

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, Sept. 1

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.

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

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

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist: Conde Worship, 8:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 2

NO SCHOOL - Labor Day

Soccer with Mitchell in Groton: Boys at 1 p.m., Girls at 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 3

School Breakfast; Egg omelet.

School Lunch: Hot dogs, chips.

Senior Menu: Baked pork chops, au gratin potatoes, vegetable capri blend, apple sauce, whole wheat bread.

Boys Golf at Lee Park, Aberdeen, 10 a.m.

JH Football vs. Ellendale/Edgeley-Kulm, 5 p.m., one game in Edgeley.

JV Football vs. Ellendale/Edgeley-Kulm, 6:30 p.m., in Edgeley.

Volleyball: Ipswich in Groton: 7th/C at 5 p.m.; 8th/JV at 6 p.m.; varsity to follow

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

Pantry open, Community Center, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1:30 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

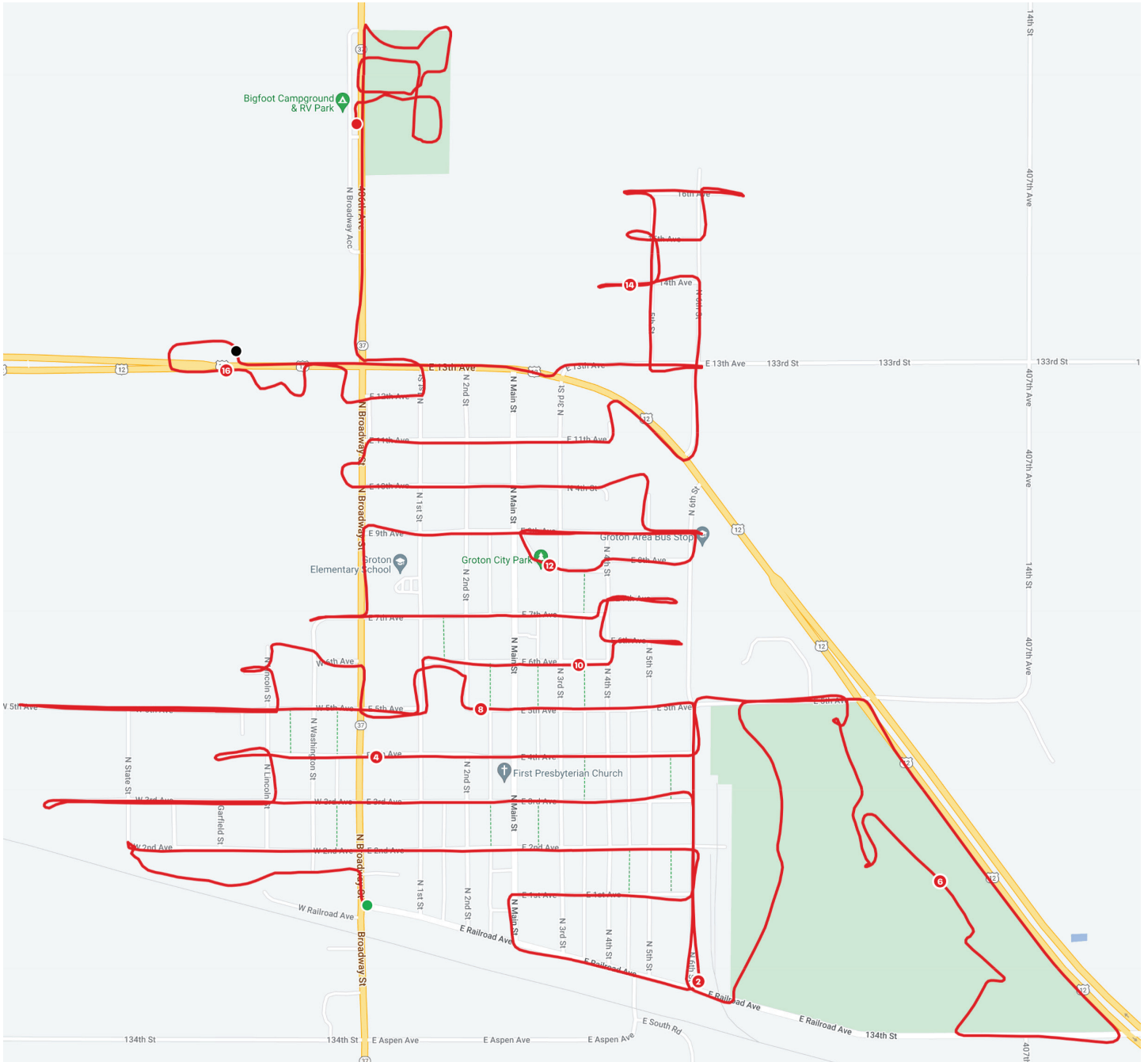
Groton Daily Independent
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445
Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

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Adult Mosquito Control conducted Saturday night



The City of Groton conducted adult mosquito control Saturday night. 3.6 gallons of Perm-X U 4-4 was used. Wind was light out of the north. Temperature was in the 60s.

Groton Area C/JV takes second at Matchbox Tournament

Groton C/JV volleyball team took part in the Matchbox Tournament held Saturday in Aberdeen. Groton Area defeated Ellendale, 25-17 and 25-20, defeated Langford, 25-18 and 25-22, defeated Northwestern Gold 25-22 and 25-13, and in the championship game, lost to Northwestern Green, 25-20 and 25-16.

Farmers Feed 1,000 State Fair Fairgoers Lunch for .48 Cents

By Lura Roti

Fair food has a reputation for being fried and expensive. But today, Saturday, Aug. 31 during the South Dakota State Fair, fairgoers can buy lunch for only .48 cents – the profits farmers and ranchers receive for the ingredients.

"Farmer's Share Lunch is an easy and tasty way to educate consumers about the profit challenges family farmers and ranchers face," explained Karla Hofhenke, Executive Director of South Dakota Farmers Union.

The premiere sponsor of the South Dakota State Fair and the state's largest agriculture organization, Farmers Union has hosted this Farmers Share Lunch since 2007.

Fairgoer and Huron resident, Joy Petersen, says she was surprised to learn how little farmers receive for the food they produce, and grateful that Farmers Union helps inform consumers.

"Some people have no idea what the farmers receive for the food they produce. When I heard their profit for a full lunch was only .48 cents I thought, "this is so sad." Because I know it costs them a lot to produce the meat and vegetables and milk."

Reliance rancher David Reis appreciates the effort Farmers Union makes to provide education.

"I think the majority of consumers think most of the money they spend in the grocery store for food goes to farmers or ranchers and the truth is only a very small percentage does," explained Reis, who together with his wife, Brenda, and their grown children raise cattle. "The Farmer's Share Lunch helps explain the reason there are fewer and fewer family farmers and ranchers in South Dakota. Farm and ranch families need to be able to earn an income from the land to feed their own families."

The Farmer's Share Lunch also connects consumers with those who raise their food. Reis is among many South Dakota producers attending the meal at the fair – all proceeds of which go to Make-A-Wish. To learn more about how South Dakota Farmers Union works to support South Dakota farm and ranch families, visit www.sdfu.org.

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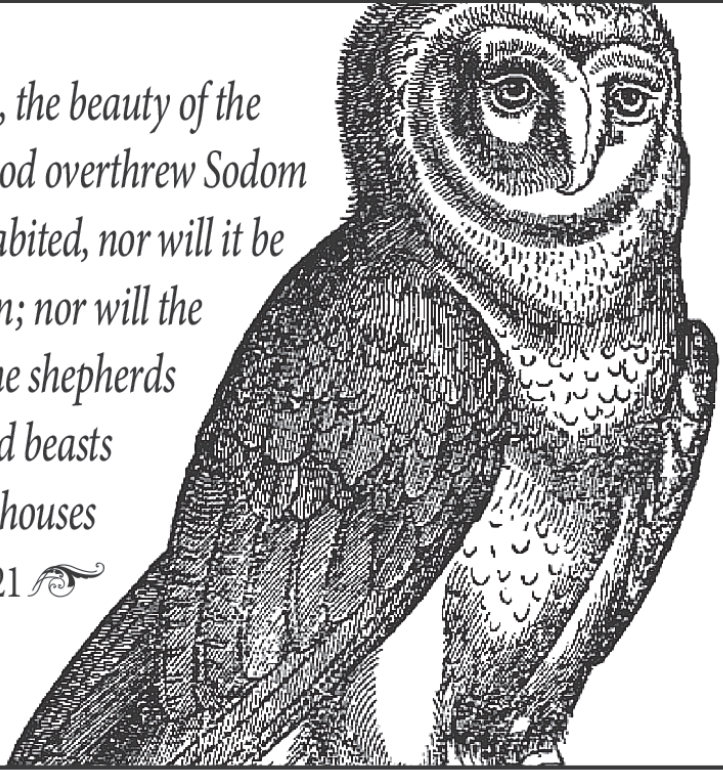
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It will never be inhabited, nor will it be settled from generation to generation; nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there. But wild beasts of the desert will lie there, and their houses will be full of owls... ISAIAH 13:19-21

Detail of medieval engraving



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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Ecclesiastes 4, how many are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor? *Two, Three, Five, Seven*

3. In 1 Kings 5, how many thousand men comprised the labor force that King Solomon raised? *One, Five, Ten, Thirty*

4. What son of Abda was in charge of the forced labor in David's kingdom? *Baal, Adoniram, Cyrenius, Phaneul*

5. From Exodus 20, how many days shalt thou labor and do all thy work? *Two, Four, Six, Seven*

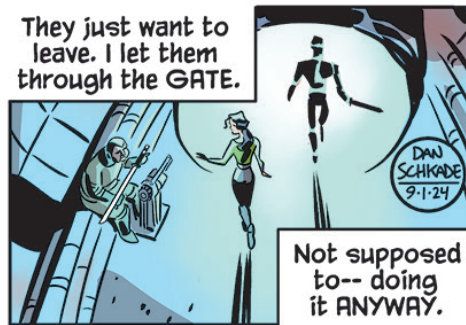
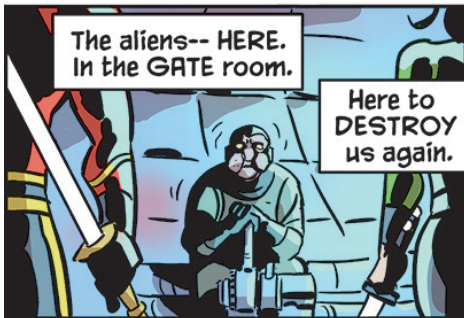
6. Proverbs 14:23 states, "In all labor there is ..." *Love, Hope, Light, Profit*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Two, 3) Thirty, 4) Adoniram, 5) Six, 6) Profit

Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!

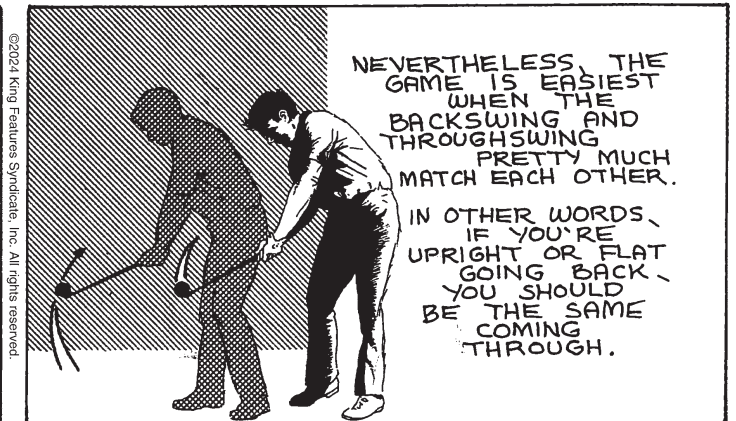
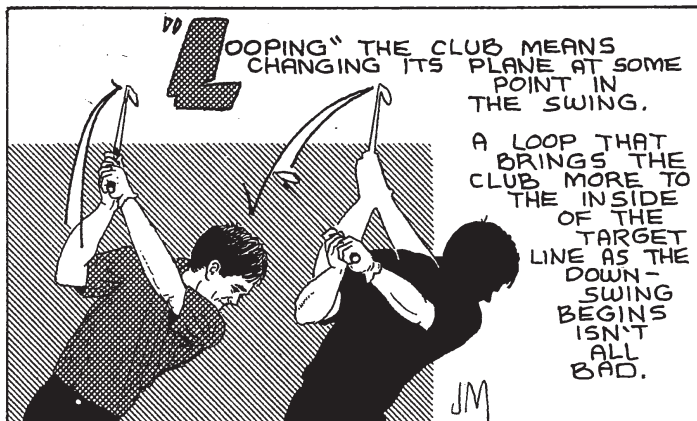
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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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DVT Patient Switches to Aspirin With Good Results

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am an 81-year-old female who has been on Xarelto for years due to deep vein thrombosis (DVT). I also have an inferior vena cava (IVC) filter. I read that low-dose aspirin (325 mg) is just as effective in preventing clots in the legs as Xarelto, which is very expensive. My doctor advises against changing to aspirin, but won't give me an explanation as to why.

I switched anyway, and the redness in my foot disappeared. After one month of taking 325 mg of coated aspirin daily, I have no symptoms and actually feel better. What are your thoughts? -- A.B.

ANSWER: Although aspirin is better than nothing, it has been proven to be less effective than Xarelto and similar medicines in people who are at risk for blood clots. In a yearlong trial comparing the two, recurrences of DVT (a blood clot in the deep veins of the leg) occurred in just over 1% of people taking Xarelto and in 4.4% of people taking aspirin. (This study used low-dose aspirin -- 100 mg -- rather than the full-dose of 325 mg that you are taking.) The risk of bleeding was about the same among the aspirin group and the Xarelto group.

Aspirin is an anti-inflammatory, which may be why the redness in your foot disappeared. I doubt it had anything to do with a blood clot.

For people at a high risk, I recommend against changing from a more-effective medicine like Xarelto to aspirin. In your case, you are protected against a blood clot in the lung by your filter, which is designed to catch any clot before it can get to the lung. Unfortunately, the IVC filter slightly increases the risk of a recurrence of a blood clot in the legs, so it's important to keep taking medication to reduce your risk.

Given the serious nature of a blood clot, I can't recommend disregarding your doctor's advice, although you deserve a thorough explanation from your doctor. If the main issue for your wanting to change medications is the expense, you might ask your doctor if there are less-expensive alternatives that would still be as effective as Xarelto. The manufacturer also offers a program to help with expenses.

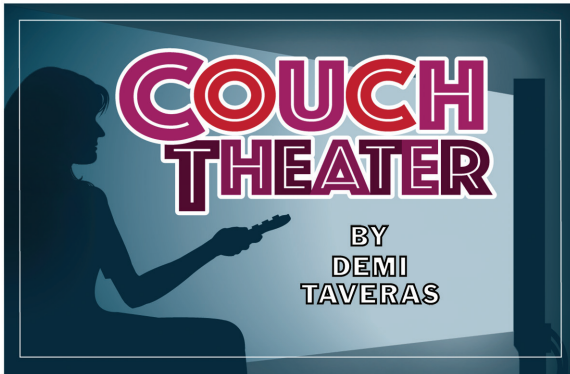
DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 67-year-old woman in good health. I have been taking omeprazole for at least 10 years, and it was originally prescribed to help chronic cough. With all the talk of an increased dementia risk from this medication, what is the safest way to wean off of it? -- C.H.

ANSWER: There is some evidence that proton-pump inhibitors like omeprazole increase dementia risk. But the evidence isn't strong, and there are studies that haven't shown a risk. Still, omeprazole and similar drugs do have the potential for long-term side effects, and it is always worth a periodic trial off of the medicine to see whether it is still needed.

If you and your physician agree to stop the medication, my usual recommendation is to cut the dose in half for a week, then take it every other day for another week before stopping. People on a high dose may need to cut the dose in half twice.

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Maika Monroe stars in "Longlegs." (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

"The Perfect Couple" (TV-MA) -- This mystery-drama series features quite the cast to bring author Elin Hilderbrand's characters alive. Nicole Kidman stars as Greer Garrison Winbury, a novelist and the proud matriarch of her wealthy family. As her son, Benji, prepares to marry a woman

named Amelia in an extravagant wedding, a body is suddenly discovered in Nantucket Harbor just before the ceremony is set to begin. With everyone in the wedding party now a suspect, the Winbury family gets put under a microscope, revealing secrets that Greer has been desperate to keep hidden. Liev Schreiber ("Asteroid City"), Dakota Fanning ("The Watchers"), and Meghann Fahy ("The White Lotus") co-star in the six-episode series, premiering Sept. 5. (Netflix)

"A Quiet Place: Day One" (PG-13) -- Academy-Award-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o leads this apocalyptic horror film, which co-stars Joseph Quinn ("Stranger Things"), Alex Wolff ("Hereditary"), and Djimon Hounsou ("A Quiet Place Part II"). Serving as a prequel to the two "A Quiet Place" films, this installment picks up in New York City during the first invasion of the blind extraterrestrial creatures that hunt humans with their exceptional hearing. A hospice patient named Sam (Nyong'o) first encounters these terrifying creatures while on an outing with her nurse, Reuben (Wolff). The creatures' attack on the city forces the pair (along with Sam's cat, Frodo) to enter survival mode and find a way to leave the island of Manhattan without accidentally signing their own death warrants. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Longlegs" (R) -- This horror-thriller film grossed \$101 million in the box office against a less-than-\$10-million budget, making it the highest-grossing independent film of the year. Set in the 1990s, Maika Monroe ("God Is a Bullet") plays FBI agent Lee Harker, who gets assigned to several murder-suicide cases occurring in Oregon. All of these murder cases resulted in a father killing his family, then himself, and a letter signed by Longlegs. As Lee and her supervisor William Carter (Blair Underwood) follow clues that lead them closer to the murderer, a strange connection from Lee's childhood resurfaces, and she realizes that Longlegs might be closer to her than she originally thought. Alicia Witt ("Alice") and the illustrious Nicolas Cage ("The Surfer") round out the rest of the cast. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

In Case You Missed It

"Normal People" (TV-14) -- This Irish miniseries dubbed as a "romantic psychological drama" launched the careers of Daisy Edgar-Jones ("Twisters") and Paul Mescal (upcoming in "Gladiator II"), who are on their way to becoming modern-day movie stars. Based on the acclaimed novel by Sally Rooney, the series follows two classmates, Marianne (Edgar-Jones) and Connell (Mescal), who are in very different places within their secondary school's social food chain. Popular and carefree, Connell enjoys his solid group of friends, while the outspoken, headstrong Marianne turns others off with her blunt outbursts to students and teachers alike. But with Connell's mom serving as Marianne's housekeeper, the two inevitably cross paths and strike up a rare, tender romance. All 12 episodes are out now. (Hulu)

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1. Who wrote and released "Turn the Page" in 1973.
2. Which artist released "Let's Get It On"?
3. Who wrote and released "Summer in the City"?
4. Which artist wrote and released "When Doves Cry"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Please lock me away and don't allow the day, Here inside where I hide with my loneliness."

Answers

1. Bob Seger. It was released on the Silver Bullet Band's "Back in '72" album but was never released as a single until 1976.

2. Singer-songwriter Marvin Gaye, in 1973. The song topped the Billboard Pop chart where it stayed for two weeks and the Soul chart where it stayed for eight weeks.

3. John Sebastian of the Lovin' Spoonful in 1966. During recording, they brought in city sounds such as car horns and added them to the final version. It finally made the list of the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time in 2011.

4. Prince, in 1984. It was his first No. 1 single.

5. "A World Without Love," by Peter and Gordon, in 1964. It was written by Beatle Paul McCartney but released to Peter and Gordon because McCartney didn't think it was appropriate for the Beatles.

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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{Wagner}



"We look at a loss of this magnitude as a learning experience, Mr. Figby!"

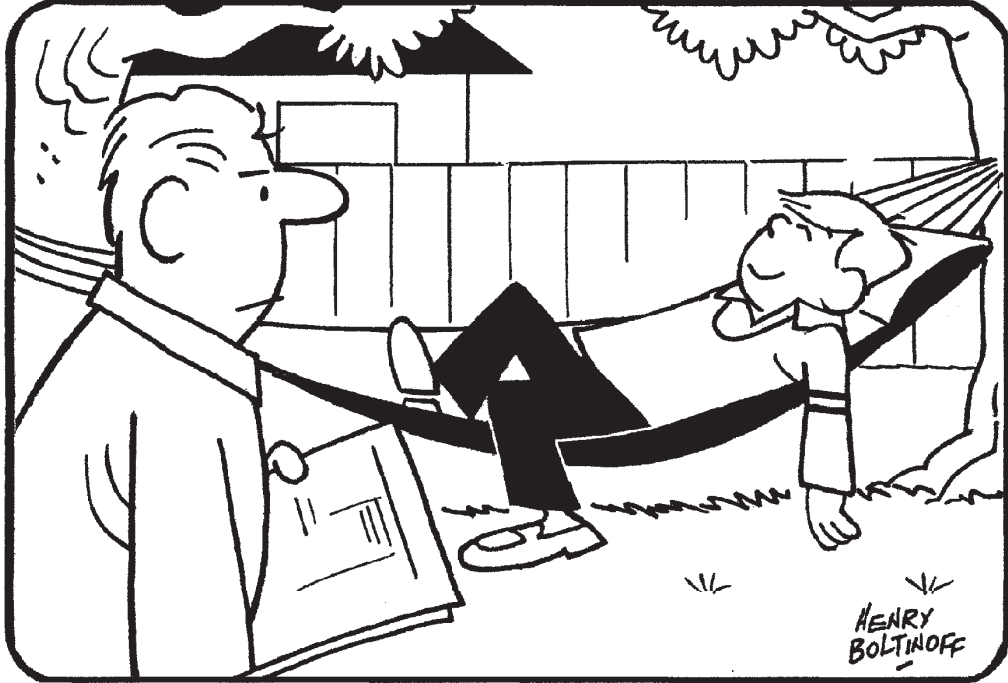
Just Like Cats & Dogs ^{by Dave T. Phipps}



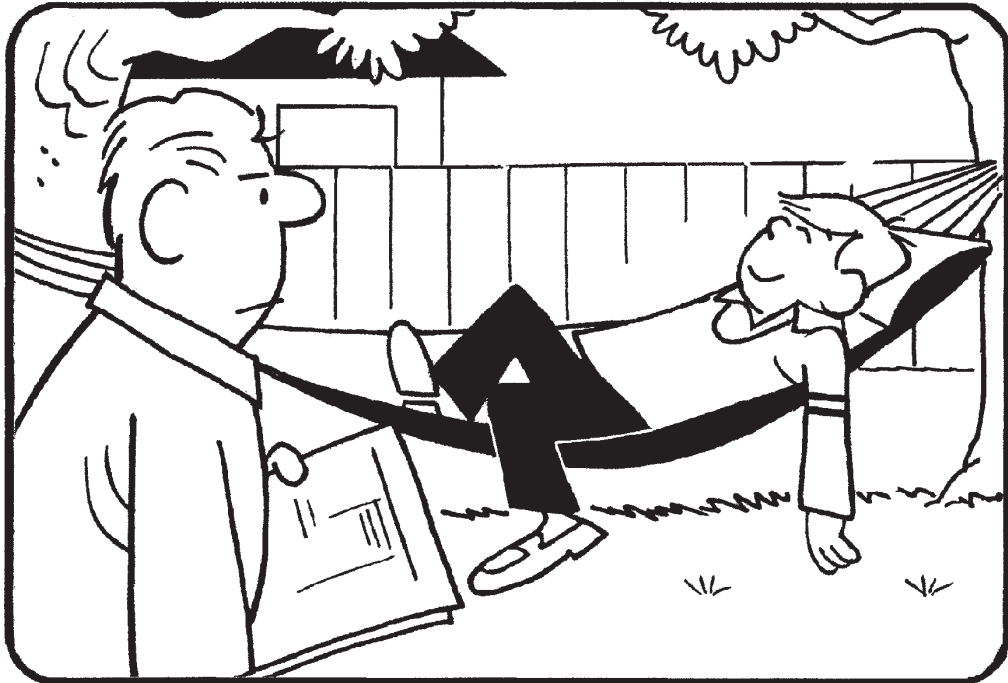
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Foot is moved. 3. Nose is smaller. 4. House is not as wide. 5. Leaves are missing. 6. Tree trunk is different.

