

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, Sept. 8

Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS), 3:16 pm in GHS Conference Room
Emmanuel Lutheran: Rally Sunday: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.
Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, municipal airport, all day.
Couples Sunflower Golf Tourney, 10 a.m.
Doggie Day at the pool, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Carnival of Silver Skates registration, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Skating House
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 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: Worship with communion: Conde Worship, 8:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.



Monday, Sept. 9

School Breakfast: French toast.
School Lunch: Meatball, mashed potatoes.
Senior Menu: Baked fish, oven roasted potatoes, pea and cheese salad, fruit, whole wheat bread.
JH/JV Football at Langford Area vs. Webster Area. JH at 4 p.m., JV at 5 p.m.
School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Pantry Open, community center, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Senior Citizens meet at the community center, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Carnival of Silver Skates registration, after school to 6 p.m., Skating House
United Methodist: PEO Meeting (outside group), 7 p.m.

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

Northern State Hands Anchorage Their Fourth Loss of the Season

Sioux Falls, S.D. – Outscoring their opponents 75-35, the Northern State University volleyball team returns to Aberdeen with a 4-0 record. The Wolves downed their Saturday opponent, Alaska Anchorage with set scores of 25-19, 25-11, and 25-5.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 3, AA 0

Records: NSU 4-0, AA 2-4

Attendance: 87

HOW IT HAPPENED

The two teams traded points to open the first set, however the Wolves took control and did not look back. Northern hit .305 in the match, including a set high .464 in the third.

They tallied a match leading 39 kills, 38 assists, 67 digs, ten blocks, and six aces.

The NSU defense notched 26 more digs than the Seawolves and held their opponents to a .009 attack percentage.

Keri Walker recorded a double-double with 32 assists and 15 digs, adding two aces, two kills, and one block.

Morissen Samuels did not suffer an error offensively, hitting .500 with eight kills; she added four blocks and two digs as well.

Hanna Thompson matched Samuels' kill total of eight and Natalia Szybinska led the team with nine kills.

It was all Abby Brooks at the net as the senior led the team with eight blocks; she added six kills and three digs.

Abby Meister notched her third straight 20-plus dig match with 20 in the win, averaging 6.67 per set.

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Natalia Szybinska: 9 kills, 2 blocks

Morissen Samuels: 8 kills, .500 attack%, 4 blocks

Keri Walker: 32 assists, 15 digs, 2 aces

Abby Meister: 20 digs, 2 assists

UP NEXT

Northern State travels east next Friday and Saturday to the Wisconsin Parkside Hampton Inn Invitational. The Wolves will face Ohio Dominican, Parkside, Lake Erie College, and Wayne State (Mich.)

Name Released in Butte County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal motorcycle crash
Where: SD Highway 79, mile marker 157, 24 miles north of Newell, SD
When: 4:29 p.m., Thursday, August 8, 2024

Vehicle 1: 2001 Harley Davidson ISF
Driver 1: Julie Lynn Ostlund, 56-year-old female from Berthold, ND, fatal injuries
Helmet Use: No

Butte County, S.D.- A 56-year-old woman died September 3 from injuries sustained August 8 in a single-vehicle crash near Newell, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates on August 8, 2024, Julie L. Ostlund, the driver of a 2001 Harley Davidson, was traveling southbound on SD Highway 79 near mile marker 157 when the motorcycle drifted off the road to the right and struck a delineator pole, coming to rest in the west ditch. Ostlund was transported to a Rapid City hospital with life-threatening injuries. She passed away on September 3 from the injuries sustained in the crash.

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

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

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Girls Soccer Teams beats West Central

The Groton Area soccer teams traveled to West Central on Saturday where the girls won and the boys tied.









Groton Area scored first in the girls game in the 22nd minute with a kick by McKenna Tietz, assisted by Laila Roberts. It was 1-0 at half time.

West Central equalized off a poor goal kick in the 54th minute. Thirteen minutes later, after a series of positive attacks, Brooklyn Hansen drew a penalty in the penalty area before her twin sister Kennedy took her second penalty of the season and converted it for her second goal of the season and the winner.












Goalie Jaedyn Penning had five saves.

The boys tied with West Central, 2-2. Logan Olson scored both goals.

Girls Standings

#	Name	Season				Seed Pts
		W	L	T	PCT	PTS
1	 Sioux Falls Christian	3	1	1	.700	43.900
2	 Dakota Valley	3	1	0	.750	42.750
3	 Groton Area	4	1	1	.750	42.583
4	 West Central	5	2	0	.714	41.714
5	 St. Thomas More	2	3	0	.400	39.800
6	 Garretson	2	3	1	.417	38.750
7	 Belle Fourche	1	4	1	.250	37.583
8	 Vermillion	0	5	0	.000	34.800

Boys Standings

#	Name	Season				Seed Pts
		W	L	T	PCT	PTS
1	 Rapid City Christian	3	0	1	.875	45.375
2	 Vermillion	3	0	0	1.000	43.000
3	 James Valley Christian	2	3	0	.400	42.600
4	 Custer	2	2	1	.500	41.300
5	 Freeman Academy	4	1	1	.750	40.750
6	 Belle Fourche	3	2	0	.600	40.600
7	 Groton Area	0	2	3	.300	39.700
8	 St. Thomas More	2	2	1	.500	39.700
9	 West Central	1	3	1	.300	39.700
10	 Dakota Valley	0	4	0	.000	37.500
11	 Hot Springs	0	5	0	.000	35.600

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Groton Airport hosts annual Fly-In Event



Groton local Bruce Babcock (middle) greets his hometown Valley City ND High School classmates that flew down for the day from Valley City ND. (Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)



Saturday Fly-in Groton Lions breakfast and lunch volunteers L-R Dave Pigors, Vanessa Ducharme, Jesse Howard, and Topper Tastad.

(Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)



Groton Fly-in organizer Darrell Hillestad poises prior to flying public orientation rides.

(Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)



Groton Fly-in/Drive-in volunteers poise by the "Thank You!" sign recognizing the supporters. L-R Jesse Howard, Brett Anderson and Shawn Boesl.

(Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)

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Lake Area Tech, Watertown, flew in their powered glider. They offered complimentary orientation rides Saturday afternoon. (Courtesy

Photo Bruce Babcock)



A very good crowd showed up for the annual Fly-In at the Groton Municipal Airport.

(Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)



Crowd awaits their turn for the complimentary orientation rides Saturday. (Courtesy Photo Bruce

Babcock)



Locals John Wheeting and Chad Oliver enjoy the Fly-inn with Lutter and children from Hoven. (Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)

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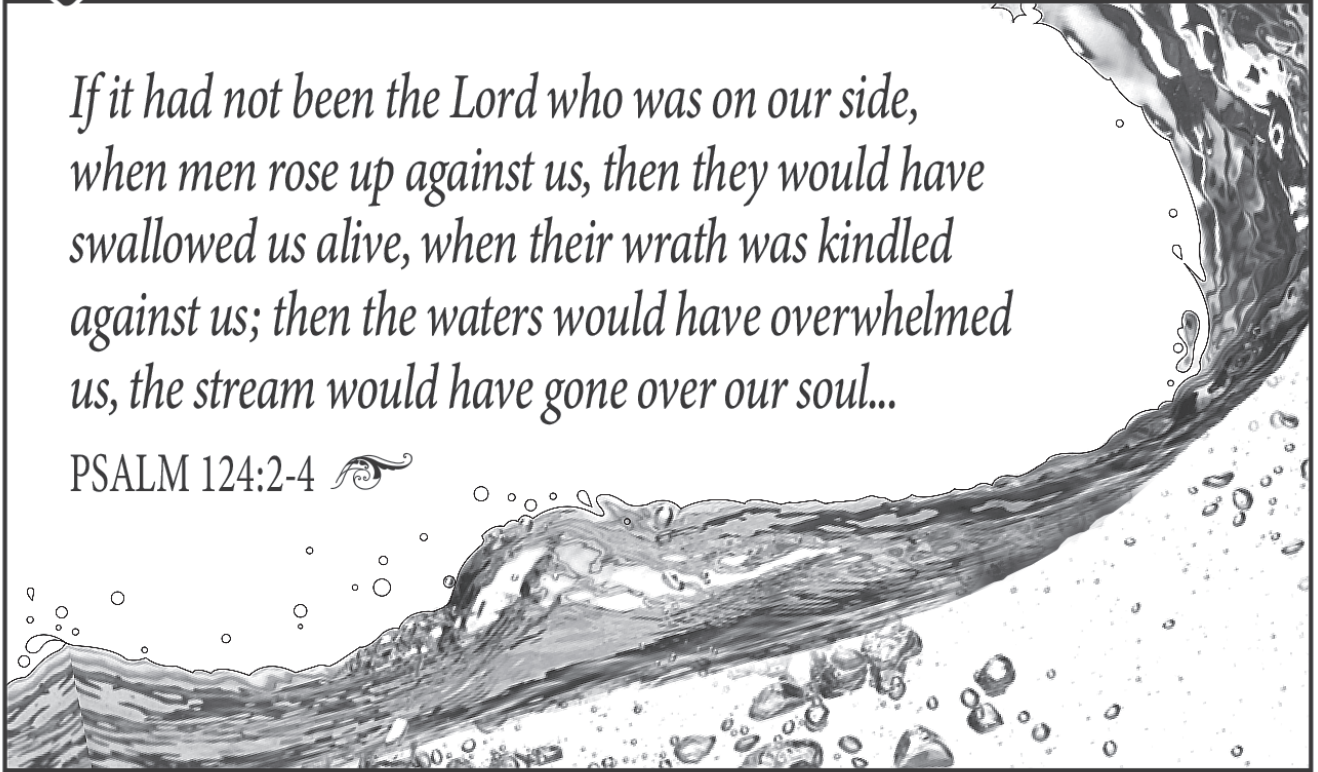
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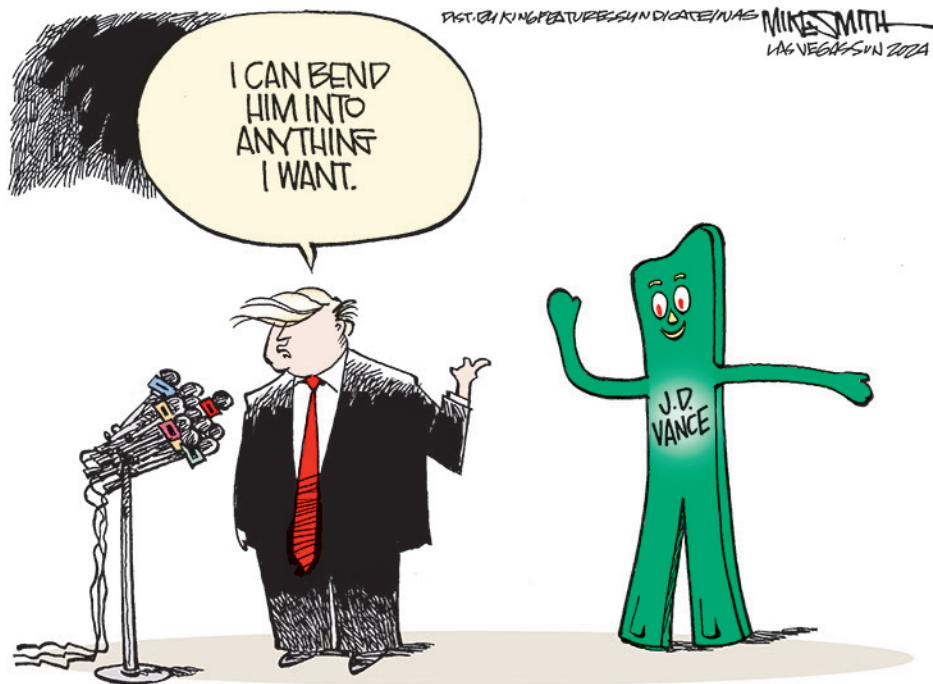
THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when men rose up against us, then they would have
swallowed us alive, when their wrath was kindled
against us; then the waters would have overwhelmed
us, the stream would have gone over our soul...*

PSALM 124:2-4



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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. Which scripture contains, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death”? *Ruth 4:10, Job 7:2, Psalm 23:4, Amos 1:1*

3. Though lame on both feet, what descendant of Saul continually ate at King David’s table? *Mareshah, Methusael, Micah, Mephibosheth*

4. Under what type of tree would the children of Israel come to Deborah for judging? *Palm, Sycamore, Fig, Cypress*

5. From Matthew 8, who was the first woman that Jesus healed? *Paul’s sister, Naomi, Peter’s mother-in-law, Deborah*

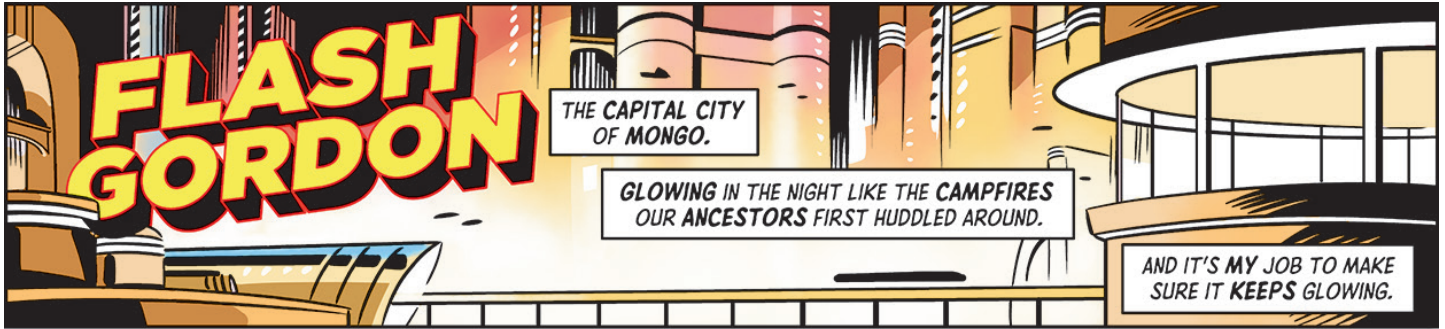
6. In 1 Samuel 4, which priest had a son named Ichabod? *Agabus, Phinehas, Azariah, Malachi*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Psalm 23:4, 3) Mephibosheth, 4) Palm, 5) Peter’s mother-in-law, 6) Phinehas

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson’s Casey’s book “Test Your Bible Knowledge,” available in bookstores and online.

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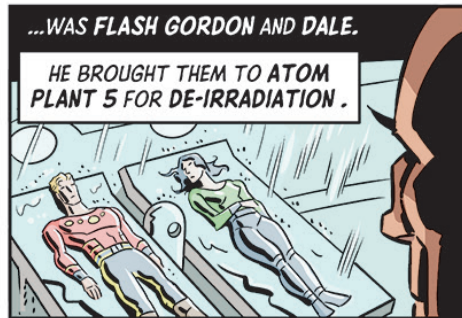


MY BROTHER RENO WENT TO INVESTIGATE AN ENERGY SPIKE DOWN IN THE RUNOFF TUNNELS.

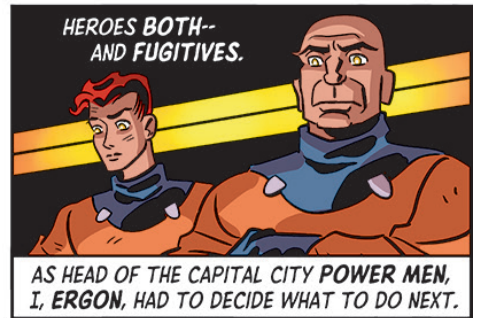


...WAS FLASH GORDON AND DALE.

HE BROUGHT THEM TO ATOM PLANT 5 FOR DE-IRRADIATION.



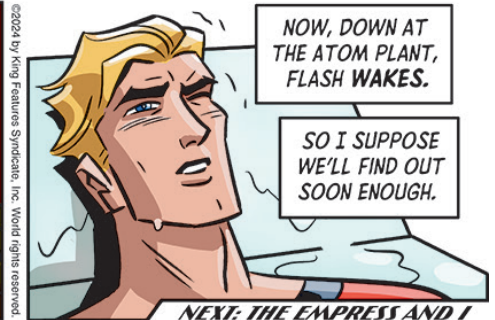
HEROES BOTH-- AND FUGITIVES.



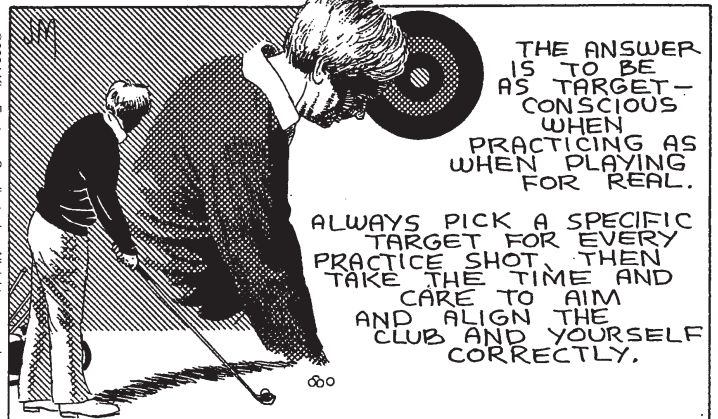
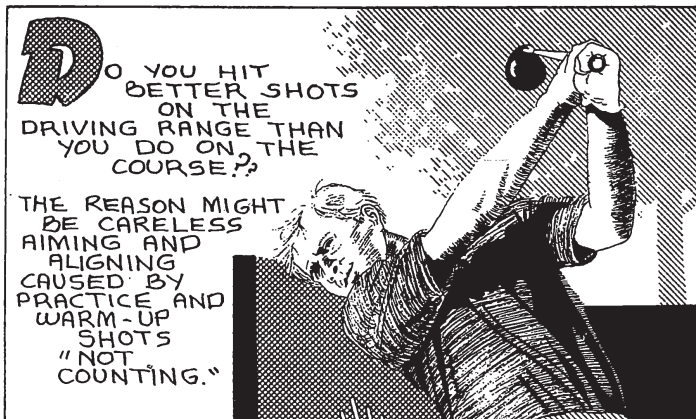
I INFORMED EMPRESS AURA AND KING BARIN--



WHETHER THEY'LL LISTEN, I CAN'T SAY.



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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Fosamax Is an Appropriate, Albeit Powerful Medicine for Osteopenia

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 65-year-old, overweight white woman. I recently had a DEXA scan, and based on the results, my general physician prescribed Fosamax for osteopenia.

The first dose created a horrible reaction two days after ingestion, with severe pain in both of my arms, my neck, and my legs. I was in absolute agony for two days, then it cleared up.

With the next dose a week later, I hesitated, but still decided to take it. Two days later, the reaction hit me again, only worse. I could barely walk, and my energy was so low. I spent four days in bed, except to cry when heading to the bathroom. I had not taken my Lasix prescription for those

four days, as I could barely make it to the bathroom.

I contacted my doctor, and she discontinued Fosamax. She's referring me to a rheumatologist. I read that this drug has all my symptoms, plus more, listed under the severe reaction warning. I will not take it again.

Also, a friend told me that this drug is not effective for osteoporosis after more than 20 years of drug tests, and I should not have been prescribed this drug, since I have osteopenia, not osteoporosis. Your thoughts? -- C.W.

ANSWER: Alendronate (Fosamax) is in the class of drugs called bisphosphonates. These are powerful drugs that should not be prescribed lightly. They do have the potential for severe side effects. Severe musculoskeletal pain can occur days or months (sometimes years) after starting the medicine. The Food and Drug Administration has advised prescribers to discuss this possibility with their patients so that the drug can be stopped immediately if it occurs. There are other options available if the person really needs treatment.

Your friend is half right. Powerful drugs like Fosamax are usually not indicated in people who have low bone mass (osteopenia) without osteoporosis. However, a history of a fragility fracture (breaking a bone from minor trauma that isn't expected to cause a fracture) can make the diagnosis of osteoporosis, even if the bone density isn't in the usual osteoporotic range. A person can have a high risk of fractures for other reasons, and a clinical tool called the FRAX score helps clinicians identify those who might benefit from treatment.

But your friend is also half wrong. When used appropriately, Fosamax and other bisphosphonate drugs are effective at reducing the risk of fractures. A vertebral body fracture can cause years of pain and be avoided easily, while a hip fracture can be devastating. So, there are very good reasons to prescribe these medicines.

Finally, let me warn readers against complacency in treatment with these drugs. They may be appropriately prescribed for a high-risk person, but most people should not stay on this drug forever. Follow-up DEXA scans should guide therapy, and after three to five years, a conscious decision should be made whether to continue therapy.

Readers who have been on these drugs for more than five years and haven't had careful follow-ups on their results should ask their doctors whether they still need to be taking them.

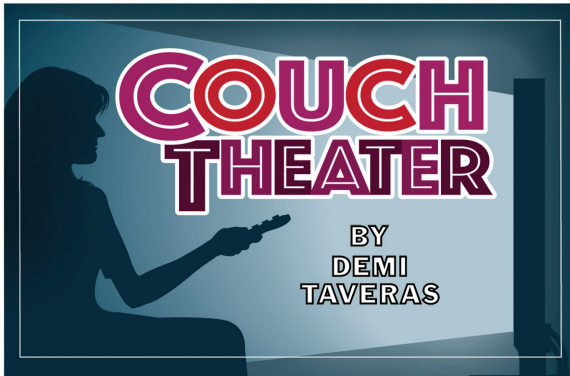
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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Joey King stars in "Uglies." (Courtesy of Netflix)

"Trap" (PG-13) -- Director M. Night Shyamalan's latest feature is now available to rent, after a stint in the theaters that brought in \$72.2 million. Led by Josh Hartnett ("The Bear"), the film follows firefighter Cooper Adams and his teenage daughter, Riley, as they attend a pop star's concert. At the venue, a huge police presence surrounds each exit, and Cooper learns from a vendor that they were put in place by the FBI to secretly catch a serial killer named the Butcher, who plans to be in attendance. Realizing that this is a trap set for himself, Cooper must employ his Butcher tactics to evade the police and get his daughter out of the concert without getting detected. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Uglies" (PG-13) -- Joey King ("Despicable Me 4") leads this sci-fi film based on the novel by Scott Westerfeld. Viewers get to experience a post-apocalyptic dystopian world where everyone is considered "an ugly" until they undergo cosmetic surgery at the age of 16 to become "a Pretty." After surgery, Pretties are then allowed to cross a river to a section of the city where they get to lead a fun-filled, vibrant life. But when an eager Tally Youngblood (King) decides to sneakily cross the river before her surgery, suspicions arise that this pretty life isn't at all what it seems. Keith Powers ("The Perfect Find"), Chase Stokes ("Outer Banks"), and Laverne Cox ("The Blacklist") co-star in the film, premiering Sept. 13. (Netflix)

"How to Die Alone" (TV-MA) -- If you're looking for a new sitcom-style series, look no further than this eight-episode comedy series starring Natasha Rothwell ("The White Lotus"). Rothwell plays a lowly JFK Airport employee named Mel, who is desperately missing a certain spark in her life. Her life is characterized by loneliness, fear, and a lack of motivation ... until she has a near-death experience that completely shifts her outlook on the remainder of her life. Now armored with more gusto than ever, Mel begins to take flight and live life according to her terms. The first four episodes premiere Sept. 13. (Hulu)

"Fight Night: The Million Dollar Heist" (TV-MA) -- Based on the true-crime podcast of the same name, this series with an all-star cast is out now to stream! On a fateful night in 1970, Muhammad Ali plans to make his return to boxing. And after Ali's fight against Jerry Quarry, Chicken Man (Kevin Hart) will host an after-party to celebrate Ali's win. But little do they know that a heist has been in the works to take place that very same night. When Chicken Man is suspected of facilitating the robbery, he must work alongside Detective J.D. Hudson (Don Cheadle) to clear his name. Check out the rest of the cast: Taraji P. Henson ("The Color Purple"), Terrence Howard ("The Best Man: Final Chapters"), Samuel L. Jackson ("Argylle"), Chloe Bailey ("Swarm"), and Lori Harvey in her first starring role. (Peacock)

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1. Which duo released "Islands in the Stream"?
2. Who released "The Way We Were"?
3. Name the artist who wrote and released "Rock Me Gently."
4. Who wrote and released "Long Tall Sally"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Now I've heard there was a secret chord, That David played, and it pleased the Lord."

