

# Groton Daily Independent

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## **Sunday, Oct. 6**

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

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion: St. John's at 9 a.m., Zion at 11 a.m., No Sunday School.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Pastor at Bethesda, 2 p.m.; Choir, 6 p.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.

## **Groton Daily Independent**

**PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445**

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



## **Monday, Oct. 7**

Senior Menu: Spanish rice, green beans, vanilla pudding with oranges, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.

School Lunch: Beef sticks, mashed potatoes.

JH/JV Football at Aberdeen Roncalli (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m.)

State Boys Golf at Central Valley Golf Course, Hartford, 10 a.m.

Volleyball at Mobridge: 7/C at 4 p.m., 8th/JV at 5 p.m., Varsity to follow

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

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

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## The Wolves Send the Beavers Packing on Gypsy Days

Aberdeen, S.D. – For the first time in ten years, the Northern State University football team took down (RV) Bemidji State University. The Wolves held strong in the Beavers final drive of the contest, fending off a last second 2-point conversion attempt. Gabe Gutierrez secured the stop, and the Wolves took control with four seconds to, securing their second straight win.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 14, BSU 13

Records: NSU 2-4 (2-3 NSIC), BSU 4-2 (3-2 NSIC)

Attendance: 6888

### HOW IT HAPPENED

The Wolves struck first on their second drive of the contest with a Colton Hackel rushing score on third and goal

Northern held Bemidji State scoreless through the first half and the two teams entered the locker room with the Wolves up 7-0

The Beavers responded to open the third on a 21-yard receiving touchdown to tie the game

NSU opened the fourth with the ball and Wyatt Block pounded the pavement on second and 11 with a 13-yard rushing touchdown

Bemidji State scored on their final drive of the game with a passing touchdown as the clock ticked down to six seconds

They went for two and the Wolves defense and Gutierrez quickly rebounded with the stop

Northern led the game with 20 first downs, 131 yards rushing, 262 yards of total offense, and four sacks for a total loss of 33 yards

Daniel Britt threw for 131 yards, completing 12-of-22 attempts with a 53-yard long to Zach Jorgensen

Trevor Johnson made the play of his career in the fourth, with a 1-handed interception to return the game to the Wolves favor

Jake Adams led the defense for the sixth straight game with 20 tackles, including 15 solo stops

The duo of Max Van Landingham and Matthew Baker tallied two solo sacks each, with Van Landingham forcing a fumble on his 12-yard sack in the third

Ty Wiley led the returners with 34 total yards on two returns, while Jeremy Caruso sent both PATs through the uprights

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Wyatt Block: 96 yards rushing, 1 touchdown, 25-yard long, 6.4 yards per carry

Jake Adams: 20 tackles, 15 solo stops

Max Van Landingham: 5 tackles, 2.0 sacks for a loss of 21, 1 forced fumble

Matthew Baker: 5 tackles, 2.0 sacks for a loss of 12

### BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

Jake Adams 20 tackles moved him into the national lead with 86 on the season

The Wolves last win against the Beavers came in the fall of 2014 by a score of 48-41

### UP NEXT

Northern State travels to Minnesota Duluth on Saturday, October 12. Kick-off is set for 12 p.m. against the Bulldogs.

## Girls soccer ends season with 3-0 win over Garretson

By Coach Matt Baumgartner

Final regular season game today on the road down in Garretson. Embraced the wind and a long 18-day hiatus since our last outing against Dakota Valley.

Girls started very relaxed and showed very little signs of rust for not playing in over two weeks. Had multiple opportunities on net in the opening 10 minutes, before a good midfield combination play from Kayla Lehr and McKenna Tietz opened space for Jerica Locke to run in upon and open the scoring.

Minutes later Brenna Imrie found Brooklyn Hansen in space and her shot was picture perfect in the top of the net. Mia Crank responded with a long 40 yard shot 14 minutes later to round out the half and the scoring on the day. Rotation and a plethora of positions changes make the afternoon fun and energetic for everyone, our chances second half found the post a few times and some miss kicks lead to us not adding more to the scoresheet.

Saturday matchup was looked at as being a great opportunity to build our momentum and craft our message to the rest of the state heading into the playoffs that we have one big goal this year. Our spirits are all high after having a stellar regular season and are looking for another rally of support from the community and fans as we face off with Vermillion in the State A Quarterfinals, Tuesday October 5th at 4:00 PM in Groton.

Final  
Groton Area 3  
Garretson 0

1st half: 3-0  
2nd half: 0-0

### Goals:

- 1 Jerica Locke assisted by McKenna Tietz - 11th minute
- 2 Brooklyn Hansen assisted by Brenna Imrie - 15th minute
- 3 Mia Crank - unassisted - 29th minute

### Saves:

Jaedyn Penning - 1 save - 40 minutes  
Mia Crank - 1 save - 40 minutes

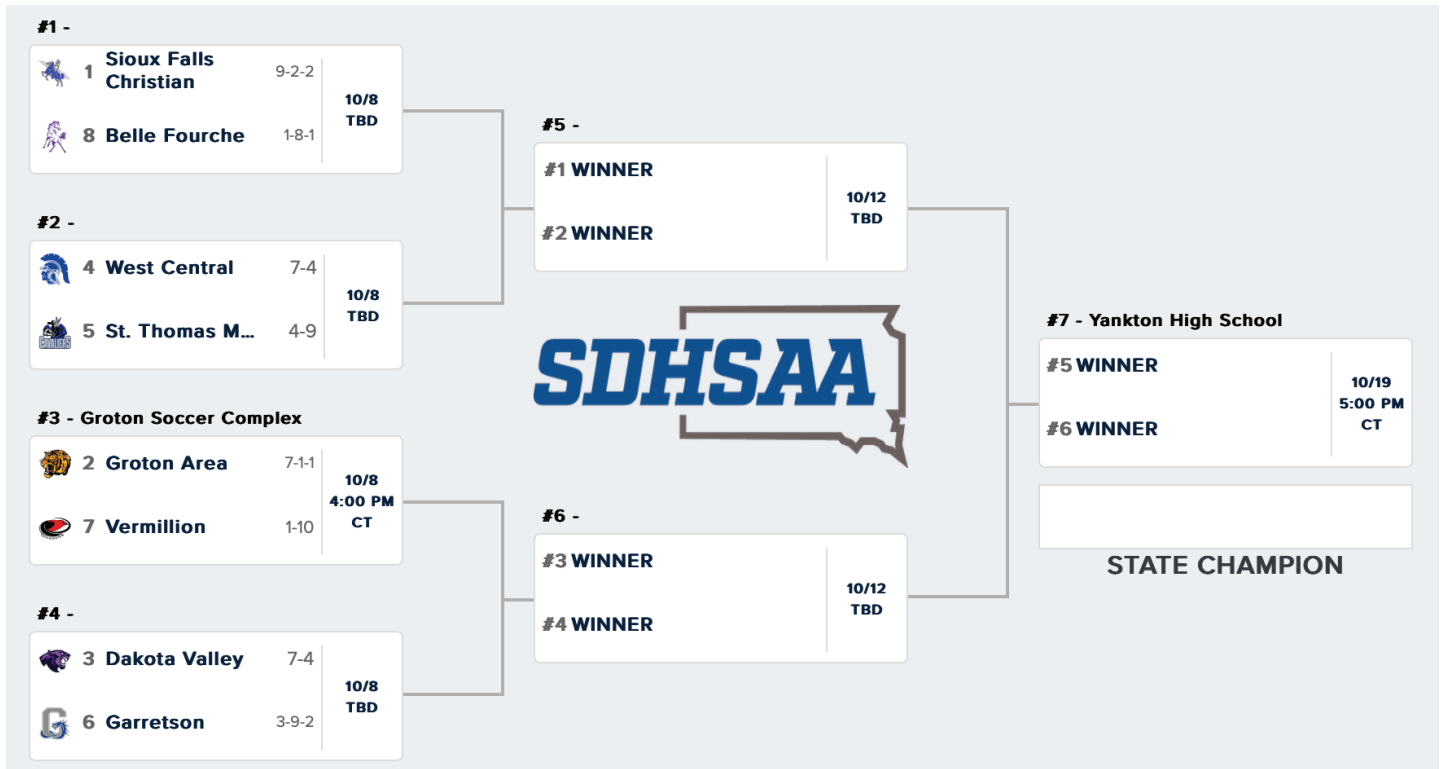
## Boys soccer rallies to tie Dakota Valley

The Groton Area boys soccer team was down 3-0, with 12 minutes left in the game. The Tigers came back to tie the game at three with the scoring coming from corner kicks. Ethan Kroll had one goal and two assists and Logan Olson had two goals.

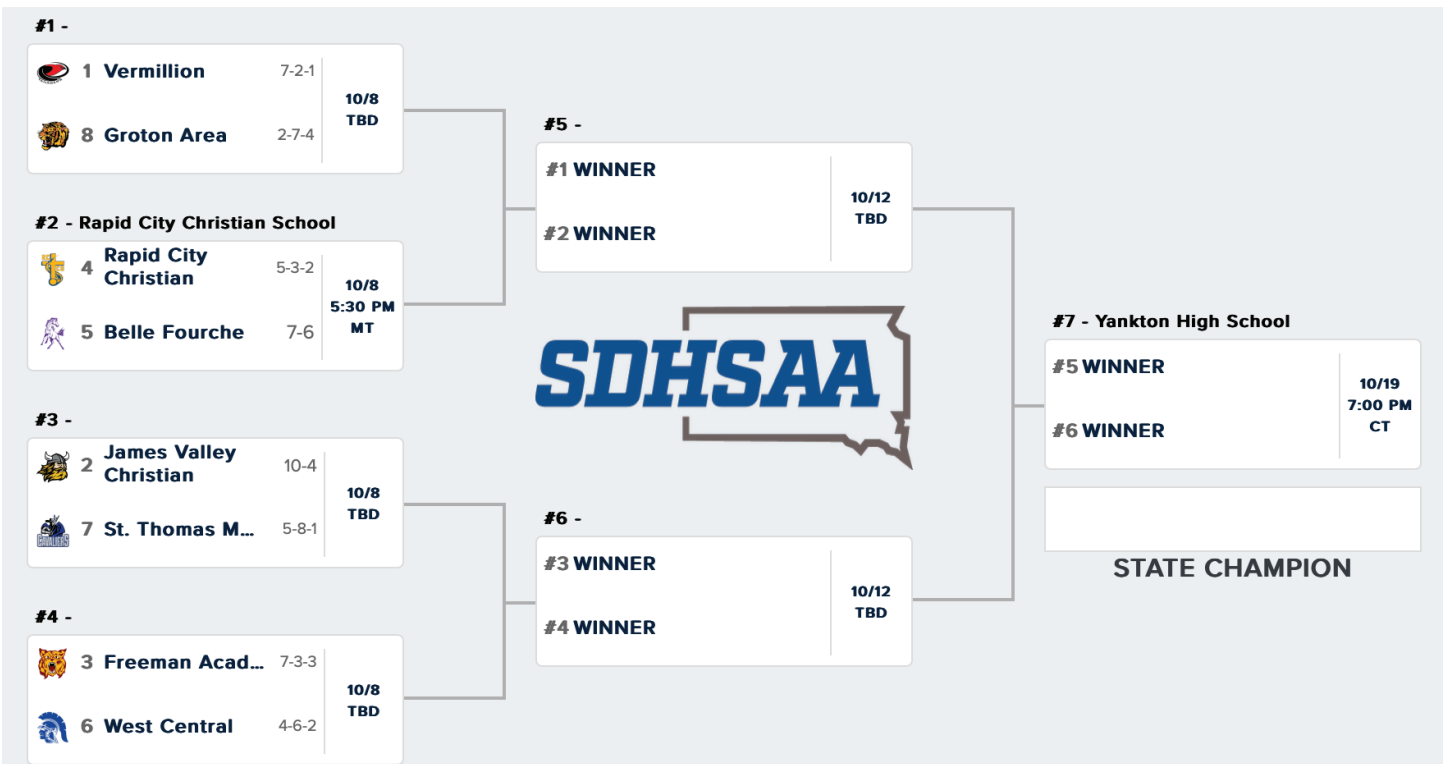
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## Girls State A Soccer Playoffs



## Boys State A Soccer Playoffs





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## Working to Protect & Promote Traditional American Values

- Pro Police
- Pro Constitution
- Pro Family



Visit the Campaign Site  
[ManhartForHouse.com](https://ManhartForHouse.com)



Paid for by Manhart for State House

# MANHART

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE

### DISTRICT 1

[facebook.com/ManhartLogan](https://facebook.com/ManhartLogan) | [ManhartForHouse.com](https://ManhartForHouse.com)

**General Election - Nov. 5**  
**Absentee Voting has begun**



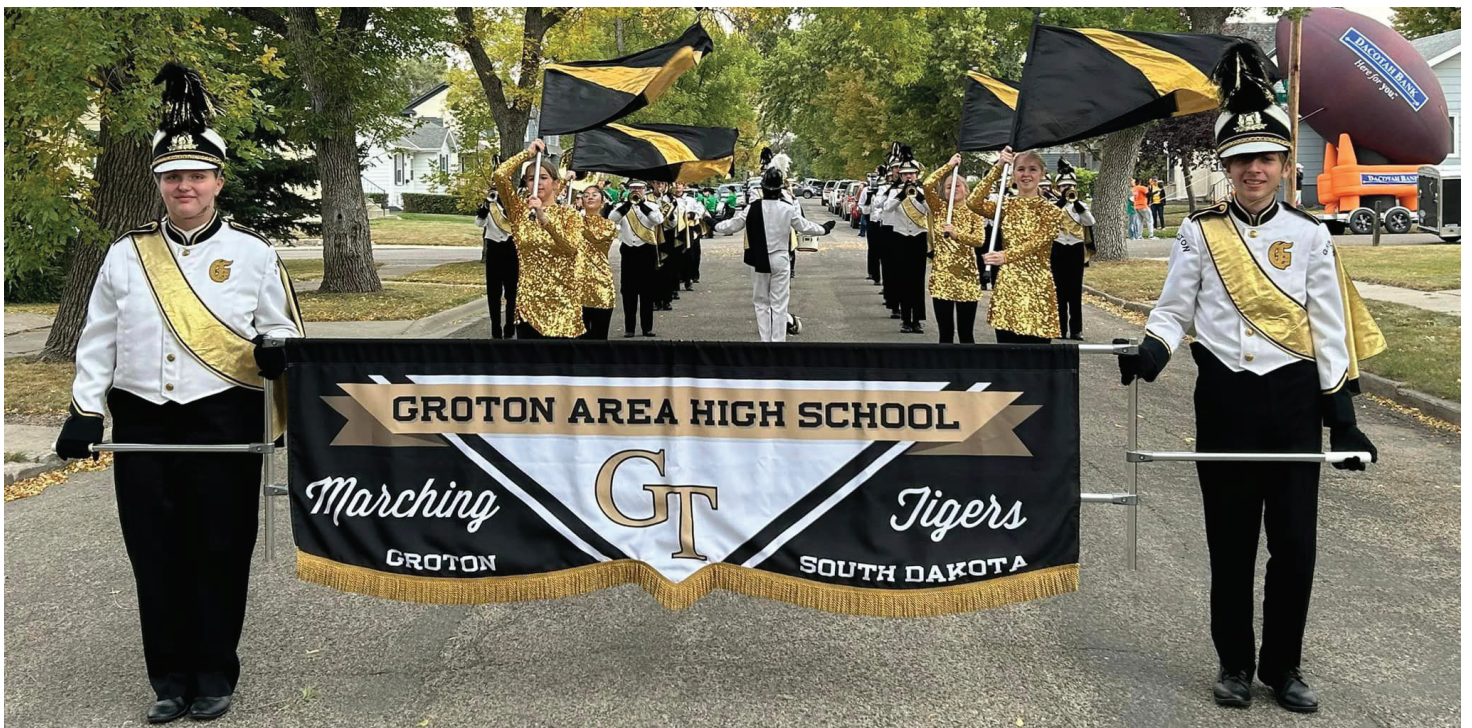
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## GHS Marching Band brings home the gold

Senior band members Jeslyn Kosel, Corbin Weismantel, Axel Warrington and Rebecca Poor show off the Gold Award from the Gypsy Day Parade, The GHS Marching Band is pictured below. (Photos from Desiree Yeigh's FB page)





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The Groton Area and Langford Area bands, under the direction of Desiree Yeigh and Kelly Wieser, have been playing together at the home football games this year. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## COMMON CENTS IS MOVING TO THE GROTON COMMUNITY CENTER (109 N 3RD STREET) FOR A 3-DAY \$10 BAG SALE!!

**SHOP**

**THURS, OCT. 10TH 2-7PM**

**FRI, OCT. 11TH 9AM-3PM**

**SAT, OCT. 12TH 9AM-3PM**





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**The Steve Herron Memorial Pumpkin Patch was ready for the Pumpkin Fest pickers.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The crowd size picked up in the afternoon as people returned from the Gypsy Day Parade in Aberdeen.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Lori Westby assisted with the face painting at the Groton Pumpkin Fest.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

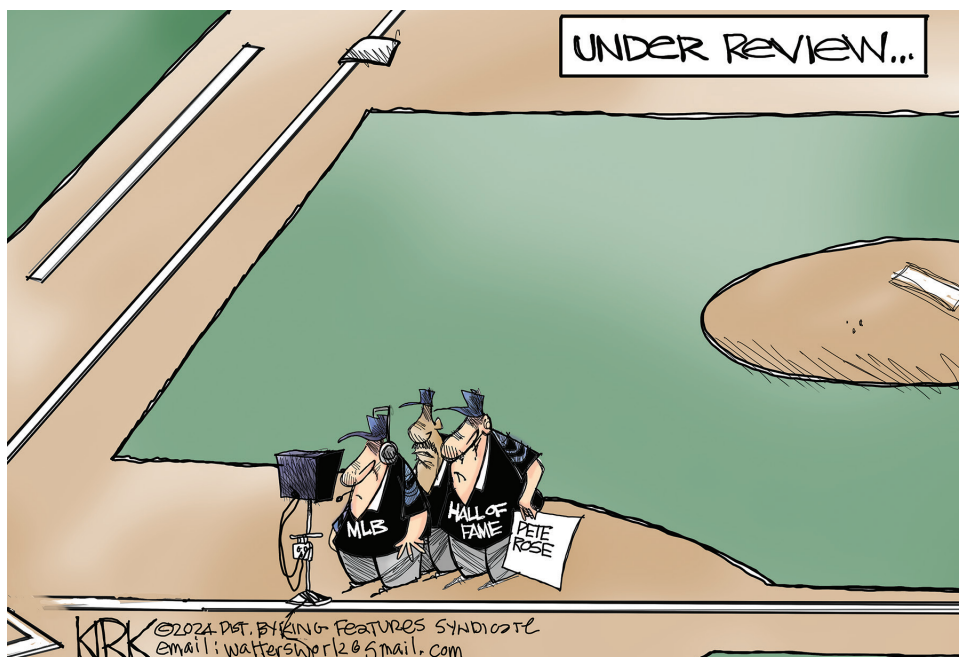


*And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”*

REVELATION 14:11

Medieval woodcut

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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. In a vision that convinced Peter to share the gospel, what were the creatures let down to earth in? *Great sheet, Cloud, Well, Wind*

3. Who was instructed to eat bread while he lay for 390 days on his side? *Moses, Ezekiel, Methuselah, Samson*

4. From Matthew 5, what did Jesus tell His disciples they were the salt of? *His glory, Mankind, The earth, Conversation*

5. Who survived the bite of a viper as described in Acts 28? *Paul, Matthew, John the Baptist, Stephen*

6. From Genesis 35, who died in giving birth to Benjamin? *Anna, Leah, Martha, Rachel*

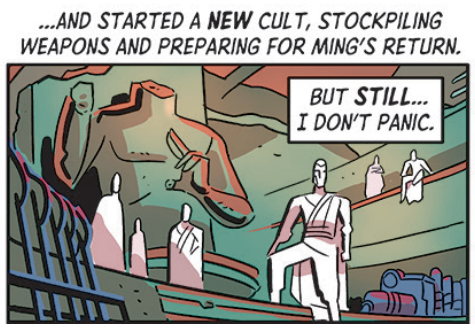
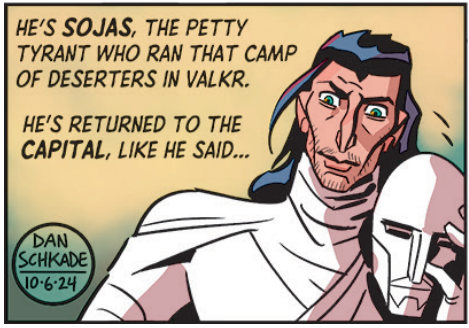
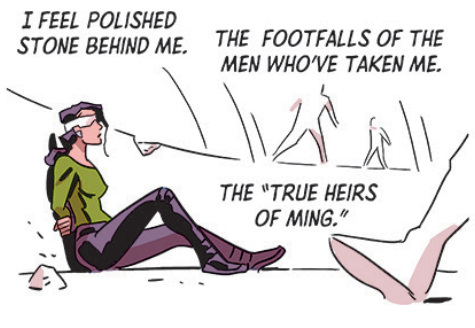
ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Great sheet, 3) Ezekiel, 4) The earth, 5) Paul, 6) Rachel

*Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscribersite at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).*

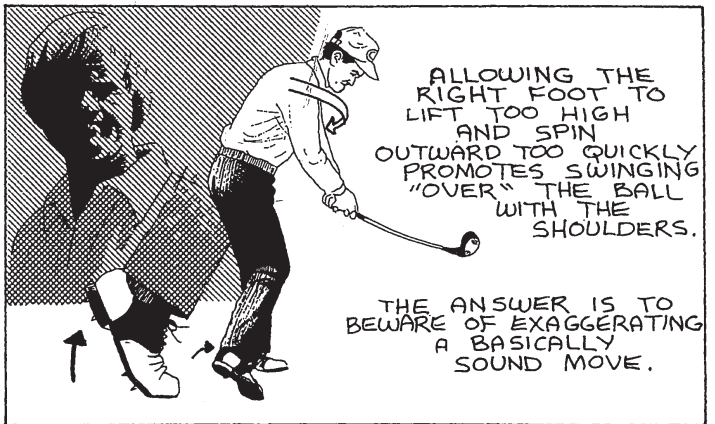
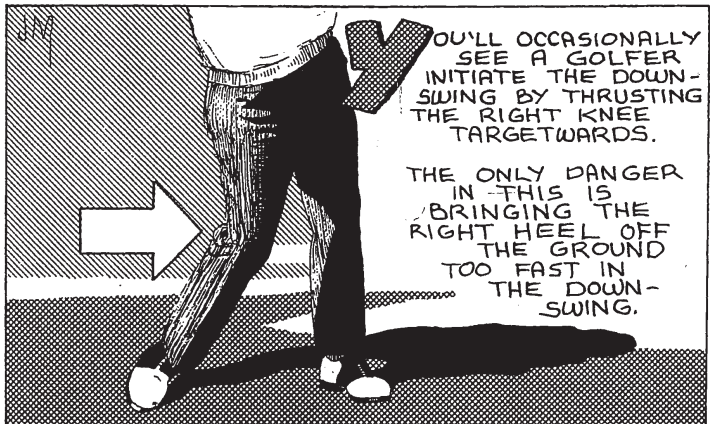


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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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## Learn To Adjust Your Body to a New Sleeping Schedule

DEAR DR. ROACH: I just retired from working the graveyard shift for 40 years. I am hoping you can share some information on how to safely learn to sleep at night once again. -- E.H.

ANSWER: Changing your body's circadian rhythm isn't always easy, and after such a long time, it will take longer for you. But it shouldn't be as difficult as you might fear. When people fly to the other part of the world, they need to get accustomed to a new sleep schedule, and it usually doesn't take more than a week or two for them to get accustomed. For you, it will be difficult learning to be up during the day, which is more of a behavioral issue than a circadian-rhythm issue.

The first advice I give is to push your internal time clock forward, not backward. Try to stay up two hours or so later each day until you get to a bedtime that works with your family (if appropriate) and goals. Your body has an easier time moving forward than backward.

Bright light can be your friend or your enemy. You want bright light when you wake up, not right before bed. Computers, phones and tablets all put out light that signals your brain to wake up, so don't use these before bed. Making sure that your bedroom is dark when you want to sleep is something you probably have already done, but it's still worth mentioning.

Caffeine is very helpful to a lot of people, so if you partake, do so when you awaken, not before bedtime. Some people metabolize caffeine slowly, so if you do, don't have any caffeine for at least 8 hours before planning to go to sleep.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: Recently, I had COVID and was given Paxlovid. I am a 74-year-old woman with a 25-year history of a fibromyalgia-type disorder, along with rheumatoid arthritis and a few other problems. I was expecting to feel worse after taking Paxlovid, but I was quite surprised that I felt much better. The COVID symptoms were gone in 24 hours, and for the first time in years, I had energy. The fibromyalgia symptoms were gone, too.

This lasted for four days, then it was back to reality. Once I stopped Paxlovid, the symptom relief halted as well. Have you ever heard of this? -- F.P.

ANSWER: Yes, this is well-reported among the fibromyalgia community. It's not at all dissimilar to what I have heard from some patients about feeling better after getting antibiotics for an unrelated condition.

As far as I know, nobody has a definitive answer as to why this happens. I doubt very much that it is an effect of Paxlovid. Many people have tried using antivirals or antibiotics for fibromyalgia, but it does not seem to be helpful. Some authorities have speculated about it suppressing other viruses, but this isn't likely either. It seems that not only do people feel relatively better after being very sick with COVID, people report being able to do activities that they hadn't been able to do before.

I'm sorry that I don't have an answer as to why this happens. A diligent search doesn't lead me to any great insight. Obviously, a better understanding of these types of conditions would be great if it could lead to more effective treatments.

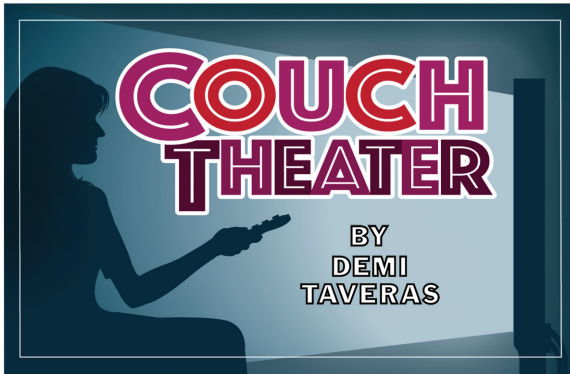
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

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**Laura Dern, left, and Liam Hemsworth star in "Lonely Planet."** (Courtesy of Netflix)

"Deadpool & Wolverine" (R) -- The second highest-grossing film of the year has finally been freed from its movie-theater shackles so that it can grace our screens at home! After pulling in \$1.3 billion at the box office, the third "Deadpool" movie -- a buddy film that adds Hugh Jackman's Wolverine into the mix -- is now available to rent.

