

# Groton Daily Independent

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## **Sunday, Dec. 3**

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

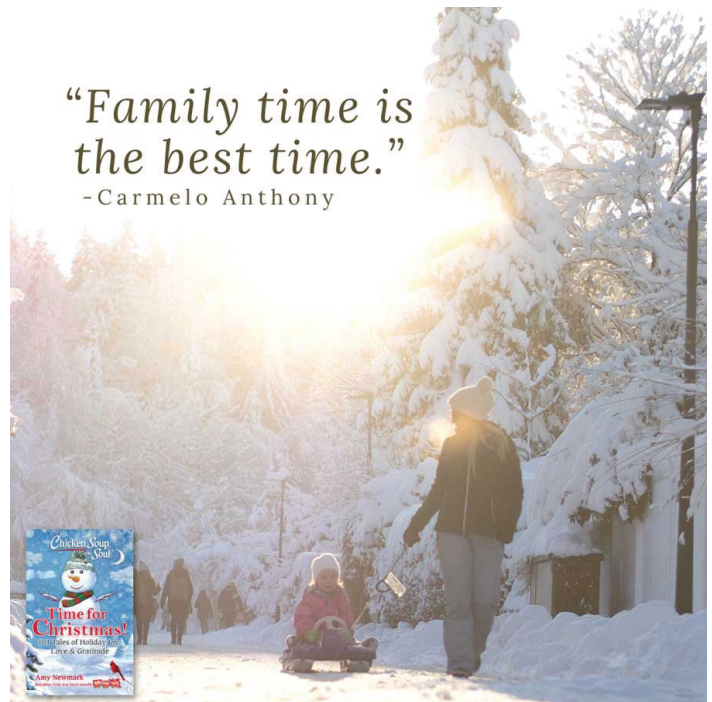
St. John's Lutheran: St. John's worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Zion worship with communion, 11 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

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

**OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton**  
The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.  
© 2023 Groton Daily Independent



Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

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

## **Monday, Dec. 4**

Senior Menu: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, cauliflower, apricots, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Pancakes

School Lunch: Chicken patty, fries.

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

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

Junior High Girls Basketball hosts Northwestern. 7th grade game at 6 p.m., 8th grade game at 7 p.m.

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

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.; Hanging of the Greens service, 11 a.m.

## Veteran's Day Profile: Lori Oliver

*Editor's Note:*

*We thought it would be nice to publish the Veteran's Day stories that were told at the Veteran's Day Program. This will be the first in a series of those presented at the program. The stories were told by the high school students.*

Lori served as a Master Sergeant in the 6th Army at Presidio of San Francisco during the Vietnam War for two years. Following her two-year enlistment in the Army she joined the Air National Guard at the 188th Ebbing Air National Guard. She retired from the Air National Guard after twenty-one years of service.

While she was in the Army she served as a clerk typist, processed men for Vietnam, cooked, and did laundry. She also organized activities for the men such as basketball and other sports. The worst part of her job was to service in mortuary affairs, which she became part of the acting Mother of the Air Force.

Lori's experience in the military prepared her for her job as Director of the Senior Center. Her service taught her to be a leader and a fair boss. She now is a member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary and an asset to the community.

Lori is not only proud to be an American, but she is also grateful to the Military for helping her become the person she is today, for the ability to learn new things, and the opportunity to travel the world.

Presentation of quilt

Lori's sister, Valerie, on behalf of the community and nation, with our deepest appreciation, we honor Lori's service with this quilt of honor.



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**ALL OVER ROOFING**

RAISING THE ROOFING STANDARDS,  
ALL OVER YOUR TOWN!  
FREE HAIL STORM ESTIMATES!

605.759.0000  
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MEMBER FDIC

## Cookies & CALENDARS OPEN HOUSE

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

**TUES., DEC. 5 9:00 - 4:00 PM**  
7 East US HWY 12 | Groton

**DACOTAH BANK**



# WITTE EXTERIORS LLC

Specializing in Asphalt and Wood Shingles  
Call for an estimate  
Zack Witte ~ 605-695-7874  
Webster, SD  
No Contracts!

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## 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.

**GDILIVE.COM**

**GT** Groton Area  
Tigers

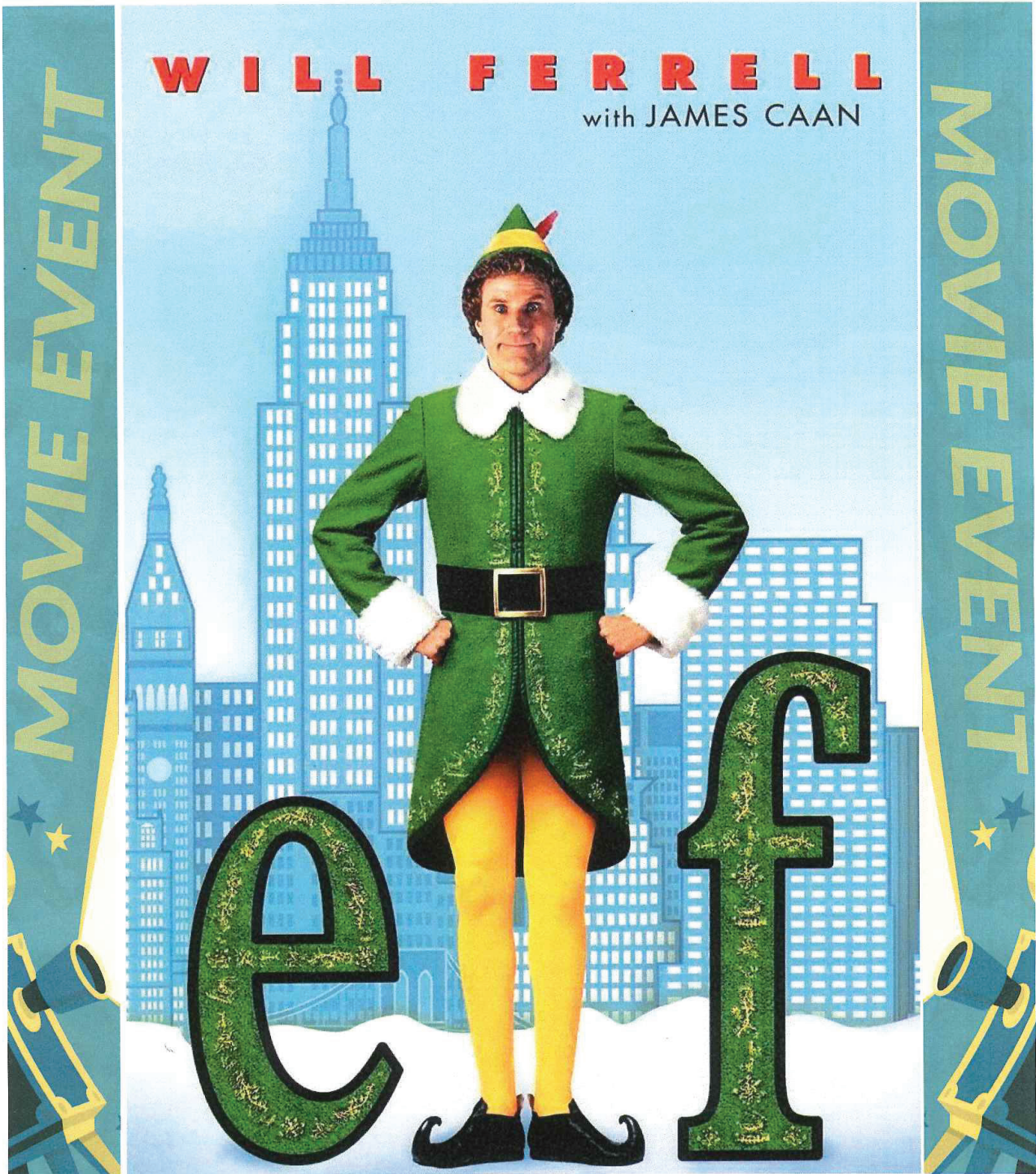
Any interest in any of  
these basketball games on  
GDILIVE.COM?  
They are \$25 each.

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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Wage Memorial Library  
120 N Main St - Groton SD  
**MUST Preregister by calling the Library!**  
(605) 397-8422

Saturday, December 9th  
11am-1pm  
FREE Admission  
Jungle Pizza will be served!

## Davison County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash  
Where: SD Hwy 37, Mile Marker 71, 1 mile south of Mitchell, SD  
When: 2:10 p.m., Saturday, December 2, 2023

Driver 1: Male, 63, Fatal injuries  
Passenger 1: Male, 72, Serious, non-life-threatening injuries  
Vehicle 1: 2010 Ford Fusion  
Driver 2: Male, 57, No injuries  
Vehicle 2: 2014 Chevrolet Silverado

Davison County, S.D.- One person died Saturday afternoon in a two vehicle crash in Davison County.

The names of the persons involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates a 2010 Ford Fusion was stopped or nearly stopped in the southbound lane of SD Highway 37 near mile marker 71. A 2014 Chevrolet Silverado was also southbound at the same location. The two vehicles collided in the southbound lane. The Ford Fusion came to rest in the west ditch. The Chevrolet Silverado came to rest in the east ditch.

The driver of the Ford Fusion was pronounced deceased at the scene. The passenger received non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to the hospital. Seat belt use is under investigation for the driver. The passenger was wearing a seat belt. The driver of the Chevrolet Silverado did not sustain any injuries and was not wearing a seat belt.

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.

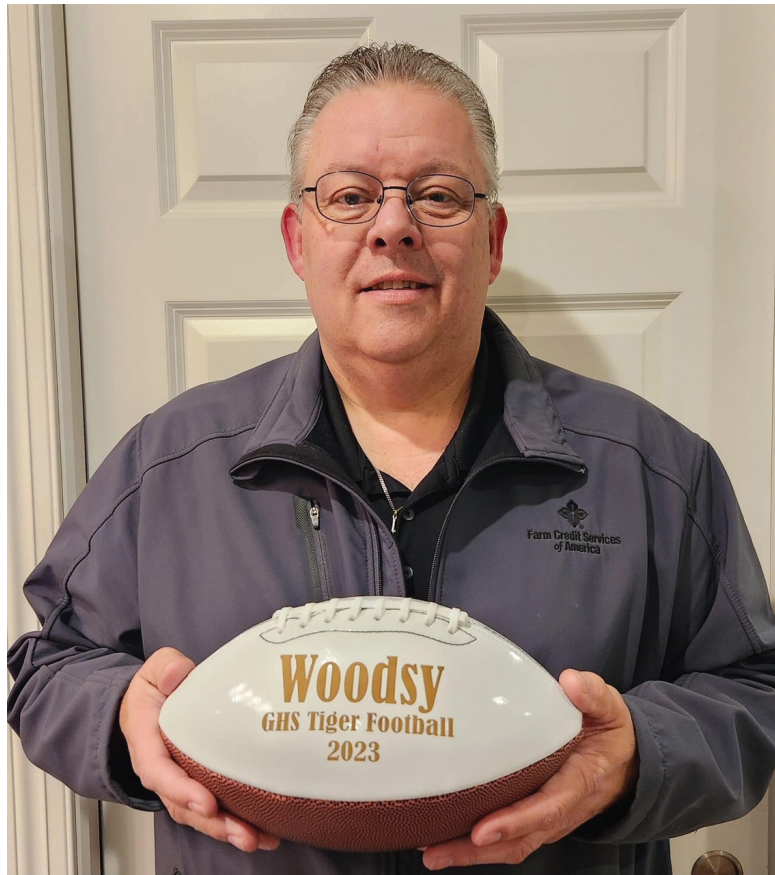


## North Area Honor Band

The South Dakota North Area Honor Band event was held Saturday in Aberdeen. Representing Groton were Carlee Johnson on the French Horn, Emily Clark on percussion, Gretchen Dinger on flute and Cadence Feist on Bari Saxophone. They are pictured with their director Desiree Yeigh.

Upon nomination by their band director, students who auditioned were seated first in the ensemble, and additional students of high caliber completed the sections. Approximately 100 students representing 22 schools were selected to participate in the 2023 band.

Other schools participating include: Aberdeen Central, Christian and Aberdeen Roncalli, Bowdle, Clark, Eureka, Gettysburg, Great Plains Lutheran, Groton Area, Herreid, Howard, Hoven, Huron, Ipswich, Langford, Leola, Milbank, Northwestern, Selby Area, Sully Buttes, Summit and Warner. (Courtesy Photo)



## Tom Woods recognized with his time with Tiger Football

*The following was posted on Tom and Patti Woods facebook page:*

Not done with you...

It was Fall Awards Night in Groton Thursday evening...

I was unable to attend, but Friday morning, as I was ready to leave for work, Coach Shaun Wanner dropped off this gift...

From our 4 Tiger Football Seniors and their parents....

Signed by our Seniors and the Coaches...

I will put it in a place of honor so I can tell your story...

As I thought about the 2023 Football Seniors and all that have played Tiger Football in the 37 years I have been Blessed to volunteer...

A tune by Tauren Wells came on the radio that gives the perfect reminder for us all as we move on to the next chapter in life...

Tauren sings...

"It's not over, it's only begun...

So don't hide, don't run...

'Cause God's not done with You...

He's not done...

God's not done writing your story..."

I am beyond thankful for the 37 years I have been allowed to volunteer for Groton Tiger Football...

I will NEVER be able to repay everyone for the Joy that has filled my life over my time with Tiger Football...

Tigers, God Bless You, every one!

Forever I will cheer...

Go Tigers!



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## GHS Boys Wrestling

### **Six grapplers place at Clark/Willow Lake Tournament**

Six Groton Area wrestlers placed at the Clark/Willow Lake Tournament held Saturday. Taking second place were Wyatt Hagen at 106, Walker Zoellner at 132 and Christian Ehresmann at 150; placing third were Korbin Kucker at 157 and Gavin Englund at 285; and Karter Moody took fourth at 285.

**Team Scores:** 1. Kingsbury County 171.0, 2. Faulkton Area 157.5, 3. Canton JV 148.5, 4. Webster Area 129.0, 5. Clark/Willow Lake 128.5, 6. Groton Area 111.5, 7. Britton-Hecla 78.0, 8. Pierre JV 59.0, 9. Tiospa Zina 4.0.

#### **90-98: Noah Scepaniak (2-2)**

Champ. Round 1 - Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 2-2 won by fall over Korbin Mix (Britton/Hecla) 0-2 (Fall 1:24)

Quarterfinal - Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 2-2 won by major decision over Luke Gauer (Groton Area) 0-2 (MD 16-4)

Semifinal - Noah Horsley (Pierre JV) 2-1 won by fall over Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 2-2 (Fall 2:30)

Cons. Semi - Karstyn Schlechter (Webster Area) 3-2 won by decision over Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 2-2 (Dec 10-8)

#### **90-98: Luke Gauer (0-2)**

Champ. Round 1 - Luke Gauer (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 2-2 won by major decision over Luke Gauer (Groton Area) 0-2 (MD 16-4)

Cons. Round 2 - Luke Gauer (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Maverick Clausen (Clark/Willow Lake) 3-1 won by fall over Luke Gauer (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 2:10)

#### **106: Wyatt Hagen (2-1) placed 2nd and scored 17.5 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) 2-1 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) 2-1 won by tech fall over Cain Hogg (Faulkton Area) 2-2 (TF-1.5 4:09 (15-0))

Semifinal - Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) 2-1 won by decision over Jyles Auble (Pierre JV) 4-1 (Dec 8-5)

1st Place Match - Tayten Kurkowski (Webster Area) 3-0 won by decision over Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) 2-1 (Dec 10-5)

#### **106: Aiden Strom (0-2)**

Champ. Round 1 - Jyles Auble (Pierre JV) 4-1 won by fall over Aiden Strom (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 1:10)

Cons. Round 1 - Aiden Strom (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Benny Pommer (Clark/Willow Lake) 2-2 won by fall over Aiden Strom (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 1:59)

#### **113: Lincoln Krause (1-1) placed 2nd and scored 16.0 team points.**

Quarterfinal - Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 1-1 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 1-1 won by fall over Karsten Lerwick (Kingsbury County) 1-2 (Fall 2:00)

1st Place Match - Cade Gaikowski (Clark/Willow Lake) 2-0 won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 1-1 (Fall 0:49)

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## **120: John Bisbee (0-2)**

Quarterfinal - John Bisbee (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Sean Roseland (Faulkton Area) 2-1 won by fall over John Bisbee (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:28)

Cons. Semi - Culter Davis (Kingsbury County) 2-2 won by fall over John Bisbee (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 2:08)

## **126: Donavon Block (1-2) scored 6.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Donavon Block (Groton Area) 1-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Donavon Block (Groton Area) 1-2 won by fall over Cody Shepherd (Tiospa Zina) 0-2 (Fall 0:22)

Semifinal - Cody Zell (Kingsbury County) 3-0 won by fall over Donavon Block (Groton Area) 1-2 (Fall 1:17)

Cons. Semi - Isaac Johnson (Clark/Willow Lake) 2-2 won by major decision over Donavon Block (Groton Area) 1-2 (MD 11-2)

## **132: Walker Zoellner (2-1) placed 2nd and scored 20.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 2-1 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Bryce Heitkamp (Britton/Hecla) 2-2 (Fall 0:51)

Semifinal - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Wyatt Tuntland (Canton JV) 3-1 (Fall 0:00)

1st Place Match - Chase Adam (Canton JV) 6-1 won by fall over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 2-1 (Fall 0:00)

## **150: Christian Ehresmann (2-1) placed 2nd and scored 20.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 2-1 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Aiden Van Balen (Pierre JV) 2-2 (Fall 0:17)

Semifinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Landon Coyle (Faulkton Area) 3-1 (Fall 0:00)

1st Place Match - Ayson Rice (Canton JV) 7-0 won by major decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 2-1 (MD 14-3)

## **157: Korbin Kucker (3-1) placed 3rd and scored 15.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 3-1 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 3-1 won by fall over Jackson Charron (Pierre JV) 3-2 (Fall 3:16)

Semifinal - Aidan Kranz (Canton JV) 5-1 won by major decision over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 3-1 (MD 9-1)

Cons. Semi - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 3-1 won by major decision over Gage Baumgarn (Webster Area) 3-2 (MD 10-1)

3rd Place Match - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 3-1 won by decision over Collin Beaner (Britton/Hecla) 2-2 (Dec 4-2)

## **165: Easten Ekern (0-2)**

Quarterfinal - Bryce Klancke (Clark/Willow Lake) 2-2 won by fall over Easten Ekern (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:25)

Cons. Round 1 - Micah Decker (Canton JV) 1-2 won by fall over Easten Ekern (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 1:55)

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## **175: Ben Hoeft (1-2) scored 4.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Kalo Steely (Pierre JV) 2-2 won by fall over Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 1-2 (Fall 1:51)  
Cons. Round 1 - Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 1-2 received a bye () (Bye)  
Cons. Round 2 - Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 1-2 won by injury default over Conner Glines (Britton/Hecla) 0-2 (Inj. 0:00)  
Cons. Round 3 - Deion Harris (Kingsbury County) 1-2 won by fall over Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 1-2 (Fall 0:00)

## **190: Drew Thurston (0-2)**

Quarterfinal - Gunnar Swenson (Canton JV) 4-1 won by fall over Drew Thurston (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 1:30)  
Cons. Round 1 - Dasher Davidson (Britton/Hecla) 1-2 won by fall over Drew Thurston (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:00)

## **215: Isiah Scepaniak (0-2)**

Quarterfinal - Tristen Baloun (Faulkton Area) 3-1 won by fall over Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:24)  
Cons. Round 1 - Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)  
Cons. Semi - Matthew Angiolelli (Webster Area) 2-2 won by fall over Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:47)

## **285: Karter Moody (2-2) placed 4th and scored 13.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Karter Moody (Groton Area) 2-2 received a bye () (Bye)  
Quarterfinal - Karter Moody (Groton Area) 2-2 won by fall over Collin Gaikowski (Clark/Willow Lake) 0-2 (Fall 0:40)  
Semifinal - Parker Bode (Faulkton Area) 3-0 won by fall over Karter Moody (Groton Area) 2-2 (Fall 0:00)  
Cons. Semi - Karter Moody (Groton Area) 2-2 won by fall over Tyler Lease (Canton JV) 1-2 (Fall 1:49)  
3rd Place Match - Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 3-1 won by fall over Karter Moody (Groton Area) 2-2 (Fall 1:58)

## **285: Gavin Englund (3-1) placed 3rd.**

Champ. Round 1 - Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 3-1 received a bye () (Bye)  
Quarterfinal - Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 3-1 won by fall over Tyler Lease (Canton JV) 1-2 (Fall 2:42)  
Semifinal - Tucker Hardy (Britton/Hecla) 2-1 won by fall over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 3-1 (Fall 0:00)  
Cons. Semi - Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 3-1 won by fall over Gage Miotke (Webster Area) 2-2 (Fall 1:28)  
3rd Place Match - Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 3-1 won by fall over Karter Moody (Groton Area) 2-2 (Fall 1:58)

## **GHS Girls Wrestling**

### **Krueger takes second at Dell Rapids Tournament**

Liza Krueger took second place at the Top of the Rock Girls Tournament held Saturday in Dell Rapids. Krueger, wrestling at 100-114 pounds.

#### **100-114: Liza Krueger (1-1) placed 2nd and scored 4.0 team points.**

Round 2 - Liza Krueger (Groton) 1-1 won by fall over Chloe Staskywicz (Dell Rapids) 0-2 (Fall 3:39)  
Round 3 - Hannah Jensen (Dell Rapids) 2-0 won in sudden victory - 1 over Liza Krueger (Groton) 1-1 (SV-1 3-1)



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Now it's the Legislature's turn to try to scale the Noem wall of silence

by Dana Hess

It's likely that journalists in South Dakota allowed themselves a few self-satisfied chuckles last month. This mirth was inspired by watching the Legislature's Appropriations Committee fail to get the information it was seeking about the Freedom Works Here campaign from the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

The Freedom Works Here campaign advertisements, which have run nationally, feature Gov. Kristi Noem in the role of workers in high-demand jobs, asking those workers to apply in South Dakota. Lawmakers were particularly concerned that GOED officials and state Secretary of Labor Marcia Hultman didn't have an answer when asked how they would measure the success of the \$5 million campaign.

One of the slides in the GOED presentation said 1,900 people "are in the final stages of finding their career here." Quizzed about what that meant, GOED officials said that those people had requested state-sponsored job advisers. Anyone who has ever sold a house or packed a moving van knows that requesting a job adviser is a long way from the "final stages" of making a move.

This space has been used often and at some length to detail the opaque nature of the Noem administration:

During the last legislative session, Noem ditched the traditional governor's news conference, probably because she didn't want to answer any more questions about her national political ambitions.

Her administration has quashed the ability of reporters to talk to state sources, insisting that all questions go through public information officers who often reply in an untimely fashion with answers to questions that were never asked.

Noem flatly refused media requests for information about the calls to a hotline she set up to elicit complaints about the state's universities.

During the 2021 legislative session, Republican lawmakers defeated a bill that would have enlightened the public about the use of state airplanes by the much-traveled Noem.

During the same session, attempts to get something, anything, in the way of information about the cost of Noem's state security detail was defeated in the name of protecting the governor's safety.

Security was invoked again when the governor refused to provide a public calendar of her travels and meetings at the Capitol. (That's why it was a surprise to learn about Noem's recent trip to Paris, France, where she headlined a conservative conference. Good luck figuring out what it cost to send her security detail overseas.)

For years, journalists have been having trouble getting information out of Noem and her administration. Now, it seems, it's the Legislature's turn to feel that frustration.

Aside from wanting to gauge the success of the Freedom Works Here campaign, lawmakers questioned why businesses and local economic development offices are being asked to contribute to the campaign to keep it running. Those that make donations will get access to the leads for workers. It seems that the data should be readily available to all businesses since their tax dollars paid for the initial campaign.

The Appropriations Committee took testimony from the GOED recently on a Monday. In a move that reeked of unprofessionalism, on the Wednesday of that week Noem announced the \$1.5 million phase two of the Freedom Works Here campaign. One lawmaker on the committee said the first he heard about phase two was from the governor's press release.

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In addition to questions from the Appropriations Committee, the Legislature's Executive Board wants to know all about the process that was used to select Go West Media of Ohio to handle millions of dollars worth of advertising. The GOED has agreed to make a presentation about the bidding process to the Executive Board. However, it will provide that information in a closed session, away from the public and the media, citing state law. It seems that losing bidders are afforded a certain level of confidentiality.

That presentation should be interesting, given Sioux Falls Live's revelation that Lawrence and Schiller's bid to work on the advertising program looks eerily similar to the Freedom Works Here commercials produced by Go West Media.

No one in the Legislature has yet been cynical enough or brave enough to wonder out loud if Noem is using the campaign to keep her profile high during the run-up to the presidential elections so she can ensure her place on the short list of candidates to serve as Donald Trump's vice presidential nominee.

Here's hoping that the Legislature gets the answers it wants. There should always be a proper accounting of how taxpayer dollars are being spent. If journalists can't get those answers, maybe lawmakers can.

*Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.*

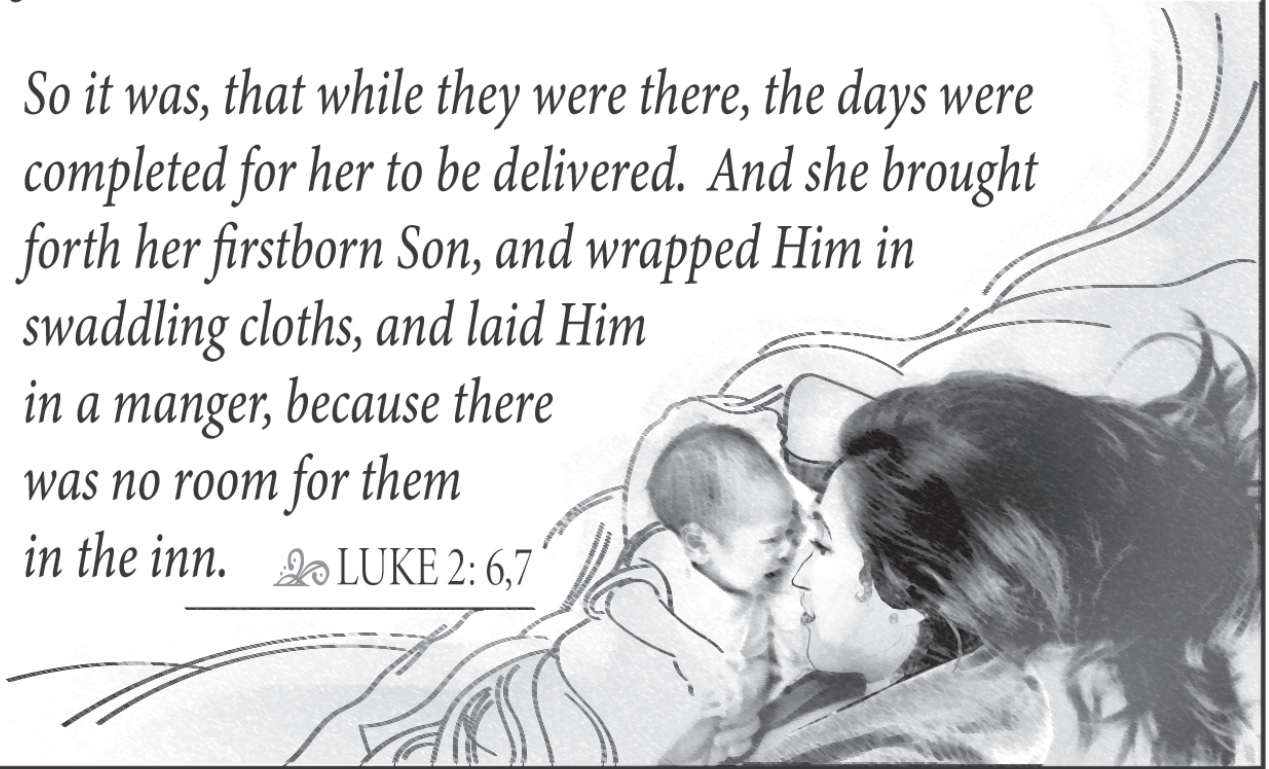
## More outages on Saturday

The west side of Groton experienced more outages and blinks Saturday afternoon. The fuse size was increased to match the transformers on line in the alley west of Lincoln Street between Second Avenue West and Third Avenue West. When the fuse blew and was changed out and put back into service, it caused a blink in that circuit as well.



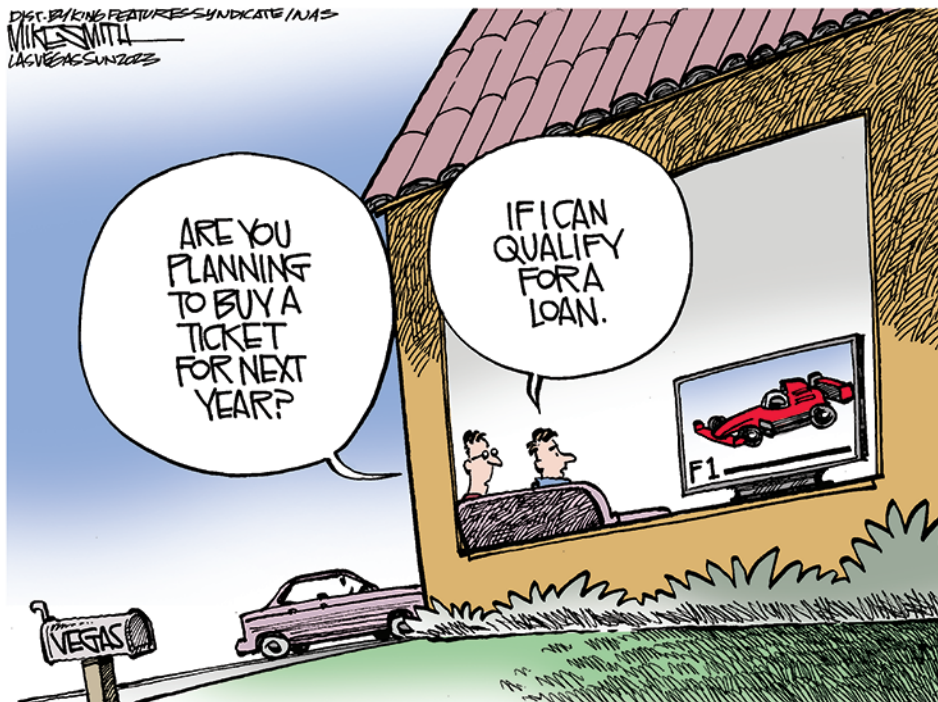
## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

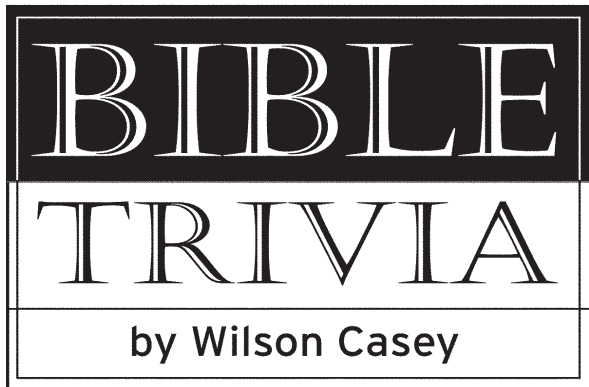
*So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. LUKE 2: 6,7*



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MIKE SMITH  
LACRENSUNZIPS





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

2. For not believing his wife would conceive, who was struck mute, not being able to speak? *Gabriel, Zachariah, Joash, Mesha*

3. The Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes and the Golden Rule are found in what sermon? *Lamb blood, Agnus, On the mount, Dry bones*

4. According to David, what does God's spiritual cleansing make us whiter than? *Light, Clouds, Wool, Snow*

5. How many times is the name "Lucifer" mentioned in the Bible (KJV)? *1, 7, 9, 13*

6. From Psalm 19, what do the heavens declare? *Holiness, Glory of God, Creation, Mighty wind*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Zachariah, 3) On the mount, 4) Snow, 5) 1 (Isaiah 14:12), 6) Glory of God

*Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy). FREE TRIAL!*

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**FLASH GORDON**

**BORROWER'S FIRTH:** A COZY DESERT HIDEAWAY WHERE ALL US OUTLAWS CAN TRADE OUR WARES IN PEACE.

I KEEP THAT PEACE -- ME, MYSELF, AND THIS GALVANIC CUTLASS.


**BONES MALOCK.** GOOD TO MEET YOU.

WE'RE OUTLAWS, BUT STAYING FREE MEANS KNOWING WHOSE GOOD SIDE TO STAY ON.



SO WHEN MY DEPUTIES TELL ME THEY SAW THE MAN WHO KILLED MING, I SAY: "GO BAG US AN EARTHMAN."

A COUPLE OF MY DEPUTIES JUMP FLASH GORDON. A BARGAINING CHIP LIKE HIM COULD COME IN HANDY.



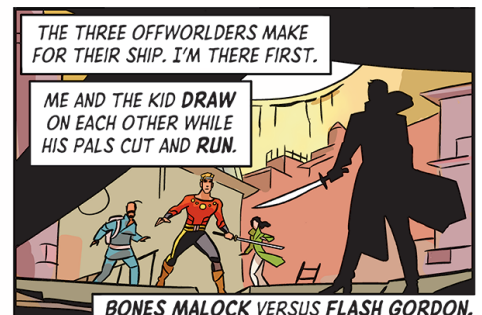
HIS WOMAN THROWS HIM A SWORD.




HE TEARS THROUGH MY GUYS LIKE SWEET BREAD.

THE THREE OFFWORLDERS MAKE FOR THEIR SHIP. I'M THERE FIRST.

ME AND THE KID DRAW ON EACH OTHER WHILE HIS PALS CUT AND RUN.



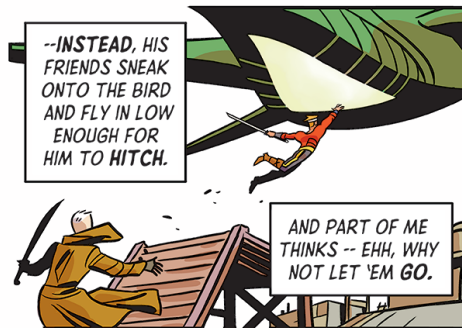
**BONES MALOCK VERSUS FLASH GORDON.**

HE'S GOOD. BEST REFLEXES I EVER SAW. NO FEAR IN THOSE WEIRD ALIEN EYES.



HE KEEPS THIS UP, HE MIGHT HAVE ME BEAT--

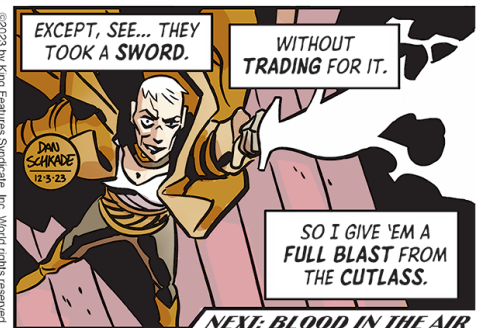
--INSTEAD, HIS FRIENDS SNEAK ONTO THE BIRD AND FLY IN LOW ENOUGH FOR HIM TO HITCH.



AND PART OF ME THINKS -- EHH, WHY NOT LET 'EM GO.

EXCEPT, SEE... THEY TOOK A SWORD.

WITHOUT TRADING FOR IT.

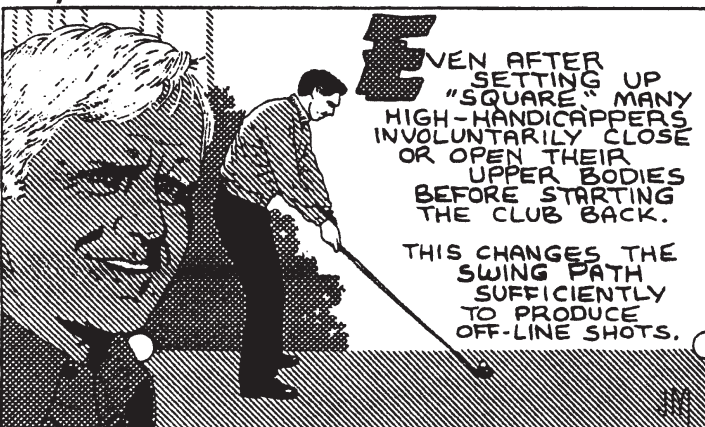


SO I GIVE 'EM A FULL BLAST FROM THE CUTLASS.

*DAN SCHRADE 12-3-23*

**NEXT: BLOOD IN THE AIR**

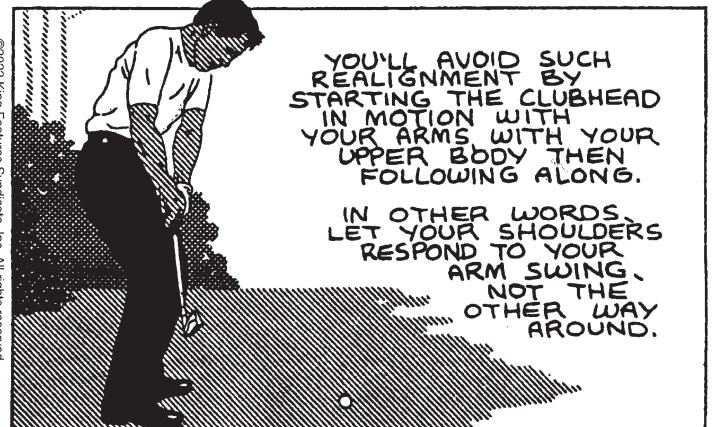
## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



**E**VEN AFTER SETTING UP "SQUARE" MANY HIGH-HANDICAPPERS INVOLUNTARILY CLOSE OR OPEN THEIR UPPER BODIES BEFORE STARTING THE CLUB BACK.

THIS CHANGES THE SWING PATH SUFFICIENTLY TO PRODUCE OFF-LINE SHOTS.

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YOU'LL AVOID SUCH REALIGNMENT BY STARTING THE CLUBHEAD IN MOTION WITH YOUR ARMS WITH YOUR UPPER BODY THEN FOLLOWING ALONG.

IN OTHER WORDS, LET YOUR SHOULDERS RESPOND TO YOUR ARM SWING, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.





## Fatal Episodes of VFib Require an AICD Implant

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I'm an 88-year-old female who has been diagnosed with ventricular fibrillation (VFib). My cardiac electrophysiologist, who implanted a conventional pacemaker four years ago, has noticed several episodes of VFib (up to 30 seconds, read via a bedside monitor). They recommend replacing the current pacemaker with a combo pacemaker and defibrillator. I wonder about the history/success of this device. — C.R.

**ANSWER:** Most people have heard about atrial fibrillation (AFib), which is a common, chaotic electrical condition of the top chambers of the heart. Without regular electrical input from the atria to the ventricles, the ventricles beat irregularly, but blood flow from the heart still remains adequate. By contrast, VFib is a chaotic movement of the lower chambers, and the heart does not pump blood during VFib.

Within a short time, 10 to 30 seconds at most, the brain will not have enough oxygen to keep you conscious. Unless VFib is rapidly treated or stops by itself (which is rare, but happened to you), VFib is fatal.

A survivor of VFib definitely benefits from an automatic implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (AICD). Nowadays, they also have the ability to act as a pacemaker; they recognize and immediately provide a shock during episodes of VFib.

AICDs first became available when I was in medical school during the 1980s,

but current models are a huge improvement since they are smaller and last longer. The evidence is strong that people at a high risk for a “malignant” arrhythmia like VFib live longer with an AICD than those who are only treated with anti-arrhythmic drugs. The rate of sudden cardiac death is reduced by about 50%. You are very lucky and should get this recommended device as soon as possible. They are common and effective.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** Last year, my thyroxine (T4) level was abnormally high (12.2 mcg/dL). I ignored it, as it was slightly over the normal range of 4.5-12 mcg/dL. Six months later, it increased to 12.4 mcg/dL. Should I be concerned? My thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) level was normal both times. — J.M.

**ANSWER:** Although many people with abnormal blood results are perfectly healthy, the more abnormal a test result is, the more likely it represents something wrong. In your case, you are correct that the readings are just outside of the normal range. But because it is persistent, it's worthwhile to get additional information.

Most importantly, were you having symptoms that made your doctor concerned about whether you might have a thyroid issue? Many people with high levels of thyroxine have excess energy, sweating, weight loss, tremors, anxiety and heat intolerance.

Next, do you have any other tests that might help support or reject the possibility of thyroid disease? In your case, it's the TSH level. A high TSH level means that your body needs more thyroid hormone, whereas excess production of thyroid hormone from the gland usually leads to a low TSH level. Your TSH level is normal, which is strong evidence that the slightly high T4 level might be typical for you, especially if you don't have any symptoms.

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

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"Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" (PG-13) -- The fifth and final installment of the adventure film franchise starring Hollywood legend Harrison Ford is officially out now on streaming! An 81-year-old Ford adopted his token fedora and bullwhip once again to play his beloved character, while the rest of the cast included Phoebe Waller-Bridge ("Fleabag"), Antonio Banderas ("Puss in Boots") and Mads Mikkelsen ("Fantastic Beasts"). In this film, Indy reunites with his goddaughter, Helena (Waller-Bridge), and the duo tries to locate the Dial of Destiny before a Nazi-turned-scientist gets his hands on it. But even de-aging software, huge special effects and help with the screenplay from Waller-Bridge couldn't save this film from bombing in the box office. (Disney+)



**Natalie Portman, left, and Julianne Moore star in "May December."**  
Courtesy of Netflix

"The Exorcist: Believer" (R) -- Here's yet another new film from a franchise that was expected to do well but didn't exactly hit the mark. Out now, the sixth "Exorcist" horror film follows two girls, Angela (Lidya Jewett) and Katherine (Olivia O'Neill), who go missing one day after school. Fortunately, they are found three days later and are behaving seemingly normal, amid being shaken up. But their conditions begin to worsen as both girls start to suffer from terrifying convulsions and outbursts that can't be explained. With possession at the forefront of everyone's mind, an exorcism for Angela and Katherine is imminent. A sequel, "The Exorcist: Deceiver," is slated to release sometime in 2025. (Peacock)

"A Good Person" (R) -- In this emotional drama directed by Zach Braff ("A Little White Lie"), Florence Pugh ("Oppenheimer") portrays aspiring musician Allison Johnson as she prepares to wed her boyfriend, Nathan. While driving with her future brother- and sister-in-law, Allison gets momentarily distracted, leading to a car accident that kills her passengers. A year later, the life she had before is unrecognizable to the one she has now, with her engagement having ended and an addiction to pain pills ruling her life. In an attempt to get help, Allison attends an AA meeting where Nathan's father, Daniel (Morgan Freeman), is in attendance. Through this coincidental encounter, the two form an uncanny friendship that helps push Allison closer to the recovery finish line. Out now! (Amazon Prime Video)

"May December" (R) -- Starring Natalie Portman and Julianne Moore, this drama film is loosely based on the true story of an American teacher who began an affair with one of her middle-school students and ended up marrying him after serving prison time for rape. Portman portrays Elizabeth Berry, an actress desperate to play roles that err on the morally gray side, so she jumps at the chance to play the disgraced teacher, named Gracie (Moore). For research, Elizabeth travels to Georgia to meet Gracie and her young husband, Joe (Charles Melton), at their home. As Elizabeth works to uncover every facet of their relationship for her role, the emotional toll it takes on Gracie and Joe starts creating cracks in the foundation of their perverse relationship. (Netflix)

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1. Name the last song released by Patience and Prudence.
2. Who released "The More I See You" in 1966?
3. Which group released "Get Back"?
4. Who were the Jordanaires?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "You're looking kinda lonely girl, Would you like someone new to talk to?"

## Answers

1. "Tonight You Belong to Me," in 1964. The two sisters did well reviving a 1927 song that has since been widely used, including in a 2018 Google commercial and an episode of "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel."
  2. Chris Montez. The song was originally released in 1945 and has been covered by several others over the years, including Ella Fitzgerald and Andy Williams.
  3. The Beatles with Billy Preston on electric piano, in 1969. An edited version was used in the concert film of the same name with Paul McCartney on his 1989-1990 tour.
  4. The vocal quartet served as backup to Elvis Presley from 1956 to 1970 as well as backup for Patsy Cline from 1960 to 1963.
  5. "Sharing the Night Together," by Dr. Hook in 1976. The song was first released by Lenny LeBlanc and others, but it was Hook's version that rose on the charts.
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## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>Wagner</sup>



"Now get back out there and fight for your honor, your school and my job!"

## Just Like Cats & Dogs <sup>by Dave T. Phipps</sup>

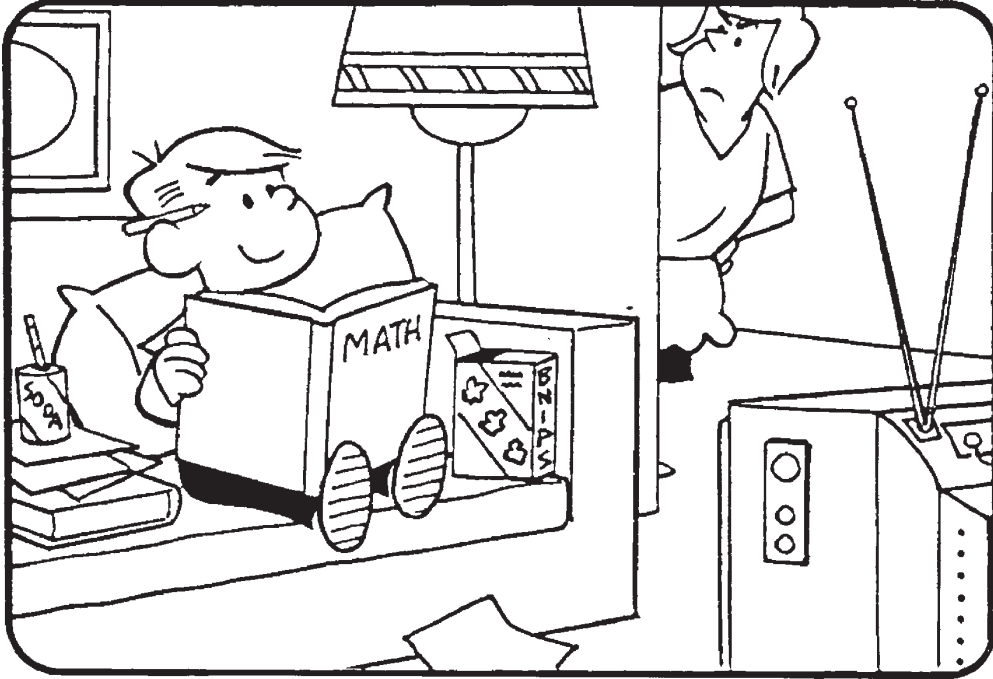


# Groton Daily Independent

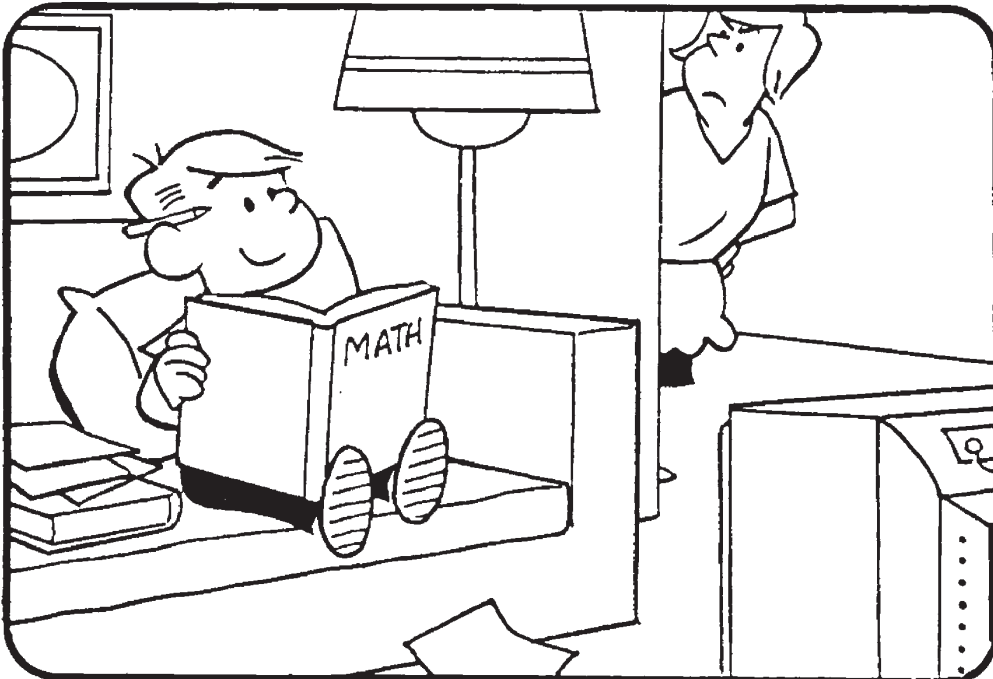
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Can is missing. 2. Pillow is smaller. 3. Lamp shade is different. 4. Box is missing. 5. TV controls are missing. 6. Antenna is missing.

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by  
Jo Ann  
Derson

\* Zip-top bags are essential when our family packs for holiday visiting. We use gallon-size bags for the kids' outfits -- top, bottoms, underclothes, etc. -- and each bag holds one complete set. There is no suitcase chaos, as the bag comes out, and yesterday's clothing goes in, ready for laundry day when we get home. Happy traveling. -- JoAnn

\* After Christmas sales are a great time to buy not only gift wrap (look for solid colors that you can use all year long), holiday cards and decoration, but also next season's winter wear. Things like scarves and gloves can be great bargains. And even coats can go on sale. Take advantage -- especially if you have kids -- and buy up.