Answers

1. Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers in 1983. The song was written by the Bee Gees, who didn't release their own version until 1998.

2. Barbra Streisand, in 1973 in the film and on her album of the same name. The song won a long list of awards, including Song of the Year.

3. Andy Kim (born Androwis Youakim), in 1974. A prolific songwriter, Kim penned hits for several others, including the Archies and the Monkees.

4. Little Richard, in 1956. The song finally made it into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1999.

5. "Hallelujah," by Leonard Cohen in 1984 on his "Various Positions" album. Initially rejected by the record company, it was a version that appeared in the animated film "Shrek" in 2001 that brought the song much attention. Legend says it took Cohen 10 years to write the song, which included 180 verses at one point.

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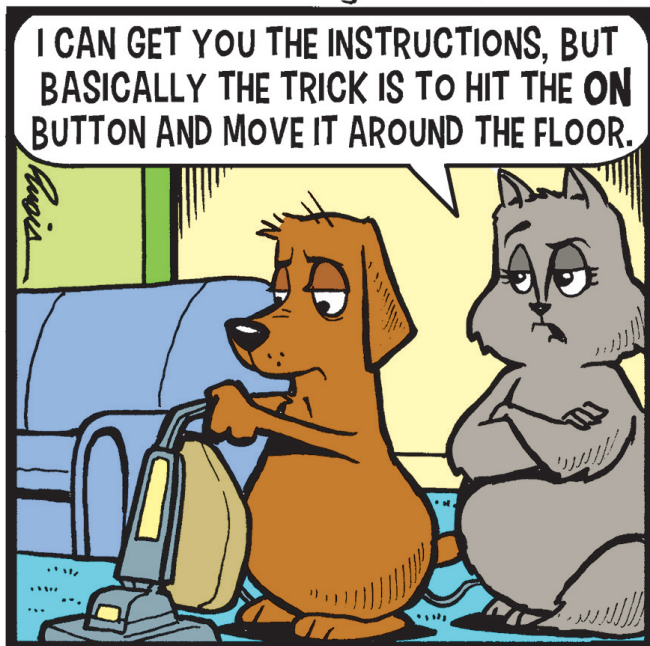
GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}



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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

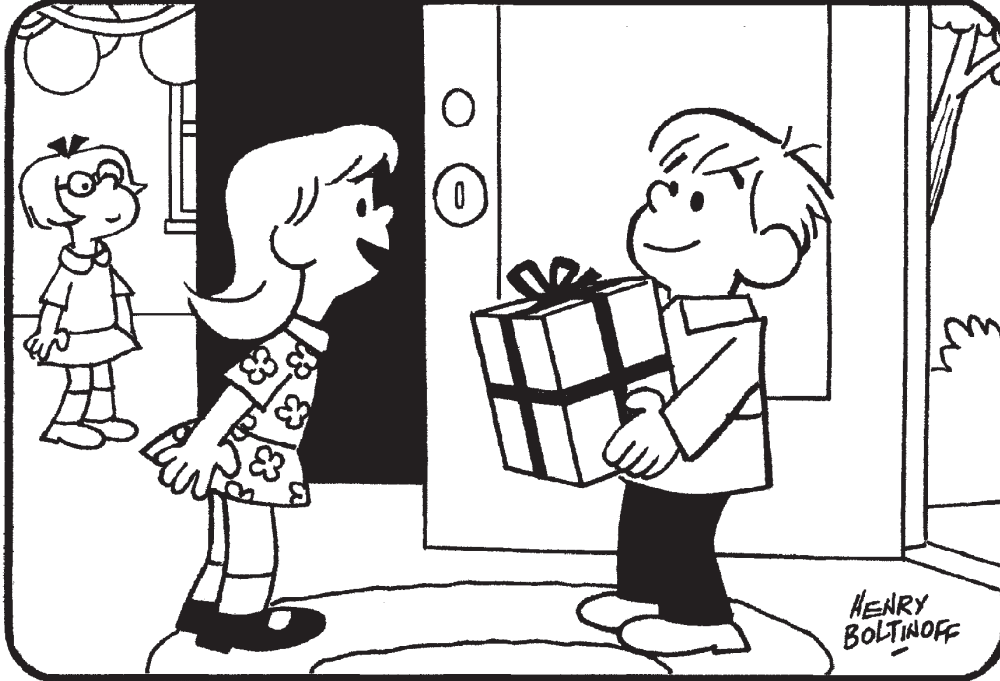


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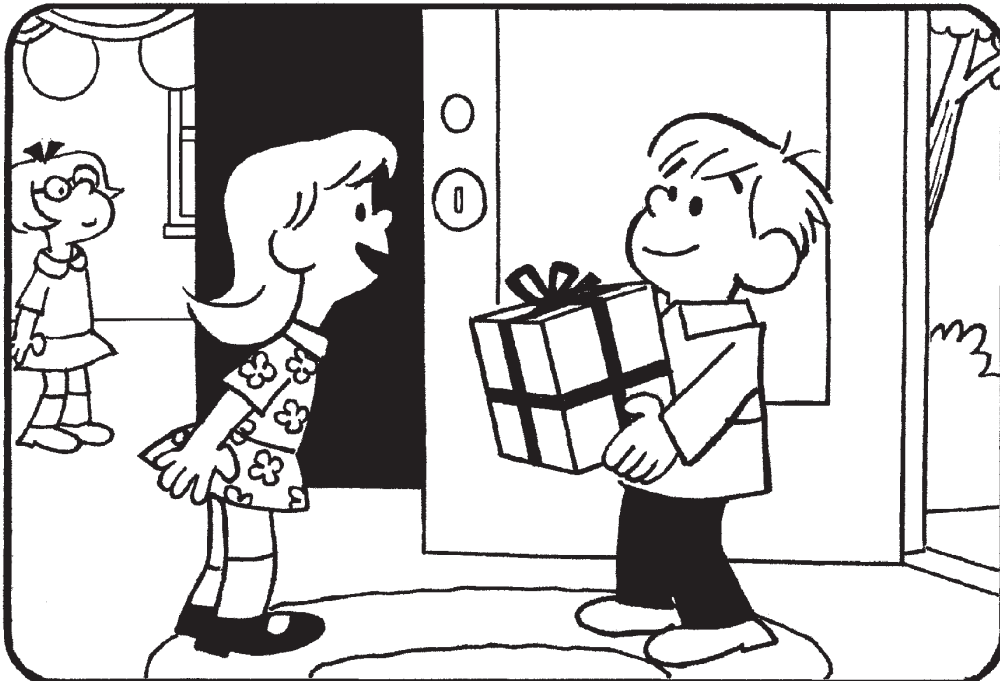
"I'm willing to discuss the terms of my surrender, Mrs. Figby."

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

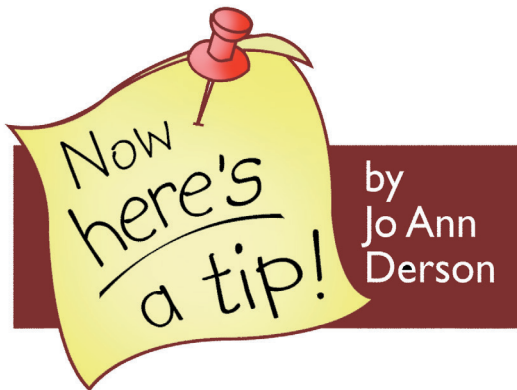


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Differences: 1. Present is smaller. 2. Sock is higher. 3. Girl is not showing. 4. Bush is different. 5. Balloon is missing. 6. Arm is not showing.

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* When preparing outdoor furniture for winter storage, it's important to give it a nice cleaning. If you have a truck, why not load it up and bring it to the local self-serve car wash? The specialized brushes make it easy to clean right there in the back of the vehicle, and a pressure rinse gets soap and dirt from all the nooks and crannies.

* "While at a backyard barbecue now that the weather has turned nice out (down in the South, anyway), I learned this trick from a neighbor. Put hot dogs in the slow cooker. Don't add water or anything. They taste really good without taking up space on the grill." -- J.V. in Alabama

* To keep algae from growing in your backyard birdbath, add a few copper pennies. Or you can get a small piece of copper pipe from the home-improvement store. It keeps the algae from getting out of control.

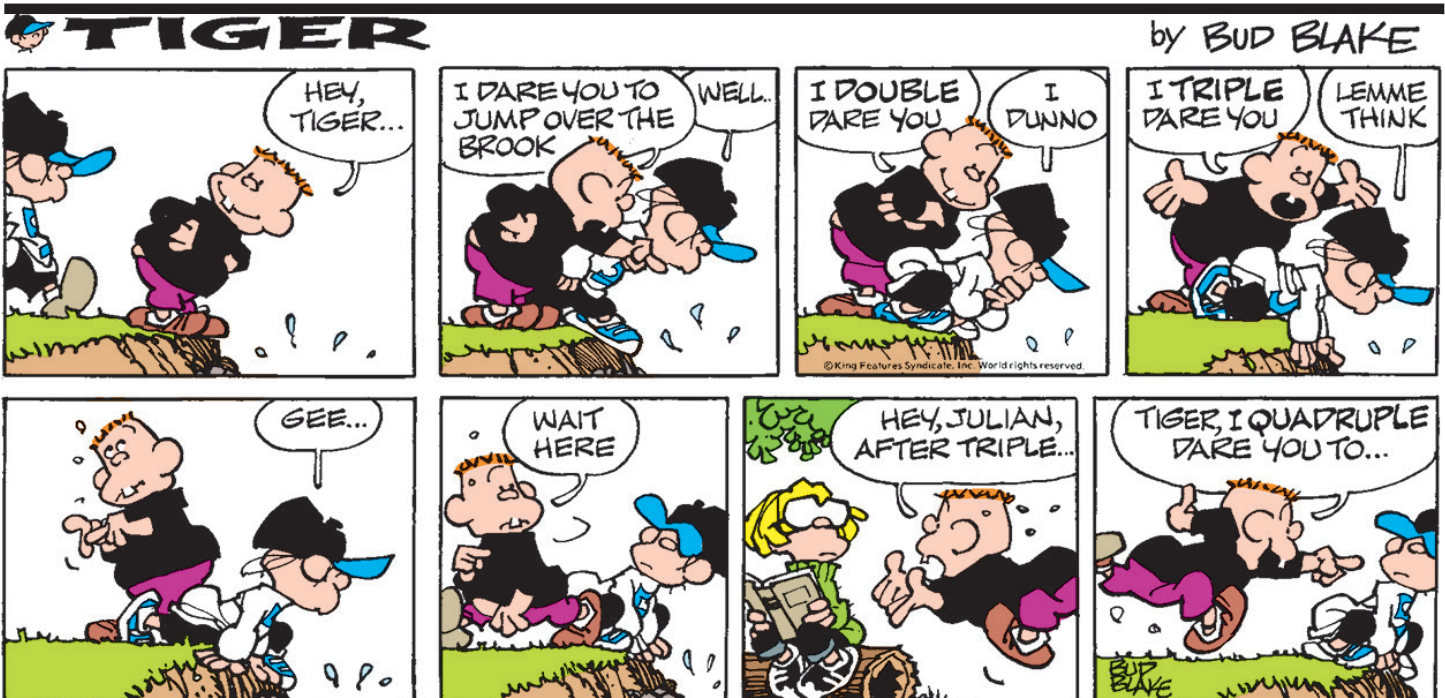
* When you need an extra garbage bag, like during a party or while doing lawn chores, try this cool trick: Use a large pop-up laundry bin, and line it with a lawn and leaf garbage bag. Use chip clips to secure it at the top if you need to.

* "We keep a regular size galvanized steel trash can with lid out on our deck for the kids' toys. It's big enough to hold everything, convenient enough to drag around the yard to clean up, and the lid protects the toys from the weather and bugs!" -- W.K. in Illinois

* "I had a plastic storage bin that cracked and I was about to throw it out when my son stopped me. He cut holes in either side and used it to cover the outdoor pipes that stick up out of the ground. Now they will be protected from cold temperatures, and from the weed eater through the rest of fall. My boy!" -- T.R. in South Carolina

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

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Broadway flop
- 5 Foot part
- 9 Urban carrier
- 12 Vivacity, in music
- 13 "Funny!"
- 14 Flamenco cheer
- 15 Rural tourist attractions
- 17 Skier Tommy
- 18 Actress Neuwirth
- 19 Serious
- 21 Wide, fancy necktie
- 24 Jazz singer Laine
- 25 Noggin
- 26 Reeve role
- 30 Einstein's birthplace
- 31 Mini-plateaus
- 32 Green prefix
- 33 Pudding choices
- 35 Firecracker sound
- 36 Grecian vessels
- 37 Embedded spies
- 38 Bas-relief medium
- 40 Reed instrument
- 42 Pirates' quaff
- 43 Duncan Hines products

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15				16						17		
			18					19	20			
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33			34						35			
		36						37				
38	39					40	41					
42				43	44					45	46	47
48				49						50		
51				52						53		

- 48 Nest egg letters
- 49 Old Italian money
- 50 Protuberance
- 51 Mom's mate
- 52 Flair
- 53 Toe malady
- 7 "Evita" role
- 8 Pestors
- 9 Fast-food deal
- 10 Balm ingredient
- 11 Tavern order
- 16 Bumped into
- 20 "— the ram-parts ..."
- 21 Border on
- 22 Actress Ward
- 23 College handout for a freshman
- 24 Tax prep pros
- 26 Brief moments
- 27 Can. neighbor
- 28 Dreaded breakout
- 29 Eggy drinks
- 31 Prop for Mr. Peanut
- 34 Apr. addressee
- 35 Aircraft manufacturer
- 37 May honoree
- 38 Clench
- 39 Franc replacer
- 40 Gumbo need
- 41 Existed
- 44 Have a cold
- 45 Tic-tac-toe loser
- 46 Sch. URL ender
- 47 Filming site

DOWN

- 1 Telly network
- 2 Granada gold
- 3 Russian space station
- 4 Chocolate-coated treat
- 5 Melville captain
- 6 Demolish

— King Crossword —

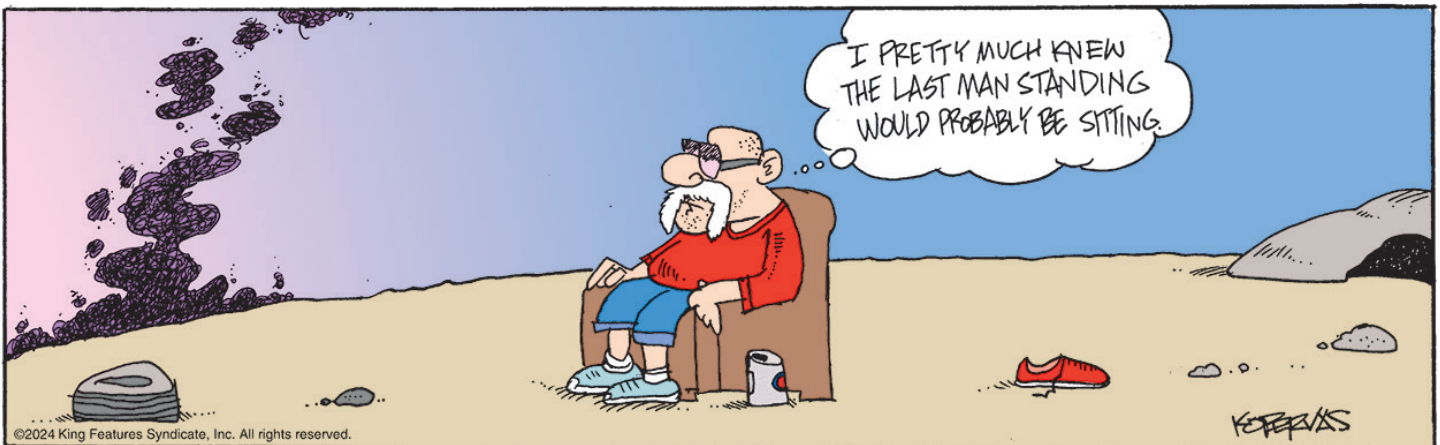
Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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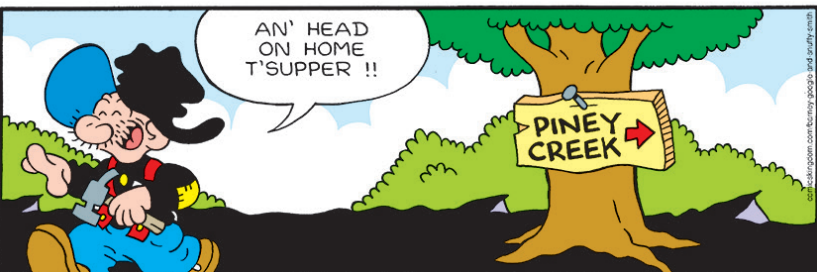
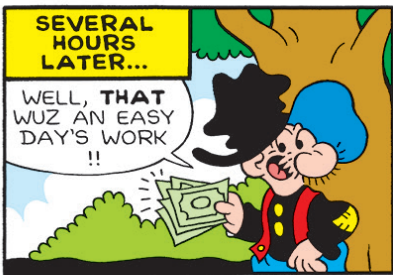
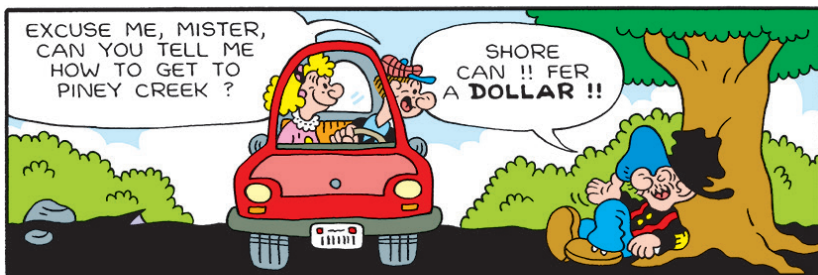
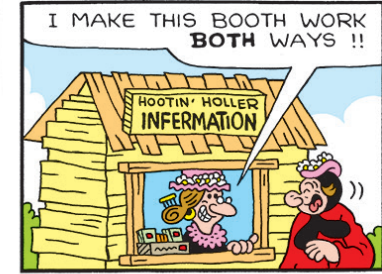
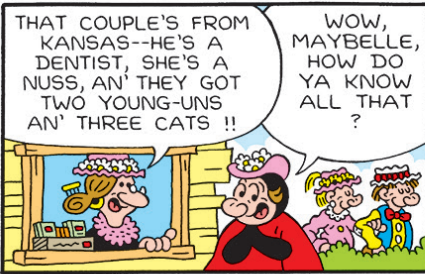
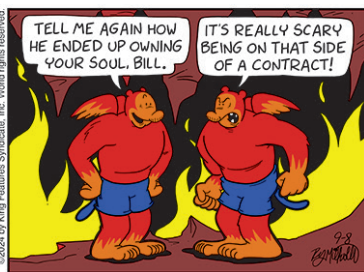
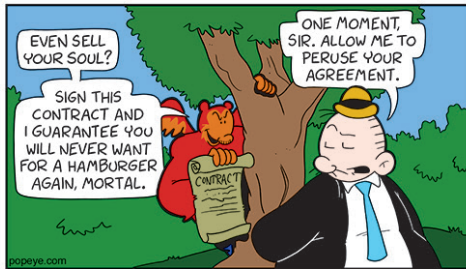
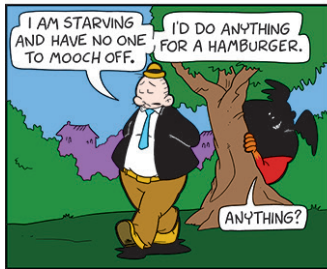
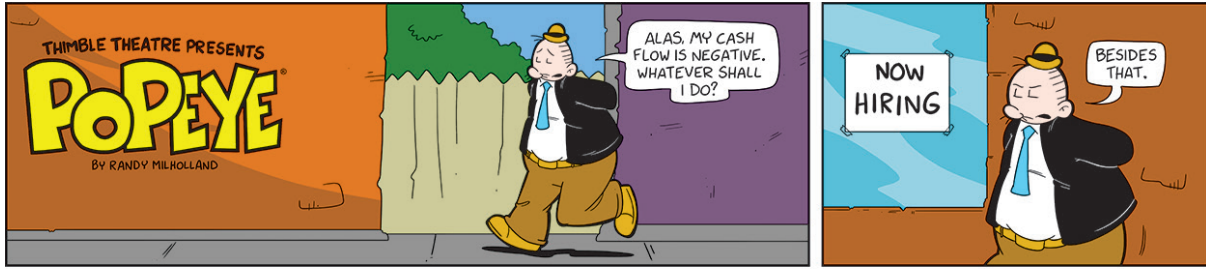
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



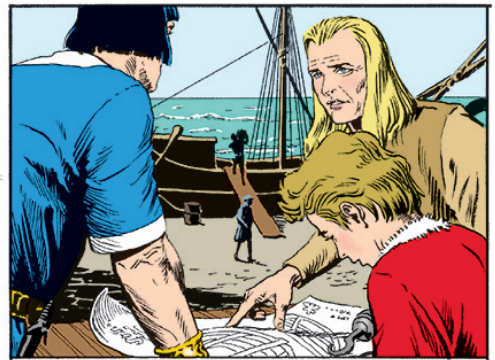
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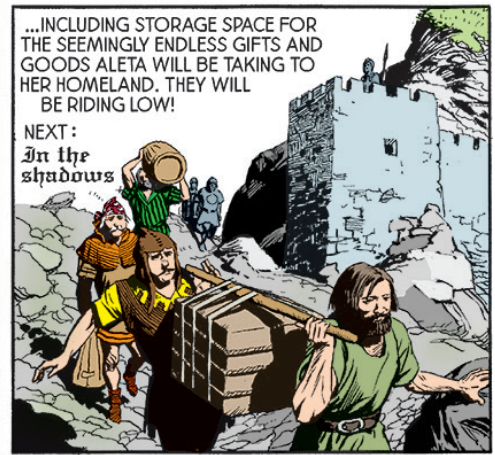


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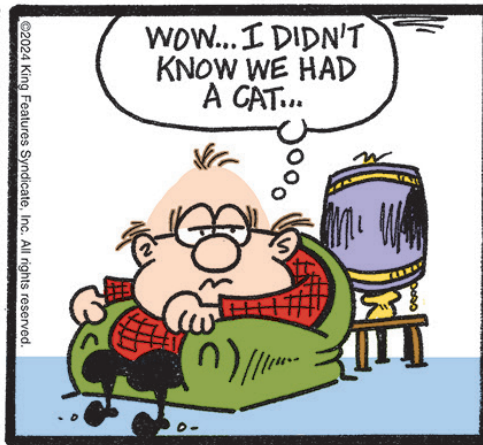
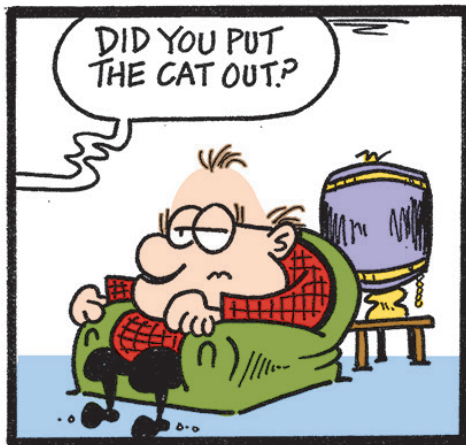


VALS OLD FRIEND GANDAR HARL IS HERE. THE SHIPWRIGHT IS EAGER TO SHOW HIS FELLOW NORTHERNER THE IMPROVEMENTS HE HAS MADE TO THE STOUT VESSEL...



