

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Sunday, May 26

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

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

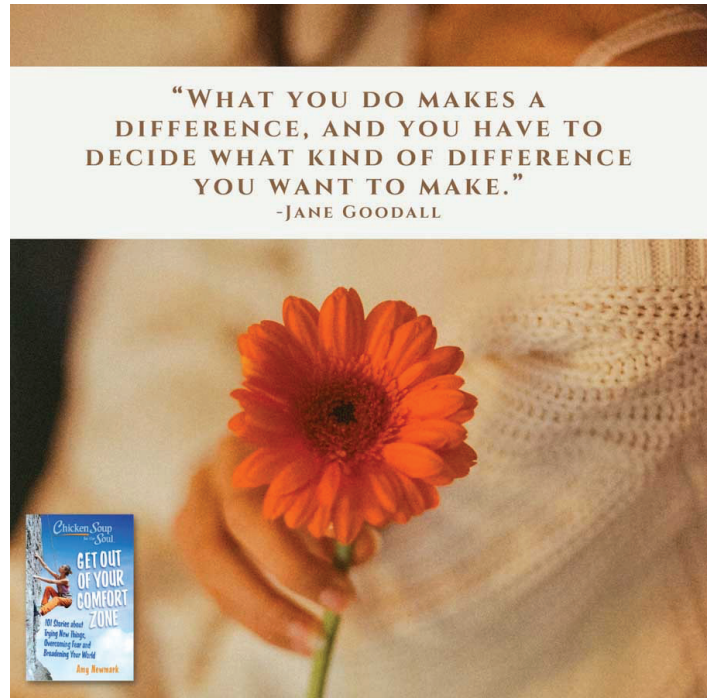
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's 9 a.m., and at Zion, 11 a.m.

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

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



## Monday, May 27

Memorial Day  
Groton Legion Memorial Day service at Groton Union Cemetery

## Tuesday, May 28

Senior Menu: Baked turkey crunch with dressing, Italian blend vegetables, carrot bars, corn muffin, fruit.

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

The Pantry at the Groton Community Center, hours 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Junior Teeners host Miller, 5:30 p.m., doubleheader  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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**—Weber—**  
**Landscaping**  
**Greenhouse**

**NOW**  
**OPEN!**

**620 West Third Avenue**  
**Groton**  
**Hours: M-F 10-6**  
**Sat 10-4 ~ Sun 12-4**





## Poll: Trump has sizable lead in South Dakota but shy of 2016 and 2020 numbers

BY STU WHITNEY

**South Dakota News Watch**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. – Republican nominee Donald Trump leads President Joe Biden by nearly 20 points in South Dakota but is struggling to get more than half of the statewide vote, according to a scientific poll of 500 registered voters co-sponsored by South Dakota News Watch.

Trump was at 50%, well ahead of Biden's 31% in the poll, which was also sponsored by the Chiesman Center for Democracy at the University of South Dakota.

Third-party challenger Robert Kennedy Jr., who is not yet on the ballot in the state, polled at 11% percent, while 7% were undecided.

Those holdouts are keeping former President Trump from matching his previous election share of 62% in South Dakota the last two presidential cycles – against Hillary Clinton in 2016 and Biden in 2020. Trump won the presidency in 2016 and lost in 2020.

A Mason-Dixon poll sponsored by Argus Leader/KELO in October 2020 showed Trump at 51% in South Dakota (with 6% undecided). But the former Manhattan real estate mogul and reality TV star came in 11 points higher than that number on Election Day.

There could also be major movement this time around, said Jon Schaff, a political science professor at Northern State University in Aberdeen.

"The support you're seeing for (RFK Jr.) is not uncommon for a quasi-significant third-party candidate at this stage of the game," said Schaff. "When you get closer to the election and people realize that candidate doesn't have a chance of winning, voters tend to drift back to a major-party candidate. And so I suspect that 11% (for Kennedy) will go down."

The only third-party candidate to reach double-digits in South Dakota in the past century was Texas billionaire Ross Perot, who finished third in 1992 with 22% behind Republican George H.W. Bush (41%) and Democrat Bill Clinton (37%). Clinton won nationally against the incumbent Bush.