\* Here is a wonderful shopping tip that's especially useful during holiday shopping but is something we do all year round: Spend your first hour or so browsing only. Nothing goes in the shopping cart or your bag, and no purchases. If, after you are ready to buy, you still remember the things you "had to have," go back and make the purchases. -- M.M. in Arizona

\* A great storage container for fancy ornaments is a liquor box, which you can get for free outside of package stores. They have cardboard separators that make it easy to store glass bulbs. -- W.F. in New Mexico

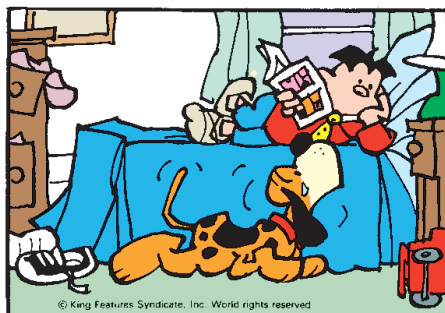
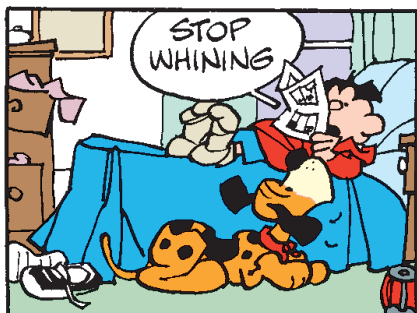
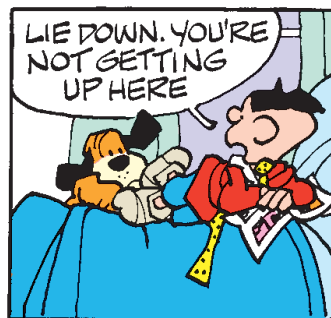
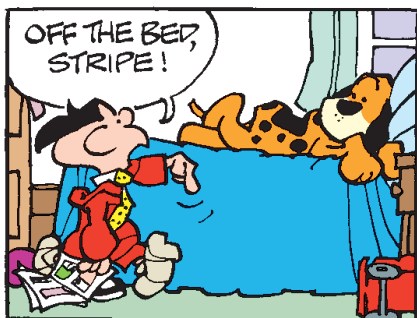
\* I try to buy the same amount of presents for each of my grandchildren. I set a budget for each, and that carries me throughout the year, as I like to shop early for sales. One thing I do, though, is to take into account the value of the item if I get a super great deal. I think it makes it more fair for the rest of them. I haven't had any complaints! -- Grandma, via email

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

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## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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BLAKE

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 "Kapow!"
- 4 British ref. work
- 7 Holler
- 12 Director Spike
- 13 Chemical suffix
- 14 Fall sign
- 15 Nest egg acronym
- 16 Large, luxurious car
- 18 Brooch
- 19 Range
- 20 Collections
- 22 — tear (ragging)
- 23 First lady of scat
- 27 Earth Day mo.
- 29 Transparent
- 31 Dolphins' home
- 34 Traces of smoke
- 35 Agile
- 37 Obtained
- 38 Bygone Peruvian
- 39 Flamenco cheer
- 41 Vacillate
- 45 Quick trip
- 47 Shoe width
- 48 Pungent cheese
- 52 Aachen article

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14				
15				16			17					
18				19								
20			21		22				23	24	25	26
			27	28			29	30				
31	32	33						34				
35					36		37					
38					39	40			41	42	43	44
				45				46		47		
48	49	50	51							52		
53						54				55		
56						57				58		

- 53 Sports figures?
- 54 Zsa Zsa's sister
- 55 Speck
- 56 Dunkable treat
- 57 River blocker
- 58 Actor Brynner
- 7 Pivot
- 8 That guy's
- 9 Kimono sash
- 10 Samovar
- 11 — kwon do
- 17 Ellipse
- 21 Ballroom dance
- 23 Radiates
- 24 Vinyl records
- 25 Back talk
- 26 Billboards
- 28 Picnic dessert
- 30 — Jima
- 31 Roman 1051
- 32 "There's no — team!"
- 33 "Better Call Saul" network
- 36 Bellow
- 37 Swiss metropolis
- 40 Sledged in the Winter Olympics
- 42 Like a neglected garden
- 43 Vowel group
- 44 Streisand title role
- 45 Equitable
- 46 Streetcar
- 48 Leary's drug
- 49 Jurist Lance
- 50 Fortify
- 51 A/C meas.

### DOWN

- 1 Radar dots
- 2 High nest
- 3 Signified
- 4 Fixes a squeak
- 5 Newspaper chief
- 6 Fiend

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## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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

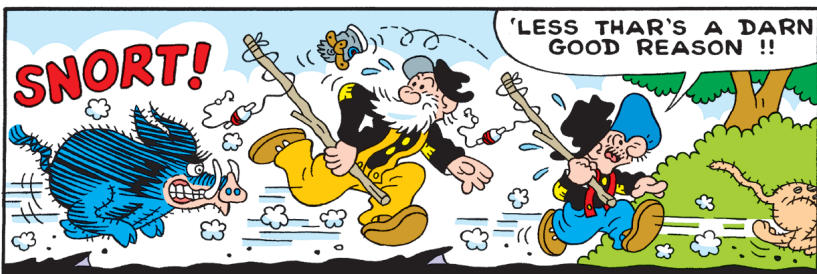
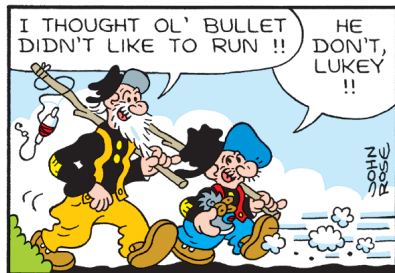
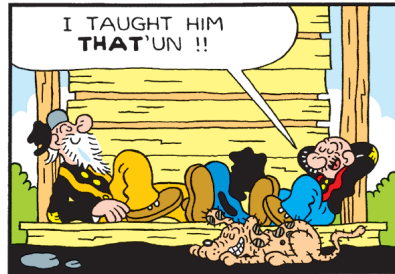
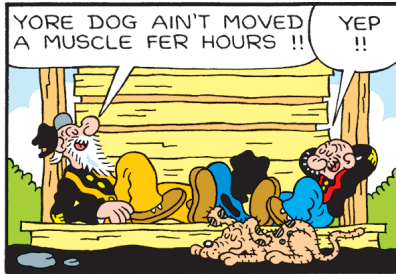
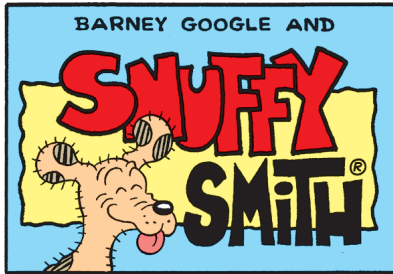
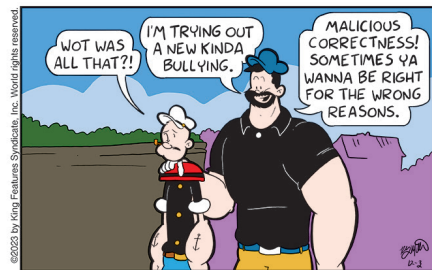
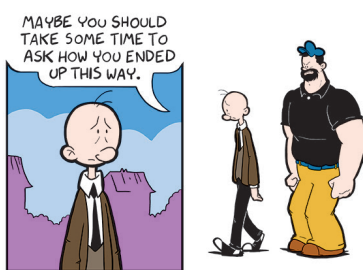
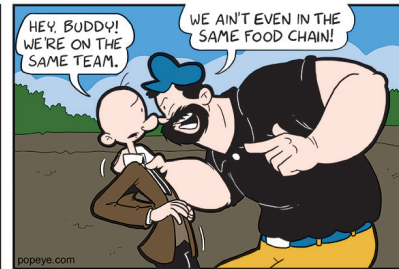
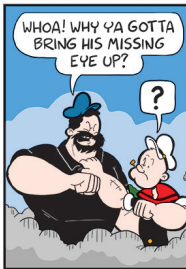
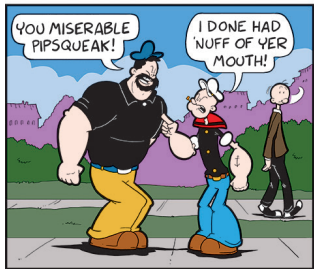
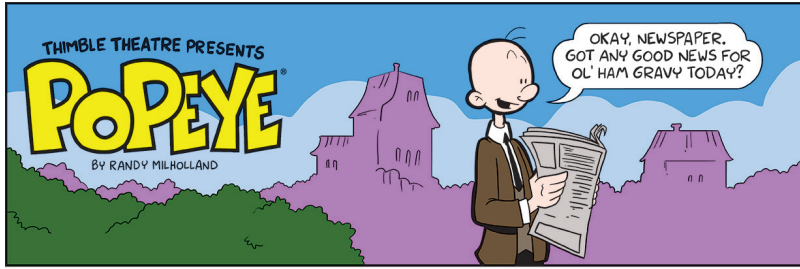
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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



RHODA REVEALS LORD GRUNYARD, SAFE BUT PREDICTABLY MISERABLE: "I BEG YOU, PRINCE VALIANT! PLEASE TAKE ME FROM THIS HORRID PLACE!"

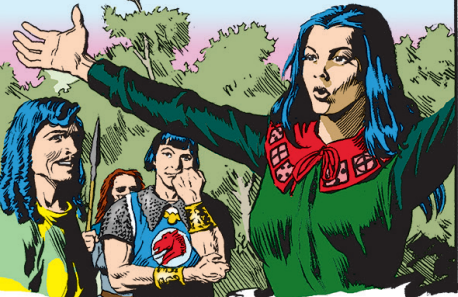
VAL HAS COME TO GRASP RHODA'S PLAN: "YOU WOULD DESTROY ROGER AND RETURN GRUNYARD- MERELY TO SERVE AS YOUR LEGALLY RECOGNIZED PUPPET."



T. YEATES 10/7/12



"AYE, THAT'S RIGHT- BUT OUR RULE WOULD BE FAIR. OUR INEFFECTUAL LORD WOULD BE PROPERLY CARED FOR, HIS LANDS WOULD RETURN TO PROSPERITY, AND CAMELOT WOULD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ITS DUE TRIBUTE ..."



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... "BUT YOU TWO SONS OF NOBILITY HAVE DROPPED THE FLY INTO OUR REMEDY! WHAT ARE WE TO DO WITH YOU? HOW CAN WE TRUST TWO KNIGHTS OF ARTHUR'S COURT TO SYMPATHIZE WITH THE MISERY OF LANDLESS COMMONERS?"

SHE TURNS TO HER MEN: "TAKE THEM AWAY- SECURE THEM WELL. WE WILL DECIDE THEIR FATES LATER." BUT AFTER HER ORDER, SHE TURNS TO HER TALL SECOND AND WHISPERS. HE FINGERS HIS LONG KNIFE ...



NEXT: A surprising decision

3948


## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

ALEXA!




...TURN ON THE LIGHTS.



PICKERING

SHE'S IN ONE OF HER MOODS AGAIN.



## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

1. Who succeeded Larry O'Brien as commissioner of the NBA in 1984?
2. What LPGA Tour golfer, nicknamed "Bam-Bam" for her long tee shots, won majors at the 2009 Kraft Nabisco Championship and the 2015 ANA Inspiration?
3. Manager Bob Lemon led the New York Yankees to a World Series title in 1978 after being fired in the middle of that season by what team?
4. Name the race car driver, the 1986 Indianapolis 500 Rookie of the Year, who was convicted in the late 1980s for importing and distributing over 300 tons of marijuana?
5. In a November 2007 game, what two quarterbacks had a combined age of 82, making them the oldest starting duo in NFL history?
6. Italian boxer Primo "The Ambling Alp" Carnera holds the heavyweight record for career fights won by knockout with how many?
7. What cast member of the TV sitcom "Friends" was a nationally ranked junior tennis player in Canada?

### Answers

1. David Stern.
2. Brittany Lincicome.
3. The Chicago White Sox.
4. Randy Lanier.
5. Vinny Testaverde (44) and Brett Favre (38).
6. 72.
7. Matthew Perry.

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by Ryan A. Berenz

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## Should Owner Punish a Puppy After Accident?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I bought a puppy a few weeks ago who was between 2 to 3 months old. Star is wonderful, and housetraining has been OK. But yesterday, he pooped in the hallway while we were out. My boyfriend says I need to push his nose into the mess and punish him. I don't think that's the right way to train a puppy. What do you think? -- Daria in St. Louis, Missouri

DEAR DARIA: Your instinct is spot on, and you should trust it more. That's the wrong way to train a puppy. It's aggressive, negative and doesn't teach

the puppy anything -- except to be afraid.

Young puppies are learning machines, picking up habits quickly -- both good and bad. They need to be constantly supervised to keep them safe and to correct them (not punish them) on the spot so they learn what they can and can't do in the household. When they're not supervised, I recommend placing them in a properly sized kennel crate. Think of it as a den for your puppy, a safe spot. Again, not a place to punish him.

Furthermore, puppies need to pee and poo more frequently than adult dogs -- about four times daily at Star's age, but sometimes more. It's up to you to make sure their elimination schedule is adequate and that you are there to supervise them. Star couldn't wait for you to get home, so he went in the hallway. That's on you, not on Star.

Clean up the mess (spray with an odor eliminator) and continue your training schedule with Star. And keep following your instincts about the best way to train and correct him.

Readers, how would you respond to the boyfriend's advice? Tell us at [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* Two actors have died while playing Judas Iscariot in live productions of the biblical story by accidentally hanging themselves for real during his death scene.

\* Ever find yourself getting a little sleepy during a virtual meeting? Contrary to popular belief, researchers have determined that the cause isn't information overload, but mental underload and boredom. (Frankly, we're not too surprised!)

\* A 1999 study found that a single square kilometer (247 acres) of the Amazon rainforest can contain about 90,790 tons of living plants.

\* As editors around the globe already know, hearing grammatical errors can cause physical stress.

\* Following a nationwide legal battle (and graceful concession from Gregory's Restaurant and Bar in New Jersey), Taco Bell successfully ensured that the term "Taco Tuesday" can be used freely throughout all 50 states.

\* If Earth's history was condensed into a 24-hour span, life would have appeared at 4 a.m., land plants at 10:24 p.m., dinosaur extinction at 11:41 p.m., and human history would have begun at 11:58:43 p.m.

\*\*\*

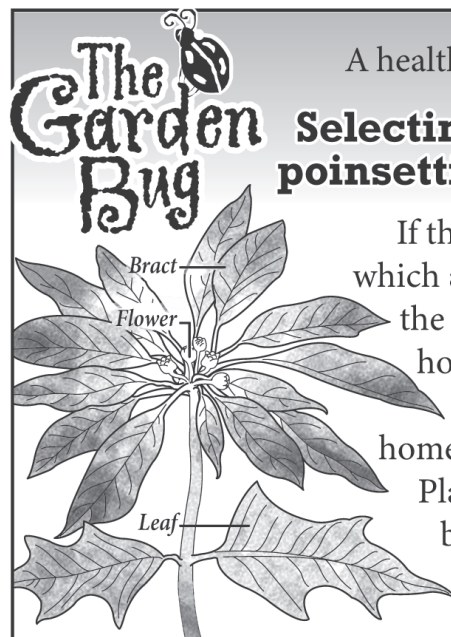
Thought for the Day: "If a man empties his purse into his head, no one can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." -- Benjamin Franklin

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\* Water itself does not conduct electricity well, but the impurities found in water do.

\* When Ethiopian emperor Menelik II didn't feel well, he would eat a few pages of the Bible. While this curious habit didn't do him any harm as long as his consumption was limited, in 1913, feeling particularly ill after a stroke, he ordered an entire Old Testament book of Kings to be fed to him, a page at a time, but died before he could complete it.

\* Humans can live unprotected in space for about 30 seconds if they don't hold their breath.



### The Garden Bug

#### Selecting poinsettias

A healthy poinsettia will have attractive, intact bracts (the "petals"). Check the soil; it shouldn't be very wet or very dry.

If the little yellow buds in the center, which are the actual flowers, look tight, the quality of the plant is good. This holiday favorite is a sensitive plant, so wrap it in paper for the trip home to guard it from wind and cold.

Place it in a protected area that has bright, indirect light. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: [millcreekgardens.com](http://millcreekgardens.com)  
[www.housebeautiful.com](http://www.housebeautiful.com)



by Freddy Groves

## How's It Going? No, I Mean Really. How Are You

Here we are in the middle of winter with the shorter days, the lower temps and depending where we are, snow and ice on the sidewalk and roads, holiday stresses ...

Some of us aren't doing well. We've been faking it through the holidays, smiling and greeting people, but deep down inside we know: We're not OK. Whether we're in a funk, sad, dispirited, depressed, hopeless,

anxious ... call it what you will, but some of us just are not OK.

With the new year we have the opportunity to resolve to change that and have a better 2024. The Department of Veterans Affairs stands ready to help us. All it takes to start is a phone call.

A first step might be calling the Veterans Crisis Line anytime day or night: Just dial 988 and press 1. Or you can text 838255. The voice on the other end is likely to be a veteran's, specially trained. It's free and confidential. These responders can hook you up with the resources you need to get help.

To get a little more info, go online to [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net). Under the "Resources and Support" drop-down menu, select "Local Resources." There you can search for local veteran's help near you. You can also find local VA resources at [www.va.gov/directory/guide/allstate.asp](http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/allstate.asp).

To get info over the phone, call 800-273-8255 and press 1. If you have hearing loss, the TTY number is 800-799-4889.

If you happen to be active duty and you're overseas, there's still help for you. Go to [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net) and click on "How We Help," then select "Military Crisis Line." You'll see a list of direct free phone numbers depending where you are: Europe, Korea, Philippines or Afghanistan. Or you can call the original Crisis Line if outside of the U.S.: 800-273-8255 and press 1.

Remember: You can always walk directly into a VA medical center day or night.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. MOVIES: Which Disney animated movie features the song "Whistle While You Work"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which two oceans are on Russia's shores?
3. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear represented in the condition called euphoria?
4. TELEVISION: What is "The Simpsons" home address?
5. GAMES: How many dimples are on a golf ball?
6. ASTRONOMY: Earth's place in the solar system is how many planets from the Sun?
7. LANGUAGE: What is the only country in South America whose official language is Dutch?
8. FOOD & DRINK: What is a sweetbread?
9. LITERATURE: In which century was "The Canterbury Tales" written?
10. SCIENCE: Who is considered the father of modern astronomy?

### Answers

1. "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."
2. Arctic and Pacific.
3. Fear of good news.
4. 742 Evergreen Terrace.
5. Generally between 300-500.
6. Third.
7. Suriname.
8. Internal organs of a young animal.
9. Late 14th century.
10. Copernicus.

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## Securing America: The Fight Against Communist China

South Dakota has been drawing the blueprint for state-led response to the threat from Communist China. The Biden Administration's failure to protect Americans from nations that hate us has required states to do the job themselves. We've taken steps to secure our state from Communist China, including banning TikTok on state devices. But we can't continue without some federal legislation.

I have said many times that food security is national security. And right now, Communist China is using fear and control to perpetuate their agenda. If they successfully control our food supply, they will be able to control the United States of America.

I sent a letter to U.S. House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party Chairman Mike Gallagher supporting his bill to protect our farmland from foreign adversaries. I am also working with South Dakota's Congressman Dusty Johnson on a bill that prohibits hard-earned taxpayer dollars from bankrolling China's treats.

Over the last decade, China's holdings of American agricultural land has increased by 5,300%. Chairman Gallagher's bill protects our farmland by giving the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States greater jurisdiction over land purchases tied to foreign adversaries. The foreign adversaries listed in the bill are the same six countries, including Communist China, that I listed as "Evil Foreign Governments" in a bill earlier this year. Congressman Dusty Johnson is a co-sponsor of this legislation. Chairman Gallagher's bill also contains more protections for our agricultural land than the Senate amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. T

In December 2022, I wrote to congressional leadership calling for legislation to protect taxpayer dollars from the Chinese Communist Party. Throughout the summer, I had multiple conversations with Congressman Johnson about what this legislation could look like and how it would benefit not only South Dakota, but the entire nation.

Congressman Johnson's PRC Accountability and Divestment Act of 2023 allows states to divest taxpayer funds from China by giving state and local governments the authority to pull their assets out of and prohibit investments within Communist China. Any penny that ends up in China's bank account is a cent against America values, Freedom, and strength. This bill gives states the opportunity to divest. And it gives Americans the peace of mind to know where their tax dollars are going and what they are supporting.

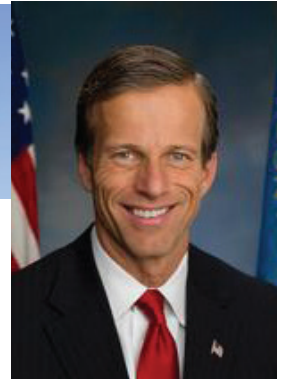
The Chinese Communist Party is a clear and present threat to America. They hate everything we stand for. They fight against our political, economic, and military values. They are attempting to infiltrate many facets of American's everyday lives.

Where America stands for Freedom – Communist China fights for tyranny.

I am glad that Congressman Johnson and Chairman Gallagher see the national security threat that China poses. I am also grateful that Senator Mike Rounds is taking action. States cannot continue to secure American citizens by ourselves – it is time for the federal government to take action.



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



## Rules of the Road for Artificial Intelligence

The launch of a new wave of consumer-facing artificial intelligence (AI) applications over the past year has ushered in a renewed focus on AI. Amazon chatbots, Netflix recommendations, and even directions on our phone all use AI, but recent developments demonstrate that the technology is about to take a giant step forward. While the applications with which most people have already interacted are trained to perform narrow tasks, the next generation of AI is designed to produce original content and make complex decisions based on massive amounts of data.

This new technology brings with it seemingly endless possibilities. It promises potentially tremendous advances in medicine, farming, and manufacturing. It can improve everything from national defense to daily life. But, as with any sophisticated technology, this next generation of AI also presents risks. The challenge, then, is how to encourage the promise of AI while ensuring there are basic safeguards in place to minimize potential dangers.

I believe the light-touch approach the United States has taken on internet regulation is a good model to follow for AI. The explosive growth of internet innovation in our country is in large part a result of government not weighing down a new technology with heavy-handed regulation. Leadership in AI will benefit our economy and make America more competitive, so we need to be sure we're promoting innovation while protecting consumers from the riskiest applications of AI.

To this end, I recently introduced bipartisan legislation that would establish some basic rules of the road for artificial intelligence. Our proposal focuses on two things: transparency for consumers and risk-based oversight of high-impact AI applications. On transparency, our bill would require big internet platforms to clearly inform consumers if the platform is using generative AI to create content. For AI being used to make high-impact decisions – such as those related to health care or critical infrastructure – our bill establishes an oversight framework to ensure it meets certain standards. This bill won't be the last word on AI, but it's the right place for Congress to start to preserve space for innovation while protecting against serious dangers and the knee-jerk reaction from Washington to overregulate.

It's clear that a race to regulate AI has already begun. President Biden has issued a sweeping executive order that empowers multiple government agencies to regulate AI systems. The European Union is pressing forward with a heavy-handed regulatory regime. But this is the wrong approach. It risks stifling innovation just as it's getting started, which we cannot afford to let happen. If we fall behind adversarial nations, particularly China, there will be profoundly dangerous implications for our national security and economic prosperity.

Unlike these heavy-handed approaches, the bipartisan bill I'm proposing does not assume the worst about artificial intelligence, and it doesn't rush into sweeping regulation of all uses of AI. Instead, the bill puts guardrails in place to mitigate dangers on high-risk, high-impact AI applications, while leaving American innovators and entrepreneurs free to move forward. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to get this bill across the finish line, and to ensure the United States is once again the leader in an important new technology.

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



## Protecting South Dakota

### **BIG Update**

The border crisis continues - and it extends beyond the southern border.

This week, House Republicans passed the Protecting Our Communities from Failure to Secure the Border Act to block the Biden Administration from housing undocumented migrants on National Parks and other public lands.

The need to act came after the Biden Administration set up makeshift shelters for migrants to stay in at a public park in New York City. This park used to be a place for families to play and the public to enjoy. Now it's filled with thousands of migrants whose backgrounds are not known. This housing is in the middle of a floodplain – it's not even a safe place for the migrants to stay.

I enjoy using our public lands in South Dakota. They should remain accessible and safe for all Americans to use. Passing the Protecting Our Communities from Failure to Secure the Border Act this week will help safeguard our parks for our communities.

### **BIG Idea**

I spent Monday in Indian country meeting with Crow Creek Sioux Tribe Chairman Peter Lengkeek and Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Chairman Clyde Estes and heard about ways they are improving their communities.

We talked about the new boat dock at LBST, their upcoming grocery store, and CCST's emergency facilities, mental health resources and law enforcement. Law enforcement in Indian country faces unique challenges such as too few officers, slow emergency response times – as long as thirty minutes – and officer retainment. I'm working on this issue so tribal police departments have the resources they need to keep their communities safe..

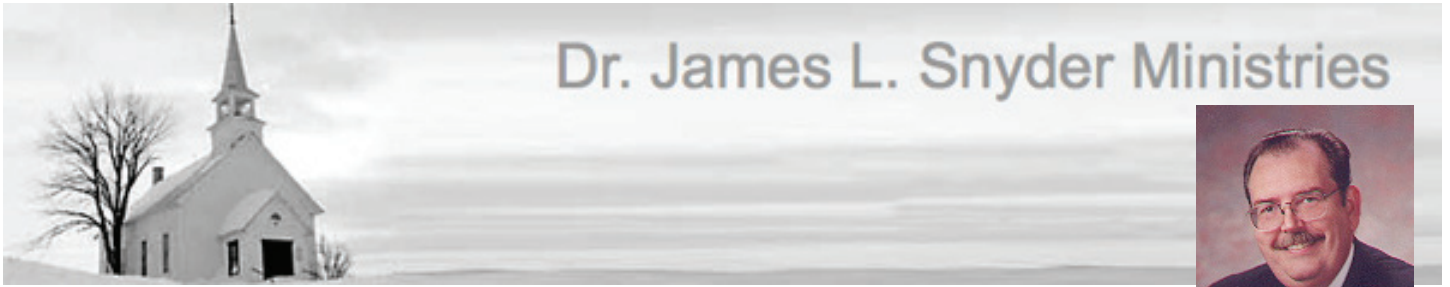
### **BIG News**

Investments of state funds across America could be invested in companies backed by the Chinese Communist Party – financing the growth of our biggest adversary. These dollars are available to the CCP to make spy balloons, steal Americans' personal data on TikTok, and grow the CCP's military. Some states like South Dakota have attempted to divest their funds, but have trouble doing it. Divesting from these companies requires express consent from Congress.