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Dealing with Covid ... again

Here we go again. Not to be an alarmist, but Covid never did go away. It's been creeping around, changing its composition, infecting people, staying one step ahead of medicine every step of the way. And now it's surging again, with the biggest rate of positive cases since January 2022.

So says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They've been testing wastewater, since that's the one real and true method of detecting illnesses in the community. (When people test at home, the authorities never hear about those cases.) The CDC has been surprised because Covid has been worse this summer than last, calling this surge "very high" in most states and "high" in a dozen more.

And now with fall and winter on its way, we need to gear up and be ready to stay safe, again.

In case you've forgotten:

Wash your hands with antibacterial soap. That has to be the best method of keeping the germs out of your body. Plus, carry a tiny bottle of hand sanitizer in your pocket or purse and use it on grocery store cart handles.

Wear a mask when you're out in public places. Yes, I know, you'll probably be the only one in the store with a mask right now, but remember that the Environmental Protection Agency says Covid particles can hang in the air for hours and transmit from person to person over 6 feet apart. Buy a box of masks if you don't have plenty.

Consider signing up for grocery delivery if they have it in your area. If not, and if you must shop, try to avoid crowds and busy shopping times.

Use a sanitizing hand wipe to frequently clean your doorknobs, computer mouse, key fobs, remote controls and car steering wheel.

By the time you read this, yet another vaccine booster should be out. Decide with your doctor if you should have that.

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1. What NASCAR driver, winner of the 1969 Daytona 500, was admitted to a mental institution after he attempted to kill his mother in 1980?

2. Pioneering astronaut Sally K. Ride was a nationally ranked player for Stanford University in what sport?

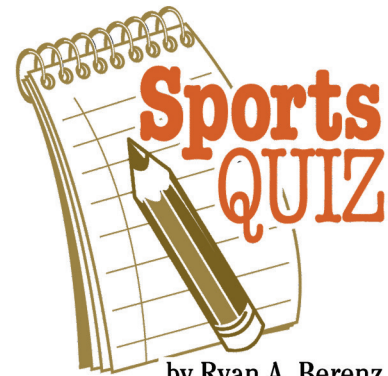
3. Baseball Hall of Famer Jake Beckley, who played from 1888-1907, played a Major League Baseball record 2,368 games at what position?

4. Poland's Sebastian Kawa has the most world championships (17 as of July 2024) in what air sport?

5. What national soccer team was banned from qualifying for the 1994 FIFA World Cup after a 1989 incident in which goalkeeper Roberto Rojas intentionally cut himself and claimed he was attacked by Brazil's fans?

6. Nate McMillan played his entire NBA career from 1986-1998 with what team?

7. From 1976-2012, the annual award presented to Major League Baseball's best relief pitcher was sponsored by what antacid brand?



by Ryan A. Berenz

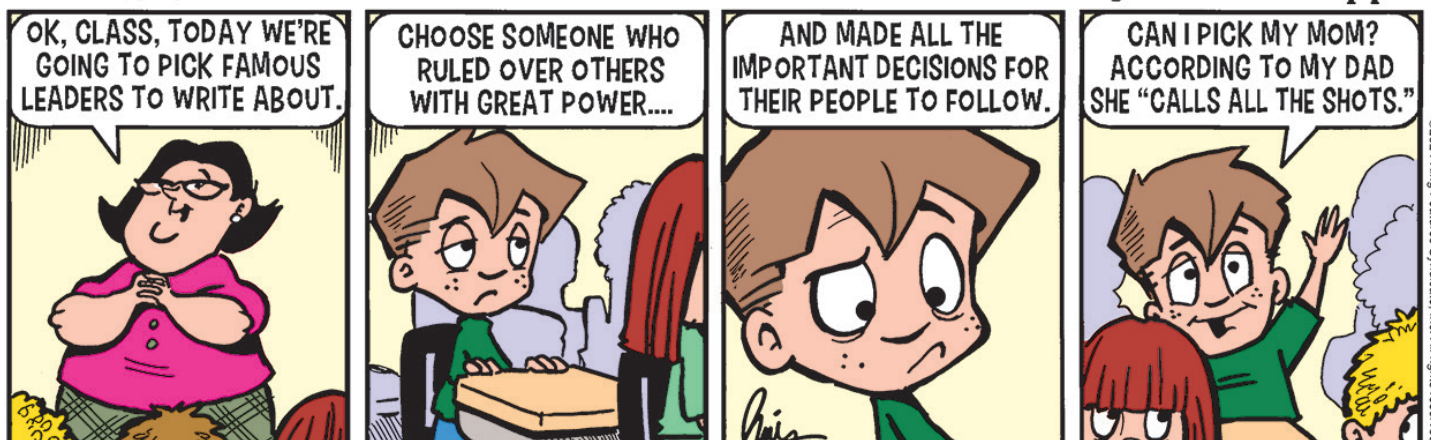
Answers

1. LeeRoy Yarbrough.
2. Tennis.
3. First base.
4. Gliding.
5. Chile.
6. The Seattle SuperSonics.
7. Rolaids ("R-O-L-A-I-D-S spells relief").

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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Be a champion pet sitter



DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I'm 13 years old and want to make money by being a pet sitter and dog walker. To try it out, my dad suggested that I pet sit for the neighbor who is going on vacation for two weeks. They agreed! I'm really excited. What tips do you have so I do a good job? -- Austin in Portland, Maine

DEAR AUSTIN: What a great idea! You can try out pet sitting and see if you like it, and your dad is there to give support and advice. Here are a few tips:

-- Bring a notebook and pen with you to every pet sitting visit.

-- Talk to the pet owner before they leave. Get all of

the pet's health information. Find out what time they need to be fed and any medications they need to take. Get their veterinarian's number and any special instructions. Find out where the food, treats and leash are stored. (Write this all in the notebook!)

-- Keep to the agreed-upon time to visit and/or walk the pet. It's important for the pet to stay on a regular schedule, and it builds trust with your customer.

-- Do not feed the pet any food or treats not provided (or specified) by the owner.

-- Contact the owner if you have additional questions or if an emergency arises.

These are just the basics. As you build your pet-sitting empire, you will encounter different situations and will learn the best ways to respond. Your parents can help, and so can that trusty notebook! During and after every visit, review your notes about the experience and think about how you can do a better job or accomplish certain tasks more effectively.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* Baby porcupines are known as porcupettes.

* In the early 20th century, California's Glass Beach was used as a trash dump. Decades of ocean tides have cleared the beach and polished discarded bottles and automobile tail lights into collectible pebbles of sea glass.

* In 1939, Hitler's nephew wrote an article titled "Why I Hate My Uncle." He came to America, served in the Navy and settled on Long Island.

* Continental plates drift as fast as fingernails grow.

* Nineteenth-century British surgeon George Merryweather believed leeches could predict the weather. Sadly, his "tempest prognosticator," displayed at the Great Exhibition in 1851, failed to catch on.

* Viking burials included board games.

* Child star Shirley Temple reportedly didn't love her famous curls, preferring instead the cropped 'do of her hero, Amelia Earhart.

* Remember this when you're attempting to settle a dispute with currency: When you flip a coin, there is a slightly greater chance that it will end up on the side it started.

* The NASA Vehicle Assembly Building in Florida is so huge it has its own weather.

* Women in traditional Rwandan societies avoid eating goat meat, as it's believed this will cause them to grow a beard.

* The record for the longest tire skid was set in 1964 at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah.

* Walt Disney World is a surprisingly popular place for people to scatter the ashes of their deceased loved ones. Unsurprisingly, the "Happiest Place on Earth" takes a dim view of the practice, saying that anyone bringing human remains onto the property will be asked to leave.

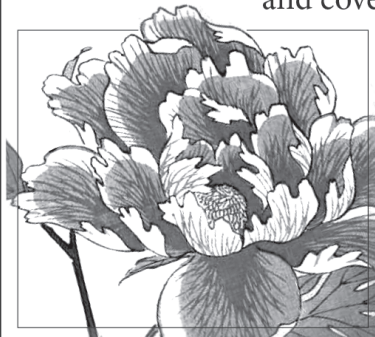
* The modern popped collar originated as a way to keep tennis players' necks from getting sunburned.

Thought for the Day: "What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to a human soul." -- Joseph Addison

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The Garden Bug

Peonies



These garden favorites are usually sold as bare-root tubers. For planting, pick a sunny spot with good drainage, and work some organic matter and a cup of bonemeal into the soil. Place the root in a hole about 2 inches deep (if planting in southern states, only 1 inch deep), and cover with soil, tamping gently. Water well.

Plant peony tubers in late September or October, or about six weeks before the ground freezes. Peonies can take years to fully develop, and may need support stakes. - Brenda Weaver

Japanese woodblock print (1866)

Sources: www.treepeony.com, almanac.com



by Freddy Groves

Getting away with long-term fraud

Two thieves created a scam they managed to keep going for over a decade before finally being caught. Keeping it going that long doesn't make them smart; it makes them long-term lowlifes.

Solely for the purpose of scamming the government, two guys started up a couple of construction companies. Their goal was to bid on the special contracts with the Department of Veterans Affairs that were for small businesses owned by service-disabled

veterans. During that decade, they managed to get 67 of the small business contracts, the majority of which were for over \$1 million each. The problem was that neither scammer had ever served in the military and therefore didn't qualify.

Instead, they paid genuine service-disabled veterans to lie and say they owned and ran the companies.

Being awarded the contracts took 67 contracts away from real veterans trying to honestly run real businesses. The Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 aims to award 3% of all government contracts to service-disabled veterans who own small businesses, although in recent years that figure has exceeded 4% of contracts. At this point there are nearly 2 million veteran-owned businesses.

In addition to the 67 scam contracts, in one case the thieves filed a protest against a VA decision to award a contract to another company. The VA had received five proposals for a certain job and chose one based on their examination of that company's qualifications, even though it was not the lowest bid. The scammers lodged protest of several points.

Enter the Office of Inspector General for the VA to investigate the ongoing fraud. For all of their good work, the OIG can't control the courts. The two scammers will never see a day of jail time even though the penalty for just one of the crimes could have sent them away for 10 years. Instead, they were given a year of probation, some community service and a fine. Clearly not enough to send a strong message to other would-be scammers.

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Wishing Well®

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I	T	G	O	I	N	D	F	T	O	A	A	V
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E	C	O	Y	E	E	S	H	R	L	E	A	N
8	5	7	8	4	7	8	4	7	5	7	5	7
N	U	B	G	C	L	E	E	I	C	S	H	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. MOVIES: What is the name of the fictional country in "The Princess Diaries"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the highest mountain in Africa?
3. HISTORY: Which ancient civilization built Machu Picchu in Peru?
4. TELEVISION: Which city is the setting for the TV drama "The Wire"?
5. U.S. CITIES: Which city's nickname is "City of Roses"?
6. MATH: When is Pi Day celebrated each year?
7. LITERATURE: During what historical period is the graphic novel "Persepolis" set?
8. CHEMISTRY: Which element is also known as quicksilver?
9. SCIENCE: How much of the Earth's water is held by oceans?
10. MUSIC: Who performed the hit song "Never Gonna Give You Up" in 1987?

Answers

1. Genovia.
2. Mount Kilimanjaro.
3. The Inca civilization.
4. Baltimore, Maryland.
5. Portland, Oregon.
6. March 14 (3.14).
7. The 1979 Iranian Revolution.
8. Mercury.
9. 96.5%
10. Rick Astley.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Safer Communities

We recently celebrated the graduation of 20 new law enforcement officers in South Dakota. This graduation was unique because it included the first ever tribal-focused law enforcement training put on by a state, rather than by the federal government. Eight tribal law enforcement officers immediately began protecting and serving their communities.

I was particularly touched by their families who were in attendance. As I looked at the pride beaming from their families, I realized why these new officers accepted this calling: they want their families to grow up in safe and prosperous communities. And they are willing to be the boots on the ground to ensure that happens.

That graduation was a very honorable day. Those men and women stepped up to serve the public – and the public will look to them for what is right and what is wrong. On their toughest days, their oath as a law enforcement officer will be what gets them through. They will show compassion and empathy to people on their hardest days, and they will keep a steady hand when hard times are in front of us.

We respect law enforcement because they are the ones who protect our Freedoms here at home. Earlier this year, I released an ad for Freedom Works Here to recruit law enforcement officers to South Dakota. We've already made South Dakota the freest state in America – and with more law enforcement officers, we'll make it the safest, too.

Too many other states and cities have a different story to tell. In New York City, more than 2,500 officers resigned last year – 43% more than five years prior – meanwhile, murders are up 23% from five years ago. And 63% of Americans view crime as an "extremely" or "very" serious problem, the highest percentage ever recorded.

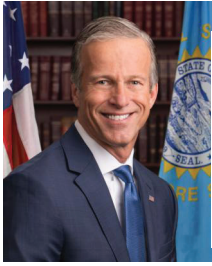
Calls to "defund the police" have turned into actual budget cuts in far too many communities. And the Biden-Harris Administration has even made this a reality for tribal communities here in South Dakota, as they have consistently underfunded tribal law enforcement.

But we must not be afraid because of threats to public safety. At that law enforcement graduation, I quoted Paul's words in 2 Timothy to those new officers: "God has not given us a spirit of fear – but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

These officers have tremendous power in their new roles. And they will use that power with love. And they will make decisions with the sound mind that their training provides them to serve the people of their communities with excellence. I am so proud to have them protecting and serving our communities.

After the graduation, I met with tribal leaders from six of our state's tribes to discuss next steps to improve public safety in tribal communities. We talked about how to increase the amount of tribal law enforcement officers coming through our state academy. We also discussed the benefits of Mutual Aid Agreements like we just signed with the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. Our conversations are turning into real solutions.

I will continue to push for meaningful action from Washington, D.C. – both from Congress and from the Biden-Harris Administration. They need to do their part to keep our tribal communities safe, including closing the wide-open Southern Border. Until those common-sense actions are taken, South Dakota will continue to do our part. And we will celebrate landmark days like this law enforcement graduation.



JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Democrats Can't Outrun Their Record on the Border

Four years ago, President Biden and Vice President Harris campaigned against the border security policies of then-President Trump. Soon after taking office, they set about dismantling these effective policies despite their team being warned that doing so could result in a surge of illegal immigration. That surge came, and it was Vice President Harris who was put in charge of handling the administration's response. But it wasn't much of a response.

Now President Biden and Vice President Harris are trying to claim they have been strong on border security all along, but the data tells a much different story. This administration has overseen three record-breaking years of illegal immigration at the southern border. Ten million illegal immigrants have crossed the border illegally during this administration. Included in that number are suspected terrorists, gang members, criminals, and 1.9 million known "gotaways" who have entered the country without being apprehended, which the chief of Border Patrol has called a "national security threat."

Additionally, the Biden-Harris administration's lax implementation of our asylum system is undoubtedly a "pull factor" for many migrants. In many cases, individuals who show up at the border claiming asylum are simply released into the country with court dates as far as a decade into the future. As we learned in June, this administration also gave de facto amnesty to hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants whose cases were closed without resolution. Then there are the government-funded flights to cities around the country, guaranteed shelter in a number of cities, and, in California, illegal immigrants can get taxpayer-funded health care.

The effects of this crisis are not limited to the southern border alone. In fact, every state has virtually become a border state in one way or another. Here in South Dakota, law enforcement can trace illegal drugs in our communities to the southern border. Police in New York City recently revealed that illegal immigrants make up 75 percent of arrests in midtown Manhattan as the city deals with an influx of illegal immigrants. And many of us have seen the tragic stories of Americans killed by illegal immigrants who should have never been in our country in the first place.

A crisis has raged at the southern border for much of the Biden-Harris administration. On more than one occasion, the Biden-Harris administration has turned its back on border security, and their Democrat allies in Congress have voted against meaningful border security policies time and again. Try as the Democrats might to change their tune in an election year, the American people can see what's happening with their own eyes, and they know that this administration's disastrous record on the border is to blame.

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BIG Investments

BIG Update

Shenzhen DJI Innovation Technology Co., Ltd. (DJI) is a Chinese Military company, linked to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), that makes thousands of drones, many of which are used in the United States. These drones operate on Chinese military software, firmware, and hardware, which could pose a significant risk to American agriculture and safety.

I'm concerned about the amount of information that China has access to in American agriculture and our food supply chain. I've been raising awareness on China's purchases of American ag land, and I've advocated for increased oversight and prohibition of these purchases. With one decision, China could leverage its access and detrimentally impact our food supply. These DJI drones give them a unique opportunity to do so. I joined twelve other members in requesting a briefing from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency about the risk they pose to our food supply.

China is our biggest foreign adversary, and America cannot continue to allow unprecedented access to our data.

BIG Idea

I've been a champion on the Select Committee on China for rebuilding America's manufacturing base. With that in mind, I visited with Jeff of Dakota Adventure Supply (DAS) and stopped by one of their manufacturing facilities to see where the magic happens. We Stitch Stuff has a wide range of work, from manufacturing products for DAS, Binder Lifts for paramedics, and repairing equipment for Heiman Fire Equipment.

It's always encouraging to see a local business making high quality products for other local businesses. These businesses have a tremendous impact on our local economy and make fantastic products unique to South Dakota.

BIG News

My team and I closely monitored the Black Hills fire throughout the week. I'm grateful for the firefighters and first responders who have been working to keep people safe and contain the fire. Even though it is mostly contained now, check here for up-to-date safety information if you're in the area: <https://www.pennco.org/publicsafetyhub>.

I've been an advocate for proper forest management, and a fire like this is a reminder that a healthy forest is a managed forest. Managing the forest decreases the risk and slows the growth of wildfires, protecting our families and preserving the habitat for generations to come.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

What Happened To My Little Piggy Bank

This week, I had to do something I hadn't done before: go to the bank and deal with fraud in my checking account. Someone tried to write a check for \$1800 from my account. Fortunately, I didn't have that much money in my account, and I was a little provoked by this incident. How dare they!

I sat with the bank advisor dealing with this issue and getting my account back to normal. They had to issue me a new card because they were closing my checking account.

As I waited for all of this to process, I felt a little thought dance in my head. Whatever happened to my little piggy bank? It never gave me trouble like this.

When I was young, I didn't have an official bank account. I actually did not need a bank account at that time. My grandmother gave me a little blue piggy bank. When she gave it to me, she said, "Now, make sure you put money into this piggy bank every week." Then-9 she handed me my first two quarters for my piggy bank.

I was so excited because I really needed the money; the only problem was that my grandmother had not told me anything about where the money was going to come from.

It took me a while to realize I had to put money in myself. That little piggy bank was not a magic money machine.

I hid my little piggy bank in my bedroom so nobody could find it. Every time I got some money, I made sure I put some of it in the piggy bank. Over time, the money grew in that little piggy bank.

For as long as I had that piggy bank, I do not know any time when somebody took money out of it without my permission. I would have thought that every bank had that kind of precaution.

The times I used that little piggy bank were wonderful memories.

Next door to where we lived was a little country store. It sold mostly food, like soda, ice cream, cookies and the like. Whenever my little piggy bank had enough money in it, I would take some out and go to the little country store and get myself a well-deserved treat.

I usually did it when nobody was watching because I did not want to use my own money to buy someone else a treat. You know how that is!

For many years, that little piggy bank served me quite well. It was always there when I needed it, and as far as I knew, nobody else knew it was there. Unfortunately, nobody contributed to my piggy bank.

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Then, I went to a Bible school in New York and left my piggyback behind. I did not think about it for quite a few years.

Now, sitting in the bank trying to get my account back in order, I happen to think of my little piggy bank. I have no idea what happened to it. I would love to see it again and there might be a few coins in that little bank.

My parents sold the house while I was away at the time, and I never found out what happened to my little piggy bank.

It has been over 60 years since I last saw that piggy bank, but I still relish fond memories of it.

Just before Christmas, when we were doing our Christmas shopping, I was able to delve into my little piggy bank to get some money for Christmas presents. I remember that first Christmas, I was very surprised at how much money was in that little piggy bank.

Whenever I got any money, I put some of it in the piggy bank, and I can never remember counting it. I just knew it was there. I thought about all of the presents I bought my parents and siblings with the money in my little piggy bank.

The bank finally fixed my account, and I was ready to leave. My piggy bank had never given me this much trouble.

Driving home, I could not help but think of how much that little piggy bank was a blessing. If I had not had that piggy bank that my grandmother gave me, I never would have saved any money. I would have spent it as soon as I got it.

Every time I got alone with my grandmother, which wasn't often, she would whisper, "How's your little piggy bank doing?" and then she would hand me two quarters to put into my piggy bank.

She was the only one who knew about that piggy bank. I guess that's what grandmothers are for.

Would it be appropriate for me to buy all of my grandchildren little piggy banks? Would they use them the way I used mine?

I thought of a Bible verse that is usually misquoted. "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Timothy 6:10).

Money isn't our problem, but the "love of money." Money is important to my daily life. If I allow money to become an obsession, it takes my mind off what is important. I need to use what little money I have to live a life pleasing unto the Lord.

Money can be a blessing or a curse.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is global warming making parts of the world uninhabitable? – L.G., via email

Global warming refers to the long-term rise in the Earth's average temperature, due primarily to human activities like burning fossil fuels, deforestation and industrial processes. Understanding its impact on the habitability of specific regions is crucial as the climate crisis intensifies, as is assessing the risks to human health, economic stability and social structures.

Current climate conditions show a worrying trend of ever-increasing temperatures, more frequent and severe heat waves and unpredictable weather patterns. Projections indicate that if these trends continue, many regions, particularly tropical and subtropical ones, could become uninhabitable. Indeed, parts of South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa are at risk of extreme heat levels beyond human survivability. In areas where heat and humidity combine, it could surpass the threshold for human survival, making outdoor activities and even basic survival impossible without significant adaptation.

The health risks associated with global warming are particularly acute in these vulnerable regions. Extreme heatwaves, like those already occurring in parts of India and the Persian Gulf, can lead to widespread illness and death. Higher temperatures also exacerbate air pollution, increasing respiratory and cardiovascular problems. Climate change also facilitates the spread of diseases by altering the habitats of carriers like mosquitoes, heightening the risk of diseases like malaria and dengue fever. Vulnerable populations, including the elderly and those with preexisting conditions, are particularly at risk.