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* To fix a hole in drywall that requires a healthy helping of joint compound, you can cut a piece of screen slightly bigger than the hole and tack it to the inside of the drywall. You also can wad up a piece of aluminum foil and shove it in the hole, pressing it in a bit to create a recess for the compound. The foil will keep the compound at the site of the hole, allowing it to set up instead of fall down.

* "I recently did a little work on my car, and afterward I washed and waxed it. My tools got pretty grimy, so I cleaned them too. Since I had the wax out, I used it on several of them to keep them from rusting in storage." -- via email

* Add a softener sheet to your vacuum bag or canister when you change it. While you clean, you will distribute the good smell throughout your home. You also can use a cotton ball scented with your favorite essential oil or even perfume.

* If you have trouble threading needles, try spritzing some hairspray on your finger, and twist the end of the thread. It will keep the fibers together and stiffen it enough to be easily threaded.

* It is possible to save a bit of money on car maintenance if you can't change your own oil. Learn common add-ons you will be offered at oil and lube places. Air filters are surprisingly easy to replace on your own, and so are windshield wipers. Very often, the staff of auto-supply chains will lend you tools or even assist you right in the parking lot.

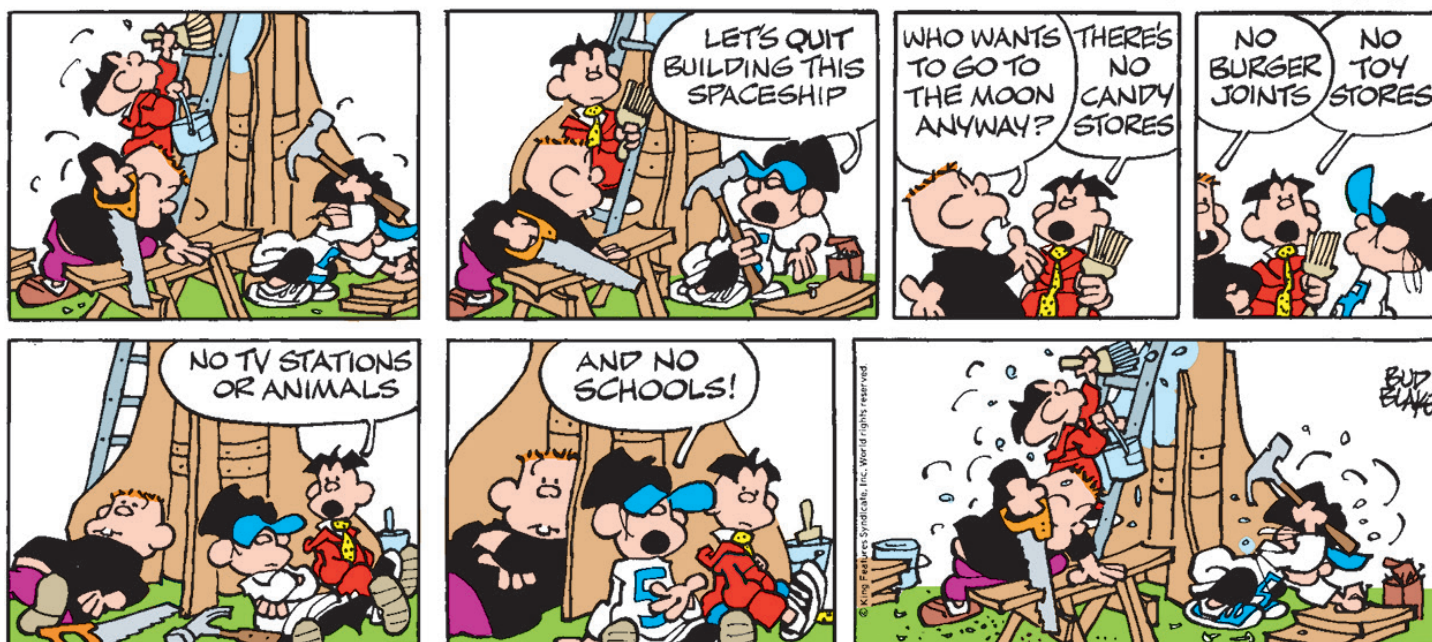
* Got bug bites? Try these for some relief from the itching of insect bites: apple cider vinegar; a paste of baking soda and water, allowed to dry on the bite; a similar paste of meat tenderizer and water; or antiperspirant.

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 Sch. supporters
- 5 White House monogram
- 8 Young cow
- 12 Stellar musician
- 14 Hodgepodge
- 15 Soften
- 16 Harvest
- 17 Auction signal
- 18 Calif. NFL team
- 20 Harmful gas
- 23 Batting practice area
- 24 "Lucky Jim" author
- 25 With gusto
- 28 — de deux
- 29 Sports bar fixture

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15									16			
			17				18	19				
20	21	22				23						
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37	38	39					40					
41					42	43				44	45	46
47					48							
49					50				51			

- 30 Candied veggie
- 32 Gulleets
- 34 Knucklehead
- 35 Grecian vessels
- 36 Walking sticks
- 37 Radiator sounds
- 40 Soap unit
- 41 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
- 42 Playwright Wilder
- 47 Stadium top

- 48 Statistical anomalies
- 49 Wife of Geraint
- 50 To the — degree
- 51 "Toodle-oo!"
- 7 Freight weights
- 8 Intersection
- 9 Downwind
- 10 Tale teller
- 11 Dandies
- 13 Japanese noodle

DOWN

- 1 USMC rank
- 2 Uncle (Sp.)
- 3 Prince Valiant's son
- 4 Shorthand pros
- 5 Cobra feature
- 6 Away from NNE
- 19 "— a Kick Out of You"
- 20 Knock
- 21 Latin 101 word
- 22 Platter
- 23 Broadway rosters
- 25 Chicago suburb

- 26 Rhone city
- 27 Harvard rival
- 29 Ripped
- 31 Peaks (Abbr.)
- 33 Oxidized
- 34 "Rats!"
- 36 Poet Sandburg
- 37 Conceal
- 38 PC picture
- 39 Big rig
- 40 This and that
- 43 Grass shack
- 44 Chai, e.g.
- 45 Leftover bit
- 46 Code-breaking gp.

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

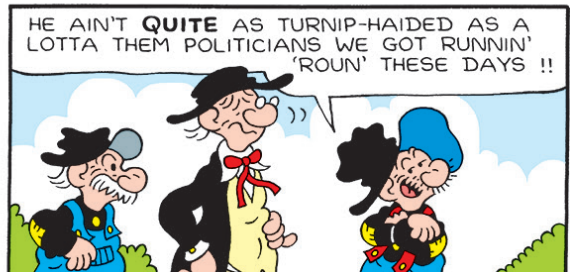
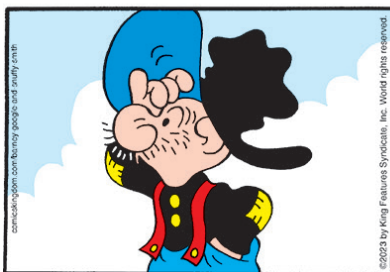
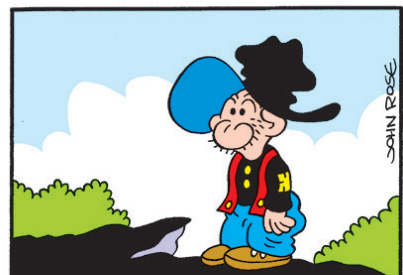
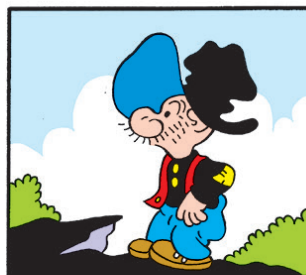
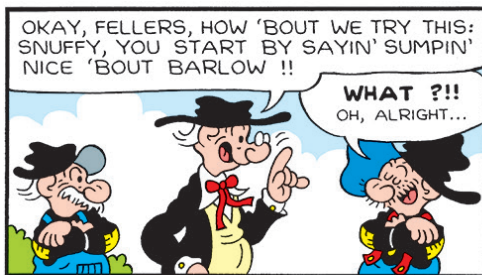
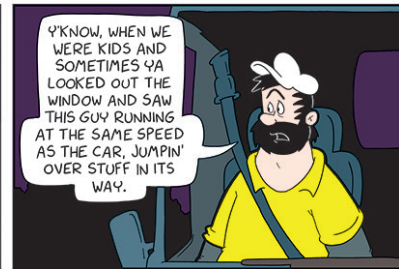
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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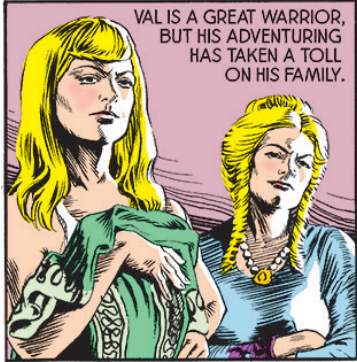


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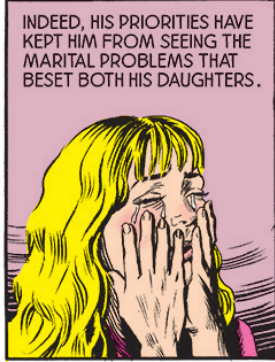
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HAL FOSTER'S **Prince Valiant**

BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES



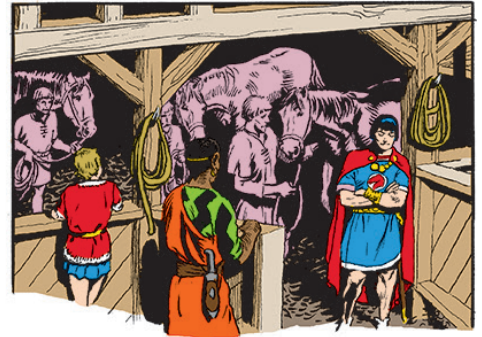
VAL IS A GREAT WARRIOR, BUT HIS ADVENTURING HAS TAKEN A TOLL ON HIS FAMILY.



INDEED, HIS PRIORITIES HAVE KEPT HIM FROM SEEING THE MARITAL PROBLEMS THAT BESET BOTH HIS DAUGHTERS.

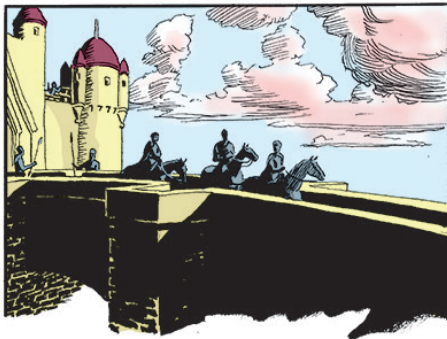


THE WITCH HORRIT'S PROPHECY OF A LIFE OF NO CONTENTMENT, NO HAPPINESS, SEEMS TRUER THAN EVER!



"FEMALES! THEY ARE ALL FORCES OF MISERY," HE DECIDES. AND SO HE TURNS AWAY, GATHERS NATHAN AND BUKOTA - WHO WILL ACCOMPANY HIM AND HIS FAMILY TO THE MISTY ISLES...

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... AND RIDES FOR CAMELOT'S SEAPORT AT TINTAGEL, CLAIMING THE NEED TO SUPERVISE THE PREPARATIONS AND LOADING OF THE SHIP ON WHICH THEY WILL JOURNEY. HE WOULD SPEND TIME WITH HIS SON...



... BUT HOW DOES ONE TALK WITH A CHILD WHOSE INTERESTS LEAN TO PHILOSOPHY? HE SEES THAT BUKOTA HAS NO PROBLEM ENGAGING NATHAN.

398



... AND WISHES RUEFULLY THAT HE KNEW MORE OF THINGS OTHER THAN WARFARE AND SURVIVAL.



PERHAPS ALETA IS RIGHT AFTER ALL. PERHAPS HE HAS LOST HIS FAMILY.

NEXT: Gundar Warl

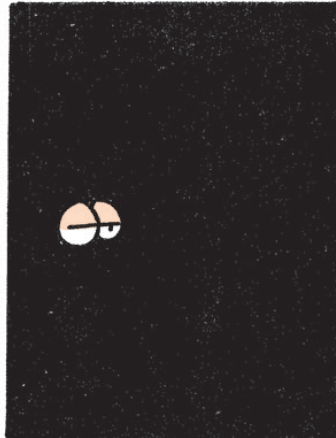
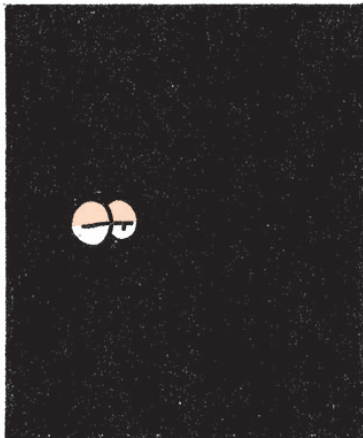
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



ALEXA... TURN OFF THE LIGHTS.

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THE WEIRD THING IS THAT I DON'T HAVE AN ALEXA.

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Massive data breach

The word going around is that hackers have stolen 2.9 billion Social Security numbers, which means everyone. And now it appears all that information, including other personal information, has been released on the internet. That batch of data can include not only Social Security numbers, but names, phone numbers, current and former addresses, lists of relatives and more.

It's time to get very, very serious about protecting our personal data, our identity, our banking information and everything else. Although the horse is out of the barn when it comes to that information being released, there are still steps we can take to try to protect ourselves.

Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet. Leave it at home, perhaps in an envelope inside a cabinet where you can access it easily.

Change your passwords. Use not only letters but numbers and symbols in your new passwords.

When you get a Medicare statement about any medical treatment you've had, go over it carefully to be certain there's nothing listed that you didn't get.

Be more cautious than ever about answering the phone. It's possible for thieves to fake the number they're calling from, and they can appear to be from your bank or another company you know. Never answer any questions about your personal information.

Be suspicious about any email you receive that asks for personal information. Don't click any links and just delete the email.

Send for your credit reports (or get them online) to check all your information. Put a freeze on all three credit bureaus at the same time. Those are TransUnion, Equifax and Experian. With a freeze, no one will be able to open a new account in your name because no one can check your credit. If necessary, you can do a temporary freeze lift if you're applying for credit somewhere. All three credit bureaus have this option available by phone.

Of all the data breaches we've had, this is the worst.

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1. What cyclist representing Great Britain won the Tour de France in 2013 and three straight times from 2015-17?

2. Comedian, actor and entertainer Bill Cosby was awarded a track and field scholarship to what university in 1961?

3. What member of the 1996 Stanley Cup champion Colorado Avalanche is the all-time leader for goals, assists, points and games played by a Latvian in the NHL?

4. Name the tight end for the Los Angeles Raiders who led the NFL in receptions twice with 92 in 1983 and 95 in 1986.

5. A fictional TV network called ESPN8: "The Ocho" was introduced in what 2004 sports comedy film starring Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn?

6. Daniel Wiffen, gold medalist in the men's 800-meter freestyle swim at the 2024 Paris Olympics, competed for what country?

7. Name the Anaheim Angels third baseman who was named MVP of the 2002 World Series?



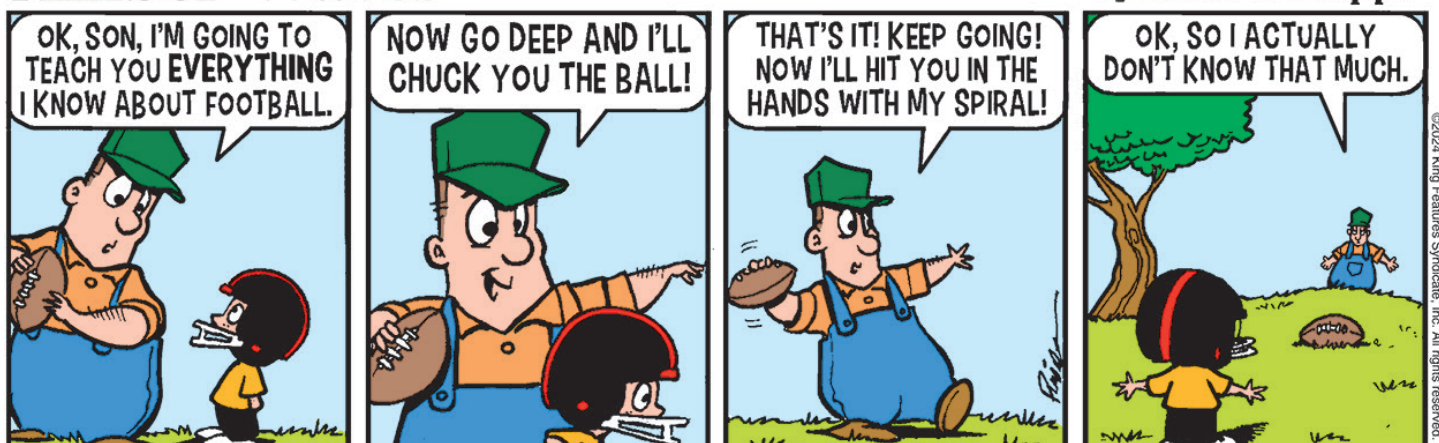
Answers

1. Chris Froome.
2. Temple University.
3. Sandis Ozolinsh.
4. Todd Christensen.
5. "DodgeBall: A True Underdog Story."
6. Ireland.
7. Troy Glaus.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Fight back against fleas

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My apartment has been infested with fleas all summer! I'm so frustrated. My two cats are suffering from hot spots and patchy fur because of the flea bites, and I've constantly got bites all over my legs. I don't want to give my cats flea medicine because I heard it is dangerous to their health. What can I do to get rid of these fleas? -- Cara J. in Macon, Georgia

DEAR CARA: You're going to have to plan an all-out assault on the flea infestation, and do it as soon as possible.

Talk to your veterinarian about the health risks and benefits of various flea and tick treatments. Ticks can give your cats heartworm and tapeworm. Your cats'

health is at greater risk right now from not doing anything than they would be from an effective treatment.

Next, get rid of the fleas and their eggs in your house with a complete cleaning and treatment. Take down the curtains and wash and dry them. Wash all your bedding and clothes. Dust from ceiling to floor. Vacuum the carpets thoroughly. Wash all mats and put out in the sun to dry. Clean every corner of the apartment. Clean fabric furniture with a steam cleaner. Flip the sofa and vacuum up all the dust bunnies and dirt.

Finally, with the cats sequestered in a safe room, treat the carpet to kill remaining fleas and their eggs. You can use a direct spray or an insecticide that is sprinkled into the carpet and vacuumed up.

This all-out assault will nearly wipe out the fleas in your home. But they can (and will) come back. To keep them on the retreat, vacuum twice a week, wash your cats' bedding weekly, and make sure the cats get their flea/tick/heartworm medication on schedule.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* When he's not busy predicting the weather at Gobbler's Knob, PA, America's most famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, lives in the town Library with his wife, Phyllis.

* LEGO has an underground vault with every set ever made.

* Though he's today regarded as one of history's greatest orators, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. received a "C" in public speaking while a student at Crozer Theological Seminary.

* Prior to the invention of the internet, Nintendo employed

game counselors whom players could ring for advice and assistance with navigating a game.

* Through the years, folks have come up with euphemisms for pooping, but surely Icelanders rank among the top contenders with "ad tefla vid pafann," roughly translatable as "playing chess with the pope."

* Kea parrots spread warbles when they're in a good mood, making them the first known non-mammal species to communicate with infectious laughter.

* Theodore Roosevelt's daughter Alice, who was generally known for being a bit of a handful, had a pet snake named Emily Spinach that she enjoyed toting about the White House in her purse and taking out at unexpected moments.

* Actor Bela Lugosi was buried in full Dracula costume.

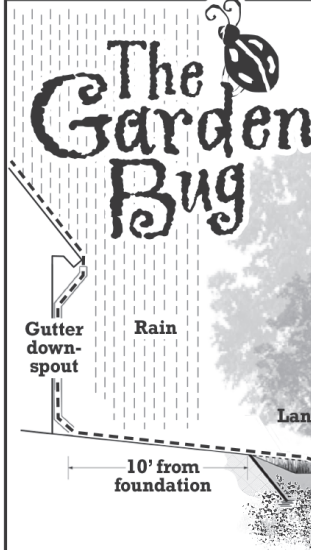
* The White House Press Briefing Room was built over what used to be an indoor swimming pool, installed for Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933.

* Female cicadas have been known to confuse the roar of power tools for mating calls, sometimes swarming people using lawn mowers.

* In 2016, a church in Colombo, Sri Lanka, accidentally printed the lyrics to Tupac Shakur's rap hit "Hail Mary" instead of the Catholic prayer of the same name, in the booklet for a Christmas carol service.

Thought for the Day: "Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there." -- Will Rogers

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The Garden Bug

Rain gardens are depressions in the landscape that collect water during rainfall. The rain is guided away from structures, flows down an incline to the depression, where it soaks down into the soil instead of flooding across the yard or washing topsoil down storm drains. Pollutants are filtered out as the rain sinks further into the soil and replenishes the aquifers deep underground. More complex rain gardens with drainage systems and amended soils are sometimes referred to as "bioretention."

Sources: www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-rain-gardens
www.uaex.uada.edu/environment-nature/water/conservation/rain-gardens.aspx

- Brenda Weaver



by Freddy Groves

K2 presumptives: Too late for too many

Sixteen thousand veterans who served at K2 are now eligible for expanded Department of Veterans Affairs benefits. This will be welcome (and overdue) news for many.

K2, also known as Karshi-Khanabad and Camp Stronghold Freedom, was an Uzbekistan airbase used from 2001 to 2005 during Operation Enduring Freedom after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The VA is now making Gulf War illnesses a presumptive in those who served at K2, recognizing that those who served there were exposed to "several contaminants of concern" and ensuring that exposures to those toxins are taken into account for K2 veteran claims -- all good steps forward.

But it wasn't always so. A 2015 study detailed all the multiple types of cancer among those who'd served at K2. The VA rejected the information and claimed there was no high rate of cancer even though there had been many documented cases.

A 2020 congressional study, however, opened up some previously classified documents that showed the toxins and hazards were very real and so were the health consequences:

Kerosene, jet fuel, contaminated soils that could "cause adverse health effects," particulate matter, uranium, elevated levels of tetrachloroethylene, burn pits, jet fuel plumes, radiation exposure, asbestos in the soil and more.

One of the veterans who testified before the committee said that they'd constantly been told there was no risk from the toxic exposures. Further, any high environmental readings were blamed on faulty test equipment.

A Deployment Health Clinical Center (now the Psychological Health Center of Excellence) advice sheet instructed medical staff to "listen actively" when returning service members expressed concerns about exposure to toxins at K2. "It often helps rapport if you thank them" for their service, it says. But meanwhile, yeah, they tried to abate radiation in the soil with more soil dumped on top, and you walked around in glowing green water and breathed in jet fuel fumes. But hey, the protective measures were effective, and would you like a mental health consultation?

If you're an ill K2 veteran or a surviving family member, call the VA. Don't wait until they call you.

