

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, Sept. 15

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

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion 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: Conde Worship, 8:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School Kick-off event, 9 a.m.; Third Graders receive Bibles, 10:3 a.m.; Picnic potluck, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 16

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagel.

School Lunch: French bread pizza, cooked carrots.

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken breast, scalloped potatoes, oriental blend vegetables, frosted brownie, fruit, whole wheat bread.

Homecoming Coronation, 7:30 p.m.

Cross Country at Webster Area, 2 p.m.

JV Football hosts Milbank, 4 p.m.

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

Pantry Open, community center, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Senior Citizen meet at the community center, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.

3rd/4th and 5th/6th Football hosts Warner - 6PM

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

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(RV) Northern Volleyball Makes it a Weekend Sweep

Kenosha, Wis. – NSIC play will open next week for an undefeated (RV) Northern State University volleyball team who closed out their Wisconsin trip with wins over Lake Erie College and Wayne State (Mich.). The Wolves tallied two solid matches from the cheese head state with numerous season bests.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score Match 1: NSU 3, LEC 0

Final Score Match 2: NSU 3, WSU 1

Records: NSU 8-0, LEC 2-5, WSU 2-5

Attendance: 68 / 176

HOW IT HAPPENED VS. LAKE ERIE

The Wolves made quick work of the Storm, defeating their opponents with set scores of 25-17, 25-14, and 25-14

Northern was efficient offensively hitting .384 with a match high 41 kills and 39 assists

In addition, they set a season high for aces with 14 and added 46 digs and two blocks

The NSU defense held Lake Erie to a .141 attack percentage, forcing 14 hitting errors

Natalia Szybinska led the team with nine kills, followed by Abby Brooks and Morissen Samuels with seven each

Brooks hit a team high .600, while Samuels hit .583 in the win

Keri Walker dished out 31 assists and added four kills of her own

It was a season best day for Reese Johnson who notched five aces and added a team leading 11 digs

Abby Meister added 11 digs as well, while Sarah Moberg and Mia Hinsz each recorded three aces

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Abby Brooks: 7 kills, .600 attack%, 2 blocks

Morissen Samuels: 7 kills, .583 attack%, 1 block

Keri Walker: 31 assists, 4 kills

Reese Johnson: 11 digs, 5 aces, 2 assists

HOW IT HAPPENED VS. WAYNE STATE

Northern State opened the match with set wins by scores of 25-17 and 26-24

Wayne State battled back in the third, notching a 25-22 victory, however the Wolves closed out the match in the fourth winning 25-16

The Wolves hit .269, including a match high .536 in the final set

NSU led the match with 53 kills, 48 assists, 46 digs, 15 blocks, and ten aces

They forced 25 Warrior hitting errors and held Wayne State to a .187 attack percentage

Four Wolves recorded double figure kills led by the trio of Natalia Szybinska, Victoria Persha, and Morissen Samuels with 11 apiece

Hanna Thompson added ten, followed by Abby Brooks with eight

Persha, Brooks, and Szybinska all hit above .300 in the win with percentages of .500, .429, and .348 respectively

Keri Walker dished up a consistent offense with 45 assists and added seven digs, three blocks, and three aces

Abby Meister and Reese Johnson led the defensive effort with 14 and 12 digs respectively, while Persha recorded a career best ten blocks

Johnson added three aces, while Samuels was second on the team with five blocks

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Victoria Persha: 11 kills, .500 attack%, 10 blocks

Keri Walker: 45 assists, 7 digs, 3 blocks, 3 aces

Reese Johnson: 12 digs, 3 aces

UP NEXT

Northern State opens NSIC action next Friday and Saturday from Wachs Arena. Match start times are set for 6 p.m. on Friday versus Sioux Falls and 3 p.m. on Saturday against Wayne State College.

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Minot State Pulls Away from Northern State Late in the Fourth

Minot, N.D. – The Northern State University football team recorded touchdowns in the second and third quarters, however fell to Minot State on Saturday in NSIC road action.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 14, MiSU 17

Records: NSU 0-3 (0-2 NSIC), MiSU 3-0 (2-0 NSIC)

Attendance: 3514

HOW IT HAPPENED

The Beavers put themselves on the board scoring a 23-yard field goal with three seconds left

Northern answered just before the 2-minute warning of the first half with an 11-yard pass from Daniel Britt to Tanner Branson

The two teams traded scores in the third with Minot notching a 38-yard field goal at 7:36 and Northern responding with a 38-yard rushing touchdown by Britt

The Wolves held a 14-6 lead; however, the Beavers tied the game as the third quarter wound down on a 44-yard rush and 2-point conversion

Minot State sealed their victory with 1:46 left in regulation on a 25-yard field goal

NSU recorded 159 yards rushing, 84 yards passing, and 243 yards of total offense; averaging a game high 5.5 yards per rush

The Wolves offense struggled to find a rhythm on late downs going 2-of-10 on third down and 0-for-1 on fourth

Britt led the offense with 84 yards passing, completing 12-of-16 attempts, and rushed for a season high 110 yards, averaging 8.5 yards per carry

Ty Wiley was the leading receiver for NSU, recording 43 yards on four receptions

The Northern defense saw four players record double digit tackles and numerous with season and carry highs

Jake Adams led the defensive attack with 20 total tackles, including 2.5 tackles for a loss

Elijah Jopp and Logan Grossinger followed with 13 and 12 tackles respectively, while Lynden Williams added ten

Charlie Larson tallied the team's lone sack for a loss of ten Minot State yards

Tom Ellard punted for 195 total yards, averaging 48.8 yards per punt with a 56 yard long, while Jeremy Caruso tallied 190 yards on kickoffs, averaging 63.3 yards per kick

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Daniel Britt: 110 yards rushing, 1 rushing touchdown, 84 yards passing, 1 passing touchdown,

Jake Adams: 20 tackles, 8 solo tackles, 2.5 tackles for a loss

Tom Ellard: 195 yards punting, 48.8 yards per punt, 56-yard long

UP NEXT

The Wolves continue their road trip next Saturday at Augustana. Kick-off is set for 1 p.m. in Sioux Falls.

The Life of Vickie Gooding

Vickie Lynn Gooding passed away peacefully at her home on August 6, 2024. Her family was with her as she said goodbye to her battle with cancer.

Vickie was born August 25, 1950 to Jean and Blaine Sippel. She grew up in Pierpont SD until her Marriage to Don Gooding. They then resided in Bismarck, ND. They had three children Stace, Teresa, and Jessica.

Vickie was employed with Joann Fabrics as Manager until her retirement. Vickie will deeply be missed.

She is survived by her husband, Don Gooding; son, Stace Gooding; daughters, Teresa Wald and Jessica (Josh) Sonn; sisters, Sandy (Tom) Deis and Pam Sippel (Jeff Penney).

Vickie was preceded in death by her father, Blaine Sippel and mother, Jean Sippel Hanson.

Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on September 28th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton SD.



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Groton Area's soccer teams hosted Vermillion on Saturday with the girls coming away with a 10-0 win with 5:03 left in the game and the boys lost their game, 8-0.

The first eight goals for Groton Area were scored by different players. Ryelle Gilbert scored first. Laila Roberts and Kennedy Hansen were hitting ball between themselves when Roberts tried for the score and Gilbert head butted the ball in for the score. The first score happened at the 20:31 mark. Sydney Locke scored with 15:49 left in the first half and Brooklyn Hansen scored with 13:59 left in the half. Groton Area led, 3-0, at half time.

Groton Area increased its intensity in the second half. Kennedy Hansen kicked a penalty kick and Elizabeth Fliehs scored at the 37:48 mark. Laila Roberts scored at the 34:34 mark. McKenna Tietz scored at the 31:46 mark. Brenna Imrie scored at the 23:51 mark and Jerica Locke scored at the 21:17 mark. The last two goals were scored by Tietz, one at the 10:40 mark and the game ending mercy rule at the 5:03 mark.

In the boys game, Vermillion's Ian Job scored three goals and had one assist, Kylar Wallin scored once, Teagan Wells scored two goals and Michael Roob and Caleb Chasing Hawk each had one goal.

- Paul Kosel



Drake Peterson

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Elizabeth Fliehs

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Emerlee Jones

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Easton Weber
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Ethan Kroll
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Gage Sippel
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Axel Abeln
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Faith Traphagen
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



An athletic trainer looks over Easton Weber's knee prior to the game. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

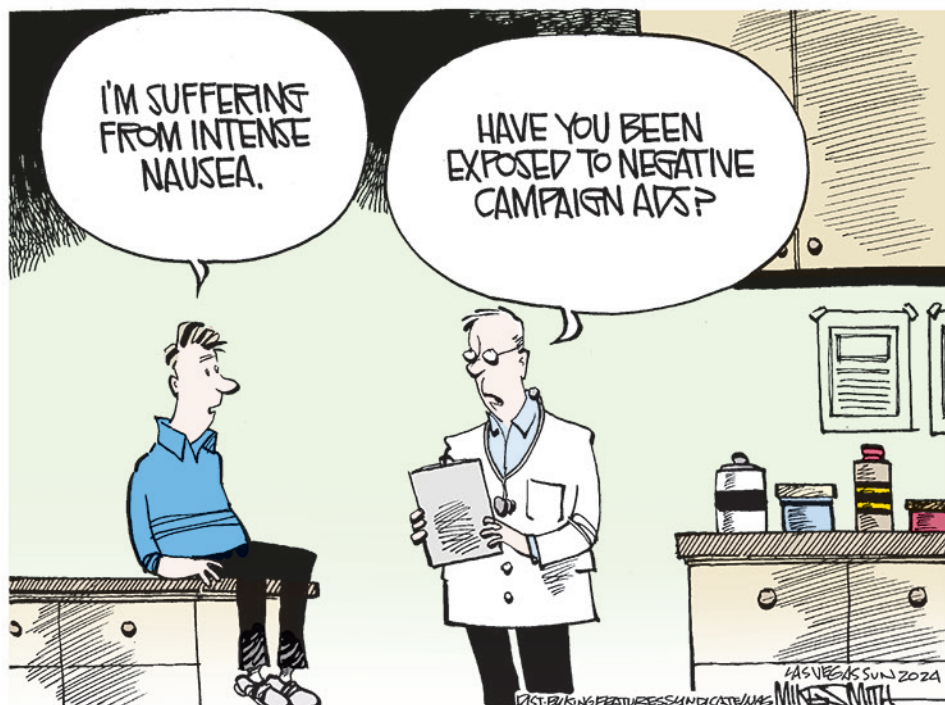


*Arise, O God, plead Your own cause;
remember how the foolish man
reproaches You daily. Do not forget
the voice of Your enemies;
the tumult of those who rise up
against You increases continually.*



PSALM 74:22,23

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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. What just and devout man held the baby Jesus when Mary and Joseph presented Him at the temple? *Cyrenius, Ham, Simeon, Zara*

3. Which of these books comes before the other three in the Old Testament? *Nahum, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Daniel*

4. What sign sealed God's promise not to destroy the earth ever again by a flood? *Solar eclipse, Rainbow, Full moon, Ocean wave*

5. From Proverbs 29, what does the fear of man bring? *A snare, Redemption, Love of life, Death*

6. Whose daughter found the infant Moses in the river? *David, Pharaoh, Solomon, Timothy*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Simeon, 3) Ecclesiastes, 4) Rainbow, 5) A snare, 6) Pharaoh

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

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FLASH GORDON

BACK THEN, WHEN MY FATHER FIRST ORDERED FLASH'S DEATH, I THOUGHT, "PITY. HE HAS A NICE FACE."

BUT HE WOULDN'T DIE. THIS ALIEN WAS THE FIRST BEING ON MONGO TO STAND UP TO MING IN YEARS.

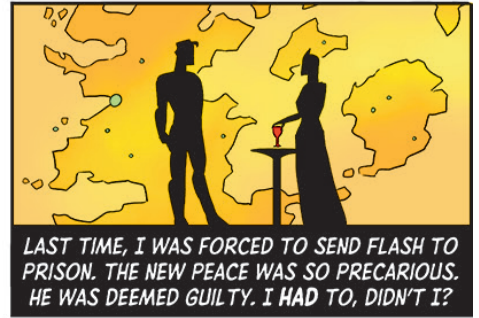
BEFORE I KNEW IT... I WAS THE SECOND.

I AM AURA. I RULE MY EVIL FATHER'S EMPIRE WITH MY HUSBAND, BARIN. WE'RE TRYING TO DO SOMETHING GOOD WITH IT.



BUT THINGS JUST KEEP GETTING IN THE WAY.

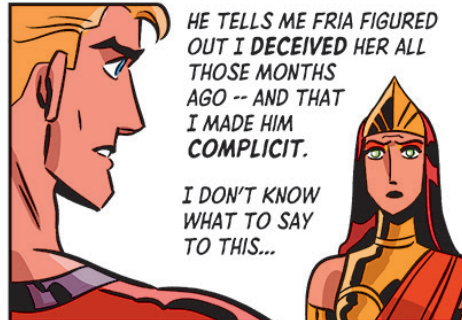
INTO THIS MIRE... FLASH GORDON RETURNS.



LAST TIME, I WAS FORCED TO SEND FLASH TO PRISON. THE NEW PEACE WAS SO PRECARIOUS. HE WAS DEEMED GUILTY. I HAD TO, DIDN'T I?



NOW THERE ARE RUMBLES FROM THE NORTH. COLD, WIDOWED FRIA IS MY COUSIN NO MORE, AND WE HEAR SHE'S AMASSING FORCES.



HE TELLS ME FRIA FIGURED OUT I DECEIVED HER ALL THOSE MONTHS AGO -- AND THAT I MADE HIM COMPLICIT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO THIS...

THEN THE PALACE WALLS SHATTER IN A BLAST OF HEAT.

AND THE CONVERSATION SHIFTS.



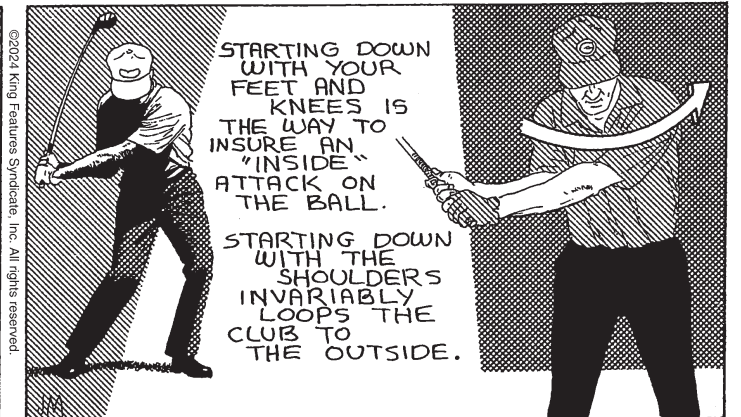
DAN SCHKADE 9-15-24

NEXT: HAND OF THE EMPEROR

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



IF YOU'RE GOING TO LOOP THE CLUB AT ALL, BE SURE TO MOVE IT MORE TO THE INSIDE OF THE TARGET LINE NEVER TO THE OUTSIDE.



STARTING DOWN WITH YOUR FEET AND KNEES IS THE WAY TO INSURE AN "INSIDE" ATTACK ON THE BALL.

STARTING DOWN WITH THE SHOULDERS INvariably LOOPS THE CLUB TO THE OUTSIDE.

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Having Surgery for a Hernia Could Be Riskier Than Living With It

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm an 85-year-old man. I'm in good health, and I exercise and swim at the gym for 3 hours every other day. I am not overweight, and the only prescription I have is a nose spray. I do have mild idiopathic neuropathy, but I'm still quite agile and mobile. I have a hernia in my lower abdomen. I had one just like it on the right side that was repaired 35 years ago.

My family doctor seems to think that having surgery at my age could be riskier than living with the hernia. The pain isn't terrible, but it is frequently uncomfortable. Should I consider surgery? -- C.E.K.

ANSWER: You should consider it to the point where you consult a surgeon.

The operative risk is relatively small, and despite your age, it sounds like you are in good shape. However, after consulting with a surgeon, you may decide against surgery. The most important factor is how much the pain from the hernia bothers you. In general, we recommend surgical repair for symptomatic hernias, as the pain tends to gradually increase over years.

No surgery comes without a risk, and your family doctor is right that it is riskier to have the surgery than it would be to live with the pain. But the risk is not enormous, so if the pain is to the point where the hernia is bothering you a lot, it is certainly worth discussing the risks and benefits of surgery with an expert surgeon.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I saw a post somewhere saying that we should throw away all vitamins or supplements with magnesium stearate, titanium dioxide or microcrystalline cellulose. This means I would need to discard vitamins, antacids, and even my glucose tabs that I occasionally need for reactive hypoglycemia. Do you have any guidance on this? -- L.D.

ANSWER: In 1538, a Swiss physician with the pseudonym "Paracelsus" articulated the basic premise of toxicology: The dose makes the poison. This remains critical today.

Magnesium stearate is commonly used in food, cosmetics and medicines. It is generally regarded as safe at doses below 175 grams for an average-sized adult. A typical supplement might contain as much as 20 mg. It would take well over 8,000 doses at once for a person to reach a dangerous level.

Titanium dioxide is used as a food coloring, in sunscreen, and in medications like styptic pencils. It has long been considered safe in the United States and Canada. But its status in Europe has recently been changed, so it is no longer recommended as a food additive. The tiny doses of it in medications and dietary supplements are very unlikely to cause harm, but many manufacturers in the U.S. are beginning to stop using it, more due to perception than proven harm (which there is no evidence for).

Microcrystalline cellulose is simply an indigestible fiber source made from wood pulp. It is not absorbed. It is used in many foods and as a filler in tablets and capsules. You can also buy it as a supplement or use it as a thickener in cooking.

I don't have any concerns with magnesium stearate or microcrystalline cellulose at the kinds of doses used in pharmaceuticals and supplements. I also don't have any concern with food-grade titanium dioxide as a coloring agent in food or supplements.

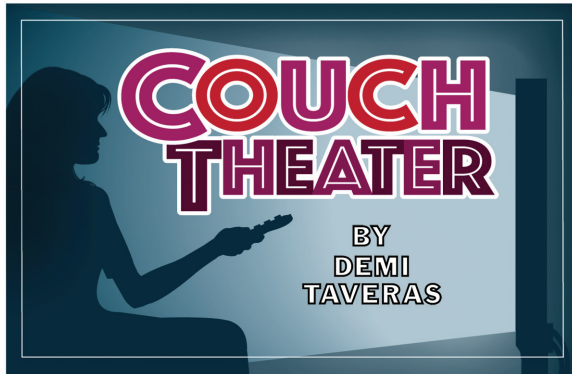
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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From left, Natasha Lyonne, Elizabeth Olsen and Carrie Coon star in "His Three Daughters."

(Courtesy of Netflix)

"The Penguin" (TV-MA) -- HBO's fall rollout begins with the premiere of this crime-drama series based on the DC Comics supervillain Oswald Cobblepot, aka the Penguin. Reprising his role from the 2022 film "The Batman," Colin Farrell transforms himself from head to toe once again

to portray the menacing Gotham City mobster. Set

one week after the film's events, Gotham is in the middle of a gang war following the death of Carmine Falcone, and the Penguin sees this chaos as his chance to step up and take control of Gotham's streets. But it won't exactly be easy, as Carmine's psychopathic daughter, Sofia (Cristin Milioti), is granted release from Arkham Asylum and has her own ambitions at the forefront of her mind. The first episode premieres Sept. 19, with subsequent episodes released every Thursday. (Max)

"His Three Daughters" (R) -- This cozy, heartwarming film follows three estranged sisters -- Katie (Carrie Coon), Rachel (Natasha Lyonne), and Christina (Elizabeth Olsen) -- who are forced to band together to take care of their dying father, Vincent. These three sisters are incredibly different from each other, and at first, their differences only seem to weigh down the already tragic situation they've been placed in. But as they watch over and take care of Vincent, who's receiving hospice care in their childhood apartment, each sister starts their own grieving process. At the same time, the tense dynamics between the sisters finally begin to mend. Premieres Sept. 20. (Netflix)

"Child Star" (TV-MA) -- This documentary film directed by singer Demi Lovato and Nicola Marsh breaks down the enigmatic life of being a successful child star in Hollywood. Lovato called up a few of her fellow child stars to help her in this endeavor, including Drew Barrymore ("E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial"), Kenan Thompson ("All That"), JoJo Siwa ("Dance Moms"), Alyson Stoner ("The Suite Life of Zack and Cody"), Raven-Symone ("The Cosby Show"), and Christina Ricci ("The Addams Family"). These stars describe what it was like to ascend to fame at such a young age, the pressures and joys that accompanied this fame, and how some of them naturally gravitated to drugs and alcohol to relieve their stress. Check it out on Sept. 17. (Hulu)

"Dancing with the Stars: Season 33" (TV-PG) -- America's favorite ballroom dance competition is back for its 33rd season! The cast of celebrities this year consists of an interesting and varied group of actors, reality stars, Olympians, models and even a fake heiress! Some of the competitors cha-cha-ing their way to the Mirrorball Trophy are former "Real Housewife of Atlanta" Phaedra Parks; the prolific Eric Roberts ("Babylon"); former Los Angeles Lakers star Dwight Howard; and U.S. Olympians Ilona Maher, who dominated in rugby, and Stephen Nedoroscik, who was the pommel horse specialist on the men's gymnastics team. The competition begins on Sept. 17! (Disney+)

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1. Who sang the theme song for the TV series "Secret Agent Man" in the 1960s?
2. What is the Hully Gully?
3. Who released "Blue Suede Shoes" before Elvis Presley did?
4. Name Patti LaBelle's first No. 1 single.
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Late at night I'm still listening, Don't waste my time chasing sleep."

Answers

1. Johnny Rivers. The show was the American version of the British "Danger Man" series.
2. A dance that started in Florida in 1959. It was a line dance with the steps being called out. The dance has been seen several times, including in "The Blues Brothers" film and a "Roseanne" episode.
3. Carl Perkins, who both wrote and released the song in 1956. His version went to No. 1 on the charts. Presley's did not even hit the Top 10.
4. "If Only You Knew," in 1983, on the R&B charts. It only hit No. 46 on the Hot 100 chart.
5. "Pilot of the Airwaves," by Charlie Dore in 1979. This was the final song played in 1990 by Radio Caroline, an unlicensed, illegal radio station that broadcast from the open seas. It was named for Caroline Kennedy, daughter of President John F. Kennedy.

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GRIN and BEAR IT *Wagner*



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"Keep looking. If the icecap on Mars is melting, there have to be SUVs there!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



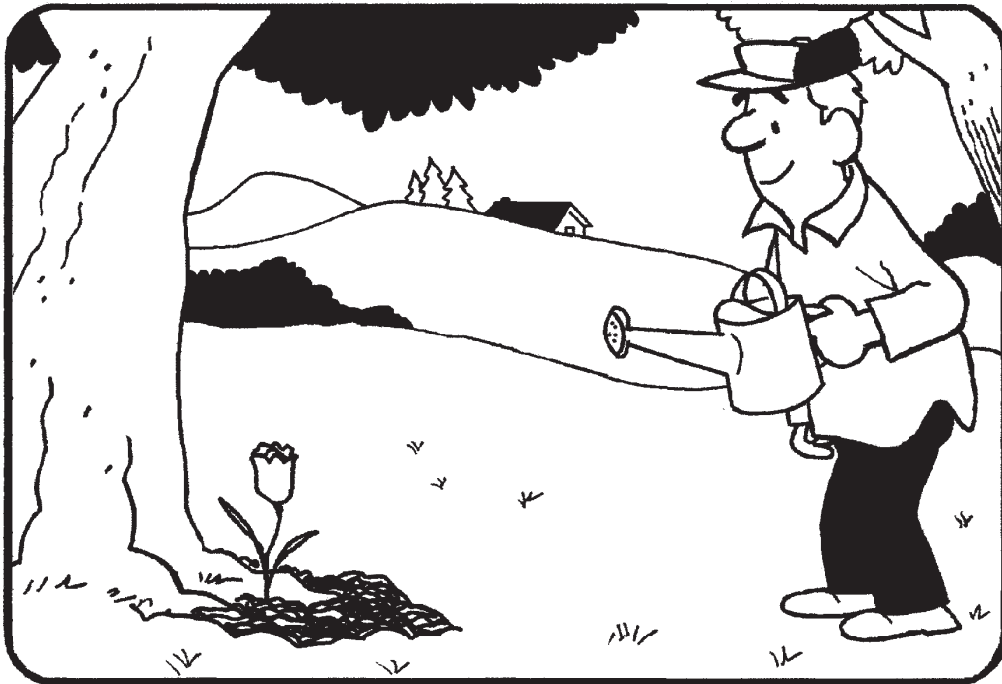
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Tree trunk is different. 2. Spout on watering can is longer. 3. Cap is larger. 4. Hair is shorter. 5. Mountain is different. 6. Flower is different.

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* "To clean the TV remote in my home, I dip a cotton swab into rubbing alcohol, shake off any excess and use it to gently clean the surface. I do this weekly during cold and flu season."

-- M. in Minnesota

* To keep track of rolls of tape or other rolled items in your shop, hang a length of chain from two "S" hooks on your pegboard. They will be readily accessible, and you can tear off what you need.

* "If you use those little plastic key-ring cards for store rewards accounts and discount programs, you can keep them easily organized in a small photo brag book. These books can be found at drugstores and big box retailers, and are meant for a small collection of wallet-size pictures. However, if you put

your cards in one, it's easy to flip through to find the correct card to scan." -- R.I. in Arkansas

* Fill an easy-to-use hand soap dispenser with body wash or shampoo for kids to use in the bath or shower.

