease-fire has allowed increased aid delivered by 160 to 200 trucks a day into Gaza, bringing desperately needed food, water and medicine, as well as fuel for homes, hospitals and water treatment plants. Still, it is less than half what Gaza was importing before the fighting, even as humanitarian needs have soared.

Juliette Toma, a spokesperson for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, said people come to shelters asking for heavy clothes, mattresses and blankets, and that some are sleeping in damaged vehicles.

"The needs are overwhelming," she told The Associated Press. "They lost everything, and they need everything."

White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said Tuesday that the U.S. has airlifted over 27 tons of Gaza-bound medical items and food aid to a staging area in Egypt. Two more airlifts are planned in the coming days, Sullivan said.

Elevator plummets at a platinum mine in South Africa, killing 11 workers and injuring 75

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — An elevator suddenly dropped around 200 meters (656 feet) while carrying workers to the surface in a platinum mine in South Africa, killing 11 and injuring 75 — 14 of them critically, the mine operator said Tuesday.

It happened Monday evening at the end of the workers' shift at a mine in the northern city of Rustenburg. All the injured workers were hospitalized.

Mine operator Impala Platinum Holdings CEO Nico Muller said in a statement it was "the darkest day in the history of Implats." He said an investigation had begun into what caused the elevator to drop and the mine had suspended all operations on Tuesday.

Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Gwede Mantashe said there would be a government investigation into the tragedy. He visited the mine and was briefed, the government said.

All 86 workers killed or injured were in the elevator, Implats spokesperson Johan Theron said. Some of

the injured had "serious compact fractures," he said. Theron said the elevator dropped approximately 200 meters, though that was an early estimate. He called it a highly unusual accident.

The huge elevator has three levels, each with the capacity to hold 35 workers, Implats said. The mine shaft is approximately 1 kilometer (0.6 miles) deep.

South Africa is the world's largest producer of platinum. The Impala Rustenburg mine has nine shafts and was the world's largest platinum mine by production last year.

The country had 49 fatalities from all mining accidents in 2022, down from 74 the year before. Deaths from South African mining accidents have steadily decreased from nearly 300 in the year 2000, according to government figures.

Why it took 17 days for rescuers in India to get to 41 workers trapped in a mountain tunnel

By SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — The rescue mission was expected to last only a few days. Instead, it took 17 days to reach 41 construction workers who were trapped when a landslide collapsed a mountain tunnel in northern India earlier this month.

The excruciating wait finally ended at nightfall on Tuesday, as temperatures dropped near the accident site in the mountainous state of Uttarakhand. Everyone was pulled out alive.

But beyond the jubilation and relief, questions remain as to why what became one of the most significant and complicated rescue operations in India's recent history — aided by international tunneling experts and spearheaded by multiple rescue agencies — took so long.

HOW THE RESCUE UNFOLDED

News of the trapped workers spread fast after a Nov. 12 early morning landslide caused a portion of the 4.5-kilometer (2.8-mile) Silkyara Tunnel they were building near the town of Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand state to collapse about 200 meters (650 feet) from the entrance.

No one was seriously injured or killed in the collapse but the engineers on the team knew they had their task cut out for them. They had to penetrate through rocks and metal to reach the workers trapped behind a wall of nearly 60 meters (197 feet) of debris.

At first, the rescuers tried to reach the trapped workers — all poor migrant laborers from across the country — by drilling horizontally through the debris, in a straight line, using excavators and drilling machines. But the drilling machine broke down multiple times, frustrating the efforts of the rescuers who were working 24-hour shifts.

They went on digging horizontally by replacing the machine, and 10 days into the mission, a small camera was sent through a narrow pipe that captured initial images of the workers stuck in the tunnel. All were doing OK and hopes for their rescue grew.

MORE SETBACKS ALONG THE WAY

The rescuers saw their hopes dashed on the thirteenth day of the operation, when their drilling machine broke down beyond repair. They had less than 20 meters (66 feet) to go in the digging.

The families of the trapped workers grew anxious. Some were starting to panic.

The rescuers put an alternate plan in motion and began drilling from the top of the mountain — a path that required digging nearly twice the distance of the horizontal shaft.

The trapped workers, who were in the meantime being supplied with food and oxygen through a narrower pipe, were at the risk of falling sick. Officials who kept watch near the tunnel, and even local residents, began offering prayers at a small makeshift Hindu temple in the area, seeking divine help.

The clock was ticking and the engineers realized they could not give up on the horizontal drilling path, even as the vertical drilling began.

On Monday, they called in a team of miners to dig by hand the final stretch of the path and clear the way for a passageway to be made of welded metal pipes. Once the pipes were in place, rescuers pushed through the dirt and rocks.

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By Tuesday, they had drilled through more than 58 meters (190 feet). The plan was to pull out the trapped workers one by one, on wheeled stretchers through the pipes.

Almost 24 hours later, all the 41 men were out.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The rescue operation was followed closely in this country of more than 1.4 billion people but as the nation watched the ordeal on live television, questions emerged as to whether the mountainous area in Uttarakhand can withstand the level of heavy construction that has recently been taking place.

The tunnel the workers were building was designed as part of the Chardham all-weather road, meant to connect various Hindu pilgrimage sites and temples. Large numbers of pilgrims and tourists visit Uttarakhand, with the numbers increasing steadily over the years.

Some experts say the project, a flagship initiative of the federal government, will exacerbate fragile conditions in the upper Himalayas, where several towns are built atop landslide debris.

Uttarakhand state, which is prone to landslides and flash floods exacerbated by climate change and is surrounded by melting glaciers, has already been in the news this year.

In February, many residents of the holy town of Joshimath, revered by both Hindu and Sikh pilgrims, had to temporarily relocate elsewhere after the ground beneath them began sinking, creating deep fissures in ceilings, floors and walls of hundreds of houses. Multistoried hotels slumped to one side. Already cracked roads gaped open.

Experts and activists say such events could reoccur in other towns of Uttarakhand, a state that is being promoted for religious tourism by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governing party.