### **Trump's GOP favorability at 70%**

Poll respondents were selected randomly from a telephone-matched South Dakota voter registration list that included landline and cellphone numbers. Quotas were assigned to reflect voter registration by county. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

There is little question that Trump will receive the state's three electoral votes in November. No Democrat has won the state since Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964, and Trump's support remains stable in the Mount Rushmore State among the Republican base, with just a few cracks showing.

Of GOP respondents in the poll, 70% said they had a favorable opinion of Trump, compared to 10% unfavorable. Overall, his favorability in the state is 47%, including 13% with Democrats and 36% with Independents.

Republican Gov. Kristi Noem had an overall favorability of 39% in the poll.

Trump's refusal to concede the 2020 election and being charged in four criminal cases could be eroding support from fence-sitting voters that he needs to corral to win nationally, the poll showed. Independents surveyed in South Dakota had a 46% unfavorable view of the former president, compared to 44% for Biden.

"This is going to be the third presidential cycle in a row where there's significant disgruntlement with the two major-party candidates," said Schaff. "It does make room for (an independent candidate). But the structural obstacles to third-party runs are so severe that they spend a lot of time and money just trying

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to get on the ballot.”

## **Biden’s Democratic favorability at 60%**

Biden’s favorability is at 26% statewide, including 60% among Democrats and 5% with Republicans. His popularity with Independents in the state is similar to Trump’s, with 35% favorable and 44% unfavorable.

The last Democrat to finish within 10 points of a Republican nominee in a South Dakota presidential election was Barack Obama, whose 48% came up short against John McCain’s 53% in 2008. Obama won the presidency.

Julia Hellwege, an associate political science professor at USD and incoming director of the Chiesman Center, said Trump likely doesn’t need to worry about winning South Dakota, but he might take some lessons from the poll numbers.

Among Republicans, for example, 77% said Trump was their preference, as opposed to 8% for Kennedy, 7% for Biden and 9% undecided. About five months away from the November election, that means nearly a quarter of GOP voters prefer someone other than Trump in deep-red South Dakota.

“It’s a winner-take-all system, so it doesn’t really matter on Election Day (in this state),” said Hellwege. “But those numbers suggest that a decent number of Republican voters wish they had another option.”

## **Kennedy Jr. faces Aug. 6 deadline**

Kennedy Jr. first entered the national spotlight through associations with his famous family. His father served as attorney general and U.S. senator and was a 1968 Democratic presidential candidate before being assassinated in June of that election year. His uncle was former President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1963.

RFK Jr.’s political agenda, formerly focused on the environment, shifted in the 2000s to skepticism over vaccines and the pharmaceutical industry, which endeared him to a segment of conservatives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Four of his siblings, including former Democratic U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy II, released a statement in October 2023 calling RFK Jr.’s candidacy “dangerous to our country” because of his views on vaccines and allegations of antisemitism.

The News Watch poll showed that despite his family’s political legacy, RFK Jr. is an unproven commodity in South Dakota. Nearly 40% of those polled statewide were neutral when asked about favorability, compared to 21% favorable and 38% unfavorable.

His highest favorability was among Democrats (26%), followed by Independents (24%) and Republicans (18%). But more than half of Republicans (54%) remain neutral on the third-party candidate, who initially challenged Biden in Democratic primaries.

Kennedy Jr. has made the ballot in six states so far. His campaign needs to submit 3,502 signatures from registered voters by Aug. 6 to make the South Dakota ballot.

Rachel Soulek, election divisions director for the Secretary of State’s office, told News Watch that her office has not had any communications with Kennedy’s team about ballot access in the state.

## **Biden most favorable in Sioux Falls**

Trump is more popular with male voters in South Dakota than women, mirroring a national trend. His favorability among men was 53% in the poll, with 28% saying they have an unfavorable opinion of him. With women, it was 43% favorable and 42% unfavorable.