* "Here's a fun idea for place cards at Thanksgiving (coming up in Canada): Scan in and print out a photo of each guest as a child. Laminate it and attach it to a pretty piece of ribbon with a glue gun. Use the ribbon to tie up a napkin and/or utensils. Guests will have a good time trying to guess who's who and reminiscing about days gone by." -- P.D. in Ontario, Canada

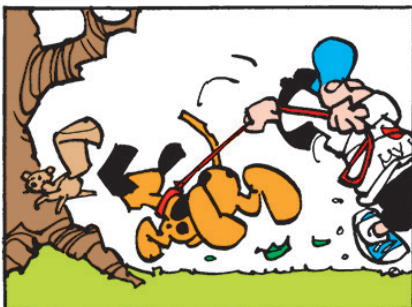
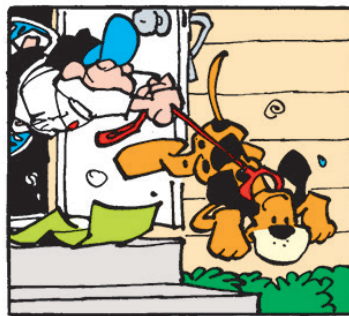
* When working with juicy items (lemons, watermelon, etc.) on a cutting board, try placing the board on a kitchen towel. When the juices run over the edge, they will be caught by the towel. Cleanup will be easy!

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

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TIGER

by **BUD BLAKE**



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Bit of butter
- 4 "Dream on!"
- 8 Half (Pref.)
- 12 "Kinda" suffix
- 13 Mandolin's kin
- 14 Redact
- 15 LAX info
- 16 Embraces among team members, say
- 18 Mideast peninsula
- 20 "Gee, ya think?"
- 21 Nevada city
- 24 Pansy part
- 28 Floor coverings
- 32 Luau dance

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
			44		45		46		47	48	49	
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- 33 Paul Newman film
- 34 Refine metal
- 36 Male turkey
- 37 "M*A*S*H" star
- 39 Pub vessels
- 41 Sand castle site
- 43 Clear the decks?
- 44 Gearwheel tooth
- 46 Mary Poppins, e.g.
- 50 Hydrants
- 55 Tic-tac-toe win
- 56 Totals
- 57 Mine, to Marcel

- 58 — de mer remarks
 - 60 Swimmer Biondi
 - 61 Moody rock genre
- DOWN**
- 1 Slapstick arsenal
 - 2 Italian wine region
 - 3 Compared to
 - 4 North African capital
 - 5 California's Big —
 - 6 "Am — blame?"
 - 7 Family fight
 - 8 Sneaky laugh
 - 9 Sch. URL ender
 - 10 "Top Gun" target
 - 11 TGIF part
 - 17 Young seal
 - 19 Coach Parseghian
 - 22 Feeling no pain
 - 23 Curved moldings
 - 25 Ballet wear
 - 26 Sleep like —
 - 27 Felonious flights
 - 28 Melville captain
 - 29 Hold sway
 - 30 Icelandic epic

- 31 Whole lot
- 35 Trains, buses, etc.
- 38 Entry
- 40 CEO's deg.
- 42 Jump
- 45 Glitz partner
- 47 Alaskan seaport
- 48 Linguist Chomsky
- 49 Present-day "carpe diem"
- 50 "Terrif!"
- 51 Wyo. neighbor
- 52 Vitamin stat
- 53 Hollywood's Thurman
- 54 Acquired

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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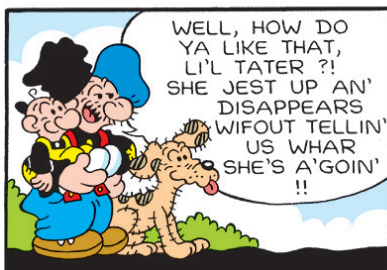
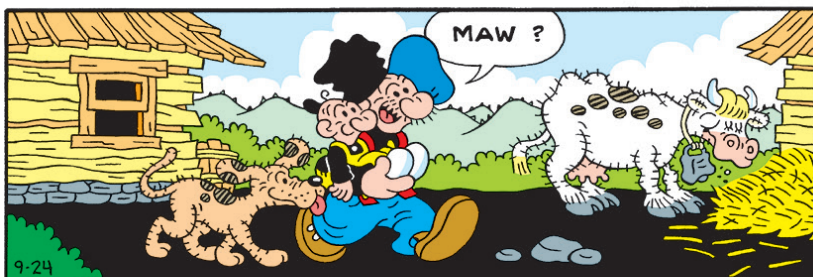
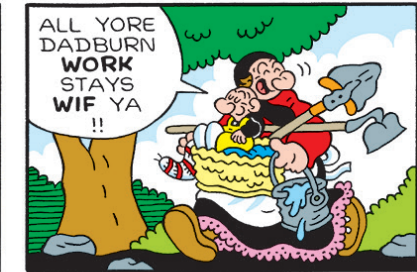
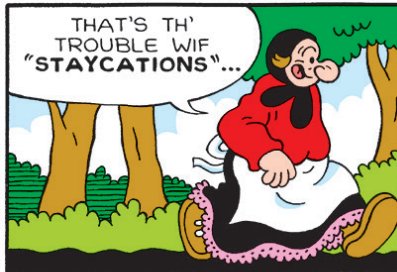
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



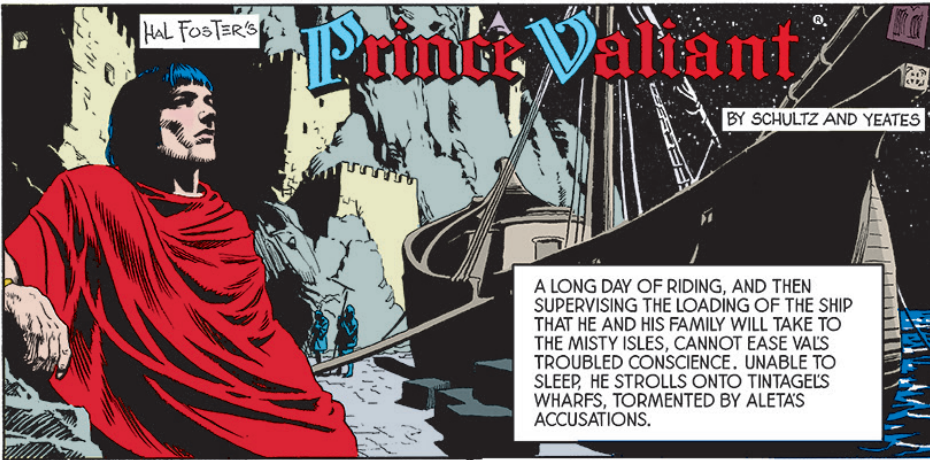
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A LONG DAY OF RIDING, AND THEN SUPERVISING THE LOADING OF THE SHIP THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY WILL TAKE TO THE MISTY ISLES, CANNOT EASE VALS TROUBLED CONSCIENCE. UNABLE TO SLEEP, HE STROLLS ONTO TINTAGELS WHARFS, TORMENTED BY ALETAS ACCUSATIONS.



AS HE IDLY SCANS THE DARK HARBOR, A SLIGHT MOVEMENT OF SHADOWS WITHIN SHADOWS CATCHES HIS ATTENTION. DID HE REALLY SEE SOMETHING MOVING UP THE HULL OF HIS SHIP?



THEN, FOR THE BRIEFEST MOMENT, A MOVING FORM IS SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE STARS, AS IT SILENTLY HAULS ITSELF OVER THE GUNWALE AND ONTO THE DECK.

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BUT EVEN BEFORE THE STEALTHY INTRUDER IS ON BOARD, VAL CHARGES FOR THE GANGWAY, YELLING A WARNING TO THE HALF-ASLEEP SHIP'S GUARD.

THE THREE MEN COMB THE DECK TO FIND - NOTHING. THAT MEANS THE INTRUDER HAS GONE BELOW, WHERE HE WILL BE AS DANGEROUS AS A CORNERED RAT.

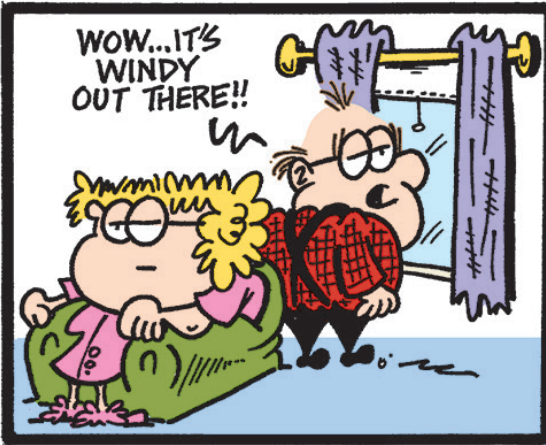
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The Spats

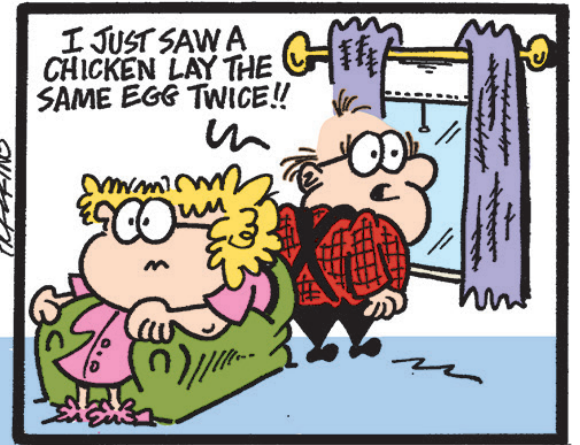
by Jeff Pickering



WOW...IT'S WINDY OUT THERE!!



HOW WINDY IS IT??



I JUST SAW A CHICKEN LAY THE SAME EGG TWICE!!

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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Recalls of dangerous foods and products

The recent listeria outbreak in a certain brand of deli meat was most disturbing because it now makes us hesitant to purchase any brands.

Listeria can, and has, caused illnesses so severe that people have died. At this writing, the number continues to grow.

Where the mistrust comes in is at the deli counter itself. If the slicing machines were previously used on the listeria-contaminated meats, and if those slicers weren't sanitized of every tiny listeria molecule, those germs can be transmitted to another type of meat being sliced.

Scary.

And when it comes to trust, who would suspect cinnamon of being a problem? But apparently it is, with several recalls due to excess lead in the product.

Then there was the real heartbreaker to read about: Beloved frozen chicken nuggets were found to have foreign matter in them, specifically little particles of metal.

Foods aren't the only items making the recall lists. Lithium batteries have been making headlines, especially when they cause fires. A portable power station, for charging electronic devices and other gadgets, has caused four fires. Another brand of power station has caused over 170 cases of the batteries swelling and overheating. Even a camera brand had problems with the lithium batteries overheating.

And candles aren't left off the recall list. One lovely tangerine scented candle was recalled because of a fire hazard. A single-serve coffee maker can shoot hot water out of the top of the machine, burning anyone nearby. A lawnmower was recalled because if water gets into the handle, the mower will fail to shut off. Or how about the bicycle that loses its steering?

Check online before you buy, especially consumer products. See www.recalls.gov for a wide selection of product types, and foodsafety.gov for recalled foods -- or sign up for alerts.

And be especially wary of that cute retro-look Italian-made refrigerator that's dangerous because the door can fall off.

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1. What Hall of Fame running back drunkenly told Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to "Loosen up, Sandy baby" at a 1985 Washington Press Club event?

2. Providence Friars basketball star Otis Thorpe was selected by what team in the first round of the 1984 NBA Draft? (Hint: The team relocated in 1985.)

3. What racehorse won consecutive Eclipse Awards for American Horse of the Year, Champion Older Male and Champion Male Turf Horse from 2012-13?

4. What NASCAR driver was shot twice after firing an employee from his trucking company in 1969 but returned to race the following season?

5. Jack Kemp, the Republican nominee for vice president in the 1996 election, was named 1965 American Football League MVP as quarterback for what team?

6. What golf course, located in East Lothian, Scotland, has been in rotation as host of The Open Championship since 1892?

7. Yusuf Dikec, famous for his casual shooting style that won him a silver medal in the air pistol team event at the 2024 Paris Olympics, competed for what country?



Answers

1. John Riggins.
 2. The Kansas City Kings.
 3. Wise Dan.
 4. Charlie Glotzbach.
 5. The Buffalo Bills.
 6. Muirfield.
 7. Turkey.
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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Treating a cat's ingrown toenail

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I don't know how it happened, because I check and trim my cat's nails regularly. Today, "Sparks" cried out in pain when I checked his right paw, and that's when, on closer inspection, I saw that one of the middle claws had grown around, down and into the pad of his paw! How did I miss it? And what can I do to fix this? -- Sharon in Bennington, Vermont

DEAR SHARON: Cats are very good at hiding illness and injury. Plus, some cats have longer tufts of fur growing between their claws, and this can obscure nail problems. Add that to the routine struggle of trimming a cat's nails while they wriggle and nip at you to try and escape, and it's surprisingly easy to miss a claw or two.

Have a partner help you by gently holding your cat in a comfortable position while you inspect his paw more closely. Use a magnifying glass to get a better look at the ingrown claw.

If the claw has not penetrated the skin of your cat's pad -- it may be pushing against the skin -- you should be able to safely trim the nail away from the pad. Use sturdy nail nippers made for cats, and trim only a small part of the nail -- enough to release the pressure on the pad. Revisit the nail in two days to trim it back further, and monitor closely from now on.

However, if the claw has penetrated the skin, removing it can be painful and stressful for your cat. Make an appointment with the veterinarian, who will be able to numb the area slightly, trim the claw, and remove the part remaining in the pad while preventing infection.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* Beethoven went out of his way to ensure his morning coffee was made with exactly 60 beans per cup.

* In the hit film "Back to the Future," the time machine was originally an old fridge. According to HuffPost, "Ultimately, it was determined that it probably was not a good idea to use a refrigerator in such a manner as kids might want to reenact the scene."

* Up until the beginning of the 19th century, models were not used to showcase clothes. Fashion companies would use

dolls instead.

* Pentheraphobia is the intense and disproportionate fear of your mother-in-law.

* To ensure Queen Elizabeth II received her food on time, clocks in the royal kitchen at Windsor Castle were set five minutes ahead.

* While they might look the same, Jenga blocks have subtle differences in dimensions to make their construction less stable. Each brick is a different size and weight, so no two games are alike.

* As a souvenir from his trip to the Middle East, French author Gustave Flaubert brought home a mummy's foot and kept it on his working desk.

* Herrings communicate through farts.

* In 1916, Adeline and Augusta Van Buren became the first women to travel across the country on two solo motorcycles. They made it despite frequently being arrested for the "crime" of wearing pants.

* Galileo's middle finger is on display at the Museo Galileo in Florence, Italy.

* In 2009, a team of scientists searched Scotland's Loch Ness for evidence of Nessie. While the fabled monster remained elusive, they at least recovered more than 100,000 golf balls.

Thought for the Day: "Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul." -- Samuel Ullman

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The Garden Bug

Soil with a pH level above 7 is alkaline, and less than 7 is **acidic** (7 is "neutral").

Plants that like acidic soil include azaleas, rhododendrons, hydrangea, gardenias, camellias, holly shrubs, crepe myrtles, calla lilies and pine trees.

To increase the acidity of your soil, mix ground **Acidic soil** rock sulphur into it, using 1.2 oz. per square yard for sandy soils and 3.6 oz. per square yard for all other soils. You can also add sawdust, composted leaves and peat moss to lower the soil pH. - *Brenda Weaver*

Sources: www.thegardenhelper.com, www.gardeningknowhow.com





by Freddy Groves

Do you trust the VA?

Two recent surveys ranked health care at the Department of Veterans Affairs as better than civilian care in two specific areas.

The star rating of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CMS) gave four or five stars to 58% of VA facilities for hospital quality. Civilian facilities only saw 40% in that star range.

In a patient satisfaction survey, that same CMS star system saw 79% of VA facilities receiving four or five stars, while only 40% of civilian facilities reached that rating.

A recent medical journal article looked at 26 studies that ranked VA hospitals in areas such as patient experience, safety, quality and access, and determined that non-surgical care was rated better in 15 of the studies. With surgical care, the report showed that 11 out of 13 studies ranked VA care as comparable or better.

A stroll around the internet, checking in on sites where veterans praise/condemn the VA for their care, reveals a wide range of responses. Yes, you have to be careful about believing what you read on the internet, but many of these comments and notes are so heartfelt it's difficult to imagine they aren't true. Some say the VA saved their life. Some say the best thing that ever happened was getting approved for Community Care and finding a civilian doctor. Some who have moved to different areas of the country claim there are huge differences from one facility to another.

If you're one of the hundreds of thousands of veterans who are sent a "trust" survey in an email after you have an appointment, fill it out and send it back. They need your input to keep the numbers accurate in their quarterly reports. The survey will come from the Veterans Signals (VSignals) program in the Veterans Experience Office. They'll use your data to make adjustments so your VA experiences are smooth and easy.

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Wishing Well®

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

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1. GEOGRAPHY: Mount Vesuvius overlooks which modern Italian city?
2. MYTHOLOGY: What kind of creature is half bird and half woman with an alluring song?
3. SCIENCE: What is a common name for iron oxide?
4. FOOD & DRINK: What kind of pastry is used to make baklava?
5. MOVIES: What is the name of Elle's chihuahua in "Legally Blonde"?
6. MEDICAL: What is a common name for bruxism?
7. LITERATURE: Prospero is a character in which of Shakespeare's plays?
8. ASTRONOMY: How many stars make up the Big Dipper?
9. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is The Sunflower State?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which is the only continent without bees?

Answers

1. Naples.
2. Siren.
3. Rust.
4. Phyllo or filo.
5. Bruiser.
6. Teeth grinding.
7. "The Tempest."
8. Seven.
9. Kansas.
10. Antarctica.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

The Basics of Education

As I watch my grandchildren grow and learn, I'm reminded of something that I learned as a young parent: our kids are capable of learning far more (and more quickly) than we realize before we see it for ourselves. They watch everything that we do, and their little developing brains absorb it shockingly fast.

A two-year-old is capable of looking at two entirely different cups yet identifying both as "cup" because they understand what a cup is at its most basic level. It's a very simple jump from saying "cup" to spelling "c-u-p" – and from there to actually reading.

American education has focused on teaching our kids to read by the time they complete 3rd grade, and far too many students don't even meet that expectation. But reading is actually pretty basic once you break it down to the phonics level. Many of us remember our own phonics instruction, but unfortunately "modern education" has all but gotten rid of it. South Dakota launched a strong investment into the Science of Reading this year, specifically by training teachers how to apply phonics education in their own classrooms. Once this method of teaching takes root, we will be shocked at how quickly our kids learn to read!

Education isn't rocket science (it literally isn't – until at least college, anyway). I know teachers work hard – they do God's work making sure that our students are as prepared as possible for their future. But education doesn't have to be complicated. It can be pretty basic, especially at the elementary level.

Our kids need to learn reading, writing, and arithmetic. From there, they can apply those skills to obtain knowledge. Those basic skills teach them how to learn. And reading – more so than the others – can instill a love of learning that turns our kids into lifelong learners.

In South Dakota, we've revamped how our kids acquire knowledge in social studies. Their education in civics and history starts at a basic level then spirals into more in-depth knowledge – and these standards are raising the bar for what is possible in public education. But again, it isn't rocket science – we focus on learning basic skills and then applying those to obtain real knowledge of America's true and honest history.

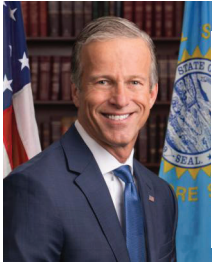
Once our kids learn to read – and learn to love reading – they can go read some really great literature that teaches them more about our world. And we should empower both teachers and parents to inspire our kids to seek out that knowledge.

Our parents should be the ones who hold ultimate power in their kids' education – and then their teachers should be the next at the table to take this trust and ensure those children get exactly what they need. And they need very little guidance from the outside.

The state has a role to make sure that all of our communities achieve basic standards for our kids. But honestly, I agree with people like Ronald Reagan who often expressed legitimate concerns about the federal government getting involved in the education of our kids. They send us money, sure – but South Dakota schools spend more money complying with federal regulations than they actually receive in federal funding. The power should be held first and foremost by parents, and with their permission, the teachers, then local school districts, then the state – and it should go no further.

We are going to be doing some powerful things in South Dakota education with these basic principles in mind. We've already accomplished a lot to restore parents' role in their kids' education and to support teachers as they educate our kids. And we're just getting started.

I can't wait to see my grandkids continue to amaze me with what they learn – and kids across South Dakota will do the same in every community every day.



JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

In recent weeks, Vice President Harris has attempted to reinvent herself and run away from her record in the U.S. Senate and as President Biden's vice president. Those who know that record, however, will find it difficult to believe her sudden about-face.

As a senator, Kamala Harris ranked among the institution's most liberal members. She was an early backer of the Green New Deal and Medicare for All. She supported a bill that would mandate all new vehicles be zero-emission by 2040. She even authored a universal basic income proposal that one analyst said "could be the most expensive bill ever introduced." Then, as a presidential candidate five years ago, she ran on an agenda that would please members of the far-left. She endorsed a fracking ban, decriminalizing drug possession, decriminalizing illegal border crossings, and mandatory buybacks of certain guns.

But in just a few weeks' time, Vice President Harris has changed – or at least she would like the American people to think so. As a senator, she called a border wall "un-American" and "a waste of money." Now she supports one. She wanted to ban fracking, now she doesn't. She was for a federal jobs guarantee, but not anymore. She even changed her position on banning plastic straws!

In the last few years, Vice President Harris has also played a key role in implementing President Biden's agenda. She cast the deciding vote to pass a massive spending spree that sparked a historic inflation crisis from which families continue to suffer. A crisis at the southern border raged for years after the vice president was put in charge of the administration's response to it. And we've seen uncertainty on the world stage dating back to this administration's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan in which the vice president played a role.

Despite these sudden changes, it seems that progressives should have no cause for alarm. The vice president's former colleague, Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.), was recently asked whether Harris was abandoning her progressive ideals. "No," he answered, "I don't think she's abandoning her ideals. I think she's trying to be pragmatic and doing what she thinks is right in order to win the election." I think he's right. I suspect that one of the Senate's most liberal members would be one of the nation's most liberal presidents.

Try as she might to remake herself, the vice president's record reveals a lot about her. She has been aligned with the left wing of the Democrat Party, and she's been involved in some of this administration's biggest blunders. No one has to wonder what the next four years would look like – it would be a lot more of the same.



Fighting Foes, Fostering Families

BIG Update

Adoption is an incredibly meaningful way to complete a family. Each year, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) hosts the Angels in Adoption program for members of Congress to honor families who have chosen adoption. I wasn't able to meet with this year's honoree, but in my meeting with CCAI, I met with Deb and her son Matthew from Aberdeen. Deb has fostered more than 117 children. The Gathering Well was also part of our meeting. They provide support for the adoption and foster care communities in the Sioux Falls area. I appreciate them for sharing their stories with me and for their advocacy work to improve the lives of children.

BIG Idea

Light detection and ranging, or LiDAR, is a remote sensing technology that captures detailed three-dimensional maps of surrounding environments with millimeter-level accuracy. It's used in the transportation sector in autonomous vehicles, drones, traffic control systems, railroad crossings, airports, and more. Allowing China to have such detailed access of our critical infrastructure is a major threat to our national security.

I introduced the Securing Infrastructure from Adversaries Act to prohibit the Department of Transportation from using LiDAR technology and keep our sensitive data out of the hands of those who seek to undermine our nation.

BIG News

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is gobbling up land outside of China, and we've seen their attempts to purchase farmland in America. I've been vocal in opposition to the CCP's purchases of our ag land – it's a major threat to the security of our food supply. This week, I voted on dozens of bills that get tough on China. One of the bills, the Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act, passed the House and would strengthen the U.S.'s review process for foreign purchases of American ag land.

I also voted to pass legislation to protect the U.S. from Chinese fentanyl, limit China's leverage in the electric vehicle market, prevent U.S. dollars from going to Chinese biotech companies, and more. China is our biggest adversary – we should not fund their economy and military companies. I'm glad the bills this week take the threat of the CCP seriously and move the needle in the right direction.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

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One Man's Apple Fritter Is Pure Delight

One thing I have learned in life is there are times when things do come together.

For the last several months, I have been struggling to keep up with my schedule, and I was getting behind in some things I do. That is always frustrating for me. I like finishing what I start, but I like finishing it on time.

Just the other day, I finished my manuscript for my publisher and sent it in, and I was in great relief that that job was done. I sat back in my chair and just enjoyed the feeling of being caught up.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and some girls in the family had taken a two-day trip out of town for whatever they were going to do. I have learned not to get involved in what the girls are doing. I know from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's side that it has a lot to do with thrift store shopping. If there is something I like less than thrift store shopping, I have never met it yet.

Being alone for a couple of days, I enjoyed the satisfaction of being caught up. I was trying to think of some way to celebrate this achievement, and I wanted something very special because this was a special time.

My thinking sometimes is not always on schedule, and I do not always even have thoughts that I can think of. So, I was having a little trouble figuring out what I could do to celebrate this breakthrough in my work.

I've never had this kind of breakthrough, so it was new to me. I was trying to think of something special to celebrate my accomplishment.