Tensions are bubbling up at thirsty Arizona alfalfa farms as foreign firms exploit unregulated water

By ANITA SNOW and THOMAS MACHOWICZ Associated Press

WENDEN, Ariz. (AP) — A blanket of bright green alfalfa spreads across western Arizona's McMullen Valley, ringed by rolling mountains and warmed by the hot desert sun.

Matthew Hancock's family has used groundwater to grow forage crops here for more than six decades. They're long accustomed to caprices of Mother Nature that can spoil an entire alfalfa cutting with a down-pour or generate an especially big yield with a string of blistering days.

But concerns about future water supplies from the valley's ancient aquifers, which hold groundwater supplies, are bubbling up in Wenden, a town of around 700 people where the Hancock family farms.

Some neighbors complain their backyard wells have dried up since the Emirati agribusiness Al Dahra began farming alfalfa here on about 3,000 acres (1,214 hectares) several years ago.

It is unknown how much water the Al Dahra operation uses, but Hancock estimates it needs 15,000 to 16,000 acre feet a year based on what his own alfalfa farm needs. He says he gets all the water he needs by drilling down hundreds of feet. An acre-foot of water is roughly enough to serve two to three U.S. households annually.

Hancock said he and neighbors with larger farms worry more that in the future state officials could take control of the groundwater they now use for agriculture and transfer it to Phoenix and other urban areas amid the worst Western drought in centuries.

"I worry about the local community farming in Arizona," Hancock said, standing outside an open-sided barn stacked with hay bales.

Concerns about the Earth's groundwater supplies are front of mind in the lead-up to COP28, the annual United Nations climate summit opening this week in the Emirati city of Dubai. Gulf countries like the UAE are especially vulnerable to global warming, with high temperatures, arid climates, water scarcity and rising sea levels.

"Water shortages have driven companies to go where the water is," said Robert Glennon, a water policy and law expert and professor emeritus at the University of Arizona.

Experts say tensions are inevitable as companies in climate-challenged countries like the United Arab

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Emirates increasingly look to faraway places like Arizona for the water and land to grow forage for livestock and commodities such as wheat for domestic use and export.

"As the impacts of climate change increase, we expect to see more droughts," said Karim Elgendy, a climate change and sustainability specialist at Chatham House think tank in London. "This means more countries would look for alternative locations for food production."

Without groundwater pumping regulations, rural Arizona is especially attractive, said Elgendy, who focuses on the Middle East and North Africa. International corporations have also turned to Ethiopia and other parts of Africa to develop enormous farming operations criticized as "land grabbing."

La Paz County Supervisor Holly Irwin welcomes a recent crackdown by Arizona officials on unfettered groundwater pumping long allowed in rural areas, noting local concerns about dried up wells and subsidence that's created ground fissures and flooding during heavy rains.

"You're starting to see the effects of lack of regulation," she said. "Number one, we don't know how much water we have in these aquifers, and we don't know how much is being pumped out."

Irwin laments that foreign firms are "mining our natural resource to grow crops such as alfalfa ... and they're shipping it overseas back to their country where they've depleted their water source."

Gary Saiter, board chairman and general manager of the Wenden Domestic Water Improvement District, said utility records showed the surface-to-water depth at its headquarters was a little over 100 feet (30 meters) in the 1950s, but it's now now about 540 feet (160 meters).

Saiter said that over those years, food crops like cantaloupe have been replaced with forage like alfalfa, which is water intensive.

"I believe that the legislature in the state needs to step up and actually put some control, start measuring the water that the farms use," Saiter said.

Gov. Katie Hobbs in October yanked the state's land lease on another La Paz County alfalfa farm, one operated by Fondomonte Arizona, a subsidiary of Saudi dairy giant Almarai Co. The Democrat said the state would not renew three other Fondomonte leases next year, saying the company violated some lease terms.

Fondomonte denied that, and said it will appeal the decision to terminate its 640-acre (259-hectare) lease in Butler Valley. Arizona has less control over Al Dahra, which farms on land leased from a private North Carolina-based corporation.

Glennon, the Arizona water policy expert, said he worked with a consulting group that advised Saudi Arabia more than a decade ago to import hay and other crops rather than drain its aquifers. He said Arizona also must protect its groundwater.

"I do think we need sensible regulation," said Glennon. "I don't want farms to go out of business, but I don't want them to drain the aquifers, either."

Seeking crops for domestic use and export, Al Dahra farms wheat and barley in Romania, operates a flour mill in Bulgaria, and owns milking cows in Serbia. It runs a rice mill in Pakistan and grows grapes in Namibia and citrus in Egypt. It serves markets worldwide.

The company is controlled by the state-owned firm ADQ, an Abu Dhabi-based investment and holding company. Its chairman is the country's powerful, behind-the-scenes national security adviser Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a brother of ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The company did not respond to numerous emails and voicemails sent to its UAE offices and its subsidiary Al Dahra ACX in the U.S. seeking comment about its Arizona operation.

But on its website, Al Dahra acknowledges the challenges of climate change, noting "the continuing decrease in cultivable land and diminishing water resources available for farming." The firm says it considers water and food security at "the core of its strategy" and uses drip irrigation to optimize water use.

Foreign and out-of-state U.S. farms are not banned from farming in Arizona, nor from selling their goods worldwide. U.S. farmers commonly export hay and other forage crops to countries including Saudi Arabia and China.

In Arizona's Cochise County that relies on groundwater, residents worry that the mega-dairy operated there by Riverview LLP of Minnesota could deplete their water supplies. The company did not respond to

a request for comment about its water use.

"The problem is not who is doing it, but that we are allowing it to be done," said Kathleen Ferris, a senior research fellow at the Kyl Center for Water Policy at Arizona State University. "We need to pass laws giving more control over groundwater uses in these unregulated areas."

A former director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Ferris helped draw up the state's 1980 Groundwater Management Act that protects aquifers in urban areas like Phoenix but not in rural agricultural areas.

Many people mistakenly believe groundwater is a personal property right, Ferris said, noting that the Arizona Supreme Court has ruled there's only a property right to water once it has been pumped.

In Arizona, rural resistance to limits on pumping remains strong and efforts to create rules have gone nowhere in the Legislature. The Arizona Farm Bureau has pushed back at narratives that portray foreign agribusiness firms like Al Dahra as groundwater pirates.