Biden’s approval failed to reach 30% with either gender in South Dakota, but his approval is higher with women (29%) than men (21%). Disapproval of the first-term president is 66% with men and 51% with female voters.

Geographically, Trump’s highest approval rating (50%) came from the East River/North region, including cities such as Aberdeen, Brookings and Watertown. He also remains popular (49% favorable; 31% unfavorable) in the West River region including Pennington County/Rapid City, which he won with 61% in 2020.

The poll found that Biden was most popular (32% favorable) in the Sioux Falls area, where the state’s largest county, Minnehaha, gave him 44% of the vote in 2020.

Though political analysts see Biden struggling with young voters nationally, that’s not the case in South



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Dakota, at least relative to other age groups.

Of South Dakota respondents ages 18-34, 34% view the Democratic president favorably, by far his best age group. In fact, when asked about presidential preference for 2024, Biden leads Trump 44-34 among those young voters.

*This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, a nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization. Read more in-depth stories at [sdnewswatch.org](http://sdnewswatch.org) and sign up for an email every few days to get stories as soon as they're published. Contact Stu Whitney at [stu.whitney@sdnewswatch.org](mailto:stu.whitney@sdnewswatch.org)*

## Fifth Week Trap Shoot

The fifth week of the Trap Shoot League scores have been released with two Groton Area shooters having perfect scores. Turner Thompson had a perfect score for the third consecutive week. Cadence Feist returned to the top with a perfect score. Payton Mitchell was one shot back with a 49.

Name	Rd1	Rd2	Total
THOMPSON, TURNER	25	25	50
FEIST, CADENCE	25	25	50
MITCHELL, PAYTON	24	25	49
HOLMES, ASHTON	23	25	48
MOREHOUSE, WESLEY	24	24	48
SCEPANIAK, ISAIAH	23	25	48
MITCHELL, PAISLEY	23	24	47
KAMPA, JAEGER	23	23	46
SMITH, TREY	24	22	46
POWERS-DINGER, MICHAEL	20	23	43
SPERRY, OWEN	22	21	43
WAMBACH, BRYSON	21	21	42
FLIEHS, FAITH	20	21	41
THOMPSON, TARYN	22	19	41
LEICHT, TUCKER	21	19	40
SPERRY, ASHLYN	19	19	38
KUTTER, IAN	16	19	35
SCEPANIAK, NOAH	21	14	35
STANGE, TYTON	18	17	35
FROST, CHARLIE	19	16	35
HOLMES, SYDNEY	19	15	34
KOTZER, ADELIN	12	17	29
PIGORS, GENTRY	14	15	29
RUDEBUSCH, JACLYN	2	2	4

## Stanley County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash  
Where: War Creek Road and 286th Ave., Stanley, SD  
When: 1:00p.m. Friday, May 24, 2024

Driver 1: Female, 63, fatal injuries  
Vehicle 1: 2005 Ford Taurus  
Seatbelt Use: No

Stanley County, S.D.- A 63-year-old woman died Friday afternoon in a single-vehicle crash in Stanley, SD. The name of the person involved has not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2005 Ford Taurus was southbound on War Creek Road when for an unknown reason it left the roadway and entered the east ditch. The vehicle rolled multiple times and came to rest on its passenger side. The driver died from injuries sustained in the crash.

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

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



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 1

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- ✓ Pro Constitution
- ✓ Pro Family
- ✓ Property Rights

