

New York Times News Quiz – Dec.08, 2023

- 1) Israeli and Hamas forces began fierce ground combat in the southern Gaza Strip this week. Much of the recent fighting occurred in Khan Younis — the second-largest in Gaza. Before the war, it had the second-largest population in the territory, after Gaza City. The Israeli offensive has set off another mass displacement as tens of thousands of distressed people flee to areas west and south of the southern city.
- 2) George Santos, the New York Republican facing fraud charges, was expelled from Congress. The last time Congress removed one of its members was in 2002, when the House expelled James Traficant, an Ohio Democrat. Traficant had been convicted of bribery, racketeering and corruption.
- 3) Sandra Day O'Connor, the retired Supreme Court justice who was the first woman to serve on the court, died at 93. Over her 24 years on the court, O'Connor was a moderate conservative and pragmatist who upheld abortion rights and affirmative action. She graduated near the top of her law class but was offered only a secretarial position at a major law firm and turned to the public sector instead. Read her New York Times obituary.
- 4) Federal prosecutors this week accused a retired U.S. diplomat of having worked as a secret agent for Cuba. Prosecutors said that the diplomat, Manuel Rocha, secretly aided Cuba since at least 1981 as he rose through the ranks at the State Department and worked briefly as ambassador to Bolivia from 2000 to 2002.
- 5) The College Football Playoff select committee announced the four teams that would compete for the national title. Florida State was left off the list, despite going undefeated. The team went 13-0 and won its conference but was omitted from the playoff in favor of one-loss Alabama.
- 6) The president of COP28, the United Nations' two-week climate conference, was criticized this week for saying there was no need to phase out the use of fossil fuels. Sultan Al Jaber, the Emirati oil executive who is leading the conference, said in a video that there was “no science” behind the idea that fossil fuels must be phased out in order to keep average global temperatures from rising. In response to the firestorm, Al Jaber suggested he did not say what he could be heard saying on the video.
- 7) Rizz — slang for “style, charm or attractiveness” — was picked by Oxford as its 2023 Word of the Year. It is a shortened form of charisma. The word emerged from internet and gaming culture, according to Oxford, and was popularized in 2022 by the YouTube and Twitch streamer Kai Cenat, who posted “rizz tips” videos.
- 8) Senator Tommy Tuberville, Republican of Alabama, lifted his blockade of nearly all the military promotions he had delayed for almost a year. He has been protesting abortion access guarantees for military personnel. Tuberville is protesting a Pentagon policy ensuring abortion access for service members. After he eased his stance this week, the Senate confirmed about 440 military nominees

in one fell swoop, by a single voice vote. Tuberville said he would continue to hold up promotions for only the most senior generals.

- 9) Kevin McCarthy of California, whose fellow Republicans ousted him as House speaker in October, said that he would retire from Congress. He pledged to remain active in Republican politics.
- 10) At Wednesday's Republican debate, Ron DeSantis said Calvin Coolidge would be his inspiration if he were elected. He was a Republican from New England who held the office from 1923 to 1929. "He's one of the few presidents that got almost everything right," DeSantis said. His pronouncement drew significant applause.
- 11) Kamala Harris broke the record of most tiebreaking votes in the Senate as vice president, underscoring Democrats' tenuous hold on the majority and the deep polarization gripping Congress. She cast her 32nd tiebreaking vote on Tuesday, surpassing the previous record of 31, set by John C. Calhoun nearly 200 years ago.