Rural Arizona is "the wild West" when it comes to groundwater, said Kathryn Sorensen, research director at the Kyl Center. "Whoever has the biggest well and pumps the most groundwater wins."

"Arizona is blessed to have very large and productive groundwater" aquifers, she added. "But just like an oil field, if you pump it out at a significant rate, then you deplete the water and it's gone."

Cities crack down on homeless encampments. Advocates say that's not the answer

By CLAIRE RUSH, JANIE HAR and MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Tossing tent poles, blankets and a duffel bag into a shopping cart and three wagons, Will Taylor spent a summer morning helping friends tear down what had been their home and that of about a dozen others. It wasn't the first time and wouldn't be the last.

Contractors from the city of Portland had arrived to break down the stretch of tents and tarps on a side street behind a busy intersection. People had an hour to vacate the encampment, one of more than a dozen cleared that July day, according to city data.

Whatever they couldn't take with them was placed in clear plastic bags, tagged with the date and location of the removal and sent to an 11,000-square-foot (1,020 square meter) warehouse storing thousands like them.

"It can get hard," said Taylor, 32, who has been swept at least three times in the four years he's been homeless. "It is what it is. ... I just let it go."

Angelique Risby, 29, watched as workers in neon-yellow vests shoveled piles of litter into black garbage bags. Risby, who has been homeless for two years, said she was prepared for a drill she's done multiple times.

"Everything that I own," she said, "can fit on my wagon."

Tent encampments have long been a fixture of West Coast cities, but are now spreading across the U.S. The federal count of homeless people reached 580,000 last year, driven by lack of affordable housing, a pandemic that economically wrecked households, and lack of access to mental health and addiction treatment.

Records obtained by The Associated Press show attempts to clear encampments increased in cities from Los Angeles to New York as public pressure grew to address what some residents say are dangerous and unsanitary living conditions. But despite tens of millions of dollars spent in recent years, there appears to be little reduction in the number of tents propped up on sidewalks, in parks and by freeway off-ramps.

Homeless people and their advocates say the sweeps are cruel and a waste of taxpayer money. They say the answer is more housing, not crackdowns.

The AP submitted data requests to 30 U.S. cities regarding encampment sweeps and received at least partial responses from about half.

In Phoenix, the number of encampments swept soared to more than 3,000 last year from 1,200 in 2019. Las Vegas removed about 2,500 camps through September, up from 1,600 in 2021. And in Minneapolis,

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camp removals have more than doubled from last year to 44 through Nov. 9, according to city records.

But even officials at cities that don't collect data confirmed that public camping is consuming more of their time, and they are starting to track numbers, budget for security and trash disposal, and beef up or launch programs to connect homeless people to housing and services.

"We are seeing an increase in these laws at the state and local level that criminalize homelessness, and it's really a misguided reaction to this homelessness crisis," said Scout Katovich, a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, which has filed lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of sweeps and property seizures in a dozen cities, including Minneapolis, Miami, Albuquerque, Anchorage and Boulder, Colorado.

"These laws and these practices of enforcement do nothing to actually alleviate the crisis and instead they keep people in this vicious cycle of poverty," she said.

But California Gov. Gavin Newsom, whose state is home to nearly one-third of the country's homeless population, says leaving hazardous makeshift camps to fester is neither compassionate nor an option.

He is among Democratic and Republican leaders urging the U.S. Supreme Court to take up a controversial 9th Circuit appellate court ruling that prohibits local governments from clearing encampments without first assuring everyone living there is offered a bed indoors.

San Francisco, which was sued by the ACLU of Northern California last year for its sweeps and property seizures, is under a court order to enforce the ruling.

"I hope this goes to the Supreme Court," said Newsom, a former mayor of San Francisco, in a September interview with news outlet Politico. "And that's a hell of a statement coming from a progressive Democrat."

Earlier this month, crews in Denver erected metal fencing as police officers called to residents to leave an encampment covering several downtown blocks. A bonfire blazed against temperatures in the teens and snow covered the ground around tents.

"The word 'sweep' that they use ... that's kind of how it feels, like being swept like trash," said David Sjoberg, 35. "I mean we're not trash, we're people."

He said he and his wife would "wander a couple blocks from here and see if we get yelled at for being there."

David Ehler Jr., 52, left the encampment with his toiletries, a sleeping bag, tent and a propane heater.

Ehler has been homeless in Denver for about two years after a friend kicked him out. He said work was hard to come by in Connecticut, where he lived before Colorado, and the public has no idea how big a problem homelessness is.

"It started ever since the COVID, people losing their jobs, losing their houses, losing their apartments, losing everything," he said. "And this is where they end up."

Sometimes, numbers can't explain what a city is doing.

The city of Los Angeles said its sanitation department responded to more than 4,000 requests a month from the public at the end of 2022 to address homeless encampments, double the amount the previous year.

But the agency would not explain whether that meant the encampment was dismantled or simply cleaned around or how large the encampments were, directing AP to the city attorney's website for definitions. The city defines an encampment as a place where at least one person is living outdoors.

In contrast, Portland clears some 19 encampments every day on average, according to the mayor's office. Crews have shut down nearly 5,000 camps in the city of 650,000 since November 2022, but residents continue to report new clusters that need to be dismantled.

Crews have even found bodies of overdose victims in tents, said Sara Angel, operations manager for the contractor that clears encampments for the city.

"If we never cleaned a camp in the city of Portland, I just don't know what Portland would look like," she said. "I don't think that we're making it better by moving them, but I don't think that we're making it worse."

Removing encampments is costly — an expense more cities, counties and states have to budget for. Several cities queried by the AP provided some cost breakdowns, but officials at others said comprehen-

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sive costs were difficult to get given the multiple departments involved, including police, sanitation and public health.

Denver reported spending nearly \$600,000 on labor and waste disposal in 2021 and 2022 to clean about 230 large encampments, some more than once. Phoenix said it spent nearly \$1 million last year to clear encampments.

Despite all that spending, said Masood Samereie, little seems to change on the streets. The San Francisco real estate broker has seen businesses lose customers because of people camped on sidewalks, some clearly in mental distress, and he wants tents gone.