Economic losses due to climate change may also disproportionately concentrate in specific areas. Low-lying coastal regions, as in Bangladesh, the Pacific Islands and parts of the Southeastern U.S., are facing rising sea levels that could displace millions of people. The resulting loss of infrastructure, agricultural land and freshwater resources could lead to severe economic downturns and increased social instability. Climate-induced displacement is already forcing populations to migrate, leading to conflicts over resources in both the affected areas and the regions they move to.

Reducing carbon emissions is critical to mitigate these impacts. Transitioning to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency and protecting forests are especially needed. Adaptation measures, like building resilient infrastructure and developing early warning systems for extreme weather events, will also be necessary. International cooperation and policy changes are essential to effectively address the global nature of climate change and protect the most at-risk regions.



Low-lying nations like Bangladesh are most at risk for becoming uninhabitable as global warming takes hold. Credit: Aftab Uzzaman, FlickrCC.

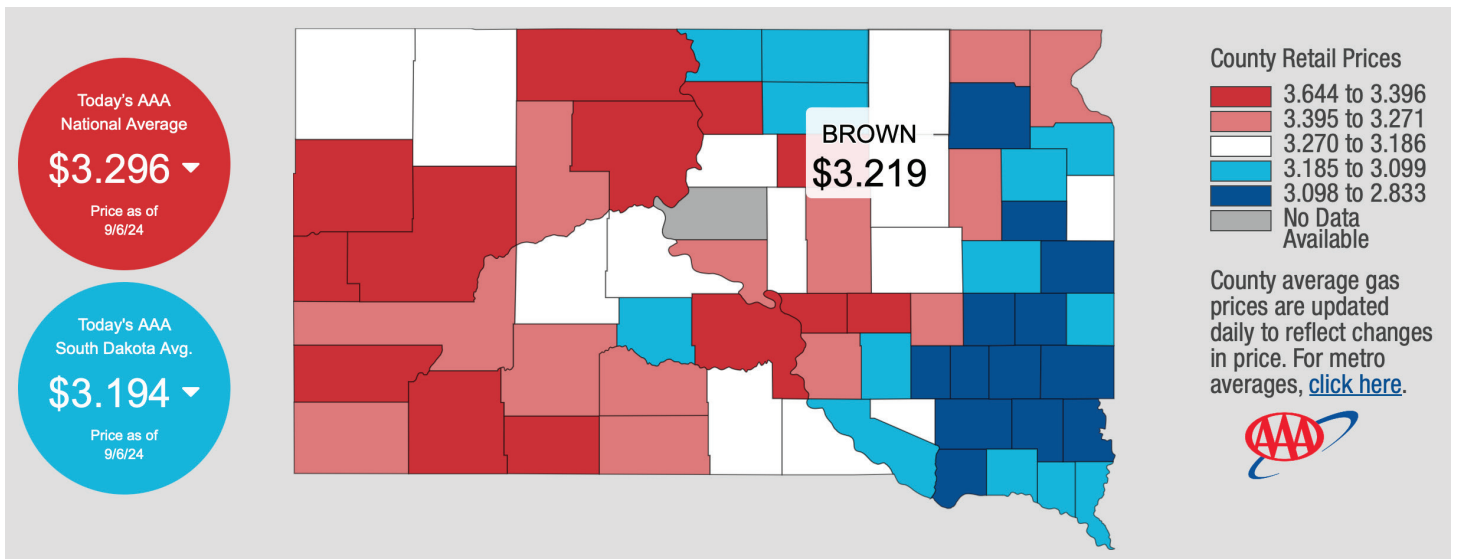
Broton Daily Independent

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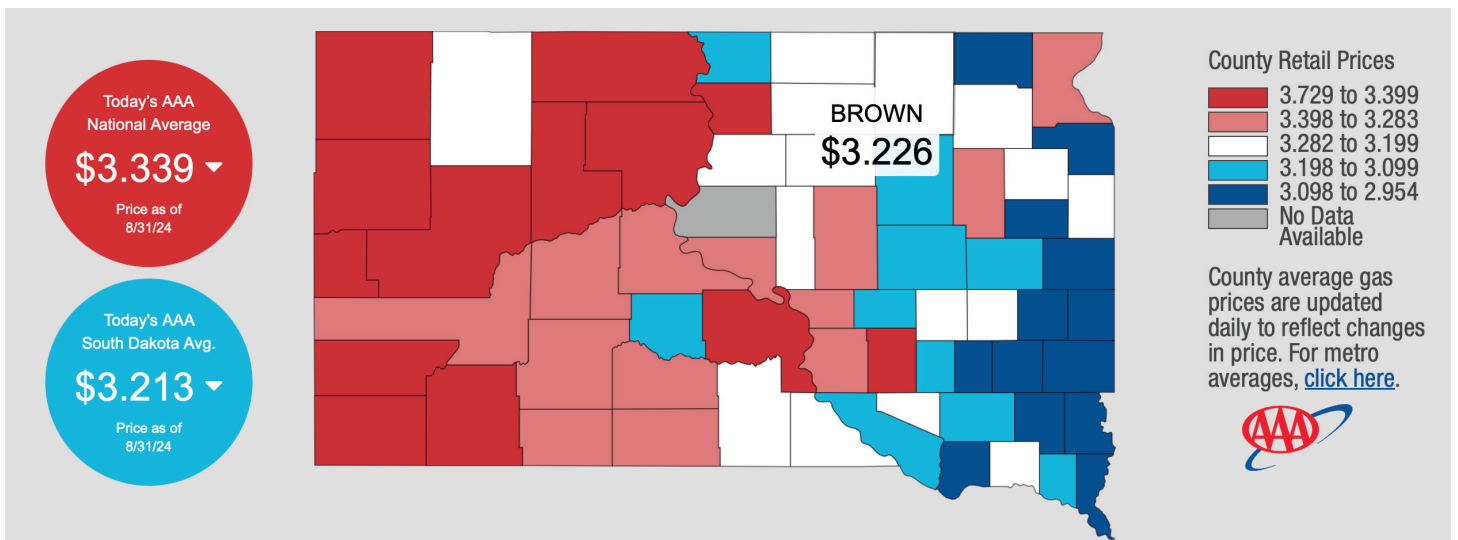
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.194	\$3.390	\$3.801	\$3.384
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.195	\$3.401	\$3.803	\$3.390
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.224	\$3.436	\$3.857	\$3.397
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.321	\$3.534	\$3.983	\$3.453
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.717	\$3.921	\$4.364	\$4.255

This Week



2 weeks ago



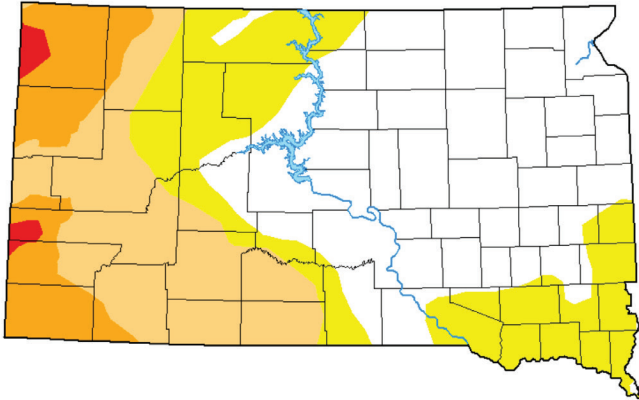
Drought Classification

None
D0 (Abnormally Dry)
D1 (Moderate Drought)

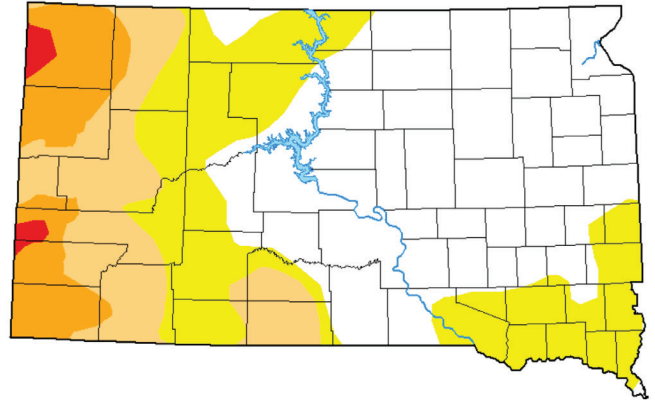
D2 (Severe Drought)
D3 (Extreme Drought)

D4 (Exceptional Drought)
No Data

Drought Monitor



September 3



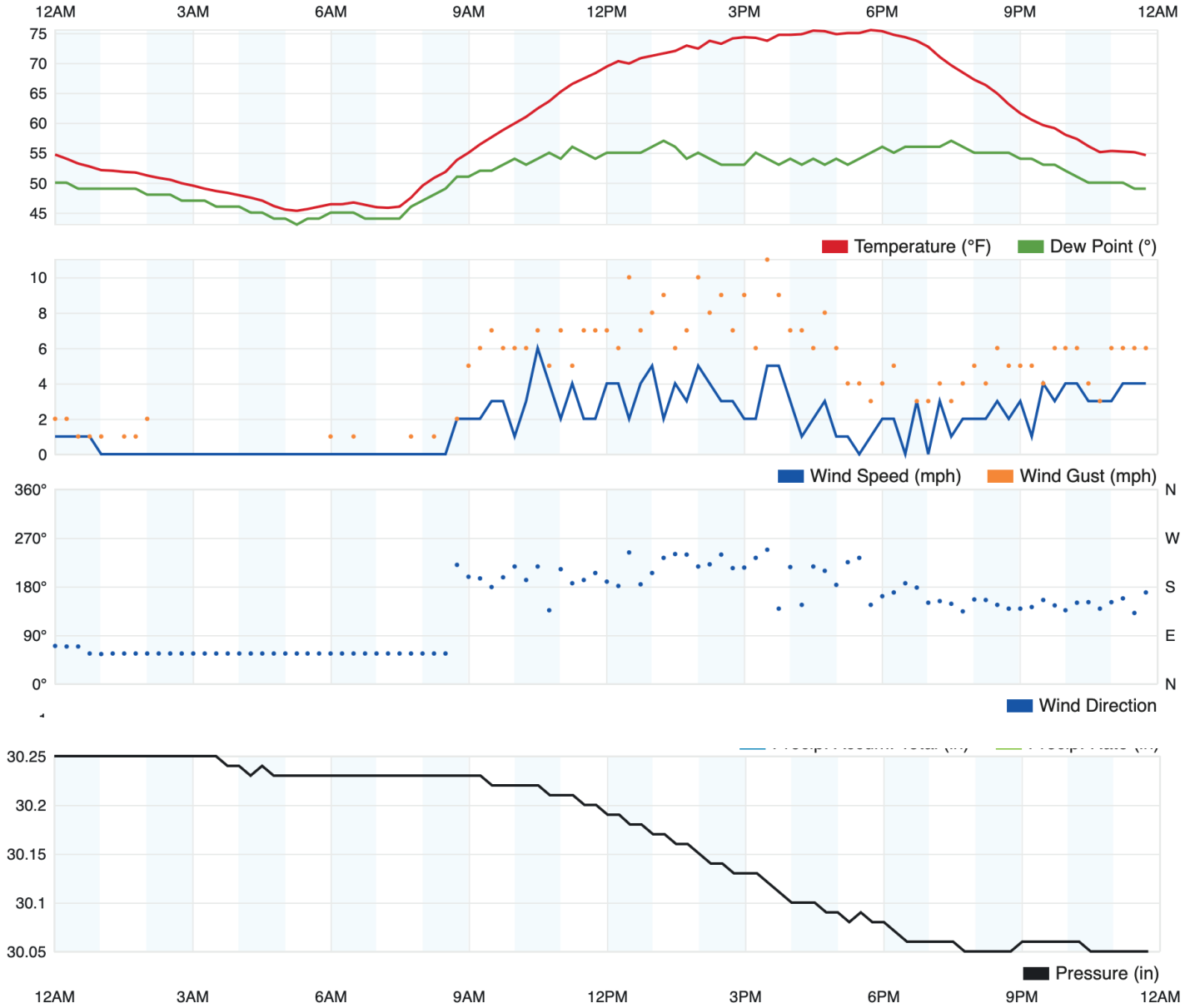
August 27

Parts of the eastern High Plains received precipitation. The areas of North Dakota and South Dakota in need of precipitation missed the 1 to 3 inches that fell in the central and eastern parts of the states. Abnormal dryness spread towards central Nebraska as the precipitation this week was very spotty. Southeast Nebraska into north-central and northeast Kansas saw both abnormally dry and moderate drought conditions expand despite precipitation this week, due to longer-term dryness. Southwestern Kansas has been seeing conditions continue to improve, leading to the trimming of abnormally dry, moderate and severe drought. The eastern foothills and plains of Colorado experienced little to no rain this week, leading to the expansion of moderate drought. Along the western Colorado border with Utah, abnormal dryness was removed with increased streamflows aiding conditions.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 84 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 54 °F

Mostly Clear

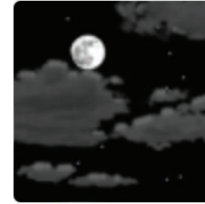
Monday



High: 88 °F

Sunny

Monday Night



Low: 62 °F

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday



High: 89 °F

Sunny



Warmer Air Begins Creeping Back In Today

September 8, 2024

4:41 AM

Most areas rising into the 80s

Overview

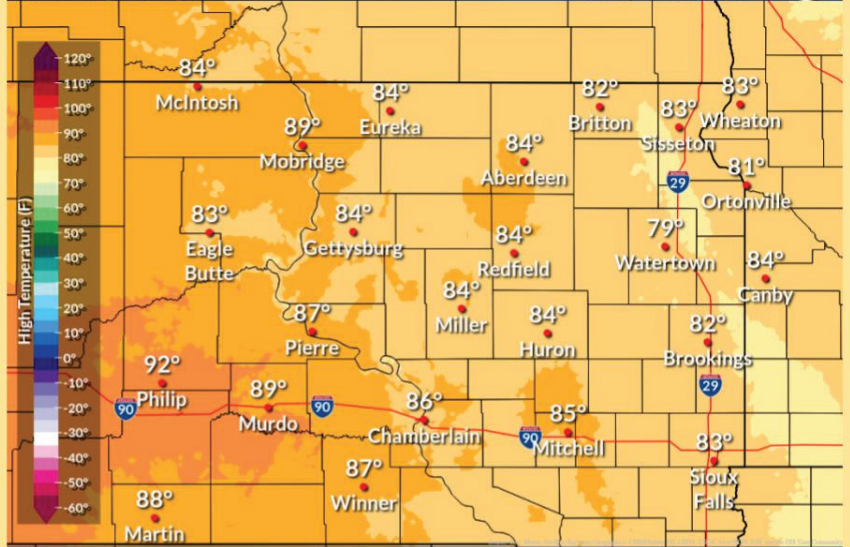
- Highs getting back into the 80s region-wide today.
- Very little opportunity for moisture until **maybe** late week & next weekend (low confidence).
- Hotter temperatures move in Monday (80s & 90s) and persist through Thursday.

Today's High Temperature Forecast

Warmer air begins moving in

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD

Issued Sep 08, 2024 4:28 AM CDT



NWSAberdeen

www.weather.gov/abr



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Conditions will start to heat up starting today as widespread 80s move back in, with plenty of sunshine and light south winds. Even warmer air will move in Monday and looks to stick around through much of the upcoming week. Rain chances will be sparse, at least for the next few days.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 76 °F at 5:43 PM

Low Temp: 45 °F at 5:08 AM

Wind: 11 mph at 2:02 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 101 in 1933

Record Low: 32 in 1992

Average High: 78

Average Low: 50

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.54

Precip to date in Sept.: 0.01

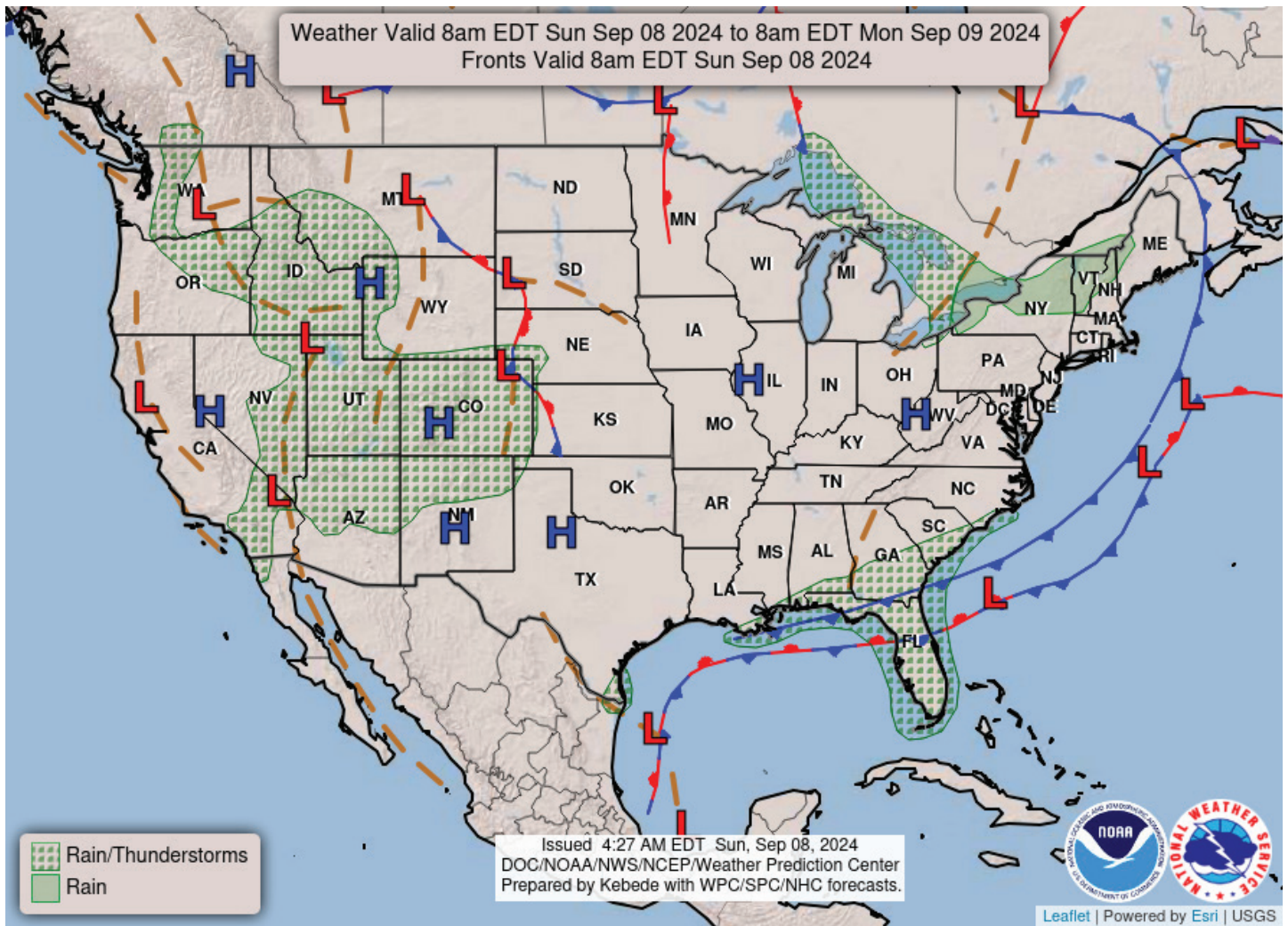
Average Precip to date: 16.88

Precip Year to Date: 19.42

Sunset Tonight: 7:57:42 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:03:06 am

Day length: 13 hours, 55 minutes (lost 22 minutes since last Sunday)



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Today in Weather History

September 8, 1959: High winds and areas of blowing dust occurred across parts of central South Dakota from Walworth to Mellette. During the evening, wind gusts of 40 to 50 mph affected the counties either side of the Missouri River. Low visibility in blowing dust was blamed for a four-car crash near Pierre, injuring five persons, another accident near Mobridge injured one person. Barn buildings were blown over or unroofed near Delmont in Douglas County. Lightning started grass fires and burned several thousand acres of rangeland in Mellette and Lyman counties. In the late afternoon, high winds associated with a cold front gusted to 70 mph and destroyed six buildings on a farm north and east of Reliance. At 500 pm, winds ripped a camper off a pickup truck 12 miles south of Pierre. Winds were measured at 68 mph at Pierre. At 6 pm CDT winds gusting to 70 mph damaged many trees in the Watertown area, power lines, and some buildings. A trailer and truck, twelve miles north of Watertown, were blown over while traveling on Interstate 29. A large oil tank was also destroyed.

1900 - The greatest weather disaster in U.S. records occurred when a hurricane struck Galveston TX. A tide fifteen feet high washed over the island demolishing or carrying away buildings, and drowning more than 6000 persons. The hurricane destroyed more than 3600 houses, and total damage was more than thirty million dollars. Winds to 120 mph, and a twenty foot storm surge accompanied the hurricane. Following the storm, the surf was three hundred feet inland from the former water line. The hurricane claimed another 1200 lives outside of the Galveston area. (8th-9th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1925: In September 1925, South Carolina was in the middle of one of the most widespread and disastrous droughts in the state's history. The NWS Co-op station in Calhoun Falls reported 11 days above 100°F with a maximum temperature of 111°F on this day.

1987 - A tropical depression off the coast of South Carolina brought another round of heavy rain to the Middle Atlantic Coast Region and the Upper Ohio Valley. Showers and thunderstorms produced extremely heavy rain in eastern Pennsylvania, where flooding caused more than 55 million dollars across a seven county area. The afternoon high of 97 degrees at Miami FL was a record for the month of September. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Eighteen cities in the south central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Roanoke VA with a reading of 42 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced very heavy rain in the central U.S. Thunderstorms during the late morning and afternoon produced five to nine inches of rain around Lincoln NE, with an unofficial total of eleven inches near Holmes Park. Up to six and a half inches of rain soaked northern and western Iowa. Eighty to ninety percent of the homes in Shenandoah IA, where 5.89 inches of rain was received, reported basement flooding. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: A severe thunderstorm developed over the southern end of the Las Vegas Valley in Nevada. The storm moved north bringing damaging winds and heavy rain mainly across the eastern half of the metro area. Henderson Executive Airport recorded wind gusts of 80 mph. Air traffic control personnel temporarily evacuated the airport tower. Approximately 15 homes and trailers in Moapa were severely damaged by thunderstorm winds estimated at 80 to 90 mph.

2012: Severe storms impacted the New York City area, forcing a delay of the United States Open. A tornado hit a beach club in Queens, and another brought damage to Canarsie, Brooklyn, New York.



HE'S NEVER THERE

The family was enjoying a meal together after the morning worship service. Grandmother, always interested in her granddaughter, Sara, turned to her and asked, "What did you learn in church today?"

"Well," she said after thinking a moment, "I learned that the church is God's house. But you know, Grandma, I never see Him when I go."

That makes me wonder what Sara might have been looking for. Surely there were songs and the reading of Scripture, perhaps the people greeted one another and exchanged smiles and handshakes. There certainly was a sermon about the church being "God's house." But Sara was not able to "see" God at home in His home. Perhaps no one explained to her how one might recognize God.

Paul, in describing how Christians ought to "fellowship" said, "Try to understand what the Lord wants you to do." The problem is not that we do not understand what we are to do, but in doing what we understand that God wants us to do.