Ryan Reynolds reprises his role as Wade Wilson/Deadpool, who's down in the dumps after hanging up his mercenary ways and picking up a job as a used car salesman. But when the Time Variance Authority accidentally reveals that his timeline in the multiverse will shortly be eradicated, Wade employs maximum effort to save his timeline with the help of the multiverse's "worst Wolverine." Buckle in, because it's quite a ride! And keep an eye out for some great cameos from previous characters in the "X-Men" films. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Speak No Evil" (R) -- In this psychological horror film, Scoot McNairy ("Narcos: Mexico") and Mackenzie Davis ("Black Mirror") portray Louise and Ben, who are on vacation with their daughter, Agnes, in Italy. While there, they meet another couple, Paddy and Ciara, who also have an only child, and form a friendship. When Paddy and Ciara invite Louise and Ben's family to spend some time at their farm in the countryside, Louise and Ben pick up on some strange behavior between the other family that leaves them shocked and troubled. Wanting to keep the peace, however, Louise and Ben's family remain at the farmhouse. But little do they know that as each hour passes on, their chances of getting out become slimmer and slimmer. James McAvoy ("It Chapter Two") and Aisling Franciosi ("Game of Thrones") co-star in this film out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

"American Music Awards 50th Anniversary Special" (TV-14) -- The American Music Awards celebrates 50 years since its inception, even though it hasn't held its annual award ceremony since November 2022. Plans to hold an anniversary special were set in motion after the award show's contract with ABC expired and CBS picked up the show for a slated 2025 release date. So, if you didn't catch the special when it was recently broadcast live on CBS, you'll be able to stream it now and watch the performances of legendary musicians like Mariah Carey, Green Day, Brad Paisley, Chaka Khan, Gladys Knight and Jennifer Hudson. The special also includes appearances from celebrities like Carrie Underwood, Jennifer Lopez, Gloria Estefan and Jimmy Kimmel. (Paramount+)

"Lonely Planet" (R) -- A current theme in romantic films during 2024 seems to be the concept of older women being drawn to and falling in love with younger men (e.g., "The Idea of You" and "A Family Affair"). This film starring Laura Dern ("Palm Royale") and Liam Hemsworth ("Land of Bad") provides yet another take on this theme, as novelist Katherine (Dern) embarks on a retreat in Morocco. At this retreat, she meets Owen (Hemsworth), who originally tagged along to the retreat with his writer-girlfriend, Lily. But as Owen's connection with Lily wavers, sparks begin to fly between this unavailable man and the lonely novelist. Out on Oct. 11. (Netflix)

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1. Who had a hit with "Spanish Harlem"?
2. Name the band that released "Black Night."
3. Who wrote and released "How Deep Is Your Love"?
4. Which group released "I Count the Tears"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "My love must be a kind of blind love, I can't see anyone but you."

Answers

1. Ben E. King, in 1960. The song was King's first solo hit after he left The Drifters. It was used as a b-side to "First Taste of Love," but climbed to the Top Ten chart and has made it to the list of "500 Greatest Songs of All Time."

2. Deep Purple, in 1970.

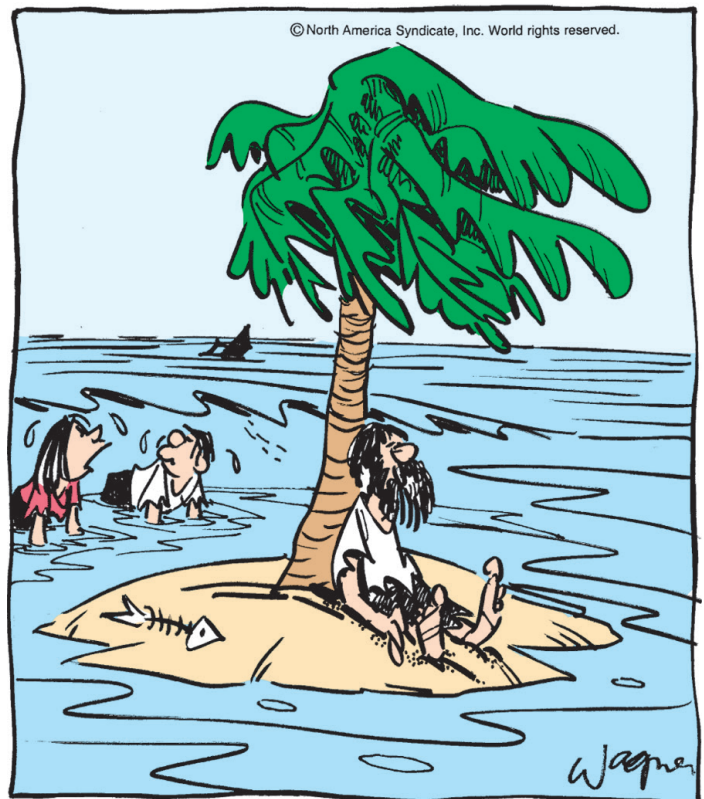
3. The Bee Gees, in 1977. It was included in the film "Saturday Night Fever" starring John Travolta, one of three Bee Gees songs used.

4. The Drifters, in 1960. The song went to No. 6 on the R&B chart and was released on the group's "Save the Last Dance for Me" album.

5. "I Only Have Eyes For You," most notably by The Flamingos in 1959. The song was written in 1934 for the film "Dames," and has been released by numerous artists over the years, including Art Garfunkel and The Lettermen.

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## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>by Wagner</sup>



"Well, are you going to ask him for directions or not?"

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Dishcloth is larger. 2. Picture on wall is larger.  
3. Stack of dishes is shorter. 4. Cabinet handle is missing.  
5. Report card is smaller. 6. Upper cabinet is missing.



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\* There are many uses for empty Tic Tac containers. Here are three: Wrap with pretty paper and use as a tiny vase for a single-stem flower. Or, separate small scrapbooking supplies in them. Last, thread two needles with a length of thread -- one white and one black. Poke the needles through a small square of paper and wrap the thread around the paper. Slip into the container for a travel sewing kit.

\* "Need your nails to dry in a hurry? You can use the cool setting on your hair dryer. It works really fast." -- L.E. in Georgia

\* To get a couple more days out of your cat litter, clean the box out and mix in a cup of baking soda.

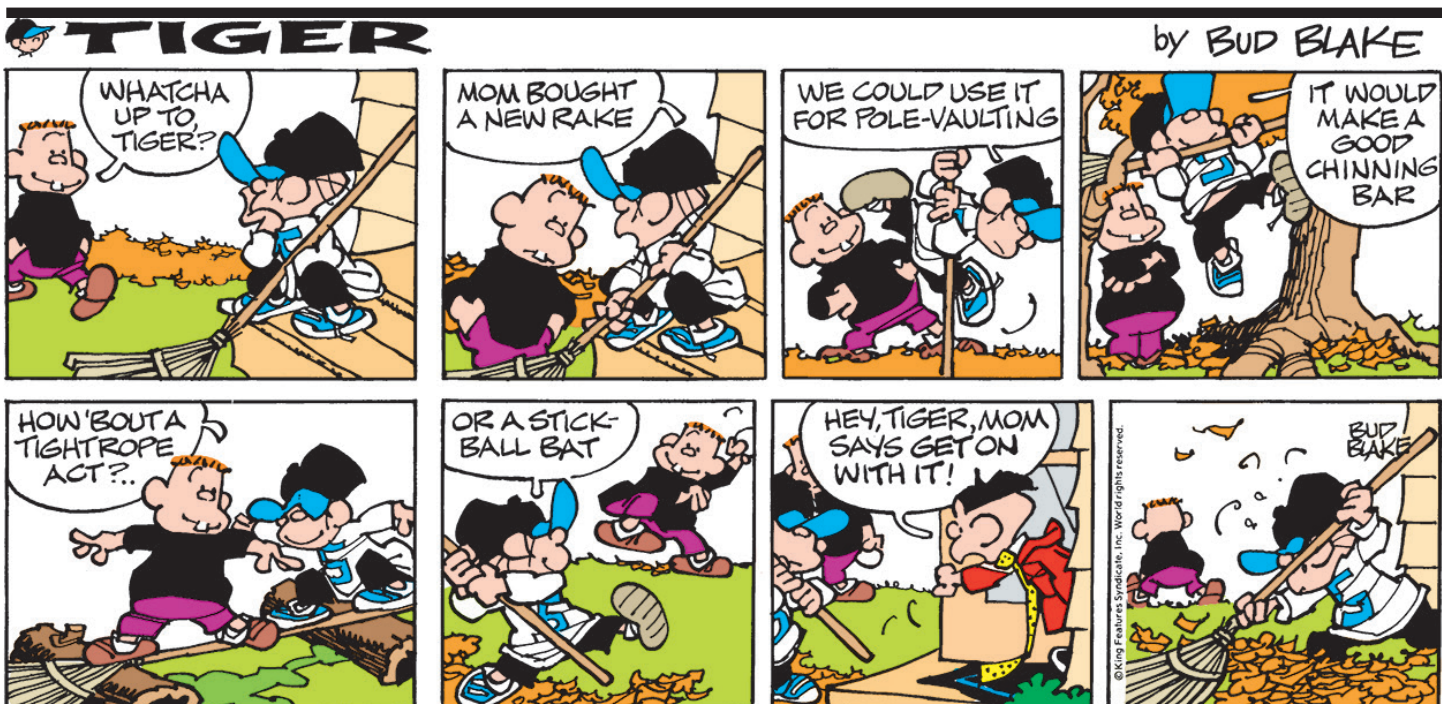
\* Remove mildew from plastic shower curtains by spraying them with a mix of bleach and water, or just toss them in the washing machine with your next load of towels.

\* "We have a playroom, and the kids argue about who made what mess and who should clean up which toys. We made a cleaning schedule for the room, having one or two children per day responsible to clean up at the end of the day. It was a rough start, but the kids have learned to clean up as they go rather than leave a big mess for someone else. (Pay back is not kind.)" -- A Mom, via email

\* If your vacuum has a paper filter, spray it with your fave perfume or essential oil. It will blow into the air as you vacuum, leaving behind a pleasant scent.

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

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 "Kapow!"
- 4 Makes a choice
- 8 Release money
- 12 Actress Merkel
- 13 Boyfriend
- 14 Celestial bear
- 15 MSNBC rival
- 16 Lawman Wyatt
- 17 Some HDTVs
- 18 James Caan's role in "The Godfather"
- 21 Shoe width
- 22 Aachen article
- 23 Tire pattern
- 26 LBJ's successor
- 27 Faux —
- 30 Shower bar?
- 31 Chart format
- 32 Shed
- 33 Cauldron
- 34 Hit show letters
- 35 Symbol of freshness
- 36 HBO rival
- 37 Serena, to Venus
- 38 Grammy-winning Shawn Colvin song
- 45 Exotic berry

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

- 46 Eventful periods
- 47 Actor Harrison
- 48 Brisk pace
- 49 Vogue rival
- 50 Microwave
- 51 Curly cabbage
- 52 Ken or Barbie
- 53 Oklahoma tribe
- 4 Heeded
- 5 Quiet partner?
- 6 Tropical tuber
- 7 Paramount
- 8 President Martin Van —
- 9 Not pizzicato
- 10 "This — outrage!"
- 11 Zap with a beam
- 19 Tide variety
- 20 Author Yutang
- 23 Recipe abbr.
- 24 Kanga's kid
- 25 Have dinner
- 26 Carnival city
- 27 Luau dish
- 28 Gore and Pacino
- 29 Farm pen
- 31 "Continue!"
- 32 Prepare potatoes
- 34 Bashful
- 35 Truck fuel
- 36 Marsh bird
- 37 Lowercase
- 38 Bag
- 39 Pac-12 team
- 40 Hammer target
- 41 Woody's son
- 42 Rice-shaped pasta
- 43 Vegan's no-no
- 44 Big fair, for short

### DOWN

- 1 Tampa Bay team, for short
- 2 — Domini
- 3 "Death in Venice" author

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## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	A	M		O	P	T	S		B	A	I	L
U	N	A		B	E	A	U		U	R	S	A
C	N	N		E	A	R	P		R	C	A	S
S	O	N	N	Y	C	O	R	L	E	O	N	E
				E	E	E		E	I	N		
T	R	E	A	D		R	M	N		P	A	S
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P	O	T		S	R	O		D	A	I	S	Y
				S	H	O		S	I	S		
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A	C	A	I		E	R	A	S		R	E	X
C	L	I	P		E	L	L	E		Z	A	P
K	A	L	E		D	O	L	L		O	T	O

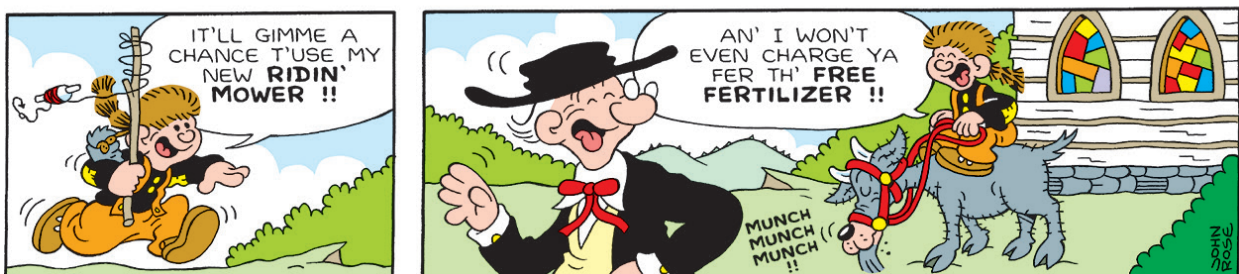
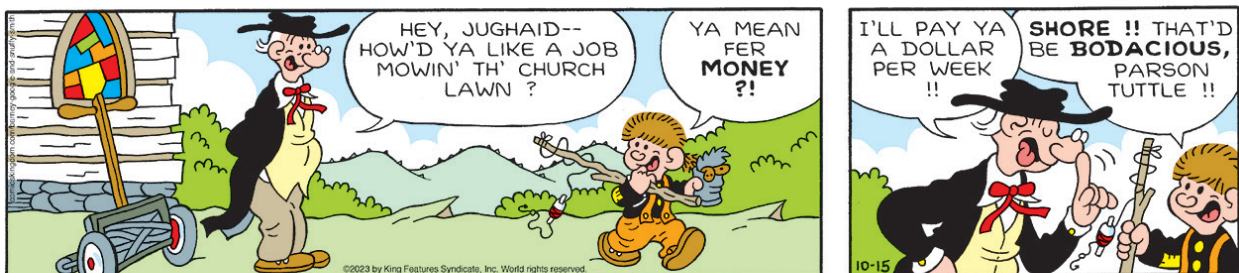
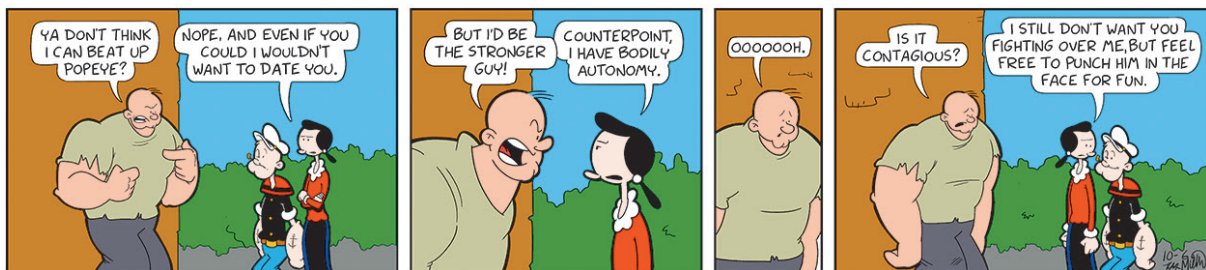
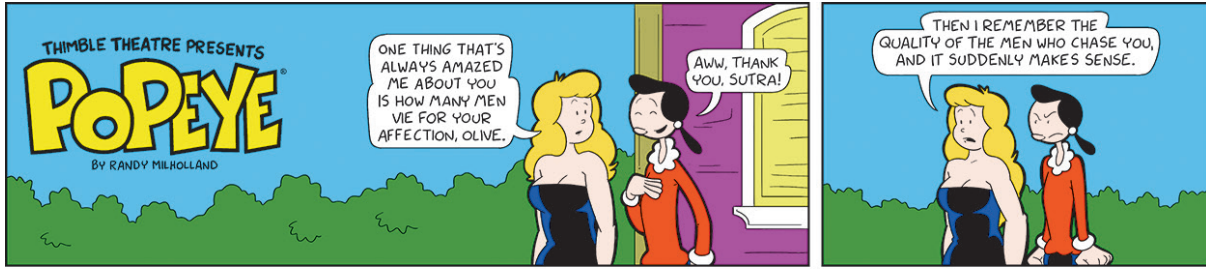
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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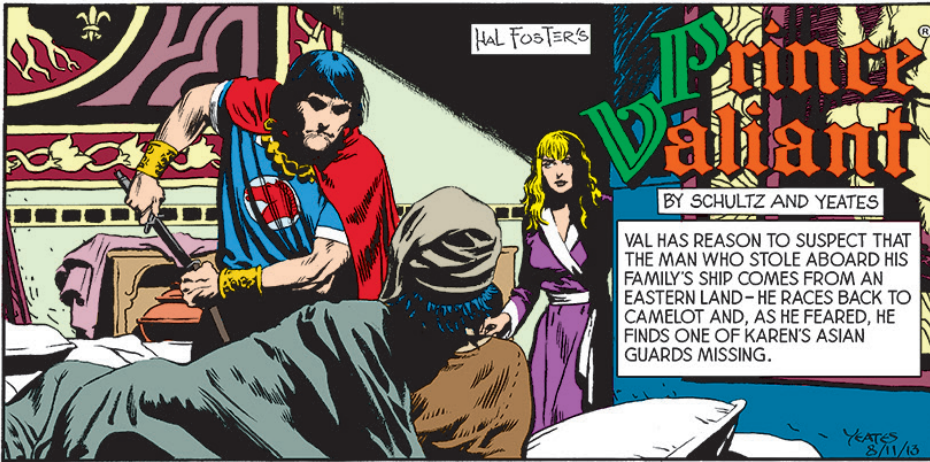
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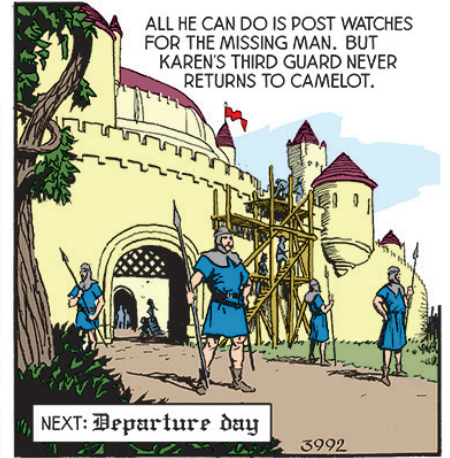
"TELL ME THE REASON FOR YOUR COMPATRIOT'S ABSENCE," VAL GROWLS, "OR I WILL PERSUADE YOU TO DO SO, SLOWLY AND PAINFULLY. WHAT MISCHIEF DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY FAMILY?"



BUT THE MAN SIMPLY RETURNS VALS GLARE. "EVEN IF HE KNOWS OF THIS," CRIES KAREN, "HE WOULD NOT TALK. MY HUSBAND CHOOSES MEN FROM THE CENTRAL STEPPES FOR GOOD REASON!"

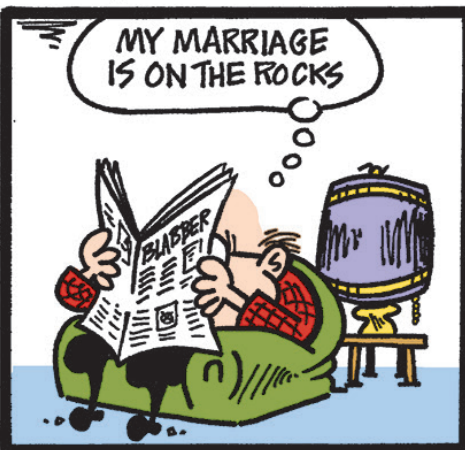


VAL CONCEDES THAT THIS IS SO - AND HE DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO RISK CREATING MORE DISTANCE BETWEEN HIM AND HIS DAUGHTER.



## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Keeping our balance

How long can you stand on one leg? This balance ability is apparently a good indicator of how we're aging ... or so say several researchers.

Some researchers pay attention to this standing business because they think it indicates longevity. Others think a lack of that ability can point to a cognitive decline.

If you want to check your balance, stand up and keep your eyes open, don't hold onto anything, and stand on one leg without any support, lifting one leg off the ground and bent at the knee. If you're between 50 and 59, that standing time should be 37 seconds. From 60-69, aim for 30 seconds. Between 70 and 79, shoot for 19 seconds, and over 80, aim for a bit over 5 seconds.

Another source says in your 50s, aim for 40 seconds. In 60s, try for 20 seconds. In your 70s, the goal would be around 10 seconds.

If you struggle with standing for those lengths of time, there are ways to improve your balance. You can practice standing but use something for support until you get the hang of it. You'll strengthen the muscles of your legs that way. Or try dancing and walking up stairs.

Take a look at the Mayo Clinic website for suggestions on how to improve your balance in general. At [mayoclinic.org](https://www.mayoclinic.org), do a search for "balance exercises," where you'll find dozens of articles. Pay attention to the ones that talk about strengthening your core muscles -- your lower back, hips, stomach and pelvis. With a stronger core, you'll have better overall balance. The good news about core exercises is that you can do them at home and don't need to go to the gym.

For added ideas, check out YouTube videos ([youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)) for senior exercises. With winter about to arrive, exercises we can do at home will help keep us in shape.

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1. In September 2014, what Cincinnati Reds infielder hit a walk-off grand slam in his final major league at-bat?

2. How many games did quarterback Todd Marinovich, a first-round draft pick for the Los Angeles Raiders in 1991, play in his entire NFL career?

3. What biennial tournament, organized by the International Golf Federation and first played in 1958, is the world men's amateur team championship?

4. Name the Georgia Bulldogs placekicker who made a school-record 60-yard field goal to upset the No. 2 Clemson Tigers 26-23 in 1984. (Hint: He won the Super Bowl in his rookie NFL season.)

5. Canada's Glenroy Gilbert won a gold medal in the 4x100 meter relay at the 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. What events did he compete in at the 1994 Lillehammer Winter Olympics?

6. Tennis player Andrei Medvedev, who lost to Andre Agassi in the 1999 French Open final, represented what country?

7. What NCAA Division I basketball team plays its home games at Sojka Pavilion in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania?



by Ryan A. Berenz

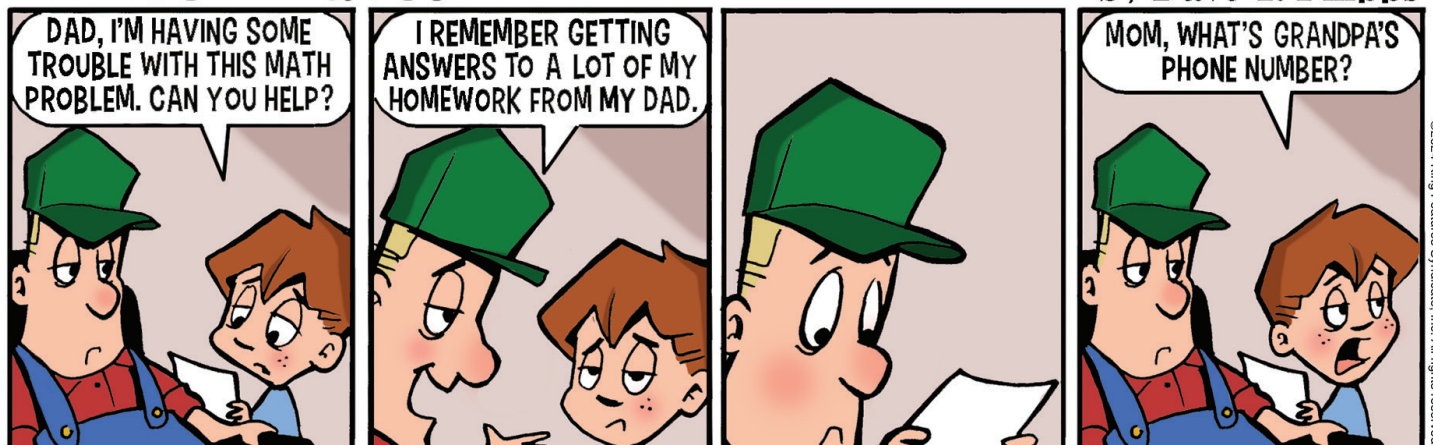
## Answers

1. Ramon Santiago.
2. Eight.
3. The Eisenhower Trophy.
4. Kevin Butler.
5. Two-man and four-man bobsled.
6. Ukraine.
7. The Bucknell University Bison.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## Make a winter training schedule for your pet

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My German Shepherd, "Dante," is smart but stubborn, and constant training is essential. But I wanted to share a method I use to make sure I keep up with his basic obedience training and work on advanced skills year-round.

Every three to four months, I sit down with a new notebook and make a training journal for Dante. It helps me organize my thoughts around how to best train him in the late fall and winter, when going outside every day isn't always possible, or the weather is so unpleasant that Dante won't listen to my commands.

I write down the training goals I want to accomplish during this period. I note any behavioral or training issues that Dante has had up to now. Shepherds, like many big dogs and herders, have a lot of energy and need at least an hour per day of exercise, so I figure out the best times to do that. There are also a lot of holidays during this period, and the journal gives me a place to figure out in advance how I will handle travel, training, parties and other schedule challenges.

I hope my method will help other readers who are trying to maintain their dog's obedience skills while having a busy life. -- Cheryl K. in Eau Claire, Wisconsin

DEAR Cheryl: That's fantastic advice! Thank you for sharing your journaling method. It sounds like it provides a space to write down much more information than jotting notes on a wall calendar.

Creating a training schedule and journal also is a big help in monitoring how well your dog is progressing with their training, and noting areas where improvements can be made.

Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).

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## Strange BUT TRUE

\* Alcohol is considered a performance-enhancing drug in most shooting sports, as it calms your body down and allows you to shoot straighter.

\* The universe has a color, but it's not what you might think. Researchers at Johns Hopkins University took the average of light from over 200,000 galaxies. It turns out the universe is, on average, kind of beige. They named the shade "cosmic latte."

\* In a 2008 survey of British teens, 58% of the respondents

believed Sherlock Holmes was a real person, while 20% said that Winston Churchill was not.

\* When asked if her husband Abe had any hobbies, Mary Todd Lincoln responded, "Cats."

\* Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt once sneaked out of a White House event, commandeered an airplane, and went on a joyride to Baltimore.

\* The Karni Mata Temple in Deshnoke, India, is home to 20,000 rats who are believed to be descended from an incarnation of the Hindu goddess Durga.

\* According to NASA, it possibly rains glass on the planet known as HD 189733b.

\* The first baseball caps were made from straws and worn by the New York Knickerbockers in 1849. A few years afterward, the first merino wool baseball caps were put into circulation.

\* Some traditions hold that walking backward while wearing your clothes inside out will allow you to see a witch on Halloween.

\* In ancient Rome, lemons were used as an antidote to all poisons.

\* One of the world's largest stockpiles of nuclear weapons is located at a U.S. Navy base near Seattle, which is partially defended by trained dolphins.

\* The highest mileage on a single car is over 3 million miles.

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Thought for the Day: "History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be un-lived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again." -- Maya Angelou

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### The Garden Bug

### Autumn garden tasks

- Gather seeds from your spent plantings; collect all dead and dying foliage.
- Compost any plant waste that is not diseased. If burning is permitted in your community, this will be an effective way to dispose of diseased plants.
- The autumn leaf fall can suffocate a lawn (especially any newly-established ones) if not often raked up.
- Planting cover crops, or spreading mulch over bare soil, can help prevent soil erosion over the winter. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: [www.thespruce.com](http://www.thespruce.com), [wayne.ces.ncsu.edu](http://wayne.ces.ncsu.edu)

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by Freddy Groves

## Reaching out

The holidays will be here soon, and not all of us will do well with getting through that time of the year. Whether it's the pressures of the social aspects of the season or financial worries or we're just not feelin' it, sometimes it's all just a bit much. But we're not alone.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a website loaded with resources to help with all kinds of concerns. Go to [www.va.gov/REACH/challenges](http://www.va.gov/REACH/challenges) and scroll down to view the categories, such as life transitions, health challenges, feelings of depression and many more. Select up to three statements that describe what you're going through (examples are "I don't care about the things I used to care about" and "I don't have anyone I can ask for help"), then click the "All Done" button at the bottom.