"It's throwing money at it without any tangible or any real results," Samereie said.

Being homeless is supposed to be a temporary event, he added. "Unfortunately, it's becoming a way of life, and that is 100% incorrect."

For homeless people, sweeps can be traumatizing. They often lose identification documents, as well as cellphones, laptops and personal items. They lose their connection to a community they've come to rely on for support.

Roxanne Simonson, 60, said she had a panic attack during one of the four times she was swept in Portland. She recalled feeling dangerously overheated in her tent. "I started yelling at them, 'Call an ambulance, I can't breathe.' And then I changed my mind, because if I go, then I would lose all my stuff," she said.

And yet, cities can't stand by and do nothing, said Sam Dodge, who oversees encampment removals for the city of San Francisco. His department, created by the mayor in 2018, coordinates multiple agencies to place people into housing so crews can clear tents.

"Saying, 'This is not working, this is dangerous, you can do better than this, you have a brighter future than this,' I think that's caring for people," said Dodge, who has worked with homeless people for more than two decades. "It seems immoral to me to just ... let people waste away."

One August morning, Dodge and his crew surveyed about a dozen structures and tents, some inches away from vehicles zipping by.

Four outreach workers fanned out, asking people if they had a case manager or wanted shelter indoors. Police officers stood by as Department of Public Works employees, masked and wearing gloves, hauled away a rolled-up carpet. The block was crammed with bicycles, ladders, chairs, mattresses, buckets, cooking pots, shoes and cardboard.

City officials are particularly frustrated by people who have housing, but won't stay in it.

Michael Johnson, 40, has been homeless in San Francisco for six years. Before that, he lived with his pregnant girlfriend and was a driver for a commuter van tech start-up. But he lost his job, and their baby died.

He was assigned a coveted one-room pre-fabricated structure with a bed, desk and chair, a window and locking door. But his friends aren't there and to him, it feels like jail, so he's sleeping in a tent.

At his tent, friends hang out, including Charise Haley, 31, who says shelter rules can make grownups feel like children. She left one shelter because residents weren't allowed to keep room keys and had to ask staff to get in.

"Then you get pushed somewhere else," she said. "There's too many directions. But never an end solution."

There are many reasons why someone might reject shelter, say homeless people and their advocates. Some have been assaulted at shelters, or had their belongings stolen. Sometimes, they don't want to pare down their belongings, or follow rules that prohibit drugs and drinking, officials say.

Of the 20 people at the San Francisco encampment, six accepted temporary housing and seven declined, said Francis Zamora, a spokesperson for the Department of Emergency Management at the time of the August operation.

Two people already had housing and five wouldn't communicate with outreach workers, Zamora said. The city has connected more than 1,500 people to housing this year. It's unclear, however, if they remain housed.

Many cities say they link camp residents to housing, but track records are mixed. Homeless people and

their advocates say there are not nearly enough temporary beds, permanent housing or social services for drug or behavioral health counseling so people caught up in sweeps just get kicked down the road.

In New York City, more than 2,300 people were forcibly removed from encampments from March to November 2022, according to a June report from Comptroller Brad Lander. Only 119 accepted temporary shelter, and just three eventually got permanent housing. Meanwhile, tent encampments had returned to a third of the sites surveyed.

"They just totally failed to connect people to shelter or to housing," Lander, who opposes sweeps, told the AP. "If you're gonna help them, you have to build trust with them to move them into housing and services. The sweeps really went in the opposite direction."

A spokesperson for Democratic New York City Mayor Eric Adams, Charles Lutvak, disagreed. He said 70% of camp sites cleared were not re-established and homeless residents accepted offers of shelter at a rate six times higher than under the previous administration.

"Despite the inherent difficulty of this work, our efforts have been indisputably successful," Lutvak said in a statement.

The city of Phoenix cleared out a massive downtown homeless encampment by a court-ordered deadline this month, and said it had helped more than 500 people find beds in shelters and motels.

Encampments were not a serious issue in Minneapolis until the pandemic, when they became more commonplace and much larger, drawing thousands of complaints. In response, the city closed down more than two dozen sites where 383 people were camped from March 2022 until February.

At the same time, Hennepin County, which includes Minneapolis, launched a program last year aimed at finding short- and long-term housing for homeless people, including some living in encampments.

"We are hyper-focused on housing," said Danielle Werder, manager of the county's Office to End Homelessness. "We're not walking around with socks and water bottles. We're walking around saying, 'What do you need?'"

In Portland, the encampment dismantled in July was cleared again, in September and November. Two dozen newly installed boulders helped keep the camp from being reestablished along parts of the sidewalk.

Kieran Hartnett, who's lived in the neighborhood for seven years, said there was fighting, drug use, open fires and vehicle break-ins around the encampment. Some tents were on grass just outside his house, which was particularly stressful when people started acting in erratic ways.

He hopes the people moved from the site are getting help.

"I understand the argument that clearing them just moves them to somewhere else, and they don't really have a better place to go," he said. "On the same account, I feel like you can't allow things to just fester."

"There's not a good solution to it," he said.

Freed Israeli hostage describes deteriorating conditions while being held by Hamas

By TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — An Israeli hostage freed by Hamas said in an interview that she was initially fed well in captivity until conditions worsened and people became hungry. She was kept in a "suffocating" room and slept on plastic chairs with a sheet for nearly 50 days.

In one of the first interviews with a freed hostage, 78-year-old Ruti Munder told Israel's Channel 13 television that she spent the entirety of her time with her daughter, Keren, and grandson, Ohad Munder-Zichri, who celebrated his ninth birthday in captivity. Her account, broadcast Monday, adds to the trickle of information about the experience of captives held in Gaza.

Munder was snatched Oct. 7 from her home in Nir Oz, a kibbutz in southern Israel. Her husband, Avraham, also 78, was taken hostage too and remains in Gaza. Her son was killed in the attack.

Initially, they ate "chicken with rice, all sorts of canned food and cheese," Munder told Channel 13, in an audio interview. "We were OK."

They were given tea in the morning and evening, and the children were given sweets. But the menu

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changed when “the economic situation was not good, and people were hungry.”