The early church was known for the caring way Christians honored and respected each other. This came from their reverence for Christ and their desire to live lives that pleased Him. Could it be that people looking for God in our churches cannot see Him "in His home" because we lack His compassion and care for one another?

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to reflect Your presence in our lives by the care and concern we have for one another. May everyone see Your love in all that we do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Ephesians 5:15-21

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:
09.06.24

6 23 41 59 63 25

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$800,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.07.24

1 4 9 33 37 10

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$8,590,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.07.24

3 20 29 34 39 13

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 34 Mins
57 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.07.24

1 3 6 22 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$26,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.07.24

14 16 20 30 47 22

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.07.24

14 34 37 55 63 20

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$121,000,000

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 **AP** Associated Press

South Dakota State pulls away from feisty Incarnate Word in 45-24 win

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mark Gronowski threw for 285 yards and four touchdowns and top-ranked FCS South Dakota State beat Incarnate Word 45-24 on Saturday night.

The Jackrabbits (1-1) were beaten in their season opener at Stillwater, Oklahoma by 17th-ranked Oklahoma State, 44-20, last week.

Gronowski threw a 22-yard score to Graham Goering with 3:32 before halftime for a 17-10 lead. To start the third quarter, Incarnate Word's Zach Calzada threw a 69-yard touchdown to Jalen Walthall on a drive that covered 91 yards in just four plays. The drive was aided by a pass interference call on South Dakota State with the Cardinals (1-1) facing third-and-15 at their own 4.

South Dakota State countered and took control when Gronowski threw an 11-yard score to Griffin Wilde with 7:13 left in the third. A little more than three minutes later, Amar Johnson ran it from the 6 for South Dakota's first two-touchdown lead.

Johnson ran for 112 yards on 19 carries and scored twice. Wilde had 106 yards receiving on 10 receptions with a pair of touchdowns.

Calzada completed 31 of 39 passes for 351 yards and threw three touchdowns.

___ Get poll alerts and updates on the AP Top 25 throughout the season. Sign up here. AP college football: <https://apnews.com/hub/ap-top-25-college-football-poll> and <https://apnews.com/hub/college-football>

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Aberdeen Central High School def. Huron, 25-21, 20-25, 28-26, 31-33, 15-8

Beresford def. Canistota, 25-10, 25-16

Beresford def. Menno, 25-9, 21-25, 27-25

Beresford def. Platte-Geddes, 25-20, 25-13

Canistota def. Platte-Geddes, 27-25, 20-25, 25-22

Deubrook def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-17, 23-25, 25-14

Deubrook def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-16, 25-18

Elk Point-Jefferson def. Ethan, 23-25, 25-11, 25-21

Elk Point-Jefferson def. Gayville-Volin High School, 25-23, 25-14

Elk Point-Jefferson def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-13, 25-18

Elk Point-Jefferson def. Scotland, 25-11, 25-16

Elk Point-Jefferson def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-11, 25-4

Ethan def. Deubrook, 24-26, 25-23, 25-23

Ethan def. Scotland, 18-25, 25-20, 25-15

Freeman Academy-Marion def. Lyman, 25-14, 22-25, 25-20

Gayville-Volin High School def. Freeman Academy-Marion, 25-20, 25-17

Gayville-Volin High School def. Madison, 25-16, 25-19

Hamlin def. Arlington, 25-18, 25-18, 25-19

Harrisburg def. Yankton, 25-13, 25-10, 25-14

Madison def. Freeman Academy-Marion, 25-19, 25-18

Menno def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-16, 25-14

Menno def. Lyman, 25-20, 26-24

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-17, 25-18

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Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Centerville, 25-14, 25-21
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Centerville, 25-17, 25-22
Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Tri-Valley, 25-11, 26-24
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. St Michael-Albertville, Minn., 23-25, 25-17, 15-7
Sioux Valley def. Castlewood, 31-29, 25-16, 27-25
Tri-Valley def. Centerville, 25-19, 25-18
Gillete Invitational=
Gold Bracket=
Cody, Wyo. def. Rapid City Christian, 25-23, 21-25, 15-12
Laramie, Wyo. def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-22, 25-17
Silver Bracket=
Spearfish def. Campbell County, Wyo., 25-18, 25-10
Wheatland, Wyo. def. St Thomas More, 15-25, 25-22, 15-12
Consolation Semifinal=
St Thomas More def. Newcastle, Wyo., 25-15, 25-21
IW Tournament=
Gayville-Volin High School def. Northwestern, 17-25, 25-23, 26-24
Irene-Wakonda def. Canistota, 26-24, 25-21
Northwestern def. Lyman, 25-10, 25-10
Northwestern def. Madison, 25-21, 25-13
Platte-Geddes def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-19, 25-15
Semifinal=
Gayville-Volin High School def. Beresford, 25-22, 25-15
Millard West Tournament=
Pool A=
Millard West, Neb. def. O'Gorman High School, 25-22, 25-16
O'Gorman High School def. Fremont, Neb., 25-20, 25-17
Southwest Minnesota State University Tournament=
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Benilde-St Margaret's, Minn., 25-16, 25-15
White River Triangular=
Stanley County def. White River, 17-25, 25-18, 25-21, 25-16
White River def. Little Wound, 25-11, 25-17, 25-14

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

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press
PREP FOOTBALL=
Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 32, Lead-Deadwood 14
Flandreau Indian def. Crow Creek Tribal School, forfeit
Harrisburg 41, Sioux Falls Washington 7
Hitchcock-Tulare 56, Northwestern 6
St Thomas More 28, Chamberlain 6

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

Mellusi rushes for 2 TDs and Wisconsin beats South Dakota 27-13

By TAMIRA MADSEN Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Chez Mellusi's grandfather died on Friday, but he didn't tell Wisconsin coach Luke Fickell until the conclusion of Saturday's game.

By that point, Mellusi had delivered a performance that would have made his grandfather proud.

Mellusi rushed for two touchdowns, Tyler Van Dyke threw for another and Wisconsin beat South Dakota 27-13. Mellusi told a few people earlier this week - but not many - about his grandfather's situation.

"I didn't want any sympathy," Mellusi said. "I need to do a better job letting my guys know what I'm going through. That's on me."

Van Dyke completed 17 of 27 passes for 214 yards and a touchdown for the Badgers (2-0). Mellusi had 16 carries for 60 yards and Cade Yacamelli rushed for a team-high 73 yards on eight attempts.

Mellusi said that he was close to Cesare Mellusi and took the situation hard. Mellusi's father Mario Mellusi didn't attend Saturday's game.

"It's life," Chez Mellusi said. "I know what he would've wanted for me is to play the best version of myself. And I have to be better. Today, I did all right. I left some things on the field, for sure."

Fickell said that this season, in particular, Mellusi's impact has grown within the program.

"It's the best I've seen him — as a leader, as a guy that can provide some energy and provide some spark," Fickell said. "It's a great reminder to us, especially us that understand this landscape of college football is changing, that even the older players can truly grow."

Cade Yacamelli rushed for a team-high 73 yards on eight attempts.

Wisconsin raced to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter on a Mellusi 9-yard touchdown and a 50-yard scoring strike from Van Dyke to CJ Williams.

South Dakota (1-1) cut the lead to 17-13 in the third quarter but couldn't get any closer.

Nathanial Vakos' 50-yard field goal made it 20-13 late in the third period. Mellusi's 1-yard touchdown run with 7:35 remaining put the game out of reach at 27-13.

Vakos also had a 24-yard field goal in the second period.

South Dakota's Charles Pierre Jr. rushed for 83 yards on 12 carries and Aidan Bowman completed 12 of 23 passes for 114 yards. Keyondray James-Logan scored South Dakota's lone touchdown with a 35-yard run early in the third quarter.

South Dakota crept into contention in the third after a muffed punt by Wisconsin's Vinny Anthony. But the Coyotes failed to get a touchdown and settled for Leyland's 32-yard field goal to cut Wisconsin's lead to 17-13.

South Dakota coach Bob Nielsen said that the Coyotes couldn't keep up with the Badgers in the fourth quarter.

"We left a lot of points on the board," Nielsen said. "And against a team like (Wisconsin), you can't leave points on the board. They wore us, they leaned on us a little bit. We had one drive with the three penalties, and they did a good job of scoring late in the game to make it a two-score game."

THE TAKEAWAY

Wisconsin: The Badgers had four gains of at least 22 yards in the first half, an encouraging sign after they had no plays longer than 17 yards in their season-opening 28-14 victory over Western Michigan. The biggest plays were Williams' 50-yard touchdown and a 32-yard catch by Anthony.

South Dakota: The Coyotes lost the game but made some big plays on defense and special teams. Nyle Dickel recovered a Wisconsin muffed punt in the third quarter. Mi'Quise Grace and Mosai Newsom got one sack each against Van Dyke.

UP NEXT

South Dakota: At Portland State on Sept. 14.

Wisconsin: Hosts No. 4 Alabama on Sept. 14.

Shooting attack at the West Bank-Jordan border crossing kills 3 Israelis

By MAHMOUD ILLEAN and NATALIE MELZER Associated Press

ALLENBY CROSSING, West Bank (AP) — Three Israelis were shot and killed Sunday at the border crossing between the West Bank and Jordan, Israeli officials said, in what appeared to be an attack linked to the 11-month-old war in Gaza.

The military said the gunman approached the Allenby Bridge Crossing from the Jordanian side in a truck and opened fire at Israeli security forces, who killed the assailant in a shootout. It said the three people killed were Israeli civilians. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said they were all men in their 50s.

Jordan is investigating the shooting, its state-run Petra News Agency reported. The Western-allied Arab country made peace with Israel in 1994, but is deeply critical of its policies toward the Palestinians. Jordan has a large Palestinian population and has seen mass protests against Israel over the war in Gaza.

The Allenby crossing over the Jordan River, also known as the King Hussein Bridge, is mainly used by Israelis, Palestinians and international tourists. Authorities in Israel and Jordan said the crossing was closed until further notice, and Israel later announced the closure of both of its land crossings with Jordan, near Beit Shean in the north and Eilat in the south.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the attack and linked it to Israel's larger conflict with Iran and allied militant groups, including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The Israeli-occupied West Bank has seen a surge of violence since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack out of Gaza triggered the war there. Israel has launched near-daily military arrest raids into dense Palestinian residential areas, and there has also been a rise in settler violence and Palestinian attacks on Israelis.

In Gaza, meanwhile, an Israeli airstrike early Sunday killed five people, including two women, two children and a senior official in the Civil Defense — first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government.

The Civil Defense said the strike targeted the home of its deputy director for north Gaza, Mohammed Morsi, in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. The army says it tries to avoid harming civilians and only targets militants.

Gaza's Health Ministry says over 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the war began. It does not differentiate between fighters and civilians in its count. The war has caused vast destruction and displaced around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million, often multiple times.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in their Oct. 7 attack into southern Israel. They abducted another 250, and are still holding around 100 of them after releasing most of the rest in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel during a weeklong cease-fire last November. Around a third of the remaining hostages inside Gaza are believed to be dead.

The United States, Qatar and Egypt have spent months trying to broker a cease-fire and the return of the hostages, but the negotiations have repeatedly bogged down.

Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem — territories the Palestinians want for a future state — in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel withdrew soldiers and settlers from Gaza in 2005 but maintained control over its airspace, coastline and most of its land crossings. Along with Egypt, it imposed a blockade on Gaza after Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007.

Opposition presidential candidate González flees Venezuela for asylum in Spain

By JORGE RUEDA, JOSHUA GOODMAN and JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Former Venezuelan opposition presidential candidate Edmundo González has fled into exile after being granted asylum in Spain, delivering a major blow to millions who placed their hopes in his upstart campaign to end two decades of single-party rule.

The surprise departure of the man considered by Venezuela's opposition and several foreign governments

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to be the legitimate winner of July's presidential race was announced late Saturday night by Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez.

She said the government decided to grant González safe passage out of the country, just days after ordering his arrest, to help restore "the country's political peace and tranquility."

Neither González nor opposition leader Maria Corina Machado has commented.

Meanwhile, Spain's center-left government said the decision to abandon Venezuela was González's alone and he departed on a plane sent by the country's air force.

Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares told Spanish national broadcaster RTVE that his government will grant González political asylum as he has requested. Albares spoke while en route to China with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on a state visit.

"I have been able to speak to (González) and once he was aboard the airplane he expressed his gratitude toward the Spanish government and Spain," Albares said. "Of course I told him we were pleased that he is well and on his way to Spain, and I reiterated the commitment of our government to the political rights of all Venezuelans."

Sánchez said in a speech Friday, before González's departure was announced, that the opposition leader was "a hero whom Spain is not going to abandon."

Albares said that González had spent an unspecified number of days at the Spanish Embassy in Caracas before his departure.

A Spanish official with knowledge of details on González's departure said that his government did not discuss González's exit with Maduro's administration. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with ministry protocols.

González, a 75-year-old former diplomat, was a last minute stand in when Machado was banned from running. Previously unknown to most Venezuelans, his campaign nonetheless rapidly ignited the hopes of millions of Venezuelans desperate for change after a decade-long economic freefall.

While President Nicolás Maduro was declared the winner of the July vote, most Western governments have yet to recognize his victory and are instead demanding that authorities publish a breakdown of votes. Meanwhile, tally sheets collected by opposition volunteers from over two-thirds of the electronic voting machines indicate that González won by a more than 2-to-1 margin.

The tally sheets have long been considered the ultimate proof of election results in Venezuela. In previous presidential elections, the National Electoral Council published online the results of each of the more than 30,000 voting machines but the Maduro-controlled panel did not release any data this time, blaming an alleged cyberattack mounted by its opponents from North Macedonia.

Attorney General Tarek William Saab, a staunch Maduro ally, sought González's arrest after he failed to appear three times in connection with a criminal investigation into what it considers an act of electoral sabotage.

Saab told reporters the voting records the opposition shared online were forged and an attempt to undermine the National Electoral Council.

Experts from the United Nations and the Carter Center, which at the invitation of Maduro's government observed the election, determined the results announced by electoral authorities lacked credibility. In a statement critical of the election, the U.N. experts stopped short of validating the opposition's claim to victory, but they said the voting records it published online appear to exhibit all of the original security features.

Spain has been a major point of exodus for Venezuelans, particularly of those leading opposition to Maduro's regime. They include Leopoldo López, who fled to Spain to reunite with his family in 2020, and Antonio Ledezma, who left for the European country in 2017.

Some 44,000 Venezuelans immigrated to Spain in the first six months of this year. The last government statistics from 2022 said that some 212,000 Venezuelans were then residing in Spain.

Typhoon Yagi kills 14 in Vietnam as officials warn of heavy rain that can cause flooding

By ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — At least 14 people have died and 176 others injured in Vietnam after Typhoon Yagi slammed the country's north, state media said Sunday, as officials warned of heavy downpours despite its waning power.

Described by Vietnamese officials as one of the most powerful typhoons to hit the region over the last decade, Yagi left more than 3 million people without electricity in northern Vietnam. It also damaged vital agricultural land, nearly 116,192 hectares where rice and fruits are mostly grown. Hundreds of flights were canceled after four airports were closed.

The typhoon made landfall in Vietnam's northern coastal provinces of Quang Ninh and Haiphong with wind speeds of up to 149 kilometers per hour (92 miles per hour) on Saturday afternoon. It raged for roughly 15 hours before gradually weakening into a tropical depression early Sunday morning. Vietnam's meteorological department predicted heavy rain in northern and central provinces and warned of floods in low-lying areas, flash floods in streams and landslides on steep slopes.

Municipal workers along with army and police forces were busy in the capital, Hanoi, clearing uprooted trees, fallen billboards, toppled electricity poles and rooftops that were swept away, while assessing damaged buildings.

Yagi was still a storm when it blew out of the northwestern Philippines into the South China Sea on Wednesday, leaving at least 20 people dead and 26 others missing mostly in landslides and widespread flooding in the archipelago nation. It then made its way to China, killing three people and injuring nearly a hundred others, before landing in Vietnam.

Storms like Typhoon Yagi were "getting stronger due to climate change, primarily because warmer ocean waters provide more energy to fuel the storms, leading to increased wind speeds and heavier rainfall," said Benjamin Horton, director of the Earth Observatory of Singapore.

Trump threatens to jail adversaries in escalating rhetoric ahead of pivotal debate

By MICHAEL GOLDBERG, JILL COLVIN and SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

MOSINEE, Wis. (AP) — With just days to go before his first — and likely only — debate against Vice President Kamala Harris, former President Donald Trump posted a warning on his social media site threatening to jail those "involved in unscrupulous behavior" this election, which he said would be under intense scrutiny.

"WHEN I WIN, those people that CHEATED will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the Law, which will include long term prison sentences so that this Depravity of Justice does not happen again," Trump wrote, again sowing doubt about the integrity of the election, even though cheating is incredibly rare.

"Please beware," he went on, "that this legal exposure extends to Lawyers, Political Operatives, Donors, Illegal Voters, & Corrupt Election Officials. Those involved in unscrupulous behavior will be sought out, caught, and prosecuted at levels, unfortunately, never seen before in our Country."

Trump's message represents his latest threat to use the office of the presidency to exact retribution if he wins a second term. There is no evidence of the kind of fraud he continues to insist marred the 2020 election; in fact, dozens of courts, Republican state officials and his own administration have said he lost fairly.

Just days ago, Trump himself acknowledged in a podcast interview that he had indeed "lost by a whisker."

While Trump's campaign aides and allies have urged him to keep his focus on Harris and make the election a referendum on issues like inflation and border security, Trump in recent days has veered far off course.

On Friday, he delivered a stunning statement to news cameras in which he brought up a string of past allegations of sexual misconduct, describing several in graphic detail, even as he denied his accusers' allegations. Earlier, he had voluntarily appeared in court for a hearing on the appeal of a decision that found him liable for sexual abuse, turning focus to his legal woes in the campaign's final stretch.

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Earlier Saturday, Trump had leaned into familiar grievances about everything from his indictments to Russia's meddling in the 2016 election as he campaigned in one of the most deeply Republican swaths of battleground Wisconsin.

"The Harris-Biden DOJ is trying to throw me in jail — they want me in jail — for the crime of exposing their corruption," Trump claimed at an outdoor rally at Central Wisconsin Airport, where he spoke behind a wall of bullet-proof glass due to new security protocols following his July assassination attempt.

There's no evidence that President Joe Biden or Harris have had any influence over decisions by the Justice Department or state prosecutors to indict the former president.

Trump has eschewed traditional debate preparation, choosing to holding rallies and events while Harris has been cloistered in a historic hotel in downtown Pittsburgh, working with aides since Thursday.

Harris has agreed so far to a single debate, which will be hosted by ABC.

At the rally, Trump outlined his plans to "Drain the swamp" — a throwback to his winning 2016 campaign message as he ran as an outsider challenging the status quo. Though Trump spent four years in the Oval Office, he vowed anew to "cast out the corrupt political class" if he wins again and to "cut the fat out of our government for the first time, meaningfully, in 60 years."

As part of that effort, he repeated his plan, announced Thursday, to create a new "Government Efficiency Commission" headed by Elon Musk that will be charged with conducting "a complete financial and performance audit of the entire federal government" to root out waste.

After again maligning the Congressional committee that investigated the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the nation's capitol by his supporters after his election loss in 2020, Trump told the crowd of thousands that he would "rapidly review the cases of every political prisoner unjustly victimized by the Harris regime" and sign their pardons on his first day back in office.

Trump has repeatedly defended those who have been jailed for crimes including violent attacks on law enforcement.

And he said he would "completely overhaul" what he labeled "Kamala's corrupt Department of Injustice."

"Instead of persecuting Republicans, they will focus on taking down bloodthirsty cartels, transnational gangs, and radical Islamic terrorists," he said.

Harris campaign spokesperson Sarafina Chitika responded to his comments with a statement warning that, if Trump is reelected, he will "use his unchecked power to prosecute his enemies and pardon insurrectionists who violently attacked our Capitol on January 6."

Both Harris and Trump have been frequent visitors to Wisconsin this year, a state where four of the past six presidential elections have been decided by less than a percentage point. Several polls of Wisconsin voters conducted after Biden withdrew showed Harris and Trump in a close race.

Democrats consider Wisconsin to be one of the must-win "blue wall" states. Biden, who was in Wisconsin on Thursday, won the state in 2020 by just under 21,000 votes. Trump carried it by a slightly larger margin, nearly 23,000 votes, in 2016.

As Trump was campaigning, Harris took a short break from debate prep to visit Penzeys Spices in Pittsburgh's Strip District, where she bought several seasoning mixes. One customer saw the Democratic nominee and began openly weeping as Harris hugged her and said, "We're going to be fine. We're all in this together."

Harris said she was honored to have endorsements from two major Republicans: former Vice President Dick Cheney and his daughter, Liz Cheney, the former Wyoming congresswoman.

"People are exhausted, about the division and the attempts to kind of divide us as Americans," she said, adding that her main message at the debate would be that the country wants to be united.

"It's time to turn the page on the divisiveness," she said. "It's time to bring our country together, to chart a new way forward."

Trump held his rally in the central Wisconsin city of Mosinee, with a population of about 4,500 people. It is within Wisconsin's mostly rural 7th Congressional District, a reliably Republican area in a purple state.

During his speech, he railed against Harris in dark and ominous language, claiming that if the woman he

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calls "Comrade Kamala Harris gets four more years, you will be living (in) a full-blown Banana Republic" ruled by "anarchy" and "tyranny."

Trump also railed against the administration's border policies, calling the Democrats' approach "suicidal" and accusing them of having "imported murderers, child predators and serial rapists from all over the planet."

Many studies have found immigrants, including those in the country illegally, commit fewer violent crimes than native-born citizens. Violent crime in the U.S. dropped again last year, continuing a downward trend after a pandemic-era spike.

He dismissed warnings from U.S. officials about ongoing Russian attempts to spread disinformation ahead of November's election, including an indictment this past week that alleged a media company linked to six conservative influencers was secretly funded by Russian state media employees.

"The Justice Department said Russia may be involved in our elections again," Trump told the crowd. "And, you know, the whole world laughed at it this time."

Among those in the crowd was Dale Osuldsen, who was celebrating his 68th birthday Saturday at his first ever Trump rally. He hopes a second Trump administration will take on "cancel culture" and bring the country back to its "foundational past."

"We've had past administrations say they want to fundamentally change America," Osuldsen said. "Fundamentally changing America is a bad thing."

Many supporters embarked on hours-long drives from across Wisconsin to see Trump speak. Some came from even further.

Sean Moon, a Tennessee musician who releases MAGA-themed rap music under the stage name, "King Bullethead," blasted his songs from a truck in the event parking lot. As a musician, he said Trump rallies approximate the experience of a raucous concert.

"Trump is a rockstar," Moon said. "He's incredible. People see he represents them and the deep state trying to kill him and take him out. But he's standing strong, and he stands for the normal person."

Democrats have relied on massive turnout in the state's two largest cities, Milwaukee and Madison, to counter Republican strength in rural areas like Mosinee and the Milwaukee suburbs. Trump must win the votes in places like Mosinee to have any chance of cutting into the Democrats' advantage in urban areas.

Republicans held their national convention in Milwaukee in July and Trump has made four previous stops to the state, most recently just last week in the western Wisconsin city of La Crosse.

Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, last month filled the same Milwaukee arena where Republicans held their national convention for a rally that coincided with the Democratic National Convention just 90 miles away in Chicago. Walz returned Monday to Milwaukee, where he spoke at a Labor Day rally organized by unions.