What you get is a page of resources tailor-made for you. Start working your way through all of them. The bottom line is that if you need support, the help is there. You're not alone. Sometimes the VA does things perfectly, and this website of resources is one of those.

On the flip side of the coin, perhaps you're doing extremely well and want to connect with fellow veterans who might need a bit of help. Buddy Check is a program that connects veterans. You'll take some short peer-to-peer training (a 34-minute video) and then pledge to reach out to 10 veterans. Although there is an official Buddy Check Week, there is no reason you can't reach out at other times of the year -- especially now with the holidays coming up.

Check out Together We Served, a.k.a. the Buddy Finder ([www.togetherweserved.com](http://www.togetherweserved.com)), to hunt for veterans you served with, and reconnect with them. At this writing, the site has over 2 million veterans who've registered their profiles to make contact with other veterans. Together We Served also has a Facebook page, as well as an app on Google Play and the App Store.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. MOVIES: Where was "The Lord of the Rings" filmed?
2. TELEVISION: What is the setting for the animated series "South Park"?
3. SCIENCE: What is the most abundant element in the Earth's crust?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president proclaimed June 14 to be Flag Day?
5. MATH: Which letter is contained in every odd number when it is spelled out?
6. GEOGRAPHY: Both the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn pass through which country?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of porcupines called?
8. MUSIC: Which British singer/songwriter helped create many songs on "The Lion King" soundtrack?
9. FAMOUS QUOTES: Who wrote the line about fall, "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers"?
10. LITERATURE: Which children's book features a fictional world where it is always winter but never Christmas?

### Answers

1. New Zealand.
2. Colorado.
3. Oxygen (46%).
4. Woodrow Wilson.
5. E.
6. Brazil.
7. A prickle.
8. Elton John.
9. Lucy Maud Montgomery, "Anne of Green Gables."
10. "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" (Narnia).

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## Cyber Place

South Dakota is a growing state, but we aren't just growing in our more traditional industries like agriculture, tourism, and financial services. In recent years, South Dakota's cybersecurity industry has taken off!

Cybersecurity has become South Dakota's next big industry. In fact, our cybersecurity industry has grown the 2nd fastest of any state over the last decade. The jobs of the future are right here in South Dakota. Our kids and grandkids don't have to move out-of-state to chase the career of their dreams anymore.

We've grown to more than 9,000 cybersecurity jobs with 900 jobs openings – this highlights the ongoing demand for skilled workers. If you know someone who wants to earn a living in this high-demand field in South Dakota, send them to [FreedomWorksHere.com](https://FreedomWorksHere.com)! These jobs are incredibly well-paying. Most cybersecurity positions pay more than \$85,000 on average, and information security analysts earn an average of more than \$100,000!

This growth is possible because South Dakota has one of the top universities in America for cybersecurity and emerging technology: Dakota State University. DSU has received designations in cyber operations, cyber defense, and cyber research from the NSA and Homeland Security – that's something only ten schools in the entire country can say!

We are also training South Dakota kids even before they get to college. The Governor's Cyber Academy provides training opportunities high school students. They can attend the academy to get dual-credit training during the summer. They learn skills and earn digital badges that will help them earn high-demand jobs.

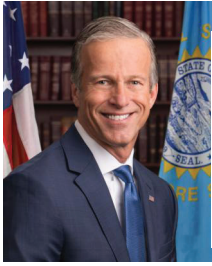
These opportunities encourage our kids to stay in South Dakota to earn their college degree. They also attract students from across America to choose South Dakota for their education.

This momentum is showing no signs of slowing down! This last legislative session, we also funded a Center for Quantum Information Science and Technology. I signed the bill in a celebration at Mad Labs at Dakota State University. South Dakota is already a leader in emerging technology. This center will take us to the next level by combining numerous fields to make tremendous advancements in cybersecurity, agriculture, healthcare, and more.

While we train up the next generation, we're also doing everything we can to secure the personal data of South Dakotans today. I banned TikTok for state government in South Dakota and kicked off a national movement – dozens of states and the federal government followed our lead. Then, we backed it up by banning the Chinese company Tencent and creating a process to ban other dangerous companies controlled by nations that hate us.

October is Cybersecurity Month in South Dakota. Take the time to remind yourself how to protect your own data. Be careful about what you share online, keep your computer up-to-date, create unique passwords (and change them regularly), install antivirus programs and firewalls, and use common sense when connecting to the internet. These are just a few steps that you and your family can take to secure your data today.

And as our cybersecurity industry continues to grow and thrive, we will guarantee a safer tomorrow.



**JOHN THUNE**  
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

## America Must Support Israeli Victory

On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists stormed into Israel, murdering 1,200 innocent civilians and taking hundreds of hostages, some of whom remain in the Gaza Strip today, including American citizens. For the last year, Israelis have been targeted by attacks from every direction, and they have brought the fight to the terrorists who threaten their very existence. It's critical that the United States stand strongly behind our ally and support Israeli victory.

Soon after the October 7 attack, I traveled to Israel with a congressional delegation. We were briefed by the Israeli Defense Forces about the atrocities committed that day, and we met with the families of hostages being held in Gaza who shared their painful stories. This visit crystallized what's at stake in this war. It's existential for Israel, and the war can only end when Israel has eliminated the terrorists living on its borders.

Israelis have lived with a constant threat from terrorists for decades. Hamas' sole mission is to destroy Israel and murder Jews, and it has attacked, kidnapped, and killed Israelis for years. Tragically, the barbarism displayed on October 7 revealed that their depravity knows no bounds. Hezbollah, another U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization, has also threatened Israel for decades and has been launching attacks from across Israel's border with Lebanon since October 8, 2023.

What Israel's enemies have in common is that they receive most of their support from Iran. Iran heavily finances terror groups throughout the Middle East, including Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthi terrorists, who are disrupting commercial shipping in the Red Sea, and the other militias that have launched hundreds of attacks against U.S. troops stationed in the Middle East in the last year. And Iran itself has launched two large-scale missile attacks against Israel – one in April and another on October 1 – indicating that Iran views this war as having high enough stakes for direct involvement.

Unfortunately, the Biden-Harris administration's weak posture and policy of appeasement toward Iran emboldened the ayatollahs. The administration tried to restart the failed Iran nuclear deal. Just before the October 7 attacks last year, they gave Iran access to \$6 billion in frozen assets, a decision they later reneged. Earlier this year, the Biden-Harris administration granted a sanctions waiver so Iran could access another \$10 billion in funds. On their watch, Iran has not only grown more brazen in the Middle East, it's also plotted assassinations of American politicians, including former President Trump.

We've also unfortunately seen this administration's tepid support for Israel at a time when it needs a strong ally in the United States. It has drawn red lines on Israel's conduct and attempted to micromanage its tactics, holding up weapons when Israel was not fighting the war to the Biden-Harris administration's preferences. Vice President Harris even chose to skip the Israeli prime minister's bipartisan address to Congress.

The United States needs to stand strongly with Israel as it faces enemies from every side that threaten its very existence. It's been one year since terrorists launched a horrific attack on innocent people – an attack akin to September 11, 2001, in our own country. I will continue to stand with our ally and work to ensure Israel has what it needs to restore peace and security within its borders.



## Step it Up

### **BIG Update**

I hosted my third Level Up Youth Conference this week. More than 250 Aberdeen area high school students joined for conversations on civility in politics, teamwork games and challenges, a keynote from Mitch Reed on sharing kindness, and more.

When I was a teenager, attending events like these helped stoke my passion for public service. I enjoy seeing high school students being civically engaged and working to better their community. It was another successful conference, and I look forward to the next.

### **BIG Idea**

Central High School's ATEC Academy equips students with career and technical skills. I enjoyed seeing what the students are working on and congratulating Mr. Konda for being named the 2024 National Speech and Debate Coach of the Year. He led their team to the 8th consecutive state championship and placed 8th nationally last fall. I also congratulated Mya Heintzman for being selected as one of 20 students for the Youth Collaboratory, a program that focuses on being civic-minded and helping communities.

### **BIG News**

I shared an update about a potential port strike last week, and on Tuesday, the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) officially went on strike. This strike effectively closed 36 ports on the east and gulf coasts from Maine to Texas. About 45,000 workers walked off the job, demanding higher pay and no use of automation. Thankfully, the strike lasted three days and the dockworkers and employers came to a tentative agreement on Thursday.

A strike of this magnitude could've crippled the economy and caused prices to skyrocket. Consumers and businesses large and small rely on these ports for their products and goods. Suddenly not being able to receive parts could force a business to stop production or receive those parts through more expensive means, forcing them to raise prices. Further, American farmers utilize these ports for nearly half of containerized ag exports.

These ports help ensure our food security and national security. We must ensure they remain open and operational to have a functioning supply chain.





## Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

### Where Do All My Nasal Fluids Come From?

I am finally, in what I think is the last phase of my recent health confusion. My nose is dripping, and I think I use at least one box of tissues daily.

I did not know I had so much of this in my body, and I am not exactly sure where it came from.

When I was young, I remember having a bad case of this kind of thing, and I asked my mother, "Mom, where does all my snot come from?"

I had never seen my mother as angry as she was then. She looked at me and growled, "Son, I never want to hear you say that word again. We do not use the word 'snot' in our house. We use the phrase, 'nasal fluids'. If you ever say the word 'snot', you will be in more trouble than you have ever been in your life. Do you understand me?"

Well, to be honest, I didn't quite understand what she was talking about, but you always listen to your mother, right?

Several weeks later, I was having the same situation, and I said, "Mom, where does all my sn... whoops, I mean my nasal fluids come from?"

She was quite generous, forgave me, and was happy I remembered what she said. I will never know where she came up with the phrase "nasal fluids."

I haven't thought of that for a long time, but it came back to my memory just this week. I'm unsure how the word snot compares with the phrase nasal fluids. I sort of think my mother came up with that phrase because I don't know anybody else who has ever used it.

But as I was thinking about this, I had yet to find out where my nasal fluids came from. This past week, my nose was running like Niagara Falls. With all that nasal fluid coming out of me, I must try to figure out where it comes from. If it comes from me, why isn't there a limit?

If nasal fluids were gold, I would be very wealthy by now. Unfortunately, they are not gold, and I am not wealthy.

This phenomenon makes it very difficult to go out in public. I'm sneezing, and my nose is running all the time. To go out, I have to take a half-dozen boxes of tissues. Even then, I have to be quick on the draw.

Everybody has this kind of problem, but I don't care; it's what I'm facing that matters to me. I have to take care of my own nose, and that's a fact with my hands up.

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When I think I've mastered my nose and nasal fluids, I take a deep breath, and before I'm done, that fluid is running out of my nostril faster than ever before. What does it take to satisfy my nose?

It's too bad my mother isn't around. She's in a nursing home and suffers from dementia, so I couldn't ask her anyway. She would not remember. But if I can get back to my mother when I was a teenager, maybe I could find out from her what this nasal fluid is all about.

I have reached the point where I don't feel the fluid flowing out of my nostril. Because of that, I don't know if it's running down my face and dripping off my chin. What an embarrassing situation that is.

As always, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has somewhat of a solution for my dilemma.

One morning, she looked at me and said, "Why don't you wear a mask? Nobody will see anything about that because everybody is familiar with masks these days."

This is the most brilliant thing she's ever told me. I never thought of wearing a mask, which would prevent people from seeing what's going on behind the mask.

Nobody would notice me because many people still wear masks, and I would fit right in.

One day, I tried it, and it seemed to work, except when I got home and took off the mask, it was filled to overflowing with my nasal fluid. How all of that stayed in my mask without overflowing is something I'll never know. But at least nobody could see I was wrestling with this kind of problem.

Recently, I have been taking about a half-dozen masks when I go anywhere. I try to change my mask every hour, at least. That way, my nasal fluids do not overflow my mask, and nobody sees my problem.

Being able to cover up a problem, especially my problem is a challenge.

I must confess that I'm not very good at covering up any of my problems. No matter how much I try, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can always see through my endeavors.

My biggest challenge is dealing with the world. There is one verse that gives me comfort and encouragement. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 John 5:4-5).

My faith in Jesus Christ is what enables me to overcome the world around me. When I try to do this by my own cleverness, guess what? I always fail. My great challenge is to trust God when any problem comes my way..



## EARTHTALK ™



**Lots of food packaging contains toxic chemicals that come into contact with foods during manufacturing, packaging or transportation.**

Credit: Pexels.com.

Dear EarthTalk: Are we really all exposed to many hazardous chemicals that come off the packaging our food travels in? What can we do to minimize our exposure to these potential toxins in our food?

-- William Freleigh, Newark, DE

A large percentage of our food packaging contains toxic Food Contact Chemicals (FCCs), which are chemicals that come into contact with foods during manufacturing, packaging or transportation. Notable FCCs include BPA, BPS and BPF, all commonly found in soda and soup cans, plastic food linings, and DVDs, and plasticizers or phthalates, which are widely used to make plastic products more flexible and durable. At least 25 percent of FCCs, including BPAs and plasticizers, can be found in the human body due to exposure to food packaging, and can be extremely hazardous to our health. Some health risks include harm to the immune system, cancer, liver toxicity, thyroid effects and reproductive toxicity. BPAs are especially hazardous for women, as they are also toxic to the ovaries and uterus.

Due to the prevalence of FCCs in so much food packaging, it is impossible to fully avoid them. However, there are ways to reduce our exposure to toxic chemicals in our food. For one, buy food that is stored in glass jars or BPA-free boxes instead of metal cans and plastic containers, which are more likely to contain FCCs. Also, wash your hands often and always before eating, steer clear of fast-food and fatty foods and eat fresh, unprocessed foods, especially organic fruits and vegetables. You can also reduce risks when preparing food by using wooden, stainless steel or silicone kitchenware, and avoiding non-stick pans, disposable packaging, packaging with recycling codes 3 or 7, and black plastic kitchenware.

FCCs are also prevalent in cleaning products and other household items. You can reduce your exposure to chemicals in these products by using glass or stainless-steel reusable water bottles, buying fragrance-free soaps, cosmetics and cleaners, refusing paper receipts and avoiding vinyl carpets and fabrics. It is also recommended that you keep your windows open for ventilation whenever possible, as synthetic chemicals often deteriorate into dust particles that are easily inhaled.

Unfortunately, the only way that we will be able to permanently get rid of FCCs is to campaign for them to be banned by the government and by national retailers. Several volunteer-led campaigns have already spoken out on the issue, and a lot of headway has been made in banning specific toxic chemicals, including BPAs, in California. If you would like to help canvas for the banning of toxic chemicals in food packaging, consider volunteering for Take Out Toxics or other local campaigns that are pressuring their local governments and retailers to call for chemical bans.

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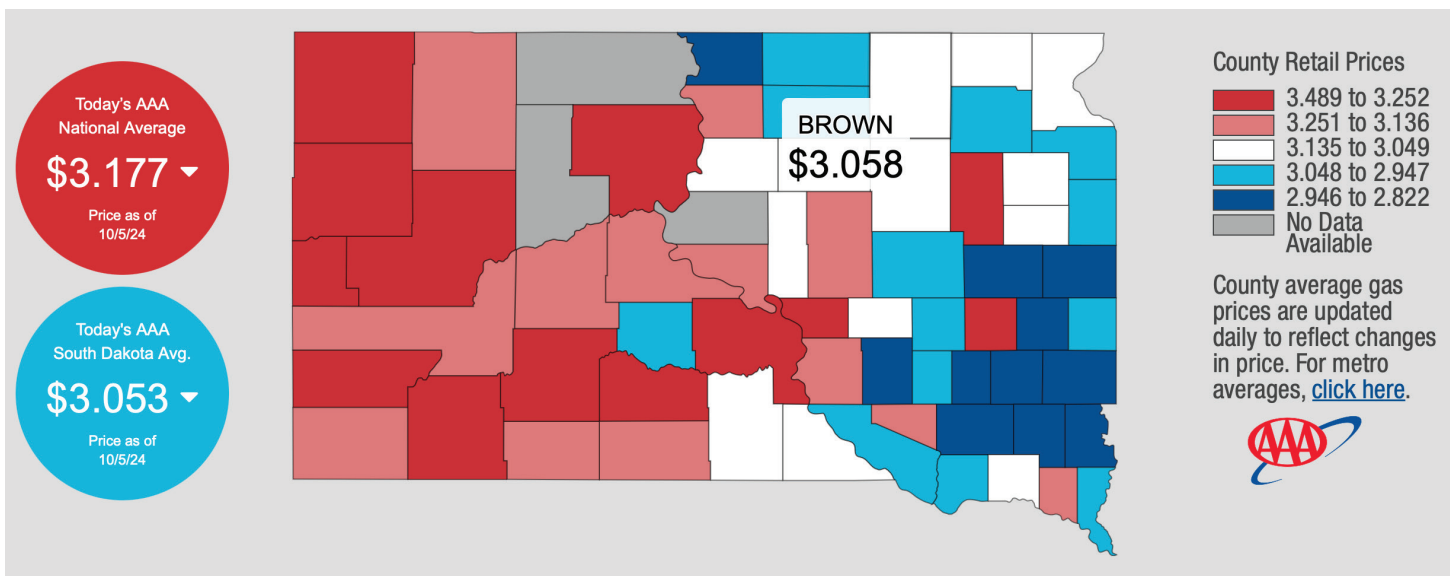
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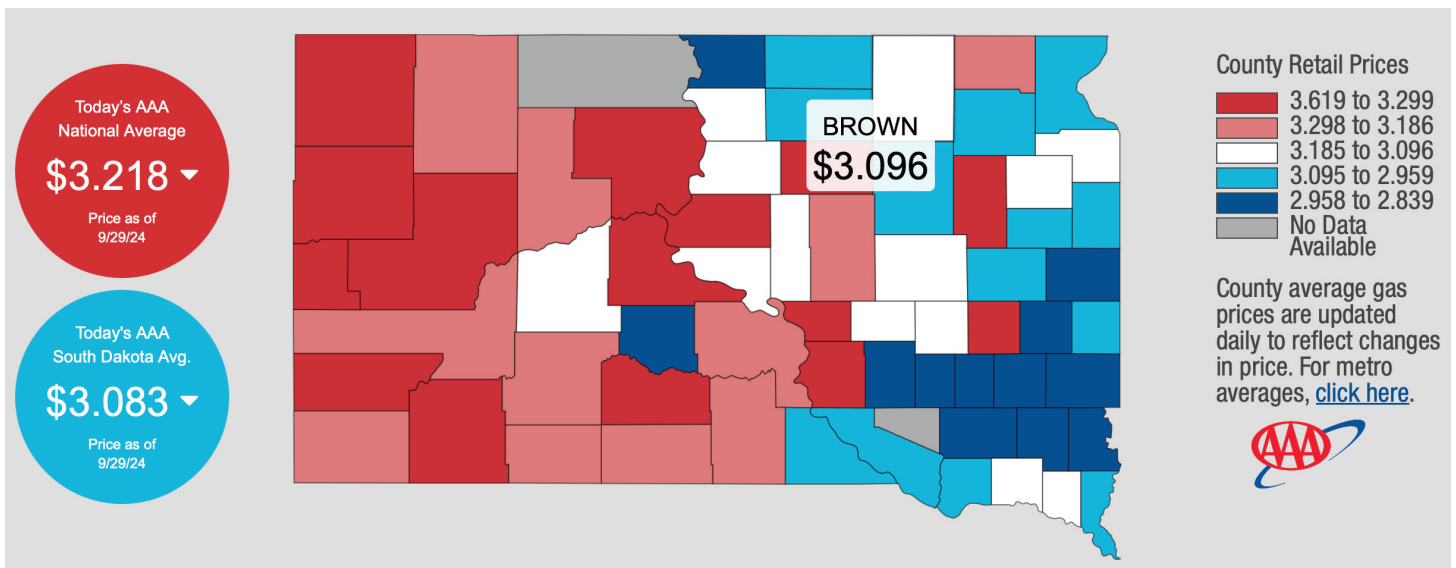
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.053	\$3.267	\$3.690	\$3.273
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.066	\$3.270	\$3.697	\$3.271
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.088	\$3.285	\$3.701	\$3.285
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.195	\$3.401	\$3.803	\$3.390
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.770	\$3.945	\$4.398	\$4.408

### This Week



### Last Week





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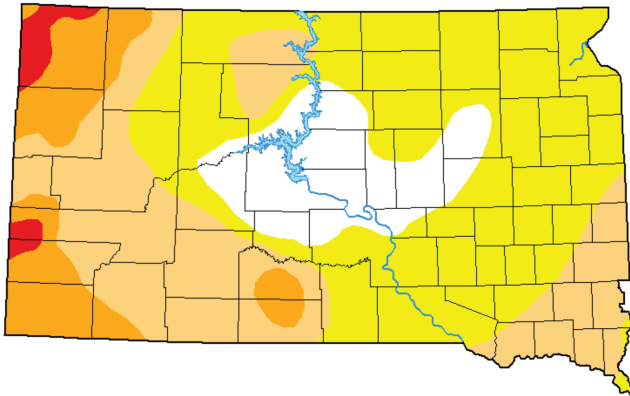
## Drought Classification

None  
D0 (Abnormally Dry)  
D1 (Moderate Drought)

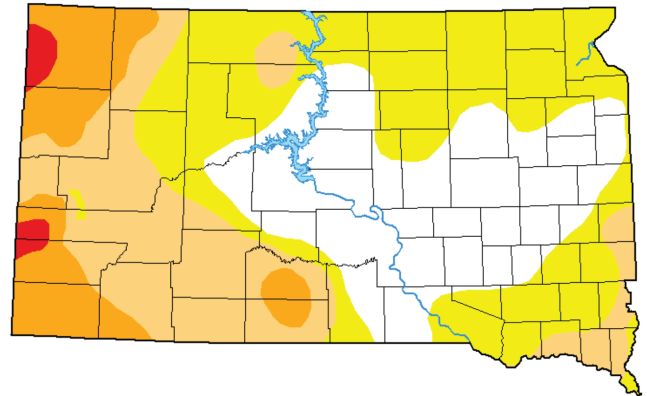
D2 (Severe Drought)  
D3 (Extreme Drought)

D4 (Exceptional Drought)  
No Data

## Drought Monitor



October 1



September 24

It was very warm and almost bone dry throughout the region, with only a few highly isolated spots of measurable rainfall. Unusually high temperatures worsened the situation, with weekly mean anomalies ranging from +1 to +2 deg. F in eastern Kansas to +15 to +18 deg. F in most of the Dakotas. Wyoming and most of Colorado saw temperatures average near or over 10 deg. F above normal. As a result, dryness and drought in the region was unchanged or worsened. Moderate to severe drought expanded in coverage across the central Great Plains and northern High Plains, with increased areas of extreme drought (D3) noted in eastern Wyoming, plus a few spots in the western Dakotas. Over the past 30 days, only a few tenths of an inch of rain at most has fallen on much of Wyoming and Nebraska, northern Kansas, and the southeastern Dakotas.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>



**An illustration displays the four winning "I Voted" sticker designs from South Dakota students. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)**

### Winning young artists get their designs on 'I voted' stickers

**BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - OCTOBER 5, 2024 2:00 PM**

Instead of a standard, mass-printed "I voted" sticker as a reward for participating in the Nov. 5 general election, roughly 8,000 voters can sport hand-drawn stickers designed by South Dakota children.

The South Dakota Secretary of State's Office launched a sticker contest this year to encourage more students and schools to participate in election education. The custom stickers will be available to voters in Stanley, Custer, Lawrence and Meade counties, where the children who designed the winning stickers reside. Between the June primary election, post-election audits, validating ballot measure signatures and preparing for the general election, Secretary of State Monae Johnson said the design contest was a way to lighten the season for her office.

"There was so much going on, we decided we need to squeak this one fun thing out," Johnson said.

The design contest is part of a national campaign to educate children and their families about elections. Some contests, such as Michigan's, are garnering nationwide attention for winning designs.

Johnson hopes South Dakota's contest will continue and grow with the 2026 elections, after her office received 200 design submissions this year. State officeholders judged the submissions, which were open to elementary, middle and high schoolers.

Johnson is also continuing the Gladys Pyle Award, which Johnson launched last year to encourage South Dakota high school students to register to vote. Each school that registers at least 90% of their age-eligible students receives the award.

Pyle was the first female secretary of state in South Dakota, first female elected to the South Dakota Legislature and one of the first women elected to the U.S. Senate nationwide. She gave her life to education and politics, Johnson said, adding that she was an "incredible" and "amazing" inspiration.

The award was presented to Stanley County and T.F. Riggs high schools this year, which each reported 18 new registrations. Johnson also recognized universities that held a voter registration drive for students, including Dakota Wesleyan and South Dakota State, which had 28 and 74 new registrations or updates, respectively.

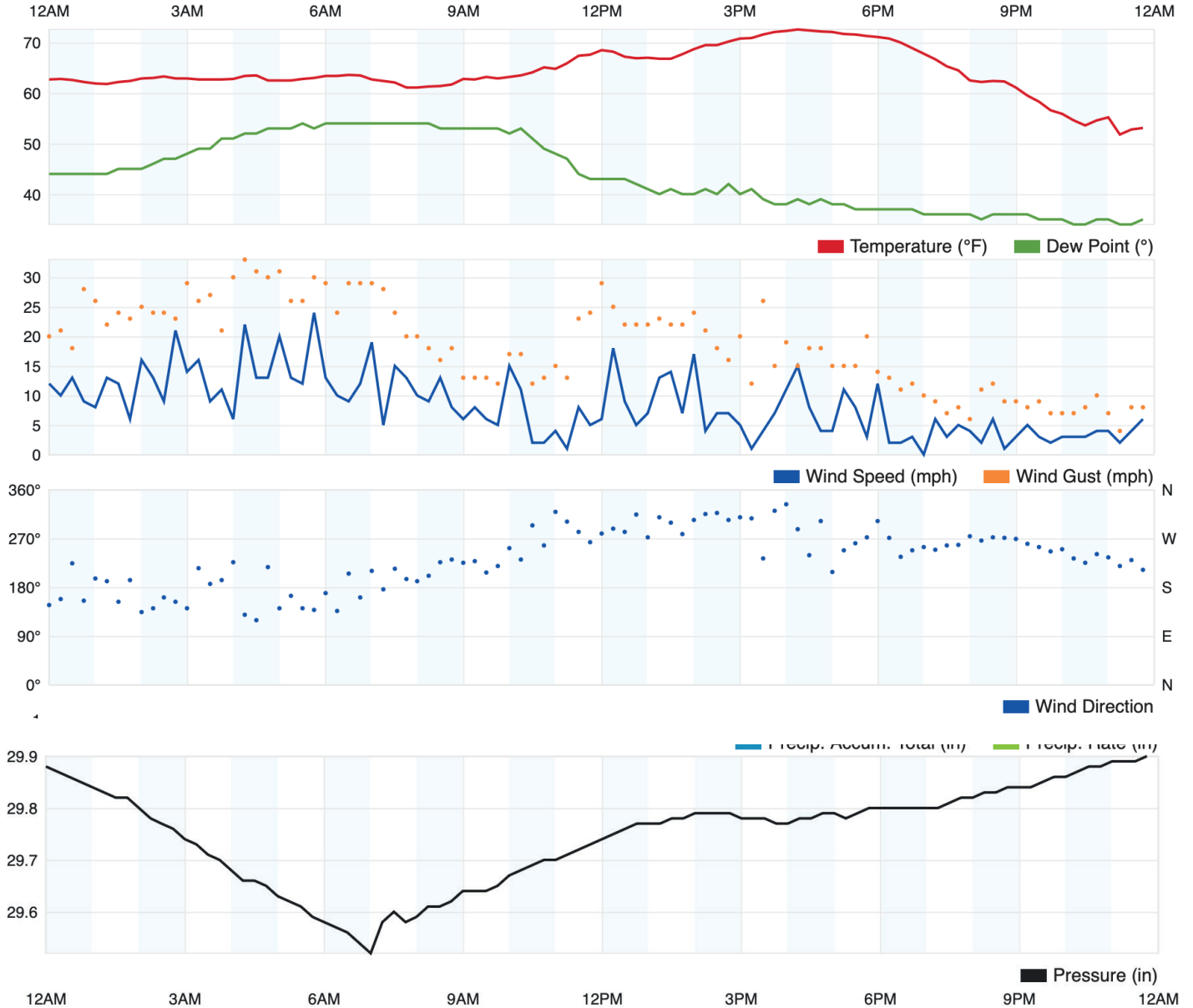
*Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan whose work has won national and regional awards. She's spent five years as a journalist with experience reporting on workforce, development and business issues within the state.*



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 65 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 34 °F

Clear then  
Areas Frost

Monday



High: 71 °F

Areas Frost  
then Mostly  
Sunny

Monday Night



Low: 39 °F

Mostly Clear

Tuesday



High: 76 °F

Sunny



## The week Ahead

Today: Sunny. Highs: 61-69°

Tonight: Mostly Clear. Areas of Frost possible mainly across northeast South Dakota into west central Minnesota. Lows: 34-42°

Monday: Partly Cloudy. Highs: 68-78°  
- Warmest around and west of the Missouri River

- A gradual warm-up through Thursday
- Very limited chances for rain this week

Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph with gusts up to 30 mph across far northeast South Dakota into west central Minnesota this morning. Otherwise, much lighter winds expected for the next several days. Near normal early October temperatures expected today in the 60s. But, it's going to feel fairly cool given how consistently warmer than normal it's been for the past few weeks. A warm up is set to begin Monday and persist through much of the week, without any real chance for moisture.

