

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, Aug. 11

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.,
and at Zion, 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 11 a.m.

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:30 a.m.,
and at Groton, 10:30 a.m.; coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.

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

Jr. Legion State Baseball Tournament in Groton
(See schedule on page 2)

High School Moonlight Swim, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.,
Pool

Monday, Aug. 12

Senior Menu: Hot pork sandwich, cucumber salad,
baked beans, Herbert, fruit.

First day of boys golf practice

Storybook Land Theatre, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.,
GHS Gym

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

It's Sunday

Heavenly Father,

**Holy, Holy, Lord God
Almighty, we worship You.
You are Worthy to be Praised!**

**Thank You for Your Mercy and
Grace that allowed us to see
another day that You have made.**

Lord, I Pray, that You
would fall like a consuming
fire upon us. Comfort those
who are hurting. Heal the
sick, and keep us covered
under the Shadow of Your
Wings.

Amen

**In Jesus'
Name.**

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

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

Pantry open, Groton Community Center, 11 a.m.
to 3 p.m.

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

Blood Drive at the Groton Community Center, 1:15
p.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 13

Senior Menu: Chicken cordon bleu hot dish, pears,
whole wheat bread.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 209 N
Main, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Pantry Open, Groton Community Center, 4 p.m.
to 8 p.m.

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State Jr. Legion Baseball Tournament Locke-Karst Field, Groton

Sunday, August 11



Groton Jr. L...ion Post 39

5th Place

12:30 PM



Clark Area Jr Legion 17U



Martin Post 240 Jr

3rd Place

3:00 PM



Beresford P...egion 2024



Lennox Pos...4 Jr Legion

1st Place

5:30 PM



Winner/Colome Jr Legion

Saturday, August 10



W.I.N. Jr Legion Baseball

4



Clark Area...Legion 17U

10 ◀



Groton Jr...ion Post 39

14 ◀



Hitmen Jr Legion

4



Beresford P...egion 2024

5



Winner/Col...e Jr Legion

7 ◀



Lennox Po...4 Jr Legion

8 ◀



Martin Post 240 Jr

1

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Lennox Takes Down Martin A Little At A Time

By GameChanger Media

Lennox Post 174 Jr Legion built their lead a few runs at a time in an 8-1 victory over Martin Post 240 Jr on Saturday.

Lennox Post 174 Jr Legion got on the board in the top of the first inning after Cole Spieler singled, and Gabe Veurink walked, each scoring one run.

Lennox Post 174 Jr Legion added to their early lead in the top of the second inning after Talen Eich doubled, and Spieler singled, each scoring one run.

Spierler started on the hill for Lennox Post 174 Jr Legion. The left-handed pitcher gave up two hits and one run over seven innings, striking out eight and walking none. Hayden Risse started on the mound for Martin Post 240 Jr. The left-handed pitcher gave up 10 hits and six runs (two earned) over six innings, striking out five and walking one.

Lennox Post 174 Jr Legion accumulated 12 hits in the game. Eich provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Lennox Post 174 Jr Legion with three runs batted in. The first baseman went 2-for-5 on the day. Veurink and Spieler each collected three hits for Lennox Post 174 Jr Legion. Jaxson Bittner collected two hits for Lennox Post 174 Jr Legion in five at bats.

Jordan Risse and Ryker Heath each collected one hit for Martin Post 240 Jr. Risse led Martin Post 240 Jr with one run batted in. The left fielder went 1-for-3 on the day.

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Winner/Colome Cling To Victory As Beresford Nearly Erases 6-Run Deficit

By GameChanger Media

Winner/Colome Jr Legion got out to a 6-run lead in the second inning and held on for a 7-5 victory over Beresford Post 72 Jr. Legion 2024 on Saturday. Beresford Post 72 Jr. Legion 2024 closed the gap by scoring on a double, a single, a walk, and a triple.

Winner/Colome Jr Legion got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Dylan Brandis singled, scoring one run, Keegan Littau singled, scoring one run, Carter Craven was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, and an error scored two runs.

A sacrifice fly by Jaxon Day extended the Winner/Colome Jr Legion lead to 6-0 in the bottom of the second inning.

Camdyn Anderson led things off on the bump for Winner/Colome Jr Legion. The starting pitcher allowed seven hits and three runs over five and two-thirds innings, striking out three and walking five. Kasen Voss stepped on the hill first for Beresford Post 72 Jr. Legion 2024. The righty surrendered two hits and five runs (three earned) over two-thirds of an inning, striking out two and walking three. Adryan Brandis appeared in relief for Winner/Colome Jr Legion.

Brandis went 2-for-4 at the plate to lead Winner/Colome Jr Legion in hits. Winner/Colome Jr Legion had a strong eye at the plate, tallying eight walks for the game. Quincy Phillips and Littau led the team with two free passes each. Anderson stole two bases.

Miles Eide led Beresford Post 72 Jr. Legion 2024 with two runs batted in from the number seven spot in the lineup. The outfielder went 3-for-4 on the day. Tucker Martz collected two hits for Beresford Post 72 Jr. Legion 2024 in four at bats. Beresford Post 72 Jr. Legion 2024 had patience at the plate, piling up six walks for the game. Evan Haak and Ashton Oberle led the team with two walks each.

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First-Inning Spurt Leads Groton Past Faulkton

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 scored 11 runs in the first inning, which helped them defeat Hitmen Jr Legion 14-4 on Saturday. an error scored two runs, Jarrett Erdmann drew a walk, scoring one run, Nick Groebinghoff singled, scoring one run, Kellen Antonsen drew a walk, scoring one run, Tristin McGannon was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, Lincoln Krause grounded out, scoring one run, an error scored two runs, and Erdmann singled, scoring two runs.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 added one run in the second. Nicholas Morris singled on a 3-0 count, making the score 12-0.

Alex Abeln pitched four innings in relief for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39. The right-handed pitcher gave up five hits and four runs while, striking out 10 and walking two. Erdmann opened the game for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39. The southpaw allowed zero hits and zero runs over one inning, striking out none and walking two. Henery Bossly started the game for Hitmen Jr Legion. They allowed seven hits and 14 runs (seven earned) over three innings, striking out one and walking eight.

Carter Simon and Erdmann were tough to handle back-to-back in the lineup, as each drove in two runs for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39. Krause, Erdmann, and Morris each collected two hits for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39. McGannon paced Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 with two walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, piling up nine walks for the game. Simon and Gavin Englund each stole multiple bases for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39.

Jett Kleinsasser provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Hitmen Jr Legion with two runs batted in. The catcher went 1-for-1 on the day. Seth Roseland, Korbon Stark, Tate Bray, Kleinsasser, and Landon Coyle each collected one hit for Hitmen Jr Legion.

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Josh Kannegieter Leads Clark Area Jr Legion 17U Past W.I.N.

By GameChanger Media

Josh Kannegieter collected three hits in three at bats, as Clark Area Jr Legion 17U defeated W.I.N. Jr Legion Baseball 10-4 on Saturday. Josh Kannegieter doubled in the first inning, doubled in the fourth inning, and singled in the third inning.

W.I.N. Jr Legion Baseball got on the board in the top of the first inning after Logan Fischbach walked, and Lincoln Kroll grounded out, each scoring one run.

Clark Area Jr Legion 17U jumped into the lead in the bottom of the first when Watson Grantham singled, scoring one run, Josh Kannegieter doubled, scoring two runs, and Damian Severson singled, scoring one run.

Clark Area Jr Legion 17U added one run in the third after Will Hovde singled.

Clark Area Jr Legion 17U scored five runs on five hits in the bottom of the fourth inning. Michael Severson doubled, scoring two runs, Josh Kannegieter doubled, scoring one run, Damian Severson doubled, scoring one run, and Cooper Pommer singled, scoring one run.

Cooper Pommer pitched six and two-thirds innings in relief for Clark Area Jr Legion 17U. The reliever allowed 11 hits and two runs while, striking out 10 and walking none. Josh Kannegieter started the game for Clark Area Jr Legion 17U. The righty gave up zero hits and two runs over one-third of an inning, striking out none and walking three. Noah Bakeberg stepped on the mound first for W.I.N. Jr Legion Baseball. The starting pitcher allowed nine hits and eight runs (four earned) over three innings, striking out two and walking three.

Clark Area Jr Legion 17U piled up 13 hits in the game. Jakob Steen and Josh Kannegieter each collected three hits for Clark Area Jr Legion 17U. Watson Grantham and Damian Severson each collected multiple hits for Clark Area Jr Legion 17U. Clark Area Jr Legion 17U were sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Jakob Steen made the most plays with 11.

W.I.N. Jr Legion Baseball tallied 11 hits in the game. Bakeberg and Fischbach each collected two hits for W.I.N. Jr Legion Baseball. Kroll led W.I.N. Jr Legion Baseball with two runs batted in. The infielder went 1-for-4 on the day.

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Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 14 - 4 Hitmen Jr Legion

📍 Away 📅 Saturday August 10, 2024

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
GRTN	11	1	0	2	0	14	9	1
HTMN	0	0	2	0	2	4	5	3

BATTING

Groton Jr. Legion Post	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Krause #2 (CF)	4	2	2	1	1	0
N Morris #17 (RF)	3	2	2	1	1	0
G Englund #18 (3B)	3	2	0	0	1	0
C Simon #4 (SS)	4	2	1	2	0	0
J Erdmann #1 (P)	3	1	2	2	1	0
K Fliehs #10 (C)	3	1	1	0	1	0
N Groebl... #12 (1B)	2	1	1	1	0	0
A Abeln #5 (P)	1	0	0	0	1	0
K Antonsen #7 (2B)	3	0	0	1	1	1
T Schus... #3 (2B)	0	0	0	0	0	0
T McGann... #9 (LF)	0	3	0	1	2	0
G Kroll #8 (RF)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	27	14	9	9	9	2

2B: N Morris, **TB:** N Groebelinghoff, L Krause 2, C Simon, J Erdmann 2, K Fliehs, N Morris 3, **HBP:** T McGannon, **SB:** G Englund 2, L Krause, C Simon 2, **LOB:** 8

PITCHING

Groton Jr. Legion Post	P	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Erdmann #1	1.0	0	0	0	2	0	0
A Abeln #5	4.0	5	4	4	2	10	0
Totals	5.0	5	4	4	4	10	0

W: A Abeln, **P-S:** A Abeln 79-53, J Erdmann 28-11, **HBP:** A Abeln 2, **BF:** A Abeln 21, J Erdmann 4

Hitmen Jr Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
K Stark #12 (1B)	3	1	1	0	0	0
H Bossly #14 (P)	2	0	0	0	1	2
L Coyle #9 (SS)	2	2	1	1	0	0
J Kleinsa... #48 (C)	1	0	1	2	2	0
T Bray #23 (CF)	2	0	1	1	0	0
C Junge... #18 (3B)	3	0	0	0	0	3
S Rosela... #25 (LF)	3	0	1	0	0	2
C Hogg #10 (RF)	2	0	0	0	0	2
B Hanne #8 (2B)	1	1	0	0	1	1
Totals	19	4	5	4	4	10

2B: L Coyle, J Kleinsasser, **TB:** K Stark, L Coyle 2, S Roseland, T Bray, J Kleinsasser 2, **CS:** L Coyle, **HBP:** L Coyle, T Bray, **SB:** L Coyle, **LOB:** 6

Hitmen Jr Legion P	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
H Bossly #14	3.0	7	14	7	8	1
T Bray #23	2.0	2	0	0	1	1
Totals	5.0	9	14	7	9	2

L: H Bossly, **P-S:** H Bossly 99-40, T Bray 34-18, **HBP:** H Bossly, **BF:** H Bossly 28, T Bray 9

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Alex Abeln pitched four innings in the Faulkton game, throwing 10 strike-outs, giving up five hits and four runs. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jarrett Erdmann was the starting pitcher, pitching the first inning. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Gavin Englund gets the tag for the out at third base. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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TC Schuster gives a fist bump to Legion Commissioner Dan Karst (former Groton Legion player). (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jarrett Erdmann slides safely to third base after Nicholas Groebelinghoff hit an RBI. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Lincoln Krause looks for the bunt. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Lincoln Krause slides safely home to score. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Sturgis Rally Saturday Report

Highway Patrol Sturgis Rally Daily Information

Compiled from 6 a.m. Saturday, Aug 03, 2024, to 6 a.m. Saturday August 10, 2024

Item	Sturgis	Rapid City District	District Total	Last Year to Date
DUI Arrests	123	19	142	109
Misd Drug Arrests	219	40	259	212
Felony Drug Arrests	121	24	145	140
Total Citations	871	455	1,326	1303
Total Warnings	2,728	1,326	4,054	3834
Cash Seized	40,804.00	30,700.00	71,504.00	\$2005.00
Vehicles Seized	0	1	1	0
For Drug Poss.	0	1	1	0
For Serial No.	0	0	0	0
Non-Injury Accidents	20	25	45	50
Injury Accidents	13	20	33	59
Fatal Accidents	1	2	3	5
# of Fatalities	1	2	3	5

Fatal Crashes: None

Injury Crashes:

On 08/09/24 at 11:54 a.m., a 2019 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling southbound on US Highway 385 near mile marker 88. A 1975 Honda GL1000 was traveling southbound behind the Harley Davidson motorcycle and a group of others. The driver of the Honda failed to see the Harley Davidson slowing down to turn and began passing on the left. The Honda motorcycle struck the Harley Davidson motorcycle as it began to turn left. The Honda overturned and the driver separated from the motorcycle. The driver of the Honda was wearing a helmet and received serious non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the Harley Davidson was wearing a helmet, was uninjured and able to drive his motorcycle from the scene.

On 08/09/24 at 6:35 p.m., a 2017 Harley Davidson Street Glide motorcycle was traveling southbound on US Highway 385. A 2009 Harley Davidson FLHRC was traveling northbound on US 385. The 2009 Harley Davidson motorcycle crossed the centerline into the southbound lane, in front of the 2017 Harley Davidson Street Glide. The northbound 2009 Harley Davidson motorcycle sideswiped the southbound 2017 Harley Davidson Street Glide as they traveled past. The driver of the 2017 Harley Davidson Street Glide was able to maintain control of his motorcycle and stop. A passenger on the motorcycle received serious non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the 2009 Harley Davidson motorcycle fled the scene but was located uninjured a short time later, and charges are pending against the driver. All persons involved were not wearing helmets.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating these crashes. All information released so far is only preliminary.

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

Minnehaha County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash
Where: Interstate 90, mile marker 387, one mile west of Hartford, SD
When: 5:52 p.m., Friday, August 9, 2024

Vehicle 1: 2017 Harley Davidson Heritage
Driver 1: 67-year-old male, fatal injuries
Helmet Use: Under investigation

Vehicle 2: 2019 Ford F350
Driver 2: 61-year-old male, minor injuries
Seatbelt Use: No

Minnehaha County, S.D.- A motorcyclist died Friday evening in a two-vehicle crash on I-90 near Hartford, SD.

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

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2017 Harley Davidson Heritage was traveling eastbound on I-90 in a split lane construction zone. The driver lost control and crossed the center line, colliding head-on into a Ford F350 traveling in the westbound lane. The driver of the motorcycle sustained fatal injuries during the crash. The driver of the Ford F350 sustained minor injuries.

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.

Name Released in Jackson County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal motorcycle crash
Where: Interstate 90, mile marker 161, two miles west of Belvidere, SD
When: 4:16 p.m., Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Vehicle 1: 2007 Harley Davidson STC
Driver 1: Ricky Dale Hardin, 64-year-old male from Henry, TN, fatal injuries
Helmet Use: Under investigation

Jackson County, S.D.- A Henry, TN man died Tuesday afternoon in a single vehicle crash on I-90, two miles west of Belvidere, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Ricky D. Hardin, the driver of a 2007 Harley Davidson STC, was eastbound on I-90 near mile marker 161 when he left the roadway and entered the median. The motorcycle tripped and began to roll, separating Hardin from the motorcycle. Hardin sustained fatal injuries from the crash.

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.

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Brand New Program at

15 N Main St. - Ste. 101
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3rd Annual Family Fun Fest



POET, Groton's local ethanol plant, sponsored a booth again this year at Family Fun Fest. Employees encouraged children to try their hand at cornhole and prizes were given away.

(Photo by April Abeln)



Groton Tiger Robotics served hamburgers and hotdogs and showed off their programmed robots. Show Choir had their booth set up in the City Hall parking lot as well and sold ice cream floats. Both were fundraisers for their yearly activities. (Photo by April Abeln)

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Subway has recently reopened in Groton. Employees set up a booth on downtown Main Street with rock painting and fresh baked cookies were given out. After the event, the painted rocks were placed in the Garden Club circle at the City Park. (Photo by April Abeln)



Many joined Carol Loeschke for Family Fun Zumba. The community's sound system and portable speakers were used to spread music throughout Main Street which led to laughing and energetic dancing. Carol is the mother of Casey Johnson, Groton resident. Pictured here are a few of the participants. Mayor Hanlon and even Mickey Mouse joined in on the fun! (Photo by April Abeln)

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River Wipf is pictured volunteering at the Groton Area Elementary PAC booth. Children were able to get their hair sprayed with coloring and got to take home free science kits.

(Photo by April Abeln)



Groton's Main Street was full of fun and families on Thursday night at the community's 3rd Annual Family Fun Fest! More than 2 dozen businesses, groups and individuals set up booths with activities and items for sale filling Main Street from Railroad Avenue to 2nd Avenue. Families were greeted by Mickey Mouse, who was sponsored by Wage Memorial Library. (Photo by April Abeln)

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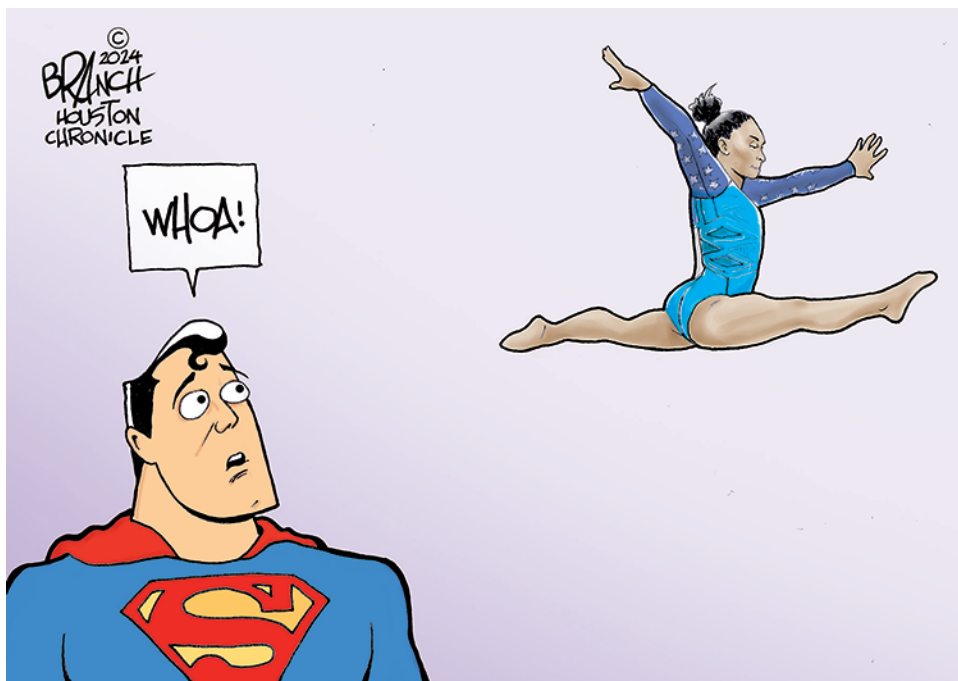
THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



*Do not revile the king even
in your thoughts, or curse
the rich in your bedroom,
because a bird in the sky
may carry your words,
and a bird on the wing
may report what you say.*

❧ ECCLESIASTES 10:20 ❧

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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. What sprang up and shadowed over Jonah's head, delivering him from his grief? *Hemlock, Gourd, Flowers, Fig tree*

3. From Judges 16, where did Samson tell Delilah that his great strength lies? *Deep voice, Mighty arms, Long hair, Kind heart*

4. Who married King David after her evil husband, Nabal, died? *Tamar, Abigail, Vashti, Sarah*

5. Which man's name in the book of Genesis means "hairy"? *Seth, Cain, Abel, Esau*

6. How many times is the word "Lucifer" in the Bible? *1, 13, 39, 66*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Gourd, 3) Long hair, 4) Abigail, 5) Esau, 6) 1 (Isaiah 14:12)

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com.

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MONTHS AGO, WE ALL BROUGHT DOWN THE FLAGSHIP, AND THE **REIGN**, OF EMPEROR MING.



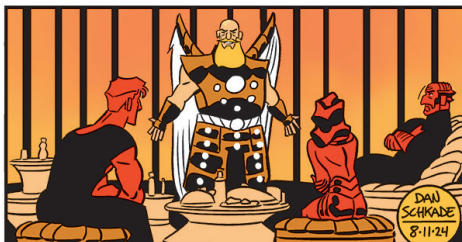
PRINCE BARIN WAS M.I.A. -- WE CROSSED A DESERT, A JUNGLE, AND A **LUNATIC** TO FIND HIM.



AT BARIN'S WEDDING, I GOT FRAMED FOR A **MURDER**. DALE AND ZARKOV FOUND THE REAL KILLER, BUT WE STILL HAD TO GO ON THE RUN.



WE SAW SOME ACTION UP IN **FRIGIA**. IT WAS **FUN**, HONESTLY... UNTIL IT WASN'T.



WE ENDED UP IN **SKY CITY**, WHERE **VULTAN** STRONG-ARMED US INTO HELPING HIM BUILD A **WEAPON**. NOTHING FOR IT: WE HAD TO **ESCAPE**.

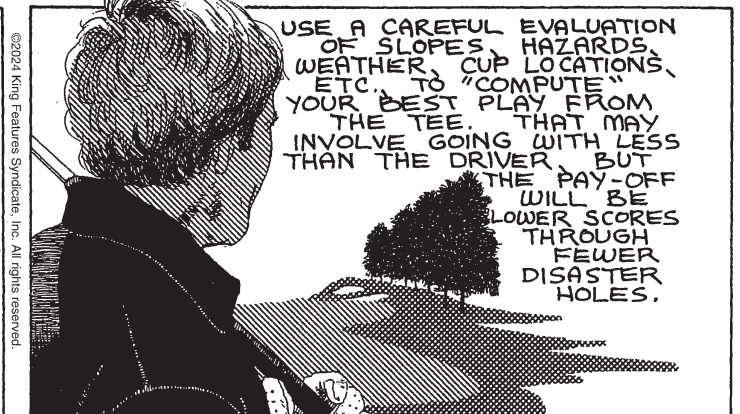
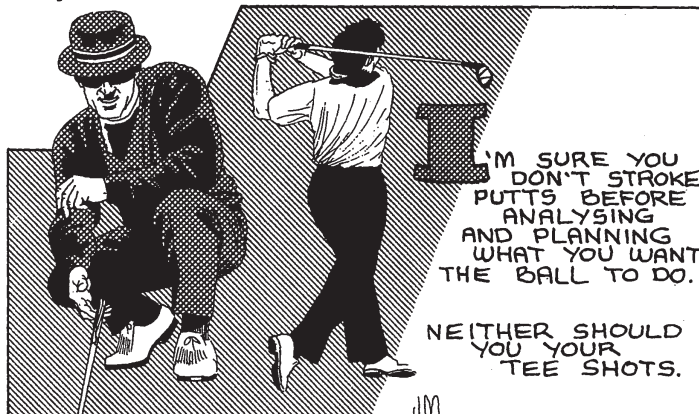
BUT THINGS WENT **SIDeways**-- ONLY DALE AND I GOT OUT. NOW WE'RE STRANDED UP IN THE **MAGNETIC MOUNTAINS**...



RIGHT BY WHERE MING'S FLAGSHIP CRASHED.

NEXT: THE KILLING STONE

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Botox Injections Used to Treat Overactive Bladder

DEAR DR. ROACH: In two weeks, I am supposed to get Botox injections for my overactive bladder (OAB) and my frequent need to urinate at night-time. Are these injections safe? Are there any bad side effects? How long do they work? -- D.J.

ANSWER: The initial treatment for OAB symptoms usually consists of lifestyle changes (i.e., quitting smoking and avoiding medications that worsen symptoms at night), pelvic floor muscle exercises, and bladder training. If these are ineffective, medication is often used. If medications don't work or cannot be tolerated, additional treatments are considered, such as Botox.