Thinking for some time while sipping coffee, I realized I had not expected a thought to come dancing into my head. I can tell when a thought comes into my head because that's a rare occasion. But this time, this thought brought a great deal of pleasure to me.

I don't share my thoughts with too many people because I don't have that many thoughts to share. So I was leaning back in my chair, celebrating this situation and rejoicing over this thought that just came into my head.

This thought dancing in my head had to do with a fresh Apple Fritter or two. I cannot celebrate any better than with several Apple Fritters, particularly one in each hand.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is not too happy with Apple Fritters. For some reason, she thinks they are bad for me. On the other side of the table, I believe there is nothing better in the entire world than an Apple Fritter. After all, it is a fruit.

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Broccoli is on the other side of the table, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage thinks it is solid gold in her mouth. I can't even look at broccoli, let alone eat it. But when she wants to celebrate, that's the first thing on her mind. Believe me, it is the last thing on my mind.

But that idea of an Apple Fritter was very alluring to me. I couldn't get it out of my head. Three blocks down the road, I could get a fresh Apple Fritter. I could even walk there if I wanted to.

Since the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was not home, I had the freedom to do whatever I wanted. When she left the other day, she said, "You behave yourself while I'm gone. Do you hear me?"

Boy, did I hear her? I'm only thinking whether she heard what she said. If I'm going to behave myself, I will behave like myself. And one of the most important things about myself is my adoration of Apple Fritters. When I have an Apple Fritter in each hand, I behave myself better. I am more myself with an Apple Fritter than anything else.

The more I thought about this, the more I knew I needed to get one of those Apple Fritters or maybe even two.

After thinking about it, I decided to flip a coin to see what I should do. If the coin is heads, I win; if it is tails, the Apple Fritter wins. Who can lose with that?

With great delight and anticipation, I got into my truck and drove down to Publix, where I usually get my Apple Fritters. The problem was that everybody in that public store knew my wife and her thoughts about Apple Fritters.

However, across the town, about 15 minutes away, is another public store that sells Apple Fritters. The thing about this Publix is that nobody knows my wife.

That evening, I sat in my easy chair, leaned back, sipped some hot coffee, and began nibbling on my Apple Fritters. As I was nibbling, I couldn't help but think how wonderful it is to get caught up in life's projects and then celebrate with the most amazing treat: the Apple Fritter.

I thought of one of my favorite Bible verses. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Proverbs 17:22).

It's very difficult to find someone with a "merry heart." There is so much pain and stress in this world that a merry heart is absent. It doesn't matter what's on the outside if my inside (heart) is focused on Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Where do we stand in jettisoning coal as an electricity source? – K.N. via email

Before dinosaurs roamed the earth, large plants grew and died in swampy forests. In the eons that followed, layers of rock and dirt covered the plants, and heat and pressure turned them into a substance high in carbon and hydrocarbons: Coal. The history of coal mining is a dark tale of child labor, black lung disease and an untold number of miners blown up in mining accidents. Research started in 1980 found that acid rain was caused by burning coal, and thus coal's negative impact on ecosystems became clearer as well. This spurred industries into action and \$1 billion was spent on air pollution control equipment.

Yet, 44 years later, coal remains the world's largest source of electricity generation, with coal demand hitting a historic high in 2022. In 2023, two-thirds of coal-burning plants in the works were in China, which accounts for 60 percent of global coal usage. Despite the known risks, it has proven challenging to get away from this energy source, partially due to the difficulties presented by clean energy sources.

Solar power, or light from the sun that is converted into energy by photovoltaic cells, is restricted by geography—its use is impacted by weather, clouds and tree cover. Wind power may not be cost-competitive in areas that lack wind, and ideal sites to set up wind turbines are often in remote areas. Hydropower, which takes advantage of the movement of waterways, can be less practical in areas where wind slows the current or drought dries up reservoirs. Despite this, technological advances and advocacy against climate change bring greater hope to improvements implementation of renewable energy sources.

The COP28 and G7 agreements are a formal capture of that hope. COP28, which occurred at the end of 2023, resulted in a call from the United Nations for governments to speed up their transition away from fossil fuels. G7 followed shortly after, as the U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom came together and signed a deal to end the use of full-strength power plants between 2030 and 2035. Critics argue that too much leeway is given to countries heavily reliant on coal, but it is a strong signal from industrialized democracies that the transition away from coal should be a priority.

Consumers can help the movement away from coal by opting for renewable energy sources, either by selecting them from your utility's offerings or installing your own solar panels (or wind turbines) where you live or work. If electricity generated by burning coal is the only option where you live, make your home and office as energy efficient as possible and do your best to reduce the amount of electricity you use.



Despite major efforts underway to transition to renewables, coal still remains the world's largest source of electricity. Credit: Pexels.com.

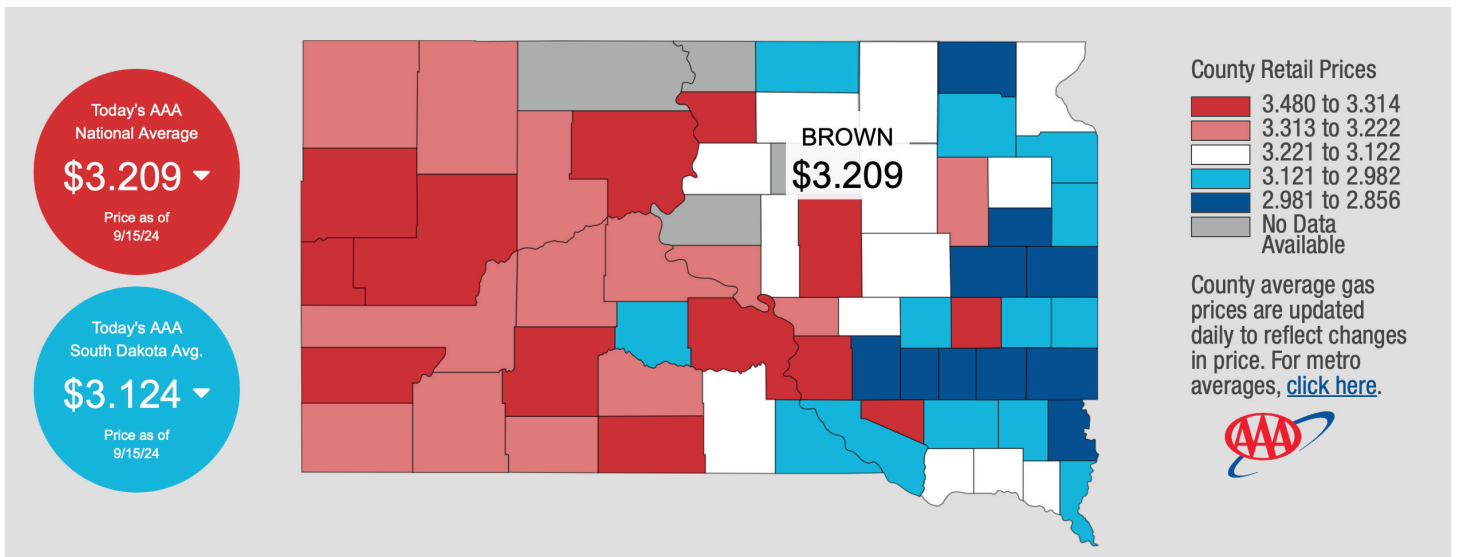
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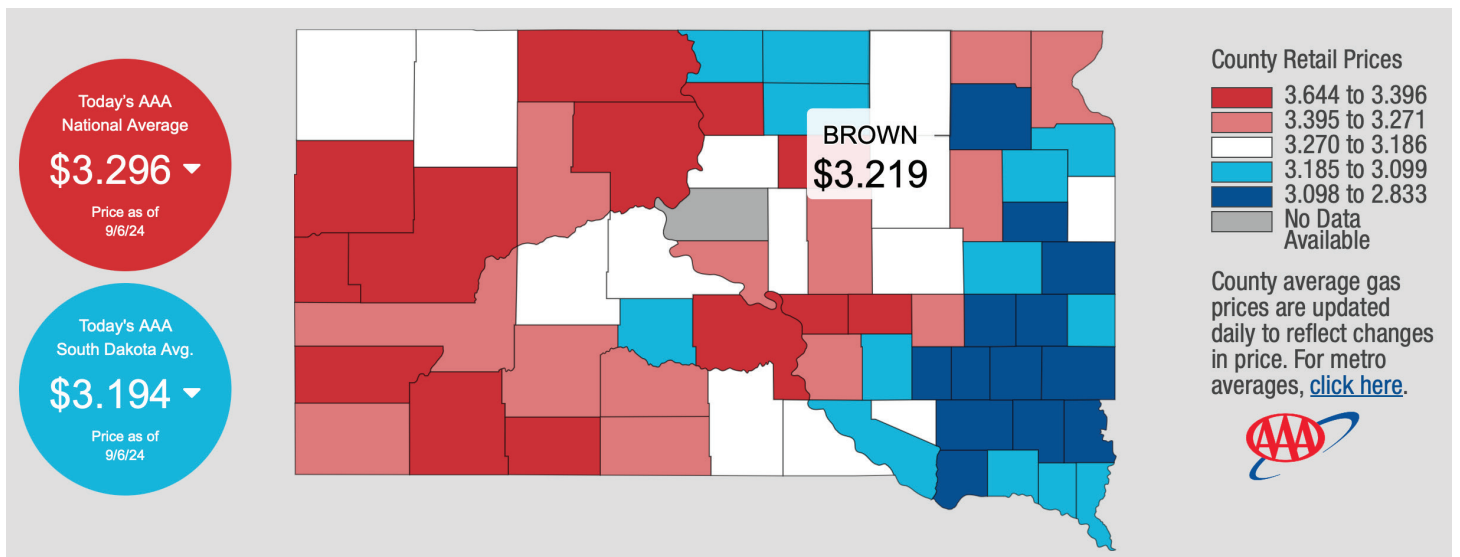
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.124	\$3.341	\$3.754	\$3.316
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.135	\$3.338	\$3.734	\$3.323
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.154	\$3.381	\$3.810	\$3.369
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.299	\$3.486	\$3.933	\$3.436
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.957	\$4.116	\$4.578	\$4.332

This Week



Last Week



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Drought Classification

None

D0 (Abnormally Dry)

D1 (Moderate Drought)

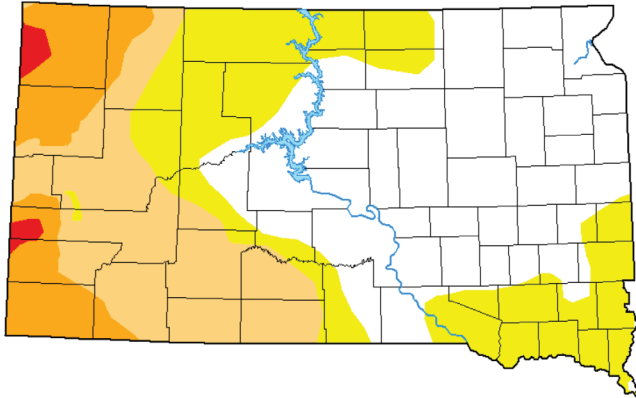
D2 (Severe Drought)

D3 (Extreme Drought)

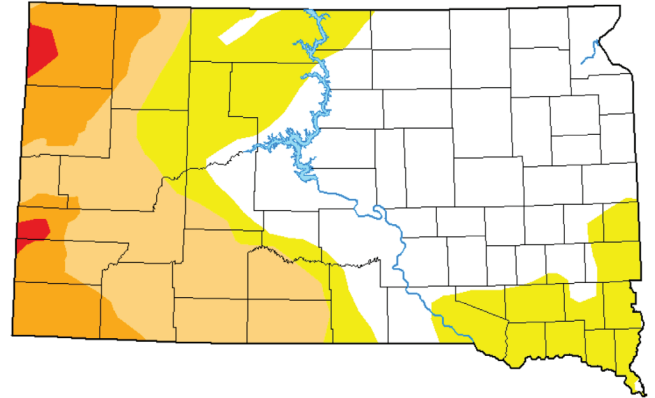
D4 (Exceptional Drought)

No Data

Drought Monitor



September 10



September 3

The High Plains saw a mixed bag of improvements and degradations. The area remained hot and dry, except for eastern Nebraska and Kansas. Higher elevations of Colorado and Wyoming did receive some precipitation, but conditions remained mostly status quo. Kansas has experienced feast or famine precipitation since the beginning of summer. Some isolated, slow-moving thunderstorms provided good moisture in the center of the state, but abnormally dry or moderate drought conditions expanded along the Kansas western, southern and eastern borders. Eastern Colorado is beginning to show signs of a prolonged dry period, with moderate drought creeping further eastward from the Kansas border. Similarly, central and northern Wyoming are showing drier signals in the short-term, including soil moistures. These same conditions brought abnormally dry conditions along the North and South Dakota border and into southern and eastern Nebraska.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Too many South Dakota officials willing to close the door on the public

by Dana Hess

As the nation celebrates Democracy Day, it's a good time to be thankful for the freedoms that we have but also be wary of the threats that democracy faces. Those threats aren't limited to Washington, D.C. They exist in the statehouse and the local courthouse as well.

Democracy is threatened whenever government at any level wants to keep the public in the dark. In July, South Dakota Searchlight reported on one such government official who prefers to stay away from the prying eyes of the public, Department of Corrections Secretary Kellie Wasko. The secretary was speaking to the Legislature's Government Operations and Audit Committee after two bouts of violence at two different prisons.

According to Wasko, the less said in public about those incidents, the better. At issue was her relationship with the state's Corrections Commission. The citizen commission is bound by law to weigh in on criminal justice issues as well as sign off on funding requests for prison industries. Commission members complained that they were kept in the dark about the violent incidents at the prisons. Wasko said she would prefer to answer to lawmakers because Corrections Commission meetings are open to the public. Wasko said she would feel better about talking to legislators if they could "close the door and get into the nitty-gritty." She actually said "close the door" on what should be public business.

However, if Wasko wants to keep the public in the dark, she's in the right place: state government. Twice during the 2021 session, legislators brought bills designed to unearth the cost of protecting Gov. Kristi Noem. The much-traveled governor was a rising star in the Republican Party, often accompanied by two Highway Patrol troopers.

Lawmakers, who were under the impression that they held the purse strings for state government, wanted an accounting. The response from the Noem administration: You're not getting one. There would be no accounting for the governor's protection detail, lawmakers were told, because anyone who posed a threat could use those figures to determine how well the governor was protected. The administration would not even allow a lump sum to be released. It seems bad guys have an algorithm that could take that figure to deduce how well the governor is protected, whether she's in Pierpont or Paris.

Majority Republicans, in the same party as the governor and, in 2021, getting along with her better than they have of late, accepted the premise that the budget for protecting Noem needed to be kept secret. That's because Republican lawmakers have secrecy penciled into their daily schedule during the legislative session.

Each day before the afternoon session, the super majority Republicans in the House and Senate are squirreled away for caucuses that shut out the public. Not only do they meet in secret, away from the prying eyes of the public they serve, they do so in the Capitol, a public building. That means the very people who are being shut out of the meeting get to pay the cost of the heat, lights and furnishings, not to mention the payroll for the people they employ to make their laws. That's a chore many of us thought they were supposed to do in public.

Occasionally, during legislative sessions, a bill comes along to tweak the state's weak executive session law. That law is used whenever local governments — city, school, county — want to go into closed session away from public view for various reasons: personnel, student expulsion, attorney consultation, contract negotiation. While executive session bills appear infrequently, their committee hearings are filled

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with irony as Republican lawmakers extoll the virtues of openness in government all the while knowing that after lunch they will head into a caucus that slams the door on the public.

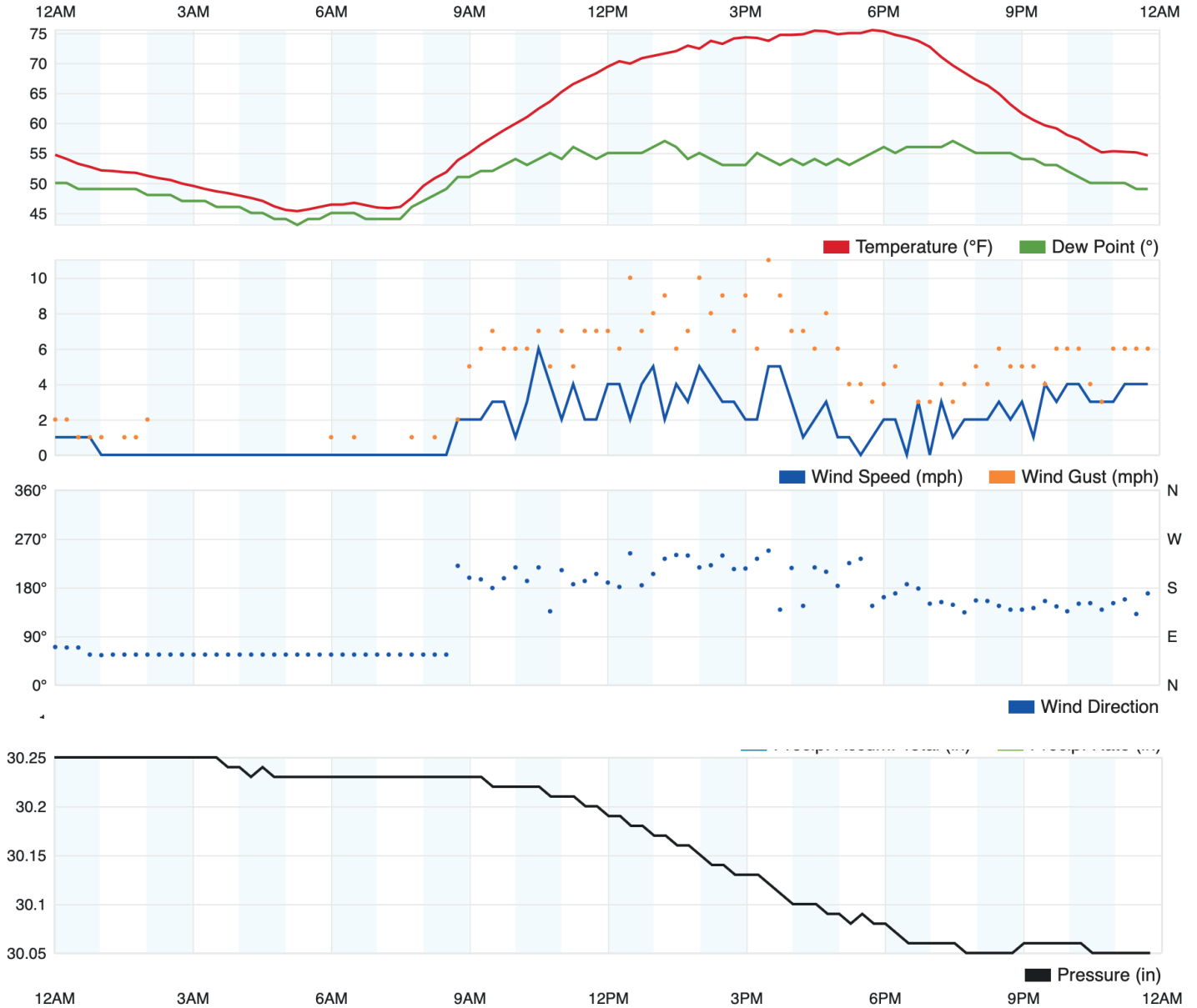
Democracy works best when the public is informed. It's the role of citizens to show up at the voting booth, at public meetings and at candidate forums to let elected officials know that someone is watching. For their part, officers holders and those charged with running our government have to do so in the light of day. Whenever they close the door on the public, they damage the democratic ideals of this nation.

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

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

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Today



High: 87 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 66 °F

Partly Cloudy

Monday



High: 86 °F

Mostly Sunny then Mostly Sunny and Breezy

Monday Night



Low: 68 °F

Chance T-storms and Breezy

Tuesday



High: 87 °F

Breezy. Slight Chance T-storms then Sunny

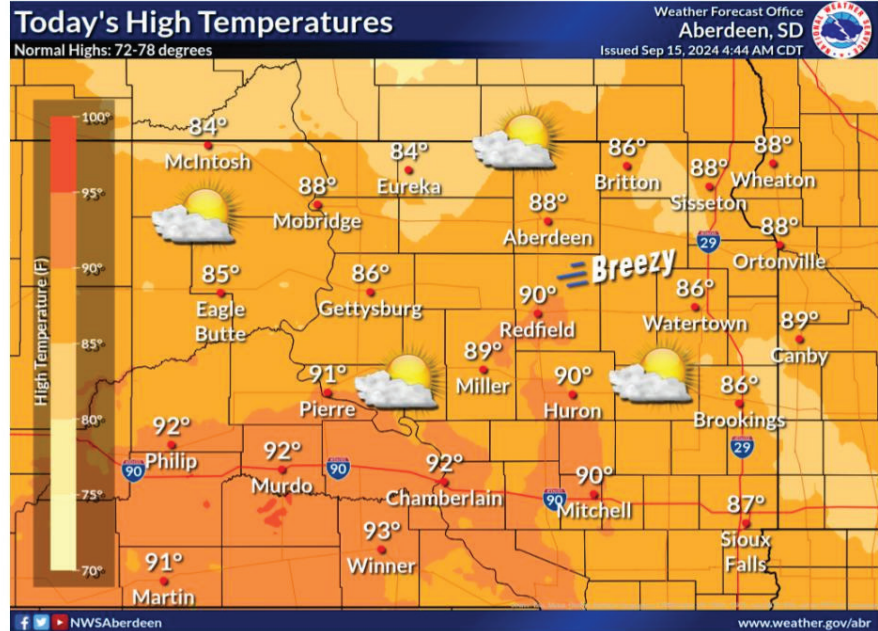


Very Warm Temperatures Continue Today

September 15, 2024
5:15 AM

80s to low 90s across the region

- Dew Point temperatures in the 60s will make it feel humid and uncomfortable outdoors.
- South to Southeast Winds between 10-20 mph. Stronger gusts up to 30 mph possible across northeast South Dakota.
- Showers and Storms return late tonight/early Monday across central South Dakota.



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

After a few pre-dawn showers across far northeast SD and west central MN and some patchy fog across north central SD, the daytime hours today will feature a mix of sun and clouds and very warm temperatures for mid September. Humidity levels will be elevated, so it will feel a bit uncomfortable outdoors. South to southeast breezes may help to some extent with the warmth. Showers and storms return late tonight across portions of central and western South Dakota.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 86 °F at 4:46 PM

Low Temp: 60 °F at 7:09 AM

Wind: 23 mph at 6:58 PM

Precip: : 0.16

Day length: 13 hours, 33 minutes (lost 22 minutes since last Sunday)

Today's Info

Record High: 100 in 1955

Record Low: 28 in 1964

Average High: 76

Average Low: 47

Average Precip in Sept.: 1.02

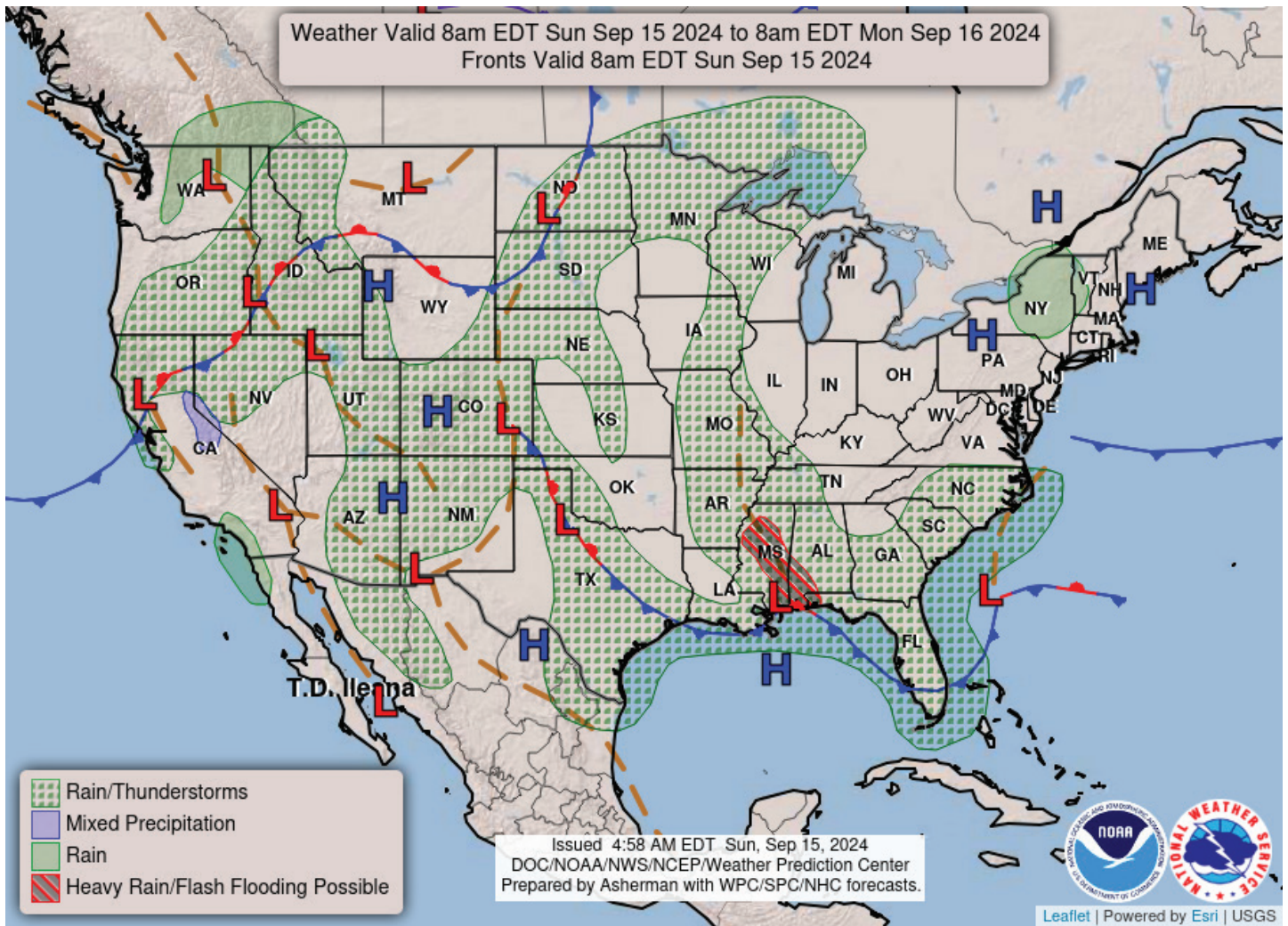
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.19

Average Precip to date: 17.36

Precip Year to Date: 19.61

Sunset Tonight: 7:44:14 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:11:37 am



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Today in Weather History

September 15, 1977: Sioux Falls residents received a rude awakening during the morning hours as thunderstorms rolled through the city. Over two and one-half inches of rain fell in the town in an hour and 15 minutes. A large amount of rain in a short period led to street flooding in some areas. Lightning strikes from the storms also started several small fires.