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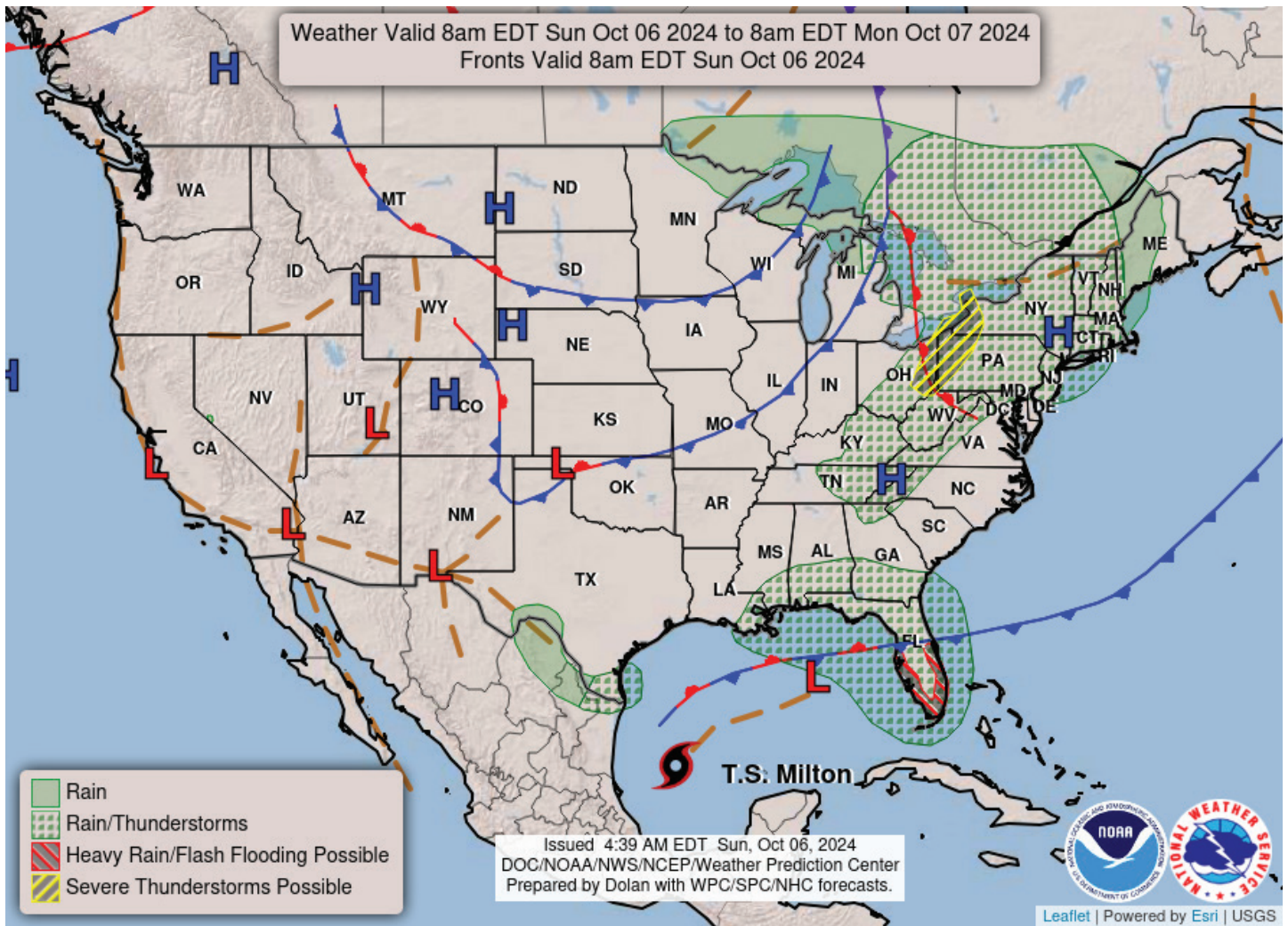
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 73 °F at 4:26 PM**  
**Low Temp: 52 °F at 11:17 PM**  
**Wind: 33 mph at 4:16 AM**  
**Precip: : 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 91 in 1993  
Record Low: 11 in 1939  
Average High: 65  
Average Low: 38  
Average Precip in Oct.: 0.47  
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00  
Average Precip to date: 18.80  
Precip Year to Date: 19.75  
Sunset Tonight: 7:04:03 pm  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:37:46 am

Day length: 11 hours, 27 minutes (lost 22 minutes since last Sunday)





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## Today in Weather History

October 6, 1994: During the late afternoon hours, a small tornado traveled for 3 miles along an intermittent path east of Browns Valley, damaging several buildings on a local farmstead. Another tornado touched down east of Wilmot, South Dakota, in Roberts County. The tornado was on the ground for eight miles and destroyed several small farm buildings, a garage, damaged farm machinery, blew down a grain bin, and uprooted several trees. Several hogs were killed when their shed was destroyed, and minor damage was done to some homes. The tornado drove a 6-foot long 1x6 piece of lumber through the center of a large tree limb.

1836 - A second early season snowstorm produced eleven inches at Wilkes Barre PA and 26 inches at Auburn NY. All the mountains in the northeastern U.S. were whitened with snow. (David Ludlum)

1952: Sleet fell at several locations, making it the earliest documented winter precipitation in Arkansas.

1967: A Canadian weather record one-day rainfall of 19.3 inches falls at Brynnor Mines at Ucluelet.

1981: The Netherlands' fourth-worst aircraft accident (at the time) occurred on this day. At 5:09 PM, the crew noted heavy rainfall in thunderstorms on the weather avoidance radar and received clearance to avoid this area. At 5:12 pm, the aircraft entered a tornado, which caused the right-wing to separate from the plane. All 17 occupants of the plane perished in the accident.

1984 - The temperature at Honolulu, Hawaii, reached 94 degrees to establish an all-time record at that location. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - A tropical wave, later to become Tropical Storm Isabel, struck Puerto Rico. As much as 24 inches of rain fell in 24 hours, and the severe flooding and numerous landslides resulting from the rain claimed about 180 lives. (Storm Data)

1987 - The western U.S. continued to sizzle. Afternoon highs of 85 degrees at Astoria OR, 101 degrees at Tucson AZ, and 102 degrees at Sacramento CA, equalled October records. It marked the fourth time in the month that Sacramento tied their record for October. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cool Canadian air prevailed across the central and eastern U.S. Toledo OH reported a record low of 27 degrees. Limestone ME received an inch of snow. Warm weather continued in the western U.S. Boise ID reported a record high of 87 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Temperatures soared into the 90s across southern Texas. Afternoon highs of 93 degrees at Houston, and 96 degrees at Austin and Corpus Christi, were records for the date. Beeville was the hot spot in the nation with an afternoon high of 101 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

2010: A significant severe weather event struck northern Arizona with at least eight confirmed tornadoes. This event will go down in history as the most tornadoes to hit Arizona in a single day. An EF2 tornado was on the ground for 34 miles, ranking as the longest-tracked tornado in Arizona history.

2016: Around a half dozen tornadoes struck Kansas, including an EF-2 and EF-3 in Saline County.

2016: The center of Category 4 Hurricane Matthew passed within 100 miles of Miami, Florida.



## ENCOURAGING CHILDREN

A large cathedral was having its beautiful, hand-carved doors replaced with ones that were lighter and easier to open. A gentleman walking by the church stopped and asked the foreman the reason for changing the doors.

"Because," came the reply, "they are too heavy for children. No church should have doors that are too difficult for children to open."

Jesus set the example for us to follow in our relationships with children. He said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them!"

What a precious picture of Jesus – perhaps one of the most important ones of Him in the Gospels. He was the kind of person who children loved. In fact, George MacDonald once said, "People would never be followers of Jesus if the children were afraid of Him." The love He spoke of must have been obvious to everyone because of the life He lived. He was never too busy to be interrupted, or too tired to be disturbed. He gave His all to everyone who needed anything.

Jesus also seemed to say that children were nearer to God than anyone else. Why? Because of their trust and truthfulness, simplicity and sincerity. As we age, we seem to grow further from God rather than closer. Might we learn from this truth from children and ask God for a child-like faith? Are we too involved with ourselves to return to a child-like faith?

Prayer: Help us, Father, to live lives that attract the young, the old and everyone in between who need You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:13-15

*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:  
10.04.24

21 39 42 43 45 3

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$129,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.05.24

8 15 17 32 36 2

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$10,870,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.05.24

3 17 31 32 35 18

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 43 Mins  
26 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.05.24

5 9 11 18 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$53,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.05.24

15 16 27 30 57 24

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

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.05.24

2 12 46 52 65 3

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$315,000,000**

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 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

## News from the **AP** Associated Press

### **Gronowski threw 3 TD passes as FCS No. 1 South Dakota States rolls past Northern Iowa 41-3**

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa (AP) — Mark Gronowski threw three touchdown passes, including a 68-yard stroke to Angel Johnson, and Noah Thompson returned a punt 49 yards for a score to lead No. 1-ranked South Dakota State to a 41-3 win over Northern Iowa in the Missouri Valley Conference opener for both schools on Saturday.

The Jackrabbits (4-1), No. 1 in the FCS coaches poll, held the Panthers to 246 yards of offense and allowed just a 40-yard second-quarter field goal by Caden Palmer.

Gronowski found Kentrell Prejean with a 16-yard touchdown to open the scoring midway through the first quarter and Hunter Dustman bracketed a pair of second quarter field goals around Thompson's punt return TD and Chase Mason's six-yard scoring run. Gronowski found Graham Goering from 7 yards out to start the third quarter before connecting with Johnson less than three minutes later.

Gronowski was 16 of 22 passing for 223 yards and did not throw an interception. Johnson caught two passes for 78 yards and Goering pulled in three for 52.

Aidan Dunne completed 8 of 15 passes for 113 yards and was picked off twice for Northern Iowa (2-3). Mathew Schecklman came on to complete 9 of 16 attempts for 67 yards. Tye Edwards carried 12 times for 62 yards.

### **Theis, Pierre combine for 5 of South Dakota's 7 rushing touchdowns in 59-0 rout of Murray State**

MURRAY, Ky. (AP) — Travis Theis ran for 132 yards and two touchdowns, Charles Pierre Jr. scored three times on the ground, and South Dakota buried Murray State 59-0 on Saturday.

The Coyotes scored seven rushing touchdowns and ran for 361 yards.

Aidan Bouman threw one touchdown pass and was 16-of-22 for 221 yards.

No. 4 FCS South Dakota (4-1, 2-0 Missouri Valley Football Conference) had 582 total yards and averaged 10.0 yards per pass attempt and 7.7 yards per rush. The Coyotes had long touchdowns such as a 44-yard run by Theis that made it 21-0 in the first quarter and a 74-yard run by Nevan Cremascoli for a 52-0 lead in the fourth.

Murray State was held to 213 yards and 10 first downs. The Racers had a 77-yard drive in the second quarter that ended in a lost fumble and a 53-yard drive that ended on downs late in the fourth. Otherwise, their longest drive was 23 yards.

The Racers' loss comes one week after North Dakota defeated Murray State 72-35. Other than a 19-17 win over Butler the Racers (1-4, 0-2) have allowed at least 50 points in every game this season.

### **A faith is on the edge of vanishing in Georgia after being exiled from Russia centuries ago**

By KOSTYA MANENKOV Associated Press

GORELOVKA, Georgia (AP) — A 10-year-old boy proudly stands beside his father and listens to the monotone chanting of elderly women clad in embroidered headscarves and long colorful skirts. It is Ilya's first time attending a night prayer meeting in Gorelovka, a tiny village in the South Caucasus nation of Georgia, and he is determined to follow the centuries-old hymns that have been passed down through the generations.

There is no priest and no iconography. It's just men and women praying together, as the Doukhobors have done since the pacifist Christian sect emerged in Russia in the 18th century.



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Thousands of their ancestors were expelled to the fringes of the Russian Empire almost two centuries ago for rejecting the Orthodox church and refusing to serve in Czar Nicholas I's army — much like the thousands of men who fled Russia two years ago to avoid being drafted to join Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Today, only about 100 Doukhobors remain in the tight-knit Russian-speaking farming community in two remote mountainous villages.

"Our people are dying," 47-year-old Svetlana Svetlishcheva, Ilya's mother, tells The Associated Press, as she walks with her family to an ancient cemetery.

Prayer never stops

Some 5,000 Doukhobors who were banished in the middle of the 19th century established 10 villages close to the border with the hostile Ottoman Empire, where they continued to preach nonviolence and worshipped without priests or church rituals.

The community prospered, growing to around 20,000 members. When some refused to pledge allegiance to the new czar, Nicholas II, and protested by burning weapons, the authorities unleashed a violent crackdown and sent about 4,000 of them to live elsewhere in the vast Russian Empire.

Nonviolence is the foundation of Doukhobor culture, says Yulia Mokshina, a professor at the Mordovia State University in Russia, who studies the group.

"The Doukhobors proved that without using force, you can stand up for the truth," Mokshina says. "They fought without arms but with their truth and internal power."

Their plight caught the attention of Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy, also a pacifist, who donated the profits from his final novel "Resurrection" to help around 7,500 Doukhobors emigrate to Canada to escape persecution.

And all the while, the prayers never stopped, not even when the Soviet authorities relentlessly cracked down on religious activities.

"There hasn't been a single Sunday without prayer," Yuri Strukov, 46, says with pride, in the village of Orlovka, where he has lived for 30 years.

A shrinking community

Like others in the rural community, Strukov owns cattle and produces cottage cheese, sour cream and a brined cheese called suluguni, which he sells in a nearby town. His way of life is challenging — he braves freezing temperatures during winter and droughts in the summer, and the remote village is a three-hour drive from the nearest big city — which does not appeal to many Doukhobors any longer.

"The community has changed because it became small," Strukov says. "The fact that there are few of us leaves a heavy residue in the soul."

In Soviet times, the Doukhobors maintained among the best collective farms in the region. But the nationalist sentiment that bubbled up in Georgia as the collapse of the Soviet Union loomed prompted many to return to Russia in the late 1980s.

"We didn't relocate, we came back," says 39-year-old Dmitry Zubkov, who was among the first convoy of 1,000 Doukhobors who left Gorelovka for what is now western Russia in 1989. Zubkov and his family settled in the village of Arkhangelskoye in Russia's Tula region.

Strukov also thinks about moving.

After several waves of Doukhobors departed, ethnic Georgians and Armenians — Orlovka is close to the Armenian border — moved in, and he says relations between them and the ever-shrinking community of Doukhobors are tense. His four family members are the last Doukhobors living in Orlovka.

But the prayer house and his ancestors' graves keep him from leaving.

"The whole land is soaked with the prayers, sweat and blood of our ancestors," he says. "We always try to find the solution in different situations so we can stay here and preserve our culture, our traditions and our rites."

Keeping the traditions alive

Doukhobor rites have traditionally passed from one generation to the next by word of mouth, and Strukov's 21-year-old daughter Daria Strukova feels the urgency to learn as much as she can from senior community members.

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"I'm always worried that such a deep and interesting culture will just get lost if we don't take it over in time," Strukova says.

She says she considered converting to the Georgian Orthodox Church as a student in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, where that faith wields great influence. But her doubts were dispelled as she listened to a Doukhobor choir during a prayer meeting.

"I realized that this is what I missed, this is what I couldn't find anywhere," she says. "I know now that the Doukhobor faith will always be with me till the end of my life."

Zubkov says Strukova's wavering faith is not unusual among Doukhobors in Russia. Once they assimilate into Russian society, experience big cities, speak the same language and share traditions with the locals, of course they will be tempted by the predominant religion.

"People didn't want to stand out," he says. "Unfortunately, we have been assimilating very fast."

Around 750 Doukhobors settled in Arkhangelskoye more than 30 years ago. Now, only a few elderly women attend Sunday prayers, and only a couple of Doukhobors sing traditional anthems at funerals.

Zubkov predicts that within a decade the culture will disappear from Arkhangelskoye altogether.

Enduring faith

The Doukhobors whose families started anew in Canada more than a century ago don't feel a strong connection to the villages that are sacred for the Strukov family. They say what is important is their faith and the pacifist principles that underscore it.

"We do not hold any specific place and historical places ... in some kind of spiritual significance," said John J. Verigin Jr., who leads the largest Doukhobor organization in Canada. "What we try to sustain in our organization is our dedication to those fundamental principles of our life concept."

But Ilya, in Gorelovka, is comforted by the knowledge that his community, culture and faith are rooted in a place established by his ancestors.

"I see myself a tall grown-up going to the prayers every day in Doukhobor clothes," Ilya said. "I will love coming here, I love it now too."

## **A displaced family's year of fleeing across the devastated Gaza Strip**

By WAFSA SHURAFSA Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Ne'man Abu Jarad sat on a tarp on the ground. Around him, canvas sheets hung from cords, forming the walls of his tent. For the past year, Ne'man; his wife, Majida; and their six daughters have trekked the length of the Gaza Strip, trying to survive as Israeli forces wreaked destruction around them.

It's a far cry from their house in northern Gaza — a place of comforting routine, of love, affection and safety. A place where loved ones gathered around the kitchen table or on the roof on summer evenings amid the scent of roses and jasmine flowers.

"Your house is your homeland. Everything good in our life was the home," Ne'man said. "Everything in it, whether physical or intangible -- family, neighbors, my siblings who were all around me.

"We are missing all that."

The Abu Jarad family lost that stability when Israel launched its campaign in Gaza in retaliation for Hamas' Oct. 7 attack.

They did exactly as the Israelis ordered in the devastating weeks and months of war that followed. They obeyed evacuation calls. They moved where the military told them to move. Seven times they fled, and each time, their lives became more unrecognizable to them, crowding with strangers in a school classroom, searching for water in a vast tent camp or sleeping on the street.

The Associated Press traced the family's journey as they were driven from their home. Israel's campaign has displaced nearly the entire population of Gaza — 1.9 million of its 2.3 million Palestinians — and killed more than 41,600 people, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Like the Abu Jarads, most families have been uprooted multiple times.

For this family, the journey has taken them from a comfortable middle-class life to ruin.

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Before the war: A cozy life

Living at the northernmost end of Gaza, most days before the war in Beit Hanoun were simple. Ne'man headed out each morning to work as a taxi driver. Majida got their daughters off to school. Their youngest, Lana, had started first grade. Hoda, the 18-year-old, was in her first year at university. The eldest, Balsam, just had her first baby.

Majida spent much of her day doing housework — her face lights up when she talks about her kitchen, the center of family life.

Ne'man had planted the garden with a grapevine and covered the roof with potted flowers. Watering them in the evenings was a soothing ritual. Then, the family and neighbors would sit on the front stoop or the roof to chat.

"The area would always smell nice," he said. "People would say we have perfume because of how beautiful the flowers are."

Oct. 7: The attack

On the morning of Oct. 7, the family heard Hamas rockets firing and news of the militants' attack into southern Israel, in which some 1,200 people were killed and 250 kidnapped.

The Abu Jarads knew that the Israeli response would be swift and that their house, only about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from the border fence with Israel, would be on the front line.

By 9 a.m., Ne'man and Majida, their six daughters, and Ne'man's sister packed up what they could and fled, as the Israeli military issued one of its first evacuation orders.

"It makes no sense to be stubborn and stay," Majida said. "It is not about one person. I am part of a family and have girls."

Oct. 7-13: Staying with Majida's parents

Like many, the family tried, at first, to stay close to home. They went to stay with Majida's parents, in Beit Lahiya about a kilometer (.6 miles) away.

"The place was very comfortable, to be honest. I felt like I was at home," Majida said. "But we were living in fear and terror."

Already, Beit Lahiya was being heavily bombarded. Over the six days they were there, at least nine Israeli strikes hit the town, killing dozens, according to the conflict monitor Airwars. Entire families were killed or wounded under the rubble of their homes.

As the explosions got closer, shrapnel pierced water tanks at Majida's parents' home. Windows shattered as the family huddled inside.

It was time to move again.

Oct. 13-15: Refuge at a hospital

When they arrived at al-Quds hospital, the family saw for the first time the scale of displacement.

The building and its grounds were packed with thousands of people. All around northern Gaza, families took refuge in hospitals, hoping they'd be safe.

The family found a small space on the floor, barely enough room to spread their blanket amid the frantic medical staff struggling with the wounded.

It was a black night and there were strikes, Majida remembers. "The martyrs and wounded were strewn on the floor," she said.

The day after they arrived, a strike smashed into a house a few hundred meters away, killing a prominent doctor and some two dozen members of his family, many of them children.

The Israeli military ordered all civilians to leave northern Gaza, setting in motion a wave of hundreds of thousands of people heading south across Wadi Gaza, the stream and wetlands that divide the north from the rest of the strip.

The family joined the exodus.

Oct. 15-Dec. 26: A cramped school

The family walked 10 kilometers (6 miles) until they reached the U.N.-run Girls' Preparatory School in the Nuseirat refugee camp.



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Every classroom and corridor was packed with families from the north. Majida, the daughters and Ne'man's sister found a tiny space in a classroom already housing more than 100 women and children. For privacy in the cramped conditions, Ne'man moved in with the men in tents outside, in the schoolyard.

This was their home for more than 10 weeks. Majida and the girls slept curled up on the floor, without enough space even to extend their legs. As winter set in, there weren't enough blankets.

The bathrooms were the worst part, Majida said. Only a few toilets served thousands of people. Getting a shower was a miracle, she said. People went weeks unable to bathe. Skin diseases ran rampant.

Every day, the daughters went at dawn to wait in line at the few bakeries still working and came back in the afternoon, sometimes with only one flatbread. One day, Ne'man and his daughters walked 5 kilometers (3 miles) to the town of Deir al-Balah, looking for drinkable water.

"If it wasn't for the kind people in Deir al-Balah who took pity on us and gave us half a gallon, we could have returned with nothing," Ne'man said.

As strikes continued, the family decided to go as far as possible, trekking 20 kilometers (12 miles) to Rafah, at Gaza's southernmost end.

Dec. 26-May 14: Life in a tent

The Abu Jarads weren't the only ones: As Israeli evacuation orders ate away at more and more of Gaza, nearly half of the population crammed into Rafah.

Here, the family had their first taste of living in a tent.

They set up amid the massive sprawl of tens of thousands of tents on Rafah's outskirts, near U.N. aid warehouses known as "the barracks."

"In the winter, it was hell, water drenched us," Majida said. "We slept on the ground, nothing under us, and no covers."

They had no money to buy food in the markets, where prices soared. The youngest girls got sick with colds and diarrhea, and there was no nearby pharmacy to buy medicine. The family survived completely off U.N. handouts of flour and other basics.

"To buy one tomato or cucumber and find it in the tent was like a dream," Ne'man said.

Like so many others, they'd believed Rafah was the last safe place in Gaza.

It was not.

In the first week of May, Israel ordered the evacuation of all of Rafah. Then its troops pushed into the city. Bombardment intensified.

Ne'man and Majida tried to stay as long as possible. But an airstrike hit nearby, he said, killing four of Ne'man's cousins and a young girl.

May 16-Aug. 16: "Humanitarian zone"

Palestinians who'd packed into Rafah — more than 1 million — all streamed out again, fleeing the Israeli offensive.

They scattered across southern and central Gaza. New tent cities filled beaches, fields, empty lots, schoolyards, cemeteries, even dumpsites — any open space.

The Abu Jarads moved by foot and donkey cart until they reached a former amusement park known as Asdaa City. Now its Ferris wheel stood above a landscape of tents stretching as far as the eye could see.

Here, in Muwasi, a barren area of dunes and fields along the coast, Israel had declared a "humanitarian zone" — though there was little aid, food or water.

Every amenity once taken for granted was a distant memory. Now the kitchen was a pile of sticks for kindling and two rocks for setting a pot over the fire. No shower, only the occasional bucket of water. Soap was too expensive. Only a draped sheet separated them from their neighbors. Everything was filthy and sandy. Large spiders, cockroaches and other insects crept into the tent.

Aug. 16-26: Fleeing to the sea

Even the "humanitarian zone" was unsafe.

A raid by Israeli troops less than a kilometer (half-mile) away forced Majida and Ne'man to uproot their family once more. They headed toward the Mediterranean coast, not knowing where they'd stay.

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Fortunately, they said, they found some acquaintances.

"God bless them, they opened their tent for us and let us live with them for 10 days," Ne'man said.

Late August: Moving again, no end in sight

When they returned to Muwasi, the Abu Jarads found their tent had been robbed – their food and clothes, all gone.

Since then, the weeks blur together. The family finds survival itself loses meaning in a conflict that seems to have no end.

Food has become even harder to find as supplies entering Gaza drop to their lowest levels of the war.

Israeli drones buzz overhead constantly. The mental strain wears on everyone.

One day, Ne'man said, his youngest daughter, Lana, told him, "You stopped loving me. Because now when I come near you, you say you are fed up and tell me to stay away."

He kept telling her, "No, darling, I love you. I just can't bear it all."

They all dream of home. Ne'man said he learned that his brother's house next door was destroyed in a strike, and his own home was damaged. He wonders about his flowers. He hopes they survived — even if the house is gone.

The difference between then and now, Majida said, is "the difference between heaven and earth."

Far from the warmth and affection of home, the Abu Jarads feel themselves surrendering to despair.

"We are jealous," Majida said. "Jealous of who? Of the people who were killed. Because they found relief while we are still suffering, living horrors, torture and heartbreak."

## Israeli strike on mosque kills 19 as it bombards northern Gaza and southern Beirut

By WAFAA SHURAFI and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — An Israeli strike on a mosque in the Gaza Strip early Sunday killed at least 19 people, Palestinian officials said, as Israel intensified its bombardment of northern Gaza and southern Beirut in its widening war on Iran-allied militant groups across the region.

Israel is still battling Hamas in Gaza nearly a year after its Oct. 7 attack, and has opened a new front against Hezbollah in Lebanon, which has been trading fire with Israel along the border since the war in Gaza began. Israel has also vowed to strike Iran itself after it launched a ballistic missile attack on the country last week.