The underlying problem with an OAB are uncontrolled bladder spasms. Botox is a powerful suppressor of muscle activity. If just the right amount is used, the excess muscle spasms are reduced, and the person gets good

results. However, if too much is used, the person may not be able to urinate spontaneously at all, so your urologist will be giving you instructions on how to self-catheterize, in case you are unable to void your bladder after the injection.

If you note that the leakage has worsened a week or so after the procedure, this is a big clue that the bladder is not functioning after the injection. This can last for months, but typically no more than three months. Fortunately, this complication happens uncommonly, in about 2%-7% of people. Other complications include infections and bleeding, but these are not common. Antibiotics are given to reduce the risk of infection. Very rarely, muscles outside of the bladder are affected, including generalized weakness and eye muscle weakness.

When it works well, most people start noticing benefit in a week or so, and relief typically lasts 9-12 months before another injection is given.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have been a registered nurse in a hospital for many years. I worked with a urologist who mentioned something that kept him very busy: improperly inserted Foley catheters. When the balloon is inflated, these catheters can damage the urethra. Of course, a catheter is supposed to be inserted into the correct spot before the balloon inflates.

I found out that nursing schools are teaching their students to inflate the balloon when urine is seen, but sometimes there can be urine in the urethra. The catheter can also get stuck in the prostate, where there can be urine as well. Can you help me get the word out about this?

I also like to let male patients know about transurethral lidocaine use to anesthetize the urethra for a catheter insertion. It is cruelty to catheterize a man without it! -- S.H.

ANSWER: I appreciate your writing. I am seeing a downward trend in hospitals using Foley catheters, which are plastic tubes to drain the bladder. In men, these are inserted in the penis and have a balloon to prevent the catheter from falling out. The balloon is supposed to be inflated when the tip of the catheter is safely inserted into the bladder. Inflating the balloon in the urethra is very dangerous.

During my fellowship, I read that Foley catheters are the most likely of all lines (IVs and central lines, among others) to cause harm to patients. Not only can they cause damage to the urethra (estimates range from 0.3%-25% of inpatient hospital visits for men), prolonged placement of these catheters may cause infection and scarring.

There are new low-friction catheters that do not require lubrication, but they still have the potential for complications and discomfort.

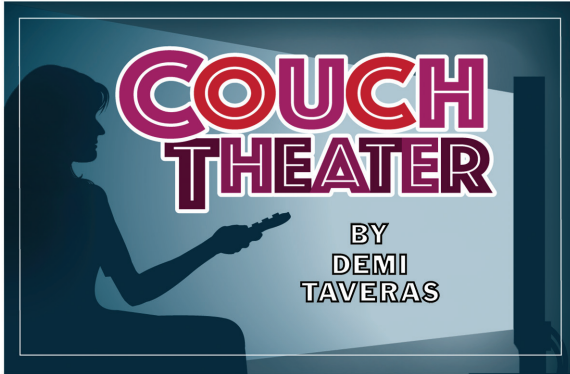
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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"The Instigators" (R) -- This new heist comedy film available now to stream stars none other than Matt Damon ("Drive-Away Dolls") and his best friend's little brother, Casey Affleck ("Openheimer"). It seems that the sexual harassment allegations surrounding Affleck during the #MeToo movement have become a thing of the past, as he begins to star in leading roles again. In this film, Affleck stars as Cobby, an ex-con with whom Rory (Damon) teams up for a once-in-a-lifetime score that will give Rory the money he needs to take care of his son. But with this being Rory's first heist, it's safe to say that nothing will go as planned. Luckily, he has Casey Affleck to show him the way, right? OK, OK, putting my aversion for Affleck aside, if you do give this film a try, look out for Jack Harlow in his second film role ever. Acting seems to fit the rapper well. (Apple TV+)



Matt Damon, left, and Casey Affleck star in "The Instigators." (Courtesy of AppleTV+)

"The Union" (PG-13) -- Speaking of controversial actors from Massachusetts, this film dubbed as a "spy action comedy-thriller" stars Mark Wahlberg ("Arthur the King"). He portrays construction worker Mike, who runs into his high school sweetheart Roxanne (Halle Berry) at a bar in New Jersey. After a night of nostalgia and reminiscing together, Mike is appalled when he wakes up in London the following morning. Having drugged and brought him to the headquarters of her organization, Roxanne reveals that she's a spy and that a list with the identities of every U.S. spy has been compromised by the enemy. So, she needs a "nobody" to train up in order to get the list back, and her old flame Mike is exactly that nobody. J.K. Simmons ("Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse"), Mike Colter ("Evil"), and Lorraine Bracco ("The Sopranos") co-star in the film, out on Aug. 16. (Netflix)

In Case You Missed It

"Civil War" (R) -- This dystopian thriller from A24 became the second highest-grossing film in the production company's history, suggesting that viewers greatly resonated with its plot of a modern civil war taking the U.S. by storm. The film follows a handful of war photographers and journalists who are in the throes of a conflict between an authoritarian version of the U.S. government and the secessionist forces, led by states like Texas and California. Through the eyes of these journalists, who come from all walks of life, viewers get to see firsthand how exhilarating and traumatizing it is to not only see these heinous acts of war up close but to photograph them frequently. Beloved actress Kirsten Dunst ("The Power of the Dog") leads this film, and her co-stars include her husband Jesse Plemons ("Killers of the Flower Moon"), Wagner Moura ("Narcos"), Cailee Spaeny ("Priscilla"), and Stephen McKinley Henderson ("Beau Is Afraid"). Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

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1. Which group released "Do You Believe in Magic"?
2. Name the first rock group that appeared on "The Ed Sullivan Show."
3. What was the name of the vacation resort in the 1987 film "Dirty Dancing," and where was it?
4. Who released "The Love I Lost"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I guess the dance is over now, So you just curtsy, and I'll bow, And ask the band to play us Auld Lang Syne."

Answers

1. The Lovin' Spoonful, in 1965. The song was their debut single. They went on to quickly release seven more that reached the Top Ten.
2. Bill Haley and His Comets, in August 1955. They performed "Rock Around the Clock," the first rock and roll song to be played on a national television show.
3. The resort was called Kellerman's, in the Catskills in New York. It was filmed, however, in Virginia and North Carolina. Look for the movie sequel in May 2025.
4. Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes, in 1973.
5. "More Like the Movies," by Dr. Hook in 1978. Dr. Hook (called Dr. Hook & the Medicine Show until 1975) was known mostly for soft rock, acoustic guitar and easy listening.

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GRIN and BEAR IT *Wagner*



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"WHEW! That was close! For a minute there, I was afraid we'd reach a conclusion!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

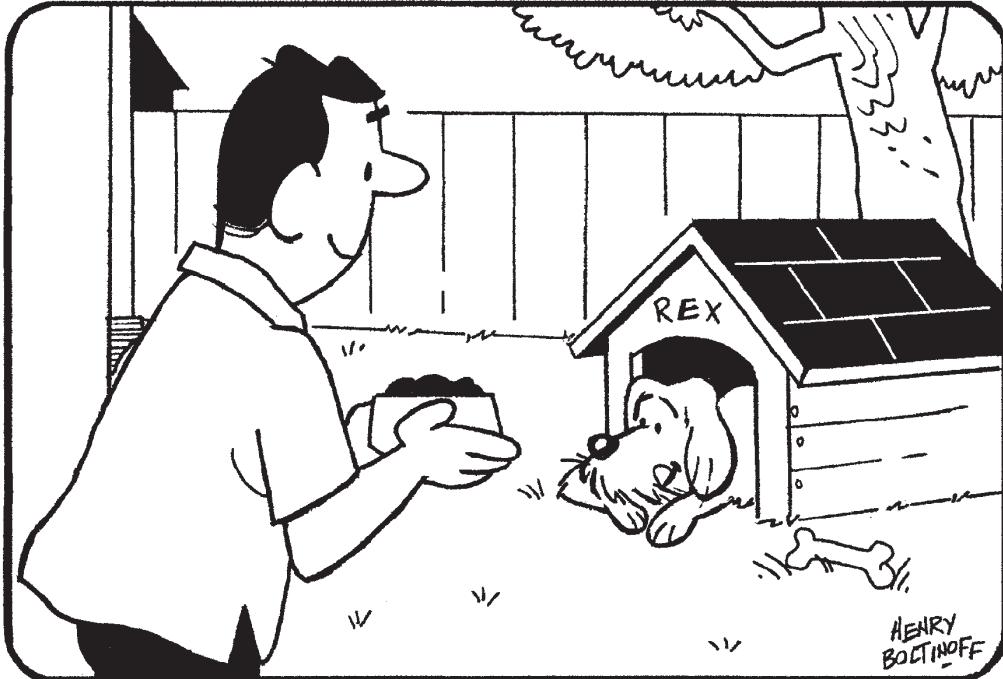
by Dave T. Phipps



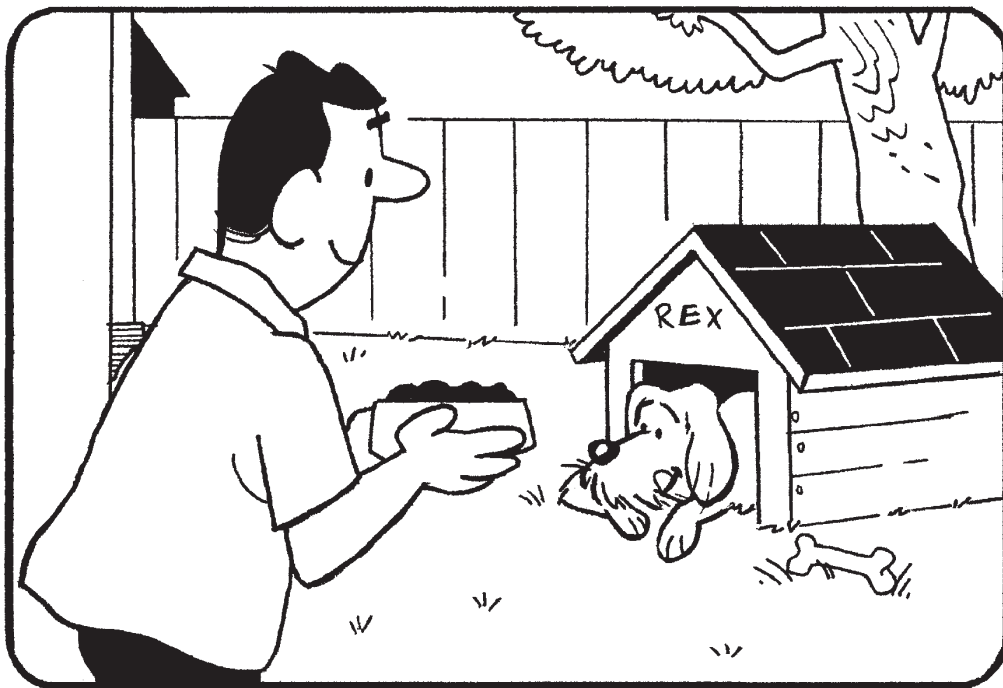
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Shingles are different. 2. Bowl is larger. 3. Doghouse opening is different. 4. Bottom of shirt is different. 5. Paw is moved. 6. Finger is moved.

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* Repair enlarged screw holes with a wooden golf tee. Use a hack saw to saw it flush, sand and finish!

* Punch holes in paint can rims with a nail so the paint that gets sloshed on the rim will drain back into the can. To seal the can, wipe the rim with a damp cloth, and rub it with a little petroleum jelly and cover with a piece of plastic wrap and tap the lid back into place.

* Here's a back-to-flu-season tip: If you have a fever over 100.4, a sore throat without cough or congestion, if you're sick for more than a week, have one-sided facial pain or dark-colored mucus or any nausea or vomiting, you should not only stay home from work or school (so you don't infect your friends), but also consider making an appointment with your

doc or urgent care facility.

* "Keep baby wipes at your bedside table for those nights when you are just too tired to take your makeup off properly. A little is better than nothing. If you're guilty of this more than you care to admit, invest in a packet of eye makeup remover wipes." -- E.S.D. in Texas

* Sun protection shouldn't stop when the summer is over; the sun is still shining! If you have trouble putting sunscreen on your face, try this trick: Spray or smear it on a paper towel, then apply to your face. Use twice as much as you think you should, as some will get lost in the paper towel.

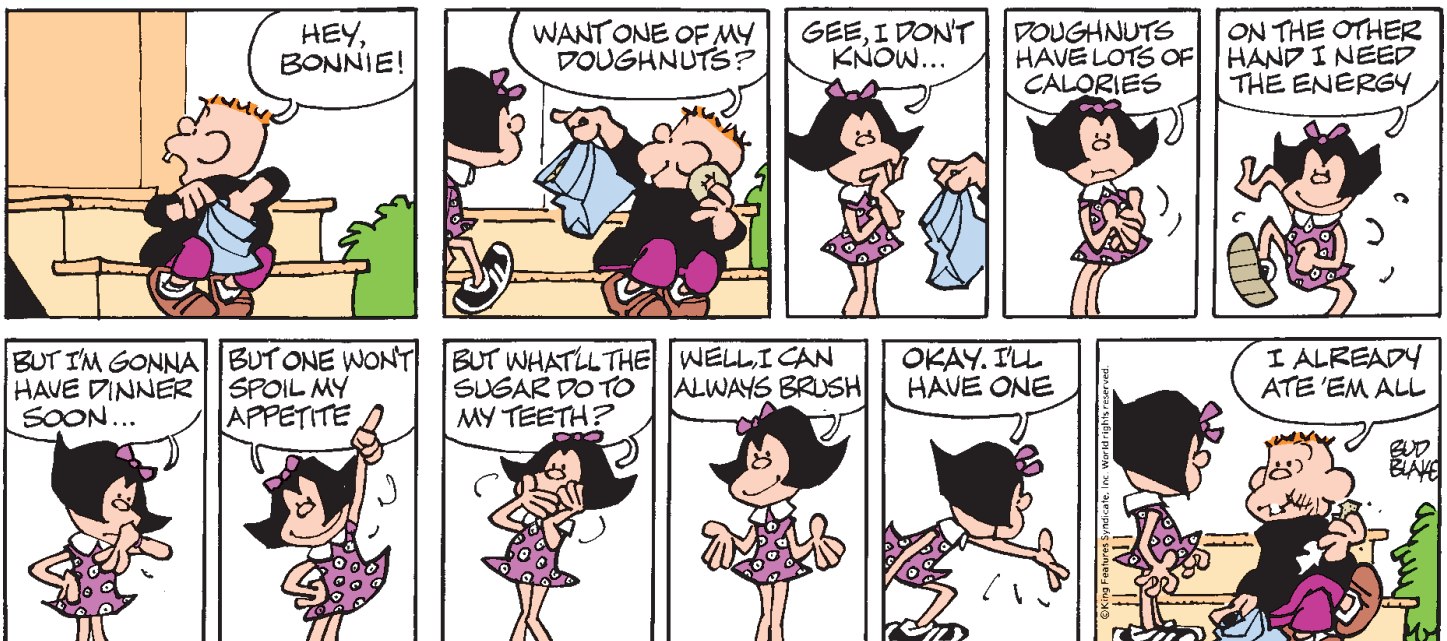
* While boating or fishing, tape small blocks of Styrofoam to your eyeglass arms so they will float if they go overboard. -- R.D. in Florida

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

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TIGER

by **BUD BLAKE**



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Persian leader
5 Kipling hero
8 Dull sound of impact
12 Earring site
13 Enzyme suffix
14 Bagel feature
15 River to the Baltic
16 Boom times
17 Director Preminger
18 Spanish explorer
20 Some babies
22 Contemplate anew
26 Vatican VIPs
29 Televisé
30 Italian article

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
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45	46				47	48			49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

- 31 Jazzy Fitzgerald
32 Automaton, for short
33 Farmland unit
34 Oklahoma city
35 Weir
36 Grove units
37 Contemplate anew
40 Eyebrow shape
41 Excuses
45 Pocket bread
47 Passing craze
49 Aloe —
50 Scott Turow book

- 51 German conjunction
52 Black, in verse
53 Go by
54 Nonclerical
55 Lairs

DOWN

- 1 No neatnik
2 "Today" cohost Kotb
3 First victim
4 Chamomile product
5 Island of Hawaii
6 MSN, for one

- 7 Camper's dinnerware
8 Daring swimwear
9 Tabasco, for one
10 Last (Abbr.)
11 "Gloria in Excelsis —"
19 Surprised cries
21 Rowing need
23 Model Campbell
24 Concerning
25 Burnsian turn-downs
26 Bartlett, for one

- 27 Shoppe descriptor
28 Mollifies
32 Timid
33 Showed up
35 Pol. party org.
36 Business card no.
38 Face-to-face exams
39 — Warbucks
42 Actress Neuwirth
43 Press
44 Without
45 Soda
46 Chef Garten
48 Santa — winds

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— King Crossword —

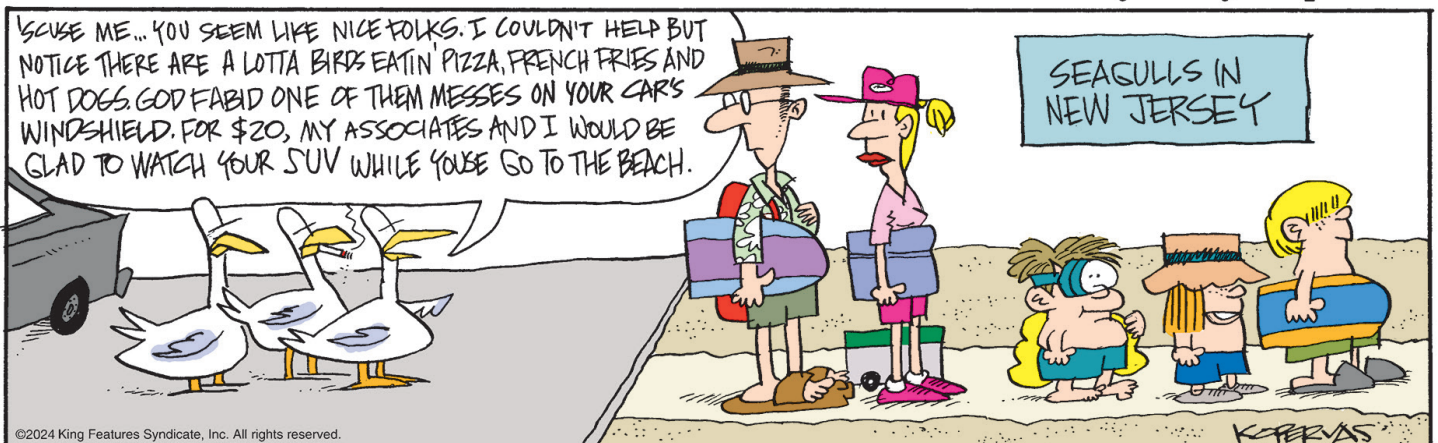
Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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B	A	L	B	O	A		S	O	N	S		
				T	H	I	N	K	A	G	A	I
P	O	P	E	S		A	I	R		U	N	A
E	L	L	A		B	O	T		A	C	R	E
A	D	A		D	A	M		T	R	E	E	S
R	E	C	O	N	S	I	D	E	R			
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P	I	T	A		F	A	D		V	E	R	A
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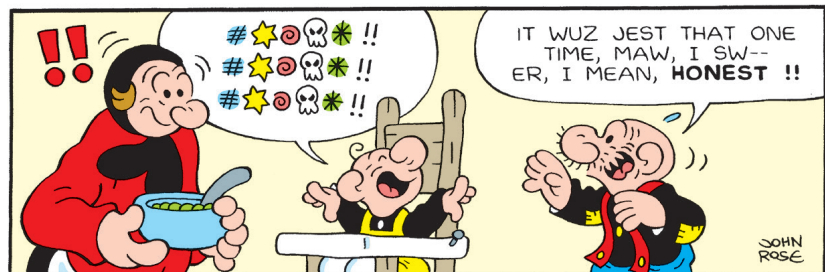
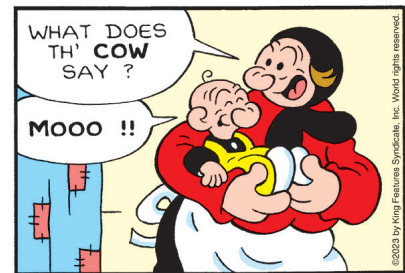
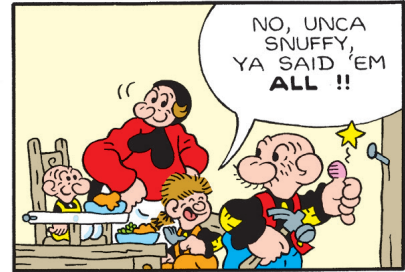
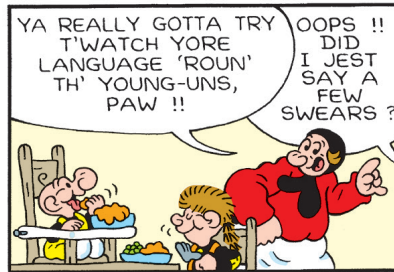
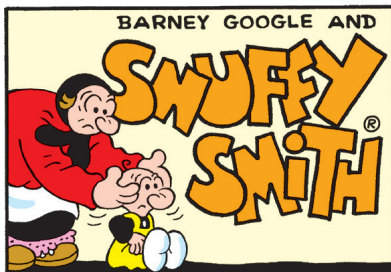
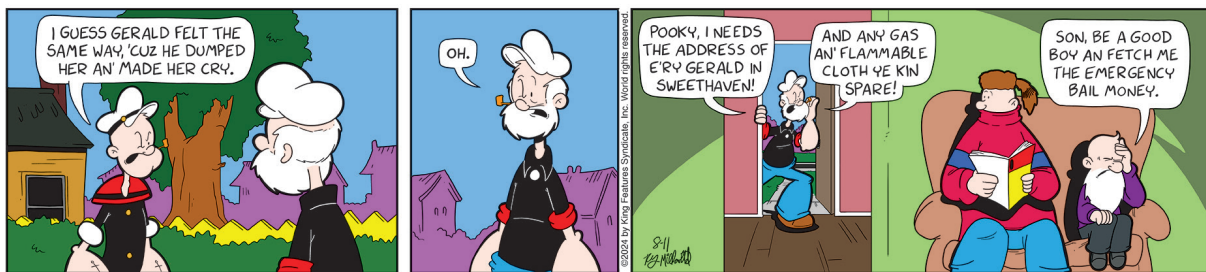
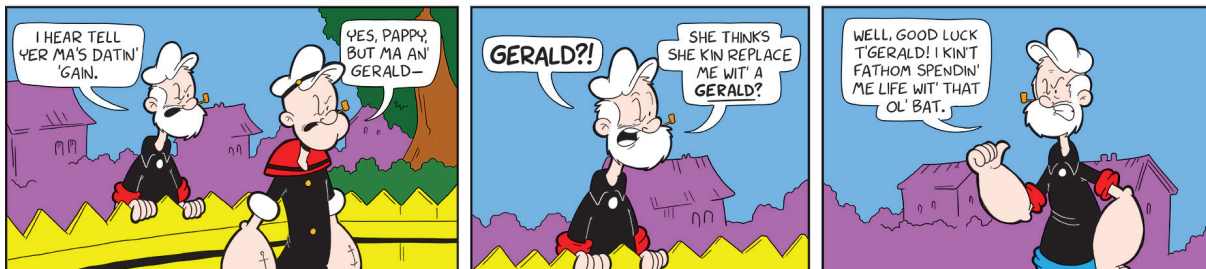
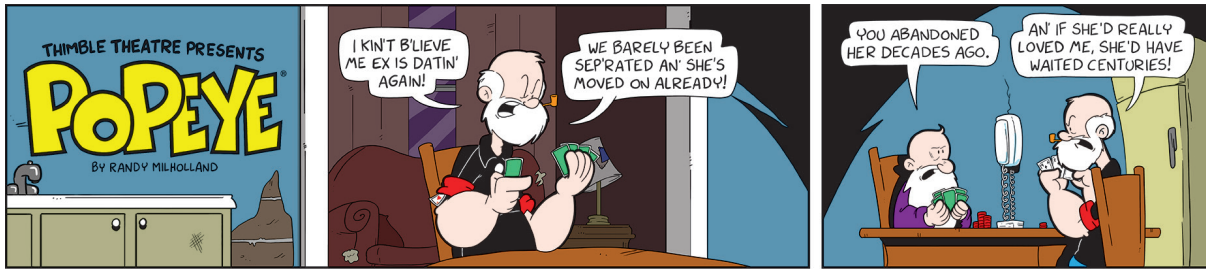
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



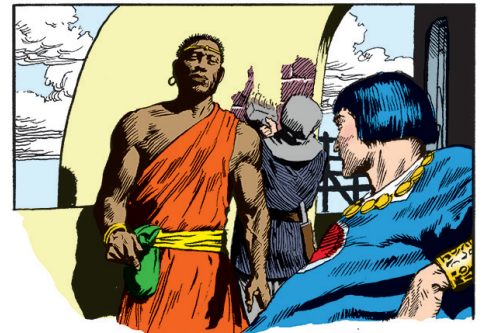
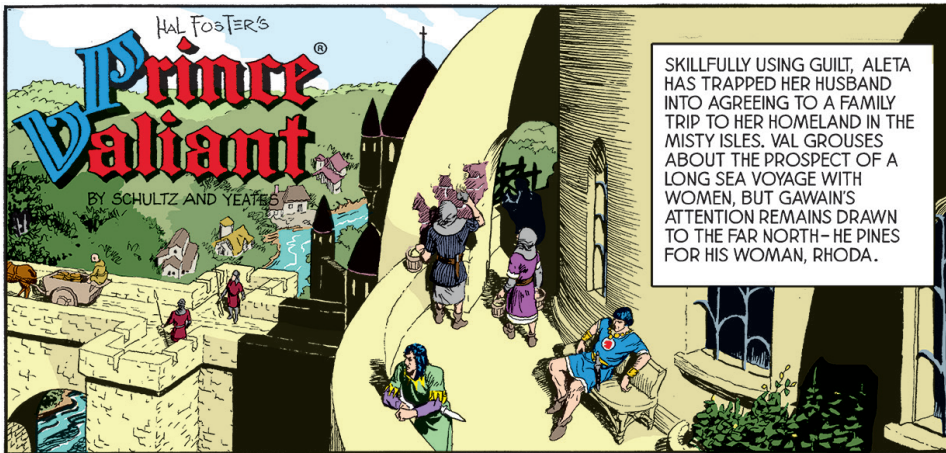
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VAL GIVES UP - GAWAIN OFFERS NO SOLACE IN HIS SMITTEN STATE. BUT THEN BUKOTA, THE AB'SABAN, APPROACHES - NEWS OF ALETA'S VICTORY HAS TRAVELED QUICKLY, IT SEEMS.