1747: Some historical accounts of a hurricane caused flooding on the Rappahannock River in Virginia. A slave ship was overturned, and several fatalities were reported.

1752 - A great hurricane produced a tide along the South Carolina coast which nearly inundated downtown Charleston. However, just before the tide reached the city, a shift in the wind caused the water level to drop five feet in ten minutes. (David Ludlum)

1910 - Rains of .27 inch on the 14th and .73 inch on the 15th were the earliest and heaviest of record for Fresno CA, which, along with much of California, experiences a "rainy season" in the winter. (The Weather Channel)

1939 - The temperature at Detroit MI soared to 100 degrees to establish a record for September. (The Weather Channel)

1945: A hurricane entered the south Florida coast at Homestead, curving northward right up through the center of Florida, remaining over land, and exited near Jacksonville Beach with winds gusting to 170 mph. The following is from the Homestead Air Reserve Base. "On Sept. 15, 1945, three years to the day after the founding of the Homestead Army Air Field, a massive hurricane roared ashore, sending winds of up to 145 miles per hour tearing through the Air Field's buildings. Enlisted housing facilities, the nurses' dormitory, and the Base Exchange were all destroyed. The roof was ripped from what would later become building 741, the Big Hangar. The base laundry and fire station were both declared total losses. The few remaining aircraft were tossed about like leaves."

1982 - A snowstorm over Wyoming produced 16.9 inches at Lander to establish a 24 hour record for September for that location. (13th-15th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - The first snow of the season was observed at the Winter Park ski resort in Colorado early in the day. Eight inches of snow was reported at the Summit of Mount Evans, along with wind gusts to 61 mph. Early morning thunderstorms in Texas produced up to six inches of rain in Real County. Two occupants of a car drowned, and the other six occupants were injured as it was swept into Camp Wood Creek, near the town of Leakey. Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in central and northeastern Oklahoma. Wind gusts to 70 mph and golf ball size hail were reported around Oklahoma City OK. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms brought much needed rains to parts of the central U.S. Rainfall totals of 2.87 inches at Sioux City IA and 4.59 inches at Kansas City MO were records for the date. Up to eight inches of rain deluged the Kansas City area, nearly as much rain as was received the previous eight months. Hurricane Gilbert, meanwhile, slowly churned toward the U.S./Mexican border. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain in the Central Appalachians. Virgie VA received 2.60 inches of rain during the evening hours, and Bartlett TN was deluged with 2.75 inches in just ninety minutes. Heavy rain left five cars partially submerged in high water in a parking lot at Bulls Gap TN. Thunderstorms over central North Carolina drenched the Fayetteville area with four to eight inches of rain between 8 PM and midnight. Flash flooding, and a couple of dam breaks, claimed the lives of two persons, and caused ten million dollars damage. Hugo, churning over the waters of the Caribbean, strengthened to the category of a very dangerous hurricane, packing winds of 150 mph. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2010: The largest hailstone in Kansas was found in southwest Wichita. It measured 7.75 inches in diameter.

2011: An EF0 Waterspout moved ashore in Ocean City, Maryland.

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NOW IT'S MY TIME

Horace Whittell of England hated alarm clocks with a passion. Every weekday morning for 47 years he had been awakened at 6:00 a.m. to go to work. On the day after he retired, he took his clock outside, placed it on a rock and smashed it into little pieces shouting, "I'm through with you!"

For many there is nothing that can be more disturbing than an alarm clock that awakens them from a comfortable sleep. It may signal another boring day filled with endless interruptions and meaningless tasks. For others it may be the beginning of a day filled with one crisis after another and problems that cannot be solved.

How different for the Christian! Every day can be a special day, a day filled with unique challenges and great opportunities to witness and serve our Lord.

Solomon wrote, "There is a time for everything, a season for every activity under the sun." This verse reminds us that God has a special plan that He has designed for each of us. And if we want to enjoy a peaceful, productive and purposeful life, we must look to Him for His guidance.

When we discover, accept and fulfill His plan, we will enjoy His blessings every moment of every day. What may have been an annoying alarm will be God's voice calling us to another "season" of service, informing us of something significant that only we can do for Him.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for calling us to lives that are filled with countless opportunities to serve You in endless, exciting ways. May we always be found faithful. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: There is a time for everything, a season for every activity under the sun. Ecclesiastes 3:1

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:
09.13.24

21 55 56 57 66 1

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$31,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.14.24

6 9 38 42 50 4

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$8,940,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.14.24

5 13 27 28 44 6

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 39 Mins
3 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.14.24

5 9 11 18 28

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$32,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.14.24

1 26 38 52 55 16

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.14.24

29 34 38 48 56 16

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$165,000,000

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
- 07/09/2025 Legion Auxiliary Salad Luncheon
- 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

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Aberdeen Central High School def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-5, 25-14, 25-17

Dupree def. New Underwood, 25-13, 25-20, 25-21

Hamlin def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 25-9, 25-12, 25-20

Little Wound def. Wakpala, 25-13, 25-11, 25-10

Miller def. Potter County, 25-16, 25-12, 25-12

Mitchell def. Harrisburg, 25-12, 25-10, 25-7

Northwestern def. Madison, 25-10, 25-10, 25-19

Spearfish def. T F Riggs High School, 26-24, 25-10, 25-17

Takini def. Tiospaye Topa, 26-24, 25-23

Arlington Invitational=

Burke def. Arlington, 25-11, 27-25

Burke def. Deubrook, 25-20, 25-10

Burke def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-19, 25-21

Burke def. Faulkton, 27-25, 25-11

Burke def. Warner, 25-18, 25-27, 25-11

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Arlington, 25-21, 27-25

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Deubrook, 23-25, 25-19, 25-18

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Faulkton, 25-21, 25-13

Sanborn Central-Woonsocket def. Marty, 25-8, 25-14

Warner def. Arlington, 25-12, 25-17

Warner def. Deubrook, 25-14, 21-25, 25-20

Warner def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-15, 25-19

Warner def. Faulkton, 25-8, 25-14

BEC Conference Tournament=

Beresford def. McCook Central-Montrose, 25-23, 22-25, 23-25, 27-25, 15-12

Sioux Valley def. Garretson, 25-20, 25-12, 20-25, 26-24

North Central Tournament=

Ipswich def. McIntosh High School, 25-20, 25-15

Ipswich def. North Central, 25-18, 27-29, 25-12

Ipswich def. Stanley County, 25-22, 25-15

Ipswich def. Timber Lake, 25-23, 25-15

Philip Tournament=

Bennett County def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-19, 25-19

Highmore-Harrold def. Sully Buttes, 25-23, 25-17

Jones County def. Highmore-Harrold, 9-25, 25-23, 25-18

Rapid City Volleyball Tournament=

Gold Bracket=

Quarterfinal=

Brookings def. Kadoka, 25-9, 25-23

Dakota Valley def. Douglas, 25-13, 25-7

Rapid City Central def. Hot Springs, 25-18, 25-20

Rapid City Stevens def. Rapid City Christian, 25-12, 25-17

Semifinal=

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Dakota Valley def. Brookings, 25-23, 25-12
Rapid City Central def. Rapid City Stevens, 28-26, 25-22
Championship=
Dakota Valley def. Rapid City Central, 26-24, 25-12
Silver Bracket=
Quarterfinal=
Belle Fourche def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-13, 25-18
Custer def. Mahpiya Lúta Red Cloud, 25-13, 25-10
Hill City def. Lakota Tech, 25-18, 25-12
Semifinal=
Custer def. Hill City, 25-18, 20-25, 25-17
St Thomas More def. Belle Fourche, 25-13, 25-20
Championship=
St Thomas More def. Custer, 25-16, 22-25, 25-19
Wolsey-Wessington Tournament=
Sanborn Central-Woonsocket def. Langford, 25-10, 26-24
Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Sanborn Central-Woonsocket, 22-25, 25-21, 25-17

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

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press
PREP FOOTBALL=
Crazy Horse 42, Tiospa Zina 8
Omaha Nation, Neb. 66, Flandreau Indian 14
Sioux Falls Jefferson 34, Sioux Falls Washington 14
Sioux Falls Lincoln 60, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 14
Spearfish 43, Mitchell 0

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

South Dakota State subdues DII-level Augustana 24-3 in first meeting in two decades

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Amar Johnson ran for 126 yards on 17 carries and scored a touchdown and top-ranked FCS South Dakota State beat Augustana 24-3 on Saturday.

The Vikings, from Sioux Falls, S.D., entered ranked No. 18 at the Division II level and took a 3-0 lead on its first drive of the game on a 32-yard field goal from Jake Pecina.

South Dakota State (2-1) responded with a three-minute, six-play, 60-yard drive capped by Mark Gronowski nine-yard run. Johnson had a 1-yard touchdown run early in the second quarter and Gronowski had a 1-yard plunge midway through the third.

It was the first meeting between the two teams since 2004 in a series that dates back to 1931.

The two programs were once longtime members of the North Central Conference until the Jackrabbits moved to FCS Division I in 2004.

QB Rostberg runs for 3 TDs to lead St. Thomas-Minnesota to 24-14 victory over D-II Black Hills State

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Quarterback Michael Rostberg ran for three touchdowns to lead St. Thomas-Minnesota to a 24-14 victory over Black Hills State on Saturday.

Rostberg scored twice from the 1 in the second quarter, sandwiched between a pair of Luke DUBY touchdown passes for Black Hills State, and St. Thomas (1-2) led 17-14 at halftime. Rostberg led a 10-play, 59-yard drive, capped by his 23-yard touchdown run, with 47 seconds left in the game.

Rostberg was 7-of-22 passing for 72 yards. He finished with 15 yards on seven carries. Joseph Koch added 95 yards on 18 carries for the Tommies.

DUBY completed 17 of 36 passes for 160 yards and threw two interceptions for the Division-II Yellow Jackets. TJ Chukwurah and Cameron Goods each caught a touchdown pass, with Goods' score a 63-yarder.

Whooping cough forces cancellation of game between Portland State and South Dakota

HILLSBORO, Ore. (AP) — Portland State's game against South Dakota on Saturday was canceled because of a whooping cough case, the Vikings announced.

"A case of pertussis (whooping cough) got into the Viking team two days ago. Pertussis is a highly contagious disease that affects the lungs. As a result, many team members have been exposed to the disease," Portland State said in a statement.

Medical staffs from both teams met and Portland State determined the game should not be played out of caution.

It was unclear if a Vikings player or other staff member had pertussis. Portland State said no player is seriously ill at this time.

The Vikings said information about ticketing and refunds would be announced later.

South Dakota (1-1) and Portland State (0-2) were set to meet for the first time on Saturday at Hillsboro Stadium.

Portland State is set to visit Boise State next weekend. The Broncos issued a statement saying they are monitoring the situation.

"Our utmost priority and concern are for the health and safety of everyone involved," Boise State said.

Pertussis is a respiratory infection that is easily spread from person to person but can be prevented by a vaccine. It can be fatal for young children.

The Centers for Disease Control said the number of pertussis cases has grown since a dip during the COVID-19 pandemic. Preliminary data showed that in the first 33 weeks of 2024, there were four times as many cases as the same period in 2023, the CDC reported last month.

87 and hobbled, Pope Francis goes off-script in Asia and reminds world he can still draw a crowd

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

DILI, East Timor (AP) — It was the farthest trip of his pontificate and one of the longest papal trips ever in terms of days on the road and distance traveled. But Pope Francis, age 87, hobbled by bad knees and bent over with sciatica, appeared to be having the time of his life.

With half of East Timor's population gathered at a seaside park, Francis couldn't help but oblige them with a final good night and languid loops in his popemobile, long after the sun had set and the field was lit by cellphone screens.

It was late, the heat and humidity had turned Tasitolu park into something of a sauna, and most of the journalists had already gone back to their air-conditioned hotel to watch the Mass on TV. But there was Francis, defying the doubters who had questioned if he could, would or should make such an arduous trip

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to Asia given everything that could go wrong.

"How many children you have!" Francis marveled to the crowd of 600,000, which amounted to the biggest-ever turnout for a papal event as a proportion of the population. "A people that teaches its children to smile is a people that has a future."

The moment seemed to serve as proof that, despite his age, ailments and seven hours of jet lag, Pope Francis still could pope, still likes to pope and has it in him to pope like he used to at the start of his pontificate.

That's never truer than when he's in his element: in the peripheries of the world, among people forgotten by the big powers, where he can go off-script to respond to the spirit of the moment.

And it was certainly the case on his 11-day trip through Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Singapore, during which he clocked nearly 33,000 kilometers (20,505 miles) in air travel alone. It was a trip that he had originally planned to make in 2020 but COVID-19 intervened.

Four years and a handful of hospitalizations later (for intestinal and pulmonary problems), Francis finally pulled it off. He seemed to relish getting out of the Vatican and away from the weighty grind of the Holy See after being cooped up all year, much of it battling a long bout of bronchitis.

Francis does tend to rally during foreign trips, though he usually sticks to a script when he's in the protocol meetings with heads of state, dutifully delivering speeches that were written in advance by Vatican diplomats.

But when he's meeting with young people or local priests and nuns, he tends to show his true colors. He'll ditch his prepared remarks and speak off-the-cuff, often engaging in back-and-forth banter with the faithful to make sure his message has stuck.

Doing so thrills the crowd, terrorizes his translators and complicates the work of journalists, but you always know Francis is enjoying himself and feels energized when he goes rogue. And he went rogue plenty of times in Asia — and on the in-flight press conference coming back to Rome, during which he urged American Catholics to vote for who they think is the "lesser evil" for president.

Francis started in Indonesia, arguably the most delicate destination on his itinerary given the country is home to the world's largest Muslim population. The Vatican would be loathe to say or do anything that might cause offense.

And yet from his very first encounter with President Joko Widodo, Francis appeared in a feisty mood, praising Indonesia's relatively high birthrate while lamenting that in the West, "some prefer a cat or a little dog."

Francis has frequently made the same demographic quip at home in Italy, which has one of the world's lowest birthrates. But the high-profile trip meant that his trademark sarcasm got amplified. American commentators immediately assumed Francis had entered the "childless cat ladies" debate roiling U.S. politics, but there was no indication he had JD Vance in mind.

Even in the most delicate moment in Jakarta, at Southeast Asia's biggest mosque, Francis threw protocol aside and kissed the hand of the grand imam and brought it to his cheek in gratitude.

In Papua New Guinea, Francis was similarly jazzed after pulling off a visit to a remote jungle outpost that had seemed impossible for him to reach: The airport in Vanimo, population 11,000, doesn't have an ambulift wheelchair elevator that Francis now needs to get on and off planes, and bringing one in just for him was out of the question.

The stubborn pope, who really, really wanted to go to Vanimo, ended up rolling on and off the back ramp of a C-130 cargo plane that Australia had offered to get him, and the metric ton of medicine and other supplies he brought with him, to the town.

Despite the considerable security concerns of entering a region torn by tribal rivalries, Francis seemed to relish the jungle visit, perhaps because he felt so much at home. A dozen Argentine missionary priests and nuns have lived in Vanimo with the local community for years and had invited him to come. They decorated the simple stage in front of the church with a statue of Argentina's beloved Virgin of Lujan, to whom Francis is particularly devoted, and had a gourd of mate, the Argentine tea, waiting for him.

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In East Timor Francis had to negotiate perhaps the most sensitive issue clouding the visit: the case of Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo, the revered national hero who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent independence campaign. The Vatican revealed in 2022 that it had sanctioned Belo, who now lives in Portugal, for having sexually abused young boys and ordered him to cease contact with East Timor.

Francis didn't mention Belo by name and didn't meet with his victims, but he did reaffirm the need to protect children from "abuse." There was nary a mention of Belo's name in any official speech during a visit in which East Timor's traumatic history and independence fight were repeatedly evoked.

In Singapore, his final stop, Francis once again ditched his remarks when he arrived at the last event, a meeting of Singaporean youth on Friday morning.

"That's the talk I prepared," he said, pointing to his speech and then proceeding to launch into a spontaneous back-and-forth with the young people about the need to have courage and take risks.

"What's worse: Make a mistake because I take a certain path, or not make a mistake and stay home?" he asked them.

He answered his own question, with a response that could explain his own risky decision to embark on the Asia trip in the first place.

"A young person who doesn't take a risk, who is afraid of making a mistake, is an old person," the 87-year-old pope said.

"I hope all of you go forward," he said. "Don't go back. Don't go back. Take risks."

Rising floodwaters trigger evacuations in Czech Republic and Poland

By KAREL JANICEK Associated Press

PRAGUE (AP) — Another night of torrential rains pounding Central Europe forced massive evacuations in the hardest hit areas in the Czech Republic, where floods reached extreme levels on Sunday.

Meteorologists have warned the situation still might get worse as waters in most rivers are rising, the flood wave made its way through the country and more heavy rains could return overnight.

Authorities declared the highest flood warnings in almost 90 places across the country and in two north-eastern regions that recorded the biggest rainfall in recent days, including the Jeseniky mountains near the Polish border.

In the city of Opava, up to 10,000 people out of a population of some 56,000 have been asked to leave their homes for higher ground. Rescuers used boats to transport people to safety in a neighborhood flooded by the raging Opava River.

"There's no reason to wait," Mayor Tomáš Navrátil told the Czech public radio. He said the situation was worse than during the last devastating floods in 1997, known as the "flood of the century."

"We have to focus on saving lives," Prime Minister Petr Fiala told the Czech public television Sunday. His government was to possibly meet Monday to assess the damages.

At least four missing and villages cut off

Thousands of others also were evacuated in the towns of Krnov and Cesky Tesin. The Oder River that flows to Poland was expected to reach extreme levels in the city of Ostrava and later in Bohumin.

Towns and villages in the Jeseniky mountains, including the local center of Jesenik, were inundated and isolated by raging waters that turned roads into rivers. The military sent a helicopter to help with evacuations.

Four people who were swept away by waters were missing, police said.

About 260,000 households were without power Sunday morning in the entire country while traffic was halted on many roads, including the major D1 highway.

A firefighter dies as Lower Austria declared a disaster zone

A firefighter died after "slipping on stairs" while pumping out a flooded basement in the town of Tulln, the head of the fire department of Lower Austria Dietmar Fahrafellner told reporters on Sunday.

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Authorities declared the entire state of Lower Austria a disaster zone. The situation remains tense, especially at the water reservoir of Ottenstein, which is expected to reach its maximum capacity on Sunday.

Dramatic flooding in Poland

In Poland, one person was presumed dead in floods in the southwest, Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Sunday.

Tusk said the situation was "dramatic" around the town of Klodzko, with some 25,000 residents, located in a valley in the Sudetes mountains near the border with the Czech Republic.

In Glucholazy, rising waters overflowed a river embankment and flooded streets and houses. Mayor Paweł Szymkowicz said, "we are drowning" and appealed to residents to evacuate to high ground.

Energy supplies and communications were cut off in some flooded areas and regions may resort to using the satellite-based Starlink service, Tusk said.

Several Central European nations have been hit by severe flooding, including Romania, where four people had died, as well as Austria, Germany, Slovakia and Hungary, as a result of a low-pressure system from northern Italy dumping heavy rainfall in the wide region.

The weather change arrived following a hot start to September in the region, including in Romania. Scientists have documented Earth's hottest summer, breaking a record set just a year ago.

A hotter atmosphere, driven by human-caused climate change, can lead to more intense rainfall.

A missile fired by Yemen's rebels lands in Israel and triggers sirens at international airport

By NATALIE MELZER and OHAD ZWIGENBERG Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — A missile fired by Yemen's Iran-backed rebels landed in an open area in central Israel early Sunday and triggered air raid sirens at its international airport, in the latest reverberation from the nearly yearlong war in Gaza. Israel hinted that it would respond militarily.

There were no reports of casualties or major damage, but Israeli media aired footage showing people racing to shelters in Ben Gurion International Airport. The airport authority said it resumed normal operations shortly thereafter.

A fire could be seen in a rural area of central Israel, and local media showed images of what appeared to be a fragment from an interceptor that landed on an escalator in a train station in the central town of Modiin.

The Israeli military said it made several attempts to intercept the missile using its multitiered air defenses but had not yet determined whether any had been successful. It said the missile appeared to have fragmented midair, and that the incident is still under review. The military said the sound of explosions in the area came from interceptors.

The Yemeni rebels, known as Houthis, have repeatedly fired drones and missiles toward Israel since the start of the war in Gaza between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas, but nearly all of them have been intercepted over the Red Sea.

In July, an Iranian-made drone launched by the Houthis struck Tel Aviv, killing one person and wounding 10 others. Israel responded with a wave of airstrikes on Houthi-held areas of Yemen, including the port city of Hodeidah, a Houthi stronghold.

Israel indicates it will respond to attack

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hinted at a similar response in remarks at a Cabinet meeting after Sunday's attack.

"The Houthis should have known by now that we exact a heavy price for any attempt to harm us," he said. "Anyone who needs a reminder is invited to visit the port of Hodeidah."

Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, a military spokesman for the rebels, said they fired a ballistic missile targeting "a military target" in Jaffa, which is part of Tel Aviv.

Hashim Sharaf al-Din, a spokesperson for the Houthi-run government, said Yemenis will celebrate the birthday of Islam's Prophet Muhammad while "the Israelis will have to be in shelters." Another senior Houthi

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official, Hezam al-Asad, posted a taunting message in Hebrew on the social media platform X.

The Houthis have also repeatedly attacked commercial shipping in the Red Sea, in what the rebels portray as a blockade on Israel in support of the Palestinians. Most of the targeted ships have no connection to Israel.

The war in Gaza, which began with Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into southern Israel, has rippled across the region, with Iran and allied militant groups attacking Israeli and U.S. targets and drawing retaliatory strikes from Israel and its Western allies. On several occasions, the strikes and counterstrikes have threatened to trigger a wider conflict.

International carriers have canceled flights into and out of Israel on a number of occasions since the start of the war, adding to the war's economic toll on the country.

Iran supports militant groups across the region, including Hamas, the Houthis and Lebanon's Hezbollah, its most powerful ally, which has traded fire with Israel on a near-daily basis since the war in Gaza began. Iran and its allies say they are acting in solidarity with the Palestinians.

Missiles fired from Lebanon

The military said around 40 projectiles were fired from Lebanon early Sunday, with most intercepted or falling in open areas.

The strikes along the Israel-Lebanon border have displaced tens of thousands of people on both sides. Israel has repeatedly threatened to launch a wider military operation against Hezbollah to ensure its citizens can return to their homes.

"The status quo will not continue," Netanyahu said at the Cabinet meeting. "This requires a change in the balance of power on our northern border. We will do everything necessary to return our residents safely to their homes."

Hezbollah has said it would halt its attacks if there is a cease-fire in Gaza. The United States and Arab mediators Egypt and Qatar have spent much of this year trying to broker a truce and the release of scores of hostages held by Hamas, but the talks have repeatedly bogged down.

In recent weeks, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has insisted on lasting Israeli control over the Gaza side of the border with Egypt, which Israeli forces captured in May. He has said Hamas used a network of tunnels beneath the border to import arms, allegations denied by Egypt, which along with Hamas is opposed to any lasting Israeli presence there.

An Israeli military official said late Saturday that of the dozens of tunnels discovered along the border, only nine entered Egypt, and all were found to have been sealed off. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence, said it was not clear when the tunnels were sealed.

The discovery appeared to weaken Netanyahu's argument that Israel needs to keep open-ended control of the corridor to prevent cross-border smuggling.

Egypt has said it sealed off the tunnels on its side of the border years ago, in part by creating its own military buffer zone along the frontier.

Tropical Storm Ileana weakens to a depression

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Storm Ileana has weakened to a tropical depression, the National Hurricane Center said Sunday.

The tropical storm formed Thursday off Mexico's Pacific coast as it moved ashore, making landfall on the coast of the Mexican state of Sinaloa Saturday, a day after it pounded the resort-studded Los Cabos.