Israel has maintained a tight siege on Gaza since the war erupted, leading to shortages of food, fuel and other basic items.

Munder, who was freed Friday, returned in good physical condition, like most other captives. But one of the released hostages, an 84-year-old woman, has been hospitalized in life-threatening condition after not receiving proper care in captivity, doctors said. Another freed captive needed surgery.

Freed hostages have mostly kept out of the public eye since their return. Most details about their ordeal have come through relatives who have visited them.

Munder, confirming accounts from relatives of other freed captives, said they slept on plastic chairs. She said she covered herself with a sheet but that not all captives had one.

Boys who were there would stay up late chatting, while some of the girls would cry, she said. Some boys slept on the floor.

She said she would wake up late to help pass the time. The room where she was held was “suffocating,” and the captives were prevented from opening the blinds, but she managed to crack open a window.

“It was very difficult,” she said.

Munder’s account emerged as Israel and Hamas agreed to extend their truce. The two sides have been exchanging Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners under a cease-fire deal that has paused the fighting. The deal also includes an increase in aid to Gaza.

Israel declared war after the Islamic militant group’s cross-border attack Oct. 7 in which 1,200 people were killed and 240 others taken hostage. An Israeli offensive has left over 13,000 Palestinians dead, according to health authorities in the Hamas-run territory.

Munder said that on Oct. 7, she was put on a vehicle with her family and driven into Gaza. A militant draped over them a blanket her grandson had carried from home, which she said was meant to prevent them from seeing the militants around them. While in captivity, she learned from a Hamas militant who listened to the radio that her son was killed, according to the Channel 13 report.

Still, she said, she held out hope that she would be freed.

“I was optimistic. I understood that if we came here, then we would be released. I understood that if we were alive — they killed whoever they wanted to in Nir Oz.”

Two Israeli TV stations, Channels 12 and 13, reported that Hamas’ top leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, visited the hostages in a tunnel and assured them they would not be harmed.

“You are safest here. Nothing will happen to you,” he was quoted as saying in the identical reports, which did not reveal the source of the account.

This round of releases has seen mostly women and children freed. They have been undergoing physical and psychological tests at Israeli hospitals before returning home.

Mirit Regev, whose 21-year-old daughter, Maya, was freed Sunday, told Israeli public broadcaster Kan that the family has been counseled to “return the power to her” in their interactions by always asking her for permission before things occur, such as leaving the room. Regev’s 18-year-old son, Itai, is still being held by Hamas.

Itai Pessach, director of the Edmond and Lily Safra Children’s Hospital at Sheba Medical Center, where many of the released children have been treated, said he felt some optimism because the hostages were physically recovering. But he said medical staff had heard “very difficult and complex stories from their time in Hamas captivity,” without elaborating.

“We understand that despite the fact that they might seem physically improving, there’s a very, very long way to go before they are healed,” he said.

In a separate interview, the aunt of a 25-year-old Israeli-Russian hostage who was released Sunday from Gaza said her nephew fled his captors and hid within Gaza for a few days before being recaptured.

“He said he was taken by terrorists, and they brought him into a building. But the building was destroyed (by Israeli bombing), and he was able to flee,” Yelena Magid, the aunt of Roni Krivoi, told Kan radio on Monday. “He was trying to get to the border, but I think because he didn’t have the resources to know where he was and which direction to flee, he had some trouble.”

He told her in a phone conversation he was able to hide himself for around four days before Palestinians in Gaza discovered him, she added.

"One thing that gave us hope from the start is that he's a boy who's always smiling, and he can figure things out in any situation," Magid said.

Shoshan Haran, who was released from Hamas captivity on Saturday night, met with Israel's President Isaac Herzog on Tuesday at the president's office in Jerusalem. "I'm here but there's so many left behind," Haran said. "I still don't have the full picture of what was here, but I know what was there, and you have to do the maximum (to get them home)."

Eitan Yahalomi's aunt, Devorah Cohen, told French media that her 12-year-old nephew was sometimes kept alone, but when he was with others, his captors threatened him with a gun whenever the children cried in order to keep them quiet.

"The Hamas terrorists forced him to watch films of the horrors, the kind that no one wants to see, they forced him to watch them," Cohen said.

Relatives of Yaffa Adar, 85, who was released on Friday night, told Channel 12 that they did not shower or change clothes for the entire period of their captivity, and only the day before they were released they were given a new set of clothes.

Israeli media aired video Monday of Ori Megidish, an Israeli soldier who was taken captive, then freed by the military late last month. She said she was happy and doing well and wished all the captives would return home.

"I'm glad to have my life back," she said.

Pope cancels trip to Dubai for UN climate conference on doctors' orders while recovering from flu

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis canceled his trip to Dubai for the U.N. climate conference on doctors' orders Tuesday, even though he is recovering from the flu and lung inflammation, the Vatican said.

Francis, who turns 87 next month, was scheduled to leave Rome on Friday to address the COP28 meeting first thing Saturday morning. He also was supposed to inaugurate a faith pavilion Sunday on the sidelines of the conference before returning home.

The pope revealed Sunday that he had lung inflammation but said at the time that he still planned to go to Dubai, where he was to become the first pontiff to address a U.N. climate conference. Care for the environment has been a priority for Francis, and presidents and patriarchs alike have welcomed his moral leadership on the issue.

Until the announcement late Tuesday, all of the information from the Vatican indicated the trip would proceed. The Vatican spokesman held his traditional pre-trip briefing earlier in the day and fielded questions about Francis' planned bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Dubai conference. The Vatican travel agency accepted payment for journalists to fly on the papal plane, and the Vatican press office finalized accreditation details.

The announcement marked the second time the pope's frail health had forced the cancellation of a foreign trip: He had to postpone a planned trip to Congo and South Sudan in 2022 because of knee inflammation, though he was able to make the journey earlier this year.

Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said Francis was improving from the flu and inflammation of his respiratory tract that had forced him to cancel his audiences Saturday. But "the doctors have asked the pope not to make the trip planned for the coming days to Dubai.

"Pope Francis accepted the doctors' request with great regret and the trip is therefore canceled," he added.