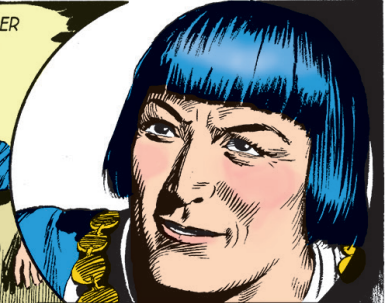
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"I HAVE BEEN THREE YEARS IN THIS COLD, DREAR HOMELAND OF YOURS, IN PENANCE FOR MY MISDEEDS. I WOULD GIVE MUCH TO VISIT THE WARMER, BRIGHTER CLIMES. PLEASE CONSIDER MY USEFULNESS ON A VOYAGE THROUGH THE ROMAN SEA..."



"AND PERHAPS COME A BIG STEP CLOSER TO QUEEN MAKEDA?" VAL INTERJECTS. BUKOTA STARES IMPASSIVELY: "AS GOD WISHES."



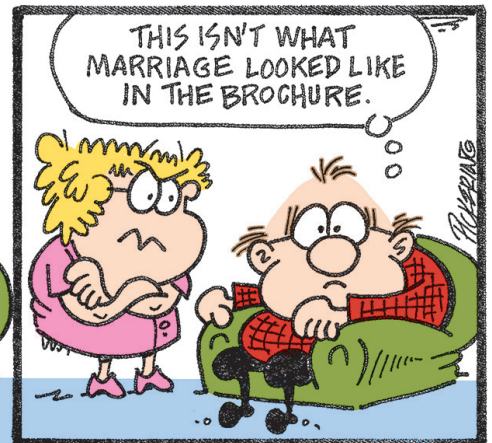
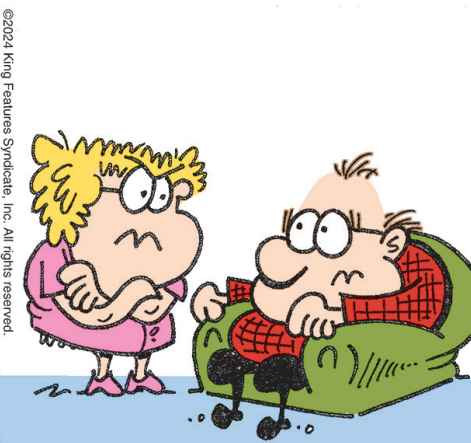
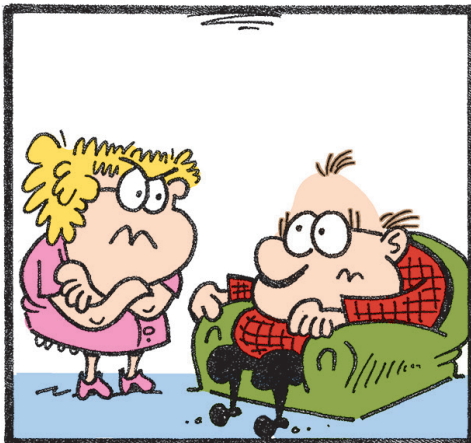
IT SEEMS THAT ALL THE FEMINE POWERS IN THE WORLD NOW WORK AGAINST VAL'S INTERESTS. HE HAD BEST SURRENDER, TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.

NEXT: Preparations

3984

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Finding senior discounts

There are more senior discounts available than we might have expected. We only have to find them!

Check AARP if you are a member. This is where I discovered that the Walmart Plus membership I use for delivery of groceries could be had for \$20 less per year, because of my AARP membership.

Look through the AARP list by putting discounts in the search box. You'll get over 2,300 results. Use the dropdown menu on the left side and click the ones that apply to you. Look for 50% off at LensCrafters and discounts at The UPS Store.

Elsewhere online, go to The Senior List (www.theseniorlist.com/senior-discounts) and scroll through the offerings, which includes grocery stores, retail, restaurants and more.

Amazon Prime (amazon.com) can be had for 50% off if you receive government assistance such as Medicaid and SSI.

Check the National Park Service (www.nps.gov) for a \$20 senior annual pass or the \$80 senior lifetime pass.

Look at Goodwill for weekly discount days that can save as much as 25% off your purchase.

See T-Mobile for their 55+ two-line phone plans.

Living on the Cheap (livingonthecheap.com) has several categories for reduced-price shopping, travel, entertainment and more. Check their listings by state.

Don't forget free goodies on your birthday! "Birthday freebies" are available in many places, such as a scoop of ice cream from Baskin-Robbins, a Grand Slam breakfast at Denny's and pancakes at IHOP.

Do a search for "senior discounts 2024," and you'll find hundreds of possibilities. Add the name of your state to narrow it down even more. Look for discounts on travel, cellphone plans, restaurants, movie theaters, groceries, pet supplies -- everything you need or want. You never know what you'll find!

Call before you go to any location to be sure the expected discount is still being offered.

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1. Who slid into home plate to score the winning run in the Atlanta Braves' 3-2 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates in Game 7 of the 1992 National League Championship Series?

2. Who was ESPN's "Monday Night Football" play-by-play announcer from 2018-19?

3. In 1950, Patty Berg, Opal Hill, Shirley Spork and Louise Suggs were among the 13 founders of what professional sports organization?

4. Known as "Queen of the Nurburgring," what German motorsports icon and TV personality died of cancer in 2021 at the age of 51?

5. In 1989, the UCLA Bruins' Pooh Richardson was the first draft pick in the history of what NBA franchise?

6. Pitcher Dennis Martinez, who threw a perfect game as a member of the Montreal Expos in 1991, hailed from what country?

7. What sportswriter from The Boston Globe got into a physical altercation with New England Patriots cornerback Raymond Clayborn in the locker room following a game in 1979?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Sid Bream.

2. Joe Tessitore.

3. The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA).

4. Sabine Schmitz.

5. The Minnesota Timberwolves.

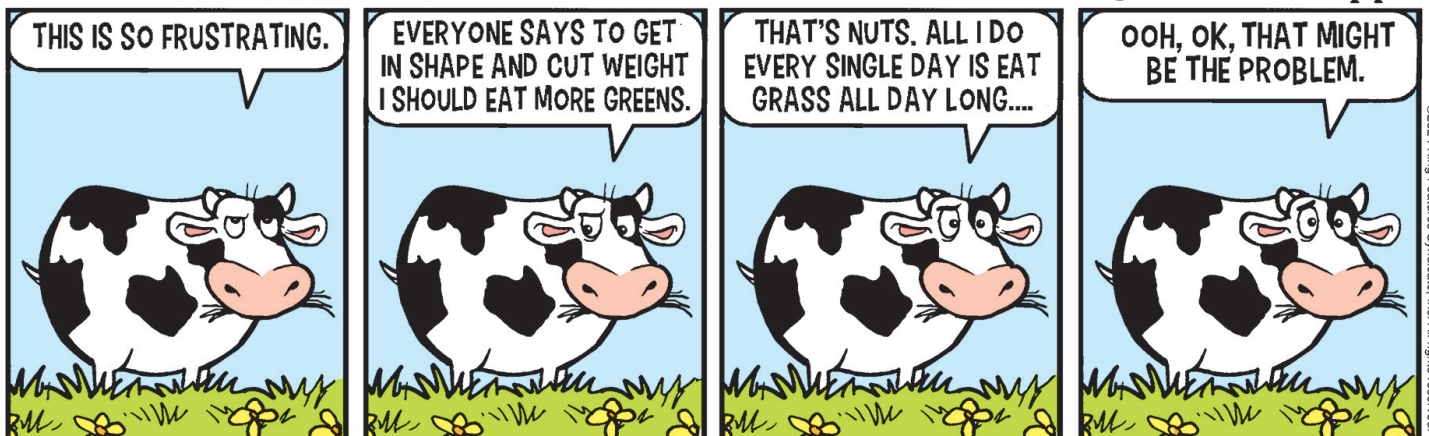
6. Nicaragua.

7. Will McDonough.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Preventing heat injuries

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I recently visited an older relative who owns two dogs. Here in the Northeast, air conditioning isn't common in older houses, and it's been fairly hot for the past several weeks. When I went in, I saw both her dogs were lying down and panting because it was so warm inside. There was no water for them, so I filled up their bowls and added a couple of ice cubes to each one. They both drank nearly all the water. Please remind your readers that heat is dangerous for pets of all kinds, and even if they're at home and indoors, they're at risk. Sign me -- Concerned Cousin in Manchester, New Hampshire

DEAR CONCERNED: Thank you. You just reminded them, and you're absolutely right. Water needs to be

available to pets at all times, indoors or out.

Heat injuries are no joke. They can permanently injure or kill pets (and people). While much attention has been given to not keeping pets inside cars during the warm months, there are more danger areas to be aware of.

- Never lock your pet inside a car, even if you leave it running. There are laws against this in many areas.
- If your dog is out in the yard, make sure they have a shady area to rest with plenty of fresh, cold water. Monitor them frequently: every 10 to 15 minutes.
- Homes without air conditioning can get very hot and stuffy, endangering pets of all types. Maintain airflow at all times with a fan and open windows, and always have water available.
- Outdoor recreation with a pet -- hiking, relaxing on the beach or playing at the park -- is fun, but be sure to bring enough water for them to drink. (Tip: Keep dogs away from still bodies of water, like ponds, during the hottest months. Algae and bacteria flourish at these times.)

When a pet shows signs of heat stress -- panting, lying down, whining or mewling -- get them to a cooler room immediately. If they don't improve, contact the veterinarian.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* After 10 minutes of looking at yourself in a mirror in a dimly lit room, your bored brain will distort your reflection, triggering the appearance of imaginary monsters such as "Bloody Mary."

* Sologamy is the act of marrying yourself.

* In 1895, there were only two cars in the entire state of Ohio ... and they still ended up crashing into each other.

* The record for most passengers on an airplane was set in 1991 when 1,086 Ethiopian Jews were evacuated to

Jerusalem on a Boeing 747. However, the plane landed with 1,088 passengers, as two babies made their earthly debut during the flight.

* Pineapples were a status symbol in 18th century England. In fact, they were so expensive that you could rent them by the night and take them to parties with you.

* In the first quarter after Covid lockdowns, lipstick sales shot up nearly 50%.

* The Apollo 11 astronauts had to go through customs upon their return to Earth and declare moon rocks, moon dust and other lunar samples, according to the form signed by all three and filed at the Honolulu Airport in Hawaii on July 24, 1969.

* *Cymothoa exigua* is a parasite that severs the blood vessels of a fish's tongue and becomes a new functional tongue.


* Bella and Edward's relationship in the "Twilight" book and film series meets all 15 criteria set by the National Domestic Violence Hotline for being in an abusive relationship.

* An estimated 10% of Europeans are immune to HIV infection because they have an ancestor who survived bubonic plague.

Thought for the Day: "It isn't what you have, or who you are, or where you are, or what you are doing that makes you happy or unhappy. It is what you think about." -- Dale Carnegie

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The Garden Bug



Copper wire
Wood dowel

Electroculture

Researchers have studied the effects of electricity on plants as far back as the 1700s, when it was noticed that trees grew faster beneath the aurora borealis, which is an atmospheric phenomenon involving particles from the sun affecting earth's magnetic field. "Electroculture" gardening uses copper wire to harness natural electromagnetic energy from the atmosphere and conduct it down into the soil, where it interacts with the plants' root systems and increases nutrient and water absorption. It also reduces pest activity and strengthens root development. This improves plant health and growth. – Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.dictionary.com, www.budget101.com, www.hgtv.com



by Freddy Groves

The new burn pit registry

The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry is launching again with a new design. Also known as the Burn Pit Registry and AHOBPR 2.0, the database will be open for study by epidemiologists and researchers with the goal of identifying the health problems veterans suffer after being exposed to airborne hazards and burn pits, and to improve treatment. It's expected that 4.7 million veterans will be included in the registry.

Being listed in the registry won't have any impact on your benefits and health care (no personal medical information will be included), but the information gleaned from veterans and their experiences will go a long way to creating new and better treatments. And you don't even have to sign up. All veterans who served in specific locations during specific time periods will automatically be entered into the registry.

The information about each veteran will include demographics such as race and gender, as well as dates and locations of deployments.

If for some reason you don't want to participate and want to opt out, go to vethome.va.gov/BurnPitRegistryOptOut. Or if you previously opted out and want back in, you can do that at vethome.va.gov/inquiry. Use this link as well if you discover that you're not in the new registry. You can request a manual eligibility review via that link.

To see the locations and dates for participation eligibility, or to read more in depth about the redesigned registry, go to www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp.

A new VA program, as of June 2024, VET-HOME, uses free telehealth medical evaluations to help veterans who've had environmental exposures. Go online to vethome.va.gov and review the six registry programs to see if you're eligible, or call 833-633-8846 for more information. If you have a DS Logon, ID.me or Login.gov account, you can sign in and chat with someone or schedule your free telehealth evaluation. Remember that many veterans are eligible for more than one registry.

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Wishing Well®

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

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. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin prefix "audio-" mean in English?
2. TELEVISION: Gladys Kravitz is the annoying neighbor in which TV comedy?
3. ANATOMY: About how many taste buds does the average human tongue have?
4. GEOGRAPHY: The Brandenburg Gate is in which European capital city?
5. HISTORY: Who was the leader of the Soviet Union during WWII?
6. MOVIES: Which movie features the line "I'm the king of the world!"?
7. MYTHOLOGY: What is the name of the Egyptian sun god?
8. LITERATURE: "The Great Gatsby" is set in which U.S. city?
9. MONEY: What is the basic currency of Poland?
10. FOOD & DRINK: Which country is associated with the side dish kimchi?

Answers

1. "Sound" or "hearing" (e.g. "audiophile").
2. "Bewitched."
3. 2,000-8,000.
4. Berlin, Germany.
5. Joseph Stalin.
6. "Titanic."
7. Ra.
8. New York.
9. Zloty.
10. Korea (North and South).

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

"We Need to Talk"

Years ago, I lost a dear friend of mine to suicide, and it was fundamentally life changing for me. After that incident, I remember thinking, "I should have done something. I should have said something." I replayed every interaction I had with them over and over again.

In that moment, I wish I had someone I could talk to – someone who could tell me what I should have done differently to help my friend. Countless South Dakotans feel the same way.

We are surrounded by people every day, but we don't always know what those individuals are going through. The world we live in can be very difficult. People are often judged by any number of factors, and that's not the way God intended for us to treat our brothers and sisters. We are called to love one another.

When I first became Governor, I had several staff members who were also impacted by suicide. They came to me, sharing their personal stories of loss and imploring me to do something. I decided to make reducing suicide deaths a priority of my Administration. We drew a path forward: to start an annual Suicide Prevention Conference; to emphasize the 988 hotline; and to bring six different agencies to develop a comprehensive statewide plan to prevent suicide.

We built three Regional Crisis Stabilization Centers across the state (with more to come) and established a Zero Suicide Workgroup. Because of these efforts, suicide rates in South Dakota are finally starting to decline. But our work is not done. We need to continue to do everything we can to restore hope to our communities.

Just last week, we held the Third Annual Suicide Prevention Conference, and it was a tremendous success. The title of the conference was "We Need to Talk."

When you hear that phrase, it usually creates a feeling of dread in your stomach. You probably anticipate that a hard conversation is coming. But for someone who is struggling with thoughts of suicide, that conversation can literally be life changing. Suicide is certainly not an easy topic to discuss, but we need to help people feel comfortable sharing their struggles so they can get the help they need.

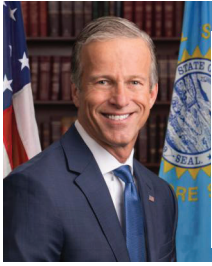
I've prioritized supporting the 988 Suicide and Crisis Hotline. This hotline has received nearly 20,000 calls since its inception. 24% of them are suicide-related, and 97% of those have been stabilized by the time they hang up the phone. That is such a miracle. It is so powerful for individuals who are experiencing a crisis to be able to talk to someone without the fear of being judged, to receive immediate assistance, and to have someone to continue to walk beside them and ensure they are not alone.

We live in a day and age where people perish because they don't have a vision; they don't have hope. But we have the opportunity to turn the tide and bring light to those who are trapped in darkness. With the right resources – and with some tough conversations – my prayer is that we will continue to see deaths by suicide decline, that people will live the hopeful lives that God has blessed them with.

Each of us were created with a purpose – and part of that purpose is to love each other and serve people. South Dakotans recognize the power of relationships. And we recognize that each and every person is special. No one is above helping their neighbor get through hard times – South Dakotans prove that every day.

We need to talk – and I know that we will.

If you or a loved one are experiencing a behavioral health crisis, please call 988. Start the conversation. It takes courage to engage in difficult conversations, but we cannot be afraid. Each of us can make a difference. Each of us can bring hope to those who are hurting.



JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Democrats Go After the Supreme Court's Independence

Chief Justice John Roberts likened the job of a judge to calling balls and strikes. I think most Americans would agree with the image of courts functioning as impartial umpires. But in the last few years, as the U.S. Supreme Court has issued a handful of decisions that Democrats don't like, they have embarked on a campaign to delegitimize the court and remake it to their liking. In other words, they are trying to re-write the rules simply because they don't like the outcome of every game.

This years-long campaign accelerated recently when President Biden voiced support for a series of "reforms" to the Supreme Court. The president's plan includes circumventing the Constitution's lifetime appointments for justices, conveniently retiring Republican-appointed justices first. It also includes replacing the Supreme Court's ethics code with a new code of conduct written by Democrats in Congress.

Make no mistake, this is court-packing by another name. If changes like these actually become law, it would set a dangerous precedent and undermine the court's independence. And I fear it would just be the beginning. It's easy to imagine a future in which each new administration tries to "rebalance" the court, resulting in wild swings with every election.

I've disagreed with more than a few Supreme Court decisions. I've disagreed with justices appointed by presidents from my own party. But I've never thought that my not agreeing with a decision meant that the court was illegitimate or that my party should change the law to allow us to interfere with the court's makeup. That hasn't been the case with Democrats, however. The court hands down a few decisions that Democrats don't like and we hear calls to pack the court, impeach justices, and other efforts to smear justices and remake the court to the Democrats' liking.

Not long ago, Senate Democrats – frustrated they could not rubber-stamp all of President Obama's appointees – abolished the filibuster for lower-court nominees. It turned out to be a quick step from abolishing the filibuster for the Supreme Court a few years later. In hindsight, Democrats regretted using the "nuclear option" for their own short-term political gain. But their latest campaign to politicize the judiciary suggests they have not completely learned their lesson.

If Democrats were really concerned about impartiality, the rule of law, and promoting faith in the Supreme Court, the last thing they would be doing is interfering with a separate and independent branch of government. Once again, Democrats seem focused on their short-term political gain, rather than the long-term health of our institutions.

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Guest Column: Never Let Fear Stop You **By Aleesia Dillon, Ben Reifel Intern**

Working in politics has always been in the back of my mind, but I had never seriously considered it. On June 3, 2024, my window of opportunity opened to work on Capitol Hill. It was my first day as the Ben Reifel intern with Congressman Dusty Johnson. I had never been to Washington, D.C., and I felt like a turtle seeking refuge in its shell. While I didn't have the slightest idea of what was to come, now at the end of my internship, I can say I met great people and made memories I'll keep forever.

During my second week, I heard from Representative Tom Emmer (R-MN) at an intern lecture series. What he shared set my standards high and laid a great foundation for my internship. I took his advice to seize opportunities, make a good impression, and do my best.

Dusty is similar in this way—he's always making sure the interns get exposure to what Congress is like and he helps set up once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for us. As interns, we attended many of his constituent meetings and staff meetings to learn the inner workings of his office. This always made me feel like I was truly a part of his team, not just a lowly intern who is tasked with getting coffee for our boss (which we never had to do). Throughout my internship, I heard Dusty crack several dad jokes while sharing snacks with his staff.

My time studying at Cornell University has prepared me for the fast-paced environment of Capitol Hill, but I did improve and refine my skills throughout the internship. My writing, communication, and professionalism were sharpened throughout working with the staff who provided edits on my work. I'm confident I'll be an even better student when I return to campus this fall.

The highlight of my internship was meeting with Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. I asked for her advice about law school, how she balances her identity as a Native with her work life, and her favorite traditional meal. She told me that Native women think about things differently, and to never let fear stop me. Meeting Secretary Haaland brought me an immense amount of joy, and I'm deeply grateful for Dusty's office for setting up the meeting. I've never been prouder to be a Lakota woman.

Throughout my internship, I joined Dusty's famous night tours of the Capitol, toured the White House, met with other members (including some "famous" ones), visited many of the Smithsonian museums, and did so much more. I am so thankful I took this opportunity to work on the Hill, and I'm glad I didn't let fear of the unknown stop me.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

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1-352-216-3025

And That's the Way it Was

I've lived long enough to realize that things usually go their own way. I may want something to go one way, but eventually, it all boils down to going the other way.

That is no more true than when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I travel somewhere. We usually use her Sissy Van, so I give her the honor of driving. After all, I sure don't want to drive a Sissy Van.

This month, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly will celebrate our 53rd year of marital bliss. I can't believe we've been married that long, but that's exactly what The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage told me. And she is never wrong—or at least, I never tell her when she is wrong.

Being married for 53 years is an accomplishment in today's world. Most people aren't married for 53 months. I can't believe all of the divorce and remarriage that I see in the world today.

If you're going to be a successful Hollywood movie star, you have to be married and divorced at least five times. My wife and I could never qualify as Hollywood celebrities, and that's just the way it is.

During our 53 years of marriage, I can't remember any time we had a fight. We may have had one but I can't remember it. I don't believe in anger, fighting, and stomping around mad. Some people get a thrill out of that, but I'm not some people.

The only difficulties we've had have been with broccoli and Apple Fritters. She loves broccoli, and I love Apple Fritters, and the two shall never sit at the same dinner table.

Just before we married, I told her how much I loved Apple Fritters. So I asked her rather bluntly, "When we get married will I be able to eat Apple Fritters?"

Looking at me with a smile, she said, "Oh, my dear. You can have an Apple Fritter every single day."

It wasn't until a couple of months ago that I reminded her of this.

"Don't you remember," I said, "that you said I could have an Apple Fritter every single day?"

Laughing, she looked at me and thoughtfully said, "How many single days have you had since you were married?"

It took me a little while to understand what she was saying. That's just the way it was, so get used to it, I said to myself.

After being married as long as I have, I understand you don't always get everything you want. That's just not the way life works.

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As a teenager, I thought I could get everything I wanted. After all, the commercial said, "You deserve a break today." You can always believe a commercial.

Last month, I celebrated my 73rd birthday, and as I look back on my life, the one thing I'm grateful for is that I didn't get everything I thought I deserved. Oh boy, what would my life be like today if that really happened?