Mother of Georgia shooting suspect called school to warn of emergency, aunt says

By RUSS BYNUM and CLAIRE RUSH Associated Press

The mother of the 14-year-old who has been charged with murder over the fatal shooting of four people at his Georgia high school called the school before the killings, warning staff of an "extreme emergency" involving her son, a relative said.

Annie Brown told the Washington Post that her sister, Colt Gray's mother, texted her saying she spoke with a school counselor and urged them to "immediately" find her son to check on him.

Brown provided screen shots of the text exchange to the newspaper, which also reported that a call log from the family's shared phone plan showed a call was made to the school about 30 minutes before gunfire is believed to have erupted.

Brown confirmed the reporting to The Associated Press on Saturday in text messages but declined to provide further comment.

Colt Gray, 14, has been charged with murder over the killing of two students and two teachers at

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Apalachee High School in Barrow County, outside Atlanta, on Wednesday. His father, Colin Gray, is accused of second-degree murder for providing his son with a semiautomatic AR 15-style rifle.

Their attorneys declined to immediately seek bail during their first court appearance on Friday.

Investigators previously interviewed the suspects

The Georgia teenager had struggled with his parents' separation and taunting by classmates, his father told a sheriff's investigator last year when asked whether his son posted an online threat.

"I don't know anything about him saying (expletive) like that," Gray told Jackson County sheriff's investigator Daniel Miller, according to a transcript of their interview obtained by the AP. "I'm going to be mad as hell if he did, and then all the guns will go away."

Jackson County authorities ended their inquiry into Colt Gray a year ago, concluding that there wasn't clear evidence to link him to a threat posted on Discord, a social media site popular with video gamers. The records from that investigation provide at least a narrow glimpse into a boy who struggled with his parents' breakup and at the middle school he attended at the time, where his father said others frequently taunted him.

Father says his son was bullied at school

"He gets flustered and under pressure. He doesn't really think straight," Colin Gray told the investigator on May 21, 2023, recalling a discussion he'd had with the boy's principal.

Middle school had also been rough for Colt Gray. He had just finished the seventh grade when Miller interviewed the father and son. Colin Gray said the boy had just a few friends and frequently got picked on. Some students "just ridiculed him day after day after day."

"I don't want him to fight anybody, but they just keep like pinching him and touching him," Gray said. "Words are one thing, but you start touching him and that's a whole different deal. And it's just escalated to the point where like his finals were last week and that was the last thing on his mind."

Shooting guns and hunting, he said, were frequent pastimes for father and son. Gray said he was encouraging the boy to be more active outdoors and spend less time playing video games on his Xbox. When Colt Gray killed a deer months earlier, his father swelled with pride. He showed the investigator a photo on his cellphone, saying: "You see him with blood on his cheeks from shooting his first deer."

"It was just the greatest day ever," Colin Gray said.

There's no mention in the investigator's report and interview transcript of either Gray owning an assault-style rifle. Asked if his son had access to firearms, the father said yes. But he said the guns weren't kept loaded and insisted he had emphasized safety when teaching the boy to shoot.

"He knows the seriousness of weapons and what they can do," Gray said, "and how to use them and not use them."

Family evicted in 2022

An eviction upended the Grays' family in summer 2022. On July 25 of that year, a sheriff's deputy was dispatched to the rental home on a suburban cul-de-sac where Colin Gray, his wife, Colt and the boy's two younger siblings lived. A moving crew was piling their belongings in the yard.

The Jackson County deputy said in a report that the movers found guns and hunting bows in a closet in the master bedroom. They turned the weapons and ammunition over to the deputy for safekeeping, rather than leave them outside with the family's other possessions outside.

The deputy wrote that he left copies of receipt forms for the weapons on the front door so that Gray could pick them up later at the sheriff's office. The reason for eviction is not mentioned in the report. Colin Gray told the investigator in 2023 that he had paid his rent.

It was following the eviction, he said, that his wife left him, taking the two younger siblings with her. Colt Gray "struggled at first with the separation and all," said the father, who worked a construction job.

"I'm the sole provider, doing high rises downtown," he told the investigator. Two days later, there was a follow-up interview with Colin Gray while he was at work. He said by phone: "I'm hanging off the top of a building. ... I've got a big crane lift going, so it's kind of noisy up here."

Boy described as quiet

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The investigator also interviewed the boy, then 13, who was described in a report as quiet, calm and reserved.

He denied making any threats and said that months earlier he'd stopped using the Discord platform, where the school threat was posted. He later told his father his account had been hacked.

"The only thing I have is TikTok, but I just go on there and watch videos," the teen said.

A year before they would both end up charged in the high school shooting, Colin Gray insisted to the sheriff's investigator that his son wasn't the type to threaten violence.

"He's not a loner, Officer Miller. Don't get that," the father said, adding: "He just wants to go to school, do his own thing and he doesn't want any trouble."

East Timor looks to the pope's visit as a reward after 20 years of fragile stability

By NINIEK KARMINI Associated Press

DILI, East Timor (AP) — East Timor is in a festive mood as it prepares for the arrival of Pope Francis on his first trip to the deeply Catholic country, hard on the heels of the 25th anniversary of the referendum on independence from Indonesia.

Francis is due to arrive Monday in one of the world's poorest countries of 1.3 million people, also known as Timor-Leste, following visits to Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Banners and billboards have filled the streets of the seaside capital, Dili, to welcome the pontiff.

"The pope's visit is the biggest, the best marketing anyone can aspire to promote the country, to put the country on the tourist map," East Timor's President Jose Ramos-Horta said in an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The 74-year-old former independence fighter and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who returned to the presidency in 2022, said the papal visit is a "reward" for the depth of faith shown by the Timorese, some 98% of whom identify as Catholic, and recognition of the progress toward peace in recent years.

The World Bank in its semi-annual report in February praised East Timor as a peaceful, democratic nation. For more than 10 years, free and fair elections have been held despite tensions between the two largest parties that have occasionally erupted into violence.

The country's path to statehood has been traumatic.

The Timorese first declared their independence from Portugal, the colonial ruler, on Nov. 28, 1975, but that move was crushed nine days later when neighboring Indonesia invaded. As many as 200,000 people were killed during the 24 years of Indonesian rule.

On Aug. 30, 1999, Timorese cast their ballots in a United Nations-backed referendum that backed independence from Indonesia with 78.5% of the vote. Indonesia's military responded with a scorched-earth campaign that shocked the world. About 1,500 people were killed, more than 300,000 were displaced and over 80% of East Timor's infrastructure was destroyed.

An international force led by Australia intervened to restore security. After a period of direct U.N. governance, East Timor finally became an independent state on May 20, 2002.

The transition to democracy has been rocky, with leaders battling poverty, unemployment and corruption. East Timor's economy is heavily dependent on energy resources in the Timor Sea, but according to the U.N. Human Development Index, oil and gas income is falling as reserves are depleted, and the economy is not yet diversified.

About 42% of the population lives below the poverty line, according to the U.N. Development Program. Unemployment is high, job opportunities in the formal sector are generally limited and most people are subsistence farmers with no steady income.

In the health sector, 47% of children still suffer from stunting and for every 1,000 babies born in East Timor, 49 died before their 5th birthday due to malnutrition, according to the U.N.'s Group for Child Mortality Estimation. Nearly all medicines must be imported and supplies sometimes run out. Patients seek more advanced care overseas.

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"Achieving national independence and managing the country afterward are not easy tasks," Koji Sakane, the director of Global Peacebuilding Association of Japan, said in his February study. "In other words, it is not easy for less experienced figures and organizations to provide the people with a stable living environment and gain their trust."

Out of necessity, Sakane said, the country was run by leaders and organizations who lacked experience in key areas, including coordination between competing political parties and control of ex-combatants and weapons from the struggle for independence.

While poverty levels remain high, East Timor joined the World Trade Organization last month as its 166th member, after 7 1/2 years of negotiations.

It also applied for a full membership in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. It currently has observer status, and wealthier members of the regional bloc like Singapore had feared it would be a burden and delay the creation of an ASEAN Economic Community.

Both East Timor's Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao and Ramos-Horta highlighted the importance of joining the 10-nation grouping of more than 700 million people to give foreign companies and investors the confidence and security to invest in the country. Last

In 2023, ASEAN member states adopted a roadmap for East Timor's full membership. It includes a requirement for East Timor to prepare a special budget to meet its obligations, such as building infrastructure to host ASEAN meetings and accommodate delegates.

As an ASEAN member, the island nation would have to attend 1,300 meetings a year, host summits, and contribute \$2.5 million per year to the group's budget.

"I can assure you that it's on the right track," said Milena Maria da Costa Rangel, East Timor's vice foreign minister for ASEAN affairs, adding that the government is involving the private sector and civil society to meet the criteria in the roadmap.

Ramos-Horta expects that East Timor will become a full member of ASEAN in 2025, under Malaysia's chairmanship.

However, economic analyst Fernando Dias Gusmao, from the Peace University in Dili, was more downbeat, saying the government has moved slowly to implement the roadmap.

East Timor continues to face challenges in terms of infrastructure, including the airports, accommodations and IT network necessary to host high-level meetings, Gusmao said.

"It was a big wish but the steps to make that wish come true are not yet optimal," Gusmao said.

Pope arrives in the remote jungles of Papua New Guinea with a ton of humanitarian aid and toys

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VANIMO, Papua New Guinea (AP) — Pope Francis traveled to the remote jungles of Papua New Guinea on Sunday to celebrate the Catholic Church of the peripheries, bringing with him a ton of medicine, musical instruments and a message of love for the people who live there.

Francis flew aboard a Royal Australian Air Force C-130 transport plane from Port Moresby to Vanimo, on the northwest coast of the South Pacific nation. There, Francis met with the local Catholic community and the missionaries from his native Argentina who have been ministering to them.

A crowd of an estimated 20,000 people gathered on the field in front of the Vanimo cathedral singing and dancing when Francis arrived, and he promptly put on a feathered headdress that had been presented to him.

In remarks from a raised stage, Francis praised the church workers who go out to try to spread the faith. But he urged the faithful to work closer to home at being good to one another and putting an end to the tribal rivalries and violence that are a regular part of the culture in Papua New Guinea.

He urged them to be like an orchestra, so that all members of the community come together harmoniously to overcome rivalries.

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Doing so, he said, would help to end personal, family and tribal divisions "to drive out fear, superstition and magic from people's hearts, to put an end to destructive behaviors such as violence, infidelity, exploitation, alcohol and drug abuse, evils which imprison and take away the happiness of so many of our brothers and sisters, even in this country."

It was a reference to the tribal violence over land and other disputes that have long characterized the country's culture but have grown more lethal in recent years. Francis arrived in Papua New Guinea to urge an end to the violence, including gender-based violence, and for a sense of civic responsibility and cooperation to prevail.

Francis had started the day with a Mass before an estimated 35,000 people at the stadium in the capital, Port Moresby. Dancers in grass skirts and feathered headdresses performed to traditional drum beats as priests in green vestments processed up onto the altar.

In his homily, Francis told the crowd that they may well feel themselves distant from both their faith and the institutional church, but that God was near to them.

"You who live on this large island in the Pacific Ocean may sometimes have thought of yourselves as a far away and distant land, situated at the edge of the world," Francis said. "Yet ... today the Lord wants to draw near to you, to break down distances, to let you know that you are at the center of his heart and that each one of you is important to him."

Francis has long prioritized the church on the "peripheries," saying it is actually more important than the center of the institutional church. In keeping with that philosophy, Francis has largely shunned foreign trips to European capitals, preferring instead far-flung communities where Catholics are often a minority.

Vanimu, population 11,000, certainly fits the bill of being remote. Located near Papua New Guinea's border with Indonesia, where the jungle meets the sea, the coastal city is perhaps best known as a surfing destination.

Francis, history's first Latin American pope, has also had a special affinity for the work of Catholic missionaries. As a young Argentine Jesuit, he had hoped to serve as a missionary in Japan but was prevented from going because of his poor health.

Now as pope, he has often held up missionaries as models for the church, especially those who have sacrificed to bring the faith to far-away places.

The Rev. Martin Prado, an Argentine missionary of the Institute of the Incarnate Word religious order, is credited with having invited the pope to come to Vanimo.

As he waited for Francis to arrive Sunday, he recounted for reporters the "crazy" story of how he accompanied a group of Vanimo parishioners to Rome in 2019, and ended up scoring an audience with the pope after his parishioners insisted that they wanted to give him some gifts.

Prado, who has spent the last 10 of his 36 years working as a missionary in Vanimo, said he wrote a note, left it for the pope at the Vatican hotel where he lives, and the next day received an email from Francis' secretary inviting his group in.

"I invited him, but he wanted to come," Prado said. "He has a big heart for people. It's not just words, he does what he says."

Prado said some people deep in the interior of the diocese, in the jungle where cars have yet to arrive, need clothes and for them a plate of rice and tuna fish "is glorious."

Francis was bringing medicine, musical instruments and toys, the Vatican said. Prado said he was also helping to build a new secondary school. Prado said half of the children of the diocese are unable to go to high school since there simply aren't enough spots for them.

The event had a very Argentine flair to it: On the stage was a statue of the Virgin of Lujan, the beloved patron of Argentina who is particularly dear to Francis and whose name also graces the local girls' school. When Francis met privately after the event with the nuns and missionary priests, they served him mate, the Argentine tea.

There are about 2.5 million Catholics in Papua New Guinea, according to Vatican statistics, out of a population in the Commonwealth nation believed to be around 10 million. The Catholics practice the faith along with traditional Indigenous beliefs, including animism and sorcery.

On Saturday, Francis heard first-hand about how women are often falsely accused of witchcraft, then shunned by their families. In remarks to priests, bishops and nuns, Francis urged the church leaders in Papua New Guinea to be particularly close to these people on the margins who had been wounded by "prejudice and superstition."

"I think too of the marginalized and wounded, both morally and physically, by prejudice and superstition sometimes to the point of having to risk their lives," Francis said. He urged the church to be particularly close to such people on the peripheries, with "closeness, compassion and tenderness."

Francis' visit to Vanimo was the highlight of his visit to Papua New Guinea, the second leg of his four-nation tour of Southeast Asia and Oceania. After first stopping in Indonesia, Francis heads on Monday to East Timor and then wraps up his visit in Singapore later in the week.

Authorities search for shooter along I-75 in southeastern Kentucky with up to 7 people hurt

By BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

LONDON, Ky. (AP) — A manhunt was underway early Sunday as police searched for a gunman in a rural area of southeastern Kentucky near Interstate 75, according to authorities who said seven people were hurt in the shooting and a vehicle accident that accompanied the violence.

The shooting Saturday was followed by an intense search for a suspect by multiple law enforcement agencies. The Laurel County Sheriff's Office said in a post on Facebook that it was an "active shooter situation" and "numerous persons" were shot near the highway.

Deputy Gilbert Acciaro, a spokesperson for the Laurel County Sheriff's Office, said authorities were notified about 5:30 p.m. Saturday about gunshots along Interstate 75. When they arrived at the scene in London, a small city of about 8,000 located about 75 miles (120 kilometers) south of Lexington, they found numerous vehicles on the side of the highway at Exit 49.

"When our first two units got to the scene there, they said it was a madhouse: people on the sides of the road, emergency flashers going, bullet holes, windows shot out, nine vehicles shot. Can you imagine that? Just chaotic," Acciaro said during a news conference Sunday.

Five people were shot and all were in stable condition early Sunday, although some of the victims had "very serious" injuries, including one person who was shot in the face, Acciaro said.

Two other people were hurt in the vehicle accident, he said.

Police blocked traffic in both directions on the highway because they did not know where the bullets came from. "We're still attempting to determine that," Acciaro said.

Authorities believe there was only one shooter and Acciaro said they do not believe the shooting was sparked by road rage.

Officers from multiple law enforcement agencies searched a remote, wooded area, but eventually suspended the search because of darkness. The search will resume at daybreak Sunday, he said.

"We do have the area contained right now. It's a very fluid investigation. Our people are still on the scene. Our special response team is there. We are trying to find a shooter there," Acciaro said.

The sheriff's office said a "Person of Interest" has been identified in connection with the shooting, saying he should be considered armed and dangerous and people should not approach him. The man's name was given as Joseph A. Couch, a 32-year-old white male, and anyone with information about his location was urged to call the county 911 center.

Acciaro cautioned that authorities "have not determined that this is the individual that fired the weapon."

State lawmakers from Laurel County urged residents in the area to stay home as police continued to search for the shooter.

"Without a doubt, this is an act of senseless violence that does not reflect the values of this community, our Commonwealth, or its people," they said in a statement.

The interstate was closed 9 miles (14 kilometers) north of London but reopened about three hours later,

according to the sheriff's office.

In an video update on Facebook late Saturday night, London Mayor Randall Weddle tried to calm fears as the search continued for the gunman. He urged residents to call 911 if they hear or see anything suspicious near their homes.

"We're asking folks please do not go outside your home shooting because we might have first responders in that area. It's important to know you are safe. We have multiple agencies in this community, in the city of London and in Laurel County," Weddle said.

Weddle said searchers "know the general area where this individual is," but he would not release specific details.

"I am receiving initial reports from the Kentucky State Police and our Office of Homeland Security — together we are actively monitoring the situation and offering support in any way possible," Gov. Andy Beshear said in a post on the social platform X. "Please pray for everyone involved."

Chased away by Israeli settlers, these Palestinians returned to a village in ruins

By JALAL BWAITEL and JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

KHIRBET ZANUTA, West Bank (AP) — An entire Palestinian community fled their tiny West Bank village last fall after repeated threats from Israeli settlers with a history of violence. Then, in a rare endorsement of Palestinian land rights, Israel's highest court ruled this summer the displaced residents of Khirbet Zanuta were entitled to return under the protection of Israeli forces.

But their homecoming has been bittersweet. In the intervening months, nearly all the houses in the village, a health clinic and a school were destroyed — along with the community's sense of security in the remote desert land where they have farmed and herded sheep for decades.

Roughly 40% of former residents have so far chosen not to return. The 150 or so that have come back are sleeping outside the ruins of their old homes. They say they are determined to rebuild — and to stay — even as settlers once again try to intimidate them into leaving and a court order prevents them from any new construction.

"There is joy, but there are some drawbacks," said Fayez Suliman Tel, the head of the village council and one of the first to come back to see the ransacked village — roofs seemingly blown off buildings, walls defaced by graffiti.

"The situation is extremely miserable," Tel said, "but despite that, we are steadfast and staying in our land, and God willing, this displacement will not be repeated."

The Israeli military body in charge of civilian affairs in the occupied West Bank said in a statement to The Associated Press it had not received any claims of Israeli vandalism of the village, and that it was taking measures to "ensure security and public order" during the villagers' return.

"The Palestinians erected a number of structural components illegally at the place, and in that regard enforcement proceedings were undertaken in accordance with law," the statement said.

The villagers of Khirbet Zanuta had long faced harassment and violence from settlers. But after the Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Hamas that launched the war in Gaza, they said they received explicit death threats from Israelis living in an unauthorized outpost up the hill called Meitarim Farm. The outpost is run by Yinon Levi, who has been sanctioned by the U.S., UK, EU and Canada for menacing his Palestinian neighbors.

The villagers say they reported the threats and attacks to Israeli police, but said they got little help. Fearing for their lives, at the end of October, they packed up whatever they could carry and left.

Though settler violence had been rising even before the war under the far-right government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, it has been turbocharged ever since Oct. 7. More than 1,500 Palestinians have been displaced by settler violence since then, according to the United Nations, and very few have returned home.

Khirbet Zanuta stands as a rare example. It is unclear if any other displaced community has been granted

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a court's permission to return since the start of the war.

Even though residents have legal protection Israel's highest court, they still have to contend with Levi and other young men from the Meitarim Farm outpost trying to intimidate them.

Shepherd Fayez Fares Al Samareh, 57, said he returned to Khirbet Zanuta two weeks ago to find that his house had been bulldozed by settlers. The men of his family have joined him in bringing their flocks back home, he said, but conditions in the village are grave.

"The children have not returned and the women as well. Where will they stay? Under the sun?" he said.

Settler surveillance continues: Al Samareh said that every Friday and Saturday, settlers arrive to the village, photographing residents.

Videos taken by human rights activists and obtained by The Associated Press show settlers roaming around Khirbet Zanuta last month, taking pictures of residents as Israeli police look on.

By displacing small villages, rights groups say West Bank settlers like Levi are able to accumulate vast swaths of land, reshaping the map of the occupied territory that Palestinians hope to include in their homeland as part of any two-state solution.

The plight of Khirbet Zanuta is also an example of the limited effectiveness of international sanctions as a means of reducing settler violence in the West Bank. The U.S. recently targeted Hashomer Yosh, a government-funded group that sends volunteers to work on West Bank farms, both legal and illegal, with sanctions. Hashomer Yosh sent volunteers to Levi's outpost, a Nov. 13 Facebook post said.

"After all 250 Palestinian residents of Khirbet Zanuta were forced to leave, Hashomer Yosh volunteers fenced off the village to prevent the residents from returning," a U.S. State Department spokesman, Matthew Miller, said last week.

Neither Hashomer Yosh nor Levi responded to a request for comment on intrusions into the village since residents returned. But Levi claimed in a June interview with AP that the land was his, and admitted to taking part in clearing it of Palestinians, though he denied doing so violently.

"Little by little, you feel when you drive on the roads that everyone is closing in on you," he said at the time. "They're building everywhere, wherever they want. So you want to do something about it."

The legal rights guaranteed to Khirbet Zanuta's residents only go so far. Under the terms of the court ruling that allowed them to return, they are forbidden from building new structures across the roughly 1 square kilometer village. The land, the court ruled, is part of an archaeological zone, so any new structures are at risk of demolition.

Distraught but not deterred, the villagers are repairing badly damaged homes, the health clinic and the EU-funded school — by whom, they do not know for sure.

"We will renovate these buildings so that they are qualified to receive students before winter sets in," Khaled Doudin, the governor of the Hebron region that includes Khirbet Zanuta, said as he stood in the bulldozed school.

"And after that we will continue to rehabilitate it," he said, "so that we do not give the occupation the opportunity to demolish it again."

A year after an earthquake struck Morocco, most reconstruction efforts have yet to be realized

By SAM METZ Associated Press

IMI N'TALA, Morocco (AP) — The rescue crews and bystanders are long gone but the remnants of homes still sit in piles off to the side of the jagged roads.

A year after nearly 3,000 people died when a record earthquake shook communities throughout Morocco's High Atlas, it still looks like a bomb just went off in villages like Imi N'tala, where dozens of residents died when a chunk of mountainside cracked off and flattened the majority of buildings.

Broken bricks, bent rods of rebar and pieces of kitchen floors remain but have been swept into neater piles alongside plastic tents where the displaced now live. Some await funds to reconstruct their homes. Others await approval of their blueprints.

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The region shook by the earthquake is full of impoverished agricultural villages like Imi N'tala accessible only via bumpy, unmaintained roads. Associated Press reporters revisited half a dozen of them last week ahead of the one-year anniversary.

In some places, residents awaiting governmental permission have begun reconstructing homes on an ad hoc basis. Elsewhere, people tired of the stuffiness of plastic tents have moved back into their cracked homes or decamped to larger cities, abandoning their old lives.

Streets have been neatly swept in towns like Amizmiz and Moulay Brahim, although cracked buildings and piles of rubble remain, much as they were in the days after the quake.