I introduced the PRC Accountability and Divestment Act to give states the authority to pull their funds from Chinese companies of concern that have humanitarian and military values antithetical to America. We shouldn't be giving our adversary capital to increase their tyrannical power.

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## Ain't Nothing Better Than a P&J Sandwich

I'm not sure what happened to my closely guarded diet during these recent holidays, but I won't ask. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has been so busy cooking and preparing food that she didn't have time to oversee my diet.

I love it when a plan comes together.

As usual, I used this time for my benefit and delighted myself with all the food. And believe me, the food was delicious.

One thing I like about holiday eating is that you can always go for seconds and if careful, thirds.

As the family is around the table and the chatter continues, I can sneak another portion of that delicious turkey. There is no way I can have too much turkey. From one turkey to another, I can only say, "Gobble, gobble, gobble."

Another benefit of these holiday meals is the leftovers. Sometimes, it has been my experience that leftovers are more delicious than the original. I'm unsure if it's The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's culinary skill or just the quality of the food. The second time around is a winner. The third time around is not too bad, either.

In our house, the planning of the holiday meals begins in late summer. Our shelves are stocked with all kinds of food for the holidays. We have a special refrigerator in the garage stuffed with all sorts of things for the holiday.

If I had to choose which food I enjoyed the most during these holidays, I would be in trouble. Or maybe I could say, like my uncle used to say, "It's what I'm eating at the time."

I must say that the pie selection is right up at the top of the best part of the meal. There were all kinds of pies: pumpkin pie, apple pie, lemon meringue pie, and those were just the pies I saw and ate. My plan is, if I eat only one slice at a time, I may not be caught.

I ended the holiday season well stuffed with some delicious food. No complaints from this side of the Parsonage.

The week following our Thanksgiving dinner, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I sat in the living room relaxing. I looked at her and said, "When is our next Thanksgiving dinner?"

Looking at me with one of her looks, she said, "When I find the next turkey." And then she stared at me until I was just slightly uncomfortable.

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About a week after our Thanksgiving dinner, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage planned to spend the day shopping for Christmas presents. I was instructed to get my lunch for that day.

I don't mind getting my lunch as long as she doesn't know the ingredients of my lunch. But how can you compete with all that food in our refrigerator this time of the year?

When lunchtime came, I opened the refrigerator and looked at all the delicious food. I was trying to figure out which I would pick first. No matter which one I choose, it would definitely be delicious.

Then I had one of those "Whaaaat" moments. I saw something in the refrigerator I had not thought about for a long time. I had all the Thanksgiving food in the refrigerator, and in the corner was a jar of grape jelly. I haven't seen that jar in a long time, and I'm not quite sure why I happened to see it now.

I knew the cupboard beside the refrigerator had several jars of peanut butter. What came to me at that moment was a P&J Sandwich. For those under 50, that is a Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich.

Suddenly, my tongue began wagging in culinary anticipation. There ain't nothing better in this whole wide world than a P&J sandwich. As a kid, that was my favorite lunch I took to school every day. And it doesn't matter what the jelly is, grape, strawberry, blueberry, it's all rather delicious.

Looking behind me to ensure the way was clear and that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had not come home early, I set out to fix my favorite sandwich.

Don't get me wrong here; turkey is a wonderful sandwich. But it doesn't compete with this P&J sandwich I was about to indulge in.

I don't know who invented peanut butter, but they have greatly served humanity. Then, adding jelly to peanut butter sandwiches is another brilliant accomplishment.

Quickly, I put together my P&J sandwich, got a fresh cup of coffee, and then went to the kitchen table to celebrate my lunch. After finishing that sandwich, I was very much tempted to go for sandwich number two. What would be wrong with that?

If The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage knows what I had for lunch, how would I explain it to her? Keeping it a secret is my number one agenda.

Munching on my P&J sandwich, I remembered what David said. "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalm 37:4).

I love food, but my greatest joy is in the Lord. As I focus on Him in my daily activities, I begin to understand the important desires of my heart. It's amazing how God surprised me with something that really made my life happy. The finer things in life aren't everything. Sometimes it's the simple things that make me truly happy.

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: My roof needs replacing and I'm also thinking about getting solar panels. Do solar shingles make sense or are they still too newfangled to trust?

-- Peter. H., Boston, MA

Going solar is becoming an increasingly appealing choice for homeowners looking for sustainable energy solutions. Solar shingles are an innovative and aesthetically pleasing alternative to traditional solar panels, thanks to advancements in solar technology. However, whether they're a good fit for you depends upon a number of factors.

Solar shingles, or solar roof tiles, are a great way to add renewable energy to your home without sacrificing curb appeal. They blend in seamlessly with your existing roof, so you won't have to worry about them looking out of place. Solar shingles are also a great way to increase the value of your home.

Solar shingles are becoming increasingly common in new construction homes, and they're also a great choice if your old roof needs repair or replacement. Combining the installation of solar shingles with your roof renovation kills accomplishes two things at once. However, solar shingles tend to be more expensive up front compared to traditional solar panels; you'll have to crunch the numbers with the help of one or more local installers to see what makes the most financial sense for you. Definitely get a few bids to make sure you're getting a fair deal.

Since solar shingles haven't been around as long as conventional photovoltaic panels, they don't have much of a track record of reliability. That said, solar shingles tend to last longer and are more resistant to the elements than photovoltaic panels, as they are designed to be part of the actual structure of the roof itself. If you can't find any with a warranty of less than 25 years, keep looking. If you're contemplating the move to solar shingles, proceed with caution and do your homework regarding different manufacturers' products and warranties—and find/read real customer reviews.

The suitability of solar shingles also depends on your geographical location and the direction your roof faces. It's important to figure out how much sunlight your roof gets throughout the year to determine how much energy solar shingles can generate. If your roof doesn't get enough sunlight because of shade or its position, the effectiveness of solar shingles may be reduced, making them less cost-effective. Google's free Project Sunroof website lets you see if your roof would be a good host for solar panels or shingles.

While solar shingles definitely cost more than photovoltaic panels—typically at least twice as much—it might pencil out if you need roofing tiles replaced anyway. The best way to find out is to interview and get bids from roofers, solar installers and others well-versed in the technology.

Some of the leading manufacturers of solar shingles include CertainTeed Solar, Luma Solar, SunTegra, GAF Energy's Timberline Solar and, yes, even Tesla. The latter's solar shingle solution is the priciest of the bunch—\$70,000 isn't unheard of for one of Tesla's Solar Roofs—but may be the most reliable given the company's head start in the business and huge cash reserves.



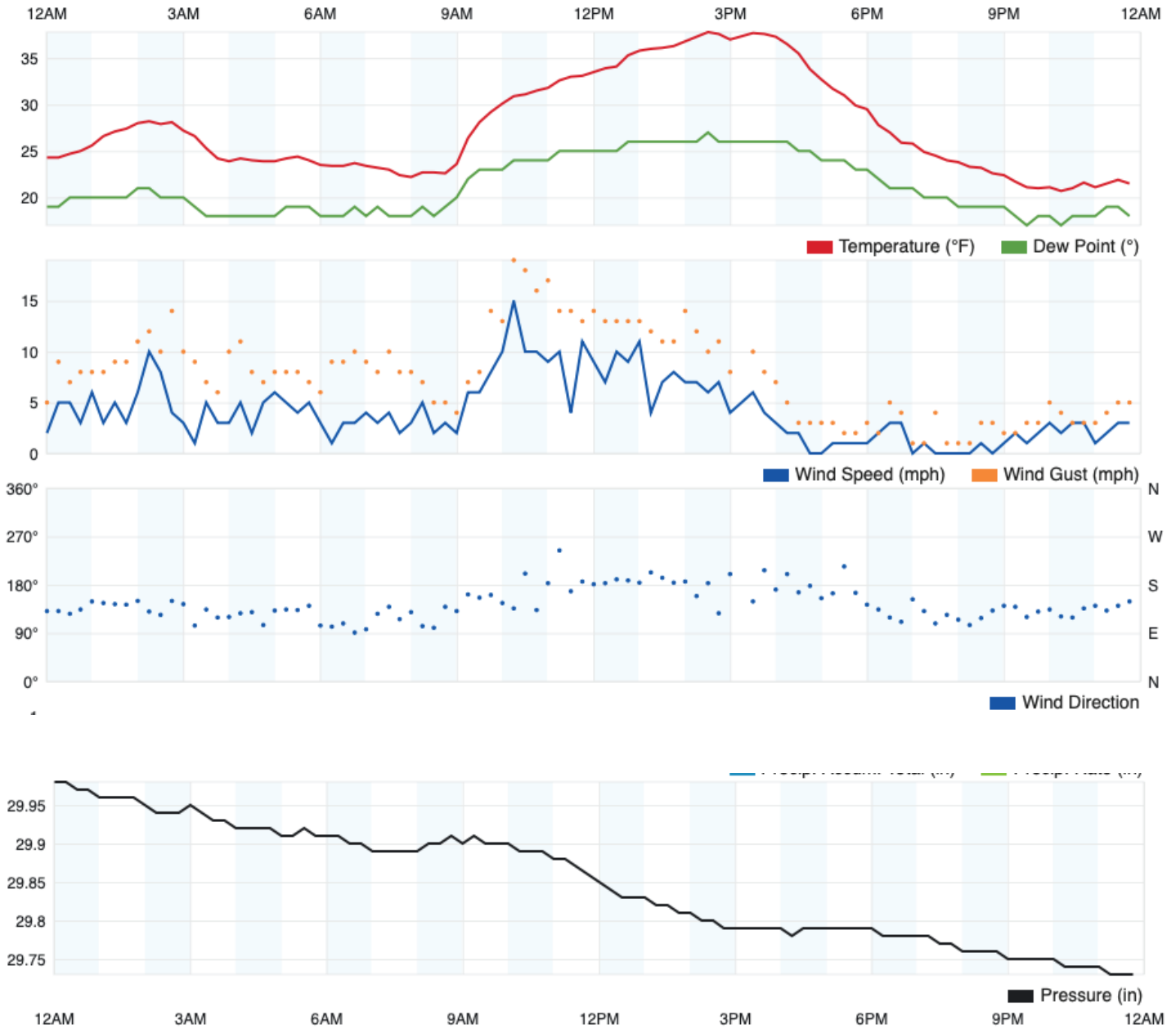
**Solar shingles are perfect if you need a new roof and want to go solar at the same time.** Credit:

Tai Viinikka, FlickrCC

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Sun Dec 3	Mon Dec 4	Tue Dec 5	Wed Dec 6	Thu Dec 7	Fri Dec 8	Sat Dec 9
36°F 20°F	39°F 21°F	38°F 28°F	52°F 31°F	51°F 33°F	44°F 25°F	39°F 22°F
SSE 5 MPH	SSW 10 MPH 20%	WSW 8 MPH	S 12 MPH	ESE 11 MPH	W 19 MPH	WNW 12 MPH



## Above Average Temperatures this Week

December 2, 2023  
2:08 PM

- Above average temps this week, with Wednesday and Thursday the warmest days.
- Light precipitation (10-30%) chance on Monday.
- Northwest winds with gusts exceeding 40 mph on Monday.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Maximum
Aberdeen	39	48	41	52	52	46	41	52
Britton	37	43	37	48	49	43	38	49
Brookings	36	42	40	50	53	46	39	53
Chamberlain	43	53	45	60	59	50	42	60
Clark	36	43	37	47	49	43	38	49
Eagle Butte	42	50	45	57	51	45	38	57
Ellendale	39	46	40	50	49	44	38	50
Eureka	41	48	41	54	49	43	39	54
Gettysburg	42	50	44	55	52	45	40	55
Huron	38	48	42	55	56	48	41	56
Kennebec	43	52	46	59	56	48	43	59
McIntosh	40	47	43	56	49	43	37	56
Milbank	39	43	39	49	50	45	40	50
Miller	42	50	44	57	56	47	41	57
Mobridge	44	52	46	58	52	47	41	58
Murdo	43	51	47	61	55	48	41	61
Pierre	46	53	48	59	56	49	44	59
Redfield	39	50	42	54	52	47	42	54
Sisseton	39	43	39	48	49	43	39	49
Watertown	38	42	39	47	49	43	38	49
Webster	37	41	36	47	47	41	36	47
Wheaton	37	41	36	46	47	43	38	47



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Above average temperatures will continue into this next work week with Wednesday and Thursday getting the warmest. Winds could gust to over 40 mph from the northwest on Monday, along with a slight chance (10-30%) for some light precipitation.

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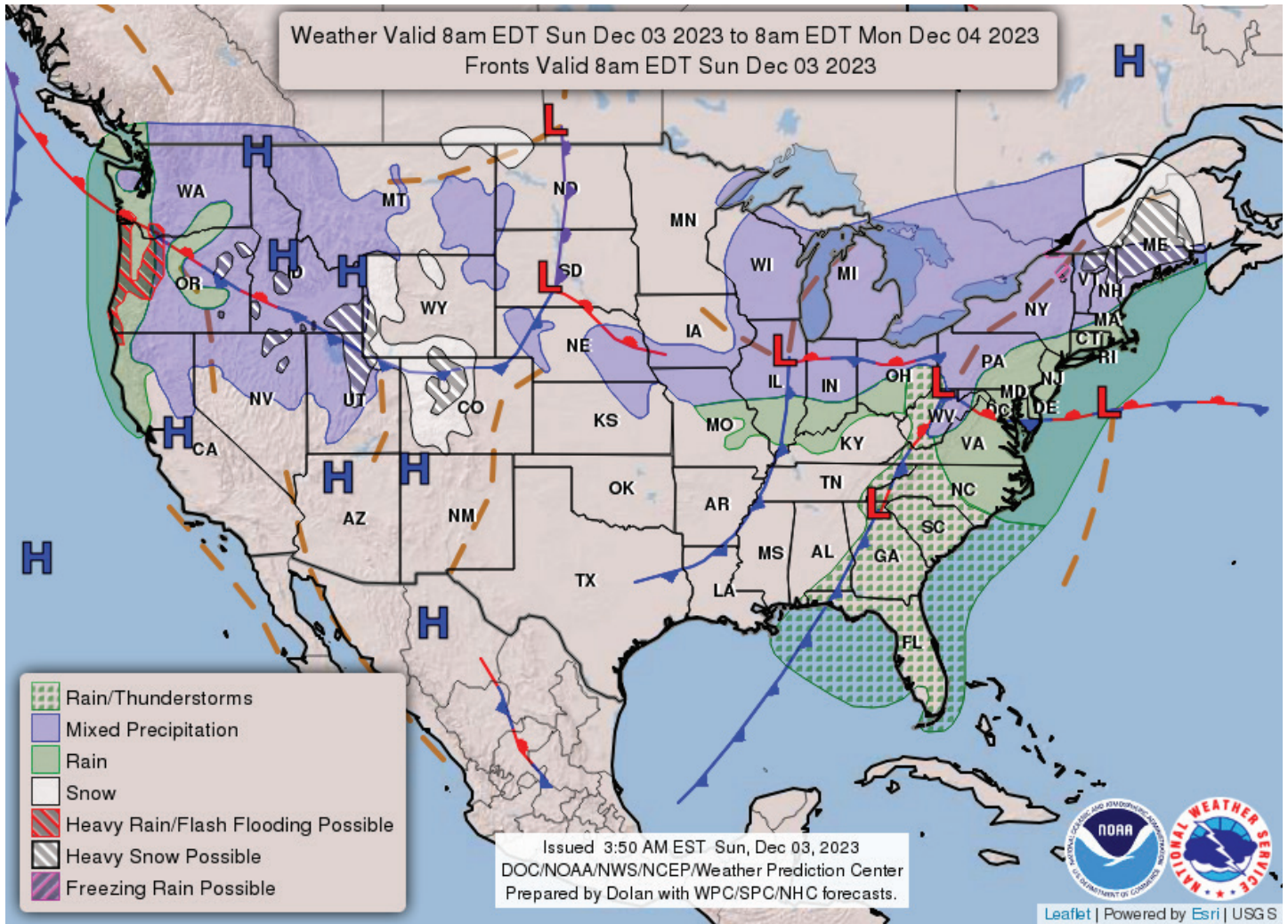
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 38 °F at 2:27 PM**  
**Low Temp: 21 °F at 10:12 PM**  
**Wind: 21 mph at 10:19 AM**  
**Precip: : 0.00**

Day length: 8 hours, 59 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 63 in 1914  
Record Low: -18 in 1905  
Average High: 34  
Average Low: 12  
Average Precip in Dec.: 0.06  
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00  
Average Precip to date: 21.27  
Precip Year to Date: 23.17  
Sunset Tonight: 4:51:58 PM  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:53:29 AM





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## Today in Weather History

December 3, 1991: Strong northwesterly winds behind a departing surface low brought blizzard conditions and dangerously cold wind chill readings across west central and southwest Minnesota on the 3rd. A general 1 to 3-inch snowfall occurred across the area and combined with winds gusting to 50 mph at times to generate whiteout conditions from the morning into the evening. Air temperatures coupled with the strong wind to produce wind chill values ranging from 30 to 50 below zero. Some schools and businesses were closed during the morning as the storm intensified. Several car accidents and jackknifed tractor-semitrailers littered roadways. Many roads were closed at the height of the storm. Power outages occurred over a small portion of the area due to the strong winds downing ice-covered power lines.

December 3, 1838: Cleveland Abbe, an American meteorologist, and advocate of time zones was born on this day. He was trained as an astronomer and was appointed the director of the Cincinnati Observatory in 1868. He eventually turned to meteorology and inaugurated a public weather service that served as a model for today's National Weather Service.

1896 - An early season snow and ice storm struck the southeastern U.S. It produced 11 inches of snow at Charlotte NC, and six inches at Atlanta GA. (David Ludlum)

1925 - A late season hurricane caused extensive damage across the Florida peninsula, then moved off the Georgia coast crossing Cape Hatteras as a tropical storm. The storm produced whole gales along the Middle Atlantic and Southern New England coast. Winds gusted to 60 mph at Block Island RI, and reached 64 mph at Atlantic City NJ. (David Ludlum)

1950 - A late season tornado killed four persons in Madison County and Bond County, east of St Louis MO. Three tornadoes touched down in Illinois that afternoon, compared to just half a dozen tornadoes in the month of December in 115 years of records up until that time. Thunderstorms also produced hail which caused more than four million dollars damage in the St Louis area, it was the most damaging hailstorm of record for Missouri. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1970 - A tornado, 400 yards in width, touched down about one mile below the summit of Timpanogos Divide. Trees up to 18 inches in diameter were snapped, and some of the 38 inch snow cover was carried 1000 feet above the ground as the tornado traveled one mile. (The Weather Channel)

1982 - A tornado destroyed a home four miles south of Eastwood MO. The owners were not injured in that tornado, but ironically one was killed Christmas Eve when another tornado hit the replacement mobile home on the same site. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A powerful storm over the Gulf of Alaska continued to produced high winds and heavy rain along the northern and central Pacific coast. Winds gusted to 80 mph south of Port Orford OR, Stevens Pass WA was blanketed with sixteen inches of snow, and Blue Canyon CA was soaked with 1.63 inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Squalls in the Great Lakes Region produced ten inches of snow at Union City, PA. Gale force winds gusted to 55 mph at Buffalo NY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Squalls produced heavy snow in the Great Lakes Region. Totals in Upper Michigan ranged up to 20 inches at Ironwood. Heavy snow and high winds caused 150 auto accidents in Michigan, resulting in sixteen deaths and 22 injuries. Strong northwesterly winds gusted to 73 mph at Johnstown PA, and Lowville PA received 20 inches of snow in 36 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### ARE YOU READY FOR CHRISTMAS?

Hal and Matt, two longtime friends, accidentally met in a department store a few weeks before Christmas. They gave each other a forced smile – as if they were happy to see each other – but wished their meeting was under different circumstances.

“You know,” said Hal, “I’ve come to the conclusion that Christmas has become a wrap race.”

“I agree,” replied Matt. “And I’ll tell you something else. I’ve finally discovered the real meaning of the word Yule.”

“Oh,” responded Hal. “What is it? I’d like to know myself.”

“It’s my wife saying in a very convincing voice, ‘You’ll buy me this and then you’ll buy me that!’ I feel like I have no choice but to buy her whatever she asks for,” replied Matt. “Everything seems to be about things.”

It would be a wise investment of our time this Christmas to try to imagine what God might have seen when He looked into the manger. Certainly it was more, much more, than a Baby. Did He see the crowds ridiculing and mocking His Son? Did He turn His head when He saw the “kiss of betrayal” from Judas? Was His mind troubled by the trial that unjustly condemned His Son? Did He weep when He saw Jesus hanging from the cross? Certainly. But let’s not forget to see the smile that was on His face and the peace that flooded into His heart when He saw the empty tomb.

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to get ready for Christmas by seeing its sights and sounds through Your eyes. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: John 14:9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”



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:  
12.01.23

12 47 49 52 65 12

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$377,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
12.02.23

3 8 11 38 48 8

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$2,600,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
12.02.23

3 6 17 45 46 15

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 3 Mins 30 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
12.02.23

8 19 23 24 28

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$78,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
12.02.23

6 32 37 42 67 25

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
12.02.23

28 35 41 47 60 3

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$412,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the  Associated Press

## Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL=

McLaughlin 65, St. Francis Indian 19

Mobridge-Pollock 62, Dupree 30

Sisseton 61, Castlewood 17

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

## South Dakota scores three touchdowns in second quarter, tops Sacramento State 34-24 in FCS playoffs

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Aidan Bouman threw two touchdown passes, Charles Pierre rushed for 123 yards and No. 3-seed South Dakota defeated Sacramento State 34-24 on Saturday in the second round of the FCS playoffs.

South Dakota had three quick-strike touchdowns in the second quarter. First, Josiah Ganues intercepted a Kaiden Bennett pass, setting up the Coyotes at the Sac State 33. Three plays later, Bouman threw to Javion Phelps for an 18-yard touchdown. Two plays later, Mi'Quise Grace scooped a fumble by Bennett and raced 56 yards for another touchdown. On the second play after a Sacramento State touchdown drive, Bouman connected with JJ Galbreath on a 75-yard touchdown pass.

Marcus Fulcher's second 2-yard touchdown run of the second quarter got the Hornets within 24-14 at halftime. Travis Theis added a 3-yard touchdown run for South Dakota in the third quarter for a 31-14 lead. The teams exchanged field goals in the fourth quarter before Sacramento State wrapped up the scoring with a 3-yard TD pass from Carson Camp to Jared Gipson.

Bouman was 11-of-16 passing for 174 yards and the Coyotes (10-2) racked up 368 yards of total offense. Camp was 14-of-23 passing for 168 yards and the Hornets (8-5) had 350 total yards.

South Dakota, which has defeated five top 25 teams this season, advances to the quarterfinals and will play North Dakota State, which defeated Montana State 35-34 in overtime on Saturday.

It was Sacramento State's fourth consecutive appearance in the second round and the Hornets reached the quarterfinals last year.

## Davis' 3 TDs power FCS No. 1 South Dakota State in 41-0 shutout of Mercer

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Isaiah Davis ran for three touchdowns, including a 42-yard dash to open the second half, and top-seeded South Dakota State turned in a dominant performance to shutout Mercer 41-0 Saturday in a Football Championship Series second-round game.

The defending national champions, ranked No. 1 the entire season, had a first-round bye. The Jackrabbits advance to face the winner of Saturday's game between Youngstown State and eighth-seeded Villanova.

South Dakota State (12-0) took the opening kick and drove 56 yards in 10 plays to set up Hunter Dustman's 26-yard field goal and had touchdowns on its next three possessions of the half to take a 24-0 lead. Davis scored from the 4 to open the second quarter to cap a 13-play, 74-yard drive that used more than seven minutes of the first quarter. Mark Gronowski found Jaxon Janke with a seven-yard TD and Davis capped a six-play, 66-yard drive with a six-yard run with :21 left in the half.

Meanwhile, the Jackrabbits held Mercer (9-4) to just 62 yards of total offense in the first half, holding the Bears without a first down until midway through the second quarter on a drive that South Dakota State

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stopped on downs at its 32-yard line. The Bears got back-to-back stops in the third quarter, picking off a Gronowski pass near midfield, and after Carter Peevy threw an interception at the South Dakota State 10-yard line, Mercer forced a punt.

Mercer had just six first downs in the game and was just 1 of 10 on third down conversions while being held to just 151 total yards of offense.

South Dakota State rolled to 571 yards on offense, capped by an 80-yard dash for a touchdown by Angel Johnson with just under six minutes to play.

Gronowski was 11 of 16 passing for 158 yards and a touchdown with an interception. Davis carried 13 times for 117 yards and Amar Johnson carried 11 for 107. Angel Johnson had three carries for 80 yards as the Jackrabbits piled up 346 yards on the ground. Jaxon Janke had seven catches for 106 yards.

Peevy was 14 of 22 passing for 75 yards with two interceptions for Mercer

## **As host of UN COP28 climate talks, the autocratic UAE is now allowing in critics it once kept out**

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — As participants at the United Nations' COP28 climate talks filed in Sunday for another day of talks, they found themselves greeted by a rare sight in the United Arab Emirates — a protest.

From activism about the Israel-Hamas war to environmental issues, activists allowed into the UAE can demonstrate under strict guidelines in this autocratic nation. Others from organizations long banned by the country also have been let in, providing them some the opportunity for the first time in about a decade to offer criticism — though many acknowledge it may see them never allowed back in the country.