The widening conflict risks drawing in the United States, which has provided crucial military and diplomatic support to Israel, as well as U.S.-allied Arab countries that host American forces. Iran-allied militant groups in Syria, Iraq and Yemen have also joined in with long-distance strikes on Israel.

Strikes across Gaza and new evacuation orders

The strike in Gaza hit a mosque where displaced people were sheltering near the main hospital in the central town of Deir al-Balah. Israel said it targeted a Hamas command and control center embedded among civilians, without providing evidence.

An Associated Press journalist counted the bodies at the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital morgue. Hospital records showed that the dead were all men, while another man was wounded.

The military meanwhile announced a new air and ground offensive in Jabaliya, in northern Gaza, home to a densely populated refugee camp dating back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. It circulated photos and video footage showing a column of tanks heading toward the area.

The military said its forces had encircled Jabaliya as warplanes struck militant sides ahead of their advance. Over the course of the war, Israel has carried out several large operations there, only to see militants regroup.

Israel also ordered new evacuations in northern Gaza, which largely emptied out in the early weeks of the war when Israel ordered its entire population to flee south. Up to 300,000 people are estimated to have remained there despite harsh conditions and heavy destruction.

"We are in a new phase of the war," the military said in leaflets dropped over the area. "These areas are

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considered dangerous combat zones.”

Avichay Adraee, a spokesman for the Israeli military, said it has expanded the so-called humanitarian zone in southern Gaza, urging people to head there. The zone includes sprawling tent camps where hundreds of thousands of people have already sought refuge, and Israel has carried out strikes inside it against what it says are fighters sheltering among civilians.

Palestinian residents reported heavy Israeli strikes across northern Gaza. The Civil Defense, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government, said several homes and buildings had been hit and they were not able to reach them because of the bombardment.

Many posted about the airstrikes and mourned their relatives on social media. Imad Alarabid said in a Facebook post that an airstrike on his home in Jabaliya killed a dozen of his family members, including his parents.

Local journalists said one of their colleagues, Hassan Hamd, was killed in artillery shelling on his home in Jabaliya. He had worked as a freelance TV reporter and his footage had aired on Al Jazeera and other networks. Anas al-Sharif, an Al Jazeera reporter in northern Gaza, confirmed his death.

The latest strikes add to the mounting Palestinian death toll in Gaza, which is nearing 42,000, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. The ministry does not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths, but many of the dead were women and children.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people in the Oct. 7 attack and took another 250 hostage. They are still holding around 100 captives, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Heavy bombardment of southern Beirut

In Beirut, airstrikes lit up the skyline and loud explosions echoed across the southern suburbs, known as the Dahiyeh, throughout the night, as Israel struck what it said were Hezbollah militants sites. The strikes reportedly targeted a building near a road leading to Lebanon's only international airport and another formerly used by the Hezbollah-run broadcaster Al-Manar.

Israel's military confirmed it was striking targets near Beirut and said about 30 projectiles had crossed from Lebanon into Israeli territory, with some intercepted.

Hezbollah said it successfully targeted a group of Israeli soldiers in northern Israel "with a large rocket salvo, hitting them accurately." It was not possible to confirm the claim.

At least 1,400 Lebanese, including civilians, medics and Hezbollah fighters, have been killed and 1.2 million driven from their homes in less than two weeks. Israel says it aims to drive the militant group away from its border so that tens of thousands of Israeli citizens can return to their homes.

Iranian-backed Hezbollah, the strongest armed force in Lebanon, began firing rockets into Israel almost immediately after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, calling it a show of support for the Palestinians. Hezbollah and Israel's military have traded fire almost daily.

Last week, Israel launched what it said was a limited ground operation into southern Lebanon after a series of attacks killed longtime Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and most of his top command. The fighting is the worst since Israel and Hezbollah fought a monthlong war in 2006. Nine Israeli soldiers have been killed in ground clashes that Israel says have killed 440 Hezbollah fighters.

It is not possible to verify battlefield reports from either side.

Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, told reporters in Damascus that "we are trying to reach a cease-fire in Gaza and in Lebanon." The minister said Middle Eastern and other countries had put forward initiatives, without elaborating.

Araghchi spoke a day after the supreme leader of Iran praised its recent missile strikes on Israel and said it was ready to do it again if necessary.

On Saturday evening, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said "Israel has the duty and the right to defend itself and respond to these attacks, and it will do so." On Lebanon, he said "we are not done yet."



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## As affordable housing disappears, states scramble to shore up the losses

By JESSE BEDYAN and ARUSHI GUPTA Associated Press/Report for America

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For more than two decades, the low rent on Marina Maalouf's apartment in a blocky affordable housing development in Los Angeles' Chinatown was a saving grace for her family, including a granddaughter who has autism.

But that grace had an expiration date. For Maalouf and her family it arrived in 2020.

The landlord, no longer legally obligated to keep the building affordable, hiked rent from \$1,100 to \$2,660 in 2021 — out of reach for Maalouf and her family. Maalouf's nights are haunted by fears her yearslong eviction battle will end in sleeping bags on a friend's floor or worse.

While Americans continue to struggle under unrelentingly high rents, as many as 223,000 affordable housing units like Maalouf's across the U.S. could be yanked out from under them in the next five years alone.

It leaves low-income tenants caught facing protracted eviction battles, scrambling to pay a two-fold rent increase or more, or shunted back into a housing market where costs can easily eat half a paycheck.

Those affordable housing units were built with the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, or LIHTC, a federal program established in 1986 that provides tax credits to developers in exchange for keeping rents low. It has pumped out 3.6 million units since then and boasts over half of all federally supported low-income housing nationwide.

"It's the lifeblood of affordable housing development," said Brian Rossbert, who runs Housing Colorado, an organization advocating for affordable homes.

That lifeblood isn't strictly red or blue. By combining social benefits with tax breaks and private ownership, LIHTC has enjoyed bipartisan support. Its expansion is now central to Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris' housing plan to build 3 million new homes.

The catch? The buildings typically only need to be kept affordable for a minimum of 30 years. For the wave of LIHTC construction in the 1990s, those deadlines are arriving now, threatening to hemorrhage affordable housing supply when Americans need it most.

"If we are losing the homes that are currently affordable and available to households, then we're losing ground on the crisis," said Sarah Saadian, vice president of public policy at the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

"It's sort of like having a boat with a hole at the bottom," she said.

Not all units that expire out of LIHTC become market rate. Some are kept affordable by other government subsidies, by merciful landlords or by states, including California, Colorado and New York, that have worked to keep them low-cost by relying on several levers.

Local governments and nonprofits can purchase expiring apartments, new tax credits can be applied that extend the affordability, or, as in Maalouf's case, tenants can organize to try to force action from landlords and city officials.

Those options face challenges. While new tax credits can reup a lapsing LIHTC property, they are limited, doled out to states by the Internal Revenue Service based on population. It's also a tall order for local governments and nonprofits to shell out enough money to purchase and keep expiring developments affordable. And there is little aggregated data on exactly when LIHTC units will lose their affordability, making it difficult for policymakers and activists to fully prepare.

There also is less of a political incentive to preserve the units.

"Politically, you're rewarded for an announcement, a groundbreaking, a ribbon-cutting," said Vicki Been, a New York University professor who previously was New York City's deputy mayor for housing and economic development.

"You're not rewarded for being a good manager of your assets and keeping track of everything and making sure that you're not losing a single affordable housing unit," she said.

Maalouf stood in her apartment courtyard on a recent warm day, chit-chatting and waving to neighbors, a bracelet with a photo of Che Guevarra dangling from her arm.

"Friendly," is how Maalouf described her previous self, but not assertive. That is until the rent hikes pushed

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her in front of the Los Angeles City Council for the first time, sweat beading as she fought for her home.

Now an organizer with the LA Tenants' Union, Maalouf isn't afraid to speak up, but the angst over her home still keeps her up at night. Mornings she repeats a mantra: "We still here. We still here." But fighting day after day to make it true is exhausting.

Maalouf's apartment was built before California made LIHTC contracts last 55 years instead of 30 in 1996. About 5,700 LIHTC units built around the time of Maalouf's are expiring in the next decade. In Texas, it's 21,000 units.

When California Treasurer Fiona Ma assumed office in 2019, she steered the program toward developers committed to affordable housing and not what she called "churn and burn," buying up LIHTC properties and flipping them onto the market as soon as possible.

In California, landlords must notify state and local governments and tenants before their building expires. Housing organizations, nonprofits, and state or local governments then have first shot at buying the property to keep it affordable. Expiring developments also are prioritized for new tax credits, and the state essentially requires that all LIHTC applicants have experience owning and managing affordable housing.

"It kind of weeded out people who weren't interested in affordable housing long term," said Marina Wi-ant, executive director of California's tax credit allocation committee.

But unlike California, some states haven't extended LIHTC agreements beyond 30 years, let alone taken other measures to keep expiring housing affordable.

Colorado, which has some 80,000 LIHTC units, passed a law this year giving local governments the right of first refusal in hopes of preserving 4,400 units set to lose affordability protections in the next six years. The law also requires landlords to give local and state governments a two-year heads-up before expiration.

Still, local governments or nonprofits scraping together the funds to buy sizeable apartment buildings is far from a guarantee.

Stories like Maalouf's will keep playing out as LIHTC units turn over, threatening to send families with meager means back into the housing market. The median income of Americans living in these units was just \$18,600 in 2021, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"This is like a math problem," said Rossbert of Housing Colorado. "As soon as one of these units expires and converts to market rate and a household is displaced, they become a part of the need that's driving the need for new construction."

"It's hard to get out of that cycle," he said.

Colorado's housing agency works with groups across the state on preservation and has a fund to help. Still, it's unclear how many LIHTC units can be saved, in Colorado or across the country.

It's even hard to know how many units nationwide are expiring. An accurate accounting would require sorting through the constellation of municipal, state and federal subsidies, each with their own affordability requirements and end dates.

That can throw a wrench into policymakers' and advocates' ability to fully understand where and when many units will lose affordability, and then funnel resources to the right places, said Kelly McElwain, who manages and oversees the National Housing Preservation Database. It's the most comprehensive aggregation of LIHTC data nationally, but with all the gaps, it remains a rough estimate.

There also are fears that if states publicize their expiring LIHTC units, for-profit buyers without an interest in keeping them affordable would pounce.

"It's sort of this Catch-22 of trying to both understand the problem and not put out a big for-sale sign in front of a property right before its expiration," Rossbert said.

Meanwhile, Maalouf's tenant activism has helped move the needle in Los Angeles. The city has offered the landlord \$15 million to keep her building affordable through 2034, but that deal wouldn't get rid of over 30 eviction cases still proceeding, including Maalouf's, or the \$25,000 in back rent she owes.

In her courtyard, Maalouf's granddaughter, Rubie Caceres, shuffled up with a glass of water. She is 5 years old, but with special needs, her speech is more disconnected words than sentences.

"That's why I've been hoping everything becomes normal again, and she can be safe," said Maalouf, her

voice shaking with emotion. She has urged her son to start saving money for the worst.

"We'll keep fighting," she said, "but day by day it's hard."

"I'm tired already."

## Mexican immigrant families plagued by grief, questions after plant workers swept away by Helene

By LEAH WILLINGHAM Associated Press

ERWIN, Tenn. (AP) — With shaking hands, Daniel Delgado kissed a photo of his wife, Monica Hernandez, before lighting a candle in a supermarket parking lot. Family members hugged pictures printed on poster board, some collapsing into them in tears as search helicopters flew overhead in the direction of the hills.

Days after six workers at a plastics factory disappeared under surging floodwaters caused by Hurricane Helene, loved ones and supporters have been gathering for vigils in front of churches, a high school and a grocery store to honor them.

Most nights, prayers in Spanish are spoken over rosary beads: "Mary, mother of Jesus, intercede and help us find them."

The storm, which claimed the lives of at least 227 people across six states, quickly overwhelmed Erwin, an Appalachian town of around 6,000, on Sept. 27 and resulted in more than 50 people being rescued by helicopter from the roof of a submerged hospital.

The scar it left behind has been especially devastating within the small Latino community that makes up a disproportionate number of workers at the factory: Four of the six workers swept away were Mexican American.

Two state investigations have been launched into Impact Plastics and whether the company should have done more to protect workers as the danger grew.

The families of those lost say they still can't comprehend the ferocity of the storm —or why their loved ones didn't get out of the factory earlier to avoid the raging floodwaters.

"We ask: Why? Why did she go to work? Why did she stay?" Hernandez's sister Guadalupe Hernandez-Corona said, through a translator, after a Thursday night vigil. "We're all still wondering."

Impact Plastics President Gerald O'Connor has said no employees were forced to keep working and they were evacuated at least 45 minutes before the massive force of the flood hit the industrial park.

"There was time to escape," he said in a video statement, adding that he was among the last to leave the plant after ensuring everyone was out. The National Guard rescued five employees by helicopter.

But surviving workers say the evacuation began too late. Some clung to pipes on truck flatbeds for up to six hours while making frantic 911 calls and saying goodbyes to loved ones. Some saw coworkers carried off by the current.

Emergency dispatchers said resources were spread thin as a rescue operation was underway over a mile downriver at Unicoi County Hospital.

Normally running 2 feet (about 60 centimeters) deep, the Nolichucky River rose to a record 30 feet (9.1 meters) that day, running at more than 1.4 million gallons (5.3 million liters) per second, which is twice as much as Niagara Falls.

The plastics plant was open, even as local schools shuttered. Robert Jarvis, who began his shift at 7 a.m., said employees continued to work while receiving phone alerts about possible flooding. Many stayed even after management asked them to move cars because 6 inches of water had accumulated in the parking lot.

Employees were finally told to evacuate after the power went out and when the water was about a foot (30 centimeters) high, he said. Jarvis said he survived only because he was pulled into the bed of someone's lifted truck, which labored up an all-terrain road for three hours.

Jarvis said the six lost coworkers were "like family" and he feels a responsibility to them to share his experience.

"They shouldn't have been at work that day," he said. "None of us should have."

Annabel Andrade, whose cousin's daughter Rosy Reynoso is still missing, said evacuation routes were



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insufficient. And O'Connor's statement angered her: "He left safely. Why was he able to save himself and leave these other employees stranded?"

Alma Vazquez, a Catholic Charities case manager who met some of the lost workers decades ago after she first made her home in Erwin at a migrant farm camp, said the deaths were "completely preventable." "People didn't have to die at the place where they work," she said.

Many of the victims had deep ties to Erwin. It is more than 90% white with around about 8% of the population, around 500 people, identifying as Hispanic in 2022 up from 3.8% a decade earlier, according to Census Bureau figures.

Lidia Verdugo, Bertha Mendoza and Hernandez, all Mexican Americans, lived in the community for two decades. Hernandez began working at Impact Plastics shortly after arriving, her sister said.

The most recent arrival to Erwin, eight years ago, was 29-year-old Rosy Reynoso. She and her husband had just moved into their own apartment after living with her mother, whom she still visited daily. Her 10-year-old son is in Mexico, and she was working to bring him here, Andrade said.

Two white plastics workers, Sibrina Barnett and Johnny Peterson, were also swept away.

There has been frustration in the Hispanic community over the fact that state officials did not immediately send translators to assist survivors of the disaster, and families became more upset when workers answering phone lines for missing persons tips spoke only English.

When a Tennessee Emergency Management Agency director was asked why these resources weren't available until over a day into the search, he said they hadn't been aware of the size of the Spanish-speaking population in the area.

"For them, it was very heartbreaking to hear that," said Ana Gutierrez, an organizer with the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition who has been assisting families.

Gutierrez also said families felt their plight had been overshadowed by the hospital rescue, which made news the day it happened while the plant workers did not.

Some comfort has been found at nightly vigils, where people prayed in both Spanish and English and lit candles as the names of the workers were read.

Erwin Mayor Glenn White said he was moved to see the crowd, a mix of Hispanic and white residents, coming together in solidarity and grief.

"We are one people. Our country's motto says that, 'Out of many, come one,'" White said.

At Saint Michael The Archangel, where the vast majority of the 225 parishioners are Hispanic, families gather to comfort each other and eat Mexican pozole as donations of water, food and other supplies were delivered.

Andrade's family was one of the first Hispanic families to settle in Erwin in the 1980s. When her 19-year-old son died in 2017, she became the first in the community to lay a family member to rest here, in the cemetery next to Saint Michael, instead of sending the body back to Mexico for burial.

Reynoso's husband, who remains hopeful her body will be found, initially planned to inter her in Mexico but later decided her body, if found, will stay in Tennessee. "You've made a life here — your family's going to be here," Andrade told him. "This is your home."

Engraved Spanish prayers adorn the cemetery's tombstones, which Andrade sees as a symbol of the life Hispanic immigrants have made in America.

"It's a way to keep them with us," she said.

## **A year into the Israel-Hamas war, students say a chill on free speech has reached college classrooms**

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — As a junior at George Washington University, Ty Lindia meets new students every day. But with the shadow of the Israel-Hamas war hanging over the Washington, D.C., campus, where everyone has a political opinion, each new encounter is fraught.

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"This idea that I might say the wrong thing kind of scares me," said Lindia, who studies political science. "You have to tiptoe around politics until one person says something that signifies they lean a certain way on the issue."

He has seen friendships — including some of his own — end over views about the war. In public, he keeps his stance to himself for fear that future employers could hold it against him.

"Before Oct. 7, there wasn't really a big fear," said Lindia, of Morristown, New Jersey.

A year after Hamas' attack in southern Israel, some students say they are reluctant to speak out because it could pit them against their peers, professors or even potential employers. Social bubbles have cemented along the divisions of the war. New protest rules on many campuses raise the risk of suspension or expulsion.

Tensions over the conflict burst wide open last year amid emotional demonstrations in the aftermath of the Oct. 7 attack. In the spring, a wave of pro-Palestinian tent encampments led to some 3,200 arrests.

The atmosphere on U.S. campuses has calmed since those protests, yet lingering unease remains.

Students reconsider what to say in classes

In a recent class discussion on gender and the military at Indiana University, sophomore Mikayla Kaplan said she thought about mentioning her female friends who serve in the Israeli military. But in a room full of politically progressive classmates, she decided to stay quiet.

"In the back of my head, I'm always thinking about things that I should or shouldn't say," Kaplan said.

Kaplan, who proudly wears a Star of David necklace, said that before college she had many friends of different faiths, but after Oct. 7, almost all of her friends are Jewish.

The war began when Hamas-led fighters killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel. They abducted another 250 people and are still holding about 100 hostages. Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed at least 41,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

At the University of Connecticut, some students said the conflict doesn't come up as much in classes. Ahmad Zoghol, an engineering student, said it remains a tense issue and he has heard of potential employers scrutinizing political statements students make in college.

"There's definitely that concern for a lot of people, including myself, that if we speak about it there's going to be some sort of repercussion," he said.

Campuses grapple with divisions

Compared with the much larger campus protests of the Vietnam War era, when few students openly supported the war, campuses today appear more divided, said Mark Yudof, a former president of the University of California system. For many, the issues are more personal.

"The faculty are at odds with each other. The student body is at odds with each other. There's a war of ideologies going on," he said.

Some universities are trying to bridge the divide with campus events on civil discourse, sometimes inviting Palestinian and Jewish speakers to share the stage. At Harvard University in Massachusetts, a recent survey found that many students and professors are reluctant to share views in the classroom. A panel suggested solutions including "classroom confidentiality" and teaching on constructive disagreement.

Meanwhile, many campuses are adding policies that clamp down on protests, often banning encampments and limiting demonstrations to certain hours or locations.

At Indiana University, a new policy forbids "expressive activity" after 11 p.m., among other restrictions. Doctoral student Bryce Greene, who helped lead a pro-Palestinian encampment last semester, said he was threatened with suspension after organizing an 11:30 p.m. vigil.

That's a startling contrast to past protests on campus, including a 2019 climate demonstration that drew hundreds of students without university interference, he said.

"There's definitely a chilling effect that occurs when speech is being restricted in this manner," said Greene, who is part of a lawsuit challenging the new policy. "This is just one way for them to restrict people from speaking out for Palestine."

New rules allow protests, but with conditions

The tense atmosphere has led some faculty members to rethink teaching certain subjects or entering

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certain debates, said Risa Lieberwitz, general counsel for the American Association of University Professors.

Lieberwitz, who teaches labor law at Cornell University, has been alarmed by the growing number of colleges requiring students to register demonstrations days in advance.

"It's so contradictory to the notion of how protests and demonstrations take place," she said. "They're oftentimes spontaneous. They're not planned in the way that events are generally planned."

Protests have continued on many campuses, but on a smaller scale and often under the confines of new rules.

At Wesleyan University in Connecticut, police removed a group of pro-Palestinian students from a campus building where they held a sit-in in September. Wesleyan President Michael Roth said he supports students' free speech rights, but they "don't have a right to take over part of a building."

Wesleyan is offering new courses on civil disagreement this year, and faculty are working to help foster discussion among students.

"It's challenging for students, as it is for adults — most adults don't have conversations with people who disagree with them," Roth said. "We're so segregated into our bubbles."

Schools try to find balance on free speech

American universities pride themselves as being places of open discourse where students can engage across their differences. Since Oct. 7, they have been under tremendous pressure to uphold free speech while also protecting students from discrimination.

The U.S. Education Department is investigating more than 70 colleges for reports of antisemitism or Islamophobia. Leaders of several prestigious colleges have been called before Congress by Republicans who accuse them of being soft on antisemitism.

Yet finding the line where protected speech ends is as hard as ever. Leaders grapple with whether to allow chants seen by some as calls of support for Palestinians and by others as a threat against Jews. It's especially complicated at public universities, which are bound by the First Amendment, while private colleges have flexibility to impose wider speech limits.

At George Washington University, Lindia said the war comes up often in his classes but sometimes after a warming-up period — in one class, discussion loosened after the professor realized most students shared similar views. Even walking to class, there is a visible reminder of the tension. Tall fencing now surrounds University Yard, the grassy space where police broke up a tent encampment in May.

"It's a place for free expression, and now it's just completely blocked off," he said.

Some students say moderate voices are getting lost.

Nivriti Agaram, a junior at George Washington, said she believes Israel has a right to defend itself but questions America's spending on the war. That opinion puts her at odds with more liberal students, who have called her a "genocide enabler" and worse, she said.

"It's very stifling," she said. "I think there's a silent majority who aren't speaking."

## **A Tennessee nurse and his dog died trying to save a man from floods driven by Hurricane Helene**

By MARTHA BELLISLE Associated Press

As the Hurricane Helene-driven waters rose around the Nolichucky River in Tennessee, Boone McCrary, his girlfriend and his chocolate lab headed out on his fishing boat to search for a man who was stranded by floodwaters that had leveled his home. But the thick debris in the water jammed the boat's motor, and without power, it slammed into a bridge support and capsized.

McCrary and his dog Moss never made it out of the water alive.

Search teams found McCrary's boat and his dog's body two days later, but it took four days to find McCrary, an emergency room nurse whose passion was being on his boat in that river. His girlfriend, Santana Ray, held onto a branch for hours before rescuers reached her.

David Boutin, the man McCrary had set out to rescue, was distraught when he later learned McCrary



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had died trying to save him.

"I've never had anyone risk their life for me," Boutin told The Associated Press. "From what I hear that was the way he always been. He's my guardian angel, that's for sure."

The 46-year-old recalled how the force of the water swept him out his front door and ripped his dog Buddy — "My best friend, all I have" — from his arms. Boutin was rescued by another team after clinging to tree branches in the raging river for six hours. Buddy is still missing, and Boutin knows he couldn't have survived.

McCrary was one of 215 people killed by Hurricane Helene's raging waters and falling trees across six states — Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia — and was among a group of first responders who perished while trying to save others. The hurricane caused significant damage in nearby Unicoi County, where flooding swept away 11 workers at a plastics factory and forced a rescue mission at an Erwin, Tennessee, hospital.

McCrary, an avid hunter and fisherman, spent his time cruising the waterways that snake around Greenville, Tennessee. When the hurricane hit, the 32-year-old asked friends on Facebook if anyone needed help, said his sister, Laura Harville. That was how he learned about Boutin.

McCrary, his girlfriend and Moss the dog launched into a flooded neighborhood at about 7 p.m. on Sept. 27 and approached Boutin's location, but the debris-littered floodwaters clogged the boat's jet motor. Despite pushing and pulling the throttle, McCrary couldn't clear the junk and slammed into the bridge about two hours into the rescue attempt.

"I got the first phone call at 8:56 p.m. and I was a nervous wreck," Harville said. She headed to the bridge and started walking the banks.

Harville organized hundreds of volunteers who used drones, thermal cameras, binoculars and hunting dogs to scour the muddy banks, fending off copperhead snakes, trudging through knee-high muck and fighting through tangled branches. Harville collected items that carried McCrary's scent — a pillowcase, sock and insoles from his nursing shoes — and stuffed them into mason jars for the canines to sniff.

On Sunday, a drone operator spotted the boat. They found Moss dead nearby, but there was no sign of McCrary.

Searchers had no luck on Monday, "but on Tuesday they noticed vultures flying," Harville said. That was how they found McCrary's body, about 21 river miles (33 kilometers) from the bridge where the boat capsized, she said.

The force of the floodwaters carried McCrary under two other bridges, under the highway and over the Nolichucky Dam, she said. The Tennessee Valley Authority said about 1.3 million gallons (4.9 million liters) of water per second was flowing over the dam on the night McCrary was swept away, more than double the flow rate of the dam's last regulated release nearly a half-century ago.

Boutin, 46, isn't sure where he will go next. He is staying with his son for a few days and then hopes to get a hotel voucher.

He didn't learn about McCrary's fate until the day after he was rescued.

"When the news hit, I didn't know how to take it," Boutin told the AP. "I wish I could thank him for giving his life for me."

Dozens of McCrary's coworkers at Greenville Community Hospital have posted tributes to him, recalling his kindness and compassion and desire to help others. He "was adamant about living life to the fullest and making sure along the way that you didn't forget your fellow man or woman and that you helped each other," Harville said.

McCrary's last TikTok video posted before the hurricane shows him speeding along the surface of rushing muddy water to the tune, "Wanted Dead or Alive." He wrote a message along the bottom that read:

"Some people have asked if I had a 'death wish.' The truth is that I have a 'life wish.' I have a need for feeling the life running through my veins. One thing about me, I may be 'crazy,' Perhaps a little reckless at times, but when the time comes to put me in the ground, you can say I lived it all the way."

## North Korea and China mark their 75th anniversary of ties as outsiders question their relationship

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The leaders of North Korea and China marked the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations on Sunday by exchanging messages that expressed hopes for stronger ties, as outsiders raised questions about their relationship.

The message exchange came as North Korea and Russia have been sharply expanding their cooperation while China apparently keeps its distance. Experts say that the level of exchanges and commemorative programs between North Korea and China in the coming months will provide a clue to the exact status of their ties.

In a message sent to Chinese President Xi Jinping, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his government will “steadily strive to consolidate and develop the friendly and cooperative relations” between the two countries, according to North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency.

Xi, in his message to Kim, said that China is ready to jointly promote “the stable and further advance of the socialist cause in the two countries,” KCNA said.

Since North Korea and China established diplomatic ties on Oct. 6, 1949, their relationship has often been described as being “as close as lips and teeth.” China, North Korea’s biggest trading partner and main aid provider, has been suspected of avoiding fully implementing U.N. sanctions on North Korea and sending clandestine aid shipments to help its impoverished neighbor stay afloat and continue to serve as a bulwark against U.S. influence on the Korean Peninsula.

But many observers say China is reluctant to form a three-way, anti-West alliance with North Korea and Russia as it prefers a stable regional security environment to tackle numerous economic challenges and maintain relationships with Europe and its Asian neighbors.