Francis had part of one lung removed as a young man and has seemed increasingly prone to respiratory problems. He has also had mobility problems from strained knee ligaments that have required him to use a cane or wheelchair.

Francis came down with the flu late last week. After cancelling his audiences Saturday — including with the visiting leader of Guinea Bissau — he went to the hospital for a CAT scan, and the Vatican said the test had ruled out pneumonia.

On Sunday, he skipped his traditional appearance at his studio window overlooking St. Peter's Square to avoid the cold. Instead, Francis gave the traditional noon blessing in a televised appearance from the chapel in the Vatican hotel where he lives and asked a priest to read his written daily reflections out loud.

He coughed and spoke in a whisper, and sported the cannula in which he was receiving antibiotics intravenously. Recruiting a substitute speaker was a first for this pope and recalled how St. John Paul II frequently had other prelates read his remarks in his final years as he battled the effects of Parkinson's disease.

People who saw Francis this week said his health was improving but he still spoke in a whisper.

In April, the pope spent three days at Rome's Gemelli hospital for what the Vatican said was bronchitis after he had trouble breathing. He was discharged after receiving intravenous antibiotics.

Francis spent 10 days at the same hospital in July 2021 following intestinal surgery for a bowel narrowing. He was readmitted in June of this year for an operation to repair an abdominal hernia and remove scarring from previous surgeries.

When asked about his health in a recent interview, Francis quipped in reply what has become his standard line — "Still alive!"

Fake babies, real horror: Deepfakes from the Gaza war increase fears about AI's power to mislead

By DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Among images of the bombed out homes and ravaged streets of Gaza, some stood out for the utter horror: Bloodied, abandoned infants.

Viewed millions of times online since the war began, these images are deepfakes created using artificial intelligence. If you look closely you can see clues: fingers that curl oddly, or eyes that shimmer with an unnatural light — all telltale signs of digital deception.

The outrage the images were created to provoke, however, is all too real.

Pictures from the Israel-Hamas war have vividly and painfully illustrated AI's potential as a propaganda tool, used to create lifelike images of carnage. Since the war began last month, digitally altered ones spread on social media have been used to make false claims about responsibility for casualties or to deceive people about atrocities that never happened.

While most of the false claims circulating online about the war didn't require AI to create and came from more conventional sources, technological advances are coming with increasing frequency and little oversight. That's made the potential of AI to become another form of weapon starkly apparent, and offered a glimpse of what's to come during future conflicts, elections and other big events.

"It's going to get worse — a lot worse — before it gets better," said Jean-Claude Goldenstein, CEO of CREOpaint, a tech company based in San Francisco and Paris that uses AI to assess the validity of online claims. The company has created a database of the most viral deepfakes to emerge from Gaza. "Pictures, video and audio: with generative AI it's going to be an escalation you haven't seen."

In some cases, photos from other conflicts or disasters have been repurposed and passed off as new. In others, generative AI programs have been used to create images from scratch, such as one of a baby crying amidst bombing wreckage that went viral in the conflict's earliest days.

Other examples of AI-generated images include videos showing supposed Israeli missile strikes, or tanks rolling through ruined neighborhoods, or families combing through rubble for survivors.

In many cases, the fakes seem designed to evoke a strong emotional reaction by including the bodies of babies, children or families. In the bloody first days of the war, supporters of both Israel and Hamas alleged the other side had victimized children and babies; deepfake images of wailing infants offered

photographic 'evidence' that was quickly held up as proof.

The propagandists who create such images are skilled at targeting people's deepest impulses and anxieties, said Imran Ahmed, CEO of the Center for Countering Digital Hate, a nonprofit that has tracked disinformation from the war. Whether it's a deepfake baby, or an actual image of an infant from another conflict, the emotional impact on the viewer is the same.

The more abhorrent the image, the more likely a user is to remember it and to share it, unwittingly spreading the disinformation further.

"People are being told right now: Look at this picture of a baby," Ahmed said. "The disinformation is designed to make you engage with it."

Similarly deceptive AI-generated content began to spread after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. One altered video appeared to show Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy ordering Ukrainians to surrender. Such claims have continued to circulate as recently as last week, showing just how persistent even easily debunked misinformation can be.

Each new conflict, or election season, provides new opportunities for disinformation peddlers to demonstrate the latest AI advances. That has many AI experts and political scientists warning of the risks next year, when several countries hold major elections, including the U.S., India, Pakistan, Ukraine, Taiwan, Indonesia and Mexico.

The risk that AI and social media could be used to spread lies to U.S. voters has alarmed lawmakers from both parties in Washington. At a recent hearing on the dangers of deepfake technology, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, Democrat of Virginia, said the U.S. must invest in funding the development of AI tools designed to counter other AI.

"We as a nation need to get this right," Connolly said.

Around the world a number of startup tech firms are working on new programs that can sniff out deepfakes, affix watermarks to images to prove their origin, or scan text to verify any specious claims that may have been inserted by AI.

"The next wave of AI will be: How can we verify the content that is out there. How can you detect misinformation, how can you analyze text to determine if it is trustworthy?" said Maria Amelie, co-founder of Factive, a Norwegian company that has created an AI program that can scan content for inaccuracies or bias introduced by other AI programs.

Such programs would be of immediate interest to educators, journalists, financial analysts and others interested in rooting out falsehoods, plagiarism or fraud. Similar programs are being designed to sniff out doctored photos or video.

While this technology shows promise, those using AI to lie are often a step ahead, according to David Doermann, a computer scientist who led an effort at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency to respond to the national security threats posed by AI-manipulated images.

Doermann, who is now a professor at the University at Buffalo, said effectively responding to the political and social challenges posed by AI disinformation will require both better technology and better regulations, voluntary industry standards and extensive investments in digital literacy programs to help internet users figure out ways to tell truth from fantasy.

"Every time we release a tool that detects this, our adversaries can use AI to cover up that trace evidence," said Doermann. "Detection and trying to pull this stuff down is no longer the solution. We need to have a much bigger solution."