I had just graduated high school at 18 and thought I could have anything and everything I wanted. Thinking about it, if I had everything today that I always wanted when I was 18, I would be in bad shape right now. I sure am glad I'm not 18. In fact, I'm really glad I am as old as I am.

Today, I wouldn't have the energy to do what I was doing 50 years ago. I'm just glad I can do what I am doing now at this age.

The other night, while relaxing in the living room watching TV, *The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage* and I were reminiscing about our family. We started 53 years ago, when all we had was each other.

Now, after 53 years of being together, we have three children, nine grandchildren, and this year, we acquired three great-grandchildren.

Both of us sat back in our chairs, sighed deeply, and smiled. In reality, we had everything that we need.

I was sitting in my office the other day and looking around at all of my books. I must confess that I am a bookaholic. When I retired, we added an office to our house so I could accommodate all of my books.

So, with 15 children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and around 8,500 books in my library, what else is there to enjoy in life?

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has a craft room at the other end of the house. Her craft room and my study are not very compatible except when she's in her room, and I'm in mine. Oh, the wonderful sounds of silence.

As I get older, I'm beginning to appreciate what I have. I have some friends who are always bemoaning what they don't have. I feel sorry for them, but I can't relate to them.

I see what I have in front of me and I am one happy geezer.

While thinking about this, a verse of scripture came to mind. "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things" (1 Corinthians 13:11).

Reflecting on my life there is nothing I can change. I'm not sure what I would change if I could. What I can do is focus on the present. I can change going forward by acting like an adult.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: How can we get better at predicting when and where wildfires will occur so we can adequately mitigate their impact?

-- R.K., Tarrytown, NY

In recent years, the wildfires incidents have intensified, driven by factors including climate change, land use patterns and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns. As we grapple with the growing risk, efforts to enhance predictive capabilities and mitigate the impact of wildfires have become paramount.

Predicting when and where wildfires will occur demands a sophisticated approach that integrates advanced technology with comprehensive data analysis. Indeed, researchers are leveraging cutting-edge satellite imagery and machine learning algorithms to enhance wildfire prediction models. These technologies allow experts to analyze historical fire data, vegetation patterns, weather trends and terrains in unprecedented detail. By identifying high-risk areas and predicting potential fire behavior, scientists can provide early warnings to at-risk communities and allocate firefighting resources more effectively.

Increased wildfires have also spurred new mitigation strategies. The Wilderness Society stresses three key approaches to reduce wildfire impacts: proactive forest management (controlled burns and selective thinning of vegetation, making forests less susceptible to catastrophic fires), community preparedness (educating residents about fire safety, setting evacuation plans and increasing firefighting infrastructure), and policy reforms (stricter building codes and incentivized sustainable land management practice).

The federal government is also ramping up initiatives. One is the Technology to Reduce the Impact of Wildfires (TRIW) initiative, where federal agencies work together to develop innovative tools like fire-resistant materials, advanced firefighting equipment and real-time communication systems. This not only enhance firefighter safety but also improve response times and coordination during wildfire events.

Private industry is also getting in on the act. One company, Blue Sky Analytics, uses a network of sensors with AI and machine learning to beef up our ability to predict and prevent fires. Drones with infrared cameras can detect hotspots and monitor fire progression in real-time, providing critical data. Sensors deployed across vulnerable landscapes continuously collect data, feeding into models that forecast fire behavior based on current conditions. Such advancements enable authorities to issue timely alerts and deploy resources where they are most needed.

Combining these public and private initiatives with the power of citizen science can make all the difference as to whether fire mitigation succeeds or fails. By integrating field observations with scientific data, experts gain a more comprehensive understanding of wildfire dynamics and its impacts.



As we grapple with the growing risk, efforts to enhance predictive capabilities and mitigate the impact of wildfires have become paramount.

Credit: Pexels.com.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

COMMENTARY

South Dakota drug conviction is among the baggage RFK Jr. brings to the ballot

by Seth Tupper

Bill Walsh picked up a ringing phone in Deadwood during the fall of 1983 and heard Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s voice.

"Bill, I'm off the wagon," Kennedy said, according to Walsh. "I've got a flight coming in tomorrow."

The two had become friends in 1980. Kennedy campaigned in South Dakota that year for his uncle, U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy, who ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Walsh and RFK Jr. were fellow Irish-Catholic Democrats, and Walsh was a former priest with experience counseling addicted people. He knew about Kennedy's struggles and had offered to quietly help him seek treatment.

Things didn't go according to plan.

Drugs in his luggage

Passengers on Kennedy's flight to Rapid City saw that he was high. The flight crew radioed ahead to authorities, who let Kennedy go but obtained a search warrant and found heroin in his luggage.

Scott McGregor was a deputy prosecutor in the local state's attorney's office. He said it wasn't difficult to find Kennedy, given the widespread knowledge of Walsh's political connections.

"I got the notion that, well, why would a Kennedy be coming out here anyway?" McGregor recalled. "And it crossed my mind it had to be to go see Bill Walsh."

Kennedy was charged with felony drug possession, and the story made national news.

Rod Lefholz was the local state's attorney at the time. As a Democrat — the last one elected to a Pennington County office, as far as he knows — he faced the task of prosecuting a member of the nation's most famous Democratic family.

Lefholz approached the case like any other and said it proceeded normally, other than the presence of national media such as People magazine in the courtroom and letters that arrived by the dozens from people with opinions on the case.

"Some of them wanted me to hang him from a lamppost," Lefholz recalled, "and others said, 'Why do you keep picking on the Kennedy family?'"

In the end, Kennedy pleaded guilty and avoided prison based on a number of conditions, including two years of probation and the completion of addiction treatment.



Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. takes questions from the media after his campaign rally at Legends Event Center on Dec. 20, 2023, in Phoenix. (Rebecca Noble/Getty Images)

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He honored the conditions, earned his release from probation a year early and left South Dakota behind — until this week, when his long and strange trip through life brought him back to the state (in name, at least) as a presidential candidate.

His campaign said it turned in 8,000 petition signatures, more than the 3,502 needed from registered South Dakota voters to make the ballot as an independent. The Secretary of State's Office is reviewing the signatures for authenticity.

A brain worm, a dog (or goat) and a bear

Walsh, now 84, said he stayed in touch with Kennedy for a long time, though not as much lately. Still, Walsh said he accepted an invitation to the launch of Kennedy's presidential campaign last year, when Kennedy was seeking the Democratic nomination before switching to run as an independent.

Walsh has always felt sympathy for the trauma Kennedy endured during and after the assassinations of his father, U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and his uncle, President John F. Kennedy. Walsh also respects RFK Jr.'s work as an environmental lawyer and agrees with some of his political views.

But, Walsh added, "Every time I think he makes sense, the next day he's got a worm in his head, or he's eating a dog or putting a dead bear in Central Park."

Those are all references to news stories about Kennedy from the past several months.

In May, The New York Times obtained a copy of a deposition Kennedy gave in 2012, when he said earlier bouts of memory loss and mental fog were diagnosed as "a worm that got into my brain and ate a portion of it and then died." He has since learned that the parasite "was not the issue" with his brain, he said, and that it was actually related to metal toxicity from mercury.

The dog-eating accusation was in a July 2 story in Vanity Fair. Kennedy said the animal in the photo obtained by the magazine was a goat he ate during a river trip in Patagonia.

Last Sunday, Kennedy was forced to admit ahead of reporting by The New Yorker that he left a dead bear cub in Manhattan's Central Park in 2014 because he thought it would be "amusing." He picked up the roadkill while driving through the Hudson Valley and intended to eat it, he said, but got busy and left it in the park instead. When the bear was found that year, it sparked a media sensation and a mystery that wasn't solved until Kennedy's admission this week.

Still more baggage

That's a small sample of Kennedy's alternately tragic, inspiring, bizarre and troubling life and times. The more concerning incidents include his rampant spreading of vaccine misinformation — such as his false statement that "there's no vaccine that is safe and effective" — and an allegation that he forcibly groped a woman in her 20s who was working for the Kennedy family as a babysitter during the 1990s. Kennedy has since apologized "for anything" he may have done to the woman but said he has "no memory" of the incident.

Four decades after his drug conviction in Rapid City, Kennedy says he remains in recovery from addiction. He deserves credit for that. But his other personal baggage weighs heavily on some voters who might otherwise be strongly inclined to support a Kennedy for president.

Just ask Bill Walsh, who's still very Irish, Catholic and Democratic, and still fond of RFK Jr. and the broader Kennedy legacy.

None of those loyalties will convince Walsh to support Kennedy if his name is on the ballot Nov. 5.

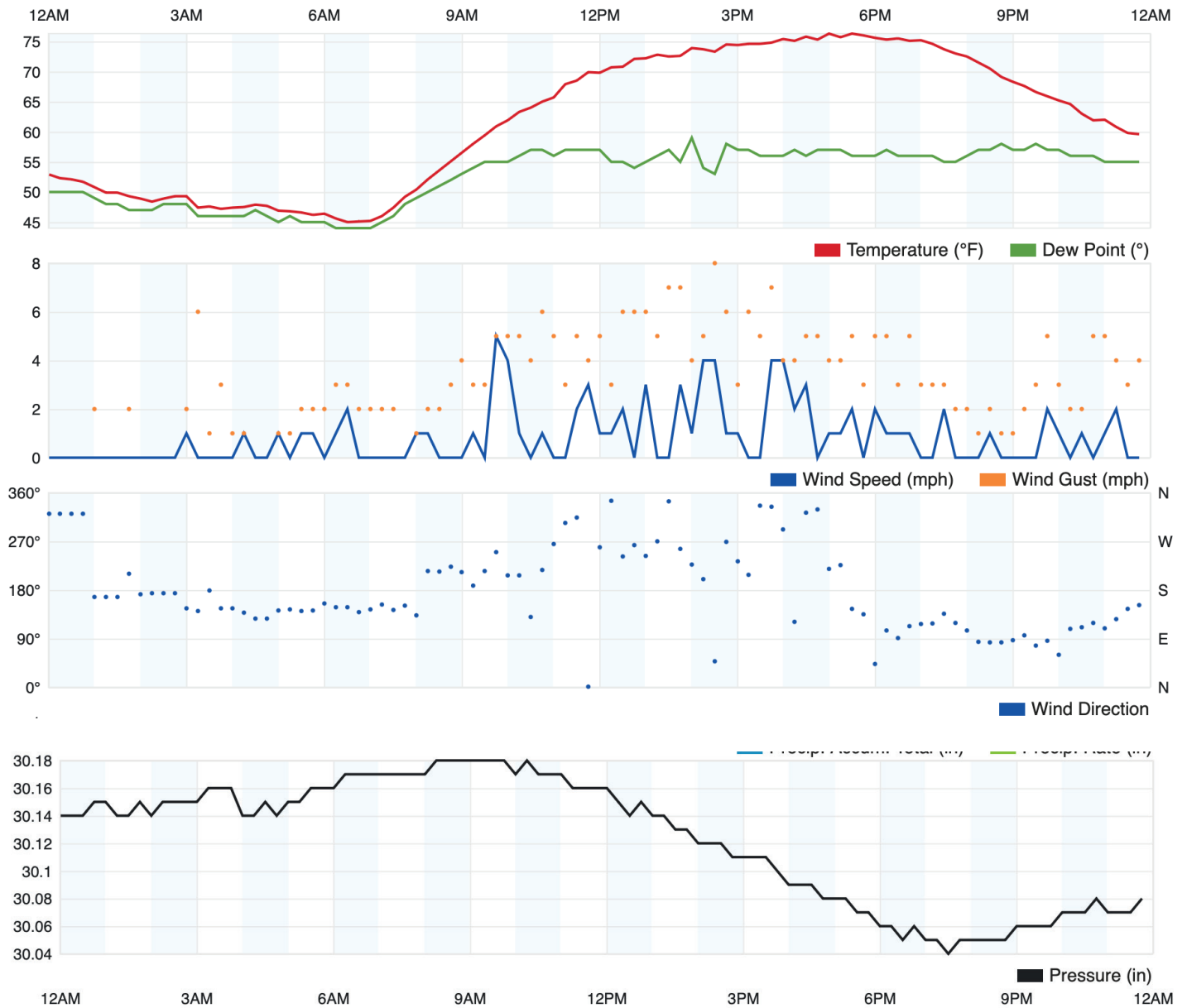
"I'm not going to vote for him," Walsh said.

Seth is editor-in-chief of South Dakota Searchlight. He was previously a supervising senior producer for South Dakota Public Broadcasting and a newspaper journalist in Rapid City and Mitchell.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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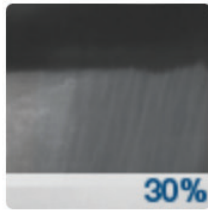
Today



High: 76 °F

Partly Sunny

Tonight



Low: 57 °F

Chance
Showers

Monday



High: 76 °F

Mostly Sunny

Monday Night



Low: 56 °F

Mostly Clear

Tuesday



High: 80 °F

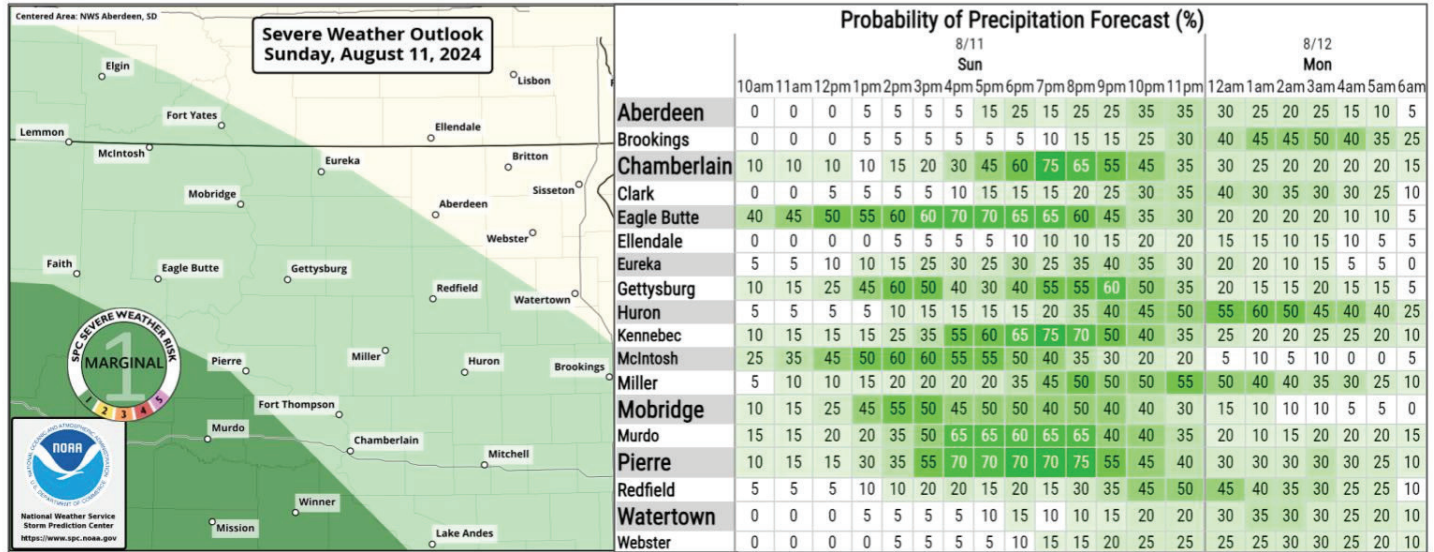
Mostly Sunny



Moisture Potential For Today

August 11, 2024
3:09 AM

Marginal Risk (1 out of 5) for Large Hail & Damaging Winds in Highlighted Dark Green Area
Rain Showers & Weak Storms Elsewhere (See Probability of Precipitation Forecast Below For Timing)
Highs Today in the 70s



A system will bring scattered showers and weak storms to the region today/tonight, with isolated stronger storms capable of large hail and damaging winds. The main focus area for severe weather is southwest/south central South Dakota.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 77 °F at 5:03 PM

Low Temp: 45 °F at 6:35 AM

Wind: 8 mph at 2:30 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 19 minutes (lost 19 minutes since last Sunday)

Today's Info

Record High: 103 in 1988

Record Low: 34 in 1902

Average High: 84

Average Low: 58

Average Precip in Aug.: .80

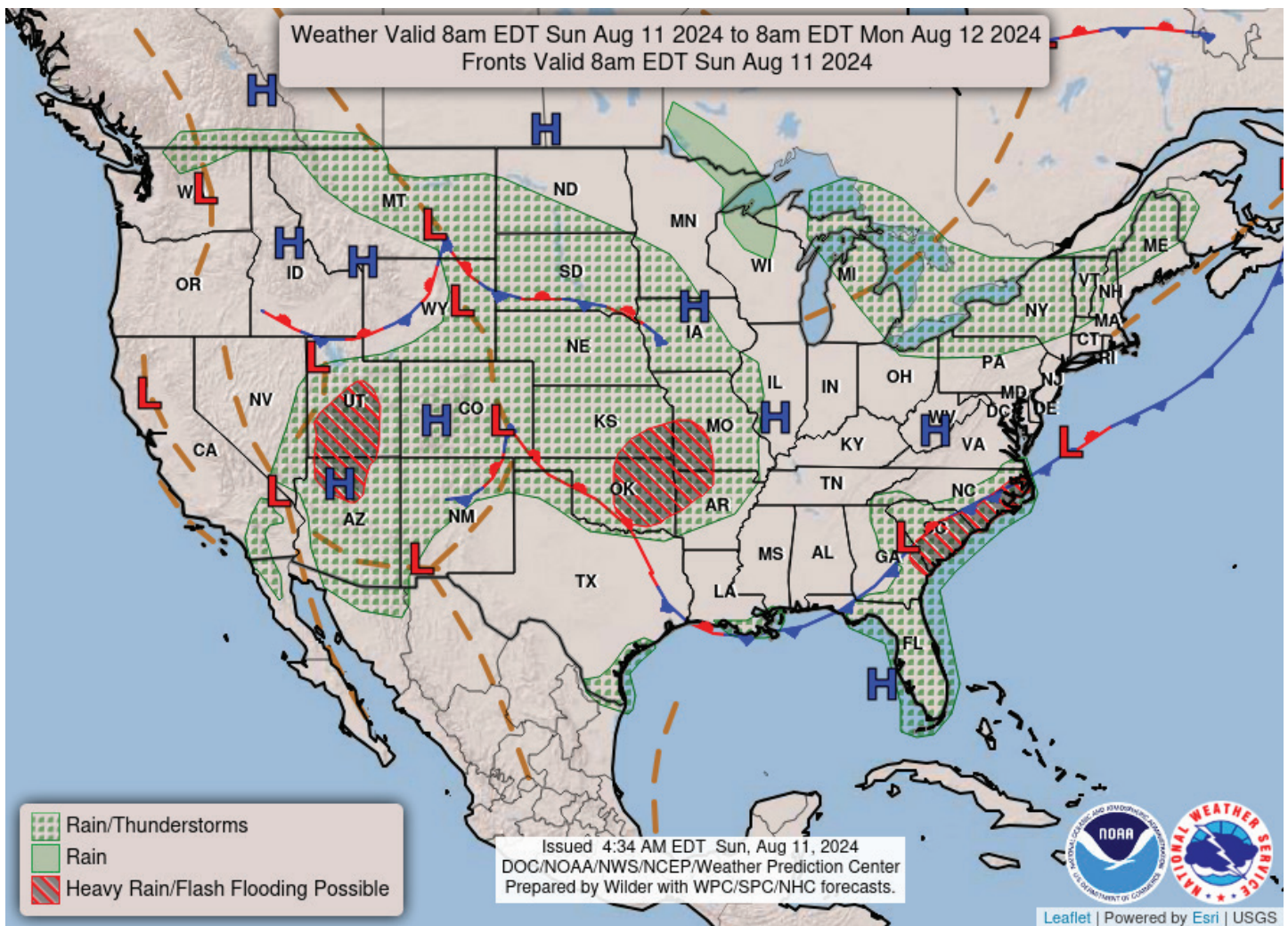
Precip to date in Aug.: 1.10

Average Precip to date: 14.90

Precip Year to Date: 15.99

Sunset Tonight: 8:47:09 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:29:01 am



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Today in Weather History

August 11, 1975: A line of thunderstorms raced across portions of central and eastern South Dakota during the early morning hours. Winds gusted to 70 mph, causing considerable damage to trees. At Canton, in Lincoln County, the winds were estimated as high as 70 mph. In Sioux Falls, the peak wind gust measured 69 mph. Wind damage was also reported in Miller and Ree Heights in Hand County, as well as in Selby and Mobridge in Walworth County.

August 11, 1985: Lightning set off eleven fires in the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation area. Twenty acres of grassland were burned two miles northeast of Bear Creek. About 600 acres of grassland were burned 8 miles southwest of Lantry. About 3,000 acres of grassland burned near Eagle Butte.

August 11, 2011: Severe thunderstorms brought hail up to the size of ping pong balls and damaging winds up to 90 mph to parts of central South Dakota. Jones and Lyman Counties received the brunt of the strong winds with eighty mph winds downing several grain bins along with knocking a few semis off of Interstate-90 near Murdo. The winds also downed some power lines and poles along with destroying a hanger. The two planes in the hanger were damaged at the Murdo Airport. Near Kennebec in Lyman County, eighty mph winds took shingles off the house and also damaged the deck. A barn was also destroyed with a horse being injured. Many tree branches were also downed.

1940: A Category 2 hurricane struck the Georgia and South Carolina coast. A 13-foot storm tide was measured along the South Carolina coast, while over 15 inches of rain fell across northern North Carolina. Significant flooding and landslides struck Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia during the system's slow trek as a weakening tropical storm, and then as an extratropical cyclone, through the Southeast. The landslides which struck North Carolina were considered a once in a century event. Damages relating to the storm totaled \$13 million (1940 USD), and 50 people perished.

1944 - The temperature at Burlington, VT, soared to an all-time record high of 101 degrees. (The Weather Channel) The Dog Days officially come to an end on this date, having begun the third day in July. Superstition has it that dogs tend to become mad during that time of the year. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - Clouds and moisture from Hurricane Allen provided a brief break from the torrid Texas heatwave, with daily highs mostly in the 70s to lower 90s. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - An early evening thunderstorm in Wyoming produced hail up to two inches in diameter from Alva to Hulett. Snow plows had to be used to clear Highway 24 south of Hulett, where hail formed drifts two feet deep. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Moisture from what remained of Tropical Storm Beryl resulted in torrential rains across eastern Texas. Twelve and a half inches of rain deluged Enterprise TX, which was more than the amount received there during the previous eight months. Philadelphia PA reported a record forty-four days of 90 degree weather for the year. Baltimore MD and Newark NJ reported a record fourteen straight days of 90 degree heat. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - One of the most severe convective outbreaks of record came to a climax in southern California after four days. Thunderstorms deluged Benton CA with six inches of rain two days in a row, and the flooding which resulted caused more than a million dollars damage to homes and highways. Thunderstorms around Yellowstone Park WY produced four inches of rain in twenty minutes resulting in fifteen mudslides. Thunderstorms over Long Island NY drenched Suffolk County with 8 to 10 inches of rain. Twenty-three cities in the southeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. It was, for some cities, the fourth straight morning of record cold temperatures. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1999 - An F2 tornado touched down in the metropolitan area of Salt Lake City. The tornado lasted ten minutes and killed one person, injured more than 80 people, and caused more than \$170 million in damages. It was the most destructive tornado in Utah's history and awakened the entire state's population to the fact that the Beehive State does experience tornadoes.

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BECOMING CHRIST-LIKE

A sculptor was beginning a new project, and a reporter came to interview him about his work. He had never talked to a sculptor before so he asked, "What are you going to create?"

"A horse standing on its hind legs," he answered.

"How will you do such a thing?" he wondered.

"By knocking off everything that doesn't look like a horse," he replied.

Paul in writing to the Corinthians said, "Through suffering, these bodies of ours constantly share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies." God, we are reminded by Paul, is in deed and in fact, shaping us in the likeness of Christ.

As Christians, we need to know and accept the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We may at times think that we are at the end of our rope but as followers of Christ we are never at the end of our hope!

As the sculptor with his block of marble, our loving Lord is "knocking off" everything in our lives that is not Christ-like. We sing our songs and say our prayers and tell others that "we want to be like Him." And someday we will be.

But until that day arrives we must be patient and willing to submit to His will, allow Him to work in us and on us so that He may work through us.