North Korea and Russia have moved significantly closer to each other amid widespread outside suspicions that North Korea has supplied conventional weapons to Russia for its war in Ukraine in return for military and economic assistance. During a meeting in Pyongyang in June, Kim and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a pact stipulating mutual military assistance if either country is attacked, in what was considered the two countries’ biggest defense deal since the end of the Cold War.

North Korea is locked in confrontations with the U.S., South Korea and their partners over its advancing nuclear program. Kim has said he was forced to expand both nuclear and conventional capabilities to cope with U.S.-led security threats.

On Sunday, KCNA reported that Kim oversaw a live artillery firing drill by cadets of a military academy. After watching the drill, Kim said training programs at the military academy must focus on “the guerrilla war tactics to wipe out the enemies through rapid mobile and surprise operations,” according to KCNA.

## Trump urges his supporters to deliver victory in his return to scene of first assassination attempt

By JULIE CARR SMYTH, JILL COLVIN and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

BUTLER, Pa. (AP) — Donald Trump returned on Saturday to the Pennsylvania fairgrounds where he was nearly assassinated in July, urging a large crowd to deliver an Election Day victory that he tied to his survival of the shooting.

The former president and Republican nominee picked up where he left off in July when a gunman’s bullet struck his ear. He began his speech with, “As I was saying,” and gestured toward an immigration chart he was looking at when the gunfire began.

“Twelve weeks ago, we all took a bullet for America,” Trump said. “All we are all asking is that everyone goes out and votes. We got to win. We can’t let this happen to our country.”

The Trump campaign worked to maximize the event’s headline-grabbing potential with just 30 days to go and voting already underway in some states in his race against his Democratic opponent, Vice Presi-

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dent Kamala Harris. Musician Lee Greenwood appeared on stage and serenaded him with "God Bless the USA," frequently played at his rallies, and billionaire Elon Musk spoke for the first time at a Trump rally.

"We fought together. We have endured together. We have pushed onward together," Trump said. "And right here in Pennsylvania, we have bled together. We've bled."

At the beginning of the rally, Trump asked for a moment of silence to honor firefighter Corey Comperatore, who died as he shielded family members from gunfire in July. Classical singer Christopher Macchio sang "Ave Maria" after a bell rung at the same time that gunfire began on July 13. Several of Comperatore's family members were in attendance, including his widow, Helen, who stood during Trump's remarks next to the former president's daughter-in-law, Lara Trump.

Standing behind protective glass that now encases the stage at his outdoor rallies, Trump called the would-be assassin "a vicious monster" and said he did not succeed "by the hand of providence and the grace of God." There was a very visible heightened security presence, with armed law enforcers in camouflage uniforms on roofs.

Trump honored Comperatore and recognized the two other July rallygoers injured, David Dutch and James Copenhaver. They and Trump were struck when 20-year-old shooter Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, opened fire from an unsecured rooftop nearby before he was fatally shot by sharpshooters.

The building from which Crooks fired was completely obscured by tractor-trailers, a large grassy perimeter and a fence.

How Crooks managed to outmaneuver law enforcement that day and scramble on top of a building within easy shooting distance of the ex-president is among many questions that remain unanswered about the worst Secret Service security failure in decades. Another is his motive.

Pennsylvania is critical to both presidential campaigns

Trump lost Pennsylvania four years ago after flipping it to the Republican column in 2016. He needs to drive up voter turnout in conservative strongholds like Butler County, an overwhelmingly white, rural-suburban community, if he wants to win Pennsylvania in November after losing it four years ago. Harris, too, has targeted her campaign efforts at Pennsylvania, rallying there repeatedly as part of her aggressive outreach in critical swing states.

"Pennsylvania, clearly, is going to be the center of the universe for the next 30 days, for both sides, and we're pretty bullish on where we are here organizationally, politically, and in terms of the resources that we've been able to commit here," campaign senior adviser Chris LaCivita told reporters.

Trump highlighted Harris' previous stance against fracking, a process of producing natural gas key to Pennsylvania's economy, like he has done in the past. But then, he continued to spread falsehoods about the federal response to Hurricane Helene, further spreading a claim floating around that disaster survivors are only getting \$750 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. That figure refers to help the agency can give someone in an affected area for what they might need immediately.

Trump also claimed Harris had "lost more than 325,000 migrant children that are now dead, in slavery or just plain missing." An August report from a government watchdog said those were cases where immigration officials were faulted for failing to consistently "monitor the location and status of unaccompanied migrant children" once they are released from federal government custody. Those figures also covered more than two years of the Trump administration.

Elon Musk made an appearance

One of the most anticipated guests of the evening was Musk, the CEO of SpaceX and Tesla and owner of X, formerly Twitter. Musk climbed onto the stage on Saturday jumping and pumping his fists in the air after Trump introduced him as a "great gentleman" and said he "saved free speech."

"President Trump must win to preserve the Constitution. He must win to preserve democracy in America," said Musk, who endorsed Trump after the assassination attempt. "This is a must-win situation."

Musk, who has embraced conservative politics and is funding get-out-the-vote efforts for Trump in several swing states, met with Trump and his running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, backstage, donning a black "Make America Great Again" hat. A billboard on the way into the rally said, "IN MUSK WE TRUST,"



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and showed his photo.

Earlier on Saturday, Vance got on stage and reflected on the events that day while severely criticizing Democrats for calling Trump "a threat to democracy," saying that kind of language is "inflammatory."

"You heard the shots. You saw the blood. We all feared the worst. But you knew everything would be OK when President Trump raised his fist high in the air and shouted, 'Fight, fight!'" said Vance, who was chosen as his vice presidential nominee less than two days later.

Rallygoers said they felt secure coming back to Butler

Crowds were lined up as the sun rose Saturday. A large crowd packed bleachers, folding chairs and the expansive field stretching to the venue's edges. Area hotels, motels and inns were said to be full and some rallygoers arrived Friday. Much of the crowd waited several hours for Trump. About half an hour into his speech, Trump paused his remarks for more than five minutes after an attendee had a medical issue and needed a medic.

Butler County, on the western edge of a coveted presidential swing state, is a Trump stronghold. He won the county with about 66% of the vote in both 2016 and 2020. About 57% of the county's 139,000 registered voters are Republicans, compared with about 29% who are Democrats and 14% something else.

Chris Harpster, 30, of Tyrone, Pennsylvania, was accompanied by his girlfriend on Saturday as he returned to the scene. Of July 13, he said, "I was afraid" — as were his parents, watching at home, who texted him immediately after the shots rang out.

Heightened security measures were making him feel better now, as well as the presence of his girlfriend, a first-time rallygoer. Harpster said he will be a third-time Trump voter in November, based on the Republican nominee's stances on immigration, guns, abortion and energy. Harpster said he hopes Pennsylvania will go Republican, particularly out of concern over gas and oil industry jobs.

Other townspeople were divided over the value of Trump's return. Heidi Priest, a Butler resident who started a Facebook group supporting Harris, said Trump's last visit fanned political tensions in the city.

"Whenever you see people supporting him and getting excited about him being here, it scares the people who don't want to see him reelected," she said.

Terri Palmquist came from Bakersfield, California, and said her 18-year-old daughter tried to dissuade her from traveling. "I just figure we need to not let fear control us. That's what the other side wants is fear. If fear controls us, we lose," she said.

She said she was not worried about her own safety.

"Honesty, I believe God's got Trump, for some reason. I do. So we're rooting for him."

## **Vanderbilt takes down No. 1 Alabama 40-35 in historic college football victory**

By TERESA M. WALKER AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Fans of the Vanderbilt Commodores danced onto the field, jumping up and down as they tore down a goal post, carried it out of the stadium and rang out sweet sounds of victory.

Then they toted the goal post just over a couple miles and tossed it into the Cumberland River.

Their school's historic win over No. 1 Alabama deserved to be celebrated this way.

Sedrick Alexander ran for two touchdowns, Randon Fontenette scored on a pick-six and Diego Pavia outplayed Heisman Trophy candidate Jalen Milroe as Vanderbilt stunned Alabama 40-35 on Saturday for the Commodores' first win over the nation's top-ranked team.

Vanderbilt (3-2, 1-1 Southeastern Conference) had lost all 60 games against AP top-five teams, according to SportRadar. The Commodores hadn't beaten Alabama on the field in 40 years, but they snapped a 23-game skid making big play after big play to give coach Clark Lea his alma mater's biggest win ever.

"This is the dream, right here," Lea said. "And for the next 12 hours, I'm going to enjoy the dream. We've got more ahead of us, but this is what Vanderbilt football needs to be about: Big wins on big stages. We're going to go get some more."

The Commodores scored the first 13 points and took a 16-point lead that was their largest ever over

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the No. 1 team in the country. Only Jam Miller running for his second TD just before halftime trimmed that to 23-14.

Alabama had just moved to the top of the AP Top 25 last week after a win over then-No. 2 Georgia. It'll be a short stay, and first-year coach Kalen DeBoer said it's back to work for a team that wasn't at its best Saturday.

"We're going to find out really how much we care about each other and what it looks like moving forward," DeBoer said. "We've been tested in different ways really a lot of the games here this season, and this is a different type of test now in our response."

Alexander capped the game's opening drive with a 7-yard TD to put Vandy ahead to stay. It marked the first time since 2007 that Vandy had opened a game against Alabama with a TD, the last time being Nick Saban's second game as coach.

The Tide (4-1, 1-1) helped Vanderbilt pad that lead with too many mistakes, sloppy play and penalties.

Alabama got to 30-28 with Milroe's 58-yard TD pass to Ryan Williams.

The Commodores answered with 10 points. Of their total, 13 came off Milroe's two turnovers, the second a strip sack by Miles Capers recovered by Yilanan Ouattara at midfield.

Pavia capped the drive with a 6-yard TD pass to Alabama native Kamrean Johnson with 5:07 left for a 40-28 lead. Milroe tried to rally Alabama, with Williams scoring on an end around on fourth-and-1 from 2 yards out with 2:46 left.

Vanderbilt fans and players started celebrating as Pavia knelt down to run out the clock.

"Games like this change your life," Pavia said.

Milroe had his second pass of the game tipped into the air by De'Rickey Wright, who committed to Alabama and wound up at Vanderbilt. Fontenette grabbed the ball and ran 24 yards to the end zone for the pick-six and a 13-0 lead at 8:03 of the first quarter.

Vanderbilt jumped out to a 23-7 lead, just the second time in the last 10 seasons that a No. 1 team trailed an unranked opponent by 16 or more points.

Vanderbilt never trailed as the Commodores played keep-away, holding the ball for just over 42 minutes. Alabama had a 312-252 yardage advantage on offense. It didn't matter with Vandy converting 12 of 18 on third downs wearing down the Tide defense.

Alabama linebacker Deontae Lawson said it's early and everything remains in front of the Tide.

"We never want to feel this again," Lawson said.

Poll implications

Alabama will drop out of the top spot after this loss to the SEC's perennial cellar dweller. Alabama now is 64-4 against unranked teams as the AP's top-ranked team.

The takeaways

Alabama: The Tide played sloppy coming off an emotional win over Georgia and hurt themselves with too many penalties. The Tide had six penalties for 57 yards. They also failed to sack Pavia even once.

Vanderbilt: Lea's numerous offseason changes paid off, and those included bringing in Pavia as a graduate transfer along with his head coach and offensive coordinator from New Mexico State. ... Kicker Brock Taylor also got a much-needed confidence boost after missing two field goals in the second overtime of a road loss at then-No. 7 Missouri. After having his second extra point attempt blocked, he came back to make a pair of field goals, including a 51-yarder.

Up next

Alabama returns home to host South Carolina.

Vanderbilt visits Kentucky.

## Death toll from Hurricane Helene rises to 227 as grim task of recovering bodies continues

By BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — The death toll from Hurricane Helene inched up to 227 on Saturday as the grim task of recovering bodies continued more than a week after the monster storm ravaged the Southeast and killed people in six states.

Helene came ashore Sept. 26 as a Category 4 hurricane and carved a wide swath of destruction as it moved northward from Florida, washing away homes, destroying roads and knocking out electricity and cellphone service for millions.

The number of deaths stood at 225 on Friday; two more were recorded in South Carolina the following day. It was still unclear how many people were unaccounted for or missing, and the toll could rise even higher.

Helene is the deadliest hurricane to hit the mainland U.S. since Katrina in 2005. About half the victims were in North Carolina, while dozens more were killed in Georgia and South Carolina.

The city of Asheville, in the western mountains of North Carolina, was particularly battered. A week later workers used brooms and heavy machinery to clean mud and dirt outside of New Belgium Brewing Company, which lies next to the French Broad River and is among thousands of city businesses and households affected.

So far North Carolinians have received more than \$27 million in individual assistance approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said MaryAnn Tierney, a regional administrator for the agency. More than 83,000 people have registered for individual assistance, according to the office of Gov. Roy Cooper.

In Buncombe County, where Asheville is located, FEMA-approved assistance has surpassed \$12 million for survivors, Tierney said Saturday during a news briefing.

"This is critical assistance that will help people with their immediate needs, as well as displacement assistance that helps them if they can't stay in their home," she said.

She encouraged residents impacted by the storm to register for disaster assistance.

"It is the first step in the recovery process," she said. "We can provide immediate relief in terms of serious needs assistance to replace food, water, medicines, other life safety, critical items, as well as displacement assistance if you cannot stay in your home."

Helene's raging floodwaters shocked mountain towns hundreds of miles inland and far from where the storm made landfall on Florida's Gulf Coast, including in the Tennessee mountains that Dolly Parton calls home.

The country music star has announced a \$1 million donation to the Mountain Ways Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to providing immediate assistance to Hurricane Helene flood victims.

In addition, her East Tennessee businesses as well as the Dollywood Foundation are combining efforts, pledging to match her donation to Mountain Ways with a \$1 million contribution.

Parton said she feels a close connection to the storm victims because so many of them "grew up in the mountains just like I did."

"I can't stand to see anyone hurting, so I wanted to do what I could to help after these terrible floods," she said. "I hope we can all be a little bit of light in the world for our friends, our neighbors — even strangers — during this dark time they are experiencing."

Walmart U.S. President and CEO John Furner said the company, including Sam's Club and the Walmart Foundation, would increase its commitment and donate a total of \$10 million to hurricane relief efforts.

In Newport, an eastern Tennessee town of about 7,000, residents continued cleaning up Saturday from the destruction caused by Helene's floodwaters.

Mud still clung to the basement walls of one Main Street funeral home. The ground-floor chapel of another nearby was being dried out, a painting of Jesus still hanging on the wall in an otherwise barren room.

Newport City Hall and its police department also took on water from the swollen Pigeon River. Some of



the modest, one-story homes along its banks were destroyed, their walls crumbled and rooms exposed.

Farther east in unincorporated Del Rio, along a bend in the French Broad River, residents and volunteers toiled to clean up. The smell of wood hung in the air as people used chainsaws to cut through downed trees, and Bobcats beeped as they moved mangled sheet metal and other debris. Many homes sustained damage, including one that slid off its foundation.

## Israel expands its bombardment in Lebanon as thousands flee widening war

By BASSAM HATOUM, MELANIE LIDMAN and BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

MASNAA BORDER CROSSING, Lebanon (AP) — Powerful new explosions rocked Beirut's southern suburbs late Saturday as Israel expanded its bombardment in Lebanon, also striking a Palestinian refugee camp deep in the north for the first time as it targeted both Hezbollah and Hamas fighters.

Thousands of people in Lebanon, including Palestinian refugees, continued to flee the widening conflict in the region, while rallies were held around the world marking the approaching anniversary of the start of the war in Gaza.

The strong explosions began near midnight and continued into Sunday after Israel's military urged residents to evacuate areas in Dahiyeh, the predominantly Shiite collection of suburbs on Beirut's southern edge. AP video showed the blasts illuminating the densely populated southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has a strong presence. They followed a day of sporadic strikes and the nearly continuous buzz of reconnaissance drones.

Israel's military confirmed it was striking targets near Beirut and said about 30 projectiles had crossed from Lebanon into Israeli territory, with some intercepted.

The strikes reportedly targeted a building near a road leading to Lebanon's only international airport, and another building formerly used by the Hezbollah-run broadcaster Al-Manar. Social media reports claimed that one of the strikes hit an oxygen tank storage facility, but this was later denied by the owner of the company Khaled Kaddouha.

Shortly thereafter, Hezbollah claimed in a statement that it successfully targeted a group of Israeli soldiers near the Manara settlement in northern Israel "with a large rocket salvo, hitting them accurately."

On Saturday, Israel's attack on the northern Beddawi camp killed an official with Hamas' military wing along with his wife and two young daughters, the Palestinian militant group said. Hamas later said another military wing member was killed in Israeli strikes in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley. The aftermath showed smashed buildings, scattered bricks and stairways to nowhere.

Israel has killed several Hamas officials in Lebanon since the Israel-Hamas war began, in addition to most of the top leadership of the Lebanon-based Hezbollah as fighting has sharply escalated.

At least 1,400 Lebanese, including civilians, medics and Hezbollah fighters, have been killed and 1.2 million driven from their homes in less than two weeks. Israel says it aims to drive the militant group away from shared borders so displaced Israelis can return to their homes.

Iranian-backed Hezbollah, the strongest armed force in Lebanon, began firing rockets into Israel almost immediately after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, calling it a show of support for the Palestinians. Hezbollah and Israel's military have traded fire almost daily.

Last week, Israel launched what it called a limited ground operation into southern Lebanon after a series of attacks killed longtime Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and others. The fighting is the worst since Israel and Hezbollah fought a brief war in 2006. Nine Israeli soldiers have been killed in the ground clashes that Israel says have killed 440 Hezbollah fighters.

Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, told reporters in Damascus that "we are trying to reach a cease-fire in Gaza and in Lebanon." The minister said the unnamed countries putting forward initiatives include regional states and some outside the Middle East.

Araghchi spoke a day after the supreme leader of Iran praised its recent missile strikes on Israel and

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said it was ready to do it again if necessary.

On Saturday evening, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said "Israel has the duty and the right to defend itself and respond to these attacks, and it will do so." On Lebanon, he said "we are not done yet."

Fleeing Lebanon on foot

Israel's military earlier Saturday said about 90 projectiles were fired from Lebanon into Israeli territory. Most were intercepted, but several fell in the northern Arab town of Deir al-Asad, where police said three people were lightly injured.

At least six people in Lebanon were killed in more than a dozen Israeli airstrikes overnight and into Saturday, according to the Lebanese state-run National News Agency.

Nearly 375,000 people have fled from Lebanon into Syria in less than two weeks, according to a Lebanese government committee.

Associated Press journalists saw hundreds continuing to cross the Masnaa Border Crossing on foot, crunching over the rubble after Israeli airstrikes left huge craters in the road leading to it on Thursday. Much of Hezbollah's weaponry is believed to come from Iran through Syria.

"We were on the road for two days," said Issa Hilal, one of many Syrian refugees in Lebanon who are now heading back. "The roads were very crowded ... it was very difficult. We almost died getting here." Some children whimpered or cried.

Other displaced families now shelter alongside Beirut's famous seaside Corniche, their wind-flapped tents just steps from luxury homes. "We don't care if we die, but we don't want to die at the hands of Netanyahu," said Om Ali Mcheik.

The Israeli military said special forces were carrying out ground raids against Hezbollah infrastructure in southern Lebanon. It said troops dismantled tunnel shafts that Hezbollah used to approach the Israeli border.

More evacuation orders in Gaza

Almost 42,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza during the war, according to the Health Ministry there, which does not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths. Almost 90% of Gaza's residents are displaced, amid widespread destruction.

Palestinian medical officials said Israeli strikes in northern and central Gaza on Saturday killed at least nine people. One in the northern town of Beit Hanoun killed at least five, including two children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Another hit a house in the Nuseirat refugee camp, killing at least four, Awda hospital said.

Israel's military did not have any immediate comment but has long accused Hamas of operating from within civilian areas.

An Israeli airstrike killed two children in Gaza City's Zaytoun neighborhood, according to the civil defense first responders' group that operates under the Hamas-run government.

Israel's military warned Palestinians to evacuate along the strategic Netzarim corridor in central Gaza that was at the heart of obstacles to a cease-fire deal. The military told people in parts of the Nuseirat and Bureij refugee camps to evacuate to Muwasi, a coastal area it has designated a humanitarian zone.

It's unclear how many Palestinians are in those areas. Israeli forces have often returned to areas in Gaza to target Hamas fighters as they regroup.

## Harris pledges ongoing federal support as she visits North Carolina to survey Helene's aftermath

By COLLEEN LONG and AYANNA ALEXANDER Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris pledged ongoing federal support and praised the "heroes among us" as she visited North Carolina on Saturday in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, her second trip in four days to the disaster zone.

The vice president was in Charlotte one day after a visit to the state by Republican Donald Trump, who is spreading false claims about the federal response to the disaster.

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Harris opened her visit by attending a briefing with state and local officials, where she thanked "those who are in the room and those who are out there right now working around the clock."

She promised federal assistance would continue to flow and added praise for the "strangers who are helping each other out, giving people shelter and food and friendship and fellowship."

Despite Trump's claims that the federal response in the state has been "lousy," Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper said the state was "deeply grateful for the federal resources that we have. FEMA has been on the ground with us since the very beginning," he said, referring to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

After her briefing, Harris helped pack toiletries into aid kits at a distribution center, where she met Angelica Wind from hard-hit Asheville, who was there to volunteer with her daughter and a friend even though Wind said her own family was still without power and people were "just surviving."

"There's a lot of resilience," Wind told Harris, adding that, "We want to make sure people don't forget about us."

Harris assured her the federal government was "here for the long haul."

Melissa Funderbunk told Harris about driving a truck carrying assistance to people in remote Morganton, "where people weren't coming."

"You are the heroes among us," Harris said.

Earlier in the week, Harris was in Georgia, where she helped distribute meals, toured the damage and consoled families hard-hit by the storm. President Joe Biden, too, visited the disaster zone. During stops over two days in the Carolinas, Florida and Georgia, Biden surveyed the damage and met with farmers whose crops have been destroyed.

The two have been vocal and visible about the government's willingness to help, and the administration's efforts so far include covering costs for all of the rescue and recovery efforts across the Southeast for several months as states struggle under the weight of the mass damage.

In a letter late Friday to congressional leaders, Biden wrote that while FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund "has the resources it requires right now to meet immediate needs, the fund does face a shortfall at the end of the year." He also called on lawmakers to act quickly to restore funding to the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program.

More than 200 people have died. It's the worst storm to hit the U.S. mainland since Katrina in 2005, and scientists have warned such storms will only worsen in the face of climate change.

But in this overheated election year, even natural disasters have become deeply politicized as the candidates crisscross the disaster area and in some cases visit the same venues to win over voters in battleground states.

Trump has falsely claimed the Biden administration isn't doing enough to help impacted people in Republican areas and has harshly criticized the response. He has, in Helene's aftermath, espoused falsehoods about climate change, calling it "one of the great scams of all time."

During a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania on Saturday, Trump renewed his complaints about the federal government "doing a very bad job" in its storm response, with little relief in North Carolina in particular. In fact, Cooper said this week that more than 50,000 people have registered for FEMA assistance and about \$6 million has been paid out.

Biden has suggested that House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., is withholding money for disaster relief needs.

## Congo finally begins mpox vaccinations in a drive to slow outbreaks

By RUTH ALONGA Associated Press

GOMA, Congo (AP) — Congolese authorities Saturday began vaccinations against mpox, nearly two months after the disease outbreak that spread from Congo to several African countries and beyond was declared a global emergency by the World Health Organization.

The 265,000 doses donated to Congo by the European Union and the U.S. were rolled out in the eastern city of Goma in North Kivu province, where hospitals and health workers have been overstretched, strug-



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gling to contain the new and possibly more infectious strain of mpox.

Congo, with about 30,000 suspected mpox cases and 859 deaths, accounts for more than 80% of all the cases and 99% of all the deaths reported in Africa this year. All of the Central African nation's 26 provinces have recorded mpox cases.

Although most mpox infections and deaths recorded in Congo are in children under age 15, the doses being administered are only meant for adults and will be given to at-risk populations and front-line workers, Health Minister Roger Kamba said this week.

"Strategies have been put in place by the services in order to vaccinate all targeted personnel," Muboyayi ChikayaI, the minister's chief of staff, said as he kicked off the vaccination.

At least 3 million doses of the vaccine approved for use in children are expected from Japan in the coming days, Kamba said.

Mpox, also known as monkeypox, had been spreading mostly undetected for years in Africa before the disease prompted the 2022 global outbreak that saw wealthy countries quickly respond with vaccines from their stockpiles while Africa received only a few doses despite pleas from its governments.

However, unlike the global outbreak in 2022 that was overwhelmingly focused in gay and bisexual men, mpox in Africa is now being spread via sexual transmission as well as through close contact among children, pregnant women and other vulnerable groups, Dr. Dimie Ogoina, the chair of WHO's mpox emergency committee, recently told reporters.

More than 34,000 suspected cases and 866 deaths from the virus have been recorded across 16 countries in Africa this year. That is a 200% increase compared to the same period last year, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

But access to vaccines remains a challenge.

The continent of 1.4 billion people has only secured commitment for 5.9 million doses of mpox vaccines, expected to be available from October through December, Dr. Jean Kaseya, head of the Africa CDC, told reporters last week. Congo remains a priority, he said.

At the vaccination drive in Goma, Dr. Jean Bruno Ngenze, the WHO representative in the province, warned that North Kivu is at a risk of a major outbreak due to the "promiscuity observed in the camps" for displaced people, as one of the world's biggest humanitarian crisis caused by armed violence unfolds there.

The news of the vaccination program brought relief among many in Congo, especially in hospitals that had been struggling to manage the outbreak.

"If everyone could be vaccinated, it would be even better to stop the spread of the disease," said Dr. Musole Mulambamunva Robert, the medical director of Kavumu Hospital, one of the mpox treatment centers in eastern Congo.

Eastern Congo has been beset by conflict for years, with more than 100 armed groups vying for a foothold in the mineral-rich area near the border with Rwanda. Some have been accused of carrying out mass killings.

## A week after Helene hit, thousands still without water struggle to find enough

By MICHAEL PHILLIS, JEFF AMY and BRITTANY PETERSON Associated Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Nearly a week after Hurricane Helene brought devastation to western North Carolina, a shiny stainless steel tanker truck in downtown Asheville attracted residents carrying 5-gallon containers, milk jugs and buckets to fill with what has become a desperately scarce resource — drinking water.

Flooding tore through the city's water system, destroying so much infrastructure that officials said repairs could take weeks. To make do, Anna Ramsey arrived Wednesday with her two children, who each left carrying plastic bags filled with 2 gallons (7.6 liters) of water.

"We have no water. We have no power. But I think it's also been humbling," Ramsey said.

Helene's path through the Southeast left a trail of power outages so large the darkness was visible from

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space. Tens of trillions of gallons of rain fell and more than 200 people were killed, making Helene the deadliest hurricane to hit the mainland U.S. since Katrina in 2005. Hundreds of people are still unaccounted for, and search crews must trudge through knee-deep debris to learn whether residents are safe.

It also damaged water utilities so severely and over such a wide inland area that one federal official said the toll "could be considered unprecedented." As of Thursday, about 136,000 people in the Southeast were served by a nonoperational water provider and more than 1.8 million were living under a boil water advisory, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Western North Carolina was especially hard hit. Officials are facing a difficult rebuilding task made harder by the steep, narrow valleys of the Blue Ridge Mountains that during a more typical October would attract throngs of fall tourists.

"The challenges of the geography are just fewer roads, fewer access points, fewer areas of flat ground to stage resources" said Brian Smith, acting deputy division director for the EPA's water division in the Southeast.