"One of our major issues with COP28 is the fact that the UAE government is using this to burnish its image internationally and the fact that limited protests are allowed ... is a good thing," said Joey Shea, now on her first trip to the Emirates as a researcher focused on the country at Human Rights Watch. "But at the end of the day, it helps to create this very false image that the UAE does have respect for rights when in fact it does not."

The UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms led by Abu Dhabi's ruler, bans political parties and labor unions. All power rests in each emirate's hereditary ruler. Broad laws tightly restrict speech and nearly all major local media are either state-owned or state-affiliated outlets.

Laws also criminalize the very few protests that take place by foreign laborers over working conditions and unpaid salaries, which can see them get partial settlements but then be promptly deported. The Emirates' overall population of more than 9.2 million people is only 10% Emirati.

The rest are expatriates, many of them low-paid laborers seeking to send money back home to their families, skewing the country's gender balance to nearly 80% male. Many avoid saying anything as they see their livelihoods at risk for speaking up as their visas and residencies remain tied to their employers.

However, the U.N. and the UAE agreed before COP28 that free expression would be allowed. Activists described a process of having to seek approvals with organizers for their demonstrations. That also appears to have extended to allowing in people the Emiratis otherwise may not have.

About a decade ago, as the Arab Spring protests wound down, the UAE cracked down on Islamists and dissidents in the country. It also began blocking organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch from having their staff visit the nation.

They included human rights expert James Lynch, at the time working for Amnesty. He was blocked from entering the country in 2015 to talk at a conference about migrant labor.

Now the co-director of an organization called FairSquare, Lynch said he sought and didn't receive a visa to attend COP28. After Emirati officials told The Financial Times nothing blocked him from coming, he took a nervous flight to Dubai with a copy of the article in his possession in case he was detained again at immigration. He was not and spoke to The Associated Press from the summit.

"It's obviously a good thing that the UAE is letting people in with it with a variety of voices and perspec-

tives, including critical perspectives,” Lynch said. “But nevertheless, ... it’s a nervy and sort of tense event in many ways.”

Shea’s colleagues at Human Rights Watch hadn’t been in the UAE in nine years after one of their colleagues was similarly detained trying to fly into the country. However, she said she didn’t plan to work outside of the U.N.-administered Blue Zone for her safety and those speaking with her.

“From the moment that COP28 participants landed in Dubai, they were faced with thousands of security cameras, CCTV everywhere in public spaces, inside of buildings,” Shea said. “You were effectively tracked from the moment that you stepped down in this country, in addition to mass surveillance” through suspected cases of authorities hacking mobile phones.

Early Sunday, a dozen demonstrators held up a sign calling for a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war, some reading a long list of Palestinian children’s names and their ages who had been killed in the Gaza Strip. Israeli security personnel from a pavilion on site briefly argued over the protest with United Nations police on hand guarding the Blue Zone, an area overseen by the U.N. where the negotiations take place.

Criticism of Israel’s conduct in the war has peppered much of the summit from world leaders, as well as activists who can be seen through the site wearing the traditional checkered keffiyeh, or scarf, associated with the Palestinians.

Babawale Obayanju, an activist with the Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice from Benin City, Nigeria, taking part in Sunday’s protest, told the AP that it was important to highlight the killing of civilians in the Gaza Strip as “it’s time for the world to take action” on that and the environment.

“Every opportunity we have, every arena of this struggle is one that we must embrace,” Obayanju said. “And the COP is in that arena of struggle.”

At the demonstration, one passer-by briefly unfurled a Palestinian flag before those leading the protest asked him to put it away. U.N. rules bar the use of national flags in demonstrations. And unlike some other COP summits, there haven’t been marches of tens of thousands of people outside the venue.

For Alice McGown, a Los Angeles-based activist, that meant dressing in a dugong outfit, holding a sign saying: “No More Fossils.” But while looking cartoonish, McGown offered serious criticism of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co.’s plans to expand its offshore ultrasour gas operations into a protected area home to the dugong.

“It’s a little risky,” she said, as gawking onlookers stopped to photograph her. “Civil society does not have much of a place to speak out against these actions.”

Associated Press climate and environmental coverage receives support from several private foundations. See more about AP’s climate initiative here. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## **Philippine president blames foreign militants for a bombing that killed 4 Christian worshippers**

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippine president blamed “foreign terrorists” for a bomb blast that killed four people Sunday, wounded dozens of other Catholic worshippers in the south and sparked a security alarm, including in the capital, Manila, where state forces were put on alert.

The suspected bomb, which the police said was made from a mortar round, went off and hit students and teachers who attended a Mass in a gymnasium at Mindanao State University in southern Marawi city, Taha Mandangan, the security chief of the state-run campus, told The Associated Press by telephone.

Dozens of students and teachers dashed out of the gym and the wounded were taken to hospitals.

Regional military commander Maj. Gen. Gabriel Viray III said four people were killed by the explosion, including three women, and 50 others were brought to two hospitals for treatment.

Six of the wounded were fighting for their lives in a hospital, said Gov. Mamintal Adiong Jr. of the Islamic province of Lanao del Sur, which has Marawi as its capital.

“I condemn in the strongest possible terms the senseless and most heinous acts perpetrated by foreign terrorists upon the Mindanao State University,” President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said in a statement.



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"Extremists who wield violence against the innocent will always be regarded as enemies to our society." Marcos did not explain why he immediately blamed foreign militants for the high-profile bombing. Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. later told a news conference without elaborating there was a strong indication of a "foreign element" in the bombing.

Military chief of staff Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. said the bomb attack could be retaliation by Muslim militants for a series of battle setbacks.

"We are looking at possible angles," Brawner said. "It could be a retaliatory attack,"

He cited the killing of 11 suspected Islamic militants in a military offensive backed by airstrikes and artillery fires on Friday near Datu Hoffer town in southern Maguindanao province.

Regional police director Brig. Gen. Allan Nobleza said the slain militants belonged to Dawlah Islamiyah, an armed group that had aligned itself with the Islamic State group and still has a presence in Lanao del Sur province.

Mosque-studded Marawi city came under attack from foreign and local Islamic militants who had associated themselves with the Islamic State group in 2017. The five-month siege left more than 1,100 dead, mostly militants, before it was quelled by Philippine forces backed by airstrikes and surveillance planes deployed by the United States and Australia.

Army troops and police cordoned off the university shortly after the bombing and began an investigation, checking security cameras for any indication of who may have been responsible for the attack. Security checkpoints were set up around the city.

Police Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Peralta told reporters that military and police bomb experts found fragments of a 60mm mortar round in the scene of the attack.

Such explosives fashioned from mortar rounds had been used in past attacks by Islamic militants in the country's south.

The deadly blast set off a security alarm beyond Marawi city as the Christmas season ushered in a period of travel, shopping sprees and traffic jams across the country. Police and other state forces were put under "heightened alert" in metropolitan Manila, security officials said.

The Philippine coast guard said it ordered all its personnel to intensify intelligence gathering, stricter inspections of passenger ferries and the deployment of bomb-sniffing dogs and sea marshals.

"Amid this barbaric act, best public service must prevail," coast guard chief Admiral Ronnie Gavan said.

The southern Philippines is the homeland of minority Muslims in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation and the scene of decades-old separatist rebellions.

The largest armed insurgent group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, signed a 2014 peace deal with the government, considerably easing decades of fighting. But a number of smaller armed groups rejected the peace pact and press on with bombings and other attacks while evading government offensives.

## **Israel widens evacuation orders as it shifts its offensive to southern Gaza amid heavy bombardments**

By NAJIB JOBAIN, SAMY MAGDY and ELENA BECATOROS Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel's military on Sunday ordered more areas in and around Gaza's second-largest city of Khan Younis to evacuate, as it shifted its offensive to the southern half of the territory where it says many Hamas leaders are hiding.

Heavy bombardments were reported overnight and into Sunday in the area of Khan Younis and the southern city of Rafah, as well as parts of the north that had been the focus of Israel's blistering air and ground campaign.

Many of the territory's 2.3 million people are crammed in the south after Israeli forces ordered civilians to leave the north in the early days of the 2-month-old war.

With the resumption of fighting, hopes receded that another temporary truce could be negotiated. A weeklong cease-fire, which expired Friday, had facilitated the release of dozens of Gaza-held Israeli and foreign hostages and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel.

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"We will continue the war until we achieve all its goals, and it's impossible to achieve those goals without the ground operation," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in an address Saturday night.

On Sunday, the Israeli military widened evacuation orders in and around Khan Younis, asking residents of at least five more areas and neighborhoods to leave for their safety.

Residents said the Israeli military dropped leaflets ordering them to move south to Rafah or to a coastal area in the southwest. "Khan Younis city is a dangerous combat zone," the leaflets read.

The main hospital in Khan Younis received at least three dead and dozens wounded Sunday morning from an Israeli strike that hit a residential building in the eastern part of the city, according to an Associated Press journalist at the hospital.

Separately, the bodies of 31 people who were killed in Israeli bombardment across the central areas of the strip were taken to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Gaza's central city of Deir al-Balah, said Omar al-Darawi, an administrative employee at that hospital.

AP video showed bodies in white body bags on the ground outside the hospital in Deri al-Balah as dozens of people held funeral prayers Sunday morning. The bodies were then taken on a truck for burial.

One woman wept, cradling the body of a child on her lap as she sat on a chair. Another adult carried the body of a baby as he got into a truck.

U.N. monitors said in a report issued before the latest evacuation orders that those who were told to leave make up about one-quarter of the territory of Gaza — home to nearly 800,000 people before the war.

The United States, Israel's closest ally, has warned Israel to avoid significant new mass displacement.

The Israeli military said Sunday that its fighter jets and helicopters "struck terror targets in the Gaza Strip, including terror tunnel shafts, command centers and weapons storage facilities" overnight, while a drone killed five Hamas fighters.

In northern Gaza, rescue teams with little equipment scrambled Sunday to dig through the rubble of buildings in the Jabaliya refugee camp and other neighborhoods in Gaza City in search for potential survivors and dead bodies.

"They strike everywhere," said Amal Radwan, a woman sheltering in Jabaliya, an urban refugee camp. "There is the non-stop sound of explosions around us."

Mohamed Abu Abed, who lives in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City, also said there were relentless airstrikes and shelling in his neighborhood and surrounding areas.

"The situation here is imaginable," he said. "Death is everywhere. One can die in a flash."

The Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza said Saturday that the overall death toll in the strip since the Oct. 7 start of the war had surpassed 15,200, a sharp jump from the previous count of more than 13,300 on Nov. 20. The ministry does not differentiate between civilian and combatant deaths, but it said 70% of the dead were women and children. It said more than 40,000 people had been wounded since the war began.

U.S. appeals to protect civilians came after an offensive in the first weeks of the war devastated large areas of northern Gaza. Much of Gaza's population is packed into the territory's southern half. The territory itself, bordering Israel and Egypt to the south, is sealed, leaving residents with the only option of moving around within Gaza to avoid the bombings.

"Too many innocent Palestinians have been killed. Frankly, the scale of civilian suffering and the images and videos coming from Gaza are devastating," U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris told reporters Saturday during the COP28 climate conference in Dubai.

Mark Regev, a senior adviser to Netanyahu, said Israel was making "maximum effort" to protect civilians and the military has used leaflets, phone calls, and radio and TV broadcasts to urge Gazans to move from specific areas. He added that Israel is considering creating a security buffer zone that would not allow Gazans direct access to the border fence on foot.

Israel says it targets Hamas operatives and blames civilian casualties on the militants, accusing them of operating in residential neighborhoods. It claims to have killed thousands of militants, without providing evidence. Israel says at least 78 of its soldiers have been killed in the offensive in northern Gaza.

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Bombardments on Saturday destroyed a block of about 50 residential buildings in the Shijaiyah neighborhood of Gaza City and a six-story building in the urban refugee camp of Jabaliya on the northern edge of the city, said the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

More than 60 people were killed in the Shijaiyah strikes and more than 300 buried under the rubble, the monitors said, citing the Palestinian Red Crescent.

Mahmoud Bassal, a spokesman for Gaza's Civil Defense, said rescuers lack bulldozers and other equipment to reach those buried under the rubble, confirming the Red Crescent estimate of about 300 people missing. He said the block had housed over 1,000 people.

"Retrieving the martyrs is extremely difficult," he said in video comments from the site of the attack.

Meanwhile, Harris told Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi in a meeting that "under no circumstances" would the U.S. permit the forced relocation of Palestinians from Gaza or the West Bank, an ongoing siege of Gaza or the redrawing of its borders, according to a U.S. summary.

The war was sparked by an Oct. 7 attack by Hamas and other militants that killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in southern Israel. Around 240 people were taken captive.

The renewed hostilities have heightened concerns for 137 hostages, who the Israeli military says are still being held after 105 were freed during the recent truce. Israel freed 240 Palestinians during the truce. Most of those released by both sides were women and children.

## **Earth is running a fever. And UN climate talks are focusing on the contagious effect on human health**

By JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — With Planet Earth running a fever, U.N. climate talks focused Sunday on the contagious effects on human health.

Under a brown haze over Dubai, the COP28 summit moved past two days of lofty rhetoric and calls for unity from top leaders to concerns on health issues like the deaths of at least 7 million people globally from air pollution each year and the spread of diseases like cholera and malaria as global warming upends weather systems.

World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said it was high time for the U.N. Conference of Parties on climate to hold its first health day in its 28th edition, saying the threats to health from climate change were "immediate and present."

"Although the climate crisis is a health crisis, it's well overdue that 27 COPs have been and gone without a serious discussion of health," he said. "Undoubtedly, health stands as the most compelling reason for taking climate action."

After two days of speeches by dozens of presidents, prime ministers, royals and other top leaders — in the background and off-stage — participants were also turning attention to tough negotiations over the next nine days to push for more agreement on ways to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times.

Saturday capped off with the COP28 presidency announcing that 50 oil and gas companies had agreed to reach near-zero methane emissions and end routine flaring in their operations by 2030. They also pledged to reach "net zero" for their operational emissions by 2050.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said "the promises made clearly fall short of what is required."

In comments Sunday, Guterres called the methane emissions reductions "a step in the right direction." But he criticized the net zero pledge for excluding emissions from fossil fuel consumption — where the vast majority of the industry's greenhouse gases come from — and said the announcement provided no clarity on how the companies planned to reach their goals.

"There must be no room for greenwashing," he said.

Temperature rises caused by the burning of oil, gas and coal have worsened natural disasters like floods, heat waves and drought, and caused many people to migrate to more temperate zones — in addition to the negative knock-on effects for human health.

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John Kerry, the U.S. climate envoy, said it was “astonishing” to him that it’s taken so long for health to become a centerpiece of the climate discussion.

“Our bodies are ecosystems, and the world is an ecosystem,” Kerry said. “If you poison our land and you poison our water and you poison our air, you poison our bodies.”

He said his daughter Vanessa, who works with Tedros, “repeats to me frequently that we should not measure progress on the climate crisis just by the degrees averted, but by the lives saved.”

A COP28 declaration backed by some 120 countries stressed the link between health and climate change. It made no mention of phasing out planet-warming fossil fuels, but pledged to support efforts to curb health care sector pollution, which accounts for 5% of global emissions, according to the WHO head.

Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, head of climate and health at WHO, said heat alone has put pressure on the body and led to higher rates of infectious disease.

“Climate change doesn’t need to be on a death certificate for us to be confident that climate change is causing deaths,” Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, WHO’s head of climate and health, said.

Dubai, the largest city in oil-rich United Arab Emirates, often faces higher levels of air pollution than other places on Earth due to its location — and haze is common. The city sits on the coast of the Persian Gulf, but further inland begins the Empty Quarter, the massive desert that takes up a third of the Arabian Peninsula.

The city’s boom has led to rapid construction, industrial areas and pollution from automobiles, adding to the impacts of sand and particulate churned by the desert winds. Some 3.5 million people now live in Dubai, up from 183,000 less than 50 years ago, and estimates suggest another million commute into the city-state each day for work.

The Dubai government, on its web site devoted to the environment, listed its Air Quality Index level mostly at “good” on Sunday. Switzerland-based IQAir, a technology company that sells air-quality monitoring products, listed Dubai as the city with the 18th-worst air quality in the world with “moderate” air quality levels as of noon local time on Sunday. It cited high levels of two types of particulate matter in the air, and recommended mask-wearing for “sensitive groups” and a reduction of outdoor exercise.

## **Venezuelans to vote in referendum over large swathe of territory under dispute with Guyana**

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelans will vote Sunday in a referendum to supposedly decide the future of a large swath of neighboring Guyana their government claims ownership of, arguing the territory was stolen when a north-south border was drawn more than a century ago.

Guyana considers the referendum a step toward annexation and the vote has its residents on edge. It asks Venezuelans whether they support establishing a state in the disputed territory known as Essequibo, granting citizenship to current and future area residents, and rejecting the jurisdiction of the United Nations’ top court in settling the disagreement between the two South American countries.

The International Court of Justice on Friday ordered Venezuela not to take any action that would alter Guyana’s control over Essequibo, but the judges did not specifically ban officials from carrying out Sunday’s five-question referendum. Guyana had asked the court to order Venezuela to halt parts of the vote.

The legal and practical implications of the referendum remain unclear. But in comments explaining Friday’s verdict, international court president Joan E. Donoghue said statement’s from Venezuela’s government suggest it “is taking steps with a view toward acquiring control over and administering the territory in dispute.”

“Furthermore, Venezuelan military officials announced that Venezuela is taking concrete measures to build an airstrip to serve as a ‘logistical support point for the integral development of the Essequibo,’” she said.

The 61,600-square-mile (159,500-square-kilometer) territory accounts for two-thirds of Guyana and also borders Brazil, whose Defense Ministry earlier this week in a statement said it has “intensified its defense actions” and boosted its military presence in the region as a result of the dispute.

Essequibo is larger than Greece and rich minerals. It also gives access to an area of the Atlantic where oil in commercial quantities was discovered in 2015, drawing the attention of the government of Venezu-

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elan President Nicolás Maduro.

Venezuela's government promoted the referendum for weeks, framing participation as an act of patriotism, and often conflating it with a show of support for Maduro. His government held a mock referendum last month, but it did not release participation figures or results.

Venezuela has always considered Essequibo as its own because the region was within its boundaries during the Spanish colonial period, and it has long disputed the border decided by international arbitrators in 1899, when Guyana was still a British colony.

That boundary was decided by arbitrators from Britain, Russia and the United States. The U.S. represented Venezuela on the panel in part because the Venezuelan government had broken off diplomatic relations with Britain.

Venezuelan officials contend the Americans and Europeans conspired to cheat their country out of the land and argue that a 1966 agreement to resolve the dispute effectively nullified the original arbitration.

Guyana, the only English-speaking country in South America, maintains the initial accord is legal and binding and asked the International Court of Justice in 2018 to rule it as such, but a ruling is years away.

Voters on Sunday will have to answer whether they "agree to reject by all means, in accordance with the law," the 1899 boundary and whether they support the 1966 agreement "as the only valid legal instrument" to reach a solution.

Maduro and his allies are urging voters to answer "yes" to all five questions on the referendum.

## **Police in Paris have arrested a man who targeted passersby, killing 1 and injuring 2, official says**

By ELAINE GANLEY Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French police arrested a man who targeted passersby in Paris on Saturday night, killing a German tourist with a knife and injuring two others, France's interior minister said.

Police subdued the man, a 25-year-old French citizen who had spent four years in prison for planning a violent offense. After his arrest, he expressed anguish about Muslims dying, notably in Afghanistan and the Palestinian territories, and claimed that France was an accomplice, French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said. The attacker apparently cried "Allahu Akbar" (God is great), Darmanin added.

"This person was ready to kill others," Darmanin told reporters.

The anti-terrorism prosecutor's office confirmed it has opened an investigation.

The attacker went after a German couple with a knife, killing the man and used a hammer to injure two others.

The attacker, who was not identified by name, left prison after four years in 2020 and was under surveillance and undergoing psychiatric treatment, the minister said, painting a brief portrait of the assailant, who was born in Neuilly-Sur-Seine, a Paris suburb. He was most recently living with his parents in the Essonne region, south of Paris.

The fatal attack occurred in the 15th district of the French capital with the assailant using a knife to kill the German tourist, who was not identified. He then crossed the Seine river to the Right Bank and used a hammer to attack the injured. Details about the victims were not immediately known.

The attacker was stopped by police who twice fired a taser at him in the stomach, the minister said, praising the officers for their quick response and reiterating that "there would doubtless have been other dead."

France has been under a heightened terror alert since the fatal stabbing in October of a teacher in the northern city of Arras by a former student originally from the Ingushetia region in Russia's Caucasus Mountains and suspected of Islamic radicalization. That fatal attack came three years after another teacher was killed outside Paris, beheaded by a radicalized Chechen later killed by police.

The Saturday attack raised the fear level in the French capital, still marked by the 2015 attacks of cafes and a music hall by Islamist radicals that killed 130 people.

"We will cede nothing in the face of terrorism. Never," Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne said on X, formerly

Twitter, sending her condolences to the victims and their families.

## Kissinger's unwavering support for brutal regimes still haunts Latin America

By DANIEL POLITI and PATRICIA LUNA Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — In Chile, leftists were tortured, tossed from helicopters and forced to watch relatives be raped. In Argentina, many were “disappeared” by members of the brutal military dictatorship that held detainees in concentration camps.

It all happened with the endorsement of Henry Kissinger, the former U.S. secretary of state who died Wednesday at age 100.

As tributes poured in for the towering figure who was the top U.S. diplomat under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, the mood was decidedly different in South America, where many countries were scarred deeply during the Cold War by human rights abuses inflicted in the name of anti-communism and where many continue to harbor a deep distrust of their powerful neighbor to the north.

“I don’t know of any U.S. citizen who is more deplored, more disliked in Latin America than Henry Kissinger,” said Stephen Rabe, a retired University of Texas at Dallas history professor who wrote a book about Kissinger’s relationship with Latin America. “You know, the reality is, if he had traveled once democracy returned to Argentina, to Brazil, to Uruguay — if he had traveled to any of those countries he would have been immediately arrested.”

There is likely no starker example of Kissinger’s meddling with democracy in the region and then supporting brutality in the name of anti-communism than Chile.

In Chile, Kissinger played a key role in the efforts to do everything in the United States’ power to undermine and weaken the socialist government of Salvador Allende, who was elected president in 1970. Kissinger then used his sway to prop up the military dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who rose to power in a 1973 coup, repeatedly refusing to call attention to the numerous human rights violations of Pinochet’s regime, which murdered opponents, canceled elections, restricted the media, suppressed labor unions and disbanded political parties.

Kissinger long alleged that he wasn’t aware of the human rights abuses that were committed in the region, but records show that this wasn’t the case, said Peter Kornbluh, a senior analyst at the National Security Archive that is in charge of its Chile project.

“The declassified historical record, the documents that Kissinger wrote, read and said, leave no doubt that he was the chief architect of the U.S. policy to destabilize the Allende government and that he was also the chief enabler of helping the Pinochet regime consolidate what became a bloody, 17-year infamous dictatorship,” Kornbluh said.

Kissinger was “somewhat obsessed” with Allende’s government, fearing that the rise of a socialist government through democratic means could have a contagion effect in the region, said Chilean Sen. José Miguel Insulza, a former secretary general of the Organization of American States who served as a foreign policy adviser in Allende’s government.

“For him, any action that meant defending the national interest of the United States seemed justifiable,” Insulza said.

Kissinger feared what Allende’s government could mean for the world.

“In geopolitical terms, Kissinger considered the rise of a left-wing coalition to power through democratic means even more dangerous than the example set by Cuba. Indeed, this could be replicated in Western countries with powerful communist parties in terms of electoral influence, such as in Italy,” said Rolando Álvarez, a history professor at the University of Santiago, Chile.

Kissinger was seemingly unaffected by tales of suffering at the hands of military officers, even though his own family arrived in the U.S. as refugees who had to flee Nazi Germany in his teens.

“By the end of 1976, State Department aides were telling Henry Kissinger, a Jew, that Jews were being

targeted in Argentina," Rabe said. "And Kissinger just didn't do anything."

In Chile's neighbor, Argentina, a military junta rose to power in 1976 vowing to combat leftist "subversives." Kissinger made clear he had no objections to their brutal tactics and repeatedly ignored calls from other State Department officials to raise more concerns about human rights violations.

In a June 1976 meeting, Kissinger had a message for Argentina's foreign minister, Admiral César Augusto Guzzetti: "If there are things that have to be done, you should do them quickly." He later reiterated that support during a meeting in October 1976 — a time when Argentine officials were worried the U.S. would raise human rights concerns amid increasing reports of torture and disappearances.

Guzzetti was "overjoyed" at the meetings, and "had felt that Kissinger had given him the signal that the United States had no objection to wholesale slaughter," Rabe said.

Kissinger had a similar attitude toward other military dictatorships in the region, including in Uruguay and Brazil, and never raised objections to what was known as Operation Condor, a clandestine program that allowed military regimes in that part of the world to illegally pursue, detain, torture and assassinate political dissidents who fled their countries.

That attitude made a lasting imprint on Latin Americans' psyche.

"At least here in Latin America, what I perceived in Henry Kissinger's vision is very negative because it's a kind of anything goes mentality. No matter how brutal the dictatorship is that must be supported, it doesn't matter," said Francisco Bustos, a human rights lawyer and professor at the University of Chile.