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Wishing Well®

7	5	8	3	6	7	2	3	8	4	8	5	7
A	F	S	C	L	C	A	H	H	P	A	E	H
3	6	4	7	3	6	8	7	2	5	2	3	4
E	O	E	I	C	O	R	L	C	E	H	K	R
7	2	4	6	8	7	5	2	4	7	5	4	2
D	A	S	K	E	B	L	N	O	R	I	N	G
3	2	4	6	2	3	2	7	4	6	7	3	5
I	E	A	A	I	T	N	I	L	H	N	T	N
8	5	2	7	4	6	2	5	7	5	7	5	7
I	G	R	G	G	E	O	S	S	R	J	U	O
2	6	4	5	7	5	4	6	3	2	5	8	2
U	A	R	N	Y	D	O	D	W	T	E	D	I
4	8	3	4	2	5	3	5	4	3	2	8	8
W	E	I	T	N	E	C	P	H	E	E	A	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. GEOGRAPHY: How many lakes are in the Great Lakes Basin?
2. MOVIES: What is the little girl's last name in the film "Matilda"?
3. TELEVISION: What is the name of the teacher on the animated kids' series "The Magic School Bus"?
4. LITERATURE: In which historic period is Jack London's novel "Call of the Wild" set?
5. U.S. CITIES: Which city's nickname is "City by the Bay"?
6. ANATOMY: How much of the human body is made up of water?
7. SCIENCE: What is heliology?
8. HISTORY: Which world leader's birth name is Jorge Mario Bergoglio?
9. ASTRONOMY: In what year did a U.S. astronaut land on the moon?
10. ENTERTAINERS: Which famous actor who starred in "The Notebook" was once a member of "The Mickey Mouse Club"?

Answers

1. Five.
2. Wormwood.
3. Ms. Frizzle.
4. 1890s Klondike Gold Rush.
5. San Francisco, California.
6. About 60%.
7. Scientific study of the Sun.
8. Pope Francis.
9. 1969.
10. Ryan Gosling.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Fairgoing

Each year, we celebrate the South Dakota State Fair in the days leading up to Labor Day. Things kick off Wednesday and wrap up Monday. I love the State Fair for so many reasons. I always head for the pork sandwiches and ice cream. The bull riding and concerts are excellent, and we have plenty of celebrations!

What I love in particular is the wide variety of those celebrations. I spent a day at the Fair this year, and these are just a few of the things that we celebrated:

Family farms and ranches that have been in the same family for 100 years, 125 years, or 150 years – (isn't that incredible?);

Our annual Salute to Veterans program, which thanks all of our veterans from each American conflict and those who didn't make it home;

The Daughters of the American Revolution and the work that they do to educate our kids on America's history and founding principles;

The work that our various agriculture advocacy groups do to promote our state's most important industry;

The groundbreaking of the next revolutionary facility at the State Fairgrounds: the SHED; and

The Bull Bash, a terrific competition that also included another program to honor our veterans.

And that was just Thursday at the State Fair!

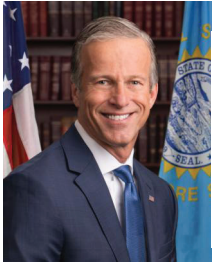
Even with all of South Dakota's amazing growth, we are still a state that runs on small town values. And we see that in full effect at the State Fair. People are happy and friendly. They have a smile on their face and say "hello" when you walk by. They run into old friends and make plenty of new ones.

I wish that every South Dakotan took the opportunity to see everything that our State Fair has to offer. It's a tremendous educational opportunity for our kids, and there's lots of fun to be had, as well! And the concerts offer something for folks of all different musical tastes.

Next year's State Fair will take place between Wednesday, August 27, and Monday, September 1, 2025. We hope to see you there!

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JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

On the Road in South Dakota

Like many South Dakotans, I spend a lot of summer days on the road. The longer state work period gives me the chance to spend more time traveling our state far and wide and doing one thing I find very rewarding: listening to you. This summer took me everywhere from Leola to Brookings to Fort Pierre, my hometown of Murdo, and many places in between.

Of course, there's no better place to spend a South Dakota summer day than at a fair. I look forward to fair season all year. It's a pleasure to see familiar faces, hear from people about what's happening in their community, and get some great food too, like my favorite: the Tubby Burger at the Brown County Fair.

Traveling the state also provides me an important opportunity to hear from farmers and ranchers. I enjoyed joining the Aberdeen Chamber's Agribusiness luncheon at this year's Brown County Fair. Each year the South Dakota Farm Bureau also hosts a congressional update at Dakotafest in Mitchell, and I appreciated the opportunity to hear directly from members of the agriculture community about the need for Congress to pass a farm bill. I share their deep frustration that Congress will likely simply extend the current farm bill instead of passing an updated law, but I'm committed working hard until the job is done.

It was great to be in our West River communities this summer and see how they are supporting military families. I visited the Liberty Center in Box Elder, which offers year-round indoor exercise and recreation space for Ellsworth airmen, their families, and the local community. And I had the privilege of joining service members and their families in Rapid City for the annual Military Appreciation Barbecue. I'm proud that South Dakota not only punches above its weight in military service, but our communities go the extra mile to support those who serve.

Summertime travels also give me the chance to meet with some of the people who keep our communities and their local economies going. I visited Ricky's Restaurant in Roscoe, met with homebuilders in Sioux Falls and health care professionals in Howard, and I learned about some of the great things happening at South Dakota State University and Black Hills State University among other visits and meetings.

And what would the summer be without a few celebrations? I had a blast at the Fort Pierre Fourth of July parade seeing South Dakotans at their patriotic best, and it was great to be back in Murdo to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Pioneer Auto Show and remember longtime museum owner, David Geisler.

Exploring our state is wonderful any time of year, but there's something extra special about South Dakota in the summertime. The sunshine on the open prairie, the smell of the Ponderosa Pine, and the people I get to meet along the way remind me how lucky I am to be a South Dakotan and what an honor it is to represent our state in the U.S. Senate.

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BIG Investments

BIG Update

Shein and Temu are two Chinese fast fashion online shopping platforms that are known for their low prices in American markets. Their low prices are partly due to the "de minimis" rule, which allows goods with a value of \$800 or less per shipment to enter the U.S. duty free, allowing these companies to avoid paying taxes and duty fees to ship to America. This loophole could threaten American competitiveness and increase prices on U.S. goods.

The de minimis rule also allows them to avoid bearing responsibility for complying with forced labor standards. Work from the Select Committee on China has revealed there are serious concerns about both companies' products being made with forced labor, and an extremely high risk that Temu utilizes forced labor. This is unacceptable, and America must step up enforcement to ensure these goods do not cross our shores.

Recently, 21 state attorneys general sent a letter to Temu to pursue answers for these concerns and other concerns over Americans' private data that may be collected by Temu. I hope consumers are informed and can make wise decisions to protect their data while shopping.

BIG Idea

Lewis Drug and independent pharmacies are working to meet the needs of their community members day in and day out. They do this while burdened by a system that unfairly benefits pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). Congress must continue to work to pass policies aimed at creating more price transparency and fairness for pharmacists. Many small, rural communities rely on their independent pharmacy to receive their drugs. Without them, rural Americans will be left without viable options.

This week, I visited the Lewis Drug in Huron. They did a phenomenal job showing me around their workflow and processes.

BIG News

The Biden Administration's continued attempts to cancel unpaid student loans was paused again by the Supreme Court. Over the past three years, President Biden has attempted to spend an unprecedented \$1 trillion to cancel student debts.

The President doesn't have authority to unilaterally spend these funds – the power of the purse lies with Congress. The United States is facing an unprecedented debt and deficit crisis. Instead of spending into oblivion, we should work to identify ways to make college tuition more affordable for students.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

Doctor, Could You Repeat That?

For the first time in my life, I've been having health issues. It was nothing serious, but just enough to be aggravating.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has been very helpful with my medical issues. She arranges all of the medicine I'm supposed to take every day; otherwise, I probably wouldn't take any.

She often asks me, "How are you today?"

I look at her, smile, and say, "I'm fine."

"No, you are not fine. Now take your medicine."

Obviously, she doesn't think I'm fine, but I guess I'm fine with that.

My health issues are very superficial, at least from my perspective. I get up in the morning, eat everything I can get a hold of, take a little nap in the afternoon, and do whatever I want to do.

No matter what I do or don't do, I am still "not fine," according to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

When I have a doctor's appointment, she usually accompanies me because she knows I will not remember anything the doctor says. Of course, she is absolutely truthful about that. I hear what my doctor is saying, but I'm not always listening to what he says. The only thing I hear from the doctor is, "You're doing fine; keep up the good work."

Most health issues have to do with getting old. The older you get, the more your body seems to wear out. So, I'm going to continue getting as old as I can, even if it means hobbling down the road of life.

I noticed something rather interesting. Whenever I go to see a doctor, he or she is always looking for what's wrong with me. I never had a doctor examine me to find something that was right with me.

I know what that means, of course. If there's nothing wrong with me, the doctor has no job. If he does find something wrong, no matter how small, he at least has a job.

Several years ago, before I had these health issues, I went to my doctor every year for an annual checkup. Every time I went, the doctor ended the session by saying, "Somebody your age should have something wrong with them." He was always trying to find something wrong with me. It's a good thing I wasn't seeing a psychiatrist.

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I remember something happening at one of my yearly visits to the doctor. It was on a Monday, and the day before, I had an episode of shingles on the right side of my body. At the time, I didn't know what it was.

When I went to see the doctor on Monday, I showed him some of the marks on my right arm, and I've never seen my doctor so excited.

He said, "Let me examine that. Something must be wrong."

Well, he examined it and re-examined it, and every time he examined it, his smile got bigger and bigger. Then, after his examination, he said, "You have been hit with the shingles."

Of course, I didn't know what that meant at the time, but he explained it, and every other sentence was a giggle. I'm one patient who never had anything wrong with them and finally has something wrong with him. That's what my doctor lives for.

That was over five years ago, and it seems like my health went downhill after that. Not too much, just enough to be aggravating. I did spend several days in the hospital. I had a heart attack and had to have a stent put in. I had the Covid episode, which kept me locked in my house for two weeks.

In spite of all of that, I seem to be getting back to some good health. I still have to have regular six-month physical checkups. I have a series of doctors that I have to see, and that just is life.

Last week, for example, I had my six-month appointment to see my heart doctor. I had some tests taken a week before, and he was going to review them for me at this appointment.

He went through all of the regular processes, examined my report, and finally, he was finished. As he was closing up my file, he simply said, "Sir, you are good."

I looked at him and said, "What did you say doctor?"

"I said, you were good."

Looking at him and then back at my wife, who was with me, I said, "Doctor, could you repeat that last word for me so my wife can hear it?"

He looked at me, my wife, and then laughed and said, "good."

I looked over at my wife, who was not smiling then, and said, "My dear, did you hear what the doctor said? Do you need the doctor to repeat it?"

Looking at me with no smile, she said, "I heard everything the doctor said."

As we left the doctor's office, I smiled and said as I walked out, "I'm good." Let's see how The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can handle that one.

For many years my favorite Bible verse has been, Proverbs 17:22, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones"

I realize there are many problems in life, but my focus should not be on that, but on the God who is bigger than any problem I might have. My faith in God creates a merry heart in my life.

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EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Now that his time as president is winding down, what will Joe Biden's environmental legacy look like in the eyes of history?

-- Maria T., Pittsburgh. PA

Joe Biden's run in the nation's highest office may be over soon, BUT his environmental legacy will likely be remembered as a pivotal step in American history towards fighting climate change and building a more sustainable future. Since his tenure as V.P. in 2016, Biden has made ambitious environmental goals and proposed legislative efforts to establish the U.S. as a world leader in reducing climate change.



Joe Biden will go down in history as one of America's greenest presidents given his efforts to fight climate change and build a more sustainable future. Credit: Prachatai, FlickrCC.

On his first day in office as President, Biden rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement that Donald Trump withdrew from during his term. Adopted by 196 countries (including the U.S.) in 2015, the Paris Climate Agreement aims to hold "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and incentivizing low-carbon solutions. However, following Biden's victory in the 2020 election, the U.S. rejoined with even bigger plans for the U.S. to fight against climate change. According to the non-profit World Resources Institute, the U.S. is now on track to reach Biden's goal of cutting 50 percent of carbon emissions from 2005 levels by 2030.

In addition to Biden's efforts on the Paris Climate Agreement, his passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and CHIPS and Science Act will also likely be seen as a major achievement in his environmental legacy. The IRA is the most significant climate legislation in history, granting more than one trillion dollars in federal tax credits and tens of billions of dollars in investments and incentives for clean energy technologies, electric vehicles and renewable energy. The acts not only create more jobs for green energy production but also demonstrate the U.S.'s commitment to building a low-carbon economy.

Another major aspect of Biden's environmental legacy is his efforts on environmental justice. Through the Justice40 program, the Biden administration has pledged "40 percent of the overall benefits" of Federal investments in climate and affordable housing to disadvantaged communities affected by pollution. By allocating significant resources to help disadvantaged communities, the U.S. government can provide infrastructure and "confront decades of underinvestment in disadvantaged communities."

No doubt, Joe Biden will go down in history as one of the most environmentally-focused American presidents. No other president has enacted as many policies and put in as many resources to combat climate change and its surrounding issues as Biden. However, while his administration has made significant progress in some areas, long-term solutions can only come to fruition through sustained implementation of these policies by future administrations.

.. EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Noem denies clemency to two thieves, updates commutation for woman convicted of murder

BY: JOHN HULT - AUGUST 31, 2024 2:00 PM

One week after inking a second commutation in as many months for a person convicted of murder, Gov. Kristi Noem denied sentence reduction requests for two men serving time on theft charges.

Noem sent the denial letters Wednesday to 78-year-old Elmos Hopkins and 46-year-old James Pasek.

Hopkins picked up two five-year sentences for grand theft and one 50-year sentence for burglary in Lincoln County in 2012. His initial parole date is set for August of 2037.

Pasek was sentenced to life in prison as a habitual thief in 2003 based on an armed robbery conviction in Lawrence County and multiple previous grand theft convictions.

The two letters are among eight clemency denial letters signed this year by Noem's office. Over the summer, she denied a commutation request from Edward Flad, serving time for a Brown County child pornography conviction. It's the second time Noem has denied clemency for Flad.

Each denial came in response to a clemency recommendation by the state's Board of Pardons and Paroles. The board reviews requests for commutations, which reduce a current inmate's sentence, and for pardons, which clear old charges from a person's record entirely. If a majority of its nine members vote to recommend clemency, the recommendation heads to the governor's desk.

Under the South Dakota Constitution, only the governor can issue pardons or commutations.

Noem has signed 17 denial letters for pardons and commutations since taking office, according to her office's response to multiple public records requests throughout 2024.

Her first commutation denial letter was sent in March of 2022 to John Proctor, who killed the stepson of his lover in Meade County in 1972. In July of this year, Noem issued Proctor a commutation.

On Aug. 21, Noem signed a commutation for Renee Eckes, who is in prison for murder in the 1998 death of David Bauman of Watertown.

On Wednesday, the governor signed an updated version of that commutation, provided to South Dakota Searchlight by the South Dakota Secretary of State's Office. Unlike the commutation for Eckes signed last week, the Wednesday version notes that Eckes' separate five-year forgery sentence will now run concurrent with her sentence for murder, which has been reduced from life to 45 years. Eckes will be eligible for parole in September of 2027 on the murder charge. The adjustment to the forgery sentence in her new commutation means she will be able to request parole at that time, and not five years later.

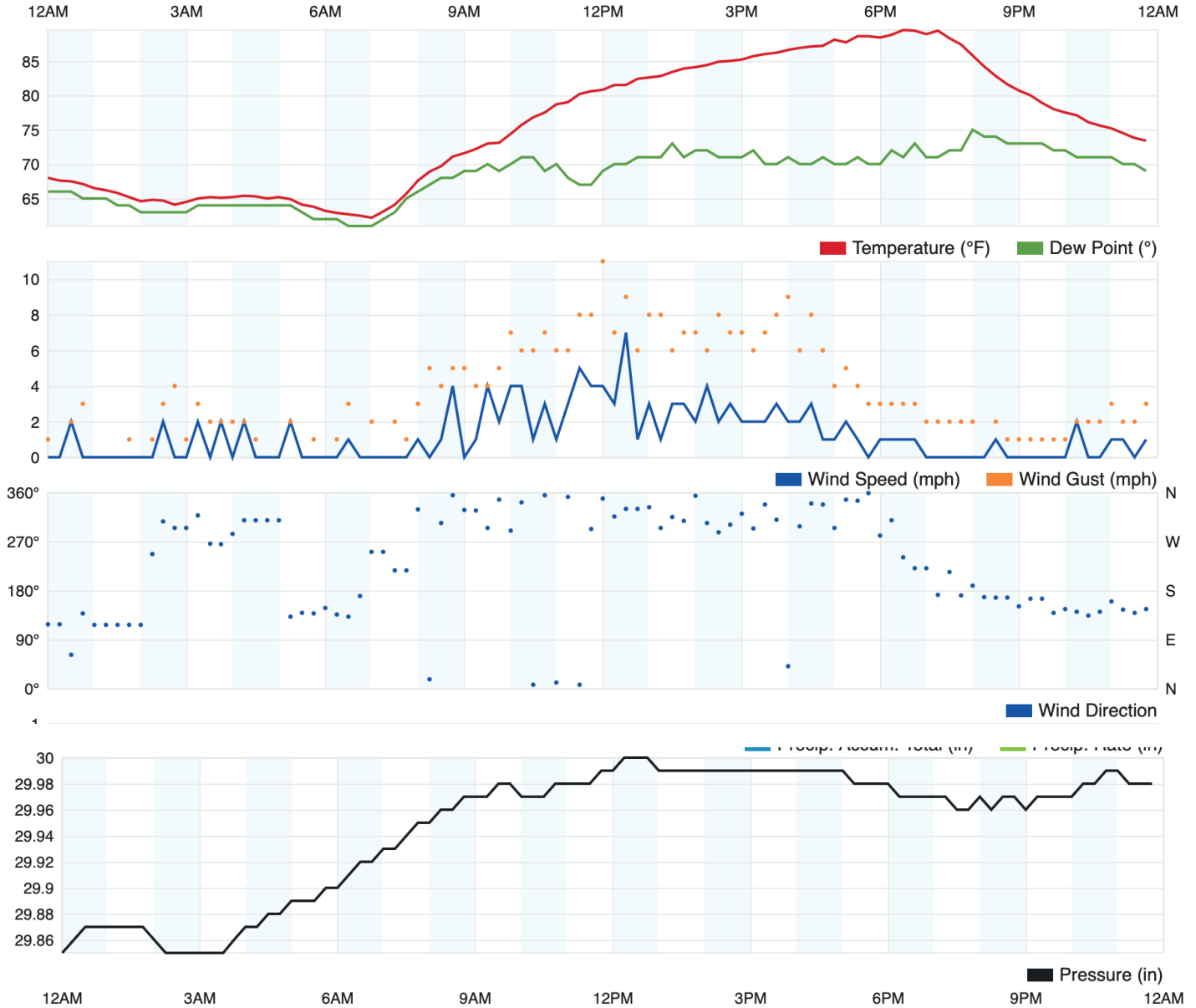
The governor's office did not immediately respond to a request for a comment on the change to Eckes' commutation or on the denials issued over the summer.

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

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 76 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 53 °F

Clear

Labor Day



High: 81 °F

Sunny and
Breezy

Monday Night



Low: 63 °F

Mostly Clear
and Breezy

Tuesday



High: 87 °F

Sunny and
Breezy

Today



Highs: 72-82°F

Labor Day



Highs: 77-95°F
AM Lows: 48-59°F

Increasing southerly winds
with gusts to 40 mph;
warmest west river

High pressure will keep the region dry and seasonable today. As the high shifts east into Minnesota on Monday, southerly winds will increase and temperatures will climb well above normal west river.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 85 °F at 2:42 PM

Low Temp: 57 °F at 4:43 AM

Wind: 15 mph at 2:49 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 13 hours, 17 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 102 in 1970

Record Low: 30 in 1893

Average High: 80

Average Low: 52

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.07

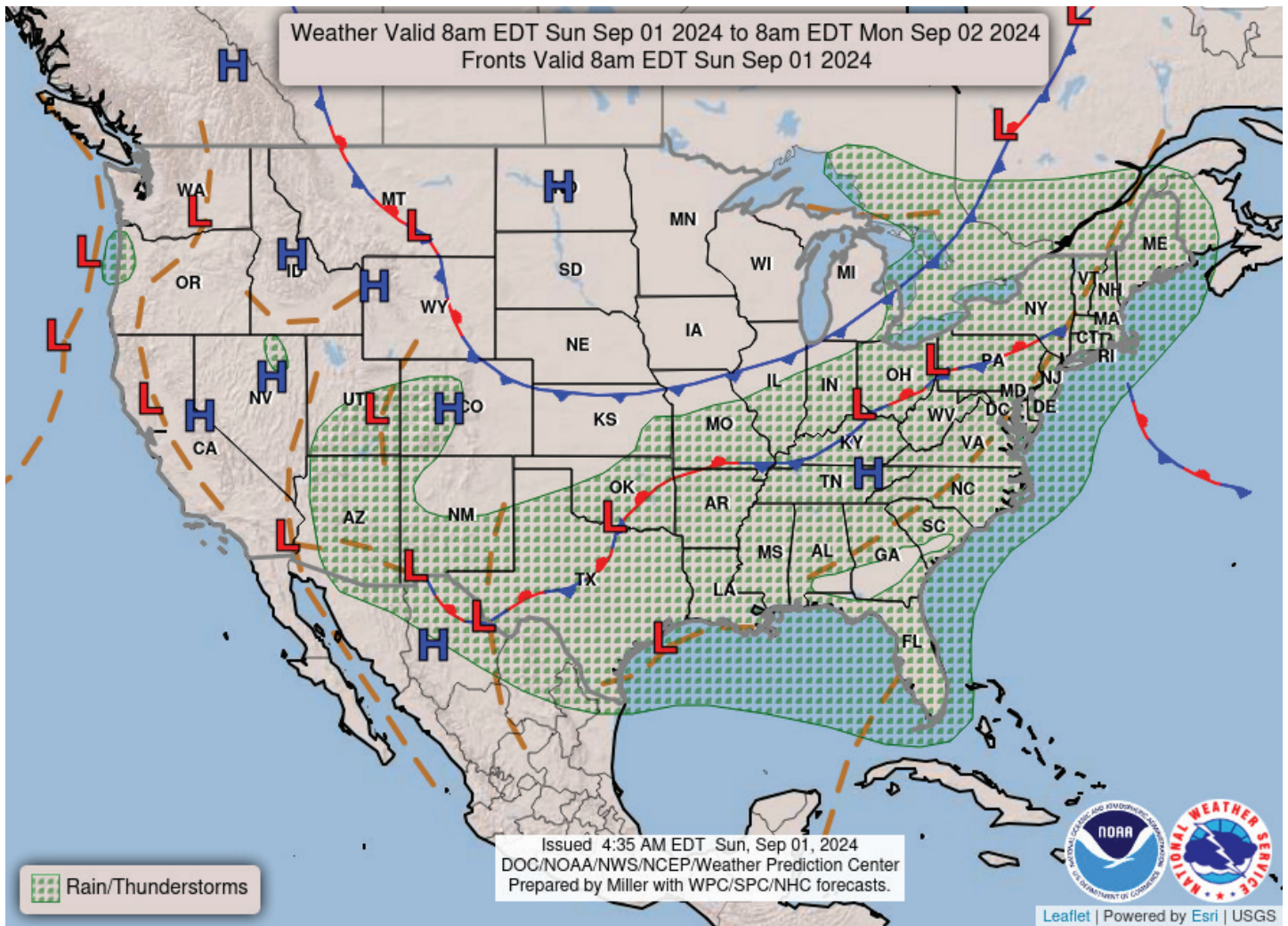
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 16.34

Precip Year to Date: 19.41

Sunset Tonight: 8:10:54 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:54:36 am



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Today in Weather History

September 1, 1990: Several severe thunderstorms in northwest South Dakota dropped from penny to softball size hail during the afternoon and early evening hours. The hail caused a good deal of structural damage to houses and farm buildings. The largest hailstone of 4 inches in diameter was reported at Sorum in Perkins County. There was also a wind gust to 86 mph measured at Buffalo during a severe thunderstorm.