After days without water, people long for more than just a sponge bath.

"I would love a shower," said Sue Riles in Asheville. "Running water would be incredible."

The raging floodwaters of Helene destroyed crucial parts of Asheville's water system, scouring out the pipes that convey water from a reservoir in the mountains above town that is the largest of three water supplies for the system. To reach a second reservoir that was knocked offline, a road had to be rebuilt.

Boosted output from the third source restored water flow in some southern Asheville neighborhoods Friday, but without full repairs schools may not be able to resume in-person classes, hospitals may not restore normal operations, and the city's hotels and restaurants may not fully reopen.

Even water that's unfit to drink is scarce. Drew Reisinger, the elected Buncombe County register of deeds, worries about people in apartments who can't easily haul a bucket of water from a creek to flush their toilet. Officials are advising people to collect nondrinkable water for household needs from a local swimming pool.

"One thing no one is talking about is the amount of poop that exists in every toilet in Asheville," he said. "We're dealing with a public health emergency."

It's a situation that becomes more dangerous the longer it lasts. Even in communities fortunate enough to have running water, hundreds of providers have issued boil water notices indicating the water could be contaminated. But boiling water for cooking and drinking is time consuming and small mistakes can cause stomach illness, according to Natalie Exum, an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

"Every day that goes by, you could be exposed to a pathogen," Exum said. "These basic services that we take for granted in our everyday lives actually do do a lot to prevent illness."

Travis Edwards' faucet worked immediately after the storm. He filled as many containers as he could for himself and his child, but it didn't take long for the flow to weaken, then stop. They rationed water, switching to hand sanitizer and barely putting any on toothbrushes.

"(We) didn't realize how dehydrated we were getting," he said.

Federal officials have shipped millions of gallons of water to areas where people also might not be able to make phone calls or switch on the lights.

Power has been restored to about 62% of homes and businesses and 8,000 crews are out working to restore power in the hardest hit parts of North Carolina, federal officials said Thursday. In 10 counties, about half of the cell sites are still down.

The first step for some utilities is simply figuring out how bad the damage is, a job that might require EPA expertise in extreme cases. Ruptured water pipes are a huge problem. They often run beneath roads, many of which were crumpled and twisted by floodwaters.

"Pretty much anytime you see a major road damaged, there's a very good chance that there's a pipe in there that's also gotten damaged," said Mark White, drinking water global practice leader at the engineering firm CDM Smith.

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Generally, repairs start at the treatment plant and move outward, with fixes in nearby big pipes done first, according to the EPA.

"Over time, you'll gradually get water to more and more people," White said.

Many people are still missing, and water repair employees don't typically work around search and rescue operations. It takes a toll, according to Kevin Morley, manager of federal relations with the American Water Works Association.

"There's emotional support that is really important for all the people involved. You're seeing people's lives just wiped out," he said.

Even private well owners aren't immune. Pumps on private wells may have lost power and overtopping floodwaters can contaminate them.

There's often a "blind faith" assumption that drinking water won't fail. In this case, the technology was insufficient, according to Craig Colten. Before retiring to Asheville, he was a professor in Louisiana focused on resilience to extreme weather. He hopes Helene will prompt politicians to spend more to ensure infrastructure withstands destructive storms.

And climate change will only make the problem more severe, said Erik Olson, a health and food expert at the nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council.

"I think states and the federal government really need to step back and start looking at how we're going to prepare for these extreme weather events that are going to be occurring and recurring every single year," he said.

Edwards has developed a system to save water. He'll soap dirty dishes and rinse them with a trickle of water with bleach, which is caught and transferred to a bucket — useable for the toilet.

Power and some cell service have returned for him. And water distribution sites have guaranteed some measure of normalcy: Edwards feels like he can start going out to see friends again.

"To not feel guilty about using more than a cup of water to, like, wash yourself ... I'm really, really grateful," he said.

## **Born on Oct. 7, Ali's first year has played out against the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas war**

By SAMY MAGDY and WAFAA SHURAFU Associated Press

NUSEIRAT, Gaza Strip (AP) — Ali Al-Taweel was born as Israeli warplanes started to pound the Gaza Strip after Hamas' surprise cross-border attack on southern Israel.

Now, the Palestinian child will celebrate his first birthday as the Israeli-Hamas war reaches its one-year mark. For his family, it's been a year filled with uncertainty and anxiety as they moved from place to place amid widespread destruction and limited resources.

"I had arranged another, very sweet life for him," Ali's mother, Amal Al-Taweel, told The Associated Press in an interview. "The war has changed everything."

When the war began on Oct. 7 of last year, Al-Taweel was being rushed to a hospital in central Gaza to give birth to a child she and her husband, Mustafa Al-Taweel, had sought for three years. After Ali's birth, his family returned to their home in the Zahrah neighborhood, just north of Wadi Gaza, but were forced to flee on Oct. 18, just a day before Israeli warplanes bombed the area, Al-Taweel said.

Since then, they have been living in relatives' homes and shelters across central and southern Gaza, including the city of Rafah before the Israeli military invaded it in May. They now shelter in the house of Al-Taweel's parents in the Nuseirat refugee camp, along with 15 other relatives.

"It was a very difficult year, bad in every way — from a health perspective, from a psychological perspective," the 30-year-old said, adding that her child has been raised against the backdrop of daily bombing and killing.

The Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, killed some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and took about 250 hostage, including children and a newborn. Israel responded with one of the deadliest and most destructive military campaigns in recent history. The war has killed about 42,000 Palestinians, many of



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them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants.

More than 80% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have been forced to flee their homes and cram into a tent camp on Gaza's shore. A quarter of the strip's population faces starvation amid an Israel-imposed blockade, allowing only limited delivery of aid, according to the United Nations.

Al-Taweel said every stage of Ali's life has been difficult "from the time he started crawling, to when his teeth came out, to when he started his first steps, to when he started walking." And she worried constantly about his safety, recalling that he was slightly injured when a strike hit close to her sister's house in the camp, shattering the windows.

Al-Taweel counted multiple challenges she and her husband, who lost his job as a day laborer in a sea-side restaurant in Gaza City, have faced since the war began. Ali didn't receive any vaccinations in his first six months, making him vulnerable to disease, his mother said. And, with the blockade in place, she has struggled to obtain formula and diapers.

"They do not exist, and if they exist, they are very expensive and we can't afford them," she said.

Israel has severely restricted aid deliveries of food, water, medicine and other supplies into Gaza during the war. U.N. agencies and aid groups working in the enclave have long complained about lack of access and crippling restrictions on aid delivery.

"There is no single word that can describe the past year," said Sondos Alashqar, who works with the Medical Aid for Palestine group. Alashqar said that the hardships Palestinians saw during this past year exceeded what their grandparents experienced during the 1948 Nakba — or catastrophe — when some 700,000 Palestinians fled or were forced from what is now Israel.

"We witnessed numerous death-and-life situations," she said. "It was one of the hardest years we've even lived — harder than what our grandparents experienced."

Al-Taweel said that constant bombing, displacement and destruction have made it difficult for her to raise her child as she had planned in his first year.

"It (the year) was full of tension, fear, anxiety, displacement, bombing and destruction," she said. "He was not like any other child who lives in a safe, peaceful, and healthy (environment)."

## **After the deluge, the lies: Misinformation and hoaxes about Helene cloud the recovery**

By DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The facts emerging from Hurricane Helene's destruction are heartrending: Businesses and homes destroyed, whole communities nearly wiped out, hundreds of lives lost, hundreds of people missing.

Yet this devastation and despair is not enough for the extremist groups, disinformation agents, hucksters and politicians who are exploiting the disaster to spread false claims and conspiracy theories about it and the government's response.

According to former President Donald Trump, the federal government is intentionally withholding aid to Republican disaster victims. Far-right extremist groups warn on social media that officials plan to bulldoze affected communities and seize the land from residents. A tale straight from science fiction asserts that Washington used weather control technology to steer Helene toward Republican voters in order to tilt the presidential election toward Democratic nominee Kamala Harris.

The claims, according to experts and local officials dealing with disaster response, say less about the reality of the widespread damage from Helene than they do about America's fractured politics and the fear and distrust shadowing an election year marked by assassination attempts and escalating global tension.

Debunking conspiracy theories takes time away from recovery efforts

As rescue work continues and authorities try to separate fact from fiction, the conspiracy theories are not helping. Elected leaders from both parties have had to set the record straight and urge people not to give into fear and rumor.

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"If everyone could maybe please put aside the hate for a bit and pitch in to help, that would be great," posted Glenn Jacobs, the retired professional wrestler known as Kane, who is now the Republican mayor of Knox County, Tennessee. Jacobs' post was intended to rebut rumors that workers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency were seizing relief supplies from private citizens.

Many of the conspiracy theories focus on hard-hit North Carolina, a state key to winning the White House. Rumors circulated that FEMA was raiding storm donations and withholding body bags, forcing local hospitals to stack the bodies of victims. One claim suggested federal authorities would condemn the entire town of Chimney Rock and prohibit resettlement in order to commandeer a valuable lithium mine nearby.

False claims of blocked relief flights and aid withheld from Republicans

Elon Musk, the owner of Tesla, X and SpaceX, posted that private relief flights to North Carolina were being blocked by the Federal Aviation Administration, a claim dismissed as false by Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Despite the tradition of Democrats and Republicans putting aside politics for disaster response, many conspiracy theories suggest Democrats such as President Joe Biden or North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper are intentionally withholding aid from Republicans. Trump has pushed the claim, as has North Carolina's lieutenant governor, Mark Robinson, the embattled GOP nominee for governor.

"They're being treated very badly in the Republican areas," Trump told Fox News, ignoring reports and photo and video evidence of recovery efforts underway throughout the region. "They're not getting water, they're not getting anything."

Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones endorsed Trump's fact-free allegation. Jones, the founder of InfoWars, popularized the idea that the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Connecticut that killed 20 children in 2012 was faked. "Exclusive: Victims of Hurricane Helene Confirm The Federal Government is Purposely Blocking Rescuers and Stealing Aid In an Attempt to Keep Deep Red Areas From Voting," Jones posted Thursday on X.

Disinformation campaigns by China and Russia amplify the misleading claims

State-run media and disinformation campaigns run by China and Russia have amplified false and misleading claims about the response to the storm. Both countries have used social media and state news stories to criticize responses to past U.S. natural disasters, part of a larger effort to stoke division and distrust among Americans.

State and local officials from both parties have condemned the conspiracy theories as rumors, saying the focus should be on recovery, not political division and hearsay. Responding to the hoaxes is taking up time that should go toward assisting victims, said North Carolina state Sen. Kevin Corbin, a Republican who urged his constituents not to give into hoaxes.

"Friends can I ask a small favor?" Corbin posted Thursday on Facebook. "Will you all help STOP this conspiracy theory junk that is floating all over Facebook and the internet... Please don't let these crazy stories consume you."

After Robinson, the GOP candidate for North Carolina governor, posted that state officials had not prepared for the storm, a spokesman for the governor accused Robinson of mounting "an online disinformation campaign." North Carolina officials say the response to Helene is the largest in state history, including thousands of members of the National Guard and other recovery workers, millions of meals, dozens of aircraft and more than 1,000 chainsaws.

Trump has tried to tie the hurricane's aftermath to immigration, a leading issue of his campaign. He falsely claimed that FEMA had run out of money because all of it had gone to programs for undocumented immigrants.

The agency's funding for disaster aid is stretched, but that is because of the many parts of the country dealing with the effects of hurricanes, wildfires and other calamities. Disaster aid is funded separately from other Department of Homeland Security programs that support immigration-related spending.

Far-out tales of space lasers, fake snow and weather control technology

Bizarre stories proposing that the government used weather control technology to aim the hurricane at

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Republican voters quickly racked up millions of views on X and other platforms.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., endorsed the idea, posting Wednesday on X: "Yes they can control the weather. It's ridiculous for anyone to lie and say it can't be done."

Far-out tales of space lasers, fake snow and weather control technology -- sometimes tinged with antisemitism — have spread after recent natural disasters, including a snowstorm in Texas and last year's wildfire in Maui.

Experts who study conspiracy theories say big events like disasters — or the Sept. 11 attacks or the COVID-19 pandemic — create perfect conditions for conspiracy theories to spread because large numbers of anxious people are eager to find explanations for shocking events.

Responding to the volume of false claims about Helene, the Red Cross urged people to consult trustworthy sources of information and to think twice before reposting conspiracy theories.

"Sharing rumors online without first vetting the source and verifying facts ultimately hurts people — people who have just lost their homes, neighborhoods, and, in some cases, loved ones," the organization wrote in a public plea.

## At Israel's cafes and bars, life may seem normal. But the war has cast a pall nationwide

By MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — At a busy Tel Aviv entertainment district, diners spill into outdoor seating and clink glasses as music fills the air. There's laughter, there's life. But all around the patrons, staring down from lampposts and shop windows, are pictures of hostages held in Gaza, stark reminders that Israel is at war and forever scarred by the deadliest attack in its history.

As Israel's war with Hamas reaches its one-year mark, it can seem on the surface that much of life in the country has returned to normal. But with many still reeling from Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, hostages remaining in captivity and a new front of war with Hezbollah in the north, many Israelis feel depressed, despondent and angry as the war stretches into its second year.

Uncertainty over the future has cast a pall over virtually every part of daily life, even as people try to maintain a sense of normalcy.

"The conversation about the situation is always there," said activist Zeev Engelmayer, whose daily postcard project featuring illustrations of hostages or Israel's new reality has become a fixture at anti-war protests. "Even those who are sitting in coffee shops, they're talking about it, in every single situation I see it. It's impossible to get away from it. It has entered into every vibration of our life."

Rattled Israelis feel hopeless

Hamas' attack in which some 1,200 people were killed and 250 kidnapped shattered Israelis' sense of security and stability in their homeland.

Many have been rattled by the war's evolution. Nearly 100 hostages remain in Gaza, with less than 70 believed to be alive. Israelis have experienced attacks — missiles from Iran and Hezbollah, explosive drones from Yemen, fatal shootings and stabbings — as the region braces for further escalation.

They've watched as Israel is accused of committing war crimes and genocide in Gaza and becomes increasingly isolated internationally.

"I'm almost 80 — we grew up in this country with a feeling that we have short wars, and we win them quickly," said Israeli historian Tom Segev, who described new feelings of utter hopelessness. "We're not used to a long war."

Israelis have long harbored a sense that their country, born of the Holocaust's ashes and surviving a panoply of regional threats, is a success story, Segev said. They've strived, he added, for a normality akin to that of European and North American people, though their reality for decades has been anything but.

"I think that history is going backward," he said of the past year. "Everything we have achieved on our way to becoming a normal state isn't happening."

Reminders are everywhere. At a Hebrew University graduation in Jerusalem, a large yellow ribbon was



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placed in front of the stage. A graduate who didn't attend because his brother was killed in Gaza the previous day was honored.

## Internal divisions grow

Israel's longstanding internal divisions briefly eased in the aftermath of Hamas' attack, but have only intensified since. Weekly protests calling for a cease-fire deal that would free hostages are attended mostly by secular Jewish Israelis who oppose Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government.

According to a September poll by Jerusalem-based think tank Israel Democracy Institute, 61 percent of right-wing Jewish Israelis — Netanyahu's base — support the war continuing.

Occupied with their own trauma, most Israelis paid scant attention to the ongoing destruction in Gaza, even as the Health Ministry there put the Palestinian death toll at more than 41,000. Israeli media have reported little on the devastation. Israelis calling for a cease-fire are driven overwhelmingly by the hostages' plight.

Many Israelis are furious at leaders and the military for not preventing Hamas' attack. Tens of thousands of people are expected at an alternative ceremony marking one year since then, as a statement against the government's official commemoration. The state ceremony is being prerecorded without a live audience, in part because of fears of heckling and disruptions.

"The thing we lost on Oct. 7 — and we haven't gotten it back — is our feeling of security," Muli Segev, executive producer of "Eretz Nehederet," a popular sketch comedy show. "Despite everything, we have been able to create a life here that's pretty open and Western.

"Especially in Tel Aviv, we go about our lives, and we don't think about the fact that our lives are really just pauses between wars and between explosions of violence."

In the war's early months, the show's sketches were gentler, focusing on what united Israeli society, such as the massive civilian volunteer response. Over time, they featured more pointed satire, including a reimagining of negotiations if the hostages were Israeli politicians' children — released in less than two hours.

Parts of life have rebounded — beaches full of people, bustling cafes, concerts and sports back on schedules. But residents also check for the nearest bomb shelter, deal with school cancellations when violence flares up, and avoid domestic travel hubs that are now off-limits. Heartbreaking news arrives regularly, including the deaths of six hostages in August.

"It's a nightmare; we're just getting used to it," said Maya Brandwine, a 33-year-old graphic designer who witnessed the Jaffa shooting that killed seven on Tuesday. "I have so little hope. I'm sure the situation will only get worse."

Dror Rotches, a 47-year-old graphic designer, said from a Tel Aviv coffee shop: "We try to go out when we can, meet friends and try to forget for a few hours. Then we go home and keep slogging through the mud."

Others simply can't return home. More than 60,000 from Israel's northern border with Lebanon are displaced. Thousands from the southern towns ransacked Oct. 7 are in temporary housing. Tens of thousands of reserve soldiers are serving their second or third tour of duty, straining their families and jobs.

"As the war goes on and on and we can't see the end, there's also a type of very large worry over the future, and, for some, if there is even a future here," Muli Segev said.

## At this cafe, life meets war

Cafe Otef seems like any of Tel Aviv's ubiquitous coffee shops: Patrons laugh and sip specialty coffee beside a playground; light rock music plays. But next to the sandwiches and cakes are chocolates made from the recipes of Dvir Karp, who was killed in the Oct. 7 attack, and cheeses from Kibbutz Be'eri, where more than 100 died and 30 were taken hostage. Totes and T-shirts for sale declare "We shall thrive again."

The cafe, named for the region next to the Gaza border, is run by residents of Re'im, one of the kibbutzes struck. It's the second shop in the new chain, each aiming to support people of a southern Israeli town where lives were upended.

"The war still continues for almost a year, and I feel that if we won't live, we will die," said Reut Karp,

cafe owner and Dvir's ex-wife. She lives with most of her kibbutz in temporary housing nearby.

The cafe gives her purpose as her community deals with trauma and the uncertainty of returning home. While it's strange to see people flowing through the doors, going about life as normal, she and the staff have found comfort in the routine.

"We must take ourselves out of bed and continue to live and to work and to have the hope," Karp said. "Because without this hope, we don't have anything."

## Inside the North Carolina mountain town that Hurricane Helene nearly wiped off the map

By ALLEN G. BREED Associate Press

CHIMNEY ROCK VILLAGE, N.C. (AP) — The stone tower that gave this place its name was nearly a half billion years in the making — heated and thrust upward from deep in the Earth, then carved and eroded by wind and water.

But in just a few minutes, nature undid most of what it has taken humans a century and a quarter to build in the North Carolina mountain town of Chimney Rock.

"It feels like I was deployed, like, overnight and woke up in ... a combat zone," Iraq War veteran Chris Canada said as a massive twin-propped Chinook helicopter passed over his adopted hometown. "I don't think it's sunk in yet."

Nearly 400 miles (644 kilometers) from where Hurricane Helene made landfall Sept. 26 along Florida's Big Bend, the hamlet of about 140 souls on the banks of the Broad River has been all but wiped from the map.

The backs of restaurants and gift shops that boasted riverfront balconies dangle ominously in mid-air. The Hickory Nut Brewery, opened when Rutherford County went "wet" and started serving alcohol about a decade ago, collapsed on Wednesday, nearly a week after the storm.

The buildings across Main Street, while still standing, are choked with several feet of reddish-brown muck. A sign on the Chimney Sweeps souvenir shop says, "We are open during construction."

In another section of town, the houses that weren't swept away perch precariously near the edge of a scoured riverbank. It is where the town's only suspected death — an elderly woman who refused entreaties to evacuate — occurred.

"Literally, this river has moved," village administrator Stephen Duncan said as he drove an Associated Press reporter through the dust-blown wreckage of Chimney Rock Village on Wednesday. "We saw a 1,000-year event. A geological event."

A monster wall of water strikes Chimney Rock hours after making landfall in Florida

About eight hours after Helene made landfall in Florida, Chimney Rock volunteer firefighter John Payne was responding to a possible gas leak when he noticed water spilling over US 64/74, the main road into town. It was just after 7 a.m.

"The actual hurricane hadn't even come through and hit yet," he said.

Payne, 32, who's lived in this valley his entire life, aborted the call and rushed back up the hill to the fire station, which was moved to higher ground following a devastating 1996 flood. Former chief Joseph "Buck" Meliski, who worked that earlier flood, scoffed.

"There's no way it's hitting that early," Payne recalled the older man saying.

But when Payne showed him a video he'd just shot — of water topping the bridge to the Hickory Nut Falls Family Campground — the former chief's jaw dropped.

"We're in for it, boys," Meliski told Payne and the half dozen or so others gathered there.

Suddenly, the ground beneath them began shaking — like the temblors that sometimes rock the valley, but much stronger. By then, muddy water was seeping under the back wall of the firehouse.

Payne looked down and saw what he estimated to be a 30-foot-high (nine-meter-high) wall of water, tossing car-sized boulders as it raced toward the town. It appeared as if the wave was devouring houses, then spitting them out.

"It's not water at that point," Payne said. "It's mud, this thick concrete-like material, you know what I

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mean? And whatever it hits, it's taking."

A house hit the bridge from which he'd been filming not 20 minutes earlier. The span just "imploded." Payne later found its steel beams "bent in horseshoe shapes around boulders."

At the firehouse, some business owners among the group began "crying hysterically," Payne said. Others just stood in mute disbelief.

The volunteers lost communications during the storm. But when the winds finally began to quiet down around 11 a.m., Payne said, the radios began "blowing up with calls."

Scenic Lake Lure becomes a wet pit of rubble

The pieces of what had been Chimney Rock Village were now on their way to the neighboring town of Lake Lure, which played a starring role as stand-in for a Catskills resort in the 1987 Patrick Swayze summer romance film, "Dirty Dancing."

Tracy Stevens, 55, a bartender at the Hickory Nut, took refuge at the Lake Lure Inn, where she also worked. She watched as the detritus from Chimney Rock and beyond came pouring into the marina, tossing aside boats and thrusting the metal sections of the floating Town Center Walkway upward like the folds of a map.

"It looked like a toilet bowl flushing," she said. "I could see cars, tops of houses. It was the craziest."

Some of the debris coalesced into a massive jam between the two bridges linking the towns — a utilitarian concrete affair carrying Memorial Highway across the Broad River, and an elegant three-arched span known as the Flowering Bridge.

After 85 years carrying traffic into Chimney Rock, the 1925 viaduct was converted into a verdant walkway festooned with more than 2,000 species of plants. Now partially collapsed, the bridge's remains are draped in a tangled mass of vines, roots and tree branches.

Some residents see signs of hope amid almost complete destruction of their town

Canada, 43, who co-owns a stage rental and event production company, was at a Charlotte music festival when the storm hit. Returning to uniformed troops and armored personnel carriers kicking up dust in the streets awakened memories of his three combat tours in the Middle East.

"I saw the whole war and I've been through many hurricanes," said Canada, an Army airborne veteran. "I've never seen anything like this."

Canada and his wife, Barbie, moved here with their two daughters in October 2021 from South Carolina, in part to get away from hurricanes. Barbie had vacationed here as a child, and it was close to the Veterans Administration hospital in Asheville.

As he walked the banks of the Broad on Wednesday, Chris Canada found himself sniffing at the warm air for the telltale odor of death.

And yet, all around are signs of hope.

Payne — who climbs the rock in full gear each Sept. 11 to honor first responders who died in the Twin Towers attacks — was heartened to see members of the New York City Fire Department in his town helping with door-to-door searches.

"We're more hard-headed than these rocks are," said Payne, whose day job is as a site coordinator for a fast-food chain. "So, it's going to take more than this to scare us off and run us out. It'll be a while, but we'll be back. Don't count us out."

Outside the Mountain Traders shop, someone has leaned a large wooden Sasquatch cutout against a utility pole, the words "Chimney Rock Strong" painted in bright blue.

When park employees cut their way to the top of the mountain and raised the American flag on Monday, Duncan says the people below cheered, and some wept.

"It was spectacular," he said.

Mayor says his little town has the spirit and determination necessary to rebuild

The flag is flying at half staff. But Mayor Peter O'Leary said it's that spirit that will bring Chimney Rock Village back.

The town's legacy of hospitality and entrepreneurial spirit dates back to the late 1800s, when a local family began charging visitors 25 cents for a horseback ride up the mountain, according to brief online history



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by village resident R. J. Wald. It soon became one of North Carolina's first bona fide tourist attractions.

O'Leary came to town in 1990 to take a job as park manager, before it became part of the state parks system. Two years later, he and his wife opened Bubba O'Leary's General Store, named for their yellow Labrador retriever.

"Most of these people here, if you look around, almost all of them are from somewhere else," he said as he stood outside the firehouse, the waters of the 404-foot (123-meter) Hickory Nut Falls gushing forth from the ridge high above. "Why'd they come here? They came here and fell in love with it. It gets ahold of you. ...

"It got ahold of me."

The 1927 portion of the general store has caved in, but O'Leary believes the larger addition built in 2009 is salvageable. Duncan, who drafted the village charter back in 1990, sees this as an opportunity to "take advantage of the new geography" and build a better town.

But for some, like innkeeper and restaurateur Nick Sottile, 35, the path forward is hard to see.

When Helene hit, Sottile and wife Kristen were vacationing in the Turks and Caicos Islands — their first break since October 2020, when they opened their Broad River Inn and Stagecoach Pizza Kitchen in what's believed to be the village's oldest building.

In photos taken from the street, things looked remarkably intact. But when Sottile returned home and walked around to the river side, his heart sank.

"The back of the building is, like, a whole section of it is gone," the South Florida native said Friday. "It's not even safe to go in there right now."

About all that's left of the adjacent Chimney Rock Adventure miniature golf course is the sign.

"You can't even rebuild," Sottile said. "Because there's no land."

Sottile has been hearing horror stories from fellow business owners about denied insurance claims. Without help, he said he has no money to rebuild.

But for now, he's just volunteering with the fire department and trying not to think too far into the future.

"This is a small town, but this is, this is HOME," he said. "Everybody helps everybody, and I know we'll get through this. I know we'll rebuild. I'm just praying that we can rebuild with US here to see it."

## George Brett reminds Royals players of intensity of past playoffs against Yankees

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — George Brett watched the Kansas City Royals prepare to face the New York Yankees and remembered the combustible clashes of the 1970s.

"This isn't a series, this is war," said the Hall of Famer, tossing in a profanity for emphasis.

Brett slid late into Graig Nettles in 1977's Game 5 of the best-of-five AL Championship Series, catching the third baseman on the face with an arm. Nettles kicked Brett in the teeth. Brett threw a punch as benches and bullpens emptied.

"You've got to find a way to turn it up a notch," Brett said Friday by the Royals dugout at Yankee Stadium as he watched Kansas City's workout ahead of Saturday's Division Series opener. "Obviously, if you do something that we used to do to each other out here, you're kicked out of the game here or it's an automatic double play or whatever. I mean, me and Nettles got in a fistfight at third base and didn't even get kicked out of the game, for crying out loud."

Kansas City, which started play in 1969, reached the playoffs for the first time in 1976. Brett hit a tying three-run homer in the eighth inning off Grant Jackson in Game 5, but Chris Chambliss homered leading off ninth inning against Mark Littell.

A year later in the sixth inning of Game 2, Hal McRae made a leaping body block of Willie Randolph well past second base in the sixth to break up a possible inning-ending double play on Brett's grounder to Nettles, allowing Freddie Patek to score the tying run from second base.