Greek officials angry and puzzled after UK's Sunak scraps leaders' meeting over Parthenon Marbles

By JILL LAWLESS and DEREK GATOPOULOS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Greek officials said Tuesday that they will continue talks with the British Museum about bringing the Parthenon Marbles back to Athens, despite U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak abruptly canceling a meeting with his Greek counterpart where the contested antiquities were due to be discussed.

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But the U.K. government said ownership of the marbles is “settled” — and they’re British.

The two European allies traded barbs Tuesday in a deepening diplomatic row that erupted when Sunak called off a meeting with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis hours before it was due to take place.

Mitsotakis had planned to raise Greece’s decades-old demand for the return of the ancient sculptures when he met Sunak at 10 Downing St. on Tuesday. The two center-right leaders were also slated to talk about migration, climate change and the wars in Gaza and Ukraine.

Mitsotakis was instead offered a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden, which he declined.

British officials were annoyed that Mitsotakis had appeared on British television Sunday and compared the removal of the sculptures from Athens to cutting the Mona Lisa in half.

Sunak’s spokesman, Max Blain, said Mitsotakis had reneged on a promise not to talk publicly about the marbles during his three-day visit to Britain.

“The Greek government provided reassurances that they would not use the visit as a public platform to relitigate long-settled matters relating to the ownership of the Parthenon Sculptures,” he said. “Given those assurances were not adhered to, the prime minister felt it would not be productive” to have the meeting.

The Greek government denied Mitsotakis had agreed not to raise the subject in public.

Mitsotakis met Monday in London with U.K. opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer, whose party leads Sunak’s governing Conservatives in opinion polls. The prime minister’s office denied that meeting had contributed to Sunak’s decision to cancel.

Dimitris Tsiodras, head of the Greek prime minister’s press office, said Mitsotakis was angry at the “British misstep.”

“Of course he was angry ... Look, Greece is a proud country. It has a long history. Mitsotakis represents that country,” Tsiodras told private network Mega television.

Opposition parties in Greece, from the Greek Communist Party and centrists to far-right nationalists, also condemned Sunak for the cancellation. Left-wing opposition leader Stefanos Kasselakis said the issue of the sculptures goes “beyond party differences.”

“It is a national issue that concerns the history of an entire people. And it is a moral issue concerning the shameless theft of cultural wealth from its natural setting,” he wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Athens has long demanded the return of sculptures that were removed from Greece by British diplomat Lord Elgin in the early 19th century. Part of friezes that adorned the 2,500-year-old Parthenon temple on the Acropolis, the Elgin Marbles — as they are known in Britain — have been displayed at the British Museum in London for more than two centuries. The remainder of the friezes are in a purpose-built museum in Athens.

The British Museum is banned by law from giving the sculptures back to Greece, but its leaders have held talks with Greek officials about a compromise, such as a long-term loan.

Earlier this year, museum chairman George Osborne — Treasury chief in a previous Conservative U.K. government — said the discussions had been “constructive.”

Tsiodras said Tuesday that discussions “are ongoing with the British Museum for the return — I should say the reunification — of the marbles to Athens.”

“I don’t think the effort stops there,” he said. “Clearly, there are domestic reasons and 2024 is an election year and (Sunak) is quite behind in the polls ... but the discussion with the British Museum is ongoing.”

Sunak’s government appears to have hardened its position, however.

Transport Secretary Mark Harper said that “the government set out its position about the Elgin Marbles very clearly, which is they should stay as part of the permanent collection of the British Museum.”

And Blain said that “a loan cannot happen without the Greeks accepting that the British Museum are the legal owners” of the antiquities.

The worst-performing major economy also faces a budget crisis. Germany's leader vows fixes, but how?

By DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — German Chancellor Olaf Scholz vowed Tuesday that his government will work “as fast as possible” to solve a budget crisis, but he offered few details on how he would achieve his goals of promoting clean energy and modernizing the struggling economy after a court decision struck down billions in planned spending.

Scholz and his quarrelsome governing coalition must decide what to cut next year after Germany's top court ruled that 60 billion euros (\$65 billion) in funding for renewable energy projects and relief for consumers and businesses from high energy prices caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine violated debt limits set out in the constitution.

Cuts that need to be made next year could further slow down what is already the world's worst-performing major economy.

Germans “need clarity in unsettled times,” Scholz said in a speech to parliament. He promised that the government would not abandon its goals of sharply reducing carbon emissions from fossil fuels and protecting social spending.

Speaking over outbursts of derisive laughter from opposition members, Scholz said it would be “a serious, an unforgivable mistake ... to neglect the modernization of our country.”

In terms of where to reduce spending, he said a cap on consumers' utility bills is no longer needed because energy prices have fallen, although the government would act if they rose again. “You'll never walk alone,” Scholz said, quoting the song title in English.

The now-banned spending was aimed at some of the long-term problems plaguing growth in Europe's largest economy, such as the need to invest in new sources of affordable renewable energy like wind, solar and hydrogen and to support battery and computer chip production.

That has led to calls from some to loosen the debt limits because they restrict the government's response to new challenges.

But Scholz's coalition of Social Democrats, Greens and pro-business Free Democrats doesn't have the two-thirds majority to do that without the conservative opposition, the Christian Democrats, who brought the legal challenge in the first place.

Opposition leader Friedrich Merz criticized Scholz as a “know-it-all” who wasn't willing to change course and “lacked any idea of how the country should develop in the coming years.” He vowed to uphold the debt limits.

There was a lack of details from Scholz on what could be cut next year. On top of that, a long-term solution could take years, possibly until after the next national elections scheduled for 2025.

Economists say spending cuts will only add to the challenges facing Germany after Russia cut off the cheap natural gas that fueled its factories, squeezing businesses and raising the cost of living for households paying more for energy.

The constitution limits deficits to 0.35% of economic output, though the government can go beyond that if there's an emergency it didn't create, such as the pandemic.

Germany's constitutional court said the government could not shift unused emergency funding meant for COVID-19 relief to boost wind and solar projects, help with energy bills and encourage investment in computer chip production.

Some of the banned spending has already been used. To comply with the ruling, the government is changing the 2023 budget by declaring an emergency, citing Russia's natural gas cutoff.

The question now is next year's budget. The government would have to scramble to cover shortfalls of roughly 30 billion to 40 billion euros — plus 20 billion to 30 billion euros for 2025 — compared with earlier plans, according to Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg bank.