Decades later, the effects of that policy are still being felt in a region that feels the U.S. would go to any lengths to support its interests.

"There is a segment of political parties and movements in Latin America, including Chile, where the relationship with the United States is essentially marked by anti-imperialism. This perspective essentially sees any U.S. administration, whether Democratic or Republican, liberal, progressive, or ultraconservative, as more or less the same," said Gilberto Aranda, an international relations professor at the University of Chile.

Although U.S. intervention in a region that was often referred to as "America's backyard" has a long history, Kissinger seemed to take that into overdrive.

It's no surprise then that one of the harshest reactions to Kissinger's death came from a Chilean official.

"A man has died whose historical brilliance never managed to conceal his profound moral misery," Chile's ambassador to the United States, Juan Gabriel Valdes, posted on the social media platform X. Chile's leftist President Gabriel Boric then retweeted the message.

## Israeli offensive shifts to crowded southern Gaza, driving up death toll despite evacuation orders

By NAJIB JOBAIN, BASSEM MROUE and CARA ANNA Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel pounded targets in crowded southern Gaza on Saturday and ordered more neighborhoods designated for attack to evacuate, driving up the death toll as the United States and others urged it to do more to protect civilians a day after a truce collapsed.

The prospect of further cease-fires in Gaza appeared bleak, as Israel recalled its negotiators and Hamas' deputy leader said any further swap of Gaza-held hostages for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel would only happen as part of ending the war.

"We will continue the war until we achieve all its goals, and it's impossible to achieve those goals without the ground operation," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in an address Saturday night.

At least 200 Palestinians were killed after the fighting resumed Friday morning following the weeklong truce with the territory's ruling militant group Hamas, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza. Several multi-story residential buildings were hit on Saturday, engulfing neighborhoods in huge clouds of smoke.

The military also dropped leaflets ordering the evacuation of areas that make up about one-quarter of the Gaza Strip, with hundreds of thousands of residents, U.N. monitors said. Ahead of a resumption of fighting, the United States had warned Israel to avoid significant new mass displacement.

Separately, the ministry said the overall death toll in Gaza since the Oct. 7 start of the war had surpassed

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15,200, a sharp jump from the previous count of more than 13,300 on Nov. 20. The ministry does not differentiate between civilian and combatant deaths, but it said 70% of the dead were women and children. It said more than 40,000 people had been wounded since the war began.

"Too many innocent Palestinians have been killed. Frankly, the scale of civilian suffering and the images and videos coming from Gaza are devastating," U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris told reporters during the COP28 climate conference in Dubai.

Appeals from the U.S., Israel's closest ally, to protect civilians came after an offensive in the first weeks of the war devastated large areas of northern Gaza. Some 2 million Palestinians, almost Gaza's entire population, are now crammed into the territory's southern half.

Israel's military said it had hit more than 400 Hamas targets across Gaza over the past day, including more than 50 in Khan Younis city and surrounding areas in the south.

Bombardments on Saturday destroyed a block of about 50 residential buildings in the Shijaiyah neighborhood of Gaza City and a six-story building in the urban refugee camp of Jabaliya on the northern edge of the city, said the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

More than 60 people were killed in the Shijaiyah strikes and more than 300 buried under the rubble, the monitors said, citing the Palestinian Red Crescent. Israel's military said it killed a Hamas battalion commander in the area but gave no details on the operation. Residents could not be reached.

The strike in Jabaliya left dozens dead or wounded, said residents Hamza Obeid and Amal Radwan.

"The building turned into a pile of rubble," Obeid said. AP video showed smoke rising as men, some in sandals, picked their way over debris. The Israeli military confirmed it was operating in Jabaliya and said it had found and destroyed Hamas tunnels in the surrounding area. The residential building was hit 90 minutes after troops had dropped leaflets ordering residents to evacuate, U.N. monitors said.

A powerful strike also hit a cluster of multi-story buildings in Hamad City, a Qatari-funded housing development on the outskirts of Khan Younis. Smoke engulfed the complex. There was no immediate word on casualties.

"Where is it safe? I swear to God, no one knows, where are we going?" asked Zohair al Raai, who said his family received a recorded message saying their building should evacuate.

Meanwhile, Palestinian militant groups in Gaza said they fired a barrage of rockets on southern Israel. Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, an Israeli army spokesperson, said Hamas had launched more than 250 since the cease-fire ended. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

During a Saturday visit to Israel and the West Bank city of Ramallah, an International Criminal Court prosecutor said his office is serious in moving forward to investigate allegations of war crimes on both sides.

"Every actor should be without doubts that they must comply with the law now," Karim Khan told broadcaster Palestine TV. "And if you don't comply with the law now, don't complain later."

With the resumption of fighting, the Israeli military published an online map carving up Gaza into hundreds of numbered parcels and asked residents to familiarize themselves with the number of their location ahead of evacuation warnings.

On Saturday, the military listed more than two dozen parcel numbers around Gaza City and east of Khan Younis. Separately, it dropped leaflets with evacuation orders over towns east of Khan Younis, Jabaliya and eastern neighborhoods of Gaza City.

One Khan Younis resident said a neighbor received a call from the Israeli army warning that houses in the area would be hit. "We told them, 'We have nothing here, why do you want to strike it?'" said the resident, Hikmat al-Qidra. Al-Qidra said the house was destroyed.

The maps and leaflets generated panic and confusion in the crowded south, where people cannot go to northern Gaza or neighboring Egypt and are left to move around within the 220-square-kilometer (85-square-mile) area.

"There is no place to go," said Emad Hajar, who fled to Khan Younis a month ago. "They expelled us from the north, and now they are pushing us to leave the south."

Mark Regev, a senior advisor to Netanyahu, said Israel was making "maximum effort" to protect civilians



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and the military has used leaflets, phone calls, and radio and TV broadcasts to urge Gazans to move from specific areas. He added that Israel is considering creating a security buffer zone that would not allow Gazans direct access to the border fence on foot.

Israel says it targets Hamas operatives and blames civilian casualties on the militants, accusing them of operating in residential neighborhoods. It claims to have killed thousands of militants, without providing evidence. Israel says 77 of its soldiers have been killed in the offensive in northern Gaza.

Also Saturday, the Palestinian Red Crescent said it had received the first convoy of aid trucks through the Rafah crossing with Egypt since fighting resumed. Wael Abu Omar, a spokesman for the Palestinian Crossings Authority, said 100 trucks entered including three carrying 150,000 liters (nearly 40,000 gallons) of fuel.

Meanwhile, Harris told Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi in a meeting that "under no circumstances" would the U.S. permit the forced relocation of Palestinians from Gaza or the West Bank, an ongoing siege of Gaza or the redrawing of its borders, according to a U.S. summary.

The Oct. 7 attack by Hamas and other militants killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in southern Israel. Around 240 people were taken captive.

The renewed hostilities have heightened concerns for 137 hostages, who the Israeli military says are still being held after 105 were freed during the truce. A 70-year-old woman held by Hamas was declared dead on Saturday, according to her kibbutz. She is the eighth hostage known to have died.

At a rally of tens of thousands in Tel Aviv, released hostages called for the rest to be freed. In a video address, Yaffa Adar, 85, spoke up specifically for children being held, saying, "I want to see them now — not when I'm in a coffin."

During the truce, Israel freed 240 Palestinians. Most of those released by both sides were women and children.

## **Kiss say farewell to live touring, become first US band to go virtual and become digital avatars**

By MARIA SHERMAN AP Music Writer

On Saturday night, Kiss closed out the final performance of their "The End of the Road" farewell tour at New York City's famed Madison Square Garden.

But as dedicated fans surely know — they were never going to call it quits. Not really.

During their encore, the band's current lineup — founders Paul Stanley and Gene Simmons as well as guitarist Tommy Thayer and drummer Eric Singer — left the stage to reveal digital avatars of themselves. After the transformation, the virtual Kiss launched into a performance of "God Gave Rock and Roll to You."

The cutting-edge technology was used to tease a new chapter of the rock band: after 50 years of Kiss, the band is now interested in a kind of digital immortality.

The avatars were created by George Lucas' special-effects company, Industrial Light & Magic, in partnership with Pophouse Entertainment Group, the latter of which was co-founded by ABBA's Björn Ulvaeus. The two companies recently teamed up for the "ABBA Voyage" show in London, in which fans could attend a full concert by the Swedish band — as performed by their digital avatars.

Per Sundin, CEO of Pophouse Entertainment, says this new technology allows Kiss to continue their legacy for "eternity." He says the band wasn't on stage during virtual performance because "that's the key thing," of the future-seeking technology. "Kiss could have a concert in three cities in the same night across three different continents. That's what you could do with this."

In order to create their digital avatars, who are depicted as a kind of superhero version of the band, Kiss performed in motion capture suits.

Experimentation with this kind of technology has become increasingly common in certain sections of the music industry. In October K-pop star Mark Tuan partnered with Soul Machines to create an autonomously automated "digital twin" called "Digital Mark." In doing so, Tuan became the first celebrity to attach their likeness to OpenAI's GPT integration, artificial intelligence technology that allows fans to engage in one-

on-one conversations with Tuan's avatar.

Aespa, the K-pop girl group, frequently perform alongside their digital avatars — the quartet is meant to be viewed as an octet with digital twins. Another girl group, Eternity, is made up entirely of virtual characters — no humans necessary.

"What we've accomplished has been amazing, but it's not enough. The band deserves to live on because the band is bigger than we are," Kiss frontman Paul Stanley said in a roundtable interview. "It's exciting for us to go the next step and see Kiss immortalized."

"We can be forever young and forever iconic by taking us to places we've never dreamed of before," Kiss bassist Gene Simmons added. "The technology is going to make Paul jump higher than he's ever done before."

And for those who couldn't make the Madison Square Garden show — stay tuned, because a Kiss avatar concert may very well be on the way.

## Three officials have left a pro-DeSantis super PAC in the group's latest shake-up, AP sources say

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Three senior members of a super PAC backing Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis left the group on Saturday, the latest sign of instability within the 2024 hopeful's political operation just six weeks before the Iowa Republican caucuses.

Kristin Davison parted ways with Never Back Down just after she took over leading the group following the departure of CEO Chris Jankowski less than two weeks ago. Also leaving Saturday were communications director Erin Perrine and director of operations Matt Palmisano, according to two people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss Never Back Down's internal operations. Davison's departure was first reported by Politico.

Longtime DeSantis ally Scott Wagner, who had been a member of the group's board, was named interim CEO and board chairman.

Never Back Down has carried the bulk of DeSantis' presidential organizing duties and advertising loads since he announced his candidacy in May. The shake-up of its leadership comes as DeSantis is under growing pressure to cut into former President Donald Trump's huge leads in Iowa and nationally. And more voters and donors are considering backing the campaign of former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley.

DeSantis' campaign has relied heavily on Never Back Down for basic campaign functions, though the two sides cannot directly coordinate under federal campaign finance rules. Of the 99 counties DeSantis visited in Iowa, he appeared in 92 of them at Never Back Down events, according to the group's schedule.

Jankowski, who was among those who helped initially conceive of the super PAC's outsized role, quit on Nov. 22. Former Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt, who had been board chairman, left the group on Friday.

Among some of those close to the situation, the rash of departures is seen as an aggressive step by DeSantis' loyalists to reassert control over Never Back Down.

The super PAC was seeded with more than \$80 million from DeSantis' political accounts this spring, but, once he became a formal candidate, DeSantis and his campaign were legally prohibited from having any direct control over the group or the money.

Instead, the group has been run by Jeff Roe, a powerhouse Republican political consultant with little pre-existing relationship to DeSantis before this year, but with close ties to Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, among a large group of major Republican clients.

Never Back Down's staff was — and still is — packed with employees directly from Roe's firm, Axiom Strategies. They included Perrine, Matt Wolking and Jessica Syzmanski, who were apparently still with the group, as were other senior staff as of Saturday.

It was unclear late Saturday if Roe remained part of Never Back Down. Roe did not return several mes-

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sages seeking comment on his status or the departures of others from the group.

Another top player at Axiom, David Polyansky, moved from the super PAC to deputy manager of DeSantis' campaign in August, though his new role — allowed under federal law — fit with DeSantis' new emphasis on Iowa, where Polyansky had worked in presidential and statewide campaigns.

Never Back Down has more staff working in Iowa, more than two dozen, than any campaign or super PAC and have been organizing ahead of the precinct-level caucuses since June. Much of that work goes on unabated despite the staff departures at the top.

For those who know DeSantis well, the increasing tension between the Florida governor's loyalists and Roe's team is not surprising.

DeSantis has long struggled to maintain close relationships with political consultants. Having cycled through several in recent years while, his wife, Casey, is widely viewed as his closest adviser.

"Scott Wagner will now serve as chairman of the board and interim CEO of Never Back Down," the group said in an emailed statement. "Never Back Down has the most organized, advanced caucus operation of anyone in the 2024 primary field, and we look forward to continuing that great work to help elect Gov. DeSantis the next president of the United States."

Trump, posting on his social media platform, celebrated the reported departures.

"The Ron DeSanctimonious campaign people are dropping like flies," he wrote.

## Group of swing state Muslims vows to ditch Biden in 2024 over his war stance

By CLAIRE SAVAGE Associated Press/Report for America

CHICAGO (AP) — Muslim community leaders from several swing states pledged to withdraw support for U.S. President Joe Biden on Saturday at a conference in suburban Detroit, citing his refusal to call for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Democrats in Michigan have warned the White House that Biden's handling of the Israel-Hamas war could cost him enough support within the Arab American community to sway the outcome of the 2024 presidential election.

Leaders from Michigan, Minnesota, Arizona, Wisconsin, Florida, Georgia, Nevada and Pennsylvania gathered behind a lectern that read "Abandon Biden, ceasefire now" in Dearborn, Michigan, the city with the largest concentration of Arab Americans in the United States.

The Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza on Saturday updated the death toll in the Israel-Hamas war to 15,200 Palestinians, roughly two-thirds of them women and minors. Some 1,200 Israelis have been killed, most during the Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Hamas that triggered the war.

Biden's unwillingness to call for a ceasefire has damaged his relationship with the American Muslim community beyond repair, according to Minneapolis-based Jaylani Hussein, who helped organize the conference.

"Families and children are being wiped out with our tax dollars," Hussein said. "What we are witnessing today is the tragedy upon tragedy."

Hussein, who is Muslim, told The Associated Press: "The anger in our community is beyond belief. One of the things that made us even more angry is the fact that most of us actually voted for President Biden. I even had one incident where a religious leader asked me, 'How do I get my 2020 ballot so I can destroy it?'" he said.

White House spokesperson Andrew Bates previously said the Biden administration has pushed for humanitarian pauses in the fighting to get humanitarian aid into Gaza, adding that "fighting against the poison of antisemitism and standing up for Israel's sovereign right to defend itself have always been core values for President Biden."

Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania were critical components of the "blue wall" of states that Biden returned to the Democratic column, helping him win the White House in 2020. About 3.45 million Americans identify as Muslim, or 1.1% of the country's population, and the demographic tends to lean Democratic,

according to Pew Research Center.

But leaders said Saturday that the community's support for Biden has vanished as more Palestinian men, women and children are killed in Gaza.

"We are not powerless as American Muslims. We are powerful. We don't only have the money, but we have the actual votes. And we will use that vote to save this nation from itself," Hussein said at the conference.

The Muslim community leaders' condemnation of Biden does not indicate support for former President Donald Trump, the clear front-runner in the Republican primary, Hussein clarified.

"We don't have two options. We have many options. And we're going to exercise that," he said.

## **7.6 magnitude earthquake strikes off the southern Philippines, briefly prompting a tsunami warning**

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A powerful earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.6 struck Saturday off the southern Philippine coast, prompting many villagers to flee their homes in panic around midnight after Philippine authorities issued a tsunami warning.

The quake struck at a depth of 32 kilometers (20 miles), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. There were no immediate reports of major damage or casualties.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center initially said that based on the magnitude and location, it expected tsunami waves to hit the southern Philippines and parts of Indonesia, Palau and Malaysia. But the center later dropped its tsunami warning.

In Japan, authorities issued evacuation orders in various parts of Okinawa Prefecture, including for the entire coastal area, affecting thousands of people.

Teresito Bacolcol, the head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, told The Associated Press his agency advised residents along the coast of southern Surigao del Sur and Davao Oriental provinces to immediately evacuate to higher ground or move farther inland.

Owners of boats in harbors, estuaries or shallow coastal waters off the two provinces should secure their boats and move away from the waterfront, the quake agency said in its tsunami warning. Boats already at sea should stay offshore in deep waters until further advised, it said.

Based on the quake's magnitude, Bacolcol said a 1-meter (3.2-foot) tsunami may hit but the wave could be higher in enclosed coves, bays and straits.

Villagers were fleeing their homes to safety around midnight in Hinatuan town and outlying areas in Surigao del Sur province, according to authorities and the government's disaster-response agency, which said that it could not immediately provide specific details.

Pictures posted on Hinatuan government's Facebook account show residents fleeing to higher ground on foot or aboard cars, trucks, motorcycles and tricycle taxis at night.

More than three hours after the quake hit, Bacolcol said there was no report of a tsunami hitting the coast from his agency's field offices but added authorities would continue monitoring.

The Philippines, one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, is often hit by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of seismic faults around the ocean. The archipelago is also lashed by about 20 typhoons and storms each year.

## **DeSantis hits Iowa campaign milestone but is still far behind Trump, who again mocked his campaign**

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

NEWTON, Iowa (AP) — Ron DeSantis completed his campaign promise to visit each of Iowa's 99 counties, crossing a symbolic but also tactical threshold by telling his audience in a central Iowa town "this should show you that I consider myself a servant, not a ruler."

Former President Donald Trump, who still remains far ahead of DeSantis, mocked him at a larger rally about 100 miles away and said the Florida governor's campaign was falling "like a very seriously wounded

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bird.”

In that way, the Florida governor’s moment, much like the months of campaigning so far, took place under Trump’s towering shadow.

The presence of Trump on DeSantis’ day of accomplishment underscores the challenge he and other Trump rivals face in Iowa. DeSantis has said he expects to win the caucuses. He’s focused much of his campaign on the state and a super PAC supporting him has invested more than \$16 million in advertising and more on building a campaign organization for the Jan. 15 caucuses.

But even with the endorsement of Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, DeSantis has not cut into Trump’s huge lead and is facing new pressure from the campaign of former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley.

His political operation lost another top official on Saturday. Kristin Davison resigned from the Never Back Down super PAC less than two weeks after taking over from the previous CEO following his departure, according to two people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal operations. Politico first reported Davison’s departure.

Never Back Down spokesperson Jess Szymanski said that Scott Wagner would serve as the new CEO and that the group still has “the most organized, advanced caucus operation of anyone in the 2024 primary field.”

DeSantis portrayed the timeworn feat for presidential candidates of visiting all of Iowa’s counties as an adventure for his family. On one visit, he went to the “Field of Dreams” baseball movie set and pitched to his children on a baseball diamond cut into a cornfield.

Stops at famous bakeries and ice cream parlors made for quaint stories about his family, including wife and three young children, trekking across Iowa since May. But the mission taught him more, he said.

“You meet people, rustle up some votes,” he said at an events center in Jasper County, just east of Des Moines in central Iowa. “But is it just all about politics?”

Trump has savaged DeSantis, mostly criticizing him as disloyal for running against Trump after seeking his endorsement when DeSantis first ran for governor.

“We hit him very hard and he’s been falling out of the air like a very seriously wounded bird,” Trump said during his Cedar Rapids event, twirling his right index finger to symbolize what he says was DeSantis’ fall.

DeSantis advisers argue that making stops in each county on Iowa’s sprawling checkerboard can squeeze critical support out of small rural counties while also demonstrating a commitment to courting all parts of the state.

But he is facing internal problems within his political operation — with two key officials leaving the major super PAC supporting him — and a challenge from Haley as the chief competitor to Trump. She has been rising in early-state polls and picked up the support of Americans for Prosperity, the political arm of the powerful Koch network.

Over the year, many Iowa Republicans have said that they continue to support Trump and what they see as his accomplishments, notably the nomination of three Supreme Court justices who voted to overturn Roe v. Wade and abolish a federally guaranteed right to abortion.

Some Republicans feel Trump has been weakened by the indictments he faces, even if they see the cases as politically motivated. But few in the GOP field have attacked Trump as a centerpiece of their campaigns, driven by a belief that those criticisms can backfire.

Nathaniel Gavronsky, a Republican from Wayne County, Iowa, attended Trump’s event in Cedar Rapids. Gavronsky said he had met every candidate in the January caucuses and was likely to support North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum.

Gavronsky said DeSantis’ visit to all 99 counties helped his campaign, “but the problem is you can’t go there with rhetoric. You have to actually take harder questions.”

“Trump’s going to win,” he said. “If it gets to the point where Trump might not win my caucus, I’ll jump ship and make sure Trump gets in there.”

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## Authorities identify suspect in killing of 3 homeless men in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Los Angeles man already in custody in connection with another shooting investigation has been identified as the suspect in three recent killings of homeless men, police said Saturday.

Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore said Jerrid Joseph Powell, 33, was identified as the suspect in the three killings after authorities determined a firearm found in a vehicle he was driving when he was arrested earlier was linked to the shootings.

Powell was arrested this week by Los Angeles sheriff's deputies for investigation of the shooting death and robbery of a 42-year-old man late Tuesday after he returned to his home in the community of San Dimas about 30 miles (48 kilometers) east of downtown Los Angeles.

The announcement came a day after Los Angeles authorities said they were searching for a suspect in the shootings of three homeless men and urged homeless individuals to not sleep alone for their own safety. The shootings took place at the end of November during early morning hours while the victims were sleeping or preparing to turn in for the night.

Jose Bolanos, 37, was found dead with a gunshot wound around 3 a.m. on Nov. 26 in an alley in South Los Angeles, police said.

The following day, Mark Diggs, 62, was shot and killed while pushing a shopping cart around 5 a.m. near downtown, according to officials. The third homeless shooting occurred Wednesday about 2:30 a.m. in the Lincoln Heights area, where the body of a 52-year-old man was found. Police did not immediately identify him pending notification of family.

Los Angeles County is the nation's most populous, with about 10 million people, and was home to more than one in five of the nation's homeless people, according to a 2022 federal tally. As of January, the last official count, more than 75,000 people were homeless across the county on any given night.

After the San Dimas shooting, detectives identified Powell's vehicle through surveillance footage and tracked it to the city of Beverly Hills, where police stopped him Wednesday and found the firearm inside, authorities said.

"I am grateful that this suspect in this case is in custody and no longer a threat to this community," Moore told reporters.

It was not immediately possible to identify an attorney for Powell, who is due to appear in court Monday. Online jail records show he was arrested Thursday and is being held on \$2 million bail.

Moore asked the public to come forward with any additional information. He said authorities did not believe there was any connection between Powell and the victims.

He said authorities worked quickly across agencies to identify the suspect, aided by surveillance technology.

"Had they not had access to those tools, this individual, I am convinced, would still be moving about the city and the region, and killing individuals," Moore said.

The announcement came after five homeless people were shot in Las Vegas on Friday, one of them fatally. Police there were searching for a lone suspect, authorities said.

## Trump calls Biden the 'destroyer' of democracy despite his own efforts to overturn 2020 election

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — Former President Donald Trump on Saturday attempted to turn the tables on his likely rival in November, President Joe Biden, arguing that the man whose election victory Trump tried to overturn is "the destroyer of American democracy."

Trump's allegations about Biden, a Democrat, echo the ones that Biden has been making for years against his predecessor. As Trump has dominated the Republican presidential primary and talked about targeting his rivals and the news media if he wins the White House again, Biden has stepped up his own warnings, contending Trump is "determined to destroy American democracy."

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On Saturday, Trump made his most explicit argument to date on why voters should instead see his rival as the bigger democratic threat. Trump repeated his longstanding contention that the four criminal indictments against him show Biden is misusing the federal justice system against his rival.

"He's been weaponizing government against his political opponents like a Third World political tyrant," Trump said to a crowd in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. "Biden and his radical left allies like to pose as standing up as allies of democracy," Trump continued, arguing: "Joe Biden is not the defender of American democracy, Joe Biden is the destroyer of American democracy."

Ammar Moussa, a Biden campaign spokesman, responded: "Donald Trump's America in 2025 is one where the government is his personal weapon to lock up his political enemies. You don't have to take our word for it — Trump has admitted it himself."

Trump has long promised to prosecute Biden in retaliation should he return to the White House. On Saturday, though, the former president extended his arguments about Biden's threat to democracy to lawsuits filed by two liberal organizations seeking to rule him ineligible for office under a rarely used Civil War-era constitutional provision that prohibits those who "engaged in insurrection" from returning to office.

All of the suits to date have failed. Biden has no involvement in them, but Democratic donors who back him also help fund the liberal groups filing the claims. That's led Trump to blame them on the president, whom he contended had "defaced the Constitution" in trying to block him.

And the former president, who has a long history of speaking warmly about authoritarian leaders and sometimes echoing their rhetoric, seemed aware of criticisms against him. "Americans don't like fascists," Trump said. He praised Chinese President Xi Jinping and China's criminal justice system for swiftly executing drug dealers, and boasted that North Korean President Kim Jong Un likes him.

But Trump noted he was often attacked for these relationships and tried to defend them. "It's good to have a good relationship with people who have nuclear weapons," he said.

Throughout the speech, Trump repeated his arguments the 2020 presidential election that he lost was "stolen" and that U.S. elections in general are "rigged." There is no evidence that the 2020 election was stolen. Dozens of lawsuits were dismissed by courts and government and independent reviews have not found enough alleged fraud to throw the outcome into question.