September 1, 2010: A couple of weak tornadoes touched down briefly in the late evening west of Tulare with no damage occurring.

1859: One of the largest geomagnetic storms on record occurred on this day in 1859. Click [HERE](#) for more information from NASA. 1862: The Battle of Ox Hill (or Chantilly) is also known as the only major Civil War battle to have been fought during a storm. "A severe thunderstorm erupted, resulting in limited visibility and an increased dependence on the bayonet, as the rain soaked the ammunition of the infantry and made it useless." From Taylor, Paul. *He Hath Loosed the Fateful Lightning: The Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly), September 1, 1862.*

1869: Cleveland Abbe issued the first Weather Bulletin for the city of Cincinnati, Ohio. It contained a few observations telegraphed from distant observers and the "probabilities" for the next day. The bulletin was written by hand.

1894: The Great Hinckley Fire, which burned an area of at least 200,000 acres or perhaps more than 250,000 acres including the town of Hinckley, Minnesota occurred on this day. The official death count was 418 though the actual number of fatalities was likely higher.

1897 - Hailstone drifts six feet deep were reported in Washington County, IA. (The Weather Channel)

1914 - The town of Bloomington, MI, was deluged with 9.78 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a state record. (31st-1st) (The Weather Channel)

1928: Leslie Gray from the Weather Bureau in San Francisco was the first weather forecaster to be deployed to a wildfire.

1952: A cold front brought damaging winds to Fort Worth, Texas, including the Carswell Air Force Base where thirty-five B-36 planes received damage. The anemometer indicated 90 mph winds before being smashed by debris.

1955 - The temperature at Los Angeles, CA, soared to an all-time high of 110 degrees during an eight day string of 100 degree weather. (David Ludlum)

1961: An F4 tornado traveled through parts of Butler and Bremer Counties in Iowa. Unfortunately, there is limited information in the Storm Data entry about this event. Per Thomas Grazulis in *Significant Tornadoes*, the tornado began NW of Dumont and ended NE of Horton. Several farms along the path were "leveled". It was reported at one farm that fruit jars were "sucked out of the basement" after the house was swept away. There were 7 injuries reported with this event and zero fatalities.

1974: Lt. Judy Neuffer became the first female to fly a Hurricane Hunter aircraft through the eye of a hurricane.

1979 - A home in Centerville TN was hit by lightning and totally destroyed. It marked the third time that the house had been hit by lightning since being built in 1970. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Cool Canadian air invaded the Midwest. Six cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Indianapolis IN with a reading of 44 degrees. Hot weather continued in the northwestern U.S. Five cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Hanover WA, where the mercury soared to 106 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the Upper Mississippi Valley. Ely, MN, was drenched with three inches of rain in two hours, and pelted with one inch hail. The heavy rain flooded streets and basements, and the high water pressure which resulted blew the covers off manholes. (The National Weather Summary)(Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather in Oklahoma during the late afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms produced hail two inches in diameter west of Arapahoe, and wind gusts to 70 mph at Luther and south of Harrah. Early morning thunderstorms over Indiana drenched Kokomo with five to eight inches of rain, and spawned a tornado which injured three persons at Bruce Lake. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data) 2017: The temperature at Downtown San Francisco reached 106° setting their all-time record high. The previous record was 103° on June 14th, 2000.



A CUP OF WATER

We had been traveling all night by train, moving rapidly toward our destination. Suddenly things turned upside down. Our passenger train was hit head on by a freight train. It was a frightening experience. Wreckage was all around us; people were screaming in pain. The crew was doing all they could to provide comfort until help arrived.

But God was protecting us, and we were uninjured. Fortunately, we were able to help others in their distress by doing whatever we could to assist those who were injured. Shortly after the accident, we discovered a little girl who was crying so we reached out to help her. She was pleading for water. Unfortunately, we had none. Suddenly, a man appeared out of the wreckage with a container of water and offered to share it with her.

As he gave her a cup of water, he said, "I'm sorry I'm not a doctor and cannot bandage your wounds. And, I am sorry there is no medicine available to ease your pain. But, I am thankful that I can give you what I have: water." He gave her what he could, from what he had.

Jesus emphasized the importance of "a cup of water." Read and hear Him say, "If anyone gives a cup of water in the name of the Messiah, that one will be rewarded!"

Our Lord did not ask us to do great things, just simple things. Jesus never left anyone with a need He could meet. He expects the same of us: "Give to others as I have given to you!"

Prayer: Heavenly Father, may our eyes, ears, and hearts be open to see and hear the needs of those around us. May we share Your love by sharing Your gifts. In Your Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: If anyone gives a cup of water in the name of the Messiah, that one will be rewarded. Mark 9:41

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:
08.30.24

10 17 20 24 54 8

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$681,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.31.24

17 18 32 42 51 6

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$8,170,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.31.24

2 15 37 45 46 18

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 13 Hrs 56 Mins
50 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.31.24

5 9 12 18 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$20,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.31.24

19 32 43 55 58 12

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.31.24

4 34 35 38 69 19

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$80,000,000

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

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News from the Associated Press

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Jones County def. Bison, 25-16, 25-20, 25-20

Miller def. Sioux Falls Lutheran, 25-9, 25-9, 25-21

Mobridge-Pollock def. Chamberlain, 25-8, 25-6, 25-6

Pine Ridge def. Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud, 25-23, 25-21

T F Riggs High School def. Rapid City Central, 26-24, 21-25, 25-21, 25-16

Bennett County Triangular=

Bennett County def. Stanley County, 25-21, 26-24, 25-14

Bennett County def. Wall, 25-16, 24-26, 25-16, 25-17

Wall def. Stanley County, 17-25, 16-25, 25-14, 25-23, 15-13

Canton Invitational=

Baltic def. Canton, 26-24, 25-17

Baltic def. Lennox, 25-21, 21-25, 25-15

Baltic def. Vermillion, 25-15, 25-14

Baltic def. West Sioux, Iowa, 25-11, 25-19

Canton def. Garretson, 25-19, 25-12

Garretson def. Vermillion, 25-15, 25-14

Garretson def. West Monona, Iowa, 25-16, 25-17

Custer Varsity Invitational=

Todd County def. Newell, 25-23, 23-25, 25-22

Custer Varsity Tournament=

Edgemont def. Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud, 21-25, 26-24, 25-13

Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud def. Hot Springs, 25-10, 25-22

Huron Tournament=

Brookings def. Mitchell, 25-13, 21-25, 25-22

Brookings def. Spearfish, 25-20, 25-13

Chester def. Brandon Valley, 19-25, 25-22, 25-21

Chester def. Douglas, 58-9, 58-17

Chester def. Watertown, 25-21, 20-25, 25-22

Dell Rapids def. Brookings, 25-11, 25-22

Dell Rapids def. Mitchell, 25-14, 25-15

Dell Rapids def. Spearfish, 25-20, 25-22

Dell Rapids def. Watertown, 25-20, 22-25, 25-19

Huron def. Brookings, 25-10, 25-19

Huron def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-14, 25-12

Northwestern def. Douglas, 25-21, 25-16

Northwestern def. Huron, 26-28, 25-21, 25-17

Northwestern def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-10, 25-17

Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Huron, 22-25, 25-17, 25-14

Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Northwestern, 27-25, 29-27

Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Spearfish, 25-15, 26-24

Spearfish def. Mitchell, 25-19, 25-18

Watertown def. Brandon Valley, 25-19, 19-25, 25-22

Norfolk Invitational=

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Pool B=

Bennington, Neb. def. Yankton, 25-12, 25-15

Kearney, Neb. def. Yankton, 25-11, 23-25, 25-22

Parkston VB Tournament=

Warner def. Kimball-White Lake, 25-11, 25-12

Warner def. McCook Central-Montrose, 25-9, 25-15

Warner def. Parkston, 25-16, 25-22

Warner def. Wagner, 25-8, 25-9

Rapid City Christian Tournament=

Pool 1=

Chadron, Neb. def. New Underwood, 25-15, 25-13

Rapid City Christian def. Chadron, Neb., 26-24, 25-18

Quarterfinal=

Chadron, Neb. def. St. Francis Indian, 25-12, 25-15

Semifinal=

Hill City def. Chadron, Neb., 25-16, 25-15

Third Place=

Chadron, Neb. def. Rapid City Christian, 14-25, 27-25, 25-16

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

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL=

Brandon Valley 20, Sioux Falls Washington 7

Harrisburg 14, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 0

Lower Brule 68, Flandreau Indian 0

T F Riggs High School 20, Aberdeen Central High School 14

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

No. 17 Oklahoma State ends FCS champ

South Dakota State's 29-game winning streak with 44-20 victory

By TIM WILLERT Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — Alan Bowman threw three touchdown passes, Ollie Gordon II scored three times and No. 17 Oklahoma State ended two-time defending FCS national champion South Dakota State's 29-game winning streak with a 44-20 victory Saturday.

Bowman, beginning his seventh year of eligibility at age 24, completed 25 of 34 passes for 265 yards in the opener for both teams. He threw scoring passes of 6 yards to Brennan Presley, 22 yards to Ollie Gordon II and 58 yards to Rashod Owens.

"Overall, I was pleased with the performance from a discipline standpoint," Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said. "We only had one penalty, which is really good, and I thought we were good in special teams. Defensively, we played good and then gave up big plays."

Gordon, a junior who won the Doak Walker Award as the nation's top running back last season, carried 27 times for 104 yards and two scores. His second touchdown, on a short pass from Bowman, covered 22 yards for a 24-6 lead with 10:46 left in the third.

"I thought he ran very well today, made guys miss, guys bounce off of him," Gundy said. "He made big runs at key times today and he looks better physically running than he even did last year."

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South Dakota State answered behind quarterback Mark Gronowski, the reigning Walter Payton Award winner as the top offensive player in the Football Championship Subdivision. He took the Jackrabbits 75 yards in three plays, capping the drive with a 21-yard scoring pass to Graham Goering to make it 24-13.

Oklahoma State responded with 17 straight points to make it 41-13.

"Congratulations to Coach Gundy and Oklahoma State," South Dakota State coach Jimmy Rogers said. "I thought they played really well, I thought they were as good as advertised. They did a lot of really, really good things offensively. And then defensively, at times they just kind of took the wind out of our sails.

"We'll respond. This isn't the end of the world to me. We have 11 more games to play and we're going to give it our best."

The Cowboys led 17-6 at the half, limiting the Jackrabbits to two field goals.

Gronowski completed 20 of 37 passes for 264 yards and two touchdowns.

South Dakota State's 29-game winning streak, which spanned nearly two years, was the third-longest in Football Championship Subdivision history. North Dakota State won 39 straight games between 2017 and 2020 and 33 in a row between 2012 and 2014. The Jackrabbits' last loss before Saturday came against Iowa on Sept. 3, 2022. The Hawkeyes won 7-3.

TAKEAWAY

South Dakota State moved the ball, compiling 388 yards of total offense and 17 first downs. But the Jackrabbits failed to convert in key situations, including their first two possessions of the game. They were stopped on fourth down and then Gronowski was intercepted by Kobie Black. Oklahoma State converted the turnover into points on Presley's score.

STEPPING UP

Oklahoma State safety Trey Rucker had 15 tackles while linebacker Nick Martin contributed 10 tackles and a tackle behind the line of scrimmage that resulted in a 9-yard loss. Adam Bock led the Jackrabbits with 12 tackles.

BOTH SIDES

Former Oklahoma player Gavin Freeman, who joined Oklahoma State via the transfer portal, caught his first two passes for the Cowboys, returned a punt for 2 yards and a kickoff for 17 yards.

UP NEXT

South Dakota State: Hosts Incarnate Word on Sept. 7.

Oklahoma State: Hosts Arkansas on Sept. 7.

Russia says it downed over 150 drones in one of the biggest Ukrainian drone attacks of the war

By The Associated Press undefined

Russian air defenses intercepted and destroyed 158 Ukrainian drones overnight, including two over Moscow and nine over the surrounding region, the Defense Ministry said Sunday.

Forty-six of the drones were over the Kursk region, where Ukraine has sent its forces in recent weeks in the largest incursion on Russian soil since World War II. A further 34 were shot over the Bryansk region, 28 over the Voronezh region, and 14 over the Belgorod region — all of which border Ukraine.

Drones were also shot down deeper into Russia, including one each in the Tver region, northwest of Moscow, and the Ivanovo region, northeast of the Russian capital. Russia's Defense Ministry said drones were intercepted over 15 regions, while one other governor said a drone was shot down over his region, too.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said that falling debris from one of the two drones shot down over the city caused a fire at an oil refinery.

Ukrainian drone strikes have brought the fight far from the front line into the heart of Russia. Since the beginning of the year, Ukraine has stepped up aerial assaults on Russian soil, targeting refineries and oil terminals to slow down the Kremlin's assault.

Meanwhile, Russia's Defense Ministry said Sunday it had taken control of the towns of Pivnichne and Vyimka, in Ukraine's Donetsk region. The Associated Press could not independently verify the claim.

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Russian forces have been driving deeper into the partly occupied eastern region, the total capture of which is one of the Kremlin's primary ambitions. Russia's army is closing in on Pokrovsk, a critical logistics hub for the Ukrainian defense in the area.

In Ukraine overnight, eight drones were shot down out of 11 launched by Russia, according to the Ukrainian air force.

One person was killed and four wounded in shelling overnight in the Sumy region, local officials said, while Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said five people were wounded in his region. On Sunday, 28 more were wounded when Russia shelled the regional capital, also called Kharkiv, Mayor Ihor Terekhov said.

Syniehubov said a shopping center, a sports facility and residential buildings were among those damaged in Sunday's attack.

Illegal voting by noncitizens is rare, yet Republicans are making it a major issue this election

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

Only U.S. citizens are eligible to vote in this fall's election for president and other top offices. While that is nothing new, the potential for noncitizens to register or vote has been receiving a lot of attention lately.

Citing an influx of immigrants in recent years at the U.S.-Mexico border, Republicans have raised concerns about the possibility that noncitizens will be voting and they have taken steps in numerous states to address that prospect, even though cases of noncitizens actually voting are rare.

GOP officials have undertaken reviews of voter rolls, issued executive orders and placed constitutional amendments on state ballots as part of an emphasis on thwarting noncitizen voting. Some Democrats contend the measures could create hurdles for legal voters, are unnecessary and lead people to believe the problem of noncitizens voting is bigger than it really is.

What does the law say?

A 1996 U.S. law makes it illegal for noncitizens to vote in elections for president or members of Congress. Violators can be fined and imprisoned for up to a year. They can also be deported.

When people register to vote, they confirm under penalty of perjury that they are U.S. citizens. Federal law requires states to regularly maintain their voter rolls and remove anyone who is ineligible, a process that could identify immigrants living in the country illegally.

No state constitutions explicitly allow noncitizens to vote, and many states have laws that prohibit noncitizens from voting for state offices such as governor or attorney general. But some municipalities in California, Maryland and Vermont, as well as the District of Columbia, do allow voting by noncitizens in some local elections such as for school board and city council.

What does the data say?

Voting by noncitizens is rare. Yet Republican officials have highlighted voter registration reviews that turned up potential noncitizens.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, said this past week that more than 6,500 potential noncitizens have been removed from Texas voter rolls since 2021, including 1,930 with "a voter history" who have been referred for investigation by the attorney general's office. Texas has almost 18 million registered voters.

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, a Republican, said in August that he referred for potential prosecution 138 apparent noncitizens found to have voted in a recent election and 459 more who registered but did not vote. Those figures were higher than reviews from previous years but a small fraction of the more than 8 million registered voters in Ohio.

Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen, a Republican, recently announced that 3,251 people previously identified as noncitizens by the federal government are being switched to inactive status on the state's voter registration rolls. They will be required to provide proof of citizenship and fill out a form to vote in November. Alabama has more than 3 million registered voters.

In Georgia, Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger found that 1,634 potential noncitizens tried to register to vote between 1997 and 2022, though election officials flagged them and none was

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registered. Georgia registered millions of other voters during that time.

Some election administration experts have said the voter roll reviews show that current tools to flag noncitizen voters are working.

What do the courts say?

Arizona provides a case study for the long-running attempts by Republicans to prohibit noncitizen voting.

Under a 2004 voter-approved initiative, Arizona required a driver's license, birth certificate, passport or other similar document to approve a federal voter registration application. But the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2013 that Arizona cannot require documentary proof of citizenship for people to vote in federal elections.

The state responded by creating two classes of voters. For state and local elections, voters must provide proof of citizenship when they register or have it on file with the state. But because that cannot be required in presidential and congressional elections, tens of thousands of voters who have not provided proof of citizenship are registered only for federal elections.

An August order by a divided U.S. Supreme Court will allow voter registration forms submitted without "documentary proof of citizenship" to be rejected by Arizona counties while litigation over the law continues. People will be able to register to vote in presidential and congressional elections using a different federal form that requires people to swear they are citizens under penalty of perjury, without requiring proof.

What's on the ballot?

Republican-led legislatures in eight states have proposed constitutional amendments on their November ballots declaring that only citizens can vote.

Proposals in Iowa, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Wisconsin would replace existing constitutional provisions stating that "every" citizen or "all" citizens can vote with new wording saying "only" citizens can vote. Supporters contend the current wording does not necessarily bar noncitizens from voting.

In Idaho and Kentucky, the proposed amendments would explicitly state: "No person who is not a citizen of the United States" can vote. Similar wording won approval from Louisiana voters two years ago.

Voters in North Dakota, Colorado, Alabama, Florida and Ohio passed amendments between 2018 and 2022 restricting voting to "only" citizens.

What else are states doing?

Although noncitizen voting already is prohibited in the state constitution, Republican Gov. Jeff Landry of Louisiana is continuing to draw attention to the issue. He recently signed an executive order requiring state agencies that provide voter registration forms to include a written disclaimer that noncitizens are prohibited from voting.

In Georgia, Raffensperger last week required every polling place to post a sign in English and Spanish warning noncitizens that it is illegal to vote.

Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton of Texas, citing "significant growth of the noncitizen population" in the state, set up a special email account Wednesday to report suspected violations of election laws.

In Wisconsin, Republicans have filed a pair of similar lawsuits in recent weeks that challenge the state's process for verifying whether a registered voter is a citizen. The lawsuits seek court orders requiring the elections commission to perform checks to ensure there are no registered voters who are noncitizens.

North Carolina Republicans have sued the state election board, alleging it is not enforcing a new law aimed at removing people from voter rolls who seek jury duty exclusions because they are not citizens.

Tennessee's top election office sent letters in June asking for proof of citizenship from more than 14,000 registered voters, though those who failed to respond will not be barred from voting. The list was based on data from the state Department of Safety and Homeland Security, which has information about whether residents were U.S. citizens when they first interacted with that department.

What has Congress done?

Republicans in Congress are pushing a bill, known as the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, that would require proof of citizenship to register to vote. During a news conference about the legislation this year, House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., did not provide specific examples of noncitizens voting but

insisted it is a concern.

"We all know, intuitively, that a lot of illegals are voting in federal elections," he said, "but it's not been something that is easily provable."

The legislation passed the Republican-led House in July largely along partisan lines but has not come to a vote in the Democratic-led Senate. The Biden administration said it is strongly opposed and that laws against noncitizen voting are working.

"This bill would do nothing to safeguard our elections, but it would make it much harder for all eligible Americans to register to vote and increase the risk that eligible voters are purged from voter rolls," the White House said in a statement.

Israel recovers the bodies of 6 hostages in Gaza, including Israeli-American Hersh Goldberg-Polin

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel on Sunday said it had recovered the bodies of six hostages in Gaza, including a young Israeli-American man who became one of the most well-known captives held by Hamas as his parents met with world leaders and pressed for his release.

The military said all six had been killed shortly before the arrival of Israeli forces. Their recovery sparked calls for mass protests against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whom many Israelis blame for failing to bring them back alive in a deal with Hamas to end the 10-month-old war. Negotiations over such a deal have dragged on for months.

Netanyahu said Israel would hold Hamas accountable for killing the hostages in "cold blood," and blamed the militant group for the stalled negotiations, saying "whoever murders hostages doesn't want a deal."

Militants seized Hersh Goldberg-Polin, 23, and four of the other hostages at a music festival in southern Israel during Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, which triggered the war.

The native of Berkeley, California, lost part of his left arm to a grenade in the attack. In April, a Hamas-issued video showed him alive but with his left hand missing, sparking new protests in Israel urging the government to do more to secure the hostages' release.

The army identified the other dead hostages as Ori Danino, 25; Eden Yerushalmi, 24; Almog Sarusi, 27; and Alexander Lobanov, 33; who were also taken from the music festival. The sixth, Carmel Gat, 40, was abducted from the nearby farming community of Be'eri.

It said the bodies were recovered from a tunnel in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, around a kilometer (half a mile) from where another hostage, Qaid Farhan Alkadi, 52, was rescued alive last week.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, a military spokesperson, said the army believed there were hostages in the area but had no specific intelligence. He said Israeli forces found the bodies several dozen meters (yards) underground as "ongoing combat" was underway, but that there was no firefight in the tunnel itself.

He said there was no doubt that Hamas had killed them.

Hamas has offered to release the hostages in return for an end to the war, the withdrawal of Israeli forces and the release of a large number of Palestinian prisoners, including high-profile militants.

Izzat al-Rishq, a senior Hamas official, said the hostages would still be alive if Israel had accepted a U.S.- backed cease-fire proposal that Hamas said it had agreed to back in July.

Families of hostages call for a 'complete halt of the country'

Netanyahu has vowed to continue the war until Hamas is destroyed and says military pressure is needed to bring home the hostages.

Israel's Channel 12 reported that he got into a shouting match at a security Cabinet meeting late Thursday with his defense minister, Yoav Gallant, who accused him of prioritizing control of a strategic corridor along the Gaza-Egypt border — a major sticking point in the talks — over the lives of the hostages. The Cabinet reportedly voted in favor of remaining in the corridor over the objections of Gallant, who said it would prevent a hostage deal.

An Israeli official confirmed the report and said three of the hostages — Goldberg-Polin, Yerushalmi and

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Gat — had been slated to be released in the first phase of a cease-fire proposal discussed back in July. The official was not authorized to brief media about the negotiations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"In the name of the state of Israel, I hold their families close to my heart and ask forgiveness," Gallant said Sunday after the remains were recovered. He later called for the Cabinet to reverse its decision.

A forum of hostage families called for a massive protest on Sunday, demanding a "complete halt of the country" to push for the implementation of a cease-fire and hostage release.

"A deal for the return of the hostages has been on the table for over two months. Were it not for the delays, sabotage, and excuses those whose deaths we learned about this morning would likely still be alive," it said in a statement.

U.S. President Joe Biden, who has met with Goldberg-Polin's parents, said he was "devastated and outraged."

"It is as tragic as it is reprehensible," he said. "Make no mistake, Hamas leaders will pay for these crimes. And we will keep working around the clock for a deal to secure the release of the remaining hostages."

Vice President Kamala Harris said her prayers were with the Goldberg-Polin family and condemned Hamas.

A high-profile campaign

Goldberg-Polin's parents, U.S.-born immigrants to Israel, became perhaps the most high-profile relatives of hostages on the international stage. They met with Biden, Pope Francis and others and addressed the United Nations, urging the release of all hostages.