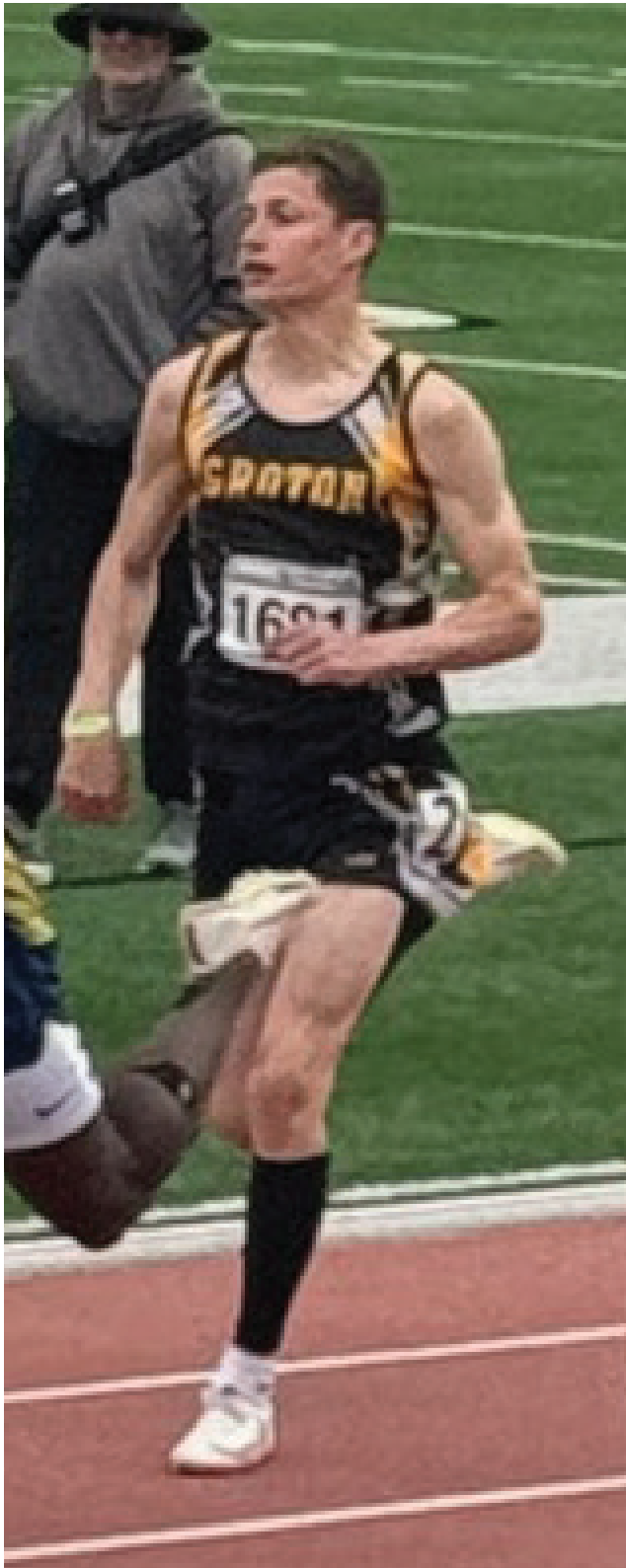


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**Primary Election: Vote Now Through June 4th**





**Keegen Tracy runs in the State A 100 m finals Saturday.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

## State Track Meet Final Results

### Boy's Division

**100 Meters Class A - Prelims:** 5. Keegen Tracy, 1.08.

**100 Meters Class A - Finals:** 7. Keegen Tracy, 11.58.

**SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800] Class A - Finals:** 17. Lane Tietz, Colby Dunker, Keegen Tracy, Blake Pauli, 3:50.31.

**200 Meters Class A - Prelims:** 10. Keegen Tracy, 23.27.

**400 Meters Class A - Prelims:** 11. Keegen Tracy, 53.39.

**Shot Put - 12lb Class A - Finals:** 17. Logan Ringgenberg, 43-05.00

**Javelin - 800g Class A - Finals:** 3. Colby Dunker 155-00.

### Girl's Division

**400 Meters Class A - Prelims:** 18. Taryn Traphagen, 1:03.49.

**300m Hurdles - 30" Class A - Prelims:** 20. McKenna Tietz 50.87.

**4x100 Relay Class A - Prelims:** 13. Laila Roberts, Kella Tracy, McKenna Tietz, Rylee Dunker, 52.22.

**4x200 Relay Class A - Prelims:** 17. Laila Roberts, Jerica Locke, Kella Tracy, Rylee Dunker 1:53.09.

**4x400 Relay Class A - Prelims:** 12. Laila Roberts, Jerica Locke, Kella Tracy, Taryn Traphagen, 4:20.54.

**4x800 Relay Class A - Finals:** 8. Taryn Traphagen, Faith Traphagen, Ryelle Gilbert, Kella Tracy, 10:01.34.

**SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800] Class A - Finals:** 24. Jerica Locke, Rylee Dunker, Laila Roberts, Ashlynn Warrington, 4:36.21.