Some spending can be moved to public-private partnerships or taken over by the country's development bank. But those fudges will only go so far.

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Ultimately, spending may be reduced by as much as 0.5% of annual economic output for the next two budget years, Schmieding said.

The debt limits were enacted in 2009 after the government piled up debt paying to rebuild former East Germany after Germany reunified at the end of the Cold War and when tax revenue dropped during the 2007-2009 global financial crisis and Great Recession.

For years afterward, Germany balanced its budget or even ran small surpluses as the economy lived large on cheap Russian natural gas and booming exports of luxury cars and industrial machinery, with rapidly growing China serving as a major market. Economists say the government skimmed on investment in infrastructure, renewable energy and digitalization — gaps it is now trying to make up.

The fallout has left Germany projected to be the worst-performing major economy this year, shrinking by 0.5%, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Prospects for next year are only a little better. Industry is struggling with energy prices and a lack of skilled labor, while Chinese automakers are challenging Germany's Volkswagen, BMW and Mercedes-Benz and have plans to expand sales across Europe.

The budget debate is ironic because Germany has the smallest long-term debt pile of any of the Group of Seven advanced democracies, with debt of 66% of gross domestic product. That compares to 102% in Britain, 121% in the U.S., 144% in Italy and 260% in Japan.

Today in History: November 29, Natalie Wood drowns at age 43

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 29, the 333rd day of 2023. There are 32 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 29, 1981, film star Natalie Wood drowned at age 43 while boating off California's Santa Catalina Island with her actor husband Robert Wagner and actor Christopher Walken.

On this date:

In 1864, a Colorado militia killed at least 150 peaceful Cheyenne Indians in the Sand Creek Massacre.

In 1910, British explorer Robert F. Scott's ship Terra Nova set sail from New Zealand, carrying Scott's expedition on its ultimately futile — as well as fatal — race to reach the South Pole first.

In 1924, Italian composer Giacomo Puccini died in Brussels before he could complete his opera "Turandot." (It was finished by Franco Alfano.)

In 1929, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Richard E. Byrd, pilot Bernt Balchen, radio operator Harold Gatty and photographer Ashley McKinney made the first airplane flight over the South Pole.

In 1947, the U.N. General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the partitioning of Palestine between Arabs and Jews; 33 members, including the United States, voted in favor of the resolution, 13 voted against while 10 abstained. (The plan, rejected by the Arabs, was never implemented.)

In 1961, Enos the chimp was launched from Cape Canaveral aboard the Mercury-Atlas 5 spacecraft, which orbited earth twice before returning.

In 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson named a commission headed by Earl Warren to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In 1986, actor Cary Grant died in Davenport, Iowa, at age 82.

In 1987, a Korean Air 707 jetliner en route from Abu Dhabi to Bangkok was destroyed by a bomb planted by North Korean agents with the loss of all 115 people aboard.

In 2001, former Beatle George Harrison died in Los Angeles following a battle with cancer; he was 58.

In 2008, Indian commandos killed the last remaining gunmen holed up at a luxury Mumbai hotel, ending a 60-hour rampage through India's financial capital by suspected Pakistani-based militants that killed 166 people.

In 2012, the United Nations voted overwhelmingly to recognize a Palestinian state, a vote that came exactly 65 years after the General Assembly adopted a plan to divide Palestine into separate states for

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Jews and Arabs. (The 2012 vote was 138 in favor; nine members, including the United States, voted against and 41 abstained.)

In 2013, a police helicopter crashed onto a pub in Glasgow, Scotland, killing 10 people.

In 2017, "Today" host Matt Lauer was fired for what NBC called "inappropriate sexual behavior" with a colleague; a published report accused him of crude and habitual misconduct with women around the office.

In 2018, in a surprise guilty plea, former Trump lawyer Michael Cohen confessed that he lied to Congress about a Moscow real estate deal he pursued on Trump's behalf during the 2016 campaign.

In 2020, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that New York City would reopen its school system to in-person learning, and increase the number of days a week many children attend class, even as the coronavirus pandemic intensified in the city.

In 2021, a federal judge blocked the Biden administration from enforcing a coronavirus vaccine mandate on thousands of health care workers in 10 states that had brought the first legal challenge against the requirement.

In 2022, Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes was convicted of seditious conspiracy for a violent plot to overturn Democrat Joe Biden's presidential win, handing the Justice Department a major victory in its massive prosecution of the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection.

Today's Birthdays: Blues singer-musician John Mayall is 90. Actor Diane Ladd is 88. Songwriter Mark James is 83. Composer-musician Chuck Mangione is 83. Pop singer-musician Felix Cavaliere (The Rascals) is 81. Former Olympic skier Suzy Chaffee is 77. Actor Jeff Fahey is 71. Movie director Joel Coen is 69. Actor-comedian-celebrity judge Howie Mandel is 68. Former Homeland Security Director Janet Napolitano is 66. Former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel is 64. Actor Cathy Moriarty is 63. Actor Kim Delaney is 62. Actor Andrew McCarthy is 61. Actor Don Cheadle is 59. Actor-producer Neill Barry is 58. Pop singer Jonathan Knight (New Kids on the Block) is 55. Rock musician Martin Carr (Boo Radleys) is 55. Actor Jennifer Elise Cox is 54. Baseball Hall of Famer Mariano Rivera is 54. Actor Larry Joe Campbell is 53. Rock musician Frank Delgado (Deftones) is 53. Actor Paola Turbay is 53. Contemporary Christian singer Crowder is 52. Actor Gena Lee Nolin is 52. Actor Brian Baumgartner is 51. Actor Julian Ovenden is 48. Actor Anna (AH'-nuh) Faris is 47. Gospel singer James Fortune is 46. Actor Lauren German is 45. Rapper The Game is 44. Actor Janina Gavankar is 43. Rock musician Ringo Garza is 42. Actor-comedian John Milhiser is 42. Actor Lucas Black is 41. NFL quarterback Russell Wilson is 35. Actor Diego Boneta is 33. Actor Lovie Simone (TV: "Greenleaf") is 25.