On Aug. 21, his parents addressed a hushed hall at the Democratic National Convention — after sustained applause and chants of "bring him home."

"This is a political convention. But needing our only son — and all of the cherished hostages — home is not a political issue. It is a humanitarian issue," said his father, Jon Polin. His mother, Rachel, who bowed her head during the ovation and touched her chest, said "Hersh, if you can hear us, we love you, stay strong, survive."

She and her husband sought to keep their son and the others held from being reduced to numbers, describing Hersh as a music and soccer lover and traveler with plans to attend university since his military service had ended.

Some 250 hostages were taken on Oct. 7. Israel now believes that 101 remain in captivity, including 35 who are believed to be dead. More than 100 were freed during a weeklong cease-fire in November in exchange for the release of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. Eight have been rescued by Israeli forces.

Two previous Israeli operations to free hostages killed scores of Palestinians. Hamas says several hostages have been killed in Israeli airstrikes and failed rescue attempts. Israeli troops mistakenly killed three Israelis who escaped captivity in December.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, when they stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, attacking army bases and several farming communities.

Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza has killed over 40,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, who do not say how many were fighters. It has displaced the vast majority of Gaza's 2.3 million people, often multiple times, and plunged the besieged territory into a humanitarian catastrophe.

In a separate development Sunday, Palestinian militants killed three Israeli police officers when they opened fire on their vehicle in the West Bank, according to Israeli officials. Israel has been carrying out large-scale military raids across the occupied territory in recent days.

Large-scale polio vaccinations begin in war-ravaged Gaza

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Palestinian health authorities and United Nations agencies on Sunday began a large-scale campaign of vaccinations against polio in the Gaza Strip, hoping to prevent an outbreak in the territory that has been ravaged by the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

Authorities plan to vaccinate children in central Gaza until Wednesday before moving on to the more devastated northern and southern parts of the strip. The campaign began with a small number of vac-

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inations on Saturday and aims to reach about 640,000 children.

The World Health Organization said Thursday that Israel has agreed to limited pauses in the fighting to facilitate the campaign. There were initial reports of Israeli strikes in central Gaza early Sunday, but it was not immediately known if anyone was killed or wounded.

Hospitals in Deir al-Balah and Nuseirat confirmed that the campaign had begun early Sunday. Israel said Saturday that the vaccination program would continue through Sept. 9 and last eight hours a day.

Gaza recently reported its first polio case in 25 years — a 10-month-old boy, now paralyzed in the leg. The World Health Organization says the presence of a paralysis case indicates there could be hundreds more who have been infected but aren't showing symptoms.

Most people who have polio do not experience symptoms, and those who do usually recover in a week or so. But there is no cure, and when polio causes paralysis, it is usually permanent. If the paralysis affects breathing muscles, the disease can be fatal.

The vaccination campaign faces a host of challenges, from ongoing fighting to devastated roads and hospitals shut down by the war. Around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced within the besieged territory, with hundreds of thousands crammed into squalid tent camps.

Health officials have expressed alarm about disease outbreaks as uncollected garbage has piled up and the bombing of critical infrastructure has sent putrid water flowing through the streets. Widespread hunger has left people even more vulnerable to illness.

"We escaped death with our children, and fled from place to place for the sake of our children, and now we have these diseases," said Wafaa Obaid, who brought her three children to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah to get the vaccinations.

Ammar Ammar, a spokesperson for the U.N. children's agency, said it hopes both parties adhere to a temporary truce in designated areas to enable families to reach health facilities.

"This is a first step," he told The Associated Press. "But there is no alternative to a cease-fire because it's not only polio that threatens children in Gaza, but also other factors, including malnutrition and the inhuman conditions they are living in."

The vaccinations will be administered at roughly 160 sites across the territory, including medical centers and schools. Children under 10 will receive two drops of oral polio vaccine in two rounds, the second to be administered four weeks after the first.

Israel allowed around 1.3 million doses to be brought into the territory last month, which are now being held in refrigerated storage in a warehouse in Deir al-Balah. Another shipment of 400,000 doses is set to be delivered to Gaza soon.

The polio virus that triggered this latest outbreak is a mutated virus from an oral polio vaccine. The oral polio vaccine contains weakened live virus and in very rare cases, that virus is shed by those who are vaccinated and can evolve into a new form capable of starting new epidemics.

The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 hostages. Around 100 remain in captivity, about a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 40,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not say whether those killed were fighters or civilians. The war has caused vast destruction across the territory, with entire neighborhoods wiped out and critical infrastructure heavily damaged.

The United States, Egypt and Qatar have spent months trying to broker a cease-fire and the release of the remaining hostages, but the talks have repeatedly stalled and a number of sticking points remain.

Who were the 6 hostages whose bodies the Israeli military recovered from Gaza?

The Associated Press undefined

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel said early Sunday that it had recovered the bodies of six hostages captured during Hamas' Oct. 7 attack that ignited the Gaza war, including Israeli-American Hersh Goldberg-Polin, whose parents had led a high-profile campaign for the captives' release.

The military said the six were killed shortly before Israeli forces were to rescue them and that the bodies were found in a tunnel beneath the southern Gaza city of Rafah. The news sparked calls for mass protests by families of the hostages who said they could have been returned alive in a cease-fire deal.

Goldberg-Polin and four other hostages were taken from a music festival where Palestinian militants killed scores of people. The sixth was captured from a nearby farming community.

Here's a look at the hostages:

Hersh Goldberg-Polin, 23

The native of Berkeley, California, lost part of his left arm to a grenade blast in the Oct. 7 attack. In April, a Hamas-issued video showed him with his left hand missing, sparking new protests in Israel urging the government to do more to secure his and others' freedom.

His parents, U.S.-born immigrants to Israel, became perhaps the most high-profile relatives of hostages on the international stage. They met with U.S. President Joe Biden, Pope Francis and others and addressed the United Nations, urging the release of all hostages.

On Aug. 21, his parents addressed a hushed hall at the Democratic National Convention — after sustained applause and chants of "bring him home."

"This is a political convention. But needing our only son — and all of the cherished hostages — home is not a political issue. It is a humanitarian issue," said his father, Jon Polin. His mother, Rachel, who bowed her head during the ovation and touched her chest, said: "Hersh, if you can hear us, we love you, stay strong, survive."

They sought to keep their son and the other captives from being reduced to numbers, describing Hersh as a music and soccer lover and traveler with plans to attend university since his military service had ended. At events, Rachel often addressed her son directly, urging him to live another day.

Both wore stickers with the number 320, representing the number of days their son had been held. It had long become part of a morning ritual — tear a new piece of tape, write down another day.

Eden Yerushalmi, 24

The Tel Aviv-born Yerushalmi loved spending summer days at the beach and was studying to become a Pilates instructor, according to the Hostage Families Forum, which has been leading advocacy efforts for the captives' release.

She was working as a bartender at the open-air Tribe of Nova music festival. When Hamas' initial rocket attack set off air raid sirens she sent a video to her family, saying she was leaving the party. During the attack, she called the police and was in contact with her sisters over the next four hours, the forum said.

"They've caught me," were her last words to them.

Carmel Gat, 40

The occupational therapist from Tel Aviv was "full of compassion and love," and enjoyed solo travel, rock concerts and the band Radiohead, according to the forum.

She was staying with her parents in Kibbutz Be'eri, one of the hardest-hit communities, when militants broke into their home and kidnapped her on the morning of Oct. 7. Her parents were killed in the attack.

Hostages who were released during a cease-fire in November said she taught them meditation and yoga exercises to help them survive in captivity.

Alexander Lobanov, 33

Lobanov was a married father of a two-year-old and a five-month-old baby born while he was in captivity. He was also kidnapped from the music festival, where he had worked as a bar manager.

The forum, citing witnesses, said he helped evacuate people from the festival and ran with others before being abducted. It said the others managed to escape.

Almog Sarusi, 27

The forum described Sarusi as a "vibrant, positive person who loved traveling around Israel in his white jeep with his guitar." He was at the music festival with his girlfriend of five years, who was killed in the attack.

The forum said Sarusi stayed with her after she was wounded, and was then abducted.

Ori Danino, 25

The Jerusalem-born Danino was the eldest of five siblings and planned to study electrical engineering. "Ori was known for his ambition, love for people, and was beloved by all. He loved nature and was very handy," the forum said.

It said he was kidnapped from the Nova festival while driving back and trying to help others to escape.

Giving up pets to seek rehab can worsen trauma. A Colorado group intends to end that

By THOMAS PEIPERT Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Simon Rubick had lost almost everything to decades of alcoholism and drug addiction. In 2022, he found himself without a vehicle and without a home, which forced his two teenage children to move in with friends. He had burned bridges with friends and family and it took a drug-induced stint in the hospital for him to realize his cocaine addiction was going to be a "death sentence."

Rubick, who lives in the Denver suburb of Arvada, Colorado, knew he needed help. But first he had to figure out what to do with one of the only sources of unconditional love and support he had left: his beloved German shepherd rescue, Tonks.

Most residential rehab centers in the United States don't allow patients to bring their pets along, said Rubick, 51. So when his brother could no longer help care for the dog, Rubick thought he would have to make the excruciating decision to give up Tonks.

"It basically came down to being able to take care of my dog or being able to take care of myself," he said.

Rubick — who has been sober for more than two years and is now an addiction recovery coach — was connected to the group PAWSitive Recovery, which fosters animals while their owners receive treatment for drug and alcohol abuse, and for people dealing with domestic violence or mental health crises.

"People that are trying to get into recovery sometimes have lost their families, their children, any kind of support system that they have had," said Serena Saunders, the organization's program manager. "You're not going to compound trauma that you've already had by giving up the one thing that hasn't given up on you, and that's people's animals."

Saunders founded PAWSitive Recovery in Denver three years ago. Since then, it's helped more than 180 people and their pets, and Saunders said the group has looked to expand nationally after it became a part of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals International. The organization, whose largest foster network is in Colorado but accepts applications nationwide, is one of just a few programs in the U.S. that cares for the pets of people seeking treatment for substance abuse.

Saunders' own experience with drug and alcohol addiction has helped her tailor the program. She said she had a "pretty broken childhood," with her mother being schizophrenic and addicted to methamphetamine and her father also struggling with addiction. She sought comfort in alcohol when she was about 12 and was using hard drugs by the time she was 14.

"Addiction just gave me trauma after trauma," said Saunders, now 41.

Saunders was seeing a therapist for her depression and PTSD when a fortuitous session planted the seed of PAWSitive Recovery. With a background in veterinary and shelter medicine, which focuses on caring for homeless animals, she told her therapist she wanted to incorporate her love of dogs in her recovery.

"And that's what we did," said Saunders, who fostered Tonks for several months while Rubick was in treatment and facilitated visits between the two best friends.

"To see a broken person when we're meeting them in a parking lot, when they have nothing left to live for but their animal. And to see how broken and how desperate they are in that moment, and then to circle back around six months later and see them completely turn their lives around is just so special. It's amazing," said Saunders, who has been sober for 3 1/2 years.

That sentiment is echoed by the organization's volunteer foster families, some of whom are drawn to the program because of their own experiences with addiction.

Denver resident Ben Cochell, 41, who has been sober from alcohol for more than seven years, has two dogs of his own and has fostered several more.

"One of my favorite parts about fostering in this program is the ability to teach my kids some life lessons in how to help others and how to care for animals and be kind, be loving. And to just give of yourself," he said. "That's what you have. Your time and your energy. And you can give that away freely."

If not for PAWsitive Recovery, Rubick said he probably would have ended up living on the streets with his dog and trying to figure out recovery on his own. But as it turned out, by being able to keep his rescue dog, Tonks ended up rescuing Rubick, he said.

"It's that connection, caring for another creature and having something else care for you the way that animals do," Rubick said. "It's just unconditional, and sometimes that's one of the things that people in recovery really need to be able to feel."

San Francisco 49ers player Ricky Pearsall stable after shooting during attempted robbery, police say

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A juvenile suspect is in custody after allegedly shooting San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Ricky Pearsall in the chest Saturday afternoon during an attempted robbery in central San Francisco, officials said.

Pearsall, 23, was in stable condition at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center, San Francisco Police Chief Bill Scott said during a news briefing Saturday.

Pearsall was walking alone shortly after 3:30 p.m. when a suspect attempted to rob him with a gun on Geary Boulevard in the Union Square area.

"A struggle between Mr. Pearsall and the suspect ensued and gunfire from the suspect's gun struck both Mr. Pearsall and the subject," Scott said, who noted more than one shot was fired.

Officers in the area responded immediately and provided emergency medical aid and arrested the suspect.

Police identified the suspect as a 17-year-old male resident of Tracy, California, about 63 miles (101 kilometers) east of San Francisco, who also was transported to San Francisco General. His condition was not immediately disclosed.

A gun allegedly belonging to the suspect was recovered and investigators believe he acted alone, Scott said.

"This kind of violence is simply unacceptable in our city and we will do everything in our power to work with District Attorney Brooke Jenkins to ensure that justice is served in this matter," Scott said.

Jenkins told reporters at the briefing that her office expects to make a charging decision by Tuesday or Wednesday and initially will file any charges in the juvenile court system.

Scott said there was no indication Pearsall was targeted because he is a player for the city's football team.

The 49ers issued a statement earlier saying Pearsall was hit by a bullet in the chest and gave his condition as serious but stable.

"We ask that you please respect his privacy at this time," the team said, adding, "Our thoughts and prayers are with Ricky and the entire Pearsall family."

"He's good," 49ers teammate Deebo Samuel posted on X. "Thank god!!!!!"

Mayor London Breed said she was confident in the district attorney's actions to prosecute the case.

"This is how we hold people accountable in San Francisco. Robberies and any violence like this will not be tolerated in our city," Breed said during the briefing, offering her gratitude to the hospital staff, police

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and first responders including San Francisco Fire Department personnel.

"This was a terrible and rare incident in Union Square and our thoughts are with Ricky Pearsall and his family. He has a bright future and I look forward to seeing him recover and get back on the field," Breed said.

Pearsall was drafted in the first round in April by the 49ers with the 31st overall pick but has been slowed by injuries since joining the team.

He missed time during training camp due to hamstring and shoulder issues before returning to practice this past week with a noncontact blue jersey while his shoulder heals.

Pearsall began his college career at Arizona State and transferred to Florida for his final two seasons. He had 65 catches for 965 yards and four touchdowns last season for the Gators and finished his college career with 159 catches for 2,420 yards and 14 TDs.

The Niners have hoped Pearsall could contribute as a rookie as a backup to starters Brandon Aiyuk and Samuel.

Paralympic triathlon events are postponed because of poor water quality in the Seine River

PARIS (AP) — Paralympic triathlon competitions in Paris scheduled for Sunday have been postponed because of concerns about water quality in the Seine River after heavy rainfall, organizers said.

The 11 para triathlon events are now scheduled for Monday, if upcoming water testing allows, the Paris 2024 organizing committee and World Triathlon said in a joint statement.

Rainstorms hit the French capital Friday and Saturday. Heavy rains cause wastewater and runoff to flow into the river, leading to a rise in bacteria levels including E. Coli.

This is the second scheduled change for the para triathlon events. They had initially been scheduled to take place over two days, Sunday and Monday, but were moved to Sunday because of rain forecasts.

The disruption is another hiccup for the city's efforts to clean up the river for future public swimming, one of Paris' most ambitious promises ahead of hosting the Olympics and Paralympics this summer. The men's individual triathlon event during the Paris Olympics was delayed and several test swims were canceled because of high E. coli levels after rainfall.

Some Olympic triathletes fell ill after swimming in the Seine, though it is unclear whether that was linked to the river water.

Minority athletes hope their Olympic journeys will sway intolerant hearts and minds

By RYAN DOAN-NGUYEN Associated Press

Before she cut the air on the world's biggest sporting stage with head-spinning, gravity-defying moves, Logan Edra, aka B-Girl Logistx, held herself with a razor-sharp focus.

Brows furrowed and hands anchored at her hips, Team USA's youngest breaker this year seemed more serious than some of her competitors at the Paris Olympics. This was not just a contest for the 21-year-old daughter of Filipino immigrants, but a pressure-packed chance to bring her cultural heritage into a traditionally American art form for all to see.

Representing both Filipinos and immigrant families more broadly was "the most overwhelming part" of breaking on the Olympic stage, Edra said, calling it "a different layer of love."

As the spotlight now shifts to the Paralympics, athletes like Edra shoulder not only their countries' hopes for gold, but the responsibility of representing their identities and cultures, which spectators increasingly scrutinize.

Edra did not advance past the quarterfinals in the Paris b-girl competition, but her Olympic journey and current No. 10 world ranking clearly showcase her skill. When an athlete excels at this level, she said, stigma and judgment often give way to respect.

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"If someone's doing a crazy move on their elbows, and they spin on their head — clearly it takes so much human strength. You can't deny that," Edra said.

However, this effect of positive exposure can unravel if a minority athlete becomes politically outspoken. It's a real dilemma: Voicing opinions on a sensitive topic can jeopardize the breadth of their influence, yet remaining silent can feel like betraying their true selves. Navigating this balance between embracing authenticity and preserving respect is a constant challenge.

'I'll be Muslim, too'

Social scientists call this dynamic the "parasocial contact hypothesis," which suggests prejudice can be reduced through positive exposure to athletes or other members of marginalized or stigmatized groups.

Researchers tested the theory by exploring soccer's influence on Islamophobia in British culture. After Egyptian striker Mohamed Salah, known for his prayers on the pitch, was instrumental in a decisive Liverpool win, viral videos showed British fans celebrating with chants like "If he scores another few, then I'll be Muslim, too," and "Mohamed Salah, a gift from Allah. He's always scoring; it's almost boring."

Researchers analyzed 15 million tweets and hate-crime data from 25 police departments, finding a 16% drop in Liverpool-area hate crimes and a halving of anti-Muslim tweets by Liverpool fans after Salah joined the team. Surveys showed Salah's Muslim identity increased belief in Islam's compatibility with British values.

Salma Mousa, a political scientist at University of California, Los Angeles, who specializes in prejudice reduction and who co-authored the 2021 study, pointed out the limitations of this influence — she said Salah maintained a "completely apolitical" stance on controversial issues at the time.

Shouldering the burden

"Practically this does place a burden on minority players," said Ala Alrababah, another co-author of the study and a political scientist at Bocconi University. "As a Muslim player, as a Black player, as an LGBTQ player, or as any other minority, knowing that playing well can improve attitudes or playing badly can worsen attitudes — This is adding pressure. This is tough."

Whether it's their intention to or not, minority Olympians become emblematic figures for entire ethnicities or religions.

Gabby Douglas and Simone Biles have ignited waves of Black participation in gymnastics. Sunisa Lee, who in Tokyo became the first Hmong-American and first Asian American to win women's all-around gold, sparked surges in Google searches for "Hmong" and "What is Hmong descent?" And when Lee began battling an incurable kidney condition after her 2021 win, she raised awareness about high rates of kidney disease among the Hmong American population.

Biles waited until after she had won a sixth gold medal at Paris before posting an apparent reference to the U.S. presidential campaign on X, writing "I love my black job."

"All sports go way beyond what happens on the field of play, but that is true to a factor of 10 for the Olympic Games," USA Gymnastics spokesperson Jill Geer told The Associated Press.

Inspiring change

Some civil society groups recruit minority athletes to be ambassadors in prejudice reduction campaigns. Show Racism the Red Card — the U.K.'s largest anti-racism educational charity — offered a 53-page guide on "using the Olympics and Paralympics to educate against prejudice" to teachers across England, Scotland and Wales.

Gilberto Lopez-Jimenez, a 21-year-old sports fan from El Paso, Texas, had more than medals in mind as he rooted for Dominican American gymnast Hezly Rivera and Mexican gymnast Alexa Moreno.

"Mexicans often can be associated with laziness, but Alexa Moreno has been super resilient," the first-generation Mexican American said. "Because she's won so much, she's admired by not just Mexicans but the gymnastics community more broadly, and I think that definitely has reduced some stereotypes and racism."

The specter of racism looms large in today's world. Anti-migrant and anti-LGBTQ rhetoric have been fixtures of politics in Europe and the U.S. But the mere presence of minority athletes on podiums like the one shared by three Black Olympic gymnasts this year can advance discussions on race and inclusion,

reshape perceptions and ultimately inspire change.

"In Latino cultures, there is this pride. We're not used to seeing ourselves on the big stage. We're not used to making it to the podiums. So when we do it's a big deal, and it brings our country together," Lopez-Jimenez said. "These athletes — what they do matters a lot."

Chocolate's future could hinge on success of growing cocoa not just in the tropics, but in the lab

By AMY TAXIN and TERRY CHEA Associated Press

WEST SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Climate change is stressing rainforests where the highly sensitive cocoa bean grows, but chocolate lovers need not despair, say companies that are researching other ways to grow cocoa or develop cocoa substitutes.

Scientists and entrepreneurs are working on ways to make more cocoa that stretch well beyond the tropics, from Northern California to Israel.

California Cultured, a plant cell culture company, is growing cocoa from cell cultures at a facility in West Sacramento, California, with plans to start selling its products next year. It puts cocoa bean cells in a vat with sugar water so they reproduce quickly and reach maturity in a week rather than the six to eight months a traditional harvest takes, said Alan Perlstein, the company's chief executive. The process also no longer requires as much water or arduous labor.

"We see just the demand of chocolate monstrously outstripping what is going to be available," Perlstein said. "There's really no other way that we see that the world could significantly increase the supply of cocoa or still keep it at affordable levels without extensive either environmental degradation or some significant other cost."

Cocoa trees grow about 20 degrees north and south of the equator in regions with warm weather and abundant rain, including West Africa and South America. Climate change is expected to dry out the land under the additional heat. So scientists, entrepreneurs and chocolate-lovers are coming up with ways to grow cocoa and make the crop more resilient and more resistant to pests — as well as craft chocolatey-tasting cocoa alternatives to meet demand.

The market for chocolate is massive with sales in the United States surpassing \$25 billion in 2023, according to the National Confectioners Association. Many entrepreneurs are betting on demand growing faster than the supply of cocoa. Companies are looking at either bolstering the supply with cell-based cocoa or offering alternatives made from products ranging from oats to carob that are roasted and flavored to produce a chocolatey taste for chips or filling.

The price of cocoa soared earlier this year because of demand and troubles with the crop in West Africa due to plant disease and changes in weather. The region produces the bulk of the world's cocoa.

"All of this contributes to a potential instability in supply, so it is attractive to these lab-grown or cocoa substitute companies to think of ways to replace that ingredient that we know of as chocolatey-flavored," said Carla D. Martin, executive director of the Fine Cacao and Chocolate Institute and a lecturer in African and African American Studies at Harvard University.

The innovation is largely driven by demand for chocolate in the U.S. and Europe, Martin said. While three-quarters of the world's cocoa is grown in West and Central Africa, only 4% is consumed there, she said.

The push to produce cocoa indoors in the U.S. comes after other products, such as chicken meat, have already been grown in labs. It also comes as supermarket shelves fill with evolving snack options — something that developers of cocoa alternatives say shows people are ready to try what looks and tastes like a chocolate chip cookie even if the chip contains a cocoa substitute.

They said they also are hoping to tap into rising consciousness among consumers about where their food comes from and what it takes to grow it, particularly the use of child labor in the cocoa industry.

Planet A Foods in Planegg, Germany, contends the taste of mass market chocolate is derived largely from the fermentation and roasting in making it, not the cocoa bean itself. The company's founders tested

out ingredients ranging from olives to seaweed and settled on a mix of oats and sunflower seeds as the best tasting chocolate alternative, said Jessica Karch, a company spokesperson. They called it “ChoViva” and it can be subbed into baked goods, she said.