On Sunday, wind speed dropped to 35 mph (55 kph), NOAA said in an advisory, as Ileana was nearly 30 miles (45 kilometers) southwest of Los Mochis, Mexico, and moving west-northwest at 2 mph (4 kph). It also forecasts the storm to become a remnant low — a post-tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds less than 34 knots.

On Friday, a warning had been in effect for portions of the Baja California Peninsula, including Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo.

Juan Manuel Arce Ortega, from Los Cabos Civil Protection, said the municipalities of La Paz and Los

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Cabos had suspended classes in schools due to the storm.

Authorities prepared 20 temporary shelters in San Jose del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas, according to Los Cabos Civil Protection.

At the Hacienda Beach Club and Residences in Cabo San Lucas, valet worker Alan Galvan said the rain arrived late Thursday night and has been constant. "The rain isn't very strong right now, but the waves are choppy," he said.

"The guests are very calm and already came down for coffee," Galvan said. "There's some flights canceled but everything is ok at the moment."

The rain remained consistent through Los Cabos Friday afternoon, with several roads flooded and some resorts stacking up sandbags on their perimeters. Some people were still walking around boat docks with their umbrellas.

"The priority has to be safety, starting with the workers. We always have to check on our colleagues who live in risk areas," said Lyzzette Liceaga, a tour operator at Los Cabos.

Ileana was the only active tropical storm in the National Weather Service's Eastern Pacific basin on Friday. In the Atlantic basin, post-tropical cyclone Francine was bringing heavy rain to parts of the southern United States, and Tropical Storm Gordon formed on Friday in the Atlantic Ocean, with forecasters saying it is expected to remain over open water for several days.

Tech billionaire returns to Earth after first private spacewalk

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A billionaire spacewalker returned to Earth with his crew on Sunday, ending a five-day trip that lifted them higher than anyone has traveled since NASA's moonwalkers.

SpaceX's capsule splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico near Florida's Dry Tortugas in the predawn darkness, carrying tech entrepreneur Jared Isaacman, two SpaceX engineers and a former Air Force Thunderbird pilot.

They pulled off the first private spacewalk while orbiting nearly 460 miles (740 kilometers) above Earth, higher than the International Space Station and Hubble Space Telescope. Their spacecraft hit a peak altitude of 875 miles (1,408 kilometers) following Tuesday's liftoff.

Isaacman became only the 264th person to perform a spacewalk since the former Soviet Union scored the first in 1965, and SpaceX's Sarah Gillis the 265th. Until now, all spacewalks were done by professional astronauts.

"We are mission complete," Isaacman radioed as the capsule bobbed in the water, awaiting the recovery team. Within an hour, all four were out of their spacecraft, pumping their fists with joy as they emerged onto the ship's deck.

It was the first time SpaceX aimed for a splashdown near the Dry Tortugas, a cluster of islands 70 miles (113 kilometers) west of Key West. To celebrate the new location, SpaceX employees brought a big, green turtle balloon to Mission Control at company headquarters in Hawthorne, California. The company usually targets closer to the Florida coast, but two weeks of poor weather forecasts prompted SpaceX to look elsewhere.

During Thursday's commercial spacewalk, the Dragon capsule's hatch was open barely a half-hour. Isaacman emerged only up to his waist to briefly test SpaceX's brand new spacesuit followed by Gillis, who was knee high as she flexed her arms and legs for several minutes. Gillis, a classically trained violinist, also held a performance in orbit earlier in the week.

The spacewalk lasted less than two hours, considerably shorter than those at the International Space Station. Most of that time was needed to depressurize the entire capsule and then restore the cabin air. Even SpaceX's Anna Menon and Scott "Kidd" Poteet, who remained strapped in, wore spacesuits.

SpaceX considers the brief exercise a starting point to test spacesuit technology for future, longer missions to Mars.

This was Isaacman's second chartered flight with SpaceX, with two more still ahead under his personally financed space exploration program named Polaris after the North Star. He paid an undisclosed sum

for his first spaceflight in 2021, taking along contest winners and a pediatric cancer survivor while raising more than \$250 million for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

For the just completed so-called Polaris Dawn mission, the founder and CEO of the Shift4 credit card-processing company shared the cost with SpaceX. Isaacman won't divulge how much he spent.

Which candidate is better for tech innovation? Venture capitalists divided on Harris or Trump

SARAH PARVINI and MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Being a venture capitalist carries a lot of prestige in Silicon Valley. Those who choose which startups to fund see themselves as fostering the next big waves of technology.

So when some of the industry's biggest names endorsed former President Donald Trump and the one-time VC he picked for a running mate, JD Vance, people took notice.

Then hundreds of other VCs -- some high profile, others lesser-known -- threw their weight behind Vice President Kamala Harris, drawing battle lines over which presidential candidate will be better for tech innovation and the conditions startups need to thrive. For years, many of Silicon Valley's political discussions took place behind closed doors. Now, those casual debates have gone public — on podcasts, social media and online manifestos.

Venture capitalist and Harris backer Stephen DeBerry says some of his best friends support Trump. Though centered in a part of Northern California known for liberal politics, the investors who help finance the tech industry have long been a more politically divided bunch.

"We ski together. Our families are together. We're super tight," said DeBerry, who runs the Bronze Venture Fund. "This is not about not being able to talk to each other. I love these guys -- they're almost all guys. They're dear friends. We just have a difference of perspective on policy issues."

It remains to be seen if the more than 700 venture capitalists who've voiced support for a movement called "VCs for Kamala" will match the pledges of Trump's well-heeled supporters such as Elon Musk and Peter Thiel. But the effort marks "the first time I've seen a galvanized group of folks from our industry coming together and coalescing around our shared values," DeBerry said.

"There are a lot of practical reasons for VCs to support Trump," including policies that could drive corporate profits and stock market values and favor wealthy benefactors, said David Cowan, an investor at Bessemer Venture Partners. But Cowan said he is supporting Harris as a VC with a "long-term investment horizon" because a "Trump world reeling from rampant income inequality, raging wars and global warming is not an attractive environment" for funding healthy businesses.

Several prominent VCs have voiced their support for Trump on Musk's social platform X. Public records show some of them have donated to a new, pro-Trump super PAC called America PAC, whose donors include powerful tech industry conservatives with ties to SpaceX and Paypal and who run in Musk's social circle. Also driving support is Trump's embrace of cryptocurrency and promise to end an enforcement crackdown on the industry.

Although some Biden policies have alienated parts of the investment sector concerned about tax policy, antitrust scrutiny or overregulation, Harris' bid for the presidency has reenergized interest from VCs who until recently sat on the sidelines. Some of that excitement is due to existing relationships with Silicon Valley that are borne out of Harris' career in the San Francisco area and her time as California's attorney general.

"We buy risk, right? And we're trying to buy the right type of risk," Leslie Feinzaig, founder of "VCs for Kamala" said in an interview. "It's really hard for these companies that are trying to build products and scale to do so in an unpredictable institutional environment."

The schism in tech has left some firms split in their allegiances. Although venture capitalists Marc Andreessen and Ben Horowitz, founders of the firm that is their namesake, endorsed Trump, one of their firm's general partners, John O'Farrell, pledged his support for Harris. O'Farrell declined further comment.

Doug Leone, the former managing partner of Sequoia Capital, endorsed Trump in June, expressing

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concern on X "about the general direction of our country, the state of our broken immigration system, the ballooning deficit, and the foreign policy missteps, among other issues." But Leone's longtime business partner at Sequoia, Michael Moritz, wrote in the Financial Times that tech leaders supporting Trump "are making a big mistake."

Shaun Maguire, a partner at Sequoia, posted on X that he donated \$300,000 to Trump's campaign after supporting Hilary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election. Federal Election Commission records show that Maguire donated \$500,000 to America PAC in June; Leone donated \$1 million.

"The area where I disagree with Republicans the most is on women's rights. And I'm sure I'll disagree with some of Trump's policies in the future," Maguire wrote. "But in general I think he was surprisingly prescient."

Feinzaig, managing director at venture firm Graham & Walker, said that she launched "VCs for Kamala" because she felt frustrated that "the loudest voices" were starting to "sound like they were speaking for the entire industry."

Much of the VC discourse about elections is in response to a July podcast and manifesto in which Andreessen and Horowitz backed Trump and outlined their vision of a "Little Tech Agenda" that they said contrasted with the policies sought by Big Tech.

They accused the U.S. government of increasing hostility toward startups and the VCs who fund them, citing Biden's proposed higher taxes on the wealthy and corporations and regulations they said could hobble emerging industries involving blockchain and artificial intelligence.

Vance, a U.S. senator from Ohio who spent time in San Francisco working at Thiel's investment firm, voiced a similar perspective about "little tech" more than a month before he was chosen as Trump's running mate.

"The donors who were really involved in Silicon Valley in a pro-Trump way, they're not big tech, right? They're little tech. They're starting innovative companies. They don't want the government to destroy their ability to innovate," Vance said in an interview on Fox News in June.

Days earlier, Vance had joined Trump at a San Francisco fundraiser at the home of venture capitalist and former PayPal executive David Sacks, a longtime conservative. Vance said Trump spoke to about 100 attendees that included "some of the leading innovators in AI."

DeBerry said he doesn't disagree with everything Andreessen Horowitz founders espouse, particularly their wariness about powerful companies controlling the agencies that regulate them. But he objects to their "little tech" framing, especially coming from a multibillion-dollar investment firm that he says is hardly the voice of the little guy. For DeBerry, whose firm focuses on social impact, the choice is not between big and little tech but "chaos and stability," with Harris representing stability.

Complicating the allegiances is that a tough approach to breaking up the monopoly power of big corporations no longer falls along partisan lines. Vance has spoken favorably of Lina Khan, who Biden picked to lead the Federal Trade Commission and has taken on several tech giants. Meanwhile, some of the most influential VCs backing Harris -- such as LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman; and Sun Microsystems co-founder Vinod Khosla, an early investor in ChatGPT-maker OpenAI -- have sharply criticized Khan's approach.

U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna, a Democrat whose California district encompasses part of Silicon Valley, said Trump supporters are a vocal minority reflecting a "third or less" of the region's tech community. But while the White House has appealed to tech entrepreneurs with its investments in clean energy, electric vehicles and semiconductors, Khanna said Democrats must do a better job of showing that they understand the appeal of digital assets.

"I do think that the perceived lack of embrace of Bitcoin and the blockchain has hurt the Democratic Party among the young generation and among young entrepreneurs," Khanna said.

Naseem Sayani, a general partner at Emmeline Ventures, said Andreessen and Horowitz's support of Trump became a lightning rod for those in tech who do not back the Republican nominee. Sayani signed onto "VCs for Kamala," she said, because she wanted the types of businesses that she helps fund to know that the investor community is not monolithic.

"We're not single-profile founders anymore," she said. "There's women, there's people of color, there's

all the intersections. How can they feel comfortable building businesses when the environment they're in doesn't actually support their existence in some ways?"

Several people have died trying to cross the English Channel from France, authorities say

Several people died early Sunday during a failed attempt to cross the English Channel from northern France, French authorities said.

A rescue operation is underway, and survivors of the tragedy have been taken to the sports hall in the northern town of Ambleteuse, according to a statement from the prefecture of Pas-de-Calais region.

The incident Saturday occurred nearly two weeks after a boat carrying migrants ripped apart in the English Channel as they attempted to reach Britain from northern France, plunging dozens into the treacherous waterway and leaving 13 dead, officials said.

On Saturday, French coast guard and navy vessels rescued 200 people from the treacherous waters in the Pas-de-Calais area, according to a report sent by French maritime authorities in charge of the Channel and the North Sea.

They said they observed 18 attempts of boat departures from France to Britain on Saturday.

Before Saturday's accident, at least 43 migrants had died or gone missing while trying to cross to the U.K. this year, according to the International Organization for Migration.

In July, four migrants died while attempting the crossing on an inflatable boat that capsized and punctured. Five others, including a child, died in another attempt in April. Five dead were recovered from the sea or found washed up along a beach after a migrant boat ran into difficulties in the dark and winter cold of January.

Traces of this Pakistani megacity's past are vanishing, but one flamboyant pink palace endures

By RIAZAT BUTT Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Stained glass windows, a sweeping staircase and embellished interiors make Mohatta Palace a gem in Karachi, a Pakistani megacity of 20 million people. Peacocks roam the lawn and the sounds of construction and traffic melt away as visitors enter the grounds.

The pink stone balustrades, domes and parapets look like they've been plucked from the northern Indian state of Rajasthan, a relic of a time when Muslims and Hindus lived side by side in the port city.

But magnificence is no guarantee of survival in a city where land is scarce and development is rampant. Demolition, encroachment, neglect, piecemeal conservation laws and vandalism are eroding signs of Karachi's past.

The building's trustees have fended off an attempt to turn it into a dental college, but there's still a decadeslong lawsuit in which heirs of a former owner are trying to take control of the land. It sat empty for almost two decades before formally opening as a museum in 1999.

The palace sits on prime real estate in the desirable neighborhood of Old Clifton, among mansions, businesses and upmarket restaurants.

The land under buildings like the Mohatta Palace is widely coveted, said palace lawyer Faisal Siddiqi. "It shows that greed is more important than heritage."

Karachi's population grows by around 2% every year and with dozens of communities and cultures competing for space there's little effort to protect the city's historic sites.

For most Pakistanis, the palace is the closest they'll get to the architectural splendor of India's Rajasthan, because travel restrictions and hostile bureaucracies largely keep people in either country from crossing the border for leisure, study or work.

Karachi's multicultural past makes it harder to find champions for preservation than in a city like Lahore,

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with its strong connection to the Muslim-dominated Mughal Empire, said Heba Hashmi, a heritage manager and maritime archaeologist.

"The scale of organic local community support needed to prioritize government investment in the preservation effort is nearly impossible to garner in a city as socially fragmented as Karachi," she said.

Mohatta Palace is a symbol of that diversity. Hindu entrepreneur Shivraton Mohatta had it built in the 1920s because he wanted a coastal residence for his ailing wife to benefit from the Arabian Sea breeze. Hundreds of donkey carts carried the distinctively colored pink stone from Jodhpur, now across the border in India.

He left after partition in 1947, when India and Pakistan were carved from the former British Empire as independent nations, and for a time the palace was occupied by the Foreign Ministry.

Next, it passed into the hands of Pakistani political royalty as the home of Fatima Jinnah, the younger sister of Pakistan's first leader and a powerful politician in her own right.

After her death, the authorities gave the building to her sister Shirin, but Shirin's passing in 1980 sparked a court fight between people saying they were her relatives, and a court ordered the building sealed.

The darkened and empty palace, with its overgrown gardens and padlocked gates, caught people's imagination. Rumors spread of spirits and supernatural happenings.

Someone who heard the stories as a young girl was Nasreen Askari, now the museum's director.

"As a child I used to rush past," she said. "I was told it was a bhoot (ghost) bungalow and warned, don't go there."

Visitor Ahmed Tariq had heard a lot about the palace's architecture and history. "I'm from Bahawalpur (in Punjab, India) where we have the Noor Mahal palace, so I wanted to look at this one. It's well-maintained, there's a lot of detail and effort in the presentations. It's been a good experience."

But the money to maintain the palace isn't coming from admission fees.

General admission is 30 rupees, or 10 U.S. cents, and it's free for students, children and seniors. On a sweltering afternoon, the palace drew just a trickle of visitors.

It's open Tuesday to Sunday but closes on public holidays; even the 11 a.m.-6 p.m. hours are not conducive for a late-night city like Karachi.

The palace is rented out for corporate and charitable events. Local media report that residents grumble about traffic and noise levels.

But the palace doesn't welcome all attention, even if it could help carve out a space for the building in modern Pakistan.

Rumors about ghosts still spread by TikTok, pulling in influencers looking for spooky stories. But the palace bans filming inside, and briefly banned TikTokers.

"It is not the attention the trustees wanted," said Askari. "That's what happens when you have anything of consequence or unusual. It catches the eye."

A sign on the gates also prohibits fashion shoots, weddings and filming for commercials.

"We could make so much money, but the floodgates would open," said Askari. "There would be non-stop weddings and no space for visitors or events, so much cleaning up as well."

Hashmi, the archaeologist, said there is often a strong sense of territorialism around the sites that have been preserved.

"It counterproductively converts a site of public heritage into an exclusive and often expensive artifact for selective consumption."

Takeaways from AP's report on a new abortion clinic in rural southeast Kansas

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and JOHN HANNA Associated Press

PITTSBURG, Kan. (AP) — A new abortion clinic has brought the debate over reproductive rights to a small college town in the southeast corner of Kansas. It's one of the few states left in the region still allowing abortions.

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A religious, Republican-leaning semi-rural location like Pittsburg, Kansas, would have been unlikely to host an abortion clinic before Roe v. Wade was overturned in 2022, but that is changing across the country.

The Associated Press reported on the new clinic and the town's reactions. Here are key takeaways.

Border states are becoming abortion-access hubs

Over the past two years, Kansas is one of five states that people are most likely to travel to in order to get an abortion if their state doesn't offer the procedure, said Caitlin Myers, an economics professor at Middlebury College who researches abortion policies.

Abortions have spiked by 152% in Kansas after Roe, according to a recent analysis by the Guttmacher Institute, which supports abortion rights.

Using Myers' count, six of the clinics in Kansas, Illinois, New Mexico, North Carolina and Virginia that have opened or relocated post-Roe are in communities with fewer than 25,000 people. Two others are in communities of fewer than 50,000.

Kansas voters protected abortion rights

Five weeks after Roe was overturned, voters in Kansas had to decide whether to strip the right to an abortion from the state constitution, which could have led to an outright ban.

Pittsburg is in Crawford County, where 55% of voters were part of the 59% of voters statewide who killed the proposal. But the rural counties surrounding Pittsburg voted for the amendment.

Kansas' statewide percentage is in line with an Associated Press-NORC poll from 2024 that showed 6 in 10 Americans think their state should generally allow a person to obtain a legal abortion if they don't want to be pregnant for any reason.

Abortion in Kansas is generally legal up until the 22nd week of pregnancy.

Planned Parenthood has turned people away in Kansas

The new abortion clinic will be run by Planned Parenthood Great Plains. Its location is a few minutes' drive from the Missouri border and is less than an hour away from Oklahoma.

All of Kansas' other abortion clinics are in larger metro areas, where clinics have expanded hours — but appointments are still in short supply. About 60% to 65% of people who call Planned Parenthood clinics in Kansas for an abortion appointment are turned away because there isn't enough capacity, said Emily Wales, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Great Plains.

The bulk of people looking for abortions in Kansas are from out of state — mostly Texas, which is about five hours south, Wales said. She added that some come from as far away as Louisiana and even Florida, which now prohibits the procedure after six weeks.

Small towns can be welcoming — or not

Experts said smaller-sized clinics can be less overwhelming for women who are coming from rural areas, like those surrounding Pittsburg. But, often, there is little anonymity in these places where religious and family ties often run deep.

Pittsburg is home to a state university with about 7,400 students. The town is also increasingly religious, with twice as many white evangelical Protestants as the national average, and the area is increasingly Republican.

Pittsburg State students who The Associated Press talked to are supportive of the clinic, as are many of the Democrats in town.

But churches in Pittsburg are training people on how to protest at the abortion clinic, and Vie Medical Clinic, a crisis pregnancy center, has seen an increase in donations.

'Shogun,' 'The Bear' and 'Baby Reindeer' are at the top of the queue as the Emmys arrive

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Shogun" could be in for an epic night, "The Bear" could clean up for the second time in less than a year, and "Baby Reindeer" has gone from dark horse to contender as the 76th Prime-

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time Emmy Awards arrive on Sunday.

Back in their traditional mid-September spot after a single strike-delayed edition in January, the Emmys will air live on ABC from the Peacock Theater in downtown Los Angeles. The father and son duo of Eugene and Dan Levy, the winning stars of the 2020 Emmys with their show "Schitt's Creek," will host.

Here's a look at the how the evening could play out across the major categories.

How to watch and stream the Emmys

The show begins at 8 p.m. Eastern and is being shown live on ABC, which is available with an antenna or through cable and satellite providers.

The Emmys can be also streamed live through live TV streaming services that include ABC in their lineup, like Hulu+ Live TV, YouTube TV and FuboTV. For those without a live TV streaming service, the show will be streaming Monday on Hulu.

Who's nominated for drama series at the Emmys

It may be impossible to slow the roll of "Shogun."

With its 14 wins at the precursor Creative Arts Emmy Awards last weekend, the FX series about lordly politicking in feudal Japan has already set a record for most Emmys for a single season of a series.

On Sunday night it can extend its record by six, and industry prognosticators are predicting it will get them all.

The show seized all the Emmy power in the top categories by shifting from the limited series to the drama category in May when it began developing more seasons. And it was in some ways Emmy royalty from the start. During the golden age of the miniseries, the original 1980 "Shogun," based on James Clavell's historical novel, won three including best limited series.

If it faces any competition at all for the best drama prize, it could come for the sixth and final season of "The Crown," the only show among the nominees that has won before in a category recently dominated by the retired "Succession."

Veteran screen star Hiroyuki Sanada, up for best actor, and Anna Sawai, up for best actress, are in position to become the first Japanese actors to win Emmys.

Sanada could face a challenge from Gary Oldman, who has been quietly creating one of his career defining roles on Apple TV+ as schlubby spy chief Jackson Lamb on "Slow Horses."

Sawai's competition comes from Emmy luminary Jennifer Aniston of "The Morning Show," who has only won once before in 10 nominations. Imelda Staunton could win her first for playing Queen Elizabeth II on "The Crown."

The comedy landscape at the Emmys

This looks to be the year of FX, which is also in for a likely victory lap for "The Bear."

"The Bear" took most of the big comedy Emmys home in January for its first season, and is expected to do the same Sunday for its second, which includes nominations for best comedy series, best actor for Jeremy Allen White and best supporting actor for Ebon Moss-Bachrach.

Ayo Edebiri, reigning best supporting actress, moves to the lead actress category for a character who is essentially a co-lead on the culinary dramedy. That means she'll be up against Jean Smart, a two-time winner in the category for "Hacks" who is back in the competition after a year off.

Meryl Streep, among several Academy Award winners among the night's nominees, could win her fourth Emmy to go with her three Oscars. She's up for best supporting actress in a comedy for "Only Murders in the Building."

Limited series categories at the Emmys

Another multiple Oscar winner, Jodie Foster, could get her first Emmy for best actress in a limited series for "True Detective: Night Country."

The HBO show that features Foster as a police chief investigating mysterious deaths in the darkness of a north Alaskan winter was the top nominee among limited or anthology series. Kali Reis could become the first Indigenous woman to win an Emmy in the supporting actress category.

A few months ago it looked as though the show would vie with " Fargo " for the top prizes, but Netflix's

darkly quirky "Baby Reindeer" surged on the eve of nominations and is now the popular pick for best limited series, best actor for creator and star Richard Gadd and best supporting actress for the woman who plays his tormentor, Jessica Gunning.

Gadd's category also includes Andrew Scott for Netflix's "Ripley," and Jon Hamm, who has two shots at winning his second Emmy between his nomination here for " Fargo" and for supporting actor in a drama for "The Morning Show."

How a small town in Kansas found itself at the center of abortion's national moment

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and JOHN HANNA Associated Press

PITTSBURG, Kan. (AP) — The Rev. Anthony Navaratnam stood before his congregation and urged them to pray for the women from surrounding states who will flock to the new abortion clinic in town that opened in August.

"God is giving us an opportunity to be missionaries in Pittsburg, Kansas," he told those at Flag Church, which hosted a training on how to protest outside of the clinic.

The debate over reproductive rights has landed in this college town of 20,000 in the southeast corner of one of the few states left in the region still allowing abortions. It is near Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas and not terribly far from Texas.

A place this size, especially one in a historically red state, was unlikely to have an abortion clinic before Roe v. Wade was overturned in 2022. Since then, Kansas has become one of five states that people are most likely to travel to in order to get an abortion when they're unable to at home, said Caitlin Myers, an economics professor at Middlebury College who researches abortion policies.

Abortions spiked in Kansas by 152% after Roe, according to a recent analysis by the Guttmacher Institute, which supports abortion rights. Using Myers' count, six of the clinics in Kansas, Illinois, New Mexico, North Carolina and Virginia that have opened or relocated post-Roe are in communities with fewer than 25,000 people. Two others are in communities of fewer than 50,000.

"Kansas is really the only one in this region that can provide care to many people in these surrounding states," said Kensey Wright, a member of the board of directors for the Roe Fund in Oklahoma, which supports Kansas abortion clinics through grants.

"Without abortion clinics in that state, we would be without hope," Wright said.

Providing abortions for out-of-state people

Housed in a former urology office, Pittsburg's Planned Parenthood clinic sits across the street from a medical clinic run by a Catholic health care system. Behind the clinic are houses.

Clinic manager Logan Rink said her mother used to work in this building as a nurse — a connection that's "small-town stuff." She loves this town, and said her neighbors agree the clinic is needed. But she was guarded in her optimism, saying "the reception that we are going to get from the community is going to be favorable in some ways and probably not always."

Experts said smaller-sized clinics can be less overwhelming for women who are coming from rural areas, like those surrounding Pittsburg. But there is no anonymity in these smaller communities, where religious and family ties often run deep. Pittsburg was established in 1876, and settled largely by immigrants from Catholic-leaning countries who came to work at surrounding coal mines. There's a typical main street and a state university with about 7,400 students.