Prayer: We know, Heavenly Father, that You have a plan for each of us to become like Your Son. Give us the desire to work with You while You complete your plan. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. 2 Corinthians 4:1-10

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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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.09.24

12 32 38 40 57 21

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$435,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.10.24

6 19 40 41 42 5

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$6,660,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.10.24

3 26 30 37 43 2

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 6 Mins 2
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.10.24

14 16 23 29 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$20,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.10.24

6 14 53 59 62 12

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.10.24

9 24 33 64 69 9

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$212,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

07/04/2024 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/09/2024 FREE SNAP Application Assistance 1-6pm at the Community Center
07/14/2024 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
07/17/2024 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
07/17/2024 Pro Am Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/25/2024 Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day
07/25/2024 Summer Downtown Sip & Shop 5-8pm
07/25/2024 Treasures Amidst The Trials 6pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
07/26/2024 Ferney Open Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start
07/27/2024 1st Annual Celebration in the Park 1-9:30pm
08/05/2024 School Supply Drive 4-7pm at the Community Center
Cancelled: Wine on 9 at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm
08/08/2024 Family Fun Fest 5:30-7:30pm
08/9-11/2024 Jr. Legion State Baseball Tournament
08/12/2024 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 1:15-7pm
09/07/2024 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
09/07-08/2024 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
09/08/2024 Sunflower Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
10/05/2024 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
10/11/2024 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
10/31/2024 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
10/31/2024 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
11/16/2024 Groton American Legion "Turkey Raffle" 6:30-11:30pm
11/28/2024 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
12/01/2024 Groton Snow Queen Contest, 4:30 p.m.
12/07/2024 Olive Grove 8th Annual Holiday Party & Tour of Homes with Live & Silent Auctions 6pm-close
04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp
05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm
07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Ukraine's president indirectly confirms daring military incursion onto Russian soil

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Days after Ukraine began a surprise military incursion into Russia's Kursk border region, Zelenskyy broke the government's silence on it late Saturday by indirectly acknowledging ongoing military actions to "push the war out into the aggressor's territory" in his nightly address.

Overnight into Sunday, a Russian drone and missile barrage on Kyiv killed two people including a 4-year-old boy. In Russia, Kursk's regional governor said that a Ukrainian missile shot down by Russian air defenses fell on a residential building, wounding 13 people.

Russia attacked Ukraine with four ballistic missiles and 57 Shahed drones, Ukraine's Air Force said. Air defenses shot down 53 drones.

The bodies of a 35-year old man and his son were found under rubble after fragments of missiles fell on a residential area in Kyiv's suburban Brovary district, according to Ukraine's State Emergency Service on Sunday. Another three people in the district were also injured in the attack.

Serhii Popko, head of the Kyiv City Military Administration said the it was the second time this month Kyiv was targeted.

Popko said ballistic missiles did not reach the capital but that suburbs took the hit, while drones aiming for the capital were shot down.

Zelenskyy, citing preliminary information, said that Russia had used a North Korean missile in the strike. Ukraine and the U.S. have previously said that Russia has used North Korean missiles in the war.

Zelenskyy reiterated calls to Western allies to step up in assistance to Ukraine, and that "to really stop Russian terror, we need not only a full-fledged air shield that will protect all our cities and communities, but also strong decisions from partners — decisions that will remove restrictions on our defensive actions."

Meanwhile, Ukraine's incursion into Russia continued for a sixth day. The largest such attack since the full-scale invasion and unprecedented for its use of Ukrainian military units on Russian soil, it caught Moscow unaware and was an embarrassment to Russian military leaders who have scrambled to contain the breach.

The exact aims of the operation remain unclear and Ukrainian military officials have adopted a policy of secrecy, presumably to ensure its success. Military experts have said that it is likely intended to draw Russian reserves away from the intense fighting in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, while a presidential advisor suggested it may strengthen Kyiv's hand in any future negotiations with Russia.

Kursk acting governor Aleksei Smirnov said on Sunday that "Ukrainian sabotage and reconnaissance group" entered the Belovsky district the previous day, but that the situation had been "stabilized."

In Russia, the Defense Ministry said 35 drones were shot down overnight over the Kursk, Voronezh, Belgorod, Bryansk and Oryol regions.

Ukraine has not commented on the Sunday drone attacks inside Russia. But it comes as Ukraine has increased the pace of similar drone attacks largely targeting military infrastructure and oil depots in recent weeks.

Meanwhile, Belarus said it was sending more troops to its border with Ukraine on Saturday, saying Ukrainian drones had violated its airspace as part of Kyiv's military incursion into Russia's Kursk region.

Authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko said Belarusian air defense forces destroyed dozens of targets flying from Ukraine over the Mogilev region, which borders Russia, on Friday evening.

"The Ukrainian armed forces violated all rules of conduct and violated the airspace of the Republic of Belarus. In the eastern direction, very close to us in the Kostyukovich district," Lukashenko said at a meeting in Minsk on Saturday.

Belarusian Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin said Belarus regards the violation of its airspace as a provocation and is "ready for retaliatory action."

Israel broadens its evacuation orders after deadly strike on Gaza school-turned-shelter

By WAFAA SHURAFU and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — The Israeli military ordered more evacuations in southern Gaza early Sunday after a deadly airstrike on a school-turned-shelter in the north killed at least 80 Palestinians, according to local health authorities. Israel said it targeted a militant command post, killing 19 fighters.

Israel has repeatedly ordered mass evacuations as its troops have returned to heavily destroyed areas where they had previously battled Palestinian militants. The vast majority of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced by the 10-month-old war, often multiple times.

Hundreds of thousands have crammed into squalid tent camps with few public services or sought shelter in schools like the one struck on Saturday. Palestinians say nowhere in the besieged territory feels safe.

The latest evacuation orders apply to areas in Khan Younis, including part of an Israeli-declared humanitarian zone from which the military said rockets had been fired. Israel accuses Hamas and other militants of hiding among civilians and launching attacks from residential areas.

Khan Younis, Gaza's second-largest city, suffered widespread destruction during an air and ground offensive earlier this year. Tens of thousands fled again last week after an earlier evacuation order.

Hundreds of families carrying their belongings in their arms left their homes and shelters early Sunday, seeking elusive refuge.

"We don't know where to go," said Amal Abu Yahia, a mother of three, who had returned to Khan Younis in June to shelter in their severely damaged home. "This is my fourth displacement," said the 42-year-old widow, whose husband was killed when an Israeli airstrike hit their neighbors' house in March.

She said they went to Muwasi, a sprawling tent camp along the coast, but could not find any space.

Ramadan Issa, a father of five in his 50s, fled Khan Younis with 17 members of his extended family, joining hundreds of people walking toward central Gaza early Sunday.

"Every time we settle in one place and build tents for women and children, the occupation comes and bombs the area," he said, referring to Israel. "This situation is unbearable."

Gaza's Health Ministry says the Palestinian death toll from the 10-month-old war is approaching 40,000, without saying how many were fighters. Aid groups have struggled to address the staggering humanitarian crisis in the territory, while international experts have warned of famine.

The war began when Hamas-led militants burst through Israel's defenses on Oct. 7 and rampaged through farming communities and army bases near the border, killing some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducting around 250 people.

The United States, Egypt and Qatar have spent months trying to mediate a cease-fire and the return of the roughly 110 remaining hostages, around a third of whom Israeli authorities believe to be deceased. The conflict has meanwhile threatened to trigger a regional war, as Israel has traded fire with Iran and its militant allies across the region.

The strike on Saturday hit a mosque inside a school in Gaza City where thousands of people were sheltering. The Gaza Health Ministry said 80 people were killed and around 50 wounded. The Israeli military disputed the toll and said it killed 19 Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants in a precise strike, releasing what it said were their names and photos.

Hamas and Palestinian activists disputed the military's claims, saying two of the 19 had been killed in earlier strikes and that others were known to be civilians or opponents of Hamas.

Gaza City and the rest of the north have been surrounded by Israeli forces and largely cut off from the world since late last year, and it was not possible to independently confirm the accounts from either side.

The U.N. human rights office says Israel has carried out "systematic attacks on schools," which have served as shelters since the start of the war, with at least 21 hit since July 4, leaving hundreds dead, including women and children.

European leaders condemned the strike, while the U.S. said it was concerned about the reports of civilian casualties. Vice President Kamala Harris, speaking to reporters traveling with her in Phoenix, Arizona,

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on Saturday, said: "Yet again, far too many civilians have been killed."

"We need a hostage deal and we need a cease-fire," she said. "The deal needs to get done and it needs to get done now."

Sifan Hassan wins women's marathon at Paris Olympics, edging ahead of Tigst Assefa

By JEROME PUGMIRE AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Sifan Hassan traded elbows with Tigst Assefa with 150 meters left in the women's marathon, then passed her along the railing to win the race for her third distance medal of the Paris Games on Sunday.

Hassan, an Ethiopian-born racer who runs for the Netherlands, finished in an Olympic record time of 2 hours, 22 minutes, 55 seconds. Assefa won silver for Ethiopia, three seconds behind, and Kenya's Hellen Obiri took the bronze.

The Ethiopian team lodged a protest to have Hassan disqualified for obstruction, but it was rejected by the Jury of Appeal. It looked as if Assefa was blocking Hassan, who was twice impeded before they traded elbows.

Hassan raised her hands and yelled as he crossed the line, then wrapped the Dutch flag around her head as she celebrated. Wearing an orange bucket hat, she put her arm around Nepal's Shantoshi Shrestha, whose smile was as bright as the sun pouring down on them.

Then, taking in the enormity of her win, Hassan plunged her head in her hands and appeared to weep with joy.

The 31-year-old Hassan also won bronze in the 5,000 and 10,000. By simply completing the marathon, she ran more than 62 kilometers. She now has six Olympic medals. In Tokyo, Hassan won the 5,000 and 10,000 and finished third in the 1,500.

Breaking from tradition, the women's Olympic marathon was held on the final day instead of the men's race.

Hassan used the same tactic in the hilly, 26.2-mile course as she does on the oval. She lingered behind the leaders for the bulk of the race before summoning up the energy for a late-race kick that will go down as one of the best the sport has seen.

This one, amazingly, had more the look of a crowded race on the oval down the stretch. As Hassan gathered to make her last pass, Assefa tried to block her path. Hassan moved to the inside around a bend.

Assefa tried to squeeze her against the barrier separating the course from the cheering fans. The runners traded elbows, then Hassan took off past Assefa and sprinted in for the win.

She's used to winning the hard way, after all.

Her legend started building three years ago at the Tokyo Games when she was tripped up in a heat of the 1,500 but scrambled to her feet to win the race. She then went on to claim the bronze.

She wasn't as dominant over the past two years, in part because she was storing up for this feat: covering a total of 38.5 miles over 10 days with Olympic medals on the line.

Hassan raced in the 5,000 meters last Monday and the 10,000 meters on Friday — giving her roughly 35 hours to recover for the marathon.

She entered the Games looking to match Emil Zatopek's performance from 1952, when the Czech runner swept the 5,000, 10,000 and the marathon at the Helsinki Games.

She didn't manage to accomplish the feat, but she leaves with a gleaming gold medal.

Sharon Lokedi of Kenya was fourth and defending champion Peres Jepchirchir, her compatriot, placed 15th.

After 21 miles (almost 34 kilometers), Jepchirchir started falling back. That's when Hassan and Obiri — a two-time Olympic silver medalist in the 5,000 meters — joined Amane Beriso Shankule and Lokedi at the front.

Shankule dropped off the pace near the end, making it a four-way race for gold, which became three when Lokedi fell back on the approach to the finish opposite the gold-domed Invalides monument, site of

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French emperor Napoleon's tomb.

Women have competed in the discipline since the 1984 Los Angeles Games — which was 88 years after Greek runner Spiridon Louis won the inaugural men's race.

The marathon route has significance, too, in that it traces the footsteps of an historic march that took place during the French Revolution.

The Women's March on Versailles in 1789 was organized by women in the marketplace of Paris as they protested the high price of bread, leading to their trek from Paris to Versailles.

Starting out from Hôtel de Ville (City Hall), the route passed through the parks and forests dotted along the way. Despite its scenic aspect, the somewhat hilly route was billed as extremely difficult with inclines as steep as 13%.

Under blue skies, runners took in landmarks such as Opéra Garnier and the Louvre museum. About half-way through, they passed near the regal grounds of the Palace of Versailles — once the home of French royalty — before doubling back through Meudon forest toward Paris and past the Eiffel Tower.

After about 18 miles (29 kilometers) the runners tackled a steep hill, and downhill was tricky as well. They held their arms up for balance to prevent toppling forward. Japan's Yuka Suzuki almost tumbled into a runner right in front of her.

Suzuki finished sixth behind Shankule.

American gymnast Jordan Chiles must return bronze medal after court mandates score change, IOC says

By WILL GRAVES AP National Writer

PARIS (AP) — American gymnast Jordan Chiles must return the bronze medal she won in the Paris Olympics floor exercise after sport's highest court voided an on-floor appeal by Chiles' coach that vaulted Chiles to third, the International Olympic Committee confirmed Sunday.

The IOC announced early Sunday it was reallocating the bronze from last Monday's women's floor final to Romanian Ana Barbosu after the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) said Saturday night it would respect the court's decision and elevate Barbosu to third.

The decision came less than 24 hours after the Court of Arbitration for Sport voided a scoring appeal made by Team USA coach Cecile Landi during the competition that placed Chiles on the podium.

CAS ruled Saturday that Landi's appeal to have 0.1 added to Chiles' score came outside the 1-minute window allowed by the FIG. The ad hoc committee wrote that Landi's inquiry came 1 minute, 4 seconds after Chiles' initial score was posted.

The IOC said in a statement it will be in touch with the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee regarding the return of Chiles' bronze and will work with the Romanian Olympic Committee to discuss a reallocation ceremony honoring Barbosu.

CAS wrote Saturday that the initial finishing order should be restored, with Barbosu third, Romanian Sabrina Maneca-Voinea fourth and Chiles fifth. The organization added the FIG should determine the final ranking "in accordance with the above decision," but left it up to the federation to decide who would get the medal behind gold winner Rebeca Andrade of Brazil and silver medalist Simone Biles of the U.S.

The FIG said it was the IOC's call on whether to reallocate the medal. The IOC confirmed Sunday it would respect FIG's decision and seek to have Chiles' medal returned.

The rapid turn of events adds another layer to what has been a difficult few days for all three athletes.

Romanian gymnastics legend and 1976 Olympic champion Nadia Comaneci feared for Barbosu's mental health because of the wrenching sequence in which she went from bronze medalist to fourth-place finisher.

"I can't believe we play with athletes mental health and emotions like this... let's protect them," Comaneci posted on X earlier in the week.

Comaneci, at the same time, criticized the judges for the way they scored Maneca-Voinea's routine — the gymnast was docked 0.1 points for stepping out of bounds, but viral replays showed she narrowly stayed inbounds. Comaneci urged the Romanian Olympic Committee to protest, which it did, but CAS denied

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that appeal.

Chiles hinted at the decision in an Instagram story on Saturday, indicating she is heartbroken and is "taking this time and removing myself from social media for my mental health, thank you."

Jazmin Chiles, Jordan's sister, said on Instagram that Chiles was stripped of a medal "not because she wasn't good enough. But because the judges failed to give her difficulty and forced an inquiry to be made."

U.S. teammates offered support to Chiles, a two-time Olympian.

"Sending you so much love Jordan," American star Simone Biles posted on Instagram. "Keep your chin up 'Olympic champ' we love you."

"All this talk about the athlete, what about the judges?" six-time Olympic medalist Sunisa Lee added on Instagram. "Completely unacceptable, this is awful and I'm gutted for Jordan."

USA Gymnastics said in a statement on Saturday it is "devastated" by the ruling.

"The inquiry into the Difficulty Value of Jordan Chiles' floor exercise routine was filed in good faith and, we believed, in accordance with FIG rules to ensure accurate scoring," the organization wrote.

Barbosu and Maneca-Voinea were left outside the medals in the floor final after finishing with matching scores of 13.700. Barbosu thought she had won bronze over Maneca-Voinea via a tiebreaker — a higher execution score — and began celebrating with a Romanian flag.

Chiles was the last athlete to compete and initially given a score of 13.666 that placed her fifth, right behind Maneca-Voinea. Landi called for an inquiry on Chiles' score was announced.

"At this point, we had nothing to lose, so I was like 'We're just going to try,'" Landi said after the awards ceremony. "I honestly didn't think it was going to happen, but when I heard her scream, I turned around and was like 'What?'"

Judges awarded the appeal, leapfrogging Chiles past Barbosu and Maneca-Voinea.

Barbosu made it a point after returning home to Romania that she had no problem with Chiles.

"I only want for everybody to be fair, we don't want to start picking on other athletes of any nationality," Barbosu told reporters. "We as athletes don't deserve something like that, we only want to perform as best as we can and to be rewarded based on our performance. The problems lie with the judges, with their calculations and decisions."

Chiles' mother, Gina Chiles, called out the critics in a post, writing she was "tired" of the derogatory comments being leveled at Jordan.

"My daughter is a highly decorated Olympian with the biggest heart and a level of sportsmanship that is unmatched," Gina Chiles posted. "And she's being called disgusting things."

The uncertainty also tinges what had been a beautiful moment on the medal stand, when Chiles and Biles knelt to honor Andrade after the Brazilian star won her fourth medal in Paris.

"It was just the right thing to do," Biles said about a moment that soon went viral, with even the Louvre itself suggesting it might be worthy enough for a spot somewhere in the vicinity of the Mona Lisa.

That memory now carries a complicated and emotional postscript.

Paris and the Olympics have changed each other during their summer fling

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — In French, there are no goodbyes.

Instead, Olympic crowds from Paris to the surfing venue in Tahiti were saying "au revoir" — see you again — as the 2024 Games drew to a close Sunday.

After the 100-year wait since Paris' last Games, no one can say when France's capital and the Olympics will next embrace. But this much is certain: They're both emerging changed — in some ways for the better — from their summer romance.

Paris' third Games — it also hosted in 1900 — have been filled with passion. French fans surprised even themselves with their enthusiasm for two and a half weeks of sports, plunging into the party like Léon

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Marchand parting the waters for his four swimming golds.

Marchand, in particular, stopped time with his feats — forcing pauses in play at other Olympic venues because spectators cheered so intensely when France's new darling won again and again. Other French medal winners like judo icon Teddy Riner and mountain biker Pauline Ferrand-Prevot also whipped up hometown joy.

Initial grumbling about barricades and other intense security measures that disrupted locals' lives — not to mention arson attacks on France's high-speed rail network — gave way to choruses of "Allez les bleus!" or "France, let's go!"

There were uplifting stories galore for non-French fans, too. Quite literally in the case of Armand Duplantis, the Swedish pole vaulter who broke his own world record in winning Olympic gold.

Simone Biles shone, again. Having set the brave example of prioritizing mental health over competition at the 2021 Tokyo Games, she came back to win three gymnastics golds and a silver.

The Eiffel Tower peering over beach volleyball made that arena Ze Place To Be. Celine Dion's musical comeback at the Olympic opening, belting out Edith Piaf's "Hymne à l'amour" ("Hymn to Love") from the tower's first floor, was high in emotion.

Rain drenched VIPs and fans alike but didn't dampen the wacky and wonderful opening ceremony. Its displays of LGBTQ+ pride and French humor were too much for some: Donald Trump and French bishops were among those who took offense.

As well as many highlight-reel moments, the Games also experienced lows. The ugliest were torrents of online vitriol targeting female boxers Imane Khelif and Lin Yu-Ting as well as the opening ceremony's creative teams.

Still, like all good romances, the Paris-Olympics affair left fans yearning for more. That couldn't be said of all Games of late.

China — as host of the Summer Games in 2008 and Winter Games in 2022 — faced accusations of human rights abuses. There was Russia's doping cover-up at its Sochi Winter Games in 2014, quickly followed by the beginnings of its land grabs in Ukraine. All left stains on the Olympic brand.

So, too, did the wastefulness and corruption of the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro that made authorities in Paris determined to do things differently.

"Breaking the norms" became the unofficial motto of Paris Olympic organizers, who worked to slash the Games' carbon emissions and revamp the Olympic model to make it less anachronistic.

The results were evident. The Paris Games weren't perfect — can flying thousands of athletes across the world ever be with the climate in crisis? But the French capital provided new examples of how the Olympics can be improved.

Take the Olympic cauldron, for example: Paris' use of electricity and LED spotlights to make it seem that its cauldron was ablaze puts pressure on Los Angeles, the next host city, and Brisbane, Australia, in 2032 to not go back to burning tons of fossil fuels.

Also gone? Expensive new venues that don't get used much, or at all, once the Olympics have left town. Paris instead widely used existing or temporary arenas.

Marchand and other swimmers raced in a came-as-a-kit pool that will be dismantled and rebuilt in a Paris-area town where kids can't wait to splash around in it. Breaking (another innovation) and other urban sports played out on Concorde Plaza, where French revolutionaries removed King Louis XVI's head.

When the lawns have grown back, there will mostly be only memories of other temporary arenas where archery, equestrian events and other sports looked as glamorous as Paris catwalk shows, set against iconic backdrops.

The Eiffel Tower, Versailles Palace, the domed Grand Palais (turned into a breathtaking arena for fencing and taekwondo) and other monuments became Olympic stars in their own right. The use of Paris' cityscape showed that the Olympics can — and should — adapt to their hosts, not the other way around.

The sole purpose-built signature sports venue was the new aquatics center in Seine Saint-Denis, where China won all eight diving golds, an unprecedented sweep.

The northern suburb of Paris is mainland France's poorest region and had such a shortage of pools that

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many of its kids can't swim. Regional leader Stéphane Troussel told The Associated Press that thanks to Games-related refurbishments and newly built swim centers that teams used for Olympic training, much of Seine Saint-Denis has now largely caught up — in pools at least — with better-off parts of France.

But the city's ambitions flirted at times with an excess of zeal.

Making triathletes and marathon swimmers do something that many Parisians recoil at themselves — plunge into the murky River Seine — proved problematic. Its waters were repeatedly deemed too dirty for training swims and forced a postponement of the men's triathlon — moved to the same day as the women's race, near the majestic Pont Alexandre III.

The mayor of Paris, who took a pre-Games dip in the Seine to demonstrate that its long-toxic waters are now swimmable, says 1.4 billion euros (\$1.53 billion) plowed into a cleanup of the river is one of the Games' most transformative legacies. Still, the water quality concerns raised questions about whether many Parisians will dive in when City Hall plans to open the Seine for public swimming next summer.

Massive security required to safeguard the opening ceremony along the river — in a city hit repeatedly by extremist attacks in 2015 — proved financially painful for nearby businesses that were sealed inside the security cordon and lost customers.

French authorities also made unprecedentedly broad use of discretionary powers under an anti-terror law to keep hundreds of people, often minorities, they deemed to be potentially dangerous away from the biggest event modern France has ever organized. The use of AI-assisted surveillance also fueled critics' complaints that the Games are leaving an unwanted legacy of police repression.

Inside the high-security bubble of the athletes' village, some complained about the eco-friendly cardboard beds, rooms that weren't air-conditioned and shortages of some foods — byproducts of Paris' drive for sustainability and waste reduction. Squaring the circle of how the Olympics can be viable in a warming world is going to be an ever-increasing challenge for hosts.

Still, the joyful crowds showed that the popular verdict was more positive than negative. The organizers' slogan was "Games Wide Open." Seeing such happiness on streets that felt so unsafe when al-Qaida and Islamic State gunmen and suicide bombers sowed terror in 2015 seemed to complete Paris' long recovery.

After the Paralympics from Aug. 28 to Sept. 8, normal life will resume. But the Games will keep ringing in Paris.

A victory bell in the Olympic stadium that winning athletes rang in celebration will get a new home — a restored Notre Dame. The cathedral's planned reopening in December, following more than five years of rebuilding after its 2019 fire, is the next big milestone on Paris' horizon.

The cathedral's rector, Rev. Olivier Ribadeau Dumas, said the bell will hang in the roof above the altar and be rung whenever Mass is celebrated.

The chimes will serve as lasting reminders of the Games' "extraordinary atmosphere" and Olympic-inspired "unity of the French people that was very beautiful," he said.

"This bell will be the sign of how these Games have left an imprint on France," Dumas said. "That really makes me happy."

Golden Steph: Curry's late barrage seals another Olympic men's basketball title, as US beats France

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

PARIS (AP) — Stephen Curry was thinking about this two years ago, after winning his fourth NBA title with the Golden State Warriors. The only thing left for him to win was Olympic gold.

And in the ultimate moment, he made sure that medal would be his.

The U.S. is atop the international men's basketball world once again, after Curry scored 24 points — all on 3-pointers — and led the way to a 98-87 win over France in the final at the Paris Games on Saturday night. It was the fifth consecutive gold medal for the U.S. and the 17th in 20 all-time appearances for the Americans at the Games.