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"It didn't take much for anybody there on either side to get into a ruckus," Yankees star Reggie Jackson told an MLB Network documentary.

Three days later, Brett's first-inning RBI triple off Ron Guidry led to the brawl with Nettles, who was grabbed from behind by Royals third base coach Chuck Hiller as Guidry tried to restrain Brett.

"Marty Springstead was the umpire, and after everything had cleared, he goes: 'All right.' He points to me. He goes: 'This is an important guy.' He point to Brett, he goes: 'This is an important guy, and this is an important game, so nobody's getting thrown out the game,'" Nettles told the TV show *Las 5 Esquinas de NY* a few years ago.

Jackson was controversially benched by manager Billy Martin after starting the series 1 for 14, then had a pinch-hit single in the eighth that cut New York's deficit to 3-2. The Yankees scored three times in the ninth for a 5-3 win.

When the teams met again in the 1980 ALCS, Kansas City swept. Yankees owner George Steinbrenner fumed after third base coach Mike Ferraro sent Randolph home, trying to score from first on Bob Watson's two-out, eighth-inning double in Game 2, with New York trailing by a run. Brett took left fielder Willie Wilson's throw and relayed to catcher Darrell Porter for the out.

Manager Dick Howser refused to fire Ferraro, and Brett hit a go-ahead, three-run homer off Rich Gossage as the Royals won Game 3 to complete the sweep. Steinbrenner forced out Howser after the series and Howser was hired as Royals manager the following August. Ferraro joined his staff in 1984 and the Royals won their first World Series title in 1985.

"They both came over to Kansas City and became my dear friends," Brett said.

His most famous moment in the Bronx occurred on July 24, 1983, in what became known as the Pine Tar Game. The Royals trailed 4-3 with two outs in the ninth when Brett hit a two-run homer off Gossage. Martin argued Brett's bat had pine tar in excess of the 18-inch limit, and plate umpire Tim McClelland agreed and signaled out. Eyes bulging, Brett stormed out of the dugout toward McClelland and had to be restrained by Howser and umpires.

Kansas City filed a protest that was upheld by AL President Lee MacPhail, who wrote "games should be won and lost on the playing field — not though technicalities of the rules." The game continued on Aug. 18 and the Royals won 5-4.

Now in his 31st season as a Royals vice president, Brett travels with the team during the postseason to fire up the current players with the decades-old history.

"They weren't born yet. Some of our coaches weren't even born yet. I'm going to remind them," he said. "This series means more to me than it means to them."

## Homeowners hit by Hurricane Helene face the grim task of rebuilding without flood insurance

By SALLY HO Associated Press

A week after Hurricane Helene overwhelmed the Southeastern U.S., homeowners hit the hardest are grappling with how they could possibly pay for the flood damage from one of the deadliest storms to hit the mainland in recent history.

The Category 4 storm that first struck Florida's Gulf Coast on September 26 has dumped trillions of gallons of water across several states, leaving a catastrophic trail of destruction that spans hundreds of miles inland. More than 200 people have died in what is now the deadliest hurricane to hit the mainland U.S. since Katrina, according to statistics from the National Hurricane Center.

Western North Carolina and the Asheville area were hit especially hard, with flooding that wiped out buildings, roads, utilities and land in a way that nobody expected, let alone prepared for. Inland areas in parts of Georgia and Tennessee were also washed out.

The Oak Forest neighborhood in south Asheville lives up to its name, with trees towering over 1960s era ranch-style houses on large lots. But on Sept. 27, as Helene's remnants swept through western north

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Carolina, many of those trees came crashing down, sometimes landing on houses.

Julianne Johnson said she was coming upstairs from the basement to help her 5-year-old son pick out clothes that day when her husband began to yell that a giant oak was falling diagonally across the yard. The tree mostly missed the house, but still crumpled part of a metal porch and damaged the roof. Then, Johnson said, her basement flooded.

On Friday, there was a blue tarp being held on the roof with a brick. Sodden carpet that the family torn out lay on the side of the house, waiting to go to the landfill. With no cell phone service or internet access, Johnson said she couldn't file a home insurance claim until four days after the storm.

"It took me a while to make that call," she said. "I don't have an adjuster yet."

Roof and tree damage are likely to be covered by the average home insurance policy. But Johnson, like many homeowners, doesn't have flood insurance and she's not certain how she'll pay for that part of the damage.

Those recovering from the storm may be surprised to learn flood damage is a completely separate thing. Insurance professionals and experts have long warned that home insurance typically does not cover flood damage to the home, even as they espouse that flooding can happen anywhere that rains. That's because flooding isn't just sea water seeping into the land – it's also water from banks, as well as mudflow and torrential rains.

But most private insurance companies don't carry flood insurance, leaving the National Flood Insurance Program run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as the primary provider for that coverage for residential homes. Congress created the federal flood insurance program more than 50 years ago when many private insurers stopped offering policies in high-risk areas.

North Carolina has 129,933 such policies in force, according to FEMA's latest data, though most of that protection will likely be concentrated on the coast rather than in the Blue Ridge Mountains area where Helene caused the most damage. Florida, in comparison, has about 1.7 million flood policies in place statewide.

Charlotte Hicks, a flood insurance expert in North Carolina who has led flood risk training and educational outreach for the state's Department of Insurance, said the reality is that many Helene survivors will never be made whole. Without flood insurance, some people may be able to rebuild with the help of charities but most others will be left to fend for themselves.

"There will absolutely be people who will be financially devastated by this event," Hicks said. "It's heart-breaking."

Some may go into foreclosure or bankruptcy. Entire neighborhoods will likely never be rebuilt. There's been water damage across the board, Hicks said, and for some, mudslides have even taken the land upon which their house once stood.

Meanwhile, Helene is turning out to be a fairly manageable disaster for the private home insurance market because those plans generally only serve to cover wind damage from hurricanes.

That's a relief for the industry, which has been under increasing strain from other intensifying climate disasters such as wildfires and tornadoes. Nowhere is the shrinking private market due to climate instability more evident than in Florida, where many companies have already stopped selling policies — leaving the state-backed Citizens Property Insurance Corporation now the largest home insurer in the state.

Mark Friedlander, spokesman for the Insurance Information Institute, an industry group, said Helene is a "very manageable loss event," and estimates insurer losses will range from about \$5 billion to \$8 billion. That's compared to the insured losses from the Category 4 Hurricane Ian in September 2022 that was estimated in excess of \$50 billion.

Friedlander and other experts point out that less than 1% of the inland areas that sustained the most catastrophic flood damage were protected with flood insurance.

"This is very common in inland communities across the country," Friedlander said. "Lack of flood insurance is a major insurance gap in the U.S., as only about 6% of homeowners carry the coverage, mostly in coastal counties."

Amy Bach, executive director of the consumer advocacy group United Policyholders, said the images of



the flood destruction in North Carolina shook her despite decades of seeing challenging recovery faced by victims of natural disasters.

"This is a pretty serious situation here in terms of people disappointed. They are going to be disappointed in their insurers and they are going to be disappointed in FEMA," Bach said. "FEMA cannot match the kind of dollars private insurers are supposed to be contributing to the recovery."

This week, FEMA announced it could meet the immediate needs of Helene but warned it doesn't have enough funding to make it through the hurricane season, which runs June 1 to Nov. 30 though most hurricanes typically occur in September and October.

Even if a homeowner does have it, FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program only covers up to \$250,000 for single-family homes and \$100,000 for contents.

Bach said that along with homeowners educating themselves about what their policies do and don't cover, the solution is a national disaster insurance program that does for property insurance what the Affordable Care Act did for health insurance.

After Hurricane Floyd in 1999, the state of North Carolina started requiring insurance agents to take a flood insurance class so they could properly advise their clients of the risk and policies available, Hicks said. The state also requires home insurance policies to clearly disclose that it does not cover flood.

"You can't stop nature from doing what nature is going to do," Hicks said. "For us to think it's never going to be this bad again would be a dangerous assumption. A lot of people underestimate their risk of flooding."

## **The war in Gaza long felt personal for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Now they're living it**

By ABBY SEWELL Associated Press

SEBLINE, Lebanon (AP) — The war in Gaza was always personal for many Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Many live in camps set up after 1948, when their parents or grandparents fled their homes in land that became Israel, and they have followed a year's worth of news of destruction and displacement in Gaza with dismay.

While Israeli air strikes in Lebanon have killed a few figures from Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups, the camps that house many of the country's approximately 200,000 refugees felt relatively safe for the general population.

That has changed.

Tens of thousands of refugees have fled as Israel has launched an offensive in Lebanon against Hezbollah amid an ongoing escalation in the war in the Middle East. For many, it feels as if they are living the horrors they witnessed on their screens.

Terror on a small screen becomes personal reality

Manal Sharari, from the Rashidiyeh refugee camp near the southern coastal city of Tyre, used to try to shield her three young daughters from images of children wounded and killed in the war in Gaza even as she followed the news "minute by minute."

In recent weeks, she couldn't shield them from the sounds of bombs dropping nearby.

"They were afraid and would get anxious every time they heard the sound of a strike," Sharari said.

Four days ago, the Israeli military issued a warning to residents of the camp to evacuate as it launched a ground incursion into southern Lebanon — similar to the series of evacuation orders that have sent residents of Gaza fleeing back and forth across the enclave for months.

Sharari and her family also fled. They are now staying in a vocational training center-turned-displacement shelter run by the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, or UNRWA, in the town of Seblin, 55 km (34 mi) to the north. Some 1,400 people are staying there.

Mariam Moussa, from the Burj Shamali camp, also near Tyre, fled with her extended family about a week earlier when strikes began falling on the outskirts of the camp.

Before that, she said, "we would see the scenes in Gaza and what was happening there, the destruction,

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the children and families. And in the end, we had to flee our houses, same as them.”

The world is bracing for more refugees

Israeli officials have said the ground offensive in Lebanon and the week of heavy bombardment that preceded it aim to push Hezbollah back from the border and allow residents of northern Israel to return to their homes.

The Lebanese militant group began launching rockets into Israel in support of its ally, Hamas, one day after the Oct. 7 Hamas-led incursion into southern Israel and ensuing Israeli offensive in Gaza.

Israel responded with airstrikes and shelling, and the two sides were quickly locked into a monthslong, low-level conflict that has escalated sharply in recent weeks.

Lebanese officials say that more than 1 million people have been displaced. Palestinian refugees are a relatively small but growing proportion. At least three camps — Ein el Hilweh, el Buss and Beddawi — have been directly hit by airstrikes, while others have received evacuation warnings or have seen strikes nearby.

Dorothee Klaus, UNRWA's director in Lebanon, said around 20,000 Palestinian refugees have been displaced from camps in the south.

UNRWA was hosting around 4,300 people — including Lebanese citizens and Syrian refugees as well as Palestinians — in 12 shelters as of Thursday, Klaus said, “and this is a number that is now steadily going to increase.”

The agency is preparing to open three more shelters if needed, Klaus said.

“We have been preparing for this emergency for weeks and months,” she said.

Refugees are desperate and making do

Outside of the center in Seblin, where he is staying, Lebanese citizen Abbas Ferdoun has set up a makeshift convenience store out of the back of a van. He had to leave his own store outside of the Burj Shemali camp behind and flee two weeks ago, eventually ending up at the shelter.

“Lebanese, Syrians, Palestinians, we're all in the same situation,” Ferdoun said.

In Gaza, U.N. centers housing displaced people have themselves been targeted by strikes, with Israeli officials claiming that the centers were being used by militants. Some worry that pattern could play out again in Lebanon.

Hicham Kayed, deputy general coordinator with Al-Jana, the local NGO administering the shelter in Seblin, said he felt the international “response to the destruction of these facilities in Gaza was weak, to be honest,” so “fear is present” that they might be similarly targeted in Lebanon.

Sharari said she feels safe for now, but she remains anxious about her father and others who stayed behind in the camp despite the warnings — and about whether she will have a home to return to.

She still follows the news obsessively but now, she said, “I'm following what's happening in Gaza and what's happening in Lebanon.”

## **Biden pledged to campaign hard for Harris.**

### **So far, he's been mostly a no-show**

By WILL WEISSERT and BILL BARROW Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the last day of August, President Joe Biden was asked about his fall campaign plans. He promised a Labor Day appearance in Pittsburgh and said he would be “on the road from there on.”

Biden did campaign with Vice President Kamala Harris on Labor Day, but he largely has been a campaign no-show since. Beyond that, sometimes his official events push hers to the background.

Case in point: After Hurricane Helene, Harris scrapped campaign events in Las Vegas to hurry back to Washington for a briefing at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. But as Harris stepped to a podium in the command center, Biden was delivering his own storm response comments from the Oval Office, pulling the political spotlight away from his intended successor.

The lack of presidential campaigning and occasional schedule clashes could matter not just for Harris but as Democrats try to hold control of the Senate and retake the House and compete in races further down the ballot.

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Even former President Barack Obama announced he will campaign for Harris. Obama will appear in Pittsburgh on Thursday and plans to spend the remaining time before the Nov. 5 election traveling to battleground states. He also recorded ads promoting Democratic Senate candidates in Michigan, Maryland and Florida.

It can be tricky juggling being president and campaigning for someone new

It is not uncommon for a lame-duck president to struggle with finding the right balance between fulfilling the job and carving out a role in a would-be successor's campaign. Biden's situation is unusual because he was seeking a second term until his dramatic departure from the race left Harris with a condensed time frame for her own run.

"I think he's doing his job as president," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Friday. "I think that's the most important thing."

Hurricane Helene has complicated matters in the short term. Biden canceled a campaign stop in Pennsylvania this past week and he and Harris made separate trips Wednesday to the Carolinas and Georgia, respectively, to survey the damage and offer support.

That time, their remarks did not overlap. But on Friday, while Harris was speaking about the importance of unions outside Detroit, Biden caused a stir by making a surprise appearance in the White House briefing room. It was the first of his presidency.

Biden has taken official trips to battleground states and he will be in suburban Philadelphia on Tuesday to campaign for Democratic Sen. Bob Casey. The Harris team had no comment on its hopes for Biden's campaign role.

The president was born in Pennsylvania and maintains a strong connection to its union leaders and blue-collar voters, and former Democratic National Committee chief Donna Brazile said she would "put him on a bus" to campaign there.

"I would make sure he is out there in the closing weeks and days of the campaign," Brazile said. "He connects with people she will need."

Biden and Harris have appeared together at several other official events, including a recent one at the White House on combating gun violence, and at a health care-related event in August where Biden said, "We cannot let Kamala lose." Both have been in the Situation Room frequently to discuss the growing conflict in the Middle East.

The lone joint campaign event by Biden and Harris was a little awkward

On Labor Day, when Biden and Harris made their lone joint political appearance since the vice president took over the top on the ticket, the White House asked that Biden introduce Harris. The break with protocol was meant to highlight her record of supporting union workers.

"If you elect Kamala Harris as president it will be the best decision you will have ever made," Biden told the crowd.

But when he finished speaking, Biden began shaking hands with those around him — an awkward moment because Harris had yet to have her turn at the podium.

It is an open question whether Harris really wants Biden's help, given that Democratic voters say they are far happier with her than they were with Biden as their nominee. Harris has praised the administration and her work in it, while also seeking to show distance on some key issues.

That includes her call for raising long-term capital gains taxes for wealthy Americans when Biden had pushed to lower them, getting tougher on the U.S.-Mexico border by potentially further stiffening limits for immigrants seeking asylum and talking up being a gun owner in ways Biden does not.

There are lots of other demands on Biden's time

Biden's campaign absence could now be compounded as his administration deals with the recovery effort after Helene and the expanding conflict in the Mideast.

"You don't need to campaign when you're just doing your job," said Nikki Fried, chair of the Democratic Party in Florida. Biden visited parts of the state on Thursday, demonstrating, as Fried put it, that "the full force of the federal government stands with the people during times of heartbreak and uncertainty."

But then there are always big demands on a president's time — from the U.N. General Assembly meet-



ings last month in New York to Biden's upcoming travel to Germany and Angola. Though the White House says there will be more political events after that, the trip means he will not have time to turn his attention to campaigning for Harris until at least mid-October — just three weeks before Election Day,

Fried thinks Biden will make it work.

"Joe Biden loves being on the campaign trail," she said. "You can see him walking around and talking to voters and to communities, and it certainly puts an extra lift in his step and a smile on his face."

Sometimes staying out of it is good thing

There are times when a president's absence can be helpful to that party's candidate.

In 2008, the financial crisis sent President George W. Bush's approval ratings crashing. Republican nominee John McCain distanced himself from the White House on the economy after criticizing the federal response to Hurricane Katrina and the Iraq War.

"If my showing up and endorsing him helps him — or if I'm against him and it helps him — either way, I want him to win," Bush said.

In 2000, when Democratic Vice President Al Gore was seeking the White House, he criticized President Bill Clinton over the Monica Lewinsky scandal and took other steps to distance himself from Clinton. Some Democrats later speculated that was the reason Gore lost an exceedingly close race to Bush.

Paul Begala, a key architect of Clinton's 1992 campaign, does not see a lot of parallels between Clinton and Biden.

"In 2000, Clinton was broadly popular," Begala said. "Biden is not."

Begala said Biden would do best to "focus on governing, and leave the campaigning to Kamala" and her top supporters.

"Lots of people can campaign for her: the Obamas, the Clintons, Oprah, Taylor Swift," Begala said. "But only Joe Biden can be president."

## Don't fall for fake dentists offering veneers and other dental work on social media

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — If you have stained or chipped teeth, you might be considering veneers, customized teeth coverings that can restore a photogenic smile without more extensive dental work.

But dentists warn that these pricey cosmetic enhancements are at the center of a worrisome online trend: unlicensed practitioners without proper training or supervision offering low-cost veneers.

These self-described "veneer techs" often promote themselves on Instagram and TikTok, promising a full set of veneers for less than half of what dentists typically charge. Some also market their own training courses and certifications for people looking to get into the business.

It's misleading, health professionals warn — and illegal. All states require dental work, including veneers, to be performed under the supervision of a licensed dentist.

On Thursday, Georgia law enforcement officials arrested Brandon Diller, who promoted himself to 158,000 Instagram followers as "Atlanta's top veneer specialist and trainer." Diller practiced dentistry without a license and sold "training and certificates, which were worthless" and "provided no legitimate or legal credentials," according to an arrest warrant from Fulton County's District Attorney's office.

Here's what to know about veneers and how to avoid bogus providers and services:

What are dental veneers?

Veneers are thin, custom-made dental coverings used to hide minor imperfections or to fill in gaps between teeth. Unlike crowns or more invasive dental implants, veneers are almost always considered cosmetic dentistry and generally aren't covered by insurance.

Dentists usually charge between \$1,000 and \$2,000 per tooth for veneers, with higher prices for those made from porcelain compared with lower-grade materials.

Placing veneers involves stripping some of the natural enamel from the tooth and bonding the new covering into place. Because of that process, getting veneers is considered an irreversible procedure, according

to the American Dental Association. They are not permanent, and can be expected to last between 5 to 15 years before they degrade and need to be replaced.

In recent months the ADA has been stepping up warnings about the risks of veneer procedures done by unlicensed individuals.

"Quality control is lost without the involvement of a licensed dentist," said Dr. Ada Cooper, a New York-based dentist and ADA spokesperson. "We undergo years of education and training and need to be licensed by various regulatory bodies before we can practice."

What are the risks of getting veneers from someone who isn't licensed?

Improper veneer procedures can cause a range of health problems, including severe pain, nerve damage and tooth loss.

Patients need to be anesthetized before the enamel is removed from their teeth.

"It could be incredibly painful if they're not anesthetized correctly," said Dr. Zach Truman, who runs an orthodontics practice in Las Vegas. "You can also go too deep into the tooth and penetrate what's called the pulp chamber, which contains blood vessels and nerves."

One of the biggest problems Truman sees with unregulated veneer work is that customers aren't getting screened for existing dental problems, such as gum disease and cavities.

"If you put a veneer on a tooth that has an active cavity, you're just going to seal it in there and eventually it's going to progress to tooth loss," Truman said.

Dental veneers aren't the only option for improving the appearance of teeth. Over-the-counter whitening kits can help with minor stains and discoloration. And dentists can sometimes use composite materials to reshape chipped or uneven teeth. But Truman says those fillings are prone to crack and won't last as long as veneers.

How can I spot bogus veneer providers online?

One clue: Many individuals performing unlicensed dental work promote themselves on social media as "veneers technicians."

Instead of working out of a dental office they often perform treatments at beauty salons, hotel rooms or private homes. Some advertise multi-city tours and encourage clients to message them to book an appointment in advance.

Much of the appeal of the services is in their pricing, with some offering a full set of veneers for a flat fee of \$4,000 or \$5,000. That's less than half of what patients can generally expect to pay at a dental office.

Performing dental work without an appropriate license is illegal, the ADA notes.

Dentists and hygienists are licensed by state governments, who also define the work dental assistants can perform. But in all cases, veneers and other dental procedures must be supervised by a licensed dentist.

Earlier this year, Illinois law enforcement officials arrested a woman running a business called the Veneer Experts after she posted videos of herself fitting braces, veneers and other dental products without a license. She was previously arrested in Nevada on similar allegations of practicing dentistry without a license.

What are the best ways to find legitimate dental providers?

The ADA maintains a website detailing the training and licensing requirements for dentists across the U.S. Most states also maintain websites where you can lookup and verify licensure information and find any past disciplinary actions for dentists and other health professionals.

"It's really critical to understand that dentistry is a regulated health care profession that requires formal educations and licensure," Cooper said.

## **The Supreme Court opens its new term with election disputes in the air but not yet on the docket**

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Transgender rights, the regulation of "ghost guns" and the death penalty highlight the Supreme Court's election-season term that begins Monday, with the prospect of the court's intervention in voting disputes lurking in the background.

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The justices are returning to the bench at a time of waning public confidence in the court and calls to limit their terms to 18 years that have wide support, including the backing of Democratic President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, the party's White House nominee.

Whether by design or happenstance, the justices are hearing fewer high-profile cases than they did in recent terms that included far-reaching decisions by the 6-3 conservative majority on presidential immunity, abortion, guns, and affirmative action.

The lighter schedule would allow them to easily add election cases, if those make their way to the high court in the run-up to the Nov. 5 election between Republican Donald Trump and Harris, or its immediate aftermath.

"I think there are legal issues that arise out of the political process. And so, the Supreme Court has to be prepared to respond if that should be necessary," Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson told CBS News last month in an interview to her promote new memoir, "Lovely One."

The court's involvement in election disputes might depend on the closeness of the outcome and whether the justices' intervention would tip the outcome, David Cole, the outgoing legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said at a recent Washington event.

"I don't think the court wants to get involved, but it may have to," Cole said.

The court turned away multiple challenges from Trump and his allies to the results of the 2020 election that he lost to Biden. It's been nearly a quarter-century since the Supreme Court effectively decided the 2000 presidential election, in which Republican George W. Bush edged Democrat Al Gore.

When the justices gather Monday morning on a date set by federal law, they will shake hands with each other as they always do. Just after 10 o'clock, they will emerge from behind freshly cleaned heavy red drapery and take their seats on the curved mahogany bench, Chief Justice John Roberts in the center chair and his eight colleagues seated in order of seniority.

There are likely to be smiles and shared private jokes. But the friendliness of that moment will not sweep away tensions that have barely been concealed.

During the summer, two justices, Elena Kagan and Jackson, voiced support for toughening the new ethics code that so far lacks a means of enforcement.

The leak to The New York Times of the contents of a memo Roberts wrote last winter that outlined his approach to the court's presidential immunity decision "was nothing short of shocking," Supreme Court lawyer Lisa Blatt said last week at a Washington preview of the coming term.

Two years ago, Politico obtained the draft decision overturning Roe v. Wade, the landmark abortion case. "Something does feel broken," Blatt said. Describing her experience arguing before the court, she said, some justices "just seem visibly frustrated."

Important cases dot the court's calendar, beginning Tuesday. The court will take up a challenge to a Biden administration attempt to regulate hard-to-trace "ghost guns" that had been turning up at crime scenes in increasing numbers. The Supreme Court jumped into the case after the conservative 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated the regulation.

Last term, conservatives voted 6-3 to strike down a gun regulation that had banned bump stocks, an accessory that allows some weapons to fire at a rate comparable to machine guns. Bump stocks were used in the nation's deadliest modern mass shooting in Las Vegas.

A day after the guns case, the justices will take up the latest twist in Oklahoma death row inmate Richard Glossip's long quest for freedom. His case is the rare instance in which prosecutors are conceding mistakes in the trial that led to Glossip's conviction and death sentence.

The highest-profile case on the agenda so far is a fight over transgender rights that is focused on state bans on gender-affirming care. It probably will be argued in December.

Republican-led states have enacted a variety of restrictions on health care for transgender people, school sports participation, bathroom usage and drag shows. The administration and Democratic-led states have extended protections for transgender people. The Supreme Court has separately prohibited the administration from enforcing a new federal regulation that seeks to protect transgender students.

The case before the high court involves a law in Tennessee that restrict puberty blockers and hormone



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therapy for transgender minors. About half the states have enacted similar restrictions.

Also on tap for the late fall is an appeal from the adult entertainment industry to overturn a Texas law that requires pornographic websites to verify the age of their users.

Only about half the court's calendar for the term has been filled, and several big cases could be added. Among those is a push by Republican-led states and conservative legal outlets to further restrict federal agencies.

The immediate target is the method the Federal Communications Commission has used to fund telephone service for rural and low-income people and broadband services for schools and libraries.

The case, which the administration has appealed to the Supreme Court, could give the justices the opportunity to revive a legal doctrine known as nondelegation that has not been used to strike down legislation in nearly 90 years. Several conservative justices have expressed support for the idea of limiting the authority Congress can delegate to federal agencies.

## Today in History: October 6, Anwar Sadat assassinated

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Oct. 6, the 280th day of 2024. There are 86 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 6, 1981, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was shot to death by members of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad while reviewing a military parade.

Also on this date:

In 1927, the era of talking pictures arrived with the opening of "The Jazz Singer" starring Al Jolson, a feature film containing both silent and sound-synchronized sequences.

In 1973, war erupted in the Middle East as Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel during the Yom Kippur holiday, starting a nearly three-week conflict that would become known as the Yom Kippur War.

In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford, in his second presidential debate with Democrat Jimmy Carter, asserted that there was "no Soviet domination of eastern Europe."

In 1979, Pope John Paul II, on a weeklong U.S. tour, became the first pontiff to visit the White House, where he was received by President Jimmy Carter.

In 2007, British adventurer Jason Lewis completed the first human-powered circumnavigation of the globe, spanning 13 years and 46,000 miles (74,000 kilometers).

In 2010, Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Roy Halladay tossed just the second postseason no-hitter in MLB history, blanking the Cincinnati Reds 4-0.

In 2014, the Supreme Court unexpectedly cleared the way for a dramatic expansion of gay marriage in the United States as it rejected appeals from five states seeking to preserve their bans, effectively making such marriages legal in 30 states.

In 2018, in the narrowest Senate confirmation of a Supreme Court justice in nearly a century and a half, Brett Kavanaugh was confirmed by a 50-48 vote; he was sworn in hours later.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Britt Ekland is 82. Irish politician Gerry Adams is 76. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Tony Dungy is 69. Bowler Walter Ray Williams Jr. is 65. Actor Elisabeth Shue is 61. House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., is 59. Actor Emily Mortimer is 53. Basketball Hall of Famer Rebecca Lobo is 51. Actor Ioan Gruffudd (YOH'-ihn GRIH'-fihth) is 51. Actor Jeremy Sisto is 50. Football Hall of Famer Richard Seymour is 45. NFL quarterback Trevor Lawrence is 25. Social media personality Addison Rae is 24. Basketball player Bronny James is 20.