“The idea is not to replace the high quality, 80% dark chocolate, but really to have a lot of different products in the mass market,” Karch said.

Yet while some are seeking to create alternative cocoa sources and substitutes, others are trying to bolster the supply of cocoa where it naturally grows. Mars, which makes M&Ms and Snickers, has a research facility at University of California, Davis aimed at making cocoa plants more resilient, said Joanna Hwu, the company’s senior director of cocoa plant science. The facility hosts a living collection of cocoa trees so scientists can study what makes them disease-resistant to help farmers in producing countries and ensure a stable supply of beans.

“We see it as an opportunity, and our responsibility,” Hwu said.

In Israel, efforts to expand the supply of cocoa are also under way. Celleste Bio is taking cocoa bean cells and growing them indoors to produce cocoa powder and cocoa butter, said co-founder Hanne Volpin. In a few years, the company expects to be able to produce cocoa regardless of the impact of climate change and disease — an effort that has drawn interest from Mondelez, the maker of Cadbury chocolate.

“We only have a small field, but eventually, we will have a farm of bioreactors,” Volpin said.

That’s similar to the effort under way at California Cultured, which plans to seek permission from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to call its product chocolate, because, according to Perlstein, that’s what it is.

It might wind up being called brewery chocolate, or local chocolate, but chocolate no less, he said, because it’s genetically identical though not harvested from a tree.

“We basically see that we’re growing cocoa — just in a different way,” Perlstein said.

Migrants build makeshift life in Mexico City while waiting for US asylum

By MARIANA MARTÍNEZ BARBA and CATERINA MORBIATO Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — “That’s it, dude! Done!” exclaimed Eliezer López as he jumped up and down, throwing his arms to the sky and drawing a sign of the cross across his chest. His joy was so contagious, his friends started to emerge from nearby tents to celebrate with him.

López, a 20-year-old Venezuelan migrant in Mexico City, had reason to rejoice: after several frustrating attempts, he was able to secure an appointment to seek asylum in the U.S.

He is one of thousands of migrants whose U.S.-bound journey has landed them in the Mexican capital, the southernmost point until recently from which migrants can register to request an appointment to seek asylum through the U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s mobile app known as CBP One.

Since June, when the Biden administration announced significant restrictions on migrants seeking asylum, the app became one of the only ways to request asylum at the Southwest border.

This U.S. asylum policy and its geographic limits are a driving force behind the emergence of migrant encampments throughout the Mexican capital where thousands of migrants wait weeks — even months — in limbo, living in crowded, makeshift camps with poor sanitation and grim living conditions.

From point of transit to temporary destination

Historically, Mexico City has not been a stop for northbound migrants. They try to cross the country quickly to reach the northern border. But the delays in securing an appointment, coupled with the danger that plagues cartel-controlled northern Mexico border cities and the increased crackdown by Mexican authorities on migrants have combined to turn Mexico City from a point of transit to a temporary destination for thousands.

Some migrant camps have been dismantled by immigration authorities or abandoned over time. Others, like the one where López has lived for the past few months, remain.

Like López, many migrants have opted to wait for their appointment in the somewhat safer capital, but Mexico City presents its own challenges.

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Shelter capacity is limited, and unlike large U.S. cities like Chicago and New York, which rushed last winter to find housing for arriving migrants, in Mexico City, they are mainly left to their own devices.

Andrew Bahena, coordinator of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) said that up until late 2023 many migrants were contained in southern Mexican cities like Tapachula, near the border with Guatemala. Many tried to disguise their location to defeat CBP One's geographic limits, but when U.S. authorities took notice, more migrants began aiming for Mexico City to make their appointments from there, he said.

As a result, there has been an increase in the migrant population living in the Mexico City camps.

"We talk about this as border externalization and it's something the United States and Mexico have been jointly implementing for years," said Bahena. "The CBP One app is probably one of the best examples of that today."

"These folks are asylum seekers, they're not homeless people living in Mexico," he added.

A maze of tents and tarps

When López first arrived in Mexico City at the end of April, he thought about renting a room only to realize it was not an option.

He earned 450 pesos (\$23) a day working three times a week at a market. Rent was 3,000 pesos a week (\$157) per person to share a room with strangers, an arrangement that has become commonplace in Mexican cities with migrant populations.

"The camp is like a refuge," said López. Migrants can share space with people they know, avoid the curfews and strict rules of shelters and potentially stay longer if necessary.

The camps are a maze of tents and tarps. Some call their space "ranchito," or small ranch, assembled from wood, cardboard, plastic sheets, blankets and whatever they can find to protect them from the chilly mountain air and intense summer rains that pound the city.

At another camp in La Merced neighborhood, hundreds of blue, yellow and red tents fill a plaza in front of a church. It's one of the capital's largest camps and just a 20-minute walk from the city center.

"This is a place where up to 2,000 migrants have been living in the last year," said Bahena. "About 40% are children."

Migrants in La Merced have organized themselves, building an impromptu pump that moves water from the public system and distributes it on a fixed schedule, with every tent receiving four buckets of water every day.

"At the beginning there were a lot of problems, lots of trash and people in Mexico didn't like that," said Héctor Javier Magallanes, a Venezuelan migrant, who has been waiting nine months for a CBP One appointment. "We made sure to fix those problems little by little."

As more migrants kept arriving at the camp, he set up a task force of 15 people to oversee security and infrastructure.

Despite efforts to keep the camp clean and organized, residents haven't been able to avoid outbreaks of illnesses, exacerbated by drastic weather changes.

Keilin Mendoza, a 27-year-old Honduran migrant, said her kids constantly get colds, especially her 1-year-old daughter.

"She's the one that worries me the most, because she takes the longest to recover," she said. Mendoza has tried accessing the free medical attention from humanitarian organizations at the camp, but resources are limited.

Israel Resendiz, coordinator of Doctors Without Borders' mobile team, said the uncertainty of life in the camps weighs heavily on migrants' mental health. "It's not the same when a person waiting for their appointment (...) can get a hotel, rent a room or have money for food. The majority of people don't have these resources."

The secretary of inclusion and social welfare and the secretary of the interior in Mexico City didn't respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press about the camps. Press representatives of Clara Brugada, the incoming mayor of Mexico City, said the issue must first be discussed at the federal level.

Meanwhile, tensions between camp residents and neighbors have increased, sometimes leading to mass

evictions of the camps.

In late April, neighbors from the trendy and central Juárez neighborhood blocked some of the city's busiest streets, chanting, "The street is not a shelter!"

Eduardo Ramírez, one of the protest organizers, said it's the government's job to "help these poor people that come from their countries in search of something better and have the bad luck of traveling through Mexico."

"They sleep on the streets because the government has abandoned them," he said.

In a camp hosting about 200 families in the northern neighborhood of Vallejo, tensions — and fear — run rampant.

"One day they threw chlorinated water on a kid and hot water on another," recalled 50-year-old Salvadoran Sonia Rodríguez, a resident of the camp.

Despite making her "ranchito" as dignified as possible — she has a grill for cooking, bunk beds and a television — her gaze turns somber when she remembers she's been living for 10 months in an improvised camp that is not her home, without her things, far from her normal life. ____

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Pope embarks on longest, farthest and most challenging trip to Asia, with China in the background

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — If any evidence were needed to underscore that Pope Francis' upcoming trip to Asia and Oceania is the longest, farthest and most challenging of his pontificate, it's that he's bringing along his secretaries to help him navigate the four-country program while keeping up with work back home.

Francis will clock 32,814 kilometers (20,390 miles) by air during his Sept. 2-13 visit to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Singapore, far surpassing any of his previous 44 foreign trips and notching one of the longest papal trips ever, both in terms of days on the road and distances traveled.

That's no small feat for a pope who turns 88 in December, uses a wheelchair, lost part of a lung to a respiratory infection as a young man and had to cancel his last foreign trip at the last minute (to Dubai in November to participate in the U.N. climate conference) on doctors' orders.

But Francis is pushing ahead with this trip, originally planned for 2020 but postponed because of COVID-19. He's bringing along his medical team of a doctor and two nurses and taking the usual health precautions on the ground. But in a novelty, he's adding his personal secretaries into the traditional Vatican delegation of cardinals, bishops and security.

The long trip recalls the globetrotting travels of St. John Paul II, who visited all four destinations during his quarter-century pontificate, though East Timor was an occupied part of Indonesia at the time of his landmark 1989 trip.

By retracing John Paul's steps, Francis is reinforcing the importance that Asia has for the Catholic Church, since it's one of the few places where the church is growing in terms of baptized faithful and religious vocations. And he is highlighting that the complex region also embodies some of his core priorities as pope — an emphasis on interreligious and intercultural dialogue, care for the environment and insistence on the spiritual component of economic development.

Here is a look at the trip and some of the issues that are likely to come up, with the Vatican's relations with China ever-present in the background in a region where Beijing wields enormous influence.

Indonesia

Francis loves gestures of interfaith fraternity and harmony, and there could be no better symbol of religious tolerance at the start of his trip than the underground "Tunnel of Friendship" linking Indonesia's main Istiqlal mosque to the country's Catholic cathedral.

Francis will visit the underpass in central Jakarta with the grand imam, Nasaruddin Umar, before both partake in an interfaith gathering and sign a joint declaration.

Francis has made improving Christian-Muslim relations a priority, and has often used his foreign travels

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to promote his agenda of committing religious leaders to work for peace and tolerance, and renounce violence in God's name.

Indonesia is home to the world's largest Muslim population and has enshrined religious freedom in its constitution, officially recognizing six religions -- Islam, Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Protestantism and Catholicism. Francis is likely to highlight this tradition of religious tolerance and celebrate it as a message for the broader world.

"If we are able to create a kind of collaboration between each other, that could be a great strength of the Indonesian nation," the imam said in an interview.

Papua New Guinea

Francis was elected pope in 2013 largely on the strength of an extemporaneous speech he delivered to his fellow cardinals in which he said the Catholic Church needed to go to the "peripheries" to reach those who need God's comfort the most. When Francis travels deep into the jungles of Papua New Guinea, he will be fulfilling one of the marching orders he set out for the future pope on the eve of his own election.

Few places are as remote, peripheral and poverty-wracked as Vanimo, a northern coastal town on the main island of New Guinea. There Francis will meet with missionaries from his native Argentina who are working to bring Christianity to a largely tribal people who still practice pagan traditions alongside the Catholic faith.

"If we suspend our preconceptions, even in tribal cultures we can find human values close to Christian ideals," Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, who heads the Vatican's missionary evangelization office and is part of the Vatican delegation, told the Fides missionary news agency.

Francis will likely reflect on the environmental threats to vulnerable and poor places like Papua New Guinea, such as deep sea mining and climate change, while also pointing to the diversity of its estimated 10 million people who speak some 800 languages but are prone to tribal conflicts.

East Timor

When John Paul visited East Timor in 1989, he sought to console its overwhelmingly Catholic population who had suffered under Indonesia's brutal and bloody occupation for 15 years already.

"For many years now, you have experienced destruction and death as a result of conflict; You have known what it means to be the victims of hatred and struggle," John Paul told the faithful during a seaside Mass in Tasi-Toli, near Dili.

"I pray that those who have responsibility for life in East Timor will act with wisdom and good will towards all, as they search for a just and peaceful resolution of present difficulties," he said then in a direct challenge to Indonesia.

It would take another decade for the United Nations to organize a referendum on Timor's independence, after which Indonesia responded with a scorched-earth campaign that left the former Portuguese colony devastated. East Timor emerged as an independent country in 2002, but still bears the trauma and scars of an occupation that left as many as 200,000 people dead — nearly a quarter of the population.

Francis will literally walk in John Paul's footsteps when he celebrates Mass on the same seaside esplanade as that 1989 liturgy, which some see as a key date in the Timorese independence movement.

"That Mass with the pope was a very strong, very important moment for Timor's identity," said Giorgio Bernardelli, editor of AsiaNews, the missionary news agency. "It also in many ways put the spotlight on the drama that Timor was living for the international community."

Another legacy that will confront Francis is that of the clergy sexual abuse scandal: Revered independence hero and Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo was secretly sanctioned by the Vatican in 2020 for sexually abusing young boys.

There is no word on whether Francis will refer to Belo, who is still revered in East Timor but has been barred by the Vatican from ever returning.

Singapore

Francis has used several of his foreign trips to send messages to China, be they direct telegrams of greetings when he flies through Chinese airspace or more indirect gestures of esteem, friendship and fraternity to the Chinese people when nearby.

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Francis' visit to Singapore, where three-quarters of the population is ethnically Chinese and Mandarin is an official language, will give him yet another opportunity to reach out to Beijing as the Vatican seeks improved ties for the sake of China's estimated 12 million Catholics.

"It's a faithful people, who lived through a lot and remained faithful," Francis told the Chinese province of his Jesuit order in a recent interview.

The trip comes a month before the Vatican is set to renew a landmark 2018 agreement governing bishop nominations.

Just last week, the Vatican reported its "satisfaction" that China had officially recognized Tianjin Bishop Melchior Shi Hongzhen, who as far as the Vatican is concerned had actually taken over as bishop in 2019. The Holy See said China's official recognition of him under civil law now was "a positive fruit of the dialogue established over the years between the Holy See and the Chinese government."

But by arriving in Singapore, a regional economic powerhouse which maintains good relations with both China and the United States, Francis is also stepping into a protracted maritime dispute as China has grown increasingly assertive with its presence in the South China Sea.

Harris calls Trump's appearance at Arlington a 'political stunt' that 'disrespected sacred ground'

By The Associated Press undefined

Vice President Kamala Harris said former President Donald Trump "disrespected sacred ground" in his recent appearance at Arlington National Cemetery, where the Republican nominee took and distributed images despite a federal prohibition on campaign activity on the grounds.

Harris, in a statement posted Saturday on the social media platform X, cited reports that Trump's campaign aides created an altercation with a cemetery staffer and proceeded to take photographs and film the former president, including at the graves of Afghanistan war veterans, after being warned about rules at the site.

"Let me be clear: the former president disrespected sacred ground, all for the sake of a political stunt," Harris said, calling Arlington a "solemn place where we come together to honor American heroes ... not a place for politics."

The original incident stemmed from Trump's and Republicans' continued criticism of President Joe Biden and now Harris for the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. At the invitation of some family members of service members killed during the withdrawal, Trump laid wreaths last Monday in honor of Sgt. Nicole Gee, Staff Sgt. Darin Hoover and Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss. They were among 13 U.S. service members and more than 100 Afghans who died in an Aug. 26, 2021, bombing at Hamid Karzai International Airport.

Trump's campaign was warned about not taking photographs before an altercation at the cemetery, according to defense officials. Officials have said since that an Arlington employee whom two Trump campaign staff members allegedly "verbally abused and pushed" aside has declined to press charges. The Trump campaign has since lashed out at Pentagon officials, with a top campaign adviser, Chris LaCivita, referring to military spokespersons as "hacks." Trump campaign officials say it had permission to bring someone to take video.

Since Biden ended his reelection bid, Trump has been zeroing in on Harris and her roles in foreign policy decisions. He has specifically highlighted the vice president's statements that she was the last person in the room before Biden made the decision on Afghanistan.

Biden's administration was following a withdrawal commitment and timeline that the Trump administration had negotiated with the Taliban in 2020. A 2022 review by a government-appointed special investigator concluded decisions made by both Trump and Biden were the key factors leading to the rapid collapse of Afghanistan's military and the Taliban takeover.

Harris on Saturday alluded to Trump's history of picking fights with veterans and repeated allegations that he has "called our fallen service members 'suckers' and 'losers' and disparaged Medal of Honor recipients."

"This is a man who is unable to comprehend anything other than service to himself," Harris said. "I will always honor the service and sacrifice of all of America's fallen heroes. ... And I will never politicize them."

Polio vaccine campaign begins in Gaza a day before fighting is expected to pause

Associated Press By JULIA FRANKEL, SAMY MAGDY and SAM METZ

JERUSALEM (AP) — A campaign to inoculate children in Gaza against polio and prevent the spread of the virus has begun, the Health Ministry said Saturday, as Palestinians in the Hamas-governed enclave and the occupied West Bank reeled from Israel's military offensives.

Meanwhile, Israel's military late Saturday in a terse announcement said it had "located a number of bodies during combat" in Gaza. The army was trying to identify the bodies, including whether they were hostages, but said the process would take several hours. "We ask to refrain from spreading rumors," it said. There were no further details.

A small number of children in Gaza received vaccine doses a day before the large-scale rollout and limited pauses in the fighting agreed to by Israel and the U.N. World Health Organization. Associated Press journalists saw about 10 children receiving doses at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis.

"There must be a cease-fire so that the teams can reach everyone targeted by this campaign," said Dr. Yousef Abu Al-Rish, Gaza's deputy health minister, describing scenes of sewage running through crowded tent camps. Polio is spread through fecal matter.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office in a statement said "Israel will allow a humanitarian corridor only" and "areas will be established that will be safe for administering the vaccines for a few hours."

Israel said the vaccination program would continue through Sept. 9 and last eight hours a day. It will allow health workers to administer vaccines with the aim of reaching some 640,000 Palestinian children.

The vaccination campaign comes after the first polio case in 25 years in Gaza was discovered this month. Doctors concluded a 10-month-old had been partially paralyzed by a mutated strain of the virus after not being vaccinated due to fighting. Most people who contract the disease do not experience symptoms, and those who do usually recover in a week or so. But there is no cure.

"I was terrified and waiting for the vaccination to arrive and for everyone to receive it," said Amal Shaheen, whose daughter received a dose Saturday.

Healthcare workers in Gaza have warned of the potential for a polio outbreak for months. The territory's humanitarian crisis has deepened during the war that broke out after Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people and abducting around 250. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were militants.

The ministry said hospitals received 89 dead on Saturday, including 26 who died in an overnight Israeli bombardment, and 205 wounded — one of the highest daily tallies in months.

Meanwhile, parts of the West Bank remained on edge as Israel's military continued its large-scale military campaign, the deadliest since the Israel-Hamas war began.

Two car bombs exploded in Gush Etzion, a bloc of Israeli settlements. Israel's military killed both attackers after the explosions in a compound in Karmeit Zzur and at a gas station, Israel's military said. The military later said a soldier died Saturday during "operational activities" in Jenin, without details, and another was severely injured.

Hamas did not claim the attackers as its fighters but called it a "heroic operation." The militant group said earlier this month after a bombing in Tel Aviv it would continue such attacks.

Israel continued its large-scale raid — including destruction of infrastructure, airstrikes and gunbattles — into urban refugee camps in the cities of Jenin and Tulkarem, in the northern West Bank. Israel's incursion started Tuesday, causing alarm among the international community that the war might widen beyond Gaza.

The medical charity Doctors Without Borders in a statement said it was alarmed by the scale and intensity of Israel's incursion and asserted that Israeli forces have "obstructed access to health facilities and blocked — and even targeted — ambulances."

Israel's military on Saturday said 23 militants had been killed since the incursion, including 14 in the

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Jenin area.

Some people fled Jenin. Holding a baby, Oroba al-Shalabi said Israeli gunfire had pelted her windows. "We began screaming that we had small children, but they (the Israeli soldiers) didn't respond at first. The more we screamed, the more they shot at the house, shattering the TV and the windows around us," she said.

The family covered in their kitchen until soldiers entered, she said, separating women and children from the men and searching everyone's phones before letting her flee.

Israel has described the West Bank operation as a strategy to prevent attacks on Israeli civilians, which have increased during the war in Gaza including near settlements that the international community largely considers illegal. The Palestinian Health Ministry noted a surge in Palestinian deaths by Israeli forces, with at least 663 in the West Bank since the war began.

In central Gaza, Israeli airstrikes hit a multi-story building housing displaced people in and around Nuseirat, a built-up refugee camp, in Khan Younis and in Gaza City, officials at area hospitals said. The Health Ministry announced a "repeated attack" on al-Ahli hospital in Gaza City. There were no immediate details, and the Israeli military didn't comment.

The United States, Qatar and Egypt have spent months trying to mediate a cease-fire that would see the remaining hostages released. But the talks have repeatedly bogged down as Netanyahu has vowed "total victory" over Hamas and the militant group has demanded a lasting cease-fire and the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territory.

Israelis gathered again Saturday night to rally against the government and urge a deal to bring remaining hostages home.

"Why are they still in Gaza?" the crowd chanted.

Mississippi bus crash kills 7 people and injures 37

BOVINA, Miss. (AP) — Seven people were killed and dozens were injured in Mississippi after a commercial bus overturned on Interstate 20 on Saturday morning, according to the Mississippi Highway Patrol.

Six passengers were pronounced dead at the scene and another died at a hospital, according to a news release. The bus was traveling west when it left the highway near Bovina in Warren County and flipped over. No other vehicle was involved.

The crash was caused by tire failure, the National Transportation Safety Board said on the social media platform X. The bus was operated by Autobuses Regiomontanos. A woman who answered the phone at its Laredo, Texas, office said it was aware of the crash, but she didn't answer questions or provide her name.

The transit company says it has 20 years of experience providing cross-border trips between 100 destinations in Mexico and the U.S. Its website promotes "a modern fleet of buses that receive daily maintenance," and offers "trips with a special price for workers."

The dead included a 6-year-old boy and his 16-year-old sister, according to Warren County Coroner Doug Huskey. They were identified by their mother. Authorities were working to identify the other victims, he said.

Thirty-seven passengers were taken to hospitals in Vicksburg and Jackson. The department is continuing its investigation and hasn't released the names of the deceased. No other information was immediately provided.

Moms for Liberty fully embraces Trump and widens role in national politics as election nears

By ALI SWENSON, MORIAH BALINGIT and AYANNA ALEXANDER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In her welcoming remarks at Moms for Liberty's annual gathering in the nation's capital on Friday, the group's co-founder, Tiffany Justice, urged members to "fight like a mother" against the Democratic presidential ticket.

Later that evening, after she had interviewed Republican nominee Donald Trump onstage, she made a

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point to say she was personally endorsing him for the presidency. Their talk show style chat was preceded by a "Trump, Trump, Trump" chant from the audience.

The weekend's gathering, drawing parent activists from across the country, has showcased how Moms for Liberty has moved toward fully embracing Trump and his political messaging as November's election draws nearer. The group is officially a nonpartisan nonprofit that says it's open to anyone who wants parents to have a greater say in their children's education, yet there was little pretense about which side of the nation's political divide it has chosen.

A painting that was prominently displayed on an easel next to the security station attendees had to pass through before being allowed into the conference area showed Vice President Kamala Harris kneeling over a bald eagle carcass, a communist symbol on her jacket and her mouth dripping with blood. A Moms for Liberty spokeswoman said she hadn't seen the gruesome painting and noted that the only official signage for the event included the group's logo.

The group's enthusiasm for Trump is likely to benefit the former president this fall by solidifying a key part of his base — parents who share his views that the U.S. Education Department is bloated and ineffective, equity programs are distracting from academic fundamentals, vaccine mandates violate parental rights and schools that accept transgender children are putting other students in danger.

But it's much less clear how Moms for Liberty's support for Trump and his agenda will affect races for local school boards, which have become some of the most contentious elections on many ballots since 2022, the year after the group was founded.

Many communities where Moms for Liberty candidates took over a majority of the school board have been frustrated by their laser-like focus on removing books, questioning lessons around race and rejecting LGBTQ+ identities. A lack of progress toward academic improvement has in turn led to a counter movement among more moderate and liberal parents and teachers unions.

Moms for Liberty says it won't make an official endorsement in the presidential race, but it isn't shying away from getting involved. The group's founders recently wrote an open letter to parents warning that Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a former high school social studies teacher, would be "the most anti-parent, extremist government America has ever known."