"You just stay confident, stay present and don't get rattled by the moment," said Curry, who had 17

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3-pointers in his last two games, starting with nine against Serbia to get to the gold-medal game.

Added U.S. coach Steve Kerr: "Steph earned this."

Curry made four 3-pointers in the final 2:43, including the one that just sealed the win with 1:19 remaining. It put the U.S. up 93-84 and he skipped down the court letting out a yell, shaking his jersey so everyone could see the "USA" across the front.

If that wasn't enough, one more followed with about 30 seconds left — along with the go-to-sleep move where he puts his hands together on the side of his face. "Night night," he calls it, and he came prepared, with a special shirt to wear after the game for a champagne-and-cigars celebration. "Nuit nuit," it said, the French translation.

Good night. Game over. Gold won. Again.

"For me to get a gold medal is insane, and I thank God for the opportunity to experience it," Curry said.

Kevin Durant — the first four-time men's gold medalist in Olympic basketball history — scored 15 for the Americans, as did Devin Booker. LeBron James, wearing metallic gold shoes that needed no explanation, scored 14 for the U.S. as he won his fourth Olympic medal and third gold.

"Super humbled that I can still play this game," James said. "Played at a high level, played with 11 other great players and a great coaching staff and went on and did it for our country. It was a great moment around."

For the second consecutive Olympics, the French had to watch the Americans hold up U.S. flags in celebration after the title game. The French lost to the U.S. 87-82 in Tokyo three years ago, and this one was down to the final minutes.

That is, until Curry took over.

"I think we might be the only team in the world whose fans are ashamed of them if they get a silver medal," said Kerr, the Golden State coach whose two-summer run with the U.S. ends with a 21-3 record and Olympic gold — 11-0 this summer. "That's the pressure that we face. But our players, and you saw Steph, they love the pressure. They appreciate this atmosphere and they were fantastic."

Victor Wembanyama, the NBA Rookie of the Year for San Antonio in his first Olympic final, was brilliant for France, scoring 26 points — the second-most ever against the U.S. in a gold-medal game, one behind the 27 that Drazen Dalipagic scored for Yugoslavia in 1976.

"I'm learning," Wembanyama said. "And I'm worried for the opponents in a couple of years."

Wembanyama covered his face in a towel afterward as the Americans celebrated. Guerschon Yabusele scored 20 for the hosts.

"For sure, it's a disappointment because we expected we could do it," France coach Vincent Collet said. "But we have to recognize at the end that they are better. We are very close ... When they make fantastic shots, that's the difference."

The U.S. lead was 14 early in the third, looking poised to pull away. But the offense quickly went cold and when Evan Fournier connected on a 3-pointer with 3:05 left in the quarter the lead was down to 65-59 after a 12-4 run by the hosts.

And with a chance to go up double digits headed to the fourth, a big U.S. blunder gave France another jolt of momentum. Anthony Edwards and Durant got their signals crossed on a pass that led to a turnover, Nando De Colo scored to beat the buzzer and the U.S. lead was only 72-66 going into the final 10 minutes.

It got as close as three. No closer, thanks to Curry. He hit four 3-pointers in a span of 2:12, the last one of them a bit of the circus variety, and they all immediately went into Olympic lore.

"A big shot to put us up six. That kind of settled everything," Curry said. "And then the rhythm, the avalanche came, and thankfully the other three went in. That was an unbelievable moment. I've been blessed to play basketball at a high level for a very long time. This ranks very high in terms of excitement and the sense of relief, getting to the finish line."

It was the eighth time in Olympic history — and Sunday's women's final between the U.S. and France will mark the ninth — that the home team got to play for basketball gold.

Home teams are now 5-3 in those games, 2-1 on the men's side. The U.S. men and women both won in 1984 and 1996; the women of the Soviet Union won in 1980, while Australia's women lost to the U.S.

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in 2000 and Japan's women also lost to the U.S. at the Tokyo Games three years ago.

For James, it was one more thing for the neverending list that is his legacy. For Durant, it was history with four golds. For Booker, Anthony Davis, Jayson Tatum and Bam Adebayo, it was a second gold. For Jrue Holiday, it was a second gold to match his wife — soccer great Lauren Cheney Holiday — for the family lead. For Derrick White, Tyrese Haliburton, Joel Embiid and Edwards, it was the first Olympic title.

"This has been an amazing experience, a beautiful experience," Durant said.

And for Curry, it was a long time coming after he wasn't available for previous Olympics. The Americans couldn't have been more thrilled that he was there for this one.

"I was smilin', cheesin', having the best time of my life," Curry said.

He likened it to a Game 7 on the road, which it basically was. He's had enormous success in those moments: a 50-point outburst to lead Golden State past Sacramento in 2023, and a 27-point, 10-assist, nine-rebound performance to win a do-or-die game in Houston in 2018.

And now, this.

"It's right up there with all of the greatest games of his career," Kerr said. "The shot-making was just incredible. But under the circumstances, on the road, in Paris, against France for a gold medal, this is storybook stuff. But that's what Steph does. He likes to be in storybooks."

Families of Brazilian plane crash victims gather in Sao Paulo as experts work to identify the dead

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and TATIANA POLLASTRI Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Families of victims of an airliner crash in Brazil are gathering Sunday at a morgue and hotels in Sao Paulo as forensics experts work to identify the remains of the 62 people killed in the accident.

Local authorities said the bodies of the pilot, Danilo Santos Romano, and his co-pilot, Humberto de Campos Alencar e Silva, were the first to be identified by forensics experts.

Sao Paulo state government said in a statement Saturday evening that the remains of all the victims had been recovered. There were 34 male and 28 female bodies in the wreckage, it said.

The ATR 72 twin-engine turboprop operated by Brazilian airline Voepass was headed for Guarulhos international airport in Sao Paulo with 58 passengers and four crew members when it went down Friday in Vinhedo, 78 kilometers (49 miles) north of the metropolis. Voepass said three passengers who held Brazilian identification also carried Venezuelan documents and one had Portuguese.

At least eight physicians were aboard, Paraná state Gov. Ratinho Júnior said. Four professors at Unioeste university in western Paraná were also confirmed dead.

Three-year-old Liz Ibba dos Santos, who was travelling with her father, was the only child known to be on passenger list. The remains of Luna, a dog that was traveling with a Venezuelan family, was found in the wreckage.

Sao Paulo's morgue began receiving the bodies Friday evening, and it asked victims' relatives to bring in medical, X-ray and dental records to help identify the bodies. Blood tests were also done to help identification efforts.

The few family members speaking about the tragedy did so on social media.

Tânia Azevedo, who lost her son Tiago in the crash, was put up in one of the hotels in Sao Paulo, but said in a posting that she was waiting to go to the morgue.

"I believe Tiago is somewhere trying to help the other people wounded who also need light and love," she said. "I couldn't go there (to the morgue). I am here waiting. It is dark here, I need some light and love myself."

Images recorded by witnesses showed the aircraft in a flat spin and plunging vertically before smashing to the ground inside a gated community, and leaving an obliterated fuselage consumed by fire. Residents said there were no injuries on the ground.

It was the world's deadliest airline crash since January 2023, when 72 people died on a Yeti Airlines plane

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in Nepal that stalled and crashed while making its landing approach. That plane also was an ATR 72, and the final report blamed pilot error.

Metsul, one of Brazil's most respected meteorological companies, said Friday there were reports of severe icing in Sao Paulo state around the time of the crash. Local media cited experts pointing to icing as a potential cause for the accident.

A video shared on social media channels Saturday shows a Voepass pilot telling passengers of a flight from Guarulhos to the city of Cascavel, the same origin of the crashed plane, that the ATR 72 has flown safely around the world for decades. He also asked passengers to be respectful to the memory of his colleagues and the company and asked for prayers.

"This tragedy doesn't hit only those who perished in this accident. It hits all of us," the unidentified pilot said. "We are giving all our hearts, all our best to be here and fulfill our mission to take you safely and comfortably to your destination."

Police restricted access to the main entrance of the Sao Paulo morgue where bodies from the crash were being identified. Some family members of the victims arrived on foot, others came in minivans. None spoke to journalists, and authorities requested that they not be filmed as they came.

A flight carrying more family members from Paraná state landed Saturday afternoon at Guarulhos airport, and they also chose not to speak to journalists. A minivan sponsored by the airline was provided to transport them to the morgue.

Many family members were gathering at a hotel in downtown Sao Paulo, and declining to speak to media there, too.

An American Eagle ATR 72-200 crashed on Oct. 31, 1994, and the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board determined the probable cause was ice buildup while the plane was circling in a holding pattern. The plane rolled at about 8,000 feet and dove into the ground, killing all 68 people on board. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration issued operating procedures for ATRs and similar planes telling pilots not to use the autopilot in icing conditions.

Brazilian aviation expert Lito Sousa cautioned that meteorological conditions alone might not be enough to explain why the Voepass plane fell in the manner it did Friday.

"Analyzing an air crash just with images can lead to wrong conclusions about the causes," Sousa told The Associated Press by phone. "But we can see a plane with loss of support, no horizontal speed. In this flat spin condition, there's no way to reclaim control of the plane."

Brazil's air force said Saturday that both of the plane's flight recorders had been sent to its analysis laboratory in the capital, Brasilia. The results of its investigations are expected to be published within 30 days, it said.

Marcelo Moura, director of operations for Voepass, told reporters Friday night that while there were forecasts for ice, they were within acceptable levels for the aircraft.

In an earlier statement, the Brazilian air force's center for the investigation and prevention of air accidents said the plane's pilots did not call for help or say they were operating under adverse weather conditions.

The ATR 72, which is built by a joint venture of Airbus in France and Italy's Leonardo SpA. is generally used on shorter flights. Crashes involving various models of the ATR 72 have resulted in 470 deaths going back to the 1990s, according to a database of the Aviation Safety Network.

Harris pledges to work to end taxes on tips for service industry employees, echoing Trump vow

By RIO YAMAT, DARLENE SUPERVILLE, WILL WEISSERT and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris promised Saturday to work to eliminate taxes on tips paid to restaurant and other service industry employees, echoing a pledge that her opponent, Republican Donald Trump, has made, and marking a rare instance of political overlap from both sides.

Harris made the announcement at a rally on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where the economy relies heavily on the hotel, restaurant and entertainment industries. Trump vowed essentially

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the same thing at his own rally in the city in June — though neither he nor Harris are likely to be able to fully do that without actions from Congress.

"It is my promise to everyone here that, when I am president, we will continue our fight for working families of America," Harris said. "Including to raise the minimum wage and eliminate taxes on tips for service and hospitality workers."

Trump responded on his social media site a short time later, posting that Harris "just copied my NO TAXES ON TIPS Policy."

"The difference is, she won't do it, she just wants it for Political Purposes!," the former president wrote. "This was a TRUMP idea - She has no ideas, she can only steal from me."

Harris' campaign said afterward that as president she would work with Congress to draft a proposal that includes an income limit and other provisions to keep hedge fund managers and lawyers from structuring their compensation to try to take advantage of the policy. She also would push for the proposal alongside one to increase the federal minimum wage.

Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, came to Nevada as the final stop of a five battleground-state blitz in which their party has shown new energy after President Joe Biden exited the race and endorsed Harris. On Sunday, the vice president is holding a San Francisco fundraiser that has already raised more than \$12 million, her campaign said, with House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi among those set to speak.

There were 12,000-plus people inside the campus basketball arena on Saturday and, before the event started, local law enforcement halted entry to the event because people were becoming ill while waiting outside in 109-degree heat to go through security. About 4,000 people were in line when the entrances were closed.

Walz referenced that during his speech, but turned it into an applause line by telling Nevada, "don't worry, we're going to be back a lot."

As part of the trip, Harris is hoping to build greater support among Latino voters. In 2020, Biden narrowly defeated Trump by 2.4 percentage points in Nevada.

The 60,000-strong Culinary Workers Union announced its endorsement of Harris. About 54% of the union's members are Latino, 55% women and 60% immigrants. The union also issued a statement supporting Harris' call for a higher minimum wage and to "ensure that there are no taxes on tips for service and hospitality workers."

Harris made her promise on eliminating tip taxation as part of a broader appeal to strengthen the nation's middle class, seizing on a theme that was a centerpiece of Biden's now-defunct reelection bid.

"We believe in a future where we lower the cost of living for America's families so they have a chance, not just to get by, but to get ahead," she said.

AP VoteCast found in 2020 that 14% of Nevada voters were Hispanic, with Biden winning 54% of their votes. His margin with Hispanic voters was slightly better nationwide, a sign that Democrats cannot take this bloc of voters for granted.

"There's an incredible energy here among the college students and community members who are coming together to support and listen to our next president, Kamala Harris," said Imer Cespedes-Alvarado, 21. Studying political science at UNLV, Cespedes-Alvarado is a first generation American citizen who spent his childhood in Costa Rica before making the difficult decision at 16 to return alone to the U.S. for better opportunities.

The vice president also promised to tackle immigration, leaning heavily into the issue as she did the previous night during a rally in Arizona.

"We know that our immigration system is broken, and we know what it takes to fix it," Harris said in Las Vegas. She also endorsed an "earned pathway to citizenship" for some people in the country illegally and slammed Trump, who she said "talks a big game about border security but he does not walk the walk."

The vice president has in recent weeks tried to seize the political offensive on an issue that Trump and top Republicans have frequently used to slam her and the Biden administration. In doing so, Harris is

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hoping to drive a wedge with Republicans.

Because the vice president's portfolio in the Biden administration included the root causes of migration, and due to some of her comments before the 2020 election, many leading GOP voices have sought to portray her as weak on the southern border and enabling illegal immigration.

Trump himself has said of Harris, "As a border czar, she's been the worst border czar in history, in the world history."

The former president proposed mass deportations if he returns to the White House, but AP VoteCast found in 2020 that nearly 7 in 10 Nevada voters said that immigrants living in the United States illegally should be offered the chance to apply for legal status.

Still, policy aside, many of the rallygoers in Las Vegas said they were thrilled to see the new energy Harris and Walz have brought to the race.

Krista Hall, 60, and her husband Thaddeus Hager, 58, said they haven't been more excited about an election since Barack Obama's campaign in 2008.

"This is as electric, if not more than," Hall said, noting that they attended several Obama rallies at the time. Hager said he's confident that Harris and Walz will "win in a landslide."

The Democratic ticket over the past week also visited the crucial midwestern "blue wall" states of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan. Along with Nevada and Arizona those states represent 61 electoral votes that could be essential for reaching the 270 threshold required to win on Election Day.

Brian Shaw, a Republican from northern Nevada, said Harris' arrival on the top of the ticket could make it harder for Trump to win because Biden was a "pitiful candidate" and there's little time to expose the vice president's "incompetence." He said he attended Republican vice presidential nominee JD Vance's rally in Reno on July 30 and found him to be "likable, capable, polished as a politician, but not veneered."

'I don't want to die,' Uvalde student told 911 dispatcher during mass shooting

By JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — As law enforcement officers hung back outside Khloie Torres' fourth-grade classroom in Uvalde, Texas, she begged for help in a series of 911 calls, whispering into the phone that there were "a lot" of bodies and telling the operator: "Please, I don't want to die. My teacher is dead. Oh, my God."

At one point, the dispatcher asks Khloie if there are many people in the room with her.

"No, it's just me and a couple of friends. A lot of people are," she says, pausing briefly, "gone."

Calls from Khloie and others, along with body camera footage and surveillance videos from the May 24, 2022, shooting at Robb Elementary School, were included in a massive collection of audio and video recordings released by Uvalde city officials on Saturday after a prolonged legal fight.

The Associated Press and other news organizations brought a lawsuit after the officials initially refused to publicly release the information. The massacre, which left 19 students and two teachers dead, was one of the worst school shootings in U.S. history.

The delayed law enforcement response to the shooting has been widely condemned as a massive failure: Nearly 400 officers waited more than 70 minutes before confronting the gunman in a classroom filled with dead and wounded children and teachers. Families of the victims have long sought accountability for the slow police response in the South Texas city of about 15,000 people 80 miles (130 kilometers) west of San Antonio.

Brett Cross' 10-year-old nephew, Uziyah Garcia, was among those killed. Cross, who was raising the boy as a son, was angered that relatives weren't told the records were being released and that it took so long for them to be made public.

"If we thought we could get anything we wanted, we'd ask for a time machine to go back ... and save our children, but we can't, so all we are asking for is for justice, accountability and transparency, and they refuse to give this to us," he said.

Jesse Rizo, whose 9-year-old niece Jacklyn Cazares was killed in the shooting, said the release of infor-

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mation Saturday reignited festering anger because it shows “the waiting and waiting and waiting” of law enforcement.

“Perhaps if they were to have breached earlier, they would have saved some lives, including my niece’s,” he said.

The police response included nearly 150 U.S. Border Patrol agents and 91 state police officials, as well as school and city police. While terrified students and teachers called 911 from inside classrooms, dozens of officers stood in the hallway trying to figure out what to do. Desperate parents who had gathered outside the building pleaded with them to go in.

The gunman, 18-year-old Salvador Ramos, entered the school at 11:33 a.m., first opening fire from the hallway, then going into two adjoining fourth-grade classrooms. The first responding officers arrived at the school minutes later. They approached the classrooms, but then retreated as Ramos opened fire.

At 12:06 p.m., much of the radio traffic from the Uvalde Police Department was still focused on setting up a perimeter around the school and controlling traffic in the area, as well as the logistics of keeping track of those who safely evacuated the building. They’ve had trouble setting up a command post, one officer tells his colleagues, “because we need the bodies to keep the parents out.”

“They’re trying to push in,” he says.

At 12:16 p.m., someone with the Texas Department of Public Safety, the state law enforcement agency, called police to let them know a SWAT team was en route from Austin, about 162 miles (100 kilometers) away. She asked for any information the police could give about the shooting, the suspect and the police response.

“Do you have a command post? Or where do you need our officers to go?” the caller asks.

The police representative responds that officers know there are several dead students inside the elementary school and others still hiding. Some of the survivors have been evacuated to a building nearby. She doesn’t know if a command post has been set up.

At 12:50 p.m., a tactical team enters one of the classrooms and fatally shoots Ramos.

Among criticisms included in a U.S. Justice Department report released earlier this year was that there was “no urgency” in establishing a command center, creating confusion among police about who was in charge.

Multiple federal and state investigations have laid bare cascading problems in law enforcement training, communication, leadership and technology, and questioned whether officers prioritized their own lives over those of children and teachers.

Some of the 911 calls released were from terrified instructors. One described “a lot, a whole lot of gunshots,” while another sobbed into the phone as a dispatcher urged her to stay quiet. “Hurry, hurry, hurry, hurry!” the first teacher cried before hanging up.

Just before arriving at the school, Ramos shot and wounded his grandmother at her home. He then took a pickup from the home and drove to the school.

Ramos’ distraught uncle made several 911 calls begging to be put through so he could try to get his nephew to stop shooting.

“Everything I tell him, he does listen to me,” Armando Ramos said. “Maybe he could stand down or do something to turn himself in,” he added, his voice cracking.

He said his nephew, who had been with him at his house the night before, stayed with him in his bedroom all night, and told him that he was upset because his grandmother was “bugging” him.

“Oh my God, please, please, don’t do nothing stupid,” the man says on the call. “I think he’s shooting kids.”

But the offer arrived too late, coming just around the time that the shooting had ended and law enforcement officers killed Salvador Ramos.

Two of the responding officers now face criminal charges. Former Uvalde school Police Chief Pete Arredondo and former school officer Adrian Gonzales have pleaded not guilty to multiple charges of child abandonment and endangerment. A Texas state trooper in Uvalde who had been suspended was reinstated to his job earlier this month.

In an interview this week with CNN, Arredondo said he thinks he's been "scapegoated" as the one to blame for the botched law enforcement response.

Some of the families have called for more officers to be charged and filed federal and state lawsuits against law enforcement, social media, online gaming companies, and the gun manufacturer that made the rifle the gunman used.

In a remote Ugandan region, a sacred circumcision ritual faces a contentious test of purity

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

NEAR MOUNT ELGON, Uganda (AP) — The dancers shook their hips to the beat of drummers who led the way, anticipating the start of mass circumcision among the Bamasaaba people of Uganda's mountainous east.

Yet the frolicking in the streets belied a dispute brewing behind the scenes as some locals questioned their king over the very public presentation of Imbalu, the ritualized circumcision of thousands of boys every other year in this remote community near Uganda's border with Kenya.

Could it be turned into a carnival, put on for the gaze of foreigners? Or should it remain a sacred ceremony in which families quietly prepare their sons to face the knife with courage?

The king, known as the Umukuuka, had his way ahead of the Aug. 3 ceremonial inauguration at a park in the town of Mbale, arguing for a traditional festival that also looked attractive to visitors. The organizers of Imbalu received over \$120,000 in financial support from the Ugandan government and a corporate sponsor.

In an interview with the AP, the Umukuuka asserted that organizing a modern Imbalu was challenging and defended his decision to market the ritual as a tourist event in line with Uganda's national development plan.

"Everything is changing as the population expands. People may not manage to follow the cultural processes," he said, citing the economic hardship and commercialization he said were diluting the communal aspect of Imbalu. "But we are fighting through the clan system that (Imbalu) remains intact."

But the Ugandan government's intervention has raised eyebrows among many Bamasaaba and underscored angst over the most important ceremony for this ethnic group of four million Ugandans. Some who spoke to the AP said they felt the Umukuuka, in his first year in office, was trivializing Imbalu by exposing it to outside interests.

"Our leadership is being hijacked by" national political leaders, said Wasukira Mashate, an elder who is a custodian of Bamasaaba cultural property, charging that the Umukuuka was missing the counsel of clan leaders with real spiritual authority.

"I don't think they are having any role" in Imbalu, he said, speaking of clan leaders. "It was for our own benefit culturally, but now it is becoming a national event because the government of Uganda has captured it."

At the ceremonial inauguration, an angry crowd gathered outside the totemic shrine of the clan that historically has launched Imbalu by cutting the first candidates. Clan members pointed to the young mixed-breed bull tethered to the grass as offensive, saying only a local breed would suffice as an appropriate sacrifice to the gods.

"This cow is exotic. We are Bamasaaba, and he brought us a white animal," said Kareem Masaba, speaking of the Umukuuka. "He has insulted us. His predecessors used to come into the shrine and participate in the rituals, but this man will not come here. He is disrespecting us."

The dispute over the sacrificial animal delayed the inauguration into the late afternoon as anger grew among men wielding machetes, sharp sticks and other crude weapons. The Umukuuka, seated not far away in a tent among dignitaries from elsewhere in Africa, did not budge. Clan members retaliated by refusing to present the first group of initiates before the Umukuuka, a former forestry officer whose real

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name is Jude Mudoma.

The mass circumcisions will last until the end of 2024.

The tribal initiation of boys into adulthood has long been controversial in African countries such as South Africa, where incidents of botched, deadly circumcisions among Xhosa-speaking people have inspired campaigns for safe clinical circumcision. Among the Bamasaaba, whose cutting method is just as violent, there have been no calls to end the practice. The strongest adherents see Imbalu as more important than ever amid widespread infant circumcision in hospital settings. They say those boys who are not initiated in the tribal way risk suffering lifelong social delinquency.

Tribal circumcision is performed by a traditional surgeon wielding a knife usually fashioned from melted nails. Bamasaaba hundreds of kilometers away in the Ugandan capital of Kampala are known to hunt down Imbalu dodgers they then cut by force. The bodies of uncircumcised men can be violated before burial.

Circumcision "helps us to be strong," said Peter Gusolo, a traditional surgeon, gesticulating to express his people's purported sex prowess. Those who resist circumcision will be cut "even if (they) are dying," he said. "We circumcise you at night. We bury you in the morning."

He added, "We cannot bury you in the land of the Bamasaaba without (being circumcised). No, no, no. It is in the constitution of the culture of the Bamasaaba. ... It is a curse if you bury into the land people who are not circumcised."

Gusolo, whose family lives in a house on the side of a hill planted with arabica coffee plants, spent days isolating himself in a cave and postponing intimacy with his wife so that he could be possessed by the spirit of Imbalu. Even though men like Gusolo wield certificates issued by local health authorities to prove their skill, the title is hereditary. The surgeons say they cannot afford to be flippant with their work because the wounds they inflict will not heal if they are not spiritually strong.

The first candidate for initiation this year was a teenager whose face had been smeared with mud and the dregs of homemade beer. He spread his legs and unblinkingly stared at the sky while a swarm of frenzied people around him pushed and shoved, demanding courage. The surgeon, applying no anesthetic, took hold of the boy and skinned him with a swift movement of his hands. A member of the boy's family, aiming to protect the boy from the threat of witchcraft, collected the skin and took it home.