Trump supporters would attack the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, to try to stop the certification of Trump's loss to Biden. On Saturday, Trump continued his practice of referring to some of those arrested in connection with the riot as "political prisoners."

Earlier in the day, at a rally in Ankeny, Iowa, Trump returned to allegations of Democratic election fraud, one of his favorite themes on the campaign trail. He told the crowd to "guard the vote" in 2024, and focused on diverse cities he has often denigrated as examples of places where fraud would happen.

"You should go into Detroit and you should go into Philadelphia and you should go into some of these places, Atlanta, and you should go into some of these places and we've got to watch those votes when they come in," Trump told his supporters.

## **Teen girls are being victimized by deepfake nudes. One family is pushing for more protections**

By HALELUYA HADERO The Associated Press

A mother and her 14-year-old daughter are advocating for better protections for victims after AI-generated nude images of the teen and other female classmates were circulated at a high school in New Jersey.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the country, officials are investigating an incident involving a teenage boy who allegedly used artificial intelligence to create and distribute similar images of other students — also teen girls — that attend a high school in suburban Seattle, Washington.

The disturbing cases have put a spotlight yet again on explicit AI-generated material that overwhelmingly harms women and children and is booming online at an unprecedented rate. According to an analysis by independent researcher Genevieve Oh that was shared with The Associated Press, more than 143,000 new deepfake videos were posted online this year, which surpasses every other year combined.

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Desperate for solutions, affected families are pushing lawmakers to implement robust safeguards for victims whose images are manipulated using new AI models, or the plethora of apps and websites that openly advertise their services. Advocates and some legal experts are also calling for federal regulation that can provide uniform protections across the country and send a strong message to current and would-be perpetrators.

"We're fighting for our children," said Dorota Mani, whose daughter was one of the victims in Westfield, a New Jersey suburb outside of New York City. "They are not Republicans, and they are not Democrats. They don't care. They just want to be loved, and they want to be safe."

The problem with deepfakes isn't new, but experts say it's getting worse as the technology to produce it becomes more available and easier to use. Researchers have been sounding the alarm this year on the explosion of AI-generated child sexual abuse material using depictions of real victims or virtual characters. In June, the FBI warned it was continuing to receive reports from victims, both minors and adults, whose photos or videos were used to create explicit content that was shared online.

Several states have passed their own laws over the years to try to combat the problem, but they vary in scope. Texas, Minnesota and New York passed legislation this year criminalizing nonconsensual deepfake porn, joining Virginia, Georgia and Hawaii who already had laws on the books. Some states, like California and Illinois, have only given victims the ability to sue perpetrators for damages in civil court, which New York and Minnesota also allow.

A few other states are considering their own legislation, including New Jersey, where a bill is currently in the works to ban deepfake porn and impose penalties — either jail time, a fine or both — on those who spread it.

State Sen. Kristin Corrado, a Republican who introduced the legislation earlier this year, said she decided to get involved after reading an article about people trying to evade revenge porn laws by using their former partner's image to generate deepfake porn.

"We just had a feeling that an incident was going to happen," Corrado said.

The bill has languished for a few months, but there's a good chance it might pass, she said, especially with the spotlight that's been put on the issue because of Westfield.

The Westfield event took place this summer and was brought to the attention of the high school on Oct. 20, Westfield High School spokesperson Mary Ann McGann said in a statement. McGann did not provide details on how the AI-generated images were spread, but Mani, the mother of one of the girls, said she received a call from the school informing her nude pictures were created using the faces of some female students and then circulated among a group of friends on the social media app Snapchat.

The school hasn't confirmed any disciplinary actions, citing confidentiality on matters involving students. Westfield police and the Union County Prosecutor's office, who were both notified, did not reply to requests for comment.

Details haven't emerged about the incident in Washington state, which happened in October and is under investigation by police. Paula Schwan, the chief of the Issaquah Police Department, said they have obtained multiple search warrants and noted the information they have might be "subject to change" as the probe continues. When reached for comment, the Issaquah School District said it could not discuss the specifics because of the investigation, but said any form of bullying, harassment, or mistreatment among students is "entirely unacceptable."

If officials move to prosecute the incident in New Jersey, current state law prohibiting the sexual exploitation of minors might already apply, said Mary Anne Franks, a law professor at George Washington University who leads Cyber Civil Rights Initiative, an organization aiming to combat online abuses. But those protections don't extend to adults who might find themselves in a similar scenario, she said.

The best fix, Franks said, would come from a federal law that can provide consistent protections nationwide and penalize dubious organizations profiting from products and apps that easily allow anyone to make deepfakes. She said that might also send a strong signal to minors who might create images of other kids impulsively.

President Joe Biden signed an executive order in October that, among other things, called for barring



the use of generative AI to produce child sexual abuse material or non-consensual “intimate imagery of real individuals.” The order also directs the federal government to issue guidance to label and watermark AI-generated content to help differentiate between authentic and material made by software.

Citing the Westfield incident, U.S. Rep. Tom Kean, Jr., a Republican who represents the town, introduced a bill on Monday that would require developers to put disclosures on AI-generated content. Among other efforts, another federal bill introduced by U.S. Rep. Joe Morelle, a New York Democrat, would make it illegal to share deepfake porn images online. But it hasn’t advanced for months due to congressional gridlock.

Some argue for caution — including the American Civil Liberties Union, the Electronic Frontier Foundation and The Media Coalition, an organization that works for trade groups representing publishers, movie studios and others — saying that careful consideration is needed to avoid proposals that may run afoul of the First Amendment.

“Some concerns about abusive deepfakes can be addressed under existing cyber harassment” laws, said Joe Johnson, an attorney for ACLU of New Jersey. “Whether federal or state, there must be substantial conversation and stakeholder input to ensure any bill is not overbroad and addresses the stated problem.”

Mani said her daughter has created a website and set up a charity aiming to help AI victims. The two have also been in talks with state lawmakers pushing the New Jersey bill and are planning a trip to Washington to advocate for more protections.

“Not every child, boy or girl, will have the support system to deal with this issue,” Mani said. “And they might not see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

## **Winter weather in Pacific Northwest cuts power to thousands in Seattle, dumps snow on Cascades**

SEATTLE (AP) — Winter weather brought high winds and snow to parts of the Pacific Northwest, knocking out power in some areas and dumping fresh snow across the Cascade Range.

Thousands of households were without power Saturday morning in the greater Seattle area after a night of rain and wind, the Seattle Times reported.

Seattle City Light reported 17 outages affecting more than 1,700 customers as of late morning, roughly two-thirds of them in South Seattle, according to the utility’s outage map. The utility said it was investigating the cause.

Smaller outages, some caused by fallen trees, were affecting other neighborhoods throughout Seattle, according to the Seattle Times.

Communities across the region were affected. Puget Sound Energy reported 79 outages impacting more than 4,700 customers as of about 11:30 a.m. The outages stretched from Kitsap County to as far south as the state capital Olympia, the news outlet reported.

In Oregon, more than 2,000 customers in the Portland area also lost power, outage maps from Portland General Electric and Pacific Power showed.

The power cuts came as high winds swept across the region, reaching 52 mph (84 kph) at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, according to the National Weather Service’s office in Seattle.

The NWS said the winds were expected to weaken in the Seattle area by the afternoon.

The high winds prompted Olympic National Park, on the Olympia Peninsula west of Seattle, to close several coastal campgrounds. It warned that wind storms can whip up life-threatening waves on the coast and cause trees to fall and block roads.

The storms also brought snow to the Cascades. As of Friday afternoon, Paradise in Mount Rainier National Park had received 14 inches of snow over 24 hours, according to preliminary reports from the National Weather Service.

In the Oregon Cascades, the Mt. Bachelor ski resort near Bend hosted its opening day Saturday after receiving roughly a foot of snow in the previous 24 hours. Timberline on Mount Hood reported similar snow fall over the same time period and had expected to open its chair lifts but had to postpone until

Sunday because of high winds, the resort said in an Instagram post. Mount Bachelor said it was also experiencing high winds.

Officials in Washington and Oregon have warned drivers to be cautious while driving in the windy and snowy conditions, use tire chains if needed and have supplies in their vehicles, such as water and blankets, in case of traffic delays.

## **McCarthy was ditched and Santos expelled. The House is making history, but not as the GOP envisioned**

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House is making history this year in ways that Republicans could hardly have envisioned when the party took control.

First, the Republicans voted to oust their speaker, Rep. Kevin McCarthy, in October. On Friday they voted to get rid of one of their own, indicted Rep. George Santos of New York.

Never before had a House majority voted to evict its speaker, and not since the Civil War had the chamber voted to expel a member who was charged but not yet convicted of a crime.

The result has been a dizzying 11 months in a House majority riven by infighting, chiseling away at the powers of Congress and taking its toll on the actual business of governing.

As the year comes to a close, the arc of power for House Republicans is at an inflection point, a new era of performance politics and chaotic governing that shows no signs of easing.

"Is it messy? Yeah, sure," said Republican Rep. Mike Lawler, among the New Yorkers who led the ouster of Santos. "But when you're actually governing in a democratic republic, it can be messy."

In many ways, Santos is a product and practitioner of a new way of governing, a system that rewards big personalities who rise to prominence with charismatic if often extreme public personas rather than the quieter work that governs the nation.

Instead of shying from the exposure, Santos, who is accused of fabricating much of his life story, embraced his moment in history, another segment of his celebrity run in Congress.

Before the House vote, Santos held a news conference on the Capitol steps, breezily answering questions about his future (he did not plan to seek reelection) and whether his shoes were purchased illegally with campaign funds (he said they were several years old).

He defended himself against the "bullying" and decried the "smear" against him.

"This is my battle," Santos said, acknowledging he would have done "a lot" of things differently.

Santos doubled down on his own personal narrative, not as the fraudster he is charged with being, but as the representative of the New Yorkers who sent him to Congress and who, he argued, are the ones who should decide whether or not to remove him.

"I came in here as a mad-as-hell activist who was just disenfranchised," he said. "I leave here, no regrets."

His quick ascent in politics as an outsider modeled partly after Donald Trump is reflective of this post-modern political era, and the power of a single lawmaker to become famous for being famous.

Santos joined a diverse class of younger freshmen lawmakers who were changing the face of the GOP. His celebrity status only rose after the outrageous embellishments he made about his background, his experience, even his family heritage came to light.

Essentially, the bulk of the Santos life story appears to have been made up. A scathing House Ethics report found "overwhelming evidence" of lawbreaking by Santos, including questionable campaign expenditures on items like Botox. He has pleaded not guilty to federal charges that he duped donors.

His swift downfall shows the GOP's willingness to turn on its own, particularly when it is politically expedient, even at the risk of losing another dependable vote from their slim majority that now teeters amid retirements.

But Republicans split over ousting Santos just as they did earlier in October over the removal of McCarthy, R-Calif., as speaker, after he engineered passage of legislation with Democrats that averted a government shutdown.

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"One was a mistake and one was righteous and necessary," said Rep. Nick LaLota, R-N.Y., about the two votes. "What we did today was righteous and necessary if we are going to claim the mantle of being the party of accountability."

But Trump ally Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, who orchestrated McCarthy's ouster, led a wing of Republicans defending Santos' right to his day in court.

The roll call became a test for the new Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., who told lawmakers they should vote their conscience, as leaders do to signal there is no preferred party position.

There was a moment during the two days of debate when it seemed as if Santos might be able to hang on. But in the end, even the supportive votes from leadership were not enough, and more than the two-thirds required tally in the House voted to expel him.

Time is slipping for other year-end business in Congress, including passage of the annual spending bills needed to keep government running. It's the same dilemma that contributed to McCarthy's ouster as his party demands steep cuts. The risk of shutdowns has hovered all year and the next deadline for funding is Jan. 19.

Johnson told lawmakers they would next soon turn to a vote to formally authorize the impeachment inquiry against President Joe Biden over the business dealings of his son Hunter.

A vote could come as soon as next week, but it's uncertain that the House, now down a Republican member, will have enough votes for that next priority, historic impeachment proceedings.

## **Harris focuses on shaping a post-conflict Gaza during a diplomatic blitz in Dubai with Arab leaders**

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris engaged in a speed round of diplomatic talks with Arab leaders on Saturday where she focused on shaping the outlook for a post-conflict Gaza while calling on Israel to do more to protect Palestinian civilians from the "devastating" bombardment.

She made a hastily planned trip to the United Arab Emirates as the top American representative at the U.N. climate conference but the Israel-Hamas war was a main objective of her visit. She met with leaders of the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Jordan and spoke by phone with Qatar's emir.

Her efforts to focus on what Gaza will look like once the fighting ends played out against the backdrop of an overpowering attack that Israel has unleashed on the crowded southern area of the territory since fighting resumed Friday morning after a weeklong truce.

"As Israel defends itself, it matters how. The United States is unequivocal: International humanitarian law must be respected," Harris said after her meetings. "Too many innocent Palestinians have been killed. Frankly, the scale of civilian suffering and the images and videos coming from Gaza are devastating."

She added that as Israel "pursues its military objectives in Gaza, we believe Israel must do more to protect innocent civilians."

Dubai is the first Arab nation to host an annual U.N. environmental gathering where world leaders discuss ways to best slow the effects of climate change. Harris said she had "productive" talks on the summit sidelines with Middle Eastern leaders.

She said she and President Joe Biden have repeatedly noted the brutality of the Hamas attack against Israel on Oct. 7 that triggered the war, while also hailing a recent pause in fighting to enable the release of more than 100 hostages taken by Hamas.

The vice president said that, at some point, the fighting will draw to an end and a plan must be ready for what comes next.

Since the pause in fighting ended, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza, Israeli strikes on houses and buildings have killed more than 200 Palestinians.

"There is a mutual desire to figure out how we are going to figure out and approach 'the day after' in ways that bring stability and peace to this region," Harris said, referring to a time when fighting in Gaza subsides.

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Harris spent just one day at the conference and her Saturday schedule was so packed that the vice president wasn't in the cavernous, IMAX-style conference room when her name was called to participate in a session with other leaders on the best ways to make a just and orderly transition to cleaner energy.

Her chair sat empty on stage until her name was called again near the end of the meeting, when she was the only panelist who hadn't spoken. Harris swept into the room and gave her speech, declaring that the U.S. planned to join 90-plus nations aiming to double their energy efficiency and triple renewable energy production by 2030.

When she was done, she dashed off the stage and was nearly out of the room when the moderator asked participants to pose for a photo. That prompted Harris to move quickly back for the picture.

Then she swept briskly through the hallway to a waiting motorcade to take her nearby for meetings with Arab leaders. Harris wouldn't disclose the details of her conversations with Qatar's emir about the potential for future pauses in fighting to secure the release of additional hostages. But she said the U.S. wants to see the release of all hostages.

The vice president said she also talked with Arab leaders about three key elements for a post-conflict Gaza: reconstruction, security and governance. She said she stressed that it will be up to the region's key nations, as well as other nations and organizations, to "dedicate significant resources" to rebuilding hospitals and housing. Electricity and clean water must be available, while bakeries must be able to reopen, she said.

Harris said Palestinian Authority security forces "must be strengthened to eventually assume security responsibilities in Gaza" while stressing that terrorists cannot be allowed to continue to threaten Israel as a condition for security.

Lastly, Harris said the Palestinian Authority in control of the West Bank should also govern in Gaza to achieve a lasting peace, echoing similar sentiments to those of Biden.

"The Palestinian Authority must be revitalized, driven by the will of the Palestinian people," the vice president said, adding that it would "allow them to benefit from the rule of law and a transparent responsive government."

## Las Vegas police search for suspect after 5 homeless people are shot, killing 1

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Five homeless people were shot in Las Vegas on Friday, one of them fatally, and police were searching for a lone suspect, authorities said.

The shooting occurred around 5:30 p.m. near a freeway overpass in the northeastern part of the city, according to Las Vegas police.

A police commander initially said two were killed, but Las Vegas Metro Police Department spokesperson Jason Johansson later said at a briefing that one man in his 50s was pronounced dead and another was in critical condition, while three others were in stable condition.

"Right now we are trying to figure out what exactly happened during the shooting, the information we have is kind of conflicting," Johansson said.

The shooting comes after police in Los Angeles announced Friday they are searching for a suspect in the fatal shootings of three homeless people in separate incidents last month.

## Police raid Moscow gay bars after a Supreme Court ruling labeled LGBTQ+ movement 'extremist'

By The Associated Press undefined

Russian security forces raided gay clubs and bars across Moscow Friday night, less than 48 hours after the country's top court banned what it called the "global LGBTQ+ movement" as an extremist organization.

Police searched venues across the Russian capital, including a nightclub, a male sauna, and a bar that hosted LGBTQ+ parties, under the pretext of a drug raid, local media reported.

Eyewitnesses told journalists that clubgoers' documents were checked and photographed by the security

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services. They also said that managers had been able to warn patrons before police arrived.

The raids follow a decision by Russia's Supreme Court to label the country's LGBTQ+ "movement" as an extremist organization.

The ruling, which was made in response to a lawsuit filed by the Justice Ministry, is the latest step in a decadelong crackdown on LGBTQ+ rights under President Vladimir Putin, who has emphasized "traditional family values" during his 24 years in power.

Activists have noted the lawsuit was lodged against a movement that is not an official entity, and that under its broad and vague definition authorities could crack down on any individuals or groups deemed to be part of it.

Several LGBTQ+ venues have already closed following the decision, including St. Petersburg's gay club Central Station. It wrote on social media Friday that the owner would no longer allow the bar to operate with the law in effect.

Max Olenichev, a human rights lawyer who works with the Russian LGBTQ+ community, told The Associated Press before the ruling that it effectively bans organized activity to defend the rights of LGBTQ+ people.

"In practice, it could happen that the Russian authorities, with this court ruling in hand, will enforce (the ruling) against LGBTQ+ initiatives that work in Russia, considering them a part of this civic movement," Olenichev said.

Before the ruling, leading Russian human rights groups had filed a document with the Supreme Court that called the Justice Ministry lawsuit discriminatory and a violation of Russia's constitution. Some LGBTQ+ activists tried to become a party in the case but were rebuffed by the court.

In 2013, the Kremlin adopted the first legislation restricting LGBTQ+ rights, known as the "gay propaganda" law, banning any public endorsement of "nontraditional sexual relations" among minors. In 2020, constitutional reforms pushed through by Putin to extend his rule by two more terms also included a provision to outlaw same-sex marriage.

After sending troops into Ukraine in 2022, the Kremlin ramped up a campaign against what it called the West's "degrading" influence. Rights advocates saw it as an attempt to legitimize the war. That same year, a law was passed banning propaganda of "nontraditional sexual relations" among adults, also, effectively outlawing any public endorsement of LGBTQ+ people.

Another law passed this year prohibited gender transitioning procedures and gender-affirming care for transgender people. The legislation prohibited any "medical interventions aimed at changing the sex of a person," as well as changing one's gender in official documents and public records.

Russian authorities reject accusations of LGBTQ+ discrimination. Earlier this month, Russian media quoted Deputy Justice Minister Andrei Loginov as saying that "the rights of LGBT people in Russia are protected" legally. He was presenting a report on human rights in Russia to the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva, arguing that "restraining public demonstration of nontraditional sexual relationships or preferences is not a form of censure for them."

The Supreme Court case is classified and it remains unclear how LGBTQ+ activists and symbols will be restricted.

Many people will consider leaving Russia before they become targeted, said Olga Baranova, director of the Moscow Community Center for LGBTQ+ Initiatives.

"It is clear for us that they're once again making us out as a domestic enemy to shift the focus from all the other problems that are in abundance in Russia," Baranova told the AP.

## Justice Sandra Day O'Connor paved a path for women on the Supreme Court. Four are serving today

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — One fall day in 2010, retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor slipped into the courtroom where she worked for nearly 25 years to take in an "amazing" sight.

The first — and for 12 years, the only — woman on the high court saw three women in black robes among the nine justices.

Recalling that day, O'Connor said she "saw a woman on the far right end of the bench, one on the far left end and one near the middle. That was pretty amazing."

O'Connor lived to see four women serve at the same time on the Supreme Court. What was once a novelty when she was the first woman to sit on the high court has become almost commonplace.

In a sense, O'Connor was witnessing the culmination of her own journey, in which she struggled to get any legal job after graduating from law school in the 1950s, then ended more than 190 years of male exclusivity on the Supreme Court when President Ronald Reagan nominated her in 1981.

O'Connor, who left the court in 2006, died Friday in Phoenix of complications related to advanced dementia and a respiratory illness, the Supreme Court said. She was 93.

Before a woman led a presidential ticket and before a woman had served as secretary of state, O'Connor was known as the nation's most powerful woman. A onetime state senator in Arizona and the last justice to hold elected office, she wielded considerable political clout with a pragmatic approach to the law that at times irritated colleagues both to her left and right.

One measure of her influence was that the justice who took her place, Samuel Alito, had a more conservative outlook, and the change in that one seat flipped the outcome in major cases involving abortion rights, school desegregation and campaign finance.

O'Connor once said she wasn't too happy to see her handiwork being dismantled, but she pushed on in retirement with devotion to new causes, arguing for enhanced civics education for schoolchildren, continued independence of judges and increased research dollars for Alzheimer's disease, which had claimed the life of her husband, John.

The court would grow more conservative still, with President Donald Trump's appointment of three justices. Last year, Alito and Trump's appointees were in the majority to end a woman's constitutional right to abortion, which O'Connor had worked to preserve 30 years earlier.

In June, the court ended affirmative action in college admissions, effectively overturning an opinion O'Connor wrote in 2003.

In recent years, O'Connor's dementia had advanced and she had withdrawn from public life.

She announced in 2018 that she had been diagnosed with "the beginning stages of dementia, probably Alzheimer's disease." Her husband died of complications of Alzheimer's in 2009.

She was the granddaughter of a pioneer, and her independent, tenacious spirit came naturally. Growing up on an Arizona ranch without electricity, Sandra Day learned early to ride horses, round up cattle and drive trucks and tractors.

"I didn't do all the things the boys did," she said in a 1981 Time magazine interview, "but I fixed windmills and repaired fences."

When she first got to the court, she didn't even have a place anywhere near the courtroom to go to the bathroom. That was soon rectified, but she remained the court's only woman until 1993.

Then, much to O'Connor's delight and relief, President Bill Clinton nominated Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the court.

Though the two women looked and sounded nothing alike, lawyers would from time to time mistakenly identify one as the other. That prompted the justices to get T-shirts to help. The shirt fronts read, "The Supremes." The back of O'Connor's shirt read, "I'm Sandra, not Ruth."

Ginsburg, who died in 2020 at age 87, would call O'Connor "a great big sister."

The enormity of the reaction to O'Connor's appointment had surprised her. She received more than

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60,000 letters in her first year, more than any one member in the court's history.

"I had no idea when I was appointed how much it would mean to many people around the country," she once said. "It affected them in a very personal way. People saw it as a signal that there are virtually unlimited opportunities for women. It's important to parents for their daughters, and to daughters for themselves."

At times, the constant publicity was almost unbearable. "I had never expected or aspired to be a Supreme Court justice. My first year on the court made me long at times for obscurity," she said.

Following her retirement, O'Connor expressed regret that a woman had not been chosen to replace her. She was glad when President Barack Obama chose Sonia Sotomayor to replace David Souter in 2009, but said, "It's not enough."

The next year, Obama named Elena Kagan to the court, giving it three female justices for the first time.

Trump nominated Amy Coney Barrett to replace Ginsburg, and when Justice Stephen Breyer retired last year, Ketanji Brown Jackson joined the court, the first time four women have served together.

That still wasn't enough for Ginsburg, who once said she'd be satisfied when all nine justices were women.

O'Connor displayed a sense of humor, even in the face of slights.

When in 1983 an apparently forgetful New York Times writer reporting on Washington shorthand names referred to the "nine men" of the SCOTUS (Supreme Court of the United States), O'Connor responded with a tweak.

"According to information available to me, and which I had assumed was generally available, for over two years now SCOTUS has not consisted of nine men," she wrote.

In her letter, O'Connor referred to herself as FWOTSC — shorthand for "First Woman on the Supreme Court."

"You can't be around her very often without seeing traces of her delightful sense of humor," Ruth McGregor, one of O'Connor's first Supreme Court law clerks, said years after leaving that job. "She just gets a kick out of so many things."

O'Connor remained active in the government and otherwise even after she retired from the court. She sat as a judge on several federal appeals courts, advocated for judicial independence and served on the Iraq Study Group. She also was appointed to the honorary post of chancellor at the College of William and Mary in Virginia.

She championed Alzheimer's research and the need for civics education. O'Connor plugged her new children's book on David Letterman's late-night program on CBS and traded jokes with Jon Stewart on Comedy Central's "Daily Show."

O'Connor cited her husband's struggle with Alzheimer's disease as her primary reason for leaving the court. But he deteriorated so quickly that O'Connor soon moved him into an assisted living center. John O'Connor struck up a romance with a fellow Alzheimer's patient, a relationship experts say is not uncommon among people with dementia.

The retired justice was relieved that he was comfortable and happy at the center, according to her son Scott. Two other sons, Brian and Jay, also survive her.

She once described herself and her eight fellow justices as nine firefighters.

"When (someone) lights a fire, we invariably are asked to attend to the blaze. We may arrive at the scene a few years later," she said.

O'Connor announced her retirement in a one-sentence written statement. She cited her age, then 75, and said she "needs to spend time" with her family.

She was 51 when she joined the court to replace Potter Stewart, who retired. A virtual unknown on the national scene until her appointment, she had served as an Arizona state judge and before that as a member of her state's Legislature.