"In a small town, it's not just that you'll know that person. Your family will know them. You will have known them for 40 years," said Dr. Emily Walters, a supporter of the Pittsburg clinic who works as an anesthesiologist at a hospital in neighboring Missouri. "Your stories will be intertwined."

She wondered aloud, "How do I see you at a protest and then see you the next day at the grocery store and still be able to be polite and civil with each other?"

Walters also chairs the Crawford County Democratic Party in an area that is increasingly Republican and has no Democratic state legislators — a change from 20 years ago when there were six. The county also

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has become increasingly religious in the same span; it now has twice as many white evangelical Protestants as the national average, and slightly more Catholics, according to the Public Religion Research Institute.

Just five weeks after Roe was overturned in 2022, voters in Kansas had to decide whether to strip the right to an abortion from the state constitution, which could have led to an outright ban. Despite the Republican and religious leanings, 55% of Crawford County voters were part of the 59% of voters statewide who killed the proposal.

It's in line with an Associated Press-NORC poll from 2024 that showed 6 in 10 Americans think their state should generally allow a person to obtain a legal abortion if they don't want to be pregnant for any reason. But the rural counties that surrounded Pittsburg chose otherwise at the ballot box.

"I remember people were stealing yard signs, putting up different ones in people's yards," said Anastin Journot, an 18-year-old from Independence, Kansas, who is majoring in elementary education at Pittsburg State. She said she was alarmed by Roe getting overturned, remembering she thought: "What if I'm in a situation where I'm needing to get an abortion and it's not an option?"

Abortion in Kansas is generally legal up until the 22nd week of pregnancy. The clinic's southern location puts it closer to states that have banned abortions instead of sending people to Kansas' larger cities, where hours have been expanded and appointments are still in short supply.

About 60% to 65% of people who call Planned Parenthood clinics in Kansas for an abortion appointment are turned away because there isn't enough capacity, said Emily Wales, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Great Plains. Already, Wales said, the bulk of people seeking abortions in Kansas are from out of state — mostly Texas, which is about five hours south. After that, it's Missouri, a few minutes' drive east and Oklahoma, less than an hour away. She said some come from as far away as Louisiana and even Florida, which now prohibits the procedure after six weeks.

Clinics "strategically placed near (a state's) border can really help ease the congestion," said Ushma Upadhyay, a public health scientist at the University of California San Francisco who studies abortion.

Most of the area that's 100 miles from the new clinic has been designated as medically underserved for primary care by the federal government, and the number of obstetricians and gynecologists for every 100,000 female residents is less than half of the U.S. average.

For now, though, the focus at the Pittsburg clinic will be on abortion. Wales said Planned Parenthood wants to slowly add more services over the next two to three months, and one future goal for the clinic is to provide gender-affirming care. Neighboring states have restricted that, too.

"Pittsburg is going to lift up a whole lot of states in the South and help people get care," Wales said.

But those additions, she added, will come after staff gets used to the patients and the presence of protesters and opposition.

Protesters are at the ready

Donations are up at Vie Medical Clinic, the town's crisis pregnancy center, executive director Megan Newman said. Such centers are typically religiously affiliated and encourage clients to continue their pregnancies.

People opposed to the Planned Parenthood clinic also are picking up pamphlets about Vie so they can hand them out to those seeking abortions. "When we got word that Planned Parenthood was coming, you could just kind of feel that in the town," Newman said.

Jeanne Napier, a 68-year-old who attends a local Baptist church, vowed as she shopped at the local mall that she'll "be there every day with signs."

Her daughter, Terri Napier, said in a phone interview she believes part of her parents' opposition to the clinic is from watching her struggle about 20 years ago. She was in an abusive relationship with someone who has since died. She got pregnant. The family was fearful of bringing a child into the situation.

She had an abortion, and spiraled into drug use. "I was at war with forgiving myself," said the 43-year-old, who is now clean.

Jeanne Napier said she felt like she encouraged the abortion. "And I hate that," she said, "because I wish I could take that sin upon myself, so it's real personal. I had an active play in terminating a life, and we don't have that right."

Brianna Barnes, a 19-year-old journalism major at Pittsburg State who is from Wichita, has protested

and prayed outside of a clinic in her hometown.

"If someone made eye contact with us, we just smiled at them, kind of showing that love and care because no one responds well to screaming, yelling, violence no matter what side it's on," she said just after arriving on campus for the fall semester. Most of the students the AP talked to voiced support for the clinic.

Her mother, Crystal Barnes, 42, turned to her daughter: "You're going to be the odd man out being a Catholic, and conservative, especially with things like abortion. It is so heated."

The Friday before the clinic opened, crews installed a wooden facade outside, the air filled with the smell of fresh-cut lumber. Walters, the local anesthesiologist, had stopped by to check on the progress.

Walters' support comes from a personal place. When she was 20 and the same number of weeks pregnant, she went to an emergency room, bleeding. She said she was sent home to miscarry instead of having her labor induced or having a procedure to remove the fetus.

That experience — "horrific, and wouldn't be considered standard of care, in modern practice," she said — left her with a deep empathy for women in tough positions.

Just before the 2022 vote, an ad backed by 400 Kansas doctors who support abortion rights ran in some of the state's largest papers, including The Kansas City Star. Walters' name was listed first. During that time, her home address appeared online, a frightening prospect in a state where abortion provider Dr. George Tiller was shot dead in 2009 at his Wichita church by an anti-abortion extremist.

"It is critical health care for women," she said. "It is going to be disruptive to Pittsburg. And that part hurts my heart."

A 'Trump Train' convoy surrounded a Biden-Harris bus. Was it political violence?

By NADIA LATHAN Associated Press/Report for America

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A Texas jury will soon decide whether a convoy of supporters of then-President Donald Trump violently intimidated former Democratic lawmaker Wendy Davis and two others on a Biden-Harris campaign bus when a so-called "Trump Train" boxed them in for more than an hour on a Texas highway days before the 2020 election.

The trial, which began on Sept. 9, resumes Monday and is expected to last another week.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs argued that six of the Trump Train drivers violated state and federal law. Lawyers for the defendants said they did not conspire against the Democrats on the bus and that their actions are protected speech.

Here's what else to know:

What happened on Oct. 30, 2020?

Dozens of cars and trucks organized by a local Trump Train group swarmed the bus on its way from San Antonio to Austin. It was the last day of early voting in Texas for the 2020 general election, and the bus was scheduled to make a stop in San Marcos for an event at Texas State University.

Video recorded by Davis shows pickup trucks with large Trump flags aggressively slowing down and boxing in the bus as it tried to move away from the Trump Train. One defendant hit a campaign volunteer's car while the trucks occupied all lanes of traffic, slowing the bus and everyone around it to a 15 mph crawl.

Those on the bus — including Davis, a campaign staffer and the driver — repeatedly called 911 asking for help and a police escort through San Marcos, but when no law enforcement arrived, the campaign canceled the event and pushed forward to Austin.

San Marcos settled a separate lawsuit filed by the same three Democrats against the police, agreeing to pay \$175,000 and mandate political violence training for law enforcement.

Davis testified that she felt she was being "taken hostage" and has sought treatment for anxiety.

In the days leading up to the event, Democrats were also intimidated, harassed and received death threats, the lawsuit said.

"I feel like they were enjoying making us afraid," Davis testified. "It's traumatic for all of us to revisit that day."

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What's the plaintiffs' argument?

In opening statements, an attorney for the plaintiffs said convoy organizers targeted the bus in a calculated attack to intimidate the Democrats in violation of the "Ku Klux Klan Act," an 1871 federal law that bans political violence and intimidation.

"We're here because of actions that put people's lives in danger," said Samuel Hall, an attorney with the law firm Willkie Farr & Gallagher. The plaintiffs, he said, were "literally driven out of town by a swarm of trucks."

The six Trump Train drivers succeeded in making the campaign cancel its remaining events in Texas in a war they believed was "between good and evil," Hall said.

Two nonprofit advocacy groups, Texas Civil Rights Project and Protect Democracy, also are representing the three plaintiffs.

What's the defense's argument?

Attorneys for the defendants, who are accused of driving and organizing the convoy, said they did not conspire to swarm the Democrats on the bus, which could have exited the highway at any point.

"This was a political rally. This was not some conspiracy to intimidate people," said attorney Jason Greaves, who is representing two of the drivers.

The defense also argued that their clients' actions were protected speech and that the trial is a concerted effort to "drain conservatives of their money," according to Francisco Canseco, a lawyer for three of the defendants.

"It was a rah-rah group that sought to support and advocate for a candidate of their choice in a very loud way," Canseco said during opening statements.

The defense lost a bid last month to have the case ruled in their favor without a trial. The judge wrote that "assaulting, intimidating, or imminently threatening others with force is not protected expression."

Hispanic Heritage Month puts diversity and culture at the forefront

By FERNANDA FIGUEROA Associated Press

Huge celebrations across the U.S. are expected to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, an annual tradition that showcases the awe-inspiring diversity and culture of Hispanic people.

Celebrated each year from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, the month is a chance for many in the U.S. to learn about and celebrate the contributions of Hispanics, the country's fastest-growing racial or ethnic minority, according to the census. The group includes people whose ancestors come from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

There are more than 65 million people identified as ethnically Hispanic in the U.S., according to the latest census estimates.

Heritage week embraces the sprawling histories of Latinos

Before there was National Hispanic Heritage Month, there was Hispanic Heritage Week, which was created through legislation sponsored by Mexican American U.S. Rep. Edward R. Roybal of Los Angeles and signed into law in 1968 by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

The weeklong commemoration was expanded to a month two decades later, with legislation signed into law by President Ronald Reagan.

"It was clustered around big celebrations for the community," Alberto Lammers, director of communications at the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute said. "It became a chance for people to know Hispanic cultures, for Latinos to get to know a community better and for the American public to understand a little better the long history of Latinos in the U.S."

The month is a way for Hispanics to showcase their diversity and culture with the support of the government, said Rachel Gonzalez-Martin, an associate professor of Mexican American and Latino Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point to coincide with the anniversary of "El Grito de Dolores," or the "Cry of Dolores," which was issued in 1810 from a town in central Mexico that launched that country's war for independence from Spain.

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The Central American nations of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica celebrate their independence on Sept. 15, and Mexico marks its national day on Sept. 16, the day after the cry for independence.

Also during National Hispanic Heritage Month, the South American nation of Chile observes its independence day on Sept. 18. Indigenous Peoples' Day, previously known as Columbus Day, is observed in the U.S. on the second Monday of October.

Over the past decade, the month has grown due to the larger Latino consumer base in the U.S., Gonzalez-Martin said. Gonzalez-Martin said visible support from the federal government, including celebrations at the White House, has also made it easier for Hispanics to celebrate.

"Hispanic Heritage Month was a way in which to be Hispanic and Latino but with official blessing," Gonzalez-Martin said. "It was a recognition of belonging and that became really powerful."

The four-week period is about honoring the way Hispanic populations have shaped the U.S. in the past and present, Lammers said.

"It gives us a chance to acknowledge how Latinos have been part of this nation for so many centuries," Lammers said. "I think that's what is great about this. It has allowed us to really dig deeper and a chance to tell our stories."

Not everyone who is Hispanic uses that label

Hispanic was a term coined by the federal government for people descended from Spanish-speaking cultures. But for some, the label has a connotation of political conservatism and emphasizes a connection to Spain. It sometimes gets mistakenly interchanged with "Latino" or "Latinx."

For some, Latino reflects their ties to Latin America. So some celebrations are referred to as Latinx or Latin Heritage Month.

Latin Americans are not a monolith. There are several identifiers for Latin Americans, depending largely on personal preference. Mexican Americans who grew up during the 1960s Civil Rights era may identify as Chicano. Others may go by their family's nation of origin such as Colombian American or Salvadoran American.

Each culture has unique differences when it comes to music, food, art and other cultural touchstones.

Celebrations are planned throughout the month

From California to Florida, there will be no shortage of festivities. The celebrations tout traditional Latin foods and entertainment including, mariachi bands, folklórico and salsa lessons. The intent is to showcase the culture of Mexico, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and other Latin countries.

Events highlighting Hispanic culture include a quinceañera fashion show in Dallas on Sept. 14, the New York Latino Film Festival, which runs from Sept. 17-22, and the Viva Tampa Bay Hispanic Heritage Festival on Sept. 28-29.

The Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., is offering a slate of activities elevating Hispanic heritage, including a celebration of the life of Celia Cruz and exhibits of art made in Mexico.

Harris is promoting her resume and her goals rather than race as she courts Black voters

By COLLEEN LONG, MAKIYA SEMINERA and MATT BROWN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — While President Joe Biden was hosting a celebration of Black excellence at the White House with lawmakers, advocates and celebrities this past week, Kamala Harris was instead headed off to campaign in Pennsylvania.

The nation's first Black vice president spoke with voters there about supporting small businesses, building more housing and expanding the child tax credit. She said the country "needs a president of the United States who works for all the American people."

What she did not do was spend time talking about her race or gender or the prospect that she would be the nation's first Black and South Asian woman to be president if she defeated Republican Donald Trump.

As Harris courts voters, she embodies her identity as a woman of color rather than making it an overt

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part of her pitch, choosing instead to emphasize her policies and resume.

She's making her case to minority voters in a number of key settings in the coming days. On Saturday at a Washington awards dinner sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, she told the crowd that as president she would work to build a strong middle class economy and protect freedoms including the right to vote and the right for a "woman to make decisions about her own body."

"We have some hard work ahead of us. But hard work is good work. Hard work is joyful work," she said. "Generations of people before us led the fight for freedom; now the baton is in our hands."

Biden, meanwhile, speaking to the crowd right before her, talked about Harris as the first Black and South Asian woman vice president, and said "God willing, she will become the first woman president of the United States of America."

On Tuesday, she'll sit with members of the National Association of Black Journalists in Philadelphia. On Thursday, she'll attend a livestream rally headlined by Oprah Winfrey and involving groups such as "Win with Black Women," "White Women: Answer the Call," and "South Asians for Harris." On Friday, she campaigns in Wisconsin.

Throughout her career, Harris has been "many different firsts, and has never really led with that as a descriptor," said Brian Brokaw, who managed Harris' winning campaign for California attorney general in 2010.

"Her life story and her identity and her background and her job experience have all been critical parts of her campaigns," he said. But he added that "becoming the first — that has never actually been part of her core rationale for why she should be elected a office. It just happens to be a important result of her elections."

Harris' identity, too, is evident in how she chooses to engage with voters. A member of a historically Black sorority while attending Howard University, Harris spoke this summer in Houston at the annual assembly of another sorority, where she told the women "it is so good to be with you this evening, and I say that as a proud member of the Divine Nine. And when I look out at everyone here, I see family."

It's a different approach from Hillary Clinton's in her 2016 Democratic campaign for president, when she put front and center her potential to break the glass ceiling. Harris' aides and allies say with no time to lose in a compressed campaign this year, it is perhaps more valuable to focus on voters rather than herself.

North Carolina's Crystal McLaughlin, who attended a Harris rally in Greensboro this past week, acknowledged Harris' candidacy as an important "historical moment" but added that what is more important is to look at "who wants to do what's right."

Still, she said Harris' identity matters even if it is not the focus on her campaign.

"It's important, not only for Black young girls, but for girls period," said McLaughlin, 53, who is Black. "If you can see it, you can actually be it."

So far, it's been Trump who has brought up race in the campaign, falsely claiming that Harris belatedly "turned Black." During the presidential debate this past week, he again said he had read she was "not Black" and then she was.

Harris did not mention herself once in her response, saying instead: "I think it's a tragedy that we have someone who wants to be president who has consistently over the course of his career attempted to use race to divide the American people."

After Biden dropped out of the race in July, polling indicated that Black Americans were more excited about Harris as the Democratic nominee. In late July, an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll showed that about 7 in 10 Black adults said would be satisfied with Harris as the Democratic nominee. That was a marked increase from earlier in July, when about half of Black adults and 15% of Hispanic adults felt that way about Biden.

Another AP-NORC poll conducted in August found that about half of Black adults said that "excited" would describe their feelings "extremely" or "very" well if Harris was elected president. Only about 3 in 10 had said the same about Biden in March.

Although Black Americans overwhelmingly identify as Democrats and about 9 in 10 Black voters sup-

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ported Biden in the 2020 election, according to AP VoteCast, there are some signs that older Black voters may be more supportive of Harris than younger Black voters are. A recent Pew Research Center poll found that about 9 in 10 Black voters over age 50 were supporting Harris, compared with three-quarters of Black voters 18 to 49.

Civil rights organizations focused on mobilizing Black voters say they have seen an uptick in enthusiasm and engagement since Harris ascended to the top of the Democratic ticket.

The NAACP has been circulating messaging with allied groups that its researchers believe will especially resonate with Black voters, including protecting the rights of Black Americans and appealing to their responsibility to vote.

On economic questions, the civil rights group is urging organizers and campaigns to listen to Black voters' concerns.

"Black voters want policy solutions," said Phaedra Jackson, vice president of unit advocacy and effectiveness at the NAACP. But she added: "Representation matters. Folks are excited to see a Black woman vying for the highest office in the land" and they care more about institutions when they are represented within those institutions.

The NAACP has focused much of its voter turnout efforts in battleground states where they believe issues like voter suppression will be a potential issue come November.

At a packed fundraiser with a predominantly Black audience ahead of Saturday night's black-tie gala, Harris gave a version of her standard campaign speech, placing added emphasis on the importance of fighting back against what she called a "full-on attack on the freedom to vote."

She also called out efforts to divide Americans, "create fear" and "pit the people of our country against each another."

"This is what we're up against," she said.

At the Greensboro rally, John Spencer, a 58-year-old geographer from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, said he wants Harris to stay focused on her plans for the future rather than her race and gender. Identity, unlike policies, is something you can tell just by looking at her, he said.

"Ideally in this country, a politician should be judged about their positions and not about anything other than who they are and their character and their positions," said Spencer, who is white.

He said Harris' positions matter more to him because he said they will ultimately impact his 11-year-old daughter Leah, who attended the Greensboro rally with him.

When Harris takes a stage, said 66-year-old Sheila Carter, the Democratic presidential candidate's identity is "self-explanatory." Discussion about her race and gender are secondary to what she offers as a candidate, said Carter, a Black retiree from Durham, North Carolina, who attended the rally.

"You see who she is," Carter said. "And as she says, 'Why bother to even address whether or not I'm Black or Indian or whatever? I am who I am. You see it, I see it, the world sees it.'"

Venezuela says it arrested 6 foreigners allegedly involved in a plot to kill President Maduro

By MANUEL RUEDA Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Three Americans, two Spaniards and a Czech citizen were arrested Saturday after Venezuelan officials accused them of coming to the South American country to assassinate President Nicolas Maduro.

The arrests were announced on state television by Diosdado Cabello, the nation's powerful interior minister. Cabello said the foreign citizens were part of a CIA-led plot to overthrow the Venezuelan government and kill several members of its leadership. In the television program, Cabello showed images of rifles that he said were confiscated from some of the plotters of the alleged plan.

The arrest of the American citizens included a member of the Navy, who Cabello identified as Wilbert Joseph Castañeda Gomez. Cabello said that Gomez was a navy seal who had served in Afghanistan, Iraq and Colombia. Spain's embassy in Venezuela did not reply to a request for comment on the arrests of its

citizens.

The U.S. State Department late Saturday confirmed the detention of a U.S. military member and said it was aware of "unconfirmed reports of two additional U.S. citizens detained in Venezuela."

"Any claims of U.S. involvement in a plot to overthrow Maduro are categorically false. The United States continues to support a democratic solution to the political crisis in Venezuela," the statement said.

The announcement of the arrests comes just two days after the U.S. Treasury imposed sanctions on 16 allies of Maduro who were accused by the U.S. government of obstructing voting during the disputed July 28 Venezuelan presidential election, and carrying out human rights abuses.

Earlier this week, Spain's parliament recognized opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez as the winner of the election, angering Maduro allies who called on the Venezuelan government to suspend commercial and diplomatic relations with Spain.

Tensions between Venezuela's government and the U.S. have increased as well following the election, whose result sparked protests within Venezuela in which hundreds of opposition activists were arrested.

Venezuela's Electoral Council, which is closely aligned with the Maduro administration, said Maduro won the election with 52% of the vote, but did not provide a detailed breakdown of the results.

Opposition activists, however, surprised the government by collecting tally sheets from 80% of the nation's voting machines. The tally sheets collected by the opposition were published online, and they indicate that Gonzalez won the election with twice as many votes as Maduro.

Despite international condemnation over the election's lack of transparency, Venezuela's supreme court, which has long backed Maduro, confirmed his victory in August. Venezuela's attorney general then filed conspiracy charges against Gonzalez, who fled to Spain last week after it became clear he would be arrested.

Maduro has dismissed requests from several countries, including the leftist governments of Colombia and Brazil, to provide tally sheets that prove he won the election. Maduro, who has been in power since 2013, has long claimed the U.S. is trying to overthrow him through sanctions and covert operations.

The Maduro administration has previously used Americans imprisoned in Venezuela to gain concessions from the U.S. government. In a deal conducted last year with the Biden administration, Maduro released 10 Americans and a fugitive wanted by the U.S. government to secure a presidential pardon for Alex Saab, a close Maduro ally who was held in Florida on money laundering charges. According to U.S. prosecutors, Saab had also helped Maduro to avoid U.S. Treasury sanctions through a complex network of shell companies.

Change-of-plea hearings set in fraud case for owners of funeral home where 190 bodies found

DENVER (AP) — A federal judge has canceled an October trial date and set a change-of-plea hearing in a fraud case involving the owners of a Colorado funeral home where authorities discovered 190 decaying bodies.

Jon and Carie Hallford were indicted in April on fraud charges, accused of mispending nearly \$900,000 in pandemic relief funds on vacations, jewelry and other personal expenses. They own the Return to Nature Funeral Home based in Colorado Springs and in Penrose, where the bodies were found.

The indictment alleges that the Hallfords gave families dry concrete instead of cremated ashes and buried the wrong body on two occasions. The couple also allegedly collected more than \$130,000 from families for cremations and burial services they never provided.

The 15 charges brought by the federal grand jury are separate from the more than 200 criminal counts pending against the Hallfords in state court for corpse abuse, money laundering, theft and forgery.

Carie Hallford filed a statement with the court Thursday saying "a disposition has been reached in the instant case" and asking for a change-of-plea hearing. Jon Hallford's request said he wanted a hearing "for the court to consider the proposed plea agreement."

The judge granted their request to vacate the Oct. 15 trial date and all related dates and deadlines. The

change-of-plea hearings were set for Oct. 24.

Federal judge temporarily blocks Biden administration rule to limit flaring of gas at oil wells

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A federal judge in North Dakota has temporarily blocked a new Biden administration rule aimed at reducing the venting and flaring of natural gas at oil wells.

"At this preliminary stage, the plaintiffs have shown they are likely to succeed on the merits of their claim the 2024 Rule is arbitrary and capricious," U.S. District Judge Daniel Traynor ruled Friday, the Bismarck Tribune reported.

North Dakota, along with Montana, Texas, Wyoming and Utah, challenged the rule in federal court earlier this year, arguing that it would hinder oil and gas production and that the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management is overstepping its regulatory authority on non-federal minerals and air pollution.

The bureau says the rule is intended to reduce the waste of gas and that royalty owners would see over \$50 million in additional payments if it was enforced.

But Traynor wrote that the rules "add nothing more than a layer of federal regulation on top of existing federal regulation."

When pumping for oil, natural gas often comes up as a byproduct. Gas isn't as profitable as oil, so it is vented or flared unless the right equipment is in place to capture.

Methane, the main component of natural gas, is a climate "super pollutant" that is many times more potent in the short term than carbon dioxide.

Well operators have reduced flaring rates in North Dakota significantly over the past few years, but they still hover around 5%, the Tribune reported. Reductions require infrastructure to capture, transport and use that gas.

North Dakota politicians praised the ruling.

"The Biden-Harris administration continuously attempts to overregulate and ultimately debilitate North Dakota's energy production capabilities," state Attorney General Drew Wrigley said in a statement.

The Bureau of Land Management declined comment.

Funerals held for teen boy and math teacher killed in Georgia high school shooting

JEFFERSON, Ga. (AP) — Funeral services for a teenage boy remembered for his endearing smile and a math teacher known for her dedication to students were held Saturday, 10 days after both were killed by a gunman who opened fire at a Georgia high school.

Family, friends and supporters of 14-year-old Mason Schermerhorn and teacher Cristina Irimie, 53, gathered to say farewell at separate afternoon services.

They were among four people killed Sept. 4 at Apalachee High School by a shooter armed with an assault-style rifle. Another teacher and eight other students were injured.

Irimie, who immigrated to the U.S. more than 20 years ago from her home country of Romania, was honored with a Romanian Orthodox service filled with chants and hymns. The ceremony alternated between English and Romanian.

"We gather today to offer prayers for a noble soul," one of the priests presiding over the service said. "Family members, friends, colleagues, and, in fact, many people throughout this nation and beyond are mourning the loss of a dear wife, daughter, sister, aunt, friend, parish member, colleague, teacher and fellow citizen."

There also was a large public outpouring at the memorial service for Schermerhorn, which was held at a civic center in Jefferson. The teen's family requested that anyone attending the service wear red, which was his favorite color.

Mason loved playing video games and liked Disney and LEGOs, his obituary said. He also loved spending

time with his family.

A neighbor, Tommy Pickett, recalled watching him grow over the past decade from an inquisitive young boy to a teenager who always seemed to be smiling and laughing.