The group spent its first three years becoming synonymous with the "parents' rights" movement in local school boards but recently has become more involved in national politics. It participated in the controversial conservative blueprint for the next Republican administration, Project 2025, as a member of its advisory board. The group also has invested more than \$3 million in four crucial presidential swing states. The money has paid for advertising in Arizona, Georgia, North Carolina and Wisconsin, including messages critical of the Biden administration.

Justice said the advertising has helped increase Moms for Liberty membership in those states and mobilized members who were not previously politically active to register to vote.

"I think you're going to see a lot of new voters who understand now that their vote and their voice matters," she said in an interview.

She added that as the group continues to endorse in local school board races, she is encouraged by Florida's recent primary in which 60% of Moms for Liberty-backed candidates — some running for office for the first time — advanced to this fall's general election.

But countering those wins were undeniable losses for the group, among them two in heavily Republican Sarasota County, and two in Pinellas County, where a Moms for Liberty-backed candidate coasted to a school board seat two years ago.

Those results come after conservative candidates struggled to gain traction with voters in local school board elections across the country last fall. In that election, Moms for Liberty said just 40% of its endorsed candidates won.

Jonathan Collins, co-director of the politics and education program at Columbia University's Teachers College, said parents' rights candidates may be struggling around the country because they are focused on removing existing policies and classroom materials, rather than offering a clear, forward-looking plan

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to remedy pandemic learning loss.

"They're not getting beaten by people who are responding to the cultural attacks with their own cultural attacks," he said. "They're getting beat by people who are responding to the cultural attacks with very, very practical, hyperlocal ideas of school and district improvement."

Around the country, some school board members backed by Moms for Liberty or who carry out the group's agenda have been recalled in recent months by community members who say their policies have caused chaos.

In Woodland, California, north of the state capital, a school board member backed by Moms for Liberty members was recalled in March after she raised fears that children were coming out as transgender "as a result of social contagion" during a school board meeting in 2023.

In Southern California, a trustee with the Temecula Valley Unified School District Board of Education was recalled after he and two of his colleagues voted to reject a social studies curriculum because it included a history of the gay rights movement.

And in Idaho's heavily Republican panhandle, community members from across the political spectrum rose up to recall two right-wing members of their board last year who sought to root out critical race theory and institute a conservative agenda.

Katie Blaxberg, a Pinellas County candidate who will run against the one remaining Moms for Liberty-linked candidate for that county's school board this fall, said the "nastiness" and "divisiveness" of the group "isn't conducive to any sort of good work."

But a group of more than 600 Moms for Liberty supporters exchanging phone numbers and listening attentively to slide presentations in Washington on Friday offered a different perspective.

Gretchen Schmid, the chair of a Moms for Liberty chapter in Orange County, North Carolina, said her chapter helped advocate a new parents' bill of rights law in her state. It passed last year after the Legislature, which is heavily gerrymandered to favor Republicans, overrode the Democratic governor's veto.

Schmid said when parents used to call and ask schools to share information about assignments, they wouldn't hear back, but now, "people are getting more responses."

On Saturday, Moms for Liberty's four-day summit paused sessions during the day to hold a demonstration a mile away, organized by a coalition of more than 30 conservative groups. Donning yellow rhinestone visors, Rachel Mack and Sarah Recupero said they had made the drive from Florida to support the protection of all children, especially in sports.

"I am definitely somebody who stands for the whole women-in-women's sports and men-in-men's sports," Mack said.

Several blocks away, those opposed to Moms for Liberty held a competing event, a Celebration of Reading, to counter book banning and advocate for a more inclusive environment for children. Heidi Ross traveled from Buckeye, Arizona, to volunteer for the event after seeing a post on Facebook about it.

"I have a granddaughter who's two, and I want her to grow up in a world where she can read whatever she wants to read and no one bothers her or makes a fuss about it," she said. "So, I hopped on that plane, really for her and all children."

Error messages and lengthy online queues frustrate fans scrambling to secure Oasis reunion tickets

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Some Oasis fans celebrated like a champagne supernova, while others looked back in anger on Saturday as online ticket sites strained under demand for the band's first shows for 15 years.

The Britpop-era behemoth led by brothers Noel and Liam Gallagher is scheduled to play 17 gigs in Cardiff, Manchester, London, Edinburgh and Dublin starting July 4.

More than 1 million tickets went on sale Saturday morning, with prices starting at about 74 pounds (just under \$100) and rising to a 506-pound (\$666) package that includes a pre-show party and merchandise.

The band's representatives said later in the day that all the tickets were sold, but hinted more shows may

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be announced, saying "anticipation for details of the tour's international dates is now rapidly mounting."

Many fans were frustrated in their attempts to secure tickets. Some people attempting to get onto the handful of authorized sales sites, including Ticketmaster and Gigs and Tours, received error messages, while many others were informed they were in a lengthy queue.

Josh Jeffery, a videographer who lives near Edinburgh, spent hours moving up the online ticket queue, before "the whole site collapsed" at the last step.

"I've given up, my friends have given up," said Jeffery, who first saw Oasis in Manchester as a teenager in 1996. "We just decided it's too much hassle.

"As I was in the queue, I heard 'Wonderwall' blasting out from my neighbor's house," he added ruefully. "He'd obviously got tickets."

Some fans managed to buy tickets through a presale lottery on Friday. Barista Isabelle Doyle said she was "over the moon" after snagging two seats for one of the band's London shows.

"I've been a fan of Oasis for about 10 years now, literally since I was 11 years old," the 21-year-old said. "Finally to be able to see them after they got me through as a teenager, it's absolutely amazing and I'm so excited."

Within hours, tickets began to be offered on resale websites for as much as 6,000 pounds (\$7,800). Oasis issued a warning, saying tickets could only be resold at face value through authorized sites.

"Tickets appearing on other secondary ticketing sites are either counterfeit or will be cancelled by the promoters," it said in a statement.

Megan Gordon, a 25-year-old fan from Manchester, said she was "fuming" after failing to get tickets.

"I don't really want to pay resale, but I will," she said.

Formed in Manchester in 1991, Oasis was one of the dominant British acts of the 1990s, producing hits including "Wonderwall", "Champagne Supernova" and "Don't Look Back in Anger." Its sound was fueled by singalong rock choruses and the combustible chemistry between guitarist-songwriter Noel Gallagher and singer sibling Liam.

Oasis split in 2009, with Noel Gallagher quitting the band after a backstage dustup with his brother at a festival near Paris. While the Gallagher brothers, now aged 57 and 51, haven't performed together since, both regularly perform Oasis songs at their solo gigs. They've also each fired off criticisms of the other in the press.

Announcing the reunion, the band said fans would experience "the spark and intensity" that occurs only when they appear on stage together.

Alice Enders, head of research at media consultancy Enders Analysis, said touring was now the major source of revenue for many musicians, and Oasis could expect a big payday — though the tour, limited for now to the U.K. and Ireland, pales in comparison to global juggernauts like Taylor Swift's Eras tour.

She said Oasis is playing catch-up in a live music market that has seen "a relentless climb in expenditure, consumer expenditure, demand for festivals."

"It's been 15 years of a mega-trend that they missed out on, basically," Enders said. "So it's a good thing they're jumping on now. ... If they wait too long, then they are just a bunch of old geezers."

The tour is due to begin July 4 and 5 at Cardiff's Principality Stadium. Oasis will also perform at Heaton Park in Manchester, on July 11, 12, 16, 19 and 20; London's Wembley Stadium on July 25, 26 and 30 and Aug. 2 and 3; Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh on Aug. 8, 9 and 12; and Croke Park in Dublin on Aug. 16 and 17.

The host cities anticipate an economic boost to hotels, bars, restaurants and shops — especially Manchester, the band's hometown and a city renowned for its musical heritage.

Sacha Lord, Manchester's official nighttime economy adviser, said "there's a big buzz" in the city about the reunion.

"This is a homecoming gig," he said. "When they set foot on that stage for the first time, it's going to be a really special moment."

Fans acknowledged that, given the brothers' frequent feuds, there is a risk not all the dates will go to

plan. But most were undeterred.

Louise Hudson got tickets for London's Wembley Arena, and plans a "family night out" with her brother, sister-in-law and niece.

As for the Gallaghers, "if they fall out, they fall out," she said. "Families, eh?"

Border arrests are expected to rise slightly in August but are hovering near 4-year lows

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Arrests for illegal border crossings from Mexico during August are expected to rise slightly from July, officials said, possibly ending a streak of five straight monthly declines but the numbers are hovering near four-year lows.

Authorities made about 54,000 arrests through Thursday, which, at the current rate, would bring the August total to about 58,000 when the month ends Saturday, according to two U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss information that has not been publicly released.

The tally suggests that arrests could be bottoming out after being halved from a record 250,000 in December, a decline that U.S. officials largely attributed to Mexican authorities increasing enforcement within their borders. Arrests were more than halved again after Democratic President Joe Biden invoked authority to temporarily suspend asylum processing in June. Arrests plunged to 56,408 in July, a nearly four-year low that changed little in August.

Asked about the latest numbers, the Homeland Security Department released a statement by Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas calling on Congress to support failed legislation that would have suspended asylum processing when crossings reached certain thresholds, reshaped how asylum claims are decided to relieve bottlenecked immigration courts and added Border Patrol agents, among other things.

Republicans including presidential nominee Donald Trump opposed the bill, calling it insufficient.

"Thanks to action taken by the Biden-Harris Administration, the hard work of our DHS personnel and our partnerships with other countries in the region and around the world, we continue to see the lowest number of encounters at our Southwest border since September 2020," Mayorkas said Saturday.

The steep drop from last year's highs is welcome news for the White House and the Democrats' White House nominee, Vice President Kamala Harris, despite criticism from many immigration advocates that asylum restrictions go too far and from those favoring more enforcement who say Biden's new and expanded legal paths to entry are far too generous.

More than 765,000 people entered the United States legally through the end of July using an online appointment app called CBP One and an additional 520,000 from four nationalities were allowed through airports with financial sponsors. The airport-based offer to people from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela — all nationalities that are difficult to deport — was briefly suspended in July to address concerns about fraud by U.S. financial sponsors.

San Diego again had the most arrests among the Border Patrol's nine sectors on the Mexican border in August, followed by El Paso, Texas, and Tucson, Arizona, though the three busiest corridors were close, the officials said. Arrests of Colombians and Ecuadoreans fell, which officials attributed to deportation flights to those South American countries. Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras were the top three nationalities.

9 days, 640,000 children, 1.3M doses. The plan to vaccinate Gaza's young against polio

By JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The U.N. health agency and partners are launching a campaign starting Sunday to vaccinate 640,000 Palestinian children in Gaza against polio, an ambitious effort amid a devastating war that has destroyed the territory's healthcare system.

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The campaign comes after the first polio case was reported in Gaza in 25 years — a 10-month-old boy, now paralyzed in the leg. The World Health Organization says the presence of a paralysis case indicates there could be hundreds more who have been infected but aren't showing symptoms.

Most people who have polio do not experience symptoms, and those who do usually recover in a week or so. But there is no cure, and when polio causes paralysis it is usually permanent. If the paralysis affects breathing muscles, the disease can be fatal.

The vaccination effort will not be easy: Gaza's roads are largely destroyed, its hospitals badly damaged and its population spread into isolated pockets.

WHO said Thursday that it has reached an agreement with Israel for limited pauses in the fighting to allow for the vaccination campaign to take place. Even so, such a large-scale campaign will pose major difficulties in a territory blanketed in rubble, where 90% of Palestinians are displaced.

In its first statement on the campaign, Israel said Saturday that the vaccination program would continue through Sept. 9 and last eight hours a day.

On Saturday, Gaza's Health Ministry announced a soft start to the vaccination campaign, with a small number of children receiving doses in the southern city of Khan Younis.

How long will it take?

A three-day vaccination campaign in central Gaza will begin Sunday, during a "humanitarian pause" lasting from 6 a.m. until 3 p.m., and another day can be added if needed, said Dr. Rik Peepkorn, WHO's representative in the Palestinian territories.

In coordination with Israeli authorities, the effort will then move to southern Gaza and northern Gaza during similar pauses, he said during a news conference by video from Deir al-Balah in central Gaza.

Who will receive the vaccine?

The vaccination campaign targets 640,000 children under 10, according to WHO. Each child will receive two drops of oral polio vaccine in two rounds, the second to be administered four weeks after the first.

Where are the vaccination sites?

The vaccination sites span Gaza, both inside and outside Israeli evacuation zones, from Rafah in the south to the northern reaches of the territory.

The Gaza Health Ministry released a list of roughly 160 sites across the territory — including medical centers, hospitals and schools — where the vaccinations will take place. Most of the sites are in Khan Younis and Deir al-Balah, where the population density of children under 10 is the highest.

Where are the vaccines now?

Around 1.3 million doses of the vaccine traveled through the Kerem Shalom checkpoint and are currently being held in "cold-chain storage" in a warehouse in Deir al-Balah. That means the warehouse is able to maintain the correct temperature so the vaccines do not lose their potency.

Another shipment of 400,000 doses is set to be delivered to Gaza soon.

The vaccines will be trucked to distribution sites by a team of over 2,000 medical volunteers, said Ammar Ammar, a spokesperson for UNICEF.

What challenges lie ahead?

Mounting any sort of campaign that requires traversing the Gaza Strip and interacting with its medical system is bound to pose difficulties.

The U.N. estimates that approximately 65% of the total road network in Gaza has been damaged. Nineteen of the strip's 36 hospitals are out of service.

The north of the territory is cut off from the south, and travel between the two areas has been challenging throughout the war because of Israeli military operations. Aid groups have had to suspend trips due to security concerns, after convoys were targeted by the Israeli military.

Peepkorn said Friday that WHO cannot do house-to-house vaccinations in Gaza, as they have in other polio campaigns. When asked about the viability of the effort, Peepkorn said WHO thinks "it is feasible if all the pieces of the puzzle are in place."

How many doses do children need and what happens if they miss a dose?

The WHO says children typically need about three to four doses of oral polio vaccine — two drops per

dose — to be protected against polio. If they don't receive all of the doses, they are vulnerable to infection. Doctors have previously found that children who are malnourished or who have other illnesses might need more than 10 doses of the oral polio vaccine to be fully protected.

Are there side effects?

Yes, but they are very rare.

Billions of doses of the oral vaccine have been given to children worldwide and it is safe and effective. But in about 1 in 2.7 million doses, the live virus in the vaccine can paralyze the child who receives the drops.

How did this outbreak in Gaza start?

The polio virus that triggered this latest outbreak is a mutated virus from an oral polio vaccine. The oral polio vaccine contains weakened live virus and in very rare cases, that virus is shed by those who are vaccinated and can evolve into a new form capable of starting new epidemics.

Police say a man will face charges after storming into the press area at a Trump rally

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Police said Saturday that a man will face misdemeanor charges after he stormed into the press area at Donald Trump's rally in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, before being surrounded by authorities and eventually subdued with a Taser as the former president spoke at the campaign stop.

The incident Friday came moments after Trump had criticized major media outlets for what he said was unfavorable coverage and had dismissed CNN as fawning for its interview Thursday with his Democratic rival Kamala Harris and her running mate, Tim Walz.

It was not immediately clear what motivated the man or whether he was a Trump supporter or critic.

The man made it over a barrier ringed the media area and began climbing the back side of a riser where television reporters and cameras were stationed, according to a video of the incident posted to social media by a reporter for CBS News. People near him tried to pull him off the riser and were quickly joined by police officers and sheriff's deputies.

The crowd cheered as a pack of police led the man away, prompting Trump to say, "Is there anywhere that's more fun to be than a Trump rally?"

Johnstown's police chief, Richard M. Pritchard, confirmed to The Associated Press on Saturday that the man was arrested, released and will be formally charged next week. Pritchard said the man, whose identity will be disclosed when charges are filed, will face misdemeanors in municipal court for alleged disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and disrupting a public assembly.

Pritchard, who was not directly involved in the arrest, declined to speculate on the man's motives.

Fierce criticism of the media is a standard part of Trump's rally speeches, and his supporters often react by turning toward the press section and booing; some use their middle finger to demonstrate their distaste for journalists.

Moments before the man ventured into the media's designated section, Trump had reprised his familiar assertion that the media is a collective "enemy of the people." Video of the incident does not make clear what the man was yelling as he climbed barriers or as he was being subdued and arrested.

Trump's campaign tried to distance the former president from the man and his actions, suggesting he was a Trump opponent.

"Witnesses, including some in the press corps, described a crazed individual shouting expletives at President Trump," said campaign senior adviser Danielle Alvarez. "His aggression was focused on the president and towards the stage as he entered the press area."

Alvarez did not identify the witnesses she cited or expound on what the man may have shouted. Alvarez added that the campaign appreciates the response of local law enforcement officials and the U.S. Secret Service for acting quickly.

Shortly after the incident, police handcuffed another man in the crowd and led him out of the arena. It was not immediately clear whether that detention was related to the initial altercation.

The incident happened amid heightened scrutiny of security at Trump rallies after a gunman fired at him,

grazing his ear, during an outdoor rally in July in nearby Butler, Pennsylvania. Security at political events has been noticeably tighter since the shooting.

A Secret Service spokesperson referred questions to local authorities.

Catholic diocese sues US government, worried some foreign-born priests might be forced to leave

By GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO Associated Press

For more than a year, religious organizations have lobbied Congress and the Biden administration to fix a sudden procedural change in how the government processes green cards for religious workers, which threatens the ability of thousands of them to continue to minister in the United States.

The Catholic Diocese of Paterson, New Jersey, and five of its priests whose legal status in the United States expires as soon as next spring, have now sued the federal agencies overseeing immigration. They argue that the change "will cause severe and substantial disruption to the lives and religious freedoms" of the priests as well as the hundreds of thousands of Catholics they serve.

"Our priests feel we're doing the best we can," said Bishop Kevin Sweeney, whose diocese covers 400,000 Catholics and 107 parishes in three New Jersey counties.

Paterson is the first diocese to bring this suit against the Department of State, Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, said Raymond Lahoud, its attorney in the lawsuit.

But "there is a buzz out there" among similarly impacted religious groups, Lahoud added, because of how reliant many are on foreign-born clergy who build strong ties in their U.S. parishes.

"It's so disruptive," said Bishop Mark Seitz, who chairs the committee on migration for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The group has advocated for legislative and administrative fixes because the newly extralong delays in green card processing are "not sustainable."

In his own border diocese of El Paso, Texas, Seitz is facing the possibility of losing priests whose permanent residency cases now have little chance to be approved before their visas expire. The law mandates them to leave the United States for at least a year.

"One is pastor of a large, growing parish. Now I'm supposed to send him away for a year, put him on ice, as it were — and somehow provide Masses?" Seitz said.

To deal with a shortage of religious workers that has worsened in recent decades, American dioceses have long had agreements with foreign dioceses to bring in seminarians, priests and nuns from places as different as Poland, the Philippines and Nigeria, said the Rev. Thomas Gaunt of Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

Most other faith denominations from Buddhism to Islam to Pentecostal Christians also recruit foreign-born clergy, for reasons ranging from the need to minister to growing non-English-speaking congregations to specialized training at foreign institutions steeped in a religion's history.

Most such "religious workers," in the U.S. government's definition, come under temporary visas called R-1, which allow them to work in the United States for five years. That used to be plenty enough for an organization to assess if the clergy were in fact a good fit and then petition for permanent resident status — known as green cards — for them under a special category called EB-4.

Congress establishes a maximum number of green cards available per year per category, which is generally either based on types of employment or family links to U.S. citizens. The wait time depends on whether and by how much the demand exceeds the visas available in each category.

Citizens of countries with especially high demand get put in separate, often longer "lines" — currently, the most backlogged category is for the married Mexican children of U.S. citizens, where only applications filed more than 24 years ago are being processed.

Neglected or abused minors from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador — a surging number of whom have sought humanitarian green cards or asylum after illegally crossing into the U.S. since the mid-2010s — were also in a separate line. But in March 2023, the State Department announced that was a mistake and immediately started adding them to the general queue with the clergy.

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That's created a backlog that currently stands at more than 3.5 years and could increase. Some estimate it could take 10-15 years to get these green cards.

"This is an untenable situation," said Lance Conklin, who co-chairs the religious workers group of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and often represents evangelical pastors. "The lawsuit is representative of the way a lot of people feel."

The lawyers' association, together with the bishops' conference and other organizations, has been lobbying for long-term Congressional fixes — which most recognize will be hard to obtain given the political sensitivity of immigration reform — as well as simpler administrative changes that the agencies could implement quickly.

Among those, attorneys and advocates say, would be allowing applicants to change ministry jobs — moving from associate pastor to senior pastor, or relocating to a different convent, for example — without losing their place in the green card line. Or the government could reduce the time they need to spend outside the United States after their visa expires before they can get another one.

"We could deal with a month," Seitz said, while the current required time is 12 months.

Most organizations are staying the course for now, hoping and praying that the administration will make at least these temporary fixes — perhaps nudged by the lawsuit, filed in August in U.S. District Court in New Jersey.

That's largely because they don't have other options.

Different employment visas and green cards are far more laborious and expensive to apply for, and many clergy don't qualify. For instance, those not receiving any salary cannot show they're being offered "prevailing wages," one of the requirements meant to protect U.S. native workers in non-religious employment categories.

That's often the case for Catholic nuns, said Mary O'Leary, a Michigan attorney who represents religious orders.

"A lot of religious orders are not wealthy," she said. "They're not like Microsoft, you can't go to a business school or computer science school and recruit."

In the Archdiocese of Chicago, a nun who works as a school aid has to leave the country when her visa expires in a couple of weeks, said Olga Rojas, the archdiocese's senior counsel for immigration.

"This principal is so devastated," Rojas said, adding that across the U.S. religious workers have already been forced to leave. "They want to stay and finish their work."

In some cases, their organizations are trying hard to bring the religious workers back from overseas, said Miguel Naranjo, the director of Religious Immigration Services for Catholic Legal Immigration Network.

"It's beyond ministry," Naranjo added, because they often provide education, healthcare, youth and other social services. "They're the last safety net of many communities."

Harris and Trump offer starkly different visions on climate change and energy

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the Earth sizzled through a summer with four of the hottest days ever measured, Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump have starkly different visions on how to address a changing climate while ensuring a reliable energy supply. But neither has provided many details on how they would get there.

During her acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, Harris briefly mentioned climate change as she outlined "fundamental freedoms" at stake in the election, including "the freedom to breathe clean air and drink clean water and live free from the pollution that fuels the climate crisis."

As vice president, Harris cast the tiebreaking vote on the Inflation Reduction Act, President Joe Biden's landmark climate law that was approved with only Democratic support. As a senator from California, she was an early sponsor of the Green New Deal, a sweeping series of proposals meant to swiftly move the United States to fully green energy that is championed by the party's most progressive wing.

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Trump, meanwhile, led chants of “drill, baby, drill” and pledged to dismantle the Biden administration’s “green new scam” in his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention. He has vowed to boost production of fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas and coal and repeal key parts of the 2022 climate law.

“We have more liquid gold under our feet than any other country by far,” Trump said at the convention. “We are a nation that has the opportunity to make an absolute fortune with its energy.”

‘Climate champion’ or unfair regulations?

Environmental groups, which largely back Harris, call her a “proven climate champion” who will take on Big Oil and build on Biden’s climate legacy, including policies that boost electric vehicles and limit planet-warming pollution from coal-fired power plants.

“We won’t go back to a climate denier in the Oval Office,” said Lena Moffitt, executive director of Evergreen Action.

Republicans counter that Biden and Harris have spent four years adopting “punishing regulations” that target American energy while lavishing generous tax credits for electric vehicles and other green priorities that cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

“This onslaught of overreaching and outrageous climate rules will shut down power plants and increase energy costs for families across the country,” said Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo. “Republicans will work to stop them and fight for solutions that protect our air and water and allow our economy to grow.”