Her career did not begin auspiciously. As a top-ranked graduate of Stanford's prestigious law school, class of 1952, O'Connor discovered that most large law firms did not hire women.

One Los Angeles firm offered her a job as a secretary.

Perhaps it was that early experience that shaped O'Connor's professional tenacity.

## US targets oil and natural gas industry's role in global warming with new rule on methane emissions

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration on Saturday issued a final rule aimed at reducing methane emissions, targeting the U.S. oil and natural gas industry for its role in global warming as President Joe Biden seeks to advance his climate legacy.

The Environmental Protection Agency said the rule will sharply reduce methane and other harmful air pollutants generated by the oil and gas industry, promote use of cutting-edge methane detection technologies and deliver significant public health benefits in the form of reduced hospital visits, lost school days and even deaths. Air pollution from oil and gas operations can cause cancer, harm the nervous and respiratory systems and contribute to birth defects.

EPA Administrator Michael Regan and White House climate adviser Ali Zaidi announced the final rule at the U.N. climate conference in the United Arab Emirates. Separately, the president of the climate summit announced Saturday that 50 oil companies representing nearly half of global production have pledged to reach near-zero methane emissions and end routine flaring in their operations by 2030.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the top American representative at the summit, said the U.S. and other nations must act boldly to confront the fallout from climate change.

"The urgency of this moment is clear," Harris said. "The clock is no longer just ticking. It is banging. And we must make up for lost time."

The U.S. rule on methane emissions is part of a broader effort by the Biden administration that includes financial incentives to buy electric vehicles and upgrade infrastructure — spending that Harris said will total roughly \$1 trillion over 10 years.

Oil and gas operations are the largest industrial source of methane, the main component in natural gas and far more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term. It is responsible for about one-third of planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions. Sharp cuts in methane emissions are a global priority to slow the rate of climate change and are a major topic at the conference, known as COP28.

Presidents, prime ministers and royals from nations rich and poor have vowed to reduce how much their countries spew heat-trapping gases and asked their colleagues to do better.

"On Day One, President Biden restored America's critical role as the global leader in confronting climate change," Regan said, referring to Biden's actions returning the U.S. to the Paris climate agreement and ordering an immediate review of environmental regulations rolled back by the previous administration.

The methane rule finalizes a proposal Biden made at a UN climate conference in Scotland in 2021 and expanded a year later at a climate conference in Egypt. It targets emissions from existing oil and gas wells nationwide, rather than focusing only on new wells, as previous EPA regulations have done. It also regulates smaller wells that will be required to find and plug methane leaks. Such wells currently are subject to an initial inspection but are rarely checked again for leaks.

Studies have found that smaller wells produce just 6% of the nation's oil and gas but account for up to half the methane emissions from well sites.

The plan also will phase in a requirement for energy companies to eliminate routine flaring, or burning of natural gas that is produced by new oil wells.

The new methane rule will help ensure that the United States meets a goal set by more than 100 nations to cut methane emissions by 30% by 2030 from 2020 levels, Regan said.

The EPA rule is just one of more than 100 actions the Biden administration has taken to reduce methane emissions, Zaidi added.

"From mobilizing billions in investment to plug orphaned wells, patch leaky pipes and reclaim abandoned mines, to setting strong standards that will cut pollution from the oil and gas sector, the Biden-Harris Administration is putting the full throw-weight of the federal government into slashing harmful methane pollution," he said.

The new rule will be coordinated with a methane fee approved in the 2022 climate law. The fee, set to



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take effect next year, will charge energy producers that exceed a certain level of methane emissions as much as \$1,500 per metric ton of methane. The plan marks the first time the U.S. government has directly imposed a fee, or tax, on greenhouse gas emissions.

The law allows exemptions for companies that comply with the EPA's standards or fall below a certain emissions threshold. It also includes \$1.5 billion in grants and other spending to help companies and local communities improve monitoring and data collection, and find and repair natural gas leaks.

Harold Wimmer, president and CEO of the American Lung Association, called the new rule a victory for public health.

"EPA heeded the urgent guidance of health experts across the country and finalized a strong methane rule that, when fully implemented, will significantly reduce hazardous air pollutants and climate-warming methane pollution from the oil and gas industry," he said in a statement.

Methane has been shown to leak into the atmosphere during every stage of oil and gas production, Wimmer said, and people who live near oil and gas wells are especially vulnerable to these exposure risks.

David Doniger, a climate expert at the Natural Resources Defense Council, called methane a "super-polluter." He said in an interview that the Biden plan "takes a very solid whack at climate pollution. I wish this had happened 10 years ago (under the Obama administration), but I'm really happy it's happening now."

Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, said the new rule ensures that "the U.S. now has the most protective methane pollution limits on the books. With other countries also zeroing in on methane as a key climate risk, it's a signal to operators worldwide that clean-up time is here," he said.

The American Petroleum Institute, the oil industry's top lobbying group, said it was reviewing the rule to see whether it meets a dual goal of reducing emissions while meeting rising energy demand.

"Smart federal regulation can help build on industry's progress to date," said Dustin Meyer, an API vice president.

The oil industry has generally welcomed direct federal regulation on methane, preferring a national standard to a hodgepodge of state rules. Even so, energy companies have asked EPA to exempt hundreds of thousands of the nation's smallest wells from the pending rule.

## **At COP28 meeting, oil companies pledge to combat methane. Environmentalists call it a "smokescreen"**

By JON GAMBRELL, PETER PRENGAMAN and SETH BORENSTEIN Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Fifty oil companies representing nearly half of global production have pledged to reach near-zero methane emissions and end routine flaring in their operations by 2030, the president of this year's United Nations climate talks said Saturday, a move that environmental groups called a "smokescreen."

Methane emissions are a significant contributor to global warming, so sharply reducing them could help slow temperature rise. If the companies carry out their pledges, it could trim one-tenth of a degree Celsius (0.18 degrees Fahrenheit) from future warming, a prominent climate scientist calculated and told The Associated Press. That is about how much the Earth is currently warming every five years.

The announcement by Sultan al-Jaber, president of the climate summit known as COP28 and head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co., comes as he and others have insisted his background would allow him to bring oil companies to the negotiating table. Al-Jaber has maintained that having the industry's buy-in is crucial to drastically slashing the world's greenhouse emissions by nearly half in seven years to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) compared with pre-industrial times.

Signing on to the pledge were major national oil companies such as Saudi Aramco, Brazil's Petrobras and Sonangol, from Angola, and multi-nationals like Shell, TotalEnergies and BP.

"The world does not work without energy," said al-Jaber, speaking in a session on the oil industry. "Yet the world will break down if we do not fix energies we use today, mitigate their emissions at a gigaton scale, and rapidly transition to zero carbon alternatives."

As if anticipating critiques, al-Jaber added: "Is it enough? Hear me out, please. No, it's not enough. I say

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with full passion and conviction, I know that much more can be done.”

For months leading up to COP28, there was speculation of action on methane. Not only do methane leaks, along with flaring, which is burning of excess methane, and venting of the gas, all contribute to climate change, but these problems can largely be solved with current technologies and changes to operations. Indeed, oil and gas companies could have taken such measures years ago but largely have not, instead focusing more on expanding production than focusing on the byproduct of it.

In that way, the methane deal represented a potentially significant contribution to combatting climate change that also largely maintained the status quo for the oil and gas industry. Many environmental groups were quick to criticize it.

The pledge is a “smokescreen to hide the reality that we need to phase out oil, gas and coal,” said a letter signed by more than 300 civil society groups.

Jean Su, energy justice director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said “the commitments to cut methane are significant, but they address the symptom, not the source.”

But Environmental Defense Fund President Fred Krupp said Saturday’s deal “could be the single most impactful day of announcements from any COP in my 30 years at the Environmental Defense Fund.”

Methane has caused about half of the world’s warming since pre-industrial times, al-Jaber said, promoting the deal as significant. However, methane escaping from oil and gas drilling is only about 23% of the world’s methane emissions, with agriculture and waste being bigger culprits, said Climate Analytics CEO Bill Hare, the climate scientist who calculated the proposal would trim a tenth of a degree from future warming.

“It would be a significant, but not a fundamental contribution” to making sure average temperatures don’t rise beyond 1.5 degrees, Hare said. To keep within that limit, the world needs to cut carbon dioxide about 40% and methane by about 60% by 2030, he said.

Methane can be released at several points along the operation of an oil and gas company, from fracking to when natural gas is produced, transported or stored. Over a shorter period, it’s 86 times more powerful than carbon dioxide. However, methane stays in the air only a couple decades — unlike thousands of years for carbon dioxide — so reducing methane faster is “low-hanging fruit” because it’s easier and changes future warming more, al-Jaber said.

Marcelo Mena, CEO of Global Methane Hub, an alliance of philanthropies and organizations focused on reducing methane emissions, said that having near-zero methane emission commitments should not be seen as delaying a phase out of fossil fuels, as some environmental groups claimed.

“We wouldn’t let oil companies leak into the ocean until phase out, so why would we let them leak out methane to super charge climate change?” said Mena, a former environment minister in Chile.

Still, Mena said that self-reporting didn’t go far enough to push oil and gas companies to make changes. Instead, he said putting a price on pollution, or companies finding themselves shut out of markets that require high standards with leaks, would force change.

Stricter regulations are beginning to take hold. On Saturday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a final rule aimed at reducing methane emissions and other harmful air pollutants generated by the oil and gas industry. It targets emissions from existing oil and gas wells nationwide. Previous EPA regulations only focused on new wells. It also regulates smaller wells that will be required to find and plug methane leaks.

The United States will now have “the strongest methane regulations in the world,” White House climate adviser John Podesta told the AP.

Earlier this year, European Union negotiators reached a deal to reduce methane emissions from the energy industry across the 27-member bloc. The agreement bans routine venting and flaring, and mandates strict reporting. By 2027, it will expand those norms to oil and gas exporters outside the bloc.

Saturday’s announcement did not address the oil and natural gas being burned off by the end users, so-called Scope 3 emissions, which can be motorists in their cars or plants powering cities. In his speech, al-Jaber said oil and gas companies needed to do more to research solutions to Scope 3 emissions.

The Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter is backed by both the United Arab Emirates and neighboring

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Saudi Arabia, two OPEC heavyweights. Saudi Arabia's vast oil resources, located close to the surface of its desert expanse, makes it one of the world's least expensive places to produce crude. Both Abu Dhabi's ADNOC and Aramco, the world's third-most-valuable company, have signed onto the pledge.

Separately, organizers said more than 100 countries have signed onto a pledge to triple the world's installed renewable energy capacity by 2030, something pledged in September by leaders of the so-called Group of 20. Their countries emit 80% of all planet-warming gases.

## **Don't ignore us: Backed by pope, poorer nations use COP28 summit to press rich world on climate**

By JAMEY KEATEN and SETH BORENSTEIN Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Countries once colonized by empires are striking back on global warming — and they have the pope's blessing.

Leaders of developing nations jumped into Saturday's high-level speeches at the U.N. climate summit to press rich industrial countries to share their knowhow to fight global warming and ease the financial burdens they face — while trumpeting their own natural resources that swallow heat-trapping carbon in the air.

The 28th annual U.N. Conference of the Parties, or COP28, in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates, featured about 150 presidents, prime ministers, royals and other leaders who are presenting their plans to cut heat-trapping emissions and mostly seek unity with other nations to avert climate catastrophe that seemed to draw closer than ever in 2023.

Injecting moral authority into the talks, Pope Francis said "the destruction of the environment is an offense against God" in a letter read on his behalf because he had to cancel plans to attend because of a lung inflammation.

In the letter read by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Francis noted that almost all of the world that's "needy" is "responsible for scarcely 10% of toxic emissions, while the gap between the opulent few and the masses of the poor has never been so abysmal."

"The poor are the real victims of what is happening: we need think only of the plight of Indigenous peoples, deforestation, the tragedies of hunger, water and food insecurity, and forced migration," the pope's letter said.

Several African leaders noted their continent's rainforests help gobble up excess carbon dioxide in the air and emphasized how their countries belch out only a tiny fraction of heat-trapping emissions compared to richer countries.

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea — one of sub-Saharan Africa's biggest oil producers — faulted developed nations for failing to deliver on their pledges to meet their commitments on financing for climate action and meet their own targets to curb their industries' emissions.

President Jose Ramos Horta of Timor-Leste, next to Indonesia and north of Australia, blasted "shark loans" from multilateral lending institutions, saying developing nations cannot recover from heavy debt burdens that squelch their ability to put money into fighting climate change and grow economically.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados, the incoming head of a group of 20 climate-vulnerable nations, called for a change of attitude about access to long-term capital and put a challenge to the private sector: "We need new players at the table in terms of the insurance companies and in terms of the credit rating agencies and the bank regulators."

Conference organizers were quick to highlight what they said were early accomplishments during the two-week gathering that opened on Thursday, though environmentalists cautioned against over-billed pledges and even some of the leaders acknowledged that upbeat words would need to translate into action after the meeting is over.

Adnan Amin, the CEO of the summit, said that a loss and damage fund that was formally launched on Day One had already reaped nearly \$700 million and was still growing. Experts say countries need hundreds of billions to fully adapt to climate change.

Secretary-General Jagan Chapagain of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent

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Societies expressed support for the fund — which is aimed mostly to help poorer countries respond to climate-related disasters — but said it was just a “first step,” and urged strong oversight to ensure the money will get to people in need.

“Availability of funds is one thing, but the flow of the funds is a different thing,” said Chapagain, noting that some money today aimed to help countries adapt to climate change doesn’t all get where it should. “Like adaptation funding: At the moment, only 10% of the adaptation funding actually reaches the local communities -- only 10%!”

“That’s the type of pitfalls we have to avoid in developing the existing mechanism for the loss and damage fund,” he said in an interview.

Also Saturday, 50 oil companies — representing nearly half of global production — pledged to reach near-zero methane emissions and end routine flaring in their operations by 2030. The companies also signed up to reach “net zero” for their operational emissions by 2050.

With U.S. President Joe Biden staying home, Kamala Harris became the first vice president to lead America’s delegation since Al Gore — now a major climate activist — at COP3 in 1997.

Harris said the United States is pledging \$3 billion to the Green Climate Fund, which helps developing countries access capital to invest in clean energy and “nature-based solutions.” In a statement, the U.S. Treasury said the pledge is subject to funding availability.

Harris also said the U.S. was joining over 100 countries that have committed to double energy efficiency and triple renewable energy capacity by 2030, saying her country was on track to meet those goals because of investments like building 30 gigawatts of solar energy and laying thousands of miles of more efficient high voltage transmission lines.

“We understand the whole world will benefit from our work,” she said. “When the United States increases renewable energy production and innovation, it lowers the costs and boosts the efficiency of renewable energy technology around the globe.”

Earlier Saturday, U.S. climate envoy John Kerry joined French President Emmanuel Macron to push for development of nuclear energy, which doesn’t produce greenhouse gas emissions, even if it also presents security and waste challenges.

Overall, a group of more than 20 nations called for a tripling of nuclear energy generated in the world by 2050.

“I want here to reiterate the fact that nuclear energy is a clean energy and it should be repeated,” said Macron, whose country gets around two-thirds of its electricity from nuclear power, the most of any industrialized country, and exports some of it to France’s neighbors.

Kerry also announced that the U.S. was joining the Powering Past Coal Alliance, which means the administration commits to building no new coal plants and phasing out existing ones. It’s in line with other Biden regulatory actions and international commitments in the works that had meant no coal by 2035.

Whatever their perspective or national interest, leaders almost universally voiced their shared views that Earth is in crisis — with the United Nations and other environmental groups warning that the planet has recorded the nine hottest years on record over the last decade.

Bolivian Vice President David Choquehuanca called for “saving Mother Earth and staving off the multiple crises which have been caused by neocolonial, capitalist, imperialist, patriarchal, Western culture.”

“The climate crisis is but the latest chapter in a long history of hypocrisy and lies: The ‘Global North’ is responsible for the global imbalance that we’re seeing,” he said, using a catchall term for industrialized countries. “They seek permanent growth to the detriment of the global South.”

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said science shows that the world needs to “step up the pace” to battle climate change, but took a more upbeat tone, saying: “We have what it takes to meet these challenges. We have the technologies: wind power, photovoltaics, e-mobility, green hydrogen.”

Demand for fossil fuels has slowed and the peak is “in sight,” he said.

## With 'shuttle diplomacy,' step by step, Kissinger chased the possible in the Mideast

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — When it came to the Middle East, Henry Kissinger wasn't pushing for peace — only for what was possible.

By the time Kissinger died Wednesday at 100, the agreements he negotiated as United States secretary of state between Israel, Egypt and Syria stabilized borders for nearly half a century after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. His work and the pacts it produced sidelined the Soviet Union and set the U.S. as the region's chief negotiator.

But Kissinger did not resolve the fate of the Palestinians — indeed, no one has — and his legacy in the Mideast remains debated.

He saw decades of Israeli occupation and growing rage among Palestinians and lived long enough to see Hamas fighters storm out of the Gaza Strip Oct. 7 and kill about 1,200 people in Israel on the bloodiest day for Jews since the Holocaust.

Kissinger, a Jew who fled Nazi Germany with his family when he was 15, posed a query two weeks before his death about whether Israel can now deal with not just threats from states like Iran, but also the fury of militants that was evident in the Oct. 7 rampage.

"In the Middle East, a barbaric attack by terrorists has redefined the problem for Israel and its allies," Kissinger said in remarks prepared for an Oct. 19 speech at the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation dinner in New York. In the remarks, posted on his website but not delivered in full, he said the United States must continue to support Israel and revitalize its role as a direct negotiator in the region, something he worked to establish after the 1973 war.

"The immediate question is whether the Jewish state can fulfill its aspirations for freedom in the face of these accumulated arms, both to the north and to the south," Kissinger added, "and the seemingly implacable hostility to Israel of some Palestinians that produced this latest disaster."

### AN APPROACH OF SMALL STEPS

As he spoke, Israel was pounding the Gaza Strip with airstrikes in its hunt for Hamas militants even as they held scores of hostages. Israel's campaign to wipe out Hamas has killed at least 15,200 people in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip and displaced more than three-quarters of the enclave's 2.3 million people.

Kissinger likely would have approached the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in the same way that he steered the aftermath of the 1973 war, according to his biographer: "Incrementally," Martin Indyk, former U.S. ambassador to Israel, wrote in a column Thursday.

Leaders throughout history, Kissinger recognized, have leaned toward putting their names on the conclusion of conflicts and peace accords.

"That instinct needed to be resisted, Kissinger believed, because giving in to it was more likely to lead to more war," Indyk wrote. "He called this 'the paradox of peace.'"

When Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel on Oct. 6, 1973, then-U.S. President Richard Nixon was distracted by the Watergate scandal that would lead to his resignation. Kissinger, his secretary of state, convened a group of trusted policy advisers. What followed was a Cold War-era drama that would serve American interests — a key component of Kissinger's practice of realpolitik.

"The decision was to take advantage of the Egyptian attack to promote a political process," Kissinger told The Jerusalem Post in September, describing the war that began on the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur. "We were determined from the beginning to prevent an Arab victory, which we looked at as a Soviet victory."

Then as now, the fight raged over who controlled which pieces of land. Egypt and Syria fought to take back the Golan Heights and the Sinai peninsula, territory that Israel had claimed with east Jerusalem in the 1967 war.

Sixteen days after the surprise attack on Israel, Kissinger negotiated a cease-fire. He then embarked on a campaign that did not establish comprehensive peace but instead set a process that made the warring

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states feel protected. Kissinger communicated the process with a diplomatic shorthand that has since entered the lexicon of broader conflict resolution.

Via "shuttle diplomacy," the gravelly-voiced diplomat traveled a relentless circuit between the countries in conflict to haggle in person with their leaders. He carried out the agenda step by step, rather than a lunge toward peace.

Such a process, Kissinger reasoned, "would ameliorate conflict and buy time for the warring parties to come to terms with one another, learn to live together and eventually, end their conflict," Indyk wrote in a column Friday in The Washington Post.

"The greatest art of the activities in which we were engaged diplomatically was to induce (the Arab states) to accept a partial withdrawal in return for precise political conditions that for Israel represented an augmentation of its security," Kissinger told The Jerusalem Post.

## A FRAGILE WAY FORWARD

Over the next two years, Kissinger negotiated two disengagement agreements between Egypt and Israel and a third between Israel and Syria, which paved the way for some other Arab states to strike peace treaties with Israel — such as Egypt's in 1979 under President Jimmy Carter — and sign normalization agreements known as the Abraham Accords.

"He laid the cornerstone of the peace agreement, which was later signed with Egypt, and so many other processes around the world I admire," said Israeli President Isaac Herzog, appearing this week with Kissinger's modern-day counterpart, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Kissinger's legacy, like the Mideast itself, remains a raw point of debate. Salim Yaqub, a professor at the University of California Santa Barbara who specializes in history and U.S. foreign relations, said Kissinger's work to subtract Egypt from the conflict was destructive to the prospects for other Arab states and Palestinians to gain traction in conflicts with Israel.

"You can't blame everything on Henry Kissinger," Yaqub said. Kissinger's diplomacy "did reduce the likelihood of another full-scale Arab-Israeli war. It also made it really difficult, and some would argue impossible, to address the underlying issue between Israel and its Arab neighbors," he said.

"It's not just weakening the remaining Arab countries, but also ensuring that the Palestinians would be sidelined from Arab-Israeli diplomacy," he added.

Kissinger focused on established, formal entities — settling conflicts between states. Non-state actors, such as the Palestinian Liberation Organization at the time, and Hamas today, were to be neutralized, Indyk wrote.

Were he here to counsel on the Israel-Hamas war, Indyk said, Kissinger would look to Israel's neighboring states to reestablish order. Kissinger's incremental process would give Palestinians the "attributes of statehood" as a path to a two-state solution — someday.

Brian Katulis, vice president of policy for the Middle East Institute in Washington, said Kissinger's key misstep in the region was one that did not go away when his tenure as secretary of state ended in 1977.

"Kissinger not seeing the Palestinian people as part of the equation," Katulis said, "is an error that almost every single one of his successors made."

## Today in History: December 3 Gas disaster in Bhopal, India kills thousands

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Dec. 3, the 337th day of 2023. There are 28 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 3, 1984, thousands of people died after a cloud of methyl isocyanate gas escaped from a pesticide plant operated by a Union Carbide subsidiary in Bhopal, India.

On this date:

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In 1818, Illinois was admitted as the 21st state.

In 1828, Andrew Jackson was elected president of the United States by the Electoral College.

In 1947, the Tennessee Williams play "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened on Broadway.

In 1964, police arrested some 800 students at the University of California at Berkeley, one day after the students stormed the administration building and staged a massive sit-in.

In 1965, the Beatles' sixth studio album, "Rubber Soul," was released in the United Kingdom by Parlophone (it was released in the U.S. by Capitol Records three days later).

In 1967, a surgical team in Cape Town, South Africa, led by Dr. Christiaan Barnard (BAHR'-nard) performed the first human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky, who lived 18 days with the donor organ, which came from Denise Darvall, a 25-year-old bank clerk who had died in a traffic accident.

In 1979, 11 people were killed in a crush of fans at Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum, where the British rock group The Who was performing.

In 1991, radicals in Lebanon released American hostage Alann Steen, who'd been held captive nearly five years.

In 1992, the first telephone text message was sent by British engineer Neil Papworth, who transmitted the greeting "Merry Christmas" from his work computer in Newbury, Berkshire, to Vodafone executive Richard Jarvis' mobile phone.

In 2012, St. James's Palace announced that Britain's Prince William and his wife, Kate, were expecting their first child (Prince George was born the following July).

In 2015, defense Secretary Ash Carter ordered the armed services to open all military jobs to women, removing the final barriers that had kept women from serving in combat, including the most dangerous and grueling commando posts.

In 2017, the second-largest U.S. drugstore chain, CVS, announced that it was buying Aetna, the third-largest health insurer, in order to push much deeper into customer care.

In 2018, after a two-year chase, the NASA spacecraft Osiris-Rex arrived at the ancient asteroid Bennu, some 76 million miles from Earth. (The craft would go on to collect gravel samples that it returned to earth in September, 2023.)

In 2020, Facebook said it would start removing false claims about COVID-19 vaccines.

In 2021, a prosecutor filed involuntary manslaughter charges against the parents of a teen accused of killing four students at a Michigan high school, saying they failed to intervene on the day of the tragedy despite being confronted with a drawing and chilling message — "blood everywhere" — that was found at the boy's desk.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Jaye P. Morgan is 92. Rock singer Ozzy Osbourne is 75. Rock singer Mickey Thomas is 74. Country musician Paul Gregg (Restless Heart) is 69. Actor Steven Culp is 68. Actor Daryl Hannah is 63. Actor Julianne Moore is 63. Olympic gold medal figure skater Katarina Witt is 58. Actor Brendan Fraser is 55. Singer Montell Jordan is 55. Actor Royale Watkins is 54. Actor Bruno Campos is 50. Actor Holly Marie Combs is 50. Actor Liza Lapira is 48. Pop-rock singer Daniel Bedingfield is 44. Actor/comedian Tiffany Haddish is 44. Actor Anna Chlumsky (KLUHM'-skee) is 43. Actor Jenna Dewan is 43. Actor Brian Bonsall is 42. Actor Dascha Polanco is 41. Pop/rock singer-songwriter Andy Grammer is 40. Actor Amanda Seyfried is 38. Actor Michael Angarano is 36. Actor Jake T. Austin is 29.