The rhythms of normal life have somewhat resumed in some of the province's larger towns, where rebuilding efforts on roads, homes, schools and businesses are underway and some residents have been provided metal container homes. But the majority of those displaced from the 55,000 homes destroyed by the temblor remain vulnerable to summer's heat and winter's cold, living in plastic tents, impatient to return.

Mohamed Soumer, a 69-year-old retiree who lost his son in last year's earthquake, is angry because local authorities have forbidden him from rebuilding his home on the same steep mountainside due to safety concerns. He now spends his days with his wife in a plastic tent near his now-rubbled home and fears moving elsewhere and restarting his life in a larger, more expensive area.

"Residents want to stay here because they have land where they grow vegetables to make a living," he said. "If they go somewhere else and abandon this place, they will not be able to live there."

The government said it would provide households monthly stipends in the aftermath of the earthquake and additional funds for seismically safe reconstruction. But its disbursement has been uneven, residents say, with many still waiting for funds or for reconstruction to commence.

Anger has mounted against local authorities in towns like Amizmiz and villages like Talat N'Yaquob, where residents have protested against their living conditions. They have criticized the slow pace of reconstruction and demanded more investment in social services and infrastructure, which has long gone neglected in contrast with Morocco's urban centers and coastline.

Officials have said rebuilding will cost 120 billion dirhams (\$12 billion) and take about five years. The government has rebuilt some stretches of rural roads, health centers and schools but last week the commission tasked with reconstruction acknowledged the need to speed up some home rebuilding.

Cars talking to one another could help reduce fatal crashes on US roads

By JEFF McMURRAY Associated Press

The secret to avoiding red lights during rush hour in Utah's largest city might be as simple as following a bus.

Transportation officials have spent the past few years refining a system in which radio transmitters inside commuter buses talk directly to the traffic signals in the Salt Lake City area, requesting a few extra seconds of green when they approach.

Congestion on these so-called smart streets is already noticeably smoother, but it's just a small preview of the high-tech upgrades that could be coming soon to roads across Utah and ultimately across the U.S.

Buoyed by a \$20 million federal grant and an ambitious calling to "Connect the West," the goal is to ensure every vehicle in Utah, as well as neighboring Colorado and Wyoming, can eventually communicate with one another and the roadside infrastructure about congestion, accidents, road hazards and weather conditions.

With that knowledge, drivers can instantly know they should take another route, bypassing the need for a human to manually send an alert to an electronic street sign or the mapping apps found on cellphones.

"A vehicle can tell us a lot about what's going on in the roadway," said Blaine Leonard, a transportation technology engineer at the Utah Department of Transportation. "Maybe it braked really hard, or the windshield wipers are on, or the wheels are slipping. The car anonymously broadcasts to us that blip of

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data 10 times a second, giving us a constant stream of information.”

When cars transmit information in real time to other cars and the various sensors posted along and above the road, the technology is known broadly as vehicle-to-everything, or V2X. Last month, the U.S. Department of Transportation unveiled a national blueprint for how state and local governments and private companies should deploy the various V2X projects already in the works to make sure everyone is on the same page.

The overarching objective is universal: dramatically curb roadway deaths and serious injuries, which have recently spiked to historic levels.

A 2016 analysis by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration concluded V2X could help. Implementing just two of the earliest vehicle-to-everything applications nationwide would prevent 439,000 to 615,000 crashes and save 987 to 1,366 lives, its research found.

Dan Langenkamp has been lobbying for road safety improvements since his wife Sarah Langenkamp, a U.S. diplomat, was killed by a truck while biking in Maryland in 2022. Joining officials at the news conference announcing the vehicle-to-everything blueprint, Langenkamp urged governments across the U.S. to roll out the technology as widely and quickly as possible.

“How can we as government officials, as manufacturers, and just as Americans not push this technology forward as fast as we possibly can, knowing that we have the power to rescue ourselves from this disaster, this crisis on our roads,” he said.

Most of the public resistance has been about privacy. Although the V2X rollout plan commits to safeguarding personal information, some privacy advocates remain skeptical.

Critics say that while the system may not track specific vehicles, it can compile enough identifying characteristics — even something as seemingly innocuous as tire pressure levels — that it wouldn’t take too much work to figure out who is behind the wheel and where they are going.

“Once you get enough unique information, you can reasonably say the car that drives down this street at this time that has this particular weight class probably belongs to the mayor,” said Cliff Braun, associate director of technology, policy and research for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which advocates for digital privacy.

The federal blueprint says the nation’s top 75 metropolitan areas should aspire to have at least 25% of their signalized intersections equipped with the technology by 2028, along with higher milestones in subsequent years. With its fast start, the Salt Lake City area already has surpassed 20%.

Of course, upgrading the signals is the relatively easy part. The most important data comes from the cars themselves. While most new ones have connected features, they don’t all work the same way.

Before embarking on the “Connect the West” plan, Utah officials tested what they call the nation’s first radio-based, connected vehicle technology, using only the data supplied by fleet vehicles such as buses and snow plows. One early pilot program upgraded the bus route on a busy stretch of Redwood Road, and it isn’t just the bus riders who have noticed a difference.

“Whatever they’re doing is working,” said Jenny Duenas, assistant director of nearby Panda Child Care, where 80 children between 6 weeks and 12 years old are enrolled. “We haven’t seen traffic for a while. We have to transport our kiddos out of here, so when it’s a lot freer, it’s a lot easier to get out of the daycare.”

Casey Brock, bus communications supervisor for the Utah Transit Authority, said most of the changes might not be noticeable to drivers. However, even shaving a few seconds off a bus route can dramatically reduce congestion while improving safety, he said.

“From a commuter standpoint it may be, ‘Oh, I had a good traffic day,’” Brock said. “They don’t have to know all the mechanisms going on behind the scenes.”

This summer, Michigan opened a 3-mile (4.8-kilometer) stretch of a connected and automated vehicle corridor planned for Interstate 94 between Ann Arbor and Detroit. The pilot project features digital infrastructure, including sensors and cameras installed on posts along the highway, that will help drivers prepare for traffic slowdowns by sending notifications about such things as debris and stalled vehicles.

Similar technology is being employed for a smart freight corridor around Austin, Texas, that aims to

inform truck drivers of road conditions and eventually cater to self-driving trucks.

Darran Anderson, director of strategy and innovation at the Texas Department of Transportation, said officials hope the technology not only boosts the state's massive freight industry but also helps reverse a troubling trend that has spanned more than two decades. The last day without a road fatality in Texas was Nov. 7, 2000.

Cavnuue, a Washington, D.C.-based subsidiary of Alphabet's Sidewalk Infrastructure partners, funded the Michigan project and was awarded a contract to develop the one in Texas. The company has set a goal of becoming an industry leader in smart roads technology.

Chris Armstrong, Cavnuue's vice president of product, calls V2X "a digital seatbelt for the car" but says it only works if cars and roadside infrastructure can communicate seamlessly with one another.

"Instead of speaking 50 different languages, overnight we'd like to all speak the same language," he said.

Villagers reluctant to say goodbye to one of Hong Kong's last squatter settlements

By KATIE TAM and KANIS LEUNG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — In months, Lo Yuet-ping will bid farewell to a centuries-old village he has called home in Hong Kong for more than seven decades.

The Cha Kwo Ling village in east Kowloon is filled with small houses built from metal sheets and stones, as well as old granite buildings, contrasting sharply with the high-rise structures that dominate much of the Asian financial hub.

Lo, 72, has spent his entire life here and is among an estimated 860 households required to move under a government redevelopment plan. He said he will miss the rich history, unique culture and warm interpersonal kindness that defined life in the village.

"I'm unwilling to part with anything," said Lo, who expects to be relocated to a newer district of east Kowloon.

The ongoing demolition of the Cha Kwo Ling village, set to enter its final phase in 2025, is erasing one of Hong Kong's last remaining squatter villages, making way for public housing. This settlement has witnessed the former British colony's transformation from a fishing village to an industrial hub and finally to a global financial center.

Originally a settlement for the Hakka people, a Han Chinese group, Cha Kwo Ling saw an influx of mainland Chinese immigrants over the years, just like other squatter villages in the city.

Some of the immigrants arrived in the city between late 1940s and 1950s, fleeing the civil war in China or seeking better economic opportunities. The influx swelled Hong Kong's population from 600,000 in 1945 to 2 million by 1950, according to a government's website. Unable to afford housing, many people built wooden homes in squatter villages. In 1953, an estimated 300,000 people were living in such settlements across the city.

Researcher Charles Fung, co-author of a book on the city's squatter housing, described how people built squatter houses as part of a "catch-me-if-you-can game" with the authorities in British colonial times. Fung explained that the government wouldn't have to provide resettlement commitments for homeowners if it managed to demolish the structures before people moved into them. This led people to cut wood and build houses at night along hillsides where they were difficult to find, he said.

While the structures looked vulnerable, Fung said, the villages played a crucial role in supporting Hong Kong's economy. They hosted small factories and were located near industrial zones, informally bolstering the city's factory system during its time as a manufacturing hub, he said.

However, the precarious nature of the settlements came with risks. Fires in squatter houses have always been a concern and helped drive the British colonial government to resettle residents into public housing.

Officially, the public housing policy is presented as help for the fire victims in the squatter villages. But research suggests other political factors were at play, Fung said. One such factor was the British government's desire to prevent interference from mainland China, which wanted to send a delegation to help

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displaced villagers after a fire in the early 1950s.

"Now we see how the landscape of Hong Kong is tremendously shaped by the building of public housing, where people locate in different areas and build their own lives," he said.

In Cha Kwo Ling, Lo, the long-time villager, expressed reservations about moving into a high-rise building. He has built a lifetime of memories in the village, from being part of its Qilin dance team from a young age to serving on the volunteer fire prevention team. He worked as a driver in the village's quarry, which had supplied stones to build the city's top court and to neighboring Guangzhou and Southeast Asia.

"I've grown accustomed to living here," he said.

Even after being forced to relocate due to fires, some former residents found themselves drawn back to the village, maintaining their ties to the community.

Teoh Bee Hua, a Malaysian who moved to Cha Kwo Ling after marrying a villager in 1973, kept operating her grocery shop there even though she no longer lives in the village after a fire. Teoh, in her 70s, recalled she used to chat with her neighbors and held barbecue and hotpot gatherings with them, saying "those were the happy days."

She said she will shut her shop when the relocation time comes, marking the end of an era as she retires for good.

"There's nothing you can do. We will surely part. There are gatherings and partings in life. That's how life is," she said.

Walz touts Democratic record of defending LGBTQ+ rights, says Harris will advance cause if elected

By MORIAH BALINGIT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz touted Vice President Kamala Harris' record of defending LGBTQ+ rights on Saturday night, pledging to a supportive crowd that she will advance their cause if elected president.

Walz, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, headlined the national dinner for the Human Rights Campaign, which he praised as "the best party in the nation." He entered the sprawling ballroom of 3,500 attendees to John Mellencamp's "Small Town" and a boisterous standing ovation from members of the nation's largest LGBTQ+ organization.

He noted how Harris worked alongside President Joe Biden to issue executive orders protecting the rights of LGBTQ+ people in health care, the military and education.

"And the reason she did it was pretty simple. Kamala Harris believes in equal justice under law, and that means proper, complicated, equal justice under law. It is not to be debated," Walz said. "It's not that difficult."

Transgender youth and adults are facing growing restrictions in red states. Last year, HRC declared an emergency for LGBTQ+ people in the United States because of the proliferation of state laws restricting their rights. If elected, Republican Donald Trump has said he would replicate some of those restrictions at the federal level.

Not long after Biden dropped out of the 2024 race and endorsed Harris for president, HRC announced that it, too, would back her. The organization also applauded her selection of Walz as her running mate, citing his own long record of supporting LGBTQ+ youth and backing same-sex marriage.

On Saturday night, Walz recounted how he taught social studies and coached football at a Minnesota high school in the 1990's — and was unexpectedly approached by a student asking him to serve as the faculty adviser of the Gay-Straight Alliance.

He also outlined a litany of Harris's achievements on LGBTQ+ issues, recalling an episode in when, as attorney general of California, she had to personally call a Los Angeles clerk who was declining to issue marriage license to same-sex couples.

"You must start the marriages immediately," Harris told the clerk, according to Walz. "She had the best line then. She told the clerk, 'Have a good day. It's going to be a fun one.'"

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He urged the crowd to work to help elect Harris, outlining what could happen if Trump got a second term in the White House. Trump's policy proposals would "restrict freedom, bully this community, demonize vulnerable children," Walz said.

Trump has made attacks on transgender people a mainstay of his campaign rhetoric as he seeks his second term in office. It marks an about-face for Trump, who in his 2016 address to the Republican National Convention called for the party to protect LGBTQ+ people.

If reelected, Trump has pledged in his policy platform to stop public schools "from promoting gender transition" and to revoke federal funding from any school that teaches what he calls "radical gender ideology." In a video posted online last year, Trump also said he would punish doctors who administer gender-affirming care to transgender youth by cutting them off from Medicare and Medicaid and teachers who "suggest to a child that they could be trapped in the wrong body."

At an event last week for Moms for Liberty, Trump went after Algerian boxer Imane Khelif, continuing to spread misinformation about the Olympic gold medalist being transgender and having an unfair advantage over her competitors. He then pushed the outlandish claim that public schools are performing gender-affirming surgeries.

"Your kid goes to school. And comes home a few days later with an operation," Trump said at the group's national summit. He repeated the assertion at a rally Saturday. Transgender youth rarely undergo gender-confirmation surgery anywhere.

Asked about the comments, a campaign spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt could not provide any examples to substantiate his claim. But she pointed to reports that thousands of K-12 schools have rules that bar teachers from telling parents if their child asks to use pronouns that deviate from those on their birth certificate.

"President Trump will ensure all Americans are treated equally under the law regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation," Leavitt said. She added that the former president does not believe children should be allowed to have what she called "permanent gender mutilation surgeries."

US believes Iran has transferred short-range ballistic missiles to Russia, AP sources say

By AAMER MADHANI and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has informed allies that it believes Iran has transferred short-range ballistic missiles to Russia for its war in Ukraine, according to two people familiar with the matter.

They did not offer any details about how many weapons have been delivered or when the transfers may have occurred, but they confirmed the U.S. intelligence finding. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a matter that has not been publicly disclosed.

The White House declined to confirm the weapons transfer but reiterated its concern that Iran is deepening its support of Russia. The White House has been warning Iran for months not to transfer ballistic missiles to Russia.

"Any transfer of Iranian ballistic missiles to Russia would represent a dramatic escalation in Iran's support for Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and lead to the killing of more Ukrainian civilians," National Security Council spokesman Sean Savett said in a statement. "This partnership threatens European security and illustrates how Iran's destabilizing influence reaches beyond the Middle East and around the world."

The U.S. finding comes as the Kremlin tries to repel Ukraine's surprise offensive that has led to the seizure of about 500 square miles (1,300 kilometers) of Russia's Kursk region. Meanwhile, Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is pressing allies to allow his country to use Western-supplied missiles to strike deep inside Russia and hit sites from which Moscow launches aerial attacks.

Iran, as it has with previous U.S. intelligence findings, denied providing Russia with weapons for its war in Ukraine.

"Iran considers the provision of military assistance to the parties engaged in the conflict — which leads

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to increased human casualties, destruction of infrastructure, and a distancing from ceasefire negotiations — to be inhumane,” according to a statement from Iran’s mission to the United Nations. “Thus, not only does Iran abstain from engaging in such actions itself, but it also calls upon other countries to cease the supply of weapons to the sides involved in the conflict.”

CIA Director William Burns, who was in London on Saturday for a joint appearance with his British intelligence counterpart, warned of the growing and “troubling” defense relationship involving Russia, China, Iran and North Korea that he said threatens both Ukraine and Western allies in the Middle East.

The White House has repeatedly declassified and publicized intelligence findings that show North Korea has sent ammunition and missiles to Russia to use against Ukraine, while Iran supplies Moscow with attack drones and has assisted the Kremlin with building a drone-manufacturing factory.

China has held back from providing Russians with weaponry but has surged sales to Russia of machine tools, microelectronics and other technology that Moscow in turn is using to produce missiles, tanks, aircraft and other weaponry, according to U.S. officials.

The White House has been on edge for months about a possible deal between Iran and Russia.

The Democratic administration said in January that U.S. intelligence officials had determined a Russian-Iran deal had not been completed, but officials were concerned that Russia’s negotiations to acquire missiles from Iran were actively advancing.

Last September, according to the White House, Iran hosted a top Russian defense official to show off a range of ballistic missile systems, adding to the U.S. concern that a deal could come together.

The U.S. and other countries have taken steps aimed at thwarting the supply, sale or transfer involving Iran and ballistic missile-related items, including issuing guidance to private companies about Iranian missile procurement practices to make sure those companies are not inadvertently supporting Iran’s development efforts.

President Joe Biden is set to host British Prime Minister Keir Starmer for talks at the White House on Friday. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said “continuing robust support to Ukraine in its defense against Russian aggression” will be on their agenda.

The Wall Street Journal first reported on the U.S. intelligence finding.

France wins gold in blind football at Paralympics under Eiffel Tower lights

By JEROME PUGMIRE and CIARÁN FAHEY AP Sports Writers

PARIS (AP) — France defeated Argentina 3-2 on penalties under the lights of the Eiffel Tower for the gold medal in blind football on the penultimate day of the Paralympic Games.

Frederic Villeroux scored the decisive spot kick to get the partisan home fans’ party underway after the teams drew 1-1 in normal time on Saturday.

“It felt like the script of a film,” said Villeroux, who also made the breakthrough in the 12th minute when he rifled a shot inside the left post.

Argentine star forward Maximiliano Espinillo replied from close range straight away after the French defenders failed to clear the ball.

“You have to take the good and accept the bad, but we are still very proud,” Espinillo said.

France is the first team other than Brazil to win blind football at a Paralympics. Brazil won all five previous golds since it was first played at the 2004 Athens Games.

The five-time defending champion, which had never lost a match before Thursday’s penalty loss to Argentina in the semifinals, was consoled by the bronze medal after a 1-0 win over Colombia thanks to a fierce strike from Jefinho in the 24th minute.

Known as the “Paralympic Pelé” because of speed and skill, Jefinho scored in off the left post despite facing two defenders, setting off a roar of appreciation around the Eiffel Tower Stadium.

“Today we left all disappointments behind and were able to win,” Jefinho said.

Blind football is an adaptation of soccer for teams of five players with an audible ball of rattles. The four

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outfield players must be classified as completely blind, while the goalkeeper is sighted and instructs his teammates where to go. A guide behind the opposition goal also instructs the attacking players.

Though the four outfield Argentine players couldn't have seen the sea of French flags around the stadium, they would have heard the fevered rendition of the French anthem around them, and chants of "Allez les Bleus" from the home crowd. The fans were quiet when the ball was in play so the players could hear their guides' instructions.

As fulltime approached, the supporters started a boisterous Mexican wave during a break in play. It continued silently when play resumed – so the players would not be disturbed.

More golds for the US

On another solid day for United States athletes, Jake Williams scored 26 points as the men won the wheelchair basketball gold by beating Britain 73-69.

That made it three from three for the U.S. in Games basketball after the men and women won thrilling finals against France at the Olympics last month, also at Bercy Arena.

Fans at Bercy are used to hearing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and they will listen to it again if the women's team wins its final against the Netherlands on Sunday.

Earlier, Germany's men won the bronze-medal match against Canada 75-62.

Meanwhile, the U.S. sitting volleyball team made it three golds straight by defeating China 3-1 in the women's final. The Americans have won every title since 2016 in Rio de Janeiro.

The U.S. equestrian team won three more medals in Paralympics dressage, and Fiona Howard and Rebecca Hart clinched their third gold medals of the Paris Games.

The Paralympic debutant Howard won the Grade II individual freestyle and the veteran Hart won it in Grade III. Earlier, teammate Kate Shoemaker claimed bronze in Grade IV.

Riders compete in five grades, with Grade I for the most severely impaired riders.

Howard and Hart previously won individual golds this week and helped the U.S. win the team event on Friday.

Long may it continue

American swimmer Jessica Long extended her mammoth Paralympics medal collection to 31 with gold in the S8 100-meter butterfly.

She won in 1 minute, 10.59 seconds at La Défense Arena, finishing one second clear of Viktoriia Ishchiulova. Britain's Alice Tai was third.

The 32-year-old Long also won the women's 400 freestyle on Wednesday.

Her Paralympic career started when she was 12 and won three golds at the 2004 Athens Games.

S8 is for swimmers with the absence of limbs. Long is a double amputee.

The last medals of the Games are up for grabs on Sunday.

Just how rare is a rare-colored lobster? Scientists say answer could be under the shell

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

BIDDEFORD, Maine (AP) — Orange, blue, calico, two-toned and ... cotton-candy colored?

Those are all the hues of lobsters that have showed up in fishers' traps, supermarket seafood tanks and scientists' laboratories over the last year. The funky-colored crustaceans inspire headlines that trumpet their rarity, with particularly uncommon baby blue-tinted critters described by some as "cotton-candy colored" often estimated at 1 in 100 million.

A recent wave of these curious colored lobsters in Maine, New York, Colorado and beyond has scientists asking just how atypical the discolored arthropods really are. As is often the case in science, it's complicated.

Lobsters' color can vary due to genetic and dietary differences, and estimates about how rare certain colors are should be taken with a grain of salt, said Andrew Goode, lead administrative scientist for the American Lobster Settlement Index at the University of Maine. There is also no definitive source on the occurrence of lobster coloration abnormalities, scientists said.

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"Anecdotally, they don't taste any different either," Goode said.

In the wild, lobsters typically have a mottled brown appearance, and they turn an orange-red color after they are boiled for eating. Lobsters can have color abnormalities due to mutation of genes that affect the proteins that bind to their shell pigments, Goode said.

The best available estimates about lobster coloration abnormalities are based on data from fisheries sources, said marine sciences professor Markus Frederich of the University of New England in Maine. However, he said, "no one really tracks them."

Frederich and other scientists said that commonly cited estimates such as 1 in 1 million for blue lobsters and 1 in 30 million for orange lobsters should not be treated as rock-solid figures. However, he and his students are working to change that.

Frederich is working on noninvasive ways to extract genetic samples from lobsters to try to better understand the molecular basis for rare shell coloration. Frederich maintains a collection of strange-colored lobsters at the university's labs and has been documenting the progress of the offspring of an orange lobster named Peaches who is housed at the university.

Peaches had thousands of offspring this year, which is typical for lobsters. About half were orange, which is not, Frederich said. Of the baby lobsters that survived, a slight majority were regular colored ones, Frederich said.

Studying the DNA of atypically colored lobsters will give scientists a better understanding of their underlying genetics, Frederich said.

"Lobsters are those iconic animals here in Maine, and I find them beautiful. Especially when you see those rare ones, which are just looking spectacular. And then the scientist in me simply says I want to know how that works. What's the mechanism?" Frederich said.

He does eat lobster but "never any of those colorful ones," he said.

One of Frederich's lobsters, Tamarind, is the typical color on one side and orange on the other. That is because two lobster eggs fused and grew as one animal, Frederich said. He said that's thought to be as rare as 1 in 50 million.

Rare lobsters have been in the news lately, with an orange lobster turning up in a Long Island, New York, Stop & Shop last month, and another appearing in a shipment being delivered to a Red Lobster in Colorado in July.