Emmanuel Watundu, the father of a 17-year-old boy who was among the first to be cut, said he stood by Imbalu, describing it as the life-changing event his son asked for. But he criticized what he saw as a carnival atmosphere by "peer groups (who) normally behave differently than we used to."

Outside Watundu's house, where a crowd had gathered, drunken people of all ages danced wildly, and one woman briefly exposed her breasts. A politician seeking a seat in the national assembly had a procession marching in the dirt road. Boys fondled girls and swung legs at them.

Watundu said the street dancers he saw were "from different areas" and that most people attending Imbalu came "to do business." He said of the Ugandan government's involvement that it had "given some bad picture" about the Umukuuka's role as the chief organizer of Imbalu.

Wilson Watira, who chaired the Imbalu organizing committee, defended the government's role as a supporter of Bamasaaba tradition. The exuberant street processions left people feeling joyful, he said.

"When it comes to performance of culture, of culture itself ... it remains culture. We only want to show the world that even when we are performing this culture, it can also attract other people," he said.

In the past, people thought the ritual was barbaric and brutal, Watira said.

"It's the reason why we said, 'No, we are not barbaric. We can make this thing very attractive, and you will enjoy it.'"

Everyone agrees there's a homeless crisis in the US. Plans to address it vary among mayor candidates

By JANIE HAR and GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco Mayor London Breed has launched a new crackdown on people sleeping outside in a campaign to clear the sidewalks of homeless encampments that have come to define

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the city.

Her four challengers in November's election, all Democrats, say she hasn't handled the crisis effectively, though the city last month counted only 300 tents and other temporary structures, which is half as many as a year earlier.

But her opponents don't agree on a strategy.

"You can truly change the reputation of San Francisco from a place that today people believe they can come to our city, pitch a tent and stay as long as they want, to a city where — if that is the lifestyle they're choosing — they look elsewhere," said Mark Farrell, perhaps the most conservative of the challengers.

It's a similar story in other big U.S. cities electing mayors this year.

Most are in the West, where a long-running homelessness crisis was spurred by high housing costs and has deepened during the coronavirus pandemic, which upended the nation four years ago. There are thousands of people without a place to live, and for many residents who are housed it has become a quality-of-life concern, which has made it a prime political issue.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat and former San Francisco mayor, threatened last week to pull state money from cities and counties that do not do more to get people out of encampments and into shelters.

A 2023 count found there were 653,000 people experiencing homelessness at a given time across the country, an increase of 63,000 from a decade earlier. The problem has become far more visible: 257,000 people were living on the streets or other places not intended for habitation, 61,000 more than in 2013.

Most of the big-city mayors and candidates — nearly all Democrats — say that more affordable housing and additional services for people experiencing homelessness are needed. The heart of the debate, as in San Francisco, is whether it's acceptable to force people off the streets.

In two of the largest cities in the West, challengers are emphasizing the homeless crisis in their races against incumbents who won handily four years ago.

Larry Turner, a police officer trying to unseat San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, says the incumbent is over-emphasizing temporary housing, including a plan to turn a warehouse into a 1,000-bed shelter. Gloria's campaign says he is working on both short-term and permanent housing.

In Phoenix, Matt Evans is arguing that incumbent Kate Gallego hasn't done enough to enforce laws and clear encampments. Gallego opposes what she calls the criminalization of homelessness and has added hundreds of shelter beds.

Elections could turn on the issue. And the situation on the streets can, of course, change depending on who is elected.

"Mayors can make a huge difference," said Ann Oliva, executive director of the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

But she is critical of arresting or fining people who don't have places to live.

"You cannot pursue criminalization as your primary way of pursuing homelessness and also drive the numbers down," Oliva said.

Some new mayors have made a dent in homelessness numbers without relying on penalties, she said.

In Los Angeles, the city with the biggest unsheltered population in the U.S., Karen Bass took office in December 2022 and immediately signed an emergency order making it easier for the city to contract with hotels to provide shelter. According to the homeless tally in January, the city's total dropped by 2%, the first decrease after years of increases. Bass has more than two years before she faces re-election.

In Mike Johnston's first six months as mayor of Denver last year, the city moved 1,000 people into hotels, a community of cabin-like structures and other transitional housing.

Other new mayors, such as Philadelphia's Cherelle Parker, have incorporated a get-tough approach that many candidates are calling for, and which the Supreme Court validated with a ruling in June that allows bans on sleeping outside.

A dozen candidates are vying for the job in November's open mayoral election in Portland, Oregon, the center of a metro area where a January 2023 count found nearly 4,000 people living outside.

City council member Rene Gonzalez pressured Multnomah County, home to Portland, to pause distribut-

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ing tents and tarps to homeless people.

Gonzalez pushed for a tougher city ordinance last year but joined a unanimous city council decision in May to allow officials to fine or even jail homeless people who reject an offer of shelter.

In San Francisco, Breed's office issued a memo in July saying homeless people who continue to turn down offers of shelter and services will face increasing penalties including arrest if they continue to camp in public.

Breed also ordered that homeless people who are not from San Francisco be offered bus or train tickets to return home before they are provided shelter or services, adding in a statement that "we cannot solve everyone's individual housing and behavioral health needs."

One of Breed's challengers, San Francisco Supervisor Aaron Peskin, opposes encampment sweeps. Another challenger, Supervisor Ahsha Safai, says the sweeps are cruel unless sufficient shelter is available.

Challenger Daniel Lurie, an heir to the Levi Strauss fortune who has a nonprofit that funds temporary tiny homes, promised to build 1,500 shelter beds in the first six months of his administration so people forced out of encampments have somewhere to go.

"There's just been no plan for the last three years with this administration," Lurie said.

Breed's administration has added thousands of temporary and more permanent shelter beds, but there is still a significant shortage.

"Her opponents aren't offering locations where they will build shelters, how they will get it done, and how they plan to pay for their plans," said Joe Arellano, a Breed campaign spokesperson.

Michael Johnson, who is homeless in San Francisco, the city where he grew up, was preparing to move recently in advance of an expected tent sweep to avoid what he said happened in a previous sweep when he was given 10 seconds by police and city street cleaners to move his tent and belongings. He didn't, and lost everything.

Homeless people often reject offers of shelter if it means giving up their belongings or pets, being separated from significant others or sleeping in places surrounded by strangers, including some who may be violent.

Johnson, 41, doesn't like living outdoors. But he says no one has offered him appropriate housing and, wherever he goes, he's always moved again by authorities.

"This is a merry-go-round," he said. "It don't matter if I stay at the location I'm at or find a new one. Eventually, they'll be here."

Donald Trump's campaign says its emails were hacked

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump's presidential campaign said Saturday that it has been hacked and suggested Iranian actors were involved in stealing and distributing sensitive internal documents.

The campaign provided no specific evidence of Iran's involvement, but the claim comes a day after Microsoft issued a report detailing foreign agents' attempts to interfere in the U.S. campaign in 2024.

It cited an instance of an Iranian military intelligence unit in June sending "a spear-phishing email to a high-ranking official of a presidential campaign from a compromised email account of a former senior advisor."

Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung blamed the hack on "foreign sources hostile to the United States." A spokesperson for the National Security Council said in a statement that it takes any report of improper foreign interference "extremely seriously" and condemns any government or entity that attempts to undermine confidence in U.S. democratic institutions, but said it deferred to the Justice Department on this matter.

Iran's mission to the United Nations, when asked about the claim of the Trump campaign, denied being involved. "We do not accord any credence to such reports," the mission told The Associated Press. "The Iranian government neither possesses nor harbors any intent or motive to interfere in the United States presidential election."

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However, Iran long has been suspected of running hacking campaigns targeting its enemies in the Middle East and beyond. Tehran also long has threatened to retaliate against Trump over the 2020 drone strike he ordered that killed prominent Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

The U.S. Justice Department this past week unsealed criminal charges against a Pakistani national with ties to Iran alleged to have plotted assassination attempts against political figures in the United States, including potentially Trump, and to have sought to hire purported hitmen who were actually undercover law enforcement officials. Court documents in that case pointedly noted a desire by Iran to conduct operations against perceived enemies of the regime and to avenge the killing of Soleimani.

Politico first reported Saturday on the hack. The outlet reported that it began receiving emails on July 22 from an anonymous account. The source — an AOL email account identified only as “Robert” — passed along what appeared to be a research dossier the campaign had apparently done on the Republican vice presidential nominee, Ohio Sen. JD Vance. The document was dated Feb. 23, almost five months before Trump selected Vance as his running mate.

“These documents were obtained illegally” and “intended to interfere with the 2024 election and sow chaos throughout our Democratic process,” Cheung said.

He pointed to the Microsoft report issued Friday and its conclusions that “Iranian hackers broke into the account of a ‘high ranking official’ on the U.S. presidential campaign in June 2024, which coincides with the close timing of President Trump’s selection of a vice presidential nominee.”

“The Iranians know that President Trump will stop their reign of terror just like he did in his first four years in the White House,” Cheung said, adding a warning that “any media or news outlet reprinting documents or internal communications are doing the bidding of America’s enemies and doing exactly what they want.”

Cheung did not immediately respond to questions about the campaign’s interactions with Microsoft on the matter. Microsoft said Saturday it had no comment beyond its blog post and Friday report.

In that report, Microsoft stated that “foreign malign influence concerning the 2024 US election started off slowly but has steadily picked up pace over the last six months due initially to Russian operations, but more recently from Iranian activity.”

The analysis continued: “Iranian cyber-enabled influence operations have been a consistent feature of at least the last three U.S. election cycles. Iran’s operations have been notable and distinguishable from Russian campaigns for appearing later in the election season and employing cyberattacks more geared toward election conduct than swaying voters.”

“Recent activity suggests the Iranian regime — along with the Kremlin — may be equally engaged in election 2024,” Microsoft concluded.

Specifically, the report detailed that in June 2024, an Iranian military intelligence unit, Mint Sandstorm, sent a phishing email to an American presidential campaign via the compromised account of a former adviser.

“The phishing email contained a fake forward with a hyperlink that directs traffic through an actor-controlled domain before redirecting to the listed domain,” the report states.

Vice President Kamala Harris’ campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the reported hacking or on the Democratic nominee’s cybersecurity protocols.

Debby finally moves out of the US, though some flooding risk and power outages remain

By DAVID SHARP, MICHAEL HILL, MARK SCOLFORO and PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

The sun came out but the power stayed off in more than 100,000 homes and businesses across four states Saturday as Debby finally moved out of the U.S.

After first arriving in Florida as a hurricane, the storm spent the better part of a week unleashing tornadoes and flooding, damaging homes and taking lives as it moved up the East Coast.

Though the skies cleared, a flood warning remained in effect until Saturday night in a small part of northern New York where up to 7 inches (18 centimeters) of rain fell. The National Weather Service said water there was receding slowly, and many roads remained flooded.

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Nearly 170,000 customers in Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont had no electricity Saturday afternoon, according to PowerOutage.us, and some utilities said restoration could take days. More than half the outages were in Ohio, where Debby-related storms including tornadoes blew through the north-eastern part of the state on Wednesday.

Debby's last day over the U.S. before moving over Canada inundated south-central New York and north-central Pennsylvania with rain Friday, prompting evacuations and rescues by helicopter. The post-tropical cyclone continued dropping rain on New England and southern Quebec on Friday night, though conditions improved the following morning as the system continued moving northeast.

Some of the worst flash flooding in New York happened in villages and hamlets in a largely rural area south of the Finger Lakes.

In Steuben County, which borders Pennsylvania, officials ordered the evacuation of the towns of Jasper, Woodhull and part of Addison, and said people were trapped as floodwaters made multiple roads impassable. The recovery effort was underway Saturday morning, as emergency workers cleared debris and helped residents pump floodwater from their basements.

Officials in Tioga County in north-central Pennsylvania said a search and rescue operation was going on for one person unaccounted for in the Knoxville area after flooding that prompted dozens of rescues.

Fire Chief William Goltz of Crary Hose Co. in Westfield said 30 to 50 water rescues were conducted using boats aided by two helicopters, and those rescued included some firefighters who became trapped while trying to help others.

Officials said about 100 people were displaced and several shelters opened, but by midday Saturday only 14 remained in one shelter. They urged people to document damage before beginning cleanup and to send them any images of the flooding.

The weather service confirmed that an EF-1 tornado touched down in Pennsylvania's capital city early Friday. Forecasters said the tornado, with peak winds estimated at 105 mph (169 kph), touched down just after 4:30 a.m. in Harrisburg and traveled north for almost 3 ½ miles (5.6 kilometers), blowing off a set of overhead doors at a warehouse and causing roof damage to a church and roof and structural damage to several homes, as well as uprooting dozens of trees.

Debby was downgraded to a tropical depression Thursday afternoon and was a post-tropical cyclone on Friday, the National Hurricane Center said. It made landfall early Monday on the Gulf Coast of Florida as a Category 1 hurricane, emerged over the Atlantic Ocean and hit land a second time early Thursday in South Carolina as a tropical storm.

President Joe Biden declared that a major disaster exists in Florida and ordered federal aid to supplement recovery efforts in areas hit by Hurricane Debby, according to a statement.

There have been at least nine deaths related to Debby, mostly in vehicle accidents or from fallen trees.

In Vermont, Gov. Phil Scott had warned that Debby's remnants could cause serious damage, including in already drenched places that were hit by flash flooding twice last month, but a flood watch was called off by mid-evening.

About 19,000 Vermont homes and businesses remained without power Saturday afternoon, down from more than 44,000 the previous day. Officials said wind gusts of more than 60 mph (97 kph) tore down massive trees in some places where the ground remained saturated from previous storms.

"There is widespread, extensive damage in many locations," said Mike Burke, vice president of operations at Green Mountain Power. "The repeated storms we are experiencing in Vermont are not just heartbreaking, they are happening more frequently and they doing more damage like this."

Boxer Lin Yu-ting wins gold, following Imane Khelif to conclude an Olympics filled with scrutiny

By GREG BEACHAM AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Lin Yu-ting fought to remain poised and calm throughout the Paris Olympics boxing tournament, even when it seemed like most of the chattering world was maligning her, misrepresenting her

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and questioning the very nature of her being.

The flyweight shut off her social media, kept up her training and focused on earning one proficient victory after another.

But when she heard Taiwan's anthem while standing on the top podium at Roland Garros with a gold medal around her neck, Lin suddenly broke down in cathartic sobs.

She cried not only for the tumult of the past two weeks, but for a lifetime in boxing that culminated in this gold-medal victory over previously unfathomable challenges.

"I saw images flashing, and I thought about the beginning of my career when I started boxing," Lin said. "All the difficult practices, the times that I got injured, the competitors I fought against. All these images flashed in my head. There are times of great pain. There are times of great joy. I cried because I was so touched."

Lin completed her domination of her division Saturday night, following Imane Khelif's lead a day earlier by giving a glittering response to the intense scrutiny faced by both fighters inside the ring and around the world over misconceptions about their womanhood.

Lin routed Julia Szeremeta of Poland 5:0 in the final, capping her four-fight unbeaten run through Paris by winning Taiwan's first Olympic boxing gold medal.

On Friday, Khelif won Algeria's first women's boxing medal with a decisive victory in the welterweight division final, beating Yang Liu of China.

Both fighters persevered through an avalanche of criticism and uninformed speculation about their sex during the Paris tournament to deliver the best performances of their boxing careers.

"Every fight is not easy," Lin said. "Winning 5-0 might seem easy, but behind that is a lot of practice and hard work."

World leaders, celebrities and online critics attempted to make it about something other than the boxers' years of work.

The detractors either questioned their eligibility to be in women's competitions or falsely claimed they were men, forcing both women to take unwanted starring roles in a debate over changing attitudes toward gender identity and safety regulation in sports.

Lin said she minimized this potentially enormous distraction by managing to avoid learning about it almost entirely. She also said she'll speak with her team about whether to take legal action against some of the claims.

"As an elite athlete, during the competition it's important to shut myself off from social media," she said. "That's extremely important. Some of the noises or some of the news articles, of course I heard some of the information through my coach, but I didn't pay too much mind to it. And I was invited by the IOC to participate in the Games. This is what I focused on."

Both fighters were disqualified last year from the world championships organized by the International Boxing Association, a Russian-dominated governing body that has been banished from the Olympics since 2019.

The IBA said they failed an eligibility test for women's competition, but it has struggled to defend its claims since they resurfaced at the Olympics, occasionally giving contradictory information or saying they were asked not to give details by the boxers' national federations. That didn't stop the criticism and speculation from proliferating online, stoked by Russian disinformation networks.

The two boxers' detractors included former U.S. President Donald Trump, "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni. Their presence in Paris became a weapon in a largely Western culture clash over eligibility for women's sports.

Khelif said a gold medal would be the "best response" to the uproar. Both fighters got the last word in Paris, although the chatter and scrutiny could persevere for the rest of their careers.

Lin hadn't been as dominant or as dynamic as Khelif in Paris, but she steadily rolled toward the final as the top seed in the women's 57-kilogram division. The 5-foot-9 (1.75 meter) Lin is usually taller and more slender than her opponents, and she uses those advantages to pick them apart with skill and angles,

rather than strength or power.

That's exactly what Lin did to Szeremeta after taking the ring Saturday to loud cheers and dozens of Olympic-style Chinese Taipei flags waving in the stands, with millions more cheering back home.

Lin used her long left jab from the start, keeping the 20-year-old Szeremeta at bay and setting up combinations. Lin's hands were quicker and more active, and she dominated the first two rounds with a wealth of clear blows landed.

Lin cruised to victory, artfully dodging a few of Szeremeta's too-slow punches without countering in the final minute. Szeremeta had a bloodied face and a welt under her right eye when the bout ended.

After having her hand raised and holding open the ropes for Szeremeta's departure in a typical boxing gesture of sportsmanship, Lin went to the center of the ring, knelt on the Paris 2024 logo and touched her head to the canvas.

After leaving the ring, Lin gleefully gave a piggyback ride to one of her coaches. Before taking the medal podium, Lin touched her hand to her heart and raised it high above her head.

The 29-year-old Lin has fashioned a solid career as a top Olympic-style boxer, winning world championships in 2018 and 2022. She reached the semifinals of last year's world championships before the IBA disqualified her and stripped her of a bronze medal.

While Khelif has been outspoken in the face of criticism, Lin was more circumspect in her public handling of the uproar. Her quarterfinal and semifinal opponents in Paris outwardly showed moderate sportsmanship, but they also made it clear they felt Lin should have been ineligible to compete.

But Lin has been strongly backed by the Paris crowds and by her home country — including its former President, Tsai Ing-wen, who posted a message of support on social media.

"I feel incredible," Lin said. "I want to thank everyone who has supported me, and thanks to my team and everyone in Taiwan. They gave me the power."

Romanian gymnast could replace Jordan Chiles as bronze medalist in floor exercise after court ruling

By WILL GRAVES AP National Writer

PARIS (AP) — The International Gymnastics Federation restored Romanian gymnast Ana Barbosu to third in the Paris Olympicswomen's floor exercise final Saturday, potentially forcing American gymnast Jordan Chiles to return the bronze she won in the event.

It's unclear whether Chiles will be compelled to send back the medal. The federation, known as FIG, said while it has restored the initial order of finish — with Barbosu third, Romanian teammate Sabrina Maneca-Voinea fourth and Chiles fifth — the allocation of medals was up to the International Olympic Committee.

FIG made the decision not long after the Court of Arbitration for Sport voided an appeal from Team USA coach Cecile Landi during the competition that had vaulted Chiles onto the podium.

CAS ruled Saturday that the on-floor appeal Monday by Cecile Landi to have 0.1 added to Chiles' score came outside the 1-minute window allowed by the FIG. The ad hoc committee wrote that Landi's appeal came 1 minute, 4 seconds after the score was posted.

CAS wrote that the initial finishing order should be restored, with Barbosu third, Maneca-Voinea fourth and Chiles fifth. The organization added the FIG should determine the final ranking "in accordance with the above decision," but left it to FIG to decide who would get the medal behind gold winner Rebeca Andrade of Brazil and silver medalist Simone Biles of the U.S.

FIG spokesperson Meike Behrensen said in an email to The Associated Press that "Reallocation of medals is the responsibility of the IOC."

At the Olympics, the governing body of each sport manages the competition and decides the results. The IOC typically accepts that result — once appeals to CAS are completed — and formally awards the medals. It's unclear if the IOC or FIG would ask Chiles to return her medal. The gymnast is already back in the United States.

The IOC did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

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The Romanian Gymnastics Federation had asked for three bronze medals to be awarded. Romanian prime minister Marcel Ciolacu reacted to the ruling by saying "justice has been served" and that "in the end, the truth prevailed."

The ruling adds another layer to what has been a difficult few days for all three athletes. Romanian gymnastics legend and 1976 Olympic champion Nadia Comaneci feared for Barbosu's mental health because of the wrenching sequence in which she went from bronze medalist to fourth-place finisher.

"I can't believe we play with athletes mental health and emotions like this... let's protect them," Comaneci posted on X earlier in the week.

Comaneci, at the same time, criticized the judges for the way they scored Maneca-Voinea's routine — the gymnast was docked 0.1 points for stepping out of bounds, but viral replays showed she narrowly stayed inbounds. Comaneci urged the Romanian Olympic Committee to protest, which it did, but CAS denied that appeal.

Chiles hinted at the decision in an Instagram story on Saturday, indicating she is heartbroken and is "taking this time and removing myself from social media for my mental health, thank you."

Barbosu and Maneca-Voinea were left outside the medals in the floor final after finishing with matching scores of 13.700. Barbosu thought she had won bronze over Maneca-Voinea via a tiebreaker — a higher execution score — and began celebrating with a Romanian flag.

Chiles was the last athlete to compete and initially given a score of 13.666 that placed her fifth, right behind Maneca-Voinea. Landi called for an inquiry on Chiles' score.

"At this point, we had nothing to lose, so I was like 'We're just going to try,'" Landi said after the awards ceremony. "I honestly didn't think it was going to happen, but when I heard her scream, I turned around and was like 'What?'"

Judges awarded the appeal, leapfrogging Chiles past Barbosu and Maneca-Voinea for the last spot on the podium.

USA Gymnastics said in a statement it is "devastated" by the ruling.

"The inquiry into the Difficulty Value of Jordan Chiles' floor exercise routine was filed in good faith and, we believed, in accordance with FIG rules to ensure accurate scoring," the organization wrote.

The 23-year-old Chiles became a target on social media in the aftermath of the late switch, with critics asking her to give back the medal or offering racist remarks. Chiles posted on X earlier this week that "it's funny how people can still never be happy for someone."

"Sending you so much love Jordan," Biles posted on Instagram. "Keep your chin up 'Olympic champ' we love you."

"All this talk about the athlete, what about the judges?" teammate Sunisa Lee added on Instagram. "Completely unacceptable, this is awful and I'm gutted for Jordan."

Barbosu made it a point after returning home to Romania that she had no problem with Chiles.

"I only want for everybody to be fair, we don't want to start picking on other athletes of any nationality," Barbosu told reporters. "We as athletes don't deserve something like that, we only want to perform as best as we can and to be rewarded based on our performance. The problems lie with the judges, with their calculations and decisions."

Chiles' mother, Gina Chiles, called out the critics in a post, writing she was "tired" of the derogatory comments being leveled at Jordan.

"My daughter is a highly decorated Olympian with the biggest heart and a level of sportsmanship that is unmatched," Gina Chiles posted. "And she's being called disgusting things."

The uncertainty also tinges what had been a beautiful moment on the medal stand, when Chiles and Biles knelt to honor Andrade after the Brazilian star won her fourth medal in Paris.

"It was just the right thing to do," Biles said about a moment that soon went viral, with even the Louvre itself suggesting it might be worthy enough for a spot somewhere in the vicinity of the Mona Lisa.

That memory now carries a complicated and emotional postscript.

Rescuers retrieve remains of all 62 passengers in Brazil plane crash. Families gather in Sao Paulo

By MAURICIO SAVARESE, GABRIELA SÁ PESSOA and DAVID KOENIG Associated Press

VINHEDO, Brazil (AP) — Brazilian rescue teams Saturday retrieved the remains of all 62 passengers from the wreckage of a plane crash in Sao Paulo state as families started gathering in the metropolis to identify and bury their loved ones.

Local airline Voepass' plane, an ATR 72 twin-engine turboprop, was headed for Sao Paulo's international airport in Guarulhos with 58 passengers and four crew members, when it went down in the city of Vinhedo.

Initially, the company said its plane had 62 passengers, then it revised the number to 61 and early on Saturday it raised the figure once again after it found a passenger named Constantino Thé Maia was not on its original list.