Irimie was known for teaching children dance in addition to algebra and stayed active in metro Atlanta's Romanian expat community. Her service was held at a funeral home in Buford. Afterward, a memorial meal was planned at Saints Constantine and Helen Romanian Orthodox Church.

The funerals mark another opportunity for students and faculty from the high school of 1,900 students to share their grief. Barrow County's other schools reopened last week. But no date has been set for students to return to Apalachee High School.

A private funeral was held last weekend for Richard Aspinwall, a 39-year-old math teacher and defensive coordinator of the school's football team. Aspinwall was killed in the attack alongside Schermerhorn, Irimie and 14-year-old student Christian Angulo.

Angulo's family has scheduled his funeral service at a church for Friday.

Authorities have charged a 14-year-old student, Colt Gray, with murder in the high school killings. His father also has been charged with second-degree murder for furnishing his son with a weapon used to kill children.

Authorities say the teen surrendered to school resource officers who confronted him roughly three minutes after the first shots were fired. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation says the teenager rode the bus to school with the semiautomatic rifle concealed in his backpack.

This new Mexican blessed is considered a protector of life from conception. Who was Moisés Lira?

By MARÍA TERESA HERNÁNDEZ Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's Catholic Church is getting a new addition to its ranks of "blessed," with the beatification of the Rev. Moisés Lira.

The beatification ceremony was taking Saturday at Our Lady of Guadalupe's Basilica, led by Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, who was appointed by Pope Francis for the occasion.

Before Lira, the latest Mexican to be beatified was María Concepción Cabrera in 2019.

Here's a look at Lira's life in a country that's home to nearly 100 million Catholics.

Who was Moisés Lira?

He was born in September 1893 in Puebla, one of Mexico's most conservative states.

His mother died when he was 5 and he suffered the absence of his father, who had to relocate for work.

Lira dreamt of becoming a priest from a young age. In 1914, he became the first novice of a congregation founded by French priest Félix de Jesús Rougier. And in 1922, after being ordained a priest, he wrote the motto that would define his life: "It is necessary to be very small to be a great saint."

Lira devoted his life to teach catechists, care for the ill and offer spiritual guidance to vulnerable communities. In 1934, he founded a congregation — the Missionaries of Charity of Mary Immaculate — as well as schools and psychiatric institutions.

He died in Mexico City in 1950.

What is the miracle attributed to him?

According to Mother María de la Luz Nava, from the congregation founded by Lira, the miracle took place between May and June 2004.

Back then, a pregnant woman from Guanajuato — another of Mexico's conservative states — got the worst news imaginable: at 18 weeks of gestation, her unborn daughter suffered from a condition characterized by accumulation of fluid.

The diagnosis, the doctor said, could be fatal for the fetus or affect the mother. And though he offered to terminate the pregnancy, the woman and her husband refused.

"There wasn't much hope," Mother María de la Luz said. "But they were very clear about one thing: they were not going to opt for abortion. They were going to continue looking for options so that their

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daughter would be born well.”

Back home, the woman found a brochure on the Rev. Lira’s work. “I don’t know you,” she told him. “But please, help me.”

For nine days, she prayed. And when a new doctor’s appointment came, a surprise awaited.

“What did you do?” the doctor asked the couple. “Because your daughter is healthy.”

“This is where the intercession of Father Moisés is very evident,” said Mother María de la Luz. “And it shows how a miracle is produced by faith.”

De la Luz’s congregation learned about the case in 2014. The beatification request was made through the local diocese the following year and eight years passed until Pope Francis issued a decree for the miracle in 2023.

What causes can be entrusted to Lira?

According to the Rev. David Padrón, who has worked on causes for canonization, the miracle attributed to Lira makes him a protector of life from conception.

“This is a very strong message from God,” Padrón said. “Maybe those mothers who have a problem during their pregnancies can confide in him.”

Aside from that, he said, parishioners could also entrust him with health and education causes, because Lira worked extensively with sick people and students.

“Much of his pastoral work dignified those who, due to illness, poverty or some other situation, did not enjoy a dignified life in society,” Padrón said.

What’s next?

Catholic leaders trust that a second miracle would be produced after Saturday’s beatification, which would allow them to pursue Lira’s canonization.

In the meantime, local parishes will honor him each June 15. “We have included him as part of the saints of the Archdiocese of Mexico, hoping that, when he is canonized, he can be celebrated throughout the world,” Padrón said.

Lira’s most treasured relic is a metacarpal bone from his right hand. It’s symbolic, Padrón said, because Lira shared the Gospel through his writings and it’s part of the pointing finger.

“The blessed and the saints are men and women who point us to Christ,” he said.

A few first-class relics — body parts of Lira — will be soon distributed through parishes that were significant in his life or for Mexico’s Catholic community, such as Our Lady of Guadalupe’s Basilica and Puebla’s cathedral.

How to watch and stream the 76th annual Emmy Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — If it seems like the Emmys just happened, you’re not wrong.

The 76th Emmy Awards are Sunday, roughly nine months after the last celebration of the best television. Last year’s Hollywood strikes delayed the show’s 75th edition until January, when “Succession” and “The Bear” dominated the show.

“The Bear” will factor heavily in this weekend’s show, but January’s “Succession” celebration was for its final season, clearing the way for a new drama series winner.

Enter “Shogun.” The FX series about feudal Japan enters the show with 14 wins thanks to the Creative Arts Emmy ceremony last weekend. That makes it the record-holder for most wins for a single season, and it will likely extend that lead.

Here’s what you need to know about Sunday’s Emmys, including how to watch and stream the red carpet and show, and who’s nominated.

What time do the Emmys start?

The show begins at 8 p.m. Eastern and is being shown live on ABC, which is available with an antenna or through cable and satellite providers.

What if I want to stream the Emmys?

The Emmys can be streamed live through live TV streaming services that include ABC in their lineup,

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like Hulu+ Live TV, YouTube TV and FuboTV.

For those without the service, the show will be streaming Monday on Hulu.

So who's already won an Emmy?

Lots of folks from "Shogun," including actor Néstor Carbonell. Maya Rudolph also won a trophy for her work on "Big Mouth," and Jamie Lee Curtis claimed her first Emmy for her guest appearance on "The Bear."

The Creative Arts Emmys honor many of the craft workers who make shows work, leaving the top prizes for Sunday's ceremony, which will be hosted by actors Eugene and Dan Levy.

If I'm not in the U.S., how can I watch the Emmys?

The Emmys are watchable in dozens of countries. The Television Academy website has a handy list of broadcasters and in some instances, air times. You can access that at <https://www.emmys.com/watch>.

How can I watch the Emmys carpet?

"Live from E!" will begin airing its red carpet coverage at 6 p.m. Eastern on the cable network E!. Laverne Cox, the first transgender person to receive an Emmy nomination, will host the coverage along with comedian Heather McMahan and E! News' Keltie Knight.

People magazine and Entertainment Weekly will also host a live red carpet show on their websites and YouTube, also starting at 6 p.m.

Who's nominated for the Emmys?

"Shogun" is the leading nominee with 25, while "The Bear" has 23, including best comedy series and best actor in a comedy series for Jeremy Allen White — both awards it won at January's strike-delayed ceremony. Ayo Edebiri, who won best supporting actress in January, is nominated in the best comedy actress field this time.

"The Crown" with 19 nominations and "Hacks" with 16 each return to the Emmys after their own years off. Elizabeth Debicki is nominated for best supporting actress in a drama for playing Princess Diana, while Imelda Staunton is nominated for playing Queen Elizabeth II.

Two-time Academy Award winner Jodie Foster is a good bet to win her first Emmy as best actress in a limited or anthology series or TV movie for her role in "True Detective: Night Country."

Reigning best supporting actor Oscar winner Robert Downey Jr. could also become a first-time Emmy winner. He's up for best supporting actor in the limited series category for playing five different roles in "The Sympathizer."

For a list of key Emmy nominees, check out the AP's list.

An American activist killed by Israeli fire is buried in Turkey as Israel strikes Gaza

By ANDREW WILKS and WAFAA SHURAFU Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — A Turkish-American activist who was killed by Israeli fire in the West Bank was laid to rest on Saturday in her hometown in Turkey with thousands lining the streets and anti-Israeli feelings in the country rising from a conflict that threatens to spread across the region.

Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, a 26-year-old woman from Seattle, was shot dead Sept. 6 by an Israeli soldier during a demonstration against Israeli West Bank settlements, according to an Israeli protester who witnessed the shooting.

Thousands of people lined the streets in the Turkish coastal town of Didim on the Aegean Sea, as Eygi was buried in a coffin draped in a Turkish flag, which was taken from her family home. A portrait of her wearing her graduation gown was propped against the coffin as people paid their respects.

Her body was earlier brought from a hospital to her family home and Didim's Central Mosque.

Turkey condemned the killing and announced it will conduct its own investigation into her death. "We are not going to leave our daughter's blood on the ground and we demand responsibility and accountability for this murder," Numan Kurtulmus, the speaker of Turkey's parliament told mourners at the funeral.

On Friday, an autopsy had been carried out at Izmir Forensic Medicine Institute. Kurtulmus said the examination showed Eygi was hit by a round that struck her in the back of the head below her left ear.

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The Israeli military said Tuesday that Eygi was likely shot "indirectly and unintentionally" by Israeli forces. Her death was condemned by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken as the United States, Egypt and Qatar push for a cease-fire in the 11-month-long Israel-Hamas war and the release of the remaining hostages held by Hamas. Talks have repeatedly bogged down as Israel and Hamas accuse each other of making new and unacceptable demands.

The war began when Hamas-led fighters killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in an Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel. They abducted another 250 people and are still holding around 100 hostages after releasing most of the rest in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel during a weeklong cease-fire in November. Around a third of the remaining hostages are believed to be dead.

Israelis are growing increasingly frustrated with the government for not reaching a cease-fire with Hamas to bring the remaining captives home. On Saturday night, thousands of Israelis streamed into the streets in Tel Aviv demanding Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu bring the hostages back.

At one of the rallies, Anat Angrest, mother of kidnapped soldier Matan Angrest, shared a voice recording from her son while in captivity asking Netanyahu to make a deal. "I want to see my family and friends," said Matan in the message. Angrest then addressed the head of Israel's Mossad spy agency.

"Where are you, negotiation team? There is no deal for over eight months, so what are you doing?"

Anger has spiked since the bodies of six hostages were found in a tunnel beneath the southern Gaza city of Rafah earlier this month. The military said the six were killed shortly before Israeli forces were to rescue them.

Many blame Netanyahu for failing to reach a deal, which opinion polls show a majority of Israelis favor. However, the country is also extremely divided and Netanyahu has significant support for his strategy of "total victory" against Hamas, even if a deal for the hostages has to wait.

Israeli airstrikes hit Gaza

Israeli airstrikes pounded central and southern Gaza overnight into Saturday, killing at least 14 people.

The strikes in Gaza City hit one home housing 11 people, including three women and four children, and another strike hit a tent in Khan Younis with Palestinians displaced by the Israel-Hamas war, Gaza's Civil Defense said. They followed airstrikes earlier this week that hit a tent camp on Tuesday and a United Nations school sheltering displaced on Wednesday.

The Israeli army on Saturday ordered Palestinians sheltering in the northern neighborhoods of Manshiyeh, Beit Lahia and Sheikh Zayed to evacuate south toward Gaza City. The order came after projectiles were fired from the area, the Israeli army said in a post on X. It remains unclear how many people are sheltering in those areas.

First phase of anti-polio campaign ends

Meanwhile, a campaign to inoculate children in Gaza against polio drew down and the World Health Organization said about 559,000 under the age of 10 have recovered from their first dose, seven out of every eight children the campaign aimed to vaccinate. The second doses are expected to begin later this month as part of an effort in which the WHO said parties had already agreed to.

"As we prepare for the next round in four weeks, we're hopeful these pauses will hold, because this campaign has clearly shown the world what's possible when peace is given a chance," Richard Peepkorn, WHO's representative in Gaza and the West Bank, said in a statement on Saturday.

The war has caused vast destruction and displaced around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million, often multiple times, and plunged the territory into a severe humanitarian crisis. Gaza's Health Ministry says over 41,000 Palestinians have been killed since the war began. The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and militants in its count, but says women and children make up just over half of the dead. Israel says it has killed more than 17,000 militants in the war.

Nigerian army rescues 13 hostages from extremist group

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Nigerian troops have rescued 13 hostages who were kidnapped by an extremist group in the northwestern state of Kaduna, the country's army said on Saturday.

The army said in a statement that "the troops successfully overwhelmed the terrorists, forcing them to abandon their captives."

Several kidnapers were killed and others captured, the military added. It didn't specify what armed group the kidnapers belonged to.

The rescued hostages were taken to a military facility for a medical assessment before being reunited with their families. Weapons, ammunition, solar panels and cash were also discovered during the rescue operation.

Kidnappings have become common in parts of northern Nigeria, where dozens of armed groups take advantage of a limited security presence to carry out attacks in villages and along major roads. Most victims are released only after the payment of ransoms that sometimes run into the thousands of dollars.

At least 1,400 students have been taken from Nigerian schools since the 2014 kidnapping of 276 school-girls by Boko Haram militants in the village of Chibok in Borno state shocked the world.

Boko Haram, Nigeria's homegrown jihadi rebels, launched its insurgency in 2009 to establish Islamic Shariah law in the country. At least 35,000 people have been killed and 2.1 million people displaced as a result of the extremist violence, according to U.N. agencies in Nigeria.

Striking Boeing factory workers say they are ready to hold out for a better contract

By DAVID KOENIG, MANUEL VALDES and LINDSEY WASSON Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Blue-collar workers from Boeing walked picket lines in the Pacific Northwest instead of building airplanes on Friday after they overwhelmingly rejected a proposed contract that would have raised their wages by 25% over four years.

The strike by 33,000 machinists will not disrupt airline flights anytime soon, but it is expected to shut down production of Boeing's best-selling jetliners, marking yet another setback for a company already dealing with billions of dollars in financial losses and a damaged reputation.

The company said it was taking steps to conserve cash while its CEO looks for ways to come up with a contract that the unionized factory workers will accept.

Late Friday, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service said it would convene new talks early next week.

"FMCS has been in contact with both IAM and Boeing to support their return to the negotiation table and commends the parties on their willingness to meet and work towards a mutually acceptable resolution," the agency said in a statement.

Boeing stock fell 3.7% Friday, bringing its decline for the year to nearly 40%.

The strike started soon after a regional branch of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers reported that in a Thursday vote, 94.6% of participating members rejected a contract offer that the union's own bargaining committee had endorsed, and 96% voted to strike.

Shortly after midnight, striking workers stood outside the Boeing factory in Renton, Washington, with signs reading, "Have you seen the damn housing prices?" Car horns honked and a boom box played songs including Twisted Sister's "We're Not Gonna Take It" and Taylor Swift's "Look What You Made Me Do."

Many of the workers who spoke to reporters said they considered the wage offer inadequate given how much the cost of living has increase in the Pacific Northwest. John Olson said his pay had increased just 2% during his six years at Boeing.

"The last contract we negotiated was 16 years ago, and the company is basing the wage increases off of wages from 16 years ago," the 45-year-old toolmaker said. "They don't even keep up with the cost of inflation."

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Others said they were unhappy about the company's decision to change the criteria used to calculate annual bonuses.

The machinists make \$75,608 per year on average, not counting overtime, and that would have risen to \$106,350 by the end of the proposed four-year contract, according to Boeing.

Under the rejected contract, workers would have received \$3,000 lump sum payments and a reduced share of health care costs in addition to pay raises. Boeing also met a key union demand by promising to build its next new plane in Washington state.

However, the offer fell short of the union's initial demand for pay raises of 40% over three years. The union also wanted to restore traditional pensions that were axed a decade ago but settled for an increase in new Boeing contributions to employee 401(k) retirement accounts of up to \$4,160 per worker.

The head of the union local, IAM District 751 President Jon Holden, said the union would survey members to find out which issues they want to stress when negotiations resume. Boeing responded to the strike announcement by saying it was "ready to get back to the table to reach a new agreement."

"The message was clear that the tentative agreement we reached with IAM leadership was not acceptable to the members. We remain committed to resetting our relationship with our employees and the union," the company said in a statement.

Boeing Chief Financial Officer Brian West, speaking Friday at an investor conference in California, said the company was disappointed that it had a deal with union leadership, only to see it rejected by rank-and-file workers.

During the strike, Boeing will lose an important source of cash: Airlines pay most of the purchase price when they take delivery of a new plane. West said Boeing — which has about \$60 billion in total debt — is now looking at ways to conserve cash. He declined to estimate the financial impact of the strike, saying it would depend on how long the walkout lasts.

Before the strike, new CEO Kelly Ortberg gathered feedback from workers during visits to factory floors, and he "is already at work to get an agreement that meets and addresses their concerns," West said.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden administration officials have contacted Boeing and the union.

"We believe that they need to negotiate in good faith and work towards an agreement that gives employees benefits that they deserve. It would make the company stronger as well," she said.

Very little has gone right for Boeing this year, from a panel blowing out and leaving a gaping hole in one of its passenger jets in January to NASA leaving two astronauts in space rather sending them home on a problem-plagued Boeing spacecraft.

The striking machinists assemble the 737 Max, Boeing's best-selling airliner, along with the 777 jet and the 767 cargo plane. The walkout likely will not stop production of Boeing 787 Dreamliners, which are built by nonunion workers in South Carolina.

The strike is another challenge for Ortberg, who just six weeks ago was given the job of turning around a company that has lost more than \$25 billion in the last six years and fallen behind European rival Airbus.

Ortberg made a last-ditch effort to salvage a deal that had unanimous backing from the union's negotiators. He told machinists Wednesday that "no one wins" in a walkout and a strike would put Boeing's recovery in jeopardy and raise more doubt about the company in the eyes of its airline customers.

"For Boeing, it is no secret that our business is in a difficult period, in part due to our own mistakes in the past," he said. "Working together, I know that we can get back on track, but a strike would put our shared recovery in jeopardy, further eroding trust with our customers and hurting our ability to determine our future together."

Ortberg faced a difficult position, according to union leader Holden, because machinists were bitter about stagnant wages and concessions they have made since 2008 on pensions and health care to prevent the company from moving jobs elsewhere.

"This is about respect, this is about the past, and this is about fighting for our future," Holden said in announcing the strike.

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The suspension of airplane production could prove costly for beleaguered Boeing, depending on how long it runs. The last Boeing strike, in 2008, lasted eight weeks and cost the company about \$100 million daily in deferred revenue. A 1995 strike lasted 10 weeks.

Before the tentative agreement was announced Sunday, Jefferies aerospace analyst Sheila Kahyaoglu estimated a strike would cost the company about \$3 billion based on the 2008 strike plus inflation and current airplane-production rates.

A.J. Jones, a quality inspector who has been at Boeing for 10 years, was among the workers picketing on a corner near Boeing's Renton campus. He said he was glad union members had decided to hold out for more pay.

"I'm not sure how long this strike is going to take, but however long it takes, we will be here until we get a better deal," Jones said.

NATO military committee chair, others back Ukraine's use of long range weapons to hit Russia

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

PRAGUE (AP) — The head of NATO's military committee said Saturday that Ukraine has the solid legal and military right to strike deep inside Russia to gain combat advantage — reflecting the beliefs of a number of U.S. allies — even as the Biden administration balks at allowing Kyiv to do so using American-made weapons.

"Every nation that is attacked has the right to defend itself. And that right doesn't stop at the border of your own nation," said Adm. Rob Bauer, speaking at the close of the committee's annual meeting, also attended by U.S. Gen. CQ Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Bauer, of Netherlands, also added that nations have the sovereign right to put limits on the weapons they send to Ukraine. But, standing next to him at a press briefing, Lt. Gen. Karel Rehka, chief of the General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces, made it clear his nation places no such weapons restrictions on Kyiv.

"We believe that the Ukrainians should decide themselves how to use it," Rehka said.

Their comments came as U.S. President Joe Biden is weighing whether to allow Ukraine to use American-provided long-range weapons to hit deep into Russia. And they hint at the divisions over the issue.

Biden met with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Friday, after this week's visit to Kyiv by their top diplomats, who came under fresh pressure to loosen weapons restrictions. U.S. officials familiar with discussions said they believed Starmer was seeking Biden's approval to allow Ukraine to use British Storm Shadow missiles for expanded strikes in Russia.

Biden's approval may be needed because Storm Shadow components are made in the U.S. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to share the status of private conversations, said they believed Biden would be amenable, but there has been no decision announced yet.

Providing additional support and training for Ukraine was a key topic at the NATO chiefs' meeting, but it wasn't clear Saturday if the debate over the U.S. restrictions was discussed.

Many of the European nations have been vigorously supportive of Ukraine in part because they worry about being the next victim of an empowered Russia.

At the opening of the meeting, Czech Republic President Petr Pavel broadly urged the military chiefs gathered in the room to be "bold and open in articulating your assessments and recommendations. The rounder and the softer they are, the less they will be understood by the political level."

The allies, he said, must "take the right steps and the right decisions to protect our countries and our way of life."

The military leaders routinely develop plans and recommendations that are then sent to the civilian NATO defense secretaries for discussion and then on to the nations' leaders in the alliance.

The U.S. allows Ukraine to use American-provided weapons in cross-border strikes to counter attacks by Russian forces. But it doesn't allow Kyiv to fire long-range missiles, such as the ATACMS, deep into Russia. The U.S. has argued that Ukraine has drones that can strike far and should use ATACMS judiciously

because they only have a limited number.

Ukraine has increased its pleas with Washington to lift the restrictions, particularly as winter looms and Kyiv worries about Russian gains during the colder months.

"You want to weaken the enemy that attacks you in order to not only fight the arrows that come your way, but also attack the archer that is, as we see, very often operating from Russia proper into Ukraine," said Bauer. "So militarily, there's a good reason to do that, to weaken the enemy, to weaken its logistic lines, fuel, ammunition that comes to the front. That is what you want to stop, if at all possible."

Brown, for his part, told reporters traveling with him to the meeting that the U.S. policy on long-range weapons remains in place.

But, he added, "by the same token, what we want to do is — regardless of that policy — we want to continue to make Ukraine successful with the capabilities that have been provided" by the U.S. and other nations in the coalition, as well as the weapons Kyiv has been able to build itself.

"They've proven themselves fairly effective in building out uncrewed aerial vehicles, in building out drones," Brown told reporters traveling with him to meetings in Europe.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has made similar points, arguing that one weapons system won't determine success in the war.

"There are a number of things that go into the overall equation as to whether or not you know you want to provide one capability or another," Austin said Friday. "There is no silver bullet when it comes to things like this."

He also noted that Ukraine has already been able to strike inside Russia with its own internally produced systems, including drones.

A look at Harvey Weinstein's health and legal issues as he faces more criminal charges

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Disgraced ex-movie mogul Harvey Weinstein faces mounting legal and health troubles some seven years after scores of women came forward with allegations of sexual misconduct against him, helping launch the global #MeToo movement.

On Thursday, he was indicted on additional sex crimes charges in New York ahead of a retrial this fall. The grand jury decision remains sealed until he is formally arraigned in court.

Weinstein has maintained that any sexual activity was consensual.

Meanwhile, the 72-year-old remains hospitalized following emergency heart surgery — just the latest in an assortment of medical ailments that have cropped up while in custody.

Here's a recap of where things stand:

New York retrial

In April, New York's highest court overturned Weinstein's 2020 conviction on rape and sexual assault charges, ruling that the trial judge had unfairly allowed testimony against him based on allegations from other women that were not part of the case.

A new trial was ordered and the tentative start date is Nov. 12.

One of the two accusers in that case has said she is prepared to testify against Weinstein again, but it remains to be seen if the other accuser will also take the stand once more.

Weinstein had been sentenced to 23 years in prison for that conviction.

New criminal charges

Earlier this month, prosecutors disclosed that a Manhattan grand jury had reviewed evidence of up to three additional allegations against Weinstein.

They include alleged sexual assaults at the Tribeca Grand Hotel, now known as the Roxy Hotel, and in a Lower Manhattan residential building between late 2005 and mid-2006, and an alleged sexual assault at a Tribeca hotel in May 2016.

It is unclear when Weinstein will be formally charged on those allegations, given his current health con-

dition. The next court hearing ahead of the retrial is slated for Sept. 18.

It is also unclear how the additional allegations will factor in the retrial. Prosecutors want to include the new charges in the retrial, but Weinstein's lawyers oppose that, saying it should be a separate case.

California conviction appealed

In 2022, Weinstein was found guilty of rape, forced oral copulation and another sexual misconduct count after a one-month trial in Los Angeles. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison.

During the trial, a woman testified that Weinstein appeared uninvited at her hotel room during the LA Italia Film Festival in 2013 and that Weinstein became sexually aggressive after she let him in.

Weinstein's lawyers appealed the conviction in June, arguing the trial judge wrongly excluded evidence that the Italian model and actor had a sexual relationship with the film festival director at the time of the alleged attack.

UK charges dropped

Britain's Crown Prosecution Service announced Sept. 5 that it had decided to drop two charges of indecent assault against Weinstein because there was "no longer a realistic prospect of conviction."

In 2022, the agency authorized London's Metropolitan Police Service to file the charges against Weinstein over an alleged incident that occurred in London in 1996. The victim was in her 50s at the time of the announcement.

Pending civil cases

Weinstein also faces several lawsuits brought by women accusing him of sexual misconduct.