The odd-looking lobsters will likely continue to come to shore because of the size of the U.S. lobster fishery, said Richard Wahle, a longtime University of Maine lobster researcher who is now retired. U.S. fishers have brought more than 90 million pounds (40,820 metric tons) of lobster to the docks in every year since 2009 after only previously reaching that volume twice, according to federal records that go back to 1950.

"In an annual catch consisting of hundreds of millions of lobster, it shouldn't be surprising that we see a few of the weird ones every year, even if they are 1 in a million or 1 in 30 million," Wahle said.

Israelis surge into the streets again in protest as the toll in Gaza grows

By WAFAA SHURAF, SAMY MAGDY and JACK JEFFERY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Huge numbers of Israelis again poured into the streets to protest the government's failure to secure the return of remaining hostages in Gaza, while hospital and local authorities said Israeli air raids in the territory killed more than a dozen people overnight into Saturday.

The new protest came a week after one of the largest demonstrations of the war following the discovery of another six dead hostages in Gaza, and after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pushed back against pressure for a cease-fire deal and declared that "no one will preach to me."

"I think even those who were maybe reluctant to go out, who are not used to protest, who are sad but prefer to be in private space within their sadness, understood our voice must join together to one huge scream: Bring the hostages with a deal. Do not risk their lives," said one protester in Tel Aviv, Efrat Machikawa, niece of hostage Gadi Moses.

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Israel has been under increasing pressure from the United States and other allies to reach a cease-fire deal, but Netanyahu insists on continued Israeli control of the Philadelphi corridor, a narrow band along Gaza's border with Egypt where Israel contends Hamas smuggles weapons. Egypt and Hamas deny it.

Inside Gaza, health workers wrapped up the second phase of an urgent polio vaccination campaign designed to prevent a large-scale outbreak. The drive, launched after the first polio case in the Palestinian enclave in 25 years, aims to vaccinate 640,000 children during a war that has destroyed the health care system. The third phase of vaccinations will be in the north.

Israel kept up its military offensive. In central Gaza's urban refugee camp of Nuseirat, Al-Awda Hospital said it received the bodies of nine people killed in two air raids. One hit a residential building, killing four people and wounding at least 10, while five people were killed in a strike on a house in western Nuseirat.

Separately, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, central Gaza's main hospital, said a woman and her two children were killed in a strike on a house in the nearby urban refugee camp of Bureij.

In northern Gaza, an airstrike on a school-turned-shelter for displaced people in the town of Jabaliya killed at least four people and wounded about two dozen others, according to Gaza's Civil Defense authority, which operates under the territory's Hamas-run government. Israel's military said it struck a Hamas command post embedded in a former school compound.

The war began when Hamas and other militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 people, primarily civilians. Hamas is believed to still be holding more than 100 hostages. Israeli authorities estimate about a third are dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count. The ministry says more than 94,000 people have been wounded.

Violence has also spiked in the occupied West Bank. A dayslong military operation in Jenin left dozens of dead.

A day after an American protester was shot and killed in the West Bank, her family urged President Joe Biden to order an independent investigation, saying that "given the circumstances of (her) killing, an Israeli investigation is not adequate." Their statement called the 26-year-old recent university graduate a "ray of sunshine" and an advocate for human dignity.

Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, who also holds Turkish nationality, was shot in the head, two Palestinian doctors said. She had been demonstrating against Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Witnesses said she was shot during a moment of calm following earlier clashes.

The White House has said it was "deeply disturbed" and called on Israel to investigate. The Israeli military said it was looking into reports that troops had killed a foreign national while firing at an "instigator of violent activity."

More than 500,000 Israeli settlers live in the West Bank, a territory captured by Israel in 1967. Israeli raids, attacks by Palestinian militants on Israelis and attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinians have left more than 690 Palestinians dead since the Israel-Hamas war began in October, according to Palestinian health officials.

In Gaza, Hamas has accused Israel of dragging out cease-fire negotiations by issuing new demands. Hamas has offered to release all hostages in return for an end to the war, the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces and the release of a large number of Palestinian prisoners, including high-profile militants — broadly the terms called for under an outline for a deal put forward by Biden in July.

Along the border with Lebanon, near-daily clashes continued between Israeli forces and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

An Israeli drone strike hit a Lebanese Civil Defense team fighting a fire in the town of Froun, killing three volunteers and wounding two others, Lebanon's Health Ministry said. The blaze was sparked by a previous Israeli strike, the statement said. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

Israel's military said some 45 rockets were fired at northern Israel in several barrages, many targeting the Mount Meron area but falling in open areas. Several rockets fell in Shlomi and around the city of Safed. There were no injuries. The military later said its jets struck Hezbollah military infrastructure and a rocket launcher in the area of Qabrikha in southern Lebanon.

As US colleges raise the stakes for protests, activists are weighing new strategies

By JOCELYN GECKER, MARYCLAIRE DALE and MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

University of Southern California law student Elizabeth Howell-Egan isn't allowed on campus because of her role in last spring's anti-war protests, but she is keeping up her activism.

She and like-minded students are holding online sessions on the Israel-Hamas war and passing out fliers outside the campus, which is now fortified with checkpoints at entrances and security officers who require students to scan IDs.

"Change is never comfortable. You always have to risk something to create change and to create a future that we want to live in," said Howell-Egan, a member of the school's Students for Justice in Palestine chapter, which is calling on USC to divest from companies profiting off the war.

The stakes have gone up this fall for students protesting the war in Gaza, as U.S. colleges roll out new security measures and protest guidelines — all intended to avoid disruptions like last spring's pro-Palestinian demonstrations and protect students from hate speech. Activism has put their degrees and careers at risk, not to mention tuition payments, but many say they feel a moral responsibility to continue the movement.

Tent encampments — now forbidden on many campuses — so far have not returned. And some of the more involved students from last spring have graduated or are still facing disciplinary measures. Still, activist students are finding other ways to protest, emboldened by the rising death toll in Gaza and massive protests this month in Israel to demand a cease-fire.

Tensions over the conflict have been high on American campuses since the war began on Oct. 7, when Hamas-led militants killed 1,200 people in Israel and took 250 hostage. The war in Gaza has killed more than 40,000 people, according to Gaza health officials.

As the pro-Palestinian demonstrations took off nationally, Jewish students on many campuses have faced hostility, including antisemitic language and signs. Some colleges have faced U.S. civil rights investigations and settled lawsuits alleging they have not done enough to address antisemitism.

A desire 'to be part of something'

Temple University senior Alia Amanpour Trapp started the school year on probation after being arrested twice last semester during pro-Palestinian protests. Within days, she was back on the university's radar for another demonstration.

As she reflects on the fallout from her activism, she thinks of her grandfather, a political prisoner killed in 1988 massacres orchestrated by Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini.

"He paid the ultimate price for what he believed in. And so I feel like the least I can do is stand my ground and face it," she said.

Trapp, a political science major, devotes much of her time outside classes to Students for Justice in Palestine, which led her to the back-to-school protest on Aug. 29. The group of a few dozen protesters made several stops, including outside the Rosen Center, a hub of Jewish life that is home to Temple's Hillel Chapter.

Some Jewish students inside said they were shaken by the demonstration. Protesters used megaphones to direct chants toward people inside, Temple President Richard Englert said. The university called it intimidation and opened an investigation.

"Targeting a group of individuals because of their Jewish identity is not acceptable and intimidation and harassment tactics like those seen today will not be tolerated," Englert said.

Trapp said they were not out to intimidate anyone, but to condemn Hillel for what she called its support of Zionism. "To the students inside that felt threatened or harmed, I'm sorry," she said.

Trapp is appealing a Temple panel's ruling that she violated the college's conduct code last spring. As she reflects on the discipline, she recalls a Temple billboard she saw on Interstate 95 after her first visit to campus.

"Because the world won't change itself," the ad beckoned. It reassured her that Temple was the right fit. "I so badly wanted to be part of something, you know, meaningful," she said, "a community commit-

ted to change.”

A renewed push for divestment

At Brown University, some students who were arrested last spring are taking another tack to pressure the Ivy League school to divest its endowment from companies with ties to Israel.

Last spring, the university committed to an October vote by its governing board on a divestment proposal, after an advisory committee weighs in on the issue. In exchange, student protesters packed up their tents.

Now students including Niyanta Nepal, the student body president who was voted in on a pro-divestment platform, say they intend to apply pressure for a vote in favor of divestment. They are rallying students to attend a series of forums and encouraging incoming students to join the movement.

Colleges have long rebuffed calls to divest from Israel, which opponents say veers into antisemitism. Brown already is facing heat for even considering the vote, including a blistering letter from two dozen state attorneys general, all Republicans.

Rafi Ash, a member of the Brown University Jews For Ceasefire Now and Brown Divest Coalition, declined to say what activism might look like if the divestment push fails. A Jewish student who was among 20 students arrested during a November sit-in at an administrative building, Ash dismisses critics who see the anti-war protests as antisemitic.

“The Judaism I was taught promotes peace. It promotes justice. It promotes ‘tikkun olam’ — repairing the world,” said Ash, who is on disciplinary probation. “This is the most Jewish act I can do, to stand up for justice, for everyone.”

Barred from campus, but strategizing on protests

For Howell-Egan, the crackdown at USC and her suspension only deepened her desire to speak out.

“Even with this threat of USC imposing sanctions and disciplinary measures, I am at peace with it because I am standing up for something that is important,” Howell-Egan said. “There are no more universities in Gaza. We are in an incredibly privileged position for this to be our risk.”

She is not allowed to attend in-person classes because she was suspended in May for joining protests at the private school in Los Angeles.

There has been a trend of heavier punishments for students engaging in activism than in the past, including banishment from campus and suspensions that keep students “in limbo for months,” said Tori Porell, an attorney with the nonprofit Palestine Legal, which has supported student protesters facing disciplinary measures. Howell-Egan sees it as part of a strategy to stifle free speech.

In a memo this month, USC President Carol Folt said the campus has seen peaceful protests and marches for years. “However, the spring semester brought incidents that tested our values, disregarded our policies, sparked fears, and required unprecedented safety measures,” she said.

For now the focus of the USC Divest Coalition, which includes several student organizations, has moved off campus, to incorporate the wider community and take a cautious approach as students get a handle on the university’s new rules, Howell-Egan said.

In addition to the community outreach, students have been holding teach-ins.

“The idea is to raise our skill set and our understanding of where we stand in this moment, and where we are in this fight,” Howell-Egan said, “especially as we continue with it.”

Two astronauts are left behind in space as Boeing’s troubled capsule returns to Earth empty

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

Boeing’s first astronaut mission ended Friday night with an empty capsule landing and two test pilots still in space, left behind until next year because NASA judged their return too risky.

Six hours after departing the International Space Station, Starliner parachuted into New Mexico’s White Sands Missile Range, descending on autopilot through the desert darkness.

It was an uneventful close to a drama that began with the June launch of Boeing’s long-delayed crew debut and quickly escalated into a dragged-out cliffhanger of a mission stricken by thruster failures and

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helium leaks. For months, Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams' return was in question as engineers struggled to understand the capsule's problems.

Boeing insisted after extensive testing that Starliner was safe to bring the two home, but NASA disagreed and booked a flight with SpaceX instead. Their SpaceX ride won't launch until the end of this month, which means they'll be up there until February — more than eight months after blasting off on what should have been a quick trip.

Wilmore and Williams should have flown Starliner back to Earth by mid-June, a week after launching in it. But their ride to the space station was marred by the cascade of thruster trouble and helium loss, and NASA ultimately decided it was too risky to return them on Starliner.

So with fresh software updates, the fully automated capsule left with their empty seats and blue space-suits along with some old station equipment.

"She's on her way home," Williams radioed as the white and blue-trimmed capsule undocked from the space station 260 miles (420 kilometers) over China and disappeared into the black void.

Williams stayed up late to see how everything turned out. "A good landing, pretty awesome," said Boeing's Mission Control.

Cameras on the space station and a pair of NASA planes caught the capsule as a white streak coming in for the touchdown, which drew cheer.

There were some snags during reentry, including more thruster issues, but Starliner made a "bull's-eye landing," said NASA's commercial crew program manager Steve Stich.

Even with the safe return, "I think we made the right decision not to have Butch and Suni on board," Stich said at a news conference early Saturday. "All of us feel happy about the successful landing. But then there's a piece of us, all of us, that we wish it would have been the way we had planned it."

Boeing did not participate in the Houston news briefing. But two of the company's top space and defense officials, Ted Colbert and Kay Sears, told employees in a note that they backed NASA's ruling.

"While this may not have been how we originally envisioned the test flight concluding, we support NASA's decision for Starliner and are proud of how our team and spacecraft performed," the executives wrote.

Starliner's crew demo capped a journey filled with delays and setbacks. After the space shuttles retired more than a decade ago, NASA hired Boeing and SpaceX for orbital taxi service. Boeing ran into so many problems on its first test flight with no one aboard in 2019 that it had to repeat it. The 2022 do-over uncovered even more flaws and the repair bill topped \$1 billion.

SpaceX's crew ferry flight later this month will be its 10th for NASA since 2020. The Dragon capsule will launch on the half-year expedition with only two astronauts since two seats are reserved for Wilmore and Williams for the return leg.

As veteran astronauts and retired Navy captains, Wilmore and Williams anticipated hurdles on the test flight. They've kept busy in space, helping with repairs and experiments. The two are now full-time station crew members along with the seven others on board.

Even before the pair launched on June 5 from Cape Canaveral, Florida, Starliner's propulsion system was leaking helium. The leak was small and thought to be isolated, but four more cropped up after liftoff. Then five thrusters failed. Although four of the thrusters were recovered, it gave NASA pause as to whether more malfunctions might hamper the capsule's descent from orbit.

Boeing conducted numerous thruster tests in space and on the ground over the summer, and was convinced its spacecraft could safely bring the astronauts back. But NASA could not get comfortable with the thruster situation and went with SpaceX.

Flight controllers conducted more test firings of the capsule's thrusters following undocking; one failed to ignite. Engineers suspect the more the thrusters are fired, the hotter they become, causing protective seals to swell and obstruct the flow of propellant. They won't be able to examine any of the parts; the section holding the thrusters was ditched just before reentry.

Starliner will be transported in a couple weeks back to NASA's Kennedy Space Center, where the analyses will unfold.

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NASA officials stressed that the space agency remains committed to having two competing U.S. companies transporting astronauts. The goal is for SpaceX and Boeing to take turns launching crews — one a year per company — until the space station is abandoned in 2030 right before its fiery reentry. That doesn't give Boeing much time to catch up, but the company intends to push forward with Starliner, according to NASA.

Stich said post-landing it's too early to know when the next Starliner flight with astronauts might occur. "It will take a little time to determine the path forward," he said.

Tight race for control of Congress could be decided by just a handful of campaigns

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The race for control of Congress is as close as ever, with barely two dozen House seats and a handful in the Senate likely to determine the majority this November and whether a single party sweeps to power with the White House.

Lawmakers are returning to Washington for a three-week legislative sprint, away from the campaign trail where races have become "trench warfare" and a seat-by-seat slog. Many of the highest-profile races are being waged in Montana, New York, California and beyond, far from the presidential battleground states contested by Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris.

"Buckle up," said Jack Pandol, communications director for the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Upended by the summer shake-up that replaced President Joe Biden with Harris atop the Democratic ticket, the down-ballot campaigns enter this fall stretch at a virtual toss-up, a high-wire uncertainty where every single seat won or lost could make the difference in party control.

What's changed is not so much the fundamentals of the individual races, but which side has the energy and enthusiasm to make sure their voters actually show up and cast their ballots, strategists said.

Money, volunteers and voter enthusiasm are flowing to the Democratic campaigns since Harris replaced Biden. That's challenging Republicans who entered the election cycle favored for gains and buoyed by Trump's comeback bid, despite the criminal charges hanging over his potential return to the White House.

Trump and Republicans are working feverishly to regain the momentum they enjoyed from the GOP convention in Milwaukee and from the Supreme Court decision giving former presidents broad immunity from prosecution, including for some acts related to his effort to overturn the 2020 election and for the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

Trump's campaign staff held a private conference call Friday with House Republicans, assuring them that the movement is shifting to Trump as they game out strategies ahead, according to another Republican who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed conversation.

"There's a lot of handwringing going on and a lot of anxiousness about where this election is headed," said Montana Sen. Steve Daines, a Trump ally who heads the National Republican Senatorial Committee, the campaign arm.

Speaking at the Republican Jewish Coalition in Las Vegas, Daines played up GOP Senate candidates as warriors and predicted that enthusiasm from rural voters who will "crawl over broken glass" to vote for Trump will help Republicans such as Sam Brown, who is challenging Sen. Jacky Rosen, D-Nev.

Still, the fundraising gap Republicans now find themselves facing with Democrats is a problem, say GOP strategists on both ends of the Capitol, leaving them without money to keep pace with advertising and on-the-ground organizing.

"We have a lot of work to do," Daines said.

Long gone are the days of supermajorities in the House and Senate, replaced by a new era of razor-thin margins that leave little margin for errors in political campaigns, or actual governing.

Senate heads toward 50-50 split

Democrats are almost certain to see their narrow majority slip to at least a 50-50 split with Republicans

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with the retirement of independent Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia. His departure is making way for Republican Gov. Jim Justice to handily win that seat.

Trump is wildly popular in Montana, where Senate Republicans see their best chance to go on offense as they challenge Democratic Sen. Jon Tester. But Tester is also a popular figure in the Big Sky state, where a whopping \$238 million-plus is being spent on ads.

Senate Republicans had the advantage this cycle, with few incumbents to protect, allowing them to challenge Democrats with handpicked, often wealthy recruits in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin. Democrats have only more recently gone on offense in long-shot races against Republican Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Rick Scott of Florida.

But incumbents often bring longevity and name recognition to the race, making them tough to topple, as is the case in Pennsylvania, where Democrat Sen. Bob Casey is being challenged by Republican Dave McCormick, and in Ohio, where Sen. Sherrod Brown is running a playful cookie-eating television ad as he faces Republican Bernie Moreno.

For the open seat in Democratic-heavy Maryland, the state's popular former Republican governor, Larry Hogan, who was courted to run by Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, is in a tough matchup against county executive Angela Alsobrooks. She would make history as one of the few Black women elected to the Senate.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has predicted Democrats will keep their majority. In a Senate split, majority control goes to the party in the White House because the vice president can cast deciding votes.

"Democrats have never been in a stronger position to defend our Senate majority," said Michigan Sen. Gary Peters, who leads the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

House majority a toss-up

In the House, Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., has crisscrossed the country this summer in some 20 states as what he calls an "ambassador of hope" in his party's quest to save its razor-thin majority.

The Republicans are trying to protect 18 Republicans in Democratic-heavy congressional districts where Biden had won, particularly in coastal New York and California, and going on offense to challenge Democrats elsewhere.

But House Democrats, whose campaign chairwoman, Rep. Suzan DelBene of Washington state was among those who spoke privately to Biden about the potential down-ballot drag as he weighed his decision to exit the race, are benefiting from the Harris momentum.

Democrats are working to protect their own most embattled House lawmakers, a handful of pragmatic legislators including Marcy Kaptur in Ohio, Matt Cartwright in Pennsylvania and a trio of younger lawmakers who lead the centrist Blue Dog coalition — Mary Peltola of Alaska, Marie Gluesenkamp Perez of Washington state and Jared Golden of Maine.

Each faces a notable Republican: Nick Begich, from an Alaskan political family; Washington's Trump-endorsed Joe Kent; and former NASCAR driver Austin Theriault in Maine.

Republicans have gone to great lengths to diversify their own ranks of what just a few years ago, remained a party of mostly white men, and few women. The 2018 election, for example, left about a dozen Republican women and no Black Republicans in the House.

GOP Rep. Richard Hudson, chairman of the NRCC, said House Republicans are "right where we expected to be," acknowledging it's a "trench warfare" fight.

Campaigning beyond the swing states

Because many of the House races are being contested so far from the presidential battlegrounds, candidates are being forced to stand up their own operations along with the congressional committees to turn out the vote.

House Democrats are seeing an organic flow of volunteers mobilized, having knocked on more than 377,000 doors and made more than 845,000 phone calls in August, greater than in the previous three months combined, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee said.

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House Republicans have propped up dozens of "Battle Stations" for voter outreach and get-out-the-vote efforts, particularly areas without Trump's campaign infrastructure, and also report crowds of enthusiastic voters at events as Johnson traveled the country in the contested regions.

Money woes for Republicans

Fundraising remains imbalanced as Democrats are outpacing Republicans with Harris atop the ticket, and Republicans are sounding alarms to their own donors to get off the sidelines.

"We are on track to flip the Senate," said Jason Thielman, executive director of the NRSC. But he said the Democrats' "massive cash advantage is a real problem. The biggest thing preventing Senate Republicans from having a great night in November is the cash crunch."

Both the DSCC and DSCC posted record online fundraising in the days after Harris' campaign announcement and her team sent \$25 million to down-ballot races, including \$10 million each this past week to the House and Senate committees.

DCCC Spokesperson Viet Shelton said grassroots enthusiasm to elect a Democratic House majority is "at an all-time high." He said voters want to elect "get-stuff-done incumbents" not a "rag-tag group" of Republican candidates aligned with Trump.

Today in History: September 8, Ford pardons Nixon

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 8, the 252nd day of 2024. There are 114 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 8, 1974, one month after taking office, President Gerald R. Ford granted a "full, free, and absolute pardon" to former President Richard Nixon for any crimes committed during Nixon's presidency.

Also on this date:

In 1504, Michelangelo's towering marble statue of David was unveiled to the public in Florence, Italy.

In 1565, a Spanish expedition established the first permanent European settlement in North America at present-day St. Augustine, Florida.

In 1664, the Dutch surrendered New Amsterdam to the British, who renamed it New York.

In 1900, Galveston, Texas, was struck by a hurricane that killed an estimated 8,000 people; it remains the deadliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

In 1935, Sen. Huey P. Long, D-La., was fatally shot in the Louisiana State Capitol building.

In 1941, the 900-day Siege of Leningrad by German forces began during World War II.

In 1951, a peace treaty with Japan was signed by 49 nations in San Francisco.

In 1964, public schools in Prince Edward County, Virginia, reopened after being closed for five years by officials attempting to prevent court-ordered racial desegregation.

In 1986, "The Oprah Winfrey Show" began the first of 25 seasons in national syndication.

In 2016, California and federal regulators fined Wells Fargo a combined \$185 million, alleging the bank's employees illegally opened millions of unauthorized accounts for their customers in order to meet aggressive sales goals.

In 2022, Queen Elizabeth II, who spent more than seven decades on the British throne, died at age 96; her 73-year-old son became King Charles III.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., is 86. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., is 83. Former Secretary of Defense James Mattis is 74. Civil rights activist Ruby Bridges is 70. Author Terry Tempest Williams is 69. Basketball Hall of Famer Maurice Cheeks is 68. Actor Heather Thomas is 67. Singer Aimee Mann is 64. Actor Thomas Kretschmann is 62. Alternative country singer Neko (NEE'-koh) Case is 54. TV personality Brooke Burke is 53. Actor Martin Freeman is 53. Actor David Arquette is 53. TV-radio personality Kennedy is 52. Actor Larenz Tate is 49. Singer-songwriter Pink is 45. Actor Jonathan Taylor Thomas is 43. Rapper Wiz Khalifa is 37. MLB pitcher Gerrit Cole is 34. Actor Gaten Matarazzo (TV: "Stranger Things") is 22.