Democrats have a clear edge on the issue. More than half of U.S. adults say they trust Harris “a lot” or “some” when it comes to addressing climate change, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll conducted in July. About 7 in 10 say they have “not much” trust in Trump or “none at all” when it comes to climate. Fewer than half say they lack trust in Harris.

A look at where the two candidates stand on key climate and energy issues:

Fracking and offshore drilling

Harris said during her short-lived 2020 presidential campaign that she opposed offshore drilling for oil and hydraulic fracturing, an oil and gas extraction process better known as fracking.

But her campaign has clarified that she no longer supports a ban on fracking, a common drilling practice crucial to the economy in Pennsylvania, a key swing state and the nation’s second-largest producer of natural gas.

“As vice president, I did not ban fracking. As president, I will not ban fracking,” Harris told CNN on Thursday in her first major television interview as the nominee. “We can grow ... a thriving clean energy economy without banning fracking.”

Kevin Book, managing director at ClearView Energy Partners, a Washington research firm, said Harris’ evolving views show she is “trying to balance climate voters and industry supporters,” even as her campaign takes “an adversarial stance” with the oil and gas industry overall.

Harris and Democrats have cited new rules — authorized by the climate law — to increase royalties that oil and gas companies pay to drill or mine on public lands. She also has supported efforts to clean up old drilling sites and cap abandoned wells that often spew methane and other pollutants.

Trump, who pushed to roll back scores of environmental laws as president, says his goal is for the U.S. to have the cheapest energy and electricity in the world. He’d increase oil drilling on public lands, offer tax breaks to oil, gas and coal producers and speed approval of natural gas pipelines.

Electric vehicles

Trump has frequently criticized tough new vehicle emissions rules imposed by Biden, incorrectly labeling them an electric vehicle “mandate.” Environmental Protection Agency rules issued this spring target tailpipe emissions from cars and trucks and encourage but do not require sales of new EVs to meet the new standards.

Trump has said EV manufacturing will destroy jobs in the auto industry. In recent months, however, he has softened his rhetoric, saying he’s for “a very small slice” of cars being electric.

The change comes after Tesla CEO Elon Musk “endorsed me very strongly,” Trump said at an August rally in Atlanta. Even so, industry officials expect Trump to roll back Biden’s EV push and attempt to repeal tax incentives that Trump claims benefit China.

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Harris has not announced an EV plan but has strongly supported EVs as vice president. At a 2022 event in Seattle, she celebrated roughly \$1 billion in federal grants to purchase about 2,500 "clean" school buses. As many as 25 million children ride the familiar yellow buses each school day, and they will have a healthier future with a cleaner fleet, Harris said.

The grants and other federal climate programs not only are aimed at "saving our children, but for them, saving our planet," she said.

Climate law, jobs

Harris has focused on implementing the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure law passed in 2021, as well as climate provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act, which provided nearly \$375 billion in financial incentives for electric cars and clean energy projects.

Under Biden and Harris, U.S. manufacturers created more than 250,000 energy jobs last year, the Energy Department said, with clean energy accounting for more than half of those jobs. "America is more energy secure than ever before with the highest domestic energy production on record," the Harris campaign said.

Trump and his running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, deride climate spending as a "money grab" for environmental groups and say it will ship Americans' jobs to China and other countries while increasing energy prices at home.

"Kamala Harris cares more about climate change than about inflation," Vance wrote in an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal.

Goodbye Paris?

Trump, who has cast climate change as a "hoax," withdrew the U.S. from the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. He has pledged to do so again, calling the global plan to reduce carbon emissions unenforceable and a gift to China and other big polluters. Trump promises to end wind subsidies included in the climate law and eliminate regulations imposed and proposed by the Biden administration to increase the energy efficiency of lightbulbs, stoves, dishwashers and shower heads.

Harris has called the Paris Agreement crucial to address climate change and protect "our children's future."

The U.S. returned to the pact soon after Biden took office in 2021.

LNG pause

After approving numerous projects to export liquefied natural gas, or LNG, the Biden administration in January paused consideration of new natural gas export terminals. The delay allows officials to review the economic and climate impacts of natural gas, a fossil fuel that emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

The decision aligned the Democratic president with environmentalists who fear the recent increase in LNG exports is locking in potentially catastrophic planet-warming emissions even as Biden has pledged to cut climate pollution in half by 2030.

Trump has said he would approve terminals "on my very first day back" in office.

Harris has not outlined plans for LNG exports, but analysts expect her to impose tough climate standards on export projects as part of her larger stance against large oil and gas companies.

With men at the front lines, women watch over Ukraine's night sky for Russian drones

By VASILISA STEPANENKO and SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — When the air raid siren bellows in the dead of night, the women in arms rush to duty.

Barely two months since joining the mobile air-defense unit, 27-year-old Angelina has perfected the drill to a tee: Combat gear fitted, anti-aircraft machine gun in place, she cruised behind the wheel of a pickup, singing along to a Ukrainian song about rebellion.

The rest unfolded in seconds: Under a tree-lined position near Kyiv's Bucha suburb, she and her five-woman unit mounted the gun, checked the salvo and waited. The chirp of crickets filled the silence until the Russian-launched Shahed drone was shot down — on this August night, by a nearby unit — another menace to near daily life in Ukraine eliminated.

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To shoot down a drone brings her joy. "It's just a rush of adrenaline," said Angelina, who like other women in the unit spoke to The Associated Press on condition only their first names or call signs be used, in keeping with military policy.

Women are increasingly joining volunteer mobile units responsible for shooting down Russian drones that terrorize Ukrainian civilians and energy infrastructure as more men are sent east to the front line.

While women make up only a tiny fraction of the country's armed forces, their service is vital. With tens of thousands of men reportedly recruited every month, women have stepped up as crucial operations from coal mines to territorial defense forces accept them to fulfill traditionally male roles.

At least 70 women have been recruited into the Bucha defense forces in recent months for anti-drone operations, said the area's territorial defense commander, Col. Andrii Velarty. It's part of a nationwide drive to attract part-time female volunteers to fill the ranks of local defense units.

The women come from all walks of life — stay-at-home moms to doctors like Angelina — and call themselves the "Witches of Bucha," a nod to their role of keeping watch over the night skies for Russian drones.

Some were motivated to volunteer by the Russian massacre of hundreds of Bucha residents during the monthlong occupation of the Kyiv suburb by Russian troops soon after the February 2022 invasion. Bodies of men, women and children were left on the streets, in homes and in mass graves.

"We were here, saw these horrors," said Angelina, who treated wounded residents, including children, during the Russian occupation.

So when she spotted a sign calling for female recruits on a highway while driving in June with her friend, Olena, also a doctor, "we didn't hesitate," she said.

"We called and were immediately told 'Yes, come tomorrow,'" she said. "There is work that we can do here."

A grueling training

At a training session deep inside Bucha's forest this month, female recruits ranging in age from 27 to 51 were being tested on how quickly they could assemble and disassemble rifles. "I have eighth graders who can do this better," their instructor shouted.

The recruits were taught about a variety of weapons and mines, tactics and how to detect Russian infiltrators — their skills adapted to a war in which their enemy's methods are always changing.

"We train no less than men," said Lidiia, who joined a month ago.

A 34-year-old sales clerk with four children, Lidiia said her main motivation was to do her part to protect her family. Her children have looked at her differently since she began wearing army fatigues, she said.

"My younger son always asks, 'Mom, do you carry a gun?' I say, 'Yes.' He asks, 'Do you shoot?' I say, 'Of course I do.'"

"I've always been the best for them, but now I'm the best in a slightly different way," she said.

On July 31, she was on duty when Russia launched 89 Shahed drones, all of which were destroyed. Lidiia was an assistant machine-gunner that night.

"We got ready, we went to the call, we found that there were a lot of targets all over Ukraine," she said. "We had night-vision devices so it was easy to spot the target."

What did she feel as her unit shot down three of the drones? "Joy and some foul language," Olena said.

After shooting down drones, the day job begins

When the sun rose, Angelina and Olena removed their heavy combat gear and went home to slip on surgical scrubs. Another shift, this time at the intensive care unit at the hospital where they work, was about to start.

By midnight, they would be back near the tree line, waiting for incoming Russian drones. "Today I slept for two hours and forty minutes," Olena said.

There is no escape from the war for both women.

Their boyfriends are soldiers, and Angelina, an anesthesiologist, met hers at the hospital where he was recovering from a combat wound to his foot.

Seeing the numbers of wounded Ukrainian soldiers was one reason she decided to volunteer.

"To bring our victory closer. If we can do something to help, why not?" she said.

Angelina's boyfriend worries every time she is on duty and the air raid alarm sounds. He texts her, "be careful" and when it ends, "write to me" — despite it being much scarier on the front lines, she said.

'We are no longer women, we are soldiers'

The Russian drone attacks are typically more intense at night, but daytime attacks are just as deadly. The drone unit spends entire nights driving back and forth from their base in the forest to the position. Sometimes they stand there for hours waiting to shoot.

"There is nothing easy about it. In order to shoot it down, you have to train constantly," Angelina said. "I have to train all the time, including on simulators."

Their platoon commander, a confident woman with long braided hair who goes by the call sign Calypso, leads training in shooting, assault skills and combat medicine every Sunday.

There's no difference between the male and female volunteers, she said.

"From the moment we come to serve, sign a contract, we are no longer women, we are soldiers," she said. "We have to do our job, and men also understand this. We don't come here to sit around and cook borscht or anything."

"I have a feeling the girls and I would shoot down these Shaheds with our bare hands, with a stick, if we had to — anything to stop them from landing on our children, friends and family."

The women in the mobile-fire units are on duty every two or three days. They work in groups of five, with a machine gunner, assistant, fire support, a driver and commander.

"Of course, war is war, but no one has canceled femininity," Calypso said. "It doesn't matter whether you hit a Shahed with painted eyes or not, the work is still going on. And not everyone has a manicure."

As more women are trained to join the ranks of the territorial defense forces, the safer Ukraine's skies will be, Angelina said.

"This means that I can make at least some small contribution to the fact that my mother sleeps peacefully, that my brothers and sisters go to school peacefully and they can meet their friends peacefully," she said.

"So that my godsons can also grow under a relatively peaceful sky."

Sudden death of 'Johnny Hockey' means more hard times for beleaguered Columbus Blue Jackets

By MITCH STACY AP Sports Writer

Columbus Blue Jackets officials could hardly believe their luck when they persuaded superstar Johnny Gaudreau to pass up larger markets and sign here two years ago.

Ecstatic fans looked to "Johnny Hockey" to score goals and jump-start the fortunes of a struggling team that had reached the playoffs just six times in the previous 21 seasons and advanced beyond the opening round only twice.

A few other big stars had spent time with the Blue Jackets, but for one reason or another they didn't work out or didn't care to hang around. Goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky and forward Artemi Panarin were beloved by fans and led Columbus to a playoff sweep of the Tampa Bay Lightning in 2019. But they couldn't get out of town fast enough when their contracts expired.

Gaudreau, one of the sport's top players who spent his first eight years in the NHL with Calgary, certainly seemed different. He was excited to play for Columbus and be closer to his family in New Jersey, which for Blue Jackets fans makes his sudden death along with that of his brother Thursday night a shattering tragedy even harder to take. He was just 31.

"Johnny Gaudreau coming here, actually choosing Columbus was literally our validation. Like we are a hockey town, this is a hockey market. People want to play here. Johnny Gaudreau was literally the embodiment of that," said Nick Shannon, who came to Nationwide Arena in Columbus on Friday to pay his respects.

Gaudreau and his younger brother died after they were struck by a suspected drunken driver while they

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were riding bicycles in Oldmans Township, close to their southern New Jersey hometown. Their sister's wedding, scheduled for Friday, was called off.

"When he first signed, his famous words were, 'It's a great place to raise a family.' And we were his family," said Ninell Baker, a Blue Jackets season-ticket holder who also showed up at the downtown arena. "The players loved him. We all loved him. It breaks my heart. I don't even know how to act."

Fans who made their way to the front of the arena left behind flowers, caps, shirts and lots of hockey sticks. A bagpiper in a kilt and a Blue Jackets' No. 13 Gaudreau sweater played as he walked up and down a sidewalk.

Gaudreau's shocking death was the second off-ice tragedy in three years for a franchise struggling to get back on its feet. The organization was rocked when goaltender Matiss Kivlenieks was killed in a fireworks accident in July 2021 while attending the wedding of then-Blue Jackets goaltending coach Manny Legace's daughter in Michigan. Kivlenieks was just 24.

Injuries, bad luck and mismanagement have knocked the Blue Jackets off track in the past few seasons, despite Gaudreau's 74- and 60-point efforts in 2022-23 and 2023-24, respectively.

Coach John Tortorella led Columbus to the playoffs for four straight seasons but was fired after missing the postseason in 2021. A protege, Brad Larsen, lasted two seasons before he was let go.

The Blue Jackets made Mike Babcock the highest-paid coach in team history when he was hired in the summer of 2023. Babcock didn't even make it to the season, fired just before training camp amid complaints that his requests to see photos on players' phones were too invasive.

Pascal Vincent, who had been hired as an associate head coach, was elevated to the top job on the eve of training camp. Columbus finished last season as one of the worst teams in the NHL and out of the playoffs for the fourth straight season.

General manager Jarmo Kekalainen was fired in the middle of last season. Longtime NHL executive Don Waddell was hired as GM in May, and he fired Vincent in June. Waddell hired former Minnesota Wild coach Dean Evason to replace Vincent.

Now Evason will be without Gaudreau, who would have been his best player. He will also be without Patrik Laine, the talented forward acquired in a 2021 trade who the team hoped would complement Gaudreau on the top line.

The 26-year-old Laine played 18 games last season before entering the NHL Player Assistance Program last January. Telling Blue Jackets management he needed "a change of scenery," Laine was traded to Montreal last month.

"We really don't have a choice but to keep going," Shannon said. "To be a Blue Jackets fan, or any sports fan in Ohio, you need to be resilient."

Young girls are using anti-aging products they see on social media.

The harm is more than skin deep

By JOCELYN GECKER AP Education Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — When she was in fifth grade, Scarlett Goddard Strahan started to worry about getting wrinkles.

By the time she turned 10, Scarlett and her friends were spending hours on TikTok and YouTube watching influencers tout products for achieving today's beauty aesthetic: a dewy, "glowy," flawless complexion. Scarlett developed an elaborate skin care routine with facial cleansers, mists, hydrating masks and moisturizers.

One night, Scarlett's skin began to burn intensely and erupted in blisters. Heavy use of adult-strength products had wreaked havoc on her skin. Months later, patches of tiny bumps remain on Scarlett's face, and her cheeks turn red in the sun.

"I didn't want to get wrinkles and look old," says Scarlett, who recently turned 11. "If I had known my life would be so affected by this, I never would have put these things on my face."

Scarlett's experience has become common, experts say, as preteen girls around the country throng beauty

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stores to buy high-end skin care products, a trend captured in viral videos with the hashtag #SephoraKids. Girls as young as 8 are turning up at dermatologists' offices with rashes, chemical burns and other allergic reactions to products not intended for children's sensitive skin.

"When kids use anti-aging skin care, they can actually cause premature aging, destroy the skin barrier and lead to permanent scarring," says Dr. Brooke Jeffy, a Scottsdale, Arizona, dermatologist who has posted her own social media videos rebutting influencers' advice.

More than the physical harm, parents and child psychologists worry about the trend's effects on girls' mental health — for years to come. Extensive data suggests a fixation on appearance can affect self-esteem and body image and fuel anxiety, depression and eating disorders.

The skin care obsession offers a window into the role social media plays in the lives of today's youth and how it shapes the ideals and insecurities of girls in particular. Girls are experiencing high levels of sadness and hopelessness. Whether social media exposure causes or simply correlates with mental health problems is up for debate. But to older teens and young adults, it's clear: Extended time on social media has been bad for them, period.

Young girls' fascination with makeup and cosmetics is not new. Neither are kids who hold themselves to idealized beauty standards. What's different now is the magnitude, says Kris Perry, executive director of Children and Screens, a nonprofit that studies how digital media impacts child development. In an era of filtered images and artificial intelligence, some of the beautiful faces they encounter aren't even real.

"Girls are being bombarded with idealized images of beauty that establish a beauty standard that could be very hard — if not impossible — to attain," Perry says.

Saving allowances for Sephora hauls

The obsession with skin care is about more than the pursuit of perfect skin, explains 14-year-old Mia Hall.

It's about feeling accepted and belonging to a community that has the lifestyle and look you want, says Mia, a New Yorker from the Bronx.

Skin care was not on Mia's radar until she started eighth grade last fall. It was a topic of conversation among girls her age — at school and on social media. Girls bonded over their skin care routines.

"Everyone was doing it. I felt like it was the only way I could fit in," says Mia. She started following beauty influencers like Katie Fang and Gianna Christine, who have millions of young followers on TikTok. Some influencers are paid by brands to promote their products, but they don't always mention that.

Mia got hooked on "Get Ready With Me" videos, where influencers film themselves getting ready — for school, for a night out with friends, packing for a trip. The hashtag #GRWM has over 150 billion views on TikTok.

"It's like a trance. You can't stop watching it," Mia says. "So when they tell me, 'Go buy this product' or, 'I use this and it's amazing,' it feels very personal. Getting what they have makes me feel connected to them."

Mia started saving her \$20 weekly allowance for trips with friends to Sephora. Her daily routine included a face wash, a facial mist, a hydrating serum, a pore-tightening toner, a moisturizer and sunscreen. Most were luxury brands like Glow Recipe, Drunk Elephant or Caudalie, whose moisturizers can run \$70.

"I get really jealous and insecure a lot when I see other girls my age who look very pretty or have an amazing life," she says.

The level of detail and information girls are getting from beauty tutorials sends a troubling message at a vulnerable age, as girls are going through puberty and searching for their identities, says Charlotte Markey, a body image expert and Rutgers University psychologist.

"The message to young girls is that, 'You are a never-ending project to get started on now.' And essentially: 'You are not OK the way you are,'" says Markey, author of "The Body Image Book for Girls."

Products promoting youth, purchased by kids

The beauty industry has been cashing in on the trend. Last year, consumers under age 14 drove 49% of drug store skin sales, according to a NielsonIQ report that found households with teens and tweens were outspending the average American household on skin care. And in the first half of 2024, a third of "prestige" beauty sales, at stores like Sephora, were driven by households with tweens and teens, accord-

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ing to market research firm Circana.

The cosmetics industry has acknowledged certain products aren't suitable for children but has done little to stop kids from buying them. Drunk Elephant's website, for example, recommends kids 12 and under should not use their anti-aging serums, lotions and scrubs "due to their very active nature." That guidance is on the site's FAQ page; there are no such warnings on the products themselves.

Sephora declined to comment for this story.

Ingredients like retinol and chemical exfoliants like hydroxy acids are inherently harsh. For aging skin, they are used to stimulate collagen and cell production. Young or sensitive skin can react with redness, peeling and burning that can lead to infections, acne and hypersensitivity if used incorrectly, dermatologists say.

Dermatologists agree a child's face typically needs only three items, all found on drugstore shelves: a gentle cleanser, a moisturizer and sunscreen.

A California bill aimed at banning the sale of anti-aging skin care products to children under age 13 failed this spring, but Democratic Assemblymember Alex Lee says he plans to continue pursuing industry accountability. Lee and other critics say popular brands use colorful packaging and product names like "Baby facial" to attract younger buyers in the same way that e-cigarette companies and alcohol brands created fruity flavors that appeal to underage users.

Lee points to Europe as setting the right example. The European Union enacted legislation last year that limits the concentration of retinol in all over-the-counter products. And one of Sweden's leading pharmacy chains, Apotek Hjärtat, said in March it would stop selling anti-aging skin care products to customers under 15 without parental consent. "This is a way to protect children's skin health, finances and mental well-being," the company said.

One mother 'got rid of them all'

Around the country, concerned mothers are visiting dermatologists with their young daughters, carrying bags filled with their child's skin care products to ask: Are these OK?

"Often the mothers are saying exactly what I am but need their child to hear it from an expert," says Dr. Dendy Engelman, a Manhattan dermatologist. "They're like, 'Maybe she'll listen to you because she certainly doesn't listen to me.'"

Mia's mother, Sandra Gordon, took a different approach. Last spring, she noticed dark patches on Mia's face and became alarmed. Gordon, a nurse, threw all her daughter's products into the trash.

"There were Sephora bags on top of bags. Some things were opened, some not opened, some were full. I got rid of them all," she says.

Mia wasn't happy. But as she starts high school, she now feels her mother was right. She has switched to a simple routine, using just a face wash and moisturizer, and says her complexion has improved.

In Sacramento, California, Scarlett missed early signs the products were hurting her skin: She developed a rash and felt a stinging sensation, within days of trying out viral skin care products. Scarlett figured she wasn't using enough, so she layered on more. That's when her cheeks erupted in blistering pain.

"It was late at night. She came running into my room crying. All of her cheeks had been burned," recalls Anna Goddard, Scarlett's mother, who hadn't realized the extent of Scarlett's skin care obsession.

When Goddard read the ingredients in each product, she was shocked to find retinol in products that appeared to be marketed to children — including a facial sheet mask with a cat's face on the packaging.

What worries her mother most is the psychological consequences. Kids' comments at school have caused lingering anxiety and self-consciousness.

Goddard hopes to see more protections. "I didn't know there were harmful ingredients being put in skin care that is marketed to kids," she says. "There has to be some type of warning."

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Today in History: September 1, Titanic wreckage found

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 1, the 245th day of 2024. There are 121 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 1, 1985, a U.S.-French expedition located the wreckage of the Titanic on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean roughly 400 miles off the coast of Newfoundland.

Also on this date:

In 1715, following a reign of 72 years, King Louis XIV of France died four days before his 77th birthday; he was succeeded by his five year-old great-grandson, Louis XV.

In 1897, the first section of Boston's new subway was opened, creating the first underground rapid transit system in North America.

In 1914, the passenger pigeon, once one of the most abundant bird species on earth, went extinct as the last known example, named Martha, died in captivity at the Cincinnati Zoo.

In 1923, the Japanese cities of Tokyo and Yokohama were devastated by an earthquake that claimed some 140,000 lives.

In 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland, an event regarded as the start of World War II.

In 1964, pitcher Masanori Murakami of the San Francisco Giants became the first Japanese baseball player to play in a Major League Baseball game.

In 1969, a coup in Libya brought Moammar Gadhafi to power.

In 1972, American Bobby Fischer won the international chess crown in Reykjavik, Iceland, as Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union resigned before the resumption of their 21st and final game.

In 1983, 269 people were killed when a Korean Air Lines Boeing 747 was shot down by a Soviet jet fighter after the airliner entered Soviet airspace.

In 2004, Islamic terrorists took more than a thousand people hostage in a school in Beslan, North Ossetia, Russia; the siege would end three days later in gunfire and explosions, leaving 334 people dead — more than half of them children.

In 2015, invoking "God's authority," Rowan County, Kentucky, Clerk Kim Davis denied marriage licenses to gay couples again in direct defiance of the federal courts and vowed not to resign, even under the pressure of steep fines or jail. (Davis would spend five days in jail as a result, and is currently appealing a ruling ordering her to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in related legal fees.)

Today's Birthdays: Attorney and law professor Alan Dershowitz is 86. Comedian-actor Lily Tomlin is 85. Singer Barry Gibb is 78. Talk show host Dr. Phil McGraw is 74. Singer Gloria Estefan is 67. TV host-author Padma Lakshmi is 54. Actor Ricardo Antonio Chavira is 53. Fashion designer Rachel Zoe is 53. Actor Scott Speedman is 49. Composer-producer Ludwig Göransson is 40. Actor-singer Zendaya is 28.