Among the latest is one from actor Julia Ormond, who starred opposite Brad Pitt in "Legends of the Fall" and Harrison Ford in "Sabrina." She filed the lawsuit last year in New York accusing Weinstein of sexually assaulting her in 1995 and then hindering her career.

The majority of lawsuits against Weinstein were brought to a close through a 2021 settlement as part of the bankruptcy of his former film company, The Weinstein Co. The agreement included a victims' fund of about \$17 million for some 40 women who sued him.

Health problems

Weinstein's lawyers have regularly raised concerns about his worsening health since being taken into custody following his 2020 conviction.

During his appearances in Manhattan court, he's regularly transported in a wheelchair and his lawyers say he suffers from macular degeneration and diabetes that's worsened due to the poor jailhouse diet.

Weinstein's pericardiocentesis surgery last week was to drain fluid around his heart. His lawyers say his medical regimen causes him to retain water and that he must be constantly monitored to ensure the fluid buildup isn't deadly.

A judge has granted his request to remain at Manhattan's Bellevue Hospital indefinitely instead of being transferred back to the infirmary ward at the city's notorious Rikers Island jail complex.

Death toll in Myanmar from Typhoon Yagi reaches 74. Dozens of other people are missing

BANGKOK (AP) — The death toll in Myanmar from flooding and landslides caused by Typhoon Yagi has reached at least 74, with 89 people missing, Myanmar's state television said Saturday.

Difficulties in compiling information have raised fears that the number of casualties may be higher.

The new official death toll announced by the country's military government was more than double the 33 reported on Friday. Typhoon Yagi earlier hit Vietnam, northern Thailand and Laos, killing more than 260 people and causing major damage.

The new totals were announced after state media reported that Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the head of the ruling military council, said that Myanmar was requesting relief aid from foreign countries.

Nearly 240,000 people have been displaced, according to the reports. There were already 3.4 million displaced people in Myanmar at the beginning of September, according to the U.N. refugee agency, mostly

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because of war and unrest in recent years.

In Myanmar, low-lying areas in the central regions of Mandalay and Bago, as well as eastern Shan state and the country's capital, Naypyitaw, have been inundated by water since Wednesday.

Min Aung Hlaing and other military officials inspected flooded areas and reviewed rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts in Naypyitaw on Friday, the state-run Myanmar Alinn newspaper reported. Its report said that he instructed officials to contact foreign countries, as other countries affected by the storm did, to receive rescue and relief aid for the victims.

"It is necessary to manage rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures as quickly as possible," he was quoted as saying.

The exact extent of the damage still wasn't clear, but there were fears that the death toll may rise sharply. Local news outlets reported more than 100 people missing.

Efforts to tally casualties and damage and provide relief are complicated. Myanmar is in a state of civil war that began in 2021, after the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Independent analysts believe the military controls much less than half of the country's territory.

Myanmar experiences extreme weather virtually every year during the monsoon season. In 2008, Cyclone Nargis killed more than 138,000 people. In that case, the military government then in power delayed accepting international assistance, and when it finally relented, tightly controlled its distribution, with little or no oversight by aid donors.

Saturday evening's state television news said that 24 bridges, 375 school buildings, one Buddhist monastery, five dams, four pagodas, 14 electrical transformers, 456 lampposts and more than 65,000 houses were damaged by floods in central and eastern parts of the country.

Naypyitaw is one of the areas that was hit hardest by the floods. Myanmar's Eleven Media group reported on Friday that record rainfall had damaged several pagodas in Bagan, the country's ancient capital that is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The rain, said to be the heaviest in 60 years, collapsed walls at several centuries-old old temples, it said.

Dogs bring loads of joy but also perils on a leash

By LEANNE ITALIE AP Lifestyles Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The cuddles. The loyalty. The worshipful eyes. There's a lot of joy in having a dog, not the least of which is heading out for a brisk walk. And therein lies a peril some dog people should pay more attention to.

Over the past 20 years, injuries related to dog walking have been on the rise among adults and children in the U.S., according to Johns Hopkins University researchers. Fractures, sprains and head trauma are among the most common.

From 2001 to 2020, the estimated number of adults seen at emergency departments for dog-walking injuries increased significantly, from 7,300 to 32,300 a year, lead researcher Ridge Maxson told The Associated Press. Most patients were women (75%). Adults overall between ages 40 and 64 amounted to 47%.

And that's just emergency room visits. "We know that a significant number of people might seek treatment at primary care, specialty or urgent care clinics for their injuries," Maxson said.

Dog ownership has become increasingly common, he noted, with about half of U.S. households having at least one dog. The pandemic contributed to the spike.

How to protect yourself

Staying safe when walking a leashed dog takes diligence, focus and, in inclement weather, extra precautions. Multitasking can be hazardous. Put your phone away.

"You can't really afford to relax when you walk a powerfully built dog with the torque of a small tractor. You have to pay attention," said Noel Holston, a dog owner in Athens, Georgia.

In the early 2000s, Holston was walking his 65-pound (29.4-kilogram) pit bull in a park near home when a goose flapped and squawked. The dog bolted down an embankment, jerking the now 76-year-old Holston off the sidewalk.

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"Off balance and struggling to keep my footing, I stepped into a hole and heard my left ankle snap. The pain was so intense. I almost passed out. My wife, Marty, had to hail a jogger to help get me back to our car. My left foot was dangling like a big wet noodle," he said.

Susannah Johnston, 64, is a yoga instructor who runs a 40,000-member Facebook group for women aimed at improving balance, strength and a body's ability to absorb impact. She's been injured three times while dog walking over the years.

About five years ago, her 50-pound (22.6-kilogram) lab mix went after a squirrel while Johnston was kneeling to tuck a sweatshirt into her backpack, the leash wrapped around one hand. She fractured a finger.

"That was the worst because it was twisted and pulled and I had to have surgery and rehab and everything else," said Johnston, who lives in New York's Croton-on-Hudson.

Running with a leashed dog is another hazard no matter how well trained you think a dog is. It's especially dangerous with a dog that's easily spooked, very young or prone to the zoomies. That's what happened to Robert Godosky in Manhattan.

"We used to be in a routine of sort of running the last block home," he said. "There was a section of sidewalk that had scaffolding up. My dog is a rescue dog and was relatively new to us. He got spooked and got in front of me, and I went flying over the dog and smacked into the scaffolding. I ended up breaking two ribs."

There are other hazards in rural areas, said Steven Haywood, an ER doctor in Corinth, Mississippi.

"Getting struck by vehicles," he said. "That's definitely the most life-threatening injury when people are walking their dogs."

Areas like his have many roads without sidewalks or wide shoulders. That's especially hazardous when people wear dark clothes with no reflectors or lights on human or animal.

"It's something we see on a regular basis," Haywood said.

The right shoes, leashes and more

In addition to lights and reflectors, there is other gear that can minimize dog-walking risks:

Wear appropriate footwear with decent treads in snow and ice. Consider wearing footwear with spikes or studs.

Maxson suggests using a non-retractable leash of 6 to 8 feet (1.8 to 2.4 meters). "Longer leashes are more likely to get tangled around your legs and cause falls. Retractable leashes can sometimes make your dog more difficult to control."

In San Francisco, dog trainer Shoshi Parks recommends a no-pull harness with a leash clipped to a dog's chest rather than their back, she said. It gives the walker more control and puts less strain on the dog.

Parks suggests holding a leash at your center of gravity, near your torso, hip or thigh. Slip your hand through the loop of a leash and grab it a little lower down to hold on.

She calls retractable leashes a "no go." Period. They can cause burns when held too close to the body if they lengthen or retract quickly.

Dog walkers and dog trainers

For people with mobility or balance issues, experts suggest seeking help walking a dog, especially in inclement weather. A neighbor, an older child or a professional dog walker, for instance.

Johnston, Haywood and Maxson agreed that balance and strength-training exercises, especially for older adults, can help decrease the risk of falls and fractures.

And they said working with a dog trainer helps not only the dog but the walker, who can learn to read their pet's body language better.

"Even young, healthy, strong people may have difficulty controlling larger breeds that aren't used to walking on a leash. Any exercise to give strength, give balance, is going to help," Haywood said. "Make sure you can control the dog that you're walking."

Prince Harry's 40th birthday marks the moment the royal scamp moves to middle age

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prince Harry was always something different.

From the moment he first appeared in public, snuggled in Princess Diana's arms outside the London hospital where he was born in 1984, Harry was the ginger-haired scamp who stuck his tongue out at photographers.

He grew to be a boisterous adolescent who was roundly criticized for wearing a Nazi uniform to a costume party, and then a young man who gave up the trappings of royal life and moved to Southern California with his American wife.

Through it all, there was a sense that Harry was rebelling against an accident of birth that made him, in the harsh calculus of the House of Windsor, just "the spare." As the second son of the man who is now King Charles III, he was raised as a prince but wouldn't inherit the throne unless brother William came to harm.

Harry is turning 40 on Sunday. That's the halfway point in many lives, providing a chance to either dwell on the past or look forward to what might still be achieved.

For the past four years, Harry has focused mainly on the past, making millions of dollars by airing his grievances in a wildly successful memoir and a Netflix docu-series. But he faces the likelihood that the royal aura so critical to his image may be fading, said Sally Bedell Smith, author of "Charles: The Passions and Paradoxes of an Improbable Life."

"He is at a sort of crossroads," Smith told The Associated Press. "And he appears to be struggling with how he wants to proceed."

How did we get here?

It wasn't always this way.

Six years ago, Harry and his wife were among the most popular royals, a glamorous young couple who reflected the multicultural face of modern Britain and were expected to help revitalize the monarchy.

Their wedding on May 19, 2018 united a grandson of Queen Elizabeth II with the former Meghan Markle, a biracial American actress who had starred for seven years in the U.S. television drama "Suits." George Clooney, Serena Williams and Elton John attended their wedding at Windsor Castle, after which the couple were formally known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

But the optimism quickly faded amid allegations that Britain's tabloid media and even members of the royal household treated Meghan unfairly because of racism.

By January of 2020, the pressures of life in the gilded cage had become too much, and the couple announced they were giving up royal duties and moving to America, where they hoped to become "financially independent." They signed lucrative deals with Netflix and Spotify as they settled into the wealthy enclave of Montecito, near Santa Barbara, California.

Since then, Harry has missed few opportunities to bare his soul, most famously in his memoir, aptly titled "Spare."

In the ghostwritten book, Harry recounted his grief at the death of Princess Diana, a fight with Prince William and his unease with life in the royal shadow of his elder brother. From accounts of cocaine use and losing his virginity to raw family rifts, the book was rife with damning allegations about the royal family.

Among the most toxic was Harry's description of how some family members leaked unflattering information about other royals in exchange for positive coverage of themselves. The prince singled out his father's second wife, Queen Camilla, accusing her of feeding private conversations to the media as she sought to rehabilitate an image tarnished by her role in the breakup of Charles' marriage to Diana.

The allegations were so venomous that there is little chance of a return to public duty, Smith said.

"He criticized the royal family in such a powerful and damaging way. You can't un-say those things," she said. "And you can't unsee things like Meghan in that Netflix series doing a mock curtsy. It's such a demeaning gesture to the queen."

Harry, who agreed not to use the honorific HRH, or "his royal highness," after he stepped away from front-

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line royal duties, is now fifth in line to the British throne, behind his brother and William's three children.

While he grew up in a palace and is said to be in line to inherit millions of pounds on his 40th birthday from a trust set up by his great-grandmother, applied developmental psychologist Deborah Heiser thinks that, in many ways, Harry is just like the rest of us.

Like anyone turning 40, he is likely to have learned a few lessons and has a good idea of who his real friends are, and that will help him chart the next phase of his life, said Heiser, who writes a blog called "The Right Side of 40" for Psychology Today.

"He has had a very public display of what a lot of people have gone through," Heiser said. "I mean, most people are not princes, but ... they have all kinds of issues within their families. He's not alone. That's why he's so relatable."

Harry's next chapter

Of course, Harry's story isn't just about the drama within the House of Windsor.

If he wants to write a new chapter, Harry can build on his 10 years of service in the British Army. Before retiring as a captain in 2015, the prince earned his wings as a helicopter pilot, served two tours in Afghanistan and shed the hard-partying reputation of his youth.

Harry also won accolades for establishing the Invictus Games in 2014, a Paralympic-style competition to inspire and aid in the rehabilitation of sick and wounded servicemembers and veterans.

Harry and Meghan made headlines this year with their two international trips to promote mental health and internet safety. While some in British media criticized them for accepting royal treatment in Nigeria and Colombia, the couple said they visited at the invitation of local officials.

Harry has also made battling the British tabloids a central mission in the past few years and has sued them over old allegations they hacked his phone and spied on his private life. Harry's ire at the tabloids, which he blames in part for his mother's death and for driving him to the U.S., led him to buck family tradition and become the first senior royal to testify in court in more than a century, winning one trial with two more cases pending.

Will Charles see the grandkids?

Prospects of reconciliation are unclear, though Harry did race home to see his father after Charles' cancer diagnosis. And in what may be seen as a tentative olive branch, the paperback edition of "Spare" slated for October has no additions — so nothing new to stir the pot.

But plainly at this point, Harry is thinking about his family in California. He told the BBC about the importance of his two young children, Archie and Lilibet.

"Being a dad is one of life's greatest joys and has only made me more driven and more committed to making this world a better place," the prince said in a statement released by his spokesperson.

An emotional week for the Dolphins ends with Tua Tagovailoa concussed and his future unclear

By ALANIS THAMES AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Earlier in this turbulent week for the Miami Dolphins, Mike McDaniel joked that enough people had seen him cry.

The Dolphins coach was referring to a news conference in which he choked back tears while reflecting on a controversial traffic stop involving Tyreek Hill hours before Miami's season opener. Five days later, McDaniel sat down for another news conference not 24 hours after a Thursday night game against the Buffalo Bills, and he again couldn't hide his emotions.

His quarterback, Tua Tagovailoa, is in the concussion protocol, dealing with his third diagnosed concussion in three years after colliding head-first with defensive back Damar Hamlin and hitting the back of his head against the turf.

McDaniel ran onto the field to check on Tagovailoa, who sat up after a few minutes and was helped to his feet by trainers. As McDaniel walked with Tagovailoa to the sideline, he gave his quarterback a kiss on the side of the head.

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"I told him he's the starting quarterback of his family," McDaniel said Friday morning, speaking slowly and somberly as he recounted the moment, "and to go in the locker room, take a deep breath and I'll see you soon."

The game Thursday was in part about rallying past another emotional event that Miami players and coaches described as both triggering and troubling.

All-Pro receiver Hill has been at the center of a renewed national debate on the use of force by police after body camera footage showed that the traffic stop escalated quickly after a verbal dispute between Hill and Miami-Dade police officers.

Hill put up the window of his car despite an officer's instruction to keep it open. After a back and forth about the window, the video shows an officer pull Hill out of his car by his arm and head and then force him face-first onto the ground near Hard Rock Stadium. Officers handcuffed Hill and one put a knee in the middle of his back.

The altercation, and what was seen on the six officers' bodycam videos, has again brought to the forefront conversations surrounding the experience of Black people with police.

"What if I wasn't Tyreek Hill? Lord knows what that guy or guys would have done," Hill said hours after the incident. "I was just making sure that I was doing what my uncle always told me to do whenever you're in a situation like that: just listen, put your hands on the steering wheel and just listen. You've got to be careful."

Police Department Director Stephanie Daniels put officer Danny Torres on administrative duty, and an internal affairs investigation is underway. The department released the identity of Torres, a 27-year veteran of the department, on Tuesday.

Hill has since said he could have handled some parts of the initial interaction better, but he and some teammates also said they would be able to separate the incident from their football duties.

"I think that's the beauty of the sport," offensive lineman Terron Armstead said. "You get a chance to escape real-world issues for that time slot. I think there's no better place in the world that Tyreek could've been following that but a locker room and a football game. That's the beauty of that sport, that you get that time to escape and enter a world that is kind of a fantasy for us."

Hill caught an 80-yard touchdown pass that helped Miami come from behind to beat the Jacksonville Jaguars that day, but Hill and the Dolphins weren't able to replicate that magic on Thursday.

Hill was limited to three catches and 24 yards, and Miami's offense was stifled in a 31-10 loss to the Bills.

Losing again to their division rivals was hard enough. Buffalo has won 12 of the last 13 meetings between them. That disappointment was overshadowed by fear, uncertainty and concern for Tagovailoa.

"Stuff like this, losses are tough," McDaniel said. "Ones that you've really built yourself up to try to get done ... that's really tough and then you have your heart completely involved with it — I look at Tua as a family member of mine. When family is going through something, you know how it is. You're trying to think about a ton of different stuff that people are counting on me to think about. Not easy."

Players from both teams immediately waved for trainers when Tagovailoa went down after scrambling for a first down.

Tagovailoa wound up on his back, both his hands in the air. He appeared to be making a fist with his right hand as he lay on the ground. It was a movement consistent with something referred to as the "fencing response," which can be common after a brain injury.

He was immediately diagnosed with a concussion — his third since joining the Dolphins as the fifth overall pick in 2020.

McDaniel said Friday there are more unknowns surrounding the situation than certainty at this point. He said the Dolphins will bring in another quarterback eventually, but he did not want to rush to judgment on any timelines, or on Tagovailoa's future in the NFL.

"For me, I absolutely positively will not do anything to make anything worse or hurt any one of our players," McDaniel said, "specifically guys that are in concussion protocol. Ironically, I think there's a lot of people that have vested interest in the Miami Dolphins. There's a lot of fans and there's a lot of people that want to support, but quite literally, questioning timelines, that gives forth anxiety."

Dick Cheney was once vilified by Democrats. Now he's backing Harris. Will it matter?

By ERIC TUCKER and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dick Cheney is a career Republican still vilified by Democrats for his bullish defense of the Iraq War as vice president. But his partisan loyalties were cast aside in extraordinary fashion last week when he endorsed Democrat Kamala Harris for the White House.

Alberto Gonzales' service in George W. Bush's administration was roiled by debates over intrusive government eavesdropping and an abrupt purging of U.S. attorneys that Democrats regarded with intense suspicion. Yet the former attorney general is also opting for Harris over Republican Donald Trump.

The endorsements crystalized the remarkable evolution of the Republican Party's establishment wing, which ruled Washington during the Bush years only to be sidelined once Trump wrested control of the party. These figures, once reviled by Democrats, are so alarmed by the prospect of the former president's return to power that they are prepared to oppose their own party's nominee for the White House.

In the process, they are giving Harris a critical opening to broaden her base of support.

"It's easier for prominent Republicans like Cheney and Gonzales to say, 'I support Kamala Harris' because, in effect, their old home has been ransacked and destroyed," said Will Marshall, the founder of the Progressive Policy Institute, a center-left think tank. "The ties of partisanship, which are always strong in both parties, are attenuated by the fact that Trump has made today's Republican Party absolutely unwelcome for prominent Republicans who served in previous administrations."

Bush himself will not follow suit. A spokesperson says the former president has no plans to make endorsements or say publicly how he will vote.

Harris has embraced the backing of Republicans with whom she shares little common ground and whose endorsement likely has more to do with opposition to Trump than support of her policy positions. She frequently mentions that more than 200 Republicans have endorsed her, and her campaign said in an email playing up Gonzales' backing that it welcomed into the fold "every American — regardless of party — who values democracy and the rule of law."

Former Georgia Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan, a Republican who endorsed Harris and spoke at last month's Democratic convention, said the effect of "card-carrying, time-tested Republicans" who are behind Harris might persuade other Republicans who dislike Trump to vote against him rather than sitting out the election.

"I don't know if we convince somebody to go Trump-to-Harris," Duncan said. "I think we go from convincing somebody just sitting at home, not voting for anybody, to voting for Kamala Harris."

It's unclear whether the Republicans will have sway

Yet how much real influence Republicans long criticized by Democrats have is unclear, especially given lingering raw feelings and Cheney's polarizing persona across decades in Washington.

Even as the Harris campaign basks in the support, comedian Jon Stewart mocked Cheney's endorsement on "The Daily Show," addressing the ex-vice president with an expletive and shouting: "You came this close to destroying the entire world. We were this close."

"Who in God's name is that endorsement gonna sway?" Stewart demanded. "Well, I like the Democrats' policy on child tax credits, but are they bombing enough Middle Eastern countries?"

It would have long been unfathomable for Cheney to vote Democratic. He served three Republican presidents in roles ranging from White House chief of staff to defense secretary and vice president.

Cheney was denounced by Democrats on many fronts, including for his staunch promotion of the defense contracting firm he once helped lead, Halliburton, as well as his entanglement in a scandal over the leaking of the identity of CIA operative Valerie Plame, whose ambassador-husband disputed the U.S. intelligence used to justify the Iraq invasion.

After Cheney accidentally shot a friend during a 2006 hunting trip, even Peggy Noonan, a former speechwriter for President Ronald Reagan and veteran of Bush's reelection campaign, suggested he might need to step aside.

"At a certain point, a hate magnet can draw so much hate you don't want to hold it in your hand any-

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more, you want to drop it," she wrote then in the Wall Street Journal.

Yet Cheney endured through Bush's two terms.

That Cheney "is now considered a mainstream Republican is a sad commentary on that party and all the more reason to keep Trump and Republicans far from power in 2024," said Adam Green co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee.

Cheney, in 2005 speech, derided critics of the Iraq War as "opportunists" and said the suggestion that the Bush administration had purposely misled the public about the presence of weapons of mass destruction was "one of the most dishonest and reprehensible charges ever aired" in Washington. He later said the Democrats' approach to the war would "validate the al-Qaida approach," drawing a rebuke from then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

The GOP's ideological divide

The ideological split within the Republican Party was evident long ago. Trump centered his 2016 campaign around a repudiation of the old-guard GOP base, including insisting, incorrectly, that he had always been opposed to the war.

Cheney was a prominent critic of Trump's foreign policy, rebuking the then-president at a closed-door retreat in 2019 for public complaints about the role of NATO and the surprise announcement of the withdrawal of troops from Syria.

The rupture was again on display after the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol. Cheney visited the building on the attack's one-year anniversary, sitting with his daughter, then-Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., in the front row of the Republican side of the the House chamber as the only two members of the party at a pro forma session.

Liz Cheney, who co-chaired the House investigation into the siege before losing her seat in the 2022 Republican primary, announced her support of Harris last week, followed by her father's statement that Trump "can never be trusted with power again."

Crystal McLaughlin, a 53-year-old Greensboro, North Carolina, health care compliance worker, said she was "very, very nervous" when Cheney was vice president but that she appreciates the Cheneys' endorsements and hopes other Republicans will follow suit.

"I don't trust him, but you know, thank you for your support," McLaughlin said, adding, "And hopefully your financial support."

Gonzales, the former attorney general, said he has spoken with Trump only once. But Gonzales surfaced in a Politico opinion piece Thursday as Trump's latest prominent Republican detractor. Gonzales cited the Capitol attack, Trump's criminal cases and other factors in branding him unfit for office and contemptuous of the rule of law.

"As the United States approaches a critical election, I can't sit quietly as Donald Trump — perhaps the most serious threat to the rule of law in a generation — eyes a return to the White House," he wrote.

That is remarkable considering that Gonzales faced condemnation from Democrats, and some GOP lawmakers, before resigning amid a scandal over the abrupt dismissal of a group of U.S. attorneys.

Some of those fired prosecutors said they felt pressured to investigate Democrats before elections. Gonzales maintained the dismissals were based on what he said were the prosecutors' lackluster performance records.

As White House counsel in 2004, Gonzales pressed to reauthorize a secret domestic spying program, over the Justice Department's protests. Though robust government surveillance had been championed by Republican leaders after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, that support has significantly waned within the party as lawmakers take their cue from Trump's skepticism of the FBI.

"Every Republican, for the most part, at some point, is going to have to take their medicine and admit that Donald Trump was wrong for our party," said Duncan, the former Georgia lieutenant governor. "It's just a matter of when they do it."

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Today in History: September 15, Birmingham church bombing

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Sept. 15, the 259th day of 2024. There are 107 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 15, 1963, four Black girls were killed when a bomb went off during Sunday services at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. (Three Ku Klux Klansmen were eventually convicted for their roles in the blast.)

Also on this date:

In 1835, Charles Darwin reached the Galápagos Islands aboard the HMS Beagle.

In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws were enacted in Nazi Germany, depriving German Jews of their citizenship.

In 1940, the tide turned in the Battle of Britain in World War II, as the Royal Air Force inflicted heavy losses upon the Luftwaffe.

In 1958, a commuter train headed for New York City plunged into Newark Bay after missing a stop signal and sliding off the open Newark Bay lift bridge, killing 48 people.

In 1959, Nikita Khrushchev became the first Soviet head of state to visit the United States as he arrived at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington.

In 1978, Muhammad Ali became the first boxer to capture the heavyweight title three times, winning by unanimous decision in his rematch with Leon Spinks.

In 2008, as a result of the subprime mortgage crisis, Lehman Brothers filed for Chapter 11 in the largest bankruptcy filing in U.S. history.

Today's Birthdays: Writer-director Ron Shelton is 79. Actor Tommy Lee Jones is 78. Film director Oliver Stone is 78. Football coach Pete Carroll is 73. TV personality Lisa Vanderpump is 64. Football Hall of Famer Dan Marino is 63. Actor Josh Charles is 53. Olympic gold medal swimmer Tom Dolan is 49. Actor Tom Hardy is 47. Actor Amy Davidson is 45. Actor Dave Annable is 45. Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, is 40. TV personality Heidi Montag is 38.