Voepass also said three passengers who held Brazilian identification also carried Venezuelan documents and one had Portuguese.

Sao Paulo state government said in a statement that rescue operations finished at 6:30 p.m. local time, with the identification of the bodies of the pilot and co-pilot by forensics experts. There were 34 male and 28 female bodies in the wreckage, the government said.

Earlier, Maycon Cristo, a spokesman for the local fire department, told journalists in Vinhedo that a winch was used to remove parts of the plane from the ground.

Brazilian authorities began transferring the corpses to the morgue Friday, and called on victims' family members to bring any medical, X-ray and dental exams to help identify the bodies. Blood tests were also done to help identification efforts.

Images recorded by witnesses showed the aircraft in a flat spin and plunging vertically before smashing to the ground inside a gated community, and leaving an obliterated fuselage consumed by fire. Residents said there were no injuries on the ground.

Rain drizzled down on rescue workers as they recovered the first bodies from the scene in the chill of the Southern Hemisphere's winter. Some residents of the gated community silently left to spend the night elsewhere. None were spotted returning on Saturday.

It was the world's deadliest airline crash since January 2023, when 72 people died on board a Yeti Airlines plane in Nepal that stalled and crashed while making its landing approach. That plane also was an ATR 72, and the final report blamed pilot error.

Metsul, one of Brazil's most renowned meteorological companies, said Friday there were reports of severe icing in Sao Paulo state around the time of the crash. Local media cited experts pointing to icing as a potential cause for the accident.

A video shared on social media channels Saturday shows a Voepass pilot telling passengers of a flight from Guarulhos to the city of Cascavel, the same origin of the crashed plane, that the ATR 72 has flown safely around the world for decades. He also asked passengers to be respectful to the memory of his colleagues and the company and asked for prayers.

"It was a fatality. The pilot was my personal friend. I have known all the crew from long ago," the unidentified pilot said. "We are professionals, we have our families. This tragedy doesn't hit only those who perished in this accident. It hits all of us. We are giving all our hearts, all our best to be here and fulfill our mission to take you safely and comfortably to your destination."

Local police restricted access to the main entrance of one of Sao Paulo's morgues, where bodies from the crash were being identified. Some family members of the victims arrived on foot, others came in minivans. They didn't speak to journalists, and local authorities requested they not be filmed as they came.

A flight bringing more family members from Paraná state landed in the afternoon at Guarulhos international airport São Paulo, and they also chose not to speak to journalists. A minivan sponsored by the airline was set to transport them to the morgue.

Many family members were gathering at a hotel in downtown Sao Paulo, so far refusing to speak to media there too.

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An American Eagle ATR 72-200 crashed on Oct. 31, 1994, and the United States National Transportation Safety Board determined that the probable cause was ice buildup while the plane was circling in a holding pattern. The plane rolled at about 8,000 feet and dove into the ground, killing all 68 people on board. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration issued operating procedures for ATRs and similar planes, telling pilots not to use the autopilot in icing conditions.

But Brazilian aviation expert Lito Sousa cautioned that meteorological conditions alone might not be enough to explain why the plane fell in the manner that it did on Friday.

"Analyzing an air crash just with images can lead to wrong conclusions about the causes," Sousa told the AP by phone. "But we can see a plane with loss of support, no horizontal speed. In this flat spin condition, there's no way to reclaim control of the plane."

Brazil's air force said Saturday both black boxes of the plane had been sent to its analysis laboratory in the capital Brasilia. The results of its investigations are expected to be published within 30 days, it said.

Marcelo Moura, director of operations for Voepass, told reporters Friday night that, while there were forecasts for ice, they were within acceptable levels for the aircraft.

Likewise, Lt. Col. Carlos Henrique Baldi of the Brazilian air force's center for the investigation and prevention of air accidents, told reporters in a late afternoon press conference that it was still too early to confirm whether ice caused the crash.

The plane is "certified in several countries to fly in severe icing conditions, including in countries unlike ours, where the impact of ice is more significant," said Baldi, who heads the center's investigation division.

In an earlier statement, the center said the plane's pilots did not call for help or say they were operating under adverse weather conditions. There has been no evidence that the pilots tried to contact controllers of regional airports, either, Ports and Airports Minister Silvio Costa Filho told reporters Friday night in Vinhedo.

Brazil's Federal Police said it began its own investigation, and dispatched specialists in plane crashes and the identification of disaster victims.

French-Italian plane manufacturer ATR said in a statement that it had been informed that the accident involved its ATR 72-500 model, and that company specialists are "fully engaged to support both the investigation and the customer."

The ATR 72 is generally used on shorter flights. The planes are built by a joint venture of Airbus in France and Italy's Leonardo S.p.A.

Crashes involving various models of the ATR 72 have resulted in 470 deaths going back to the 1990s, according to a database of the Aviation Safety Network.

Costa Filho, the airports minister, said the air force's center will also conduct a criminal probe of the accident.

"We will investigate so this case is fully explained to the Brazilian people," he said.

Israeli airstrike on a Gaza school used as a shelter kills at least 80, Palestinian officials say

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — An Israeli airstrike hit a school-turned-shelter in Gaza early Saturday, killing at least 80 people and wounding nearly 50 others, Palestinian health authorities said, in one of the deadliest attacks of the 10-month Israel-Hamas war. A witness said it struck during prayers at a mosque in the building.

It was the latest of what the U.N. human rights office called "systematic attacks on schools" by Israel, with at least 21 since July 4 leaving hundreds dead, including women and children.

"For many, schools are the last resort to find some shelter," it said after Saturday's attack.

The Israeli military acknowledged it targeted the Tabeen school in central Gaza City, saying it hit a Hamas command center in a mosque in its compound and killed 19 Hamas and Islamic Jihad fighters. Izzat al-Rishq, a top Hamas official, denied there were militants in the school.

Israel's military also disputed the toll, saying the "precise munitions" used "cannot cause the amount of

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damage that is being reported" by the Hamas-run government. It said the steps it took to limit the risk to civilians included the use of a "small warhead," aerial surveillance and intelligence information.

Walls were blown out on the ground level of the large building. Concrete chunks and twisted metal lay on the blood-soaked floor. Bodies, some in bloodstained shrouds, were placed shoulder to shoulder in makeshift graves, making room for more.

Fadel Naeem, director of the al-Ahli hospital in Gaza City, told The Associated Press that it received 70 bodies along with the body parts of at least 10 others. Gaza's Health Ministry said that another 47 people were wounded.

"We received some of the most serious injuries we encountered during the war," he said, with many wounded having limbs amputated and some with severe burns.

The strike hit without warning before sunrise as people prayed, according to witness Abu Anas.

"There were people praying, there were people washing and there were people upstairs sleeping, including children, women and old people," he said, prayer beads in hand. "The missile fell on them without warning. The first missile, and the second. We recovered them as body parts."

Three missiles ripped through the two-story building — the first floor housed the mosque, and the second level had a school — where about 6,000 displaced people were taking shelter, said Mahmoud Bassal, a spokesperson for the Civil Defense first responders, who operate under the Hamas-run government.

Many of the casualties were women and children, he said.

A camera operator working for the AP said a missile appeared to have penetrated the floor of the classrooms to the mosque below and exploded.

The U.N. previously said that as of July 6, 477 out of 564 schools in Gaza had been directly hit or damaged in the war, adding that Israel has a duty under international law to provide safe shelter for the displaced.

"There's no justification for these massacres," European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement posted on X, referring to strikes on schools. U.K. Foreign Minister David Lammy said that he was "appalled." France's foreign ministry called the recent number of civilian victims in Israeli strikes on schools "intolerable."

The U.S. said it was deeply concerned about reports of civilians killed.

"Far too many civilians continue to be killed and wounded," U.S. National Security Council spokesperson Sean Savett said in a statement.

Israel has blamed civilian deaths in Gaza on Hamas, saying the group endangers people by using schools and residential neighborhoods as bases for operations. The U.N. human rights office acknowledged that collocating combatants with civilians is a violation of international humanitarian law, but that Israel must also comply with the law's principles of precaution and proportionality.

The strike came as U.S., Qatari and Egyptian mediators renewed their push for Israel and Hamas to achieve a cease-fire agreement that could help calm soaring tensions in the region following the assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and a senior Hezbollah commander in Beirut.

Egypt, which borders Gaza, said that the strike on the school showed that Israel had no intention of reaching a cease-fire deal. Neighboring Jordan condemned the attack as a "blatant violation" of international law. Qatar demanded an international investigation, calling it a "heinous crime" against civilians.

Vice President Kamala Harris, speaking to reporters traveling with her in Phoenix, Arizona, on Saturday, said of the Israeli strike in Gaza: "Yet again, far too many civilians have been killed."

"Israel has a right to go after the terrorists that are Hamas," she said. "But as I have said many, many times they also have, I believe, an important responsibility to avoid civilian casualties."

Pressed on the fact that such comments have done little to lower the numbers of civilians in Gaza killed in recent months, Harris said, "First and foremost — and the president and I have been working on this around the clock — we need to get the hostages out."

"We need a hostage deal and we need a cease-fire," she said. "And I can't stress that strongly enough. It needs to get done. The deal needs to get done and it needs to get done now."

Late on Friday, two separate airstrikes in central Gaza killed at least 13 people, including three children

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and seven women, hospital authorities said. An AP journalist counted the bodies at the al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in the central city of Deir al-Balah.

One strike hit a house in the Nuseirat refugee camp, killing seven people, all but one of them women, hospital officials said. Another hit a house in Deir al-Balah, killing six, including a woman and her three children, the hospital said.

Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed more than 39,790 Palestinians and wounded more than 92,000 others, according to the Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between combatants and civilians in its tally. The war was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack in which militants from Gaza stormed into southern Israel, killing around 1,200 people and abducting 250 others.

Families of hostages demonstrated again Saturday night in Tel Aviv seeking a cease-fire deal to bring loved ones home.

More than 1.9 million of Gaza's prewar population of 2.3 million have been driven from their homes, fleeing repeatedly across the territory to escape offensives. Most are crowded into tent camps in an area of about 50 square kilometers (19 square miles) on the Gaza coast with few basic services or supplies.

In the occupied West Bank, dozens of people gathered in Ramallah to protest the latest Israeli strike on a school.

"The message that must be sent to the world, a numb world, a world that is not moving, is 'how long will the war continue?'" asked one, Muin Barghouti.

USWNT wins its fifth Olympic gold medal in women's soccer with a 1-0 victory over Brazil in final

By ANNE M. PETERSON AP Soccer Writer

PARIS (AP) — At just the right moment, Mallory Swanson yelled at teammate Sophia Smith not to go near the ball as it came through.

Swanson knew Smith was offside. But Swanson wasn't.

"I was like, 'Don't touch it! Leave it, leave it leave it!'" Swanson said. "And then it was on me to put it away."

With that 57th-minute goal, the U.S. women's soccer team won its fifth Olympic gold medal by beating Brazil 1-0 in the tournament final Saturday at the Paris Games.

The Americans, who hadn't won gold since the 2012 London Olympics, closed out an undefeated run to the title in their first international campaign under new coach Emma Hayes.

Goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher preserved the win with a one-handed save on Adriana's header in stoppage time at Parc des Princes. At the final whistle, the U.S. players celebrated as Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the U.S.A." played in the stadium.

"We've grown so much," said Swanson, who was making her 100th national team appearance. "And that's really cool to me seeing that. We've grown on and off the field. And you keep probably hearing it — we're playing with joy. We're having so much fun and I'm just so happy."

The result is more heartbreak for Brazil and its iconic star, Marta. The six-time world player of the year has never won a Women's World Cup or an Olympics. This is expected to be her last major international tournament.

It was the third victory for the United States over Brazil in an Olympic final. The Americans also beat the Brazilians in 2004 at Athens and four years later in Beijing.

The United States also won gold medals at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics — the first time women's soccer was played at the Olympics — and in 2012 at London.

Brazil has never finished better than runner-up at the Olympics.

"I'm very emotional. It's been a dream of mine to be in this position," said Hayes, a London native. "I have to thank my dad because he's the one who pushed me to this point to be able to come and coach an unbelievable group of players that have received me so well and taken on board everything I have asked. They are tremendous people and players and role models. Yeah, I love them."

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Three years ago in Tokyo, the U.S. had to settle for the bronze medal. The Americans were knocked out in the quarterfinals at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

Tom Cruise, former U.S. soccer star Megan Rapinoe and her fiancée, former WNBA player Sue Bird, were among those in the crowd.

Marta was playing in her sixth Olympics. Her first was in 2004 — when she was just 18 — which ended with a silver. But she started on the bench after a two-game suspension for a hard foul on Spain's Olga Carmona in the team's final group match.

Hayes was hired as coach of the U.S. team in November but she didn't join the squad until May so she could finish out the season with Chelsea — guiding the Women's Super League squad to its fifth straight title.

Hayes was tasked with turning around a U.S. team that crashed out of last summer's Women's World Cup earlier than ever before. Despite her short time with the Americans, she quickly fostered chemistry within the young squad, particularly between forwards Sophia Smith, Trinity Rodman and Swanson.

The trio scored 10 of the 12 U.S. goals in France. Naehrer and the U.S. defense allowed just two goals. "I think we're on this steady climb," Crystal Dunn said. "We know winning a gold medal is obviously amazing and we're all going to celebrate and soak this in. But there's life after this Olympics. I think we are going to embrace where we are but I think it's important that we realize there's so much more that we can do, and having Emma obviously now for the long haul is going to be incredible."

Brazil had the best chances early. Ludmila was alone in front of the goal in the second minute but her shot went straight into Naehrer's arms. Ludmila appeared to score in the upper far corner in the 16th minute but was offside.

Naehrer kept the game scoreless at the break by punching away Gabi Portilho's shot in first-half stoppage time.

Brazilian midfielder Vitoria Yaya was carried from the field with an injury early in the second half.

The U.S. continued to threaten after Swanson's goal. Smith nearly scored on a break in the 66th but her attempt went wide.

Lindsey Horan smashed a free kick into the wall in the 82nd after Tarciane fouled Smith just outside the box.

Hayes made one change to her lineup for the final, starting Korbin Albert in place of Rose Lavelle. It was the second youngest U.S. lineup to start a gold medal match, with an average age of 26.7. The average age of the team that started the 1996 final was 25.8.

Brazil had finished third in its group in France, earning one of two third-place spots in the knockout round.

The U.S. advanced to the final with a 1-0 extra-time victory over Germany in Lyon, where Smith scored the lone goal. Brazil earned its spot with a wild 4-2 victory over Women's World Cup champion Spain.

Germany went on to win the tournament's bronze medal with a 1-0 victory over Spain in Lyon on Friday.

Asked if the U.S. team was confident it would ultimately wear gold medals in France, defender Naomi Girma was succinct.

"I mean, we always believed," she said.

Worker's death at California federal prison investigated for possible fentanyl exposure, AP learns

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A worker at a federal prison in California has died and investigators are examining whether he was exposed to fentanyl shortly before his death, three people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

Marc Fischer, a mailroom supervisor at the U.S. Penitentiary in Atwater, California, died Friday after he reported feeling ill earlier, the people said. They said he was taken to a local hospital and was pronounced dead later in the evening.

Investigators are examining whether he was exposed to a substance authorities believe was fentanyl

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while he screening mail at the prison, the people said. The people could not publicly discuss details of the ongoing investigation and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Fischer's cause of death remained unknown Saturday and it was unclear whether the potential exposure may have contributed. Briefly touching fentanyl cannot cause an overdose, and researchers have found that the risk of fatal overdose from accidental exposure is low.

In a statement, the Bureau of Prisons said an employee at the prison "began feeling unwell following an exposure to mail saturated in an unknown substance" and was pronounced dead after being rushed to the hospital. A second worker was taken to the hospital for observation after coming in contact with the mail and was later released, the agency said.

"Our hearts are heavy as we extend our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of our fallen Bureau employee," the statement said.

His death is the latest serious incident in the Bureau of Prisons, which operates 122 federal prisons and has faced myriad crisis in recent years from rampant sexual abuse and other criminal misconduct by staff to chronic understaffing, escapes and high-profile deaths.

In 2019, the agency began photocopying inmate letters and other mail at some federal correctional facilities across the country instead of delivering the original parcels, in an attempt to combat the smuggling of synthetic narcotics.

Legislation was introduced by a bipartisan group of congressional lawmakers in 2023 to require the Bureau of Prisons' director to develop a strategy to interdict fentanyl and other synthetic drugs sent through the mail to federal prisons nationwide. The bill has stalled in the House.

Meet Nacer Zorgani, the vision-impaired Para-judo athlete who doubles as boxing's Olympic voice

By TOM NOUVIAN and JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The crowd at Roland Garros, the legendary home of French tennis that's now hosting Olympic boxing, erupted in applause as Nacer Zorgani's deep, resonant voice filled the venue.

"Ladies and gentlemen, in the red corner, representing France — Billal Bennama!" he announced in French, his words reverberating through the stands. The 20,000 spectators hung on his every word, unaware that the man captivating them with his powerful baritone couldn't see a single one of them, because he's acutely vision-impaired.

It wasn't until the fourth semifinal match Thursday night -- when Zorgani stood up from his seat and felt his way with a white cane -- that some realized. As he and his volunteer guide, Laureline Jeunemaitre, made their way to the restroom, heads turned, and whispers filled the air.

"He's tall, he's big, and he carries a walking stick. You can't help but notice him," remarked spectator Florian Warth. "But when he got back to his seat and started speaking to the crowd, I realized he was speaking to us all along. That's outstanding."

By day, Zorgani is a fiercely dedicated Para-judo competitor, training tirelessly for the Paralympic Games that run Aug. 28-Sept. 8. This 38-year-old mountain of a man will compete in the men's 90-kilogram division that includes athletes with acute vision impairments.

By night, he transforms into the voice of Olympic boxing, a role he never imagined for himself until a fateful night in 2017 at Wembley Stadium. There, while attending a title fight between Anthony Joshua and Wladimir Klitschko, Zorgani was mesmerized by legendary boxing announcer Michael Buffer.

He says he told himself: "Wow, this guy is great. This thing is great. I would love (to) do that one day."

And now, he's living out that ambition at the Paris Olympics.

That's both a testament to his determination and a powerful example of how small adjustments by others — like having someone act as his eyes — can ensure that people with disabilities are fully included and not sidelined at major events.

Jeanmaitre, a 24-year-old Olympics volunteer, is one of the key figures allowing Zorgani to put his vocal talents to Olympic use. Wherever he goes in the boxing venue, she is by his side, guiding him, reading

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the match schedule, and feeding him information during the show.

Arriving early at the venue having already exhausted himself at judo training earlier that day, Zorgani warmed up his voice while sipping hot water with honey to soothe his vocal cords, which he considers his God-given talent.

"Maybe I'm visually impaired, maybe God did take my eyes, but he gave me the voice," he said.

Zorgani was declared legally blind at 17 after a doctor diagnosed progressive deterioration of both retinas. By 20, he had lost most of his vision and could only see blurry shapes in very bright environments. His phone and computers are set to high contrast modes and equipped with audio transcription systems. Sitting just 10 feet (3.3 meters) from the Olympic boxing ring, he could barely distinguish the white ropes from the red and blue fighters battling in front of him.

Throughout the night, Jeanmaitre whispered details into his ear, described the crowd, and ensured he had everything he needed, from coffee to toilet breaks or making sure his phone charger is plugged in.

When he draws a blank, he taps his aide's knee to get her attention — such as when Zorgani forgot the weight category of the fourth match of the night.

"Usually, I only have to read him the entire schedule once, before the show starts. But sometimes, he forgets one tiny thing," Jeanmaitre said. "It's pretty rare, my job is pretty easy."

Zorgani's ability to memorize text and address a crowd he can't see amazed his co-host, Mike Markham, who handles the English announcements.

"I have no clue how he does it," Markham, a veteran with 15 years of experience, admitted. "He's a perfect example of how heightened senses can compensate for the lack of one."

Zorgani's journey has inspired many, including longtime friend Redouane Bougheraba, a well-known stand-up comedian in France. Bougheraba, who grew up with Zorgani in the Belle-de-Mai district of Marseille — a neighborhood with a poverty rate more than twice the national average in 2024 according to the French national institute for statistics — was in the stands Thursday night.

"Where we are from, we call him Daredevil," Bougheraba said with pride, comparing Zorgani to the famous comic's blind superhero. "Because of him, I realized there was no excuse in life."

As the night drew to a close, Zorgani faced a reminder of the daily challenges of acute lack of vision. He struggled to find a cab, waiting on the sidewalk for 15 minutes, his cane in one hand and his damp judo gear from earlier in the day in the other.

The following day, he had two training sessions scheduled in the morning and more boxing matches scheduled that night. In total, he will have taken part in more than 200 bouts in less than 14 days. While many would consider this routine exhausting, Zorgani sees it as a form of exercise that has helped steel him for his upcoming Paralympic challenge.

"Doing the ring announcements — with the crowds, the lights, the people, the noise, the music, the ceremonies — it's a kind of training, mental training," he said. "On my D-Day in September, I won't be influenced, I won't be emotionally taken by the atmosphere ... one helps the other." ____

AP Summer Olympics: <https://apnews.com/hub/2024-paris-olympic-games>

Seoul says North Korea has flown more trash balloons toward South Korea

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's military says North Korea is again flying balloons likely carrying trash toward the South, adding to a bizarre psychological warfare campaign amid growing tensions between the war-divided rivals.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said Saturday that the winds could carry the balloons to regions north of the South Korean capital, Seoul. Seoul City Hall and the Gyeonggi provincial government issued text alerts urging citizens to beware of objects dropping from the sky and report to the military or police if they spot any balloons.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or property damage.

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North Korea in recent weeks has flown more than 2,000 balloons carrying waste paper, cloth scraps and cigarette butts toward the South in what it has described as a retaliation toward South Korean civilian activists flying anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets across the border.

Pyongyang has long condemned such activities as it is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of leader Kim Jong Un's authoritarian rule.

North Korea last flew balloons toward the South on July 24, when trash carried by at least one of them fell on the South Korean presidential compound, raising worries about the vulnerability of key South Korean facilities. The balloon contained no dangerous material and no one was hurt, South Korea's presidential security service said.

South Korea, in reaction to the North's balloon campaign, activated its front-line loudspeakers to blast broadcasts of propaganda messages and K-pop songs. Experts say North Korea hates such broadcasts because it fears it could demoralize front-line troops and residents.

The Koreas' tit-for-tat Cold War-style campaigns are inflaming tensions, with the rivals threatening stronger steps and warning of grave consequences.

Their relations have worsened in recent years as Kim continues to accelerate the North's nuclear weapons and missile program and issue verbal threats of nuclear conflict toward Washington and Seoul. In response, South Korea, the United States and Japan have been expanding their combined military exercises and sharpening their nuclear deterrence strategies built around U.S. strategic assets.

Experts say animosity could further rise later this month when South Korea and the United States kick off their annual joint military drills that are being strengthened to deal with the North's nuclear threats.

The resumption of the balloon campaign comes as North Korea struggles to recover from devastating floods that submerged thousands of homes and huge swaths of farmland in areas near its border with China.

North Korean state media said Saturday that Kim ordered officials to bring some 15,400 people displaced by the floods to the capital city, Pyongyang, to provide them better care, and that it would take two or three months to rebuild homes in flood-hit areas.

He has so far turned down aid offers by traditional allies Russia and China and international aid groups, insisting that North Korea is capable of handling the recovery on its own. He accused "enemy" South Korea of a "vicious smear campaign" to tarnish the image of his government, claiming that the South's media have been exaggerating the damage and casualties caused by the floods.

'Original sin': Torture of 9/11 suspects means even without plea deal, they may never face a verdict

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, ERIC TUCKER and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Defense Department disagreement over how to bring to justice the accused mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks and two others has thrown the cases into disarray and surfaced tension between the desire of some victims' families to see a final legal reckoning and the significant obstacles that may make that impossible.

Defense lawyers and some legal experts blame many of the endless delays on what they call the "original sin" haunting the military prosecutions: the illegal torture that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and his co-defendants were subjected to in CIA custody. That years-old abuse has snarled the case, leaving lawyers to hash out legal issues two decades later in the now often-forgotten military courtrooms at the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

An approved plea bargain sparing Mohammed and two co-defendants from the death penalty appeared to clear those hurdles and push the cases toward conclusion. But after criticism of the deal from some family members and Republican lawmakers, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Aug. 2 revoked the deal signed by the official he had appointed.

Austin said later he believed Americans deserved the opportunity to see the trials through. Pentagon deputy spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said Friday the case "will continue toward trial with pretrial proceedings as it has been."