**Shot Put - 4kg Class A - Finals:** 13. Emma Kutter, 33-06.75.

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Keegen Tracy receives State A 100m 7th place Saturday during medals award ceremony.

(Photo by Bruce Babcock)

PAID FOR BY REDER FOR SD HOUSE

DEAR SD DISTRICT #1,  
I AM A NAVY VETERAN,  
... AND A DAD, FOUNDER OF THE DTOM 22/0 FOUNDATION,  
NATIONAL PUBLIC SPIRIT AWARD WINNER, & SOUTH DAKOTA VETERAN OF THE YEAR.

**NOT A CAREER POLITICIAN**

A CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN VOICE THAT YOU CAN TRUST TO  
**GET THE JOB DONE & GET HOME.**

CHRISTOPHER REDER DISTRICT 1 HOUSE

SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS FOR AMERICA



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Senior Login Ringgenberg competes in A Boys Shot Put on Saturday. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Groton Area throwing Coach Aaron Helvig posed with both Groton Area Boys State A Logan Ringgenberg (below) and Girls State A Emma Cutter (above) in the Shot Put competition. (Photos by Bruce Babcock)





## The Life of Tayla Sombke

Tayla Darlene Sombke, beloved infant daughter of Bryce and Amber (Wolken) Sombke passed peacefully in the arms of her loving parents on May 23rd, 2024. Tayla was born on May 23rd, 2024 at 1:23am to Bryce and Amber Sombke at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD.



In the time we were blessed to have Tayla with us, all she experienced was immeasurable love. She received endless amounts of kisses, hugs, holding hands and being told "I Love You". Tayla was deeply loved and brought immense joy to our hearts. Our family is forever changed and forever grateful to have spent this brief, but incredibly meaningful time with Tayla. Tayla will always remain her parents precious baby girl and Henley's little sister.

Private family services will be 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 28th at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Jeremy Yeadon will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Tayla is survived by her loving parents Bryce & Amber Sombke; sister, Henley Sombke of Conde; her maternal grandparents: Elaine & Fred Wolken of Piedmont; paternal grandparents: Doug & Melenie Sombke of Groton; her aunts and uncles: Bryan & Whitney Sombke, Brett & Stephanie Sombke, Nicole Kotzer, Alana & David White, Wendy & Jamie Howard, Sheila & Jim Otteson, Christa & Mike Sports; cousins: Maryn, Teagan & Drew Sombke, Braxten & Brooks Sombke, Adeline Kotzer, John & Eleanor White, Neva & Theresa Howard, Justin & Casey Taul, Nicholas Lane.

Tayla is being held in Heaven by her great-grandparents Gerald & Anna Rix, Richard & Darlene Jones, Fred & Carol Wolken and Dallas & Carol Sombke.

Casketbearers will be Bryan Sombke, Brett Sombke, Mike Baumgarn and Brandon Johnson.

One day we will meet again, a lifetime we will wait. We will know the little angel with outstretched arms at Heaven's beautiful gates.

Tayla, you and your sister Henley are our greatest accomplishments and our truest blessings.

Until we meet again, our dearest Tayla, you will forever be loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.



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- Sealed ball bearing maintenance-free spindles

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## MEMORIAL DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



### **Groton Post #39 Memorial Day Schedule**

**Hufton at 7:30 a.m.**

**James at 8:15 a.m.**

**Verdon at 8:45 a.m.**

**Bates-Scotland at 9:15 a.m.**

**Ferney at 10 a.m.**

**Andover Catholic at 11 a.m.**

**Groton at Noon**

**Guest speaker at Groton  
is Rod Zastrow.**

**Lunch to follow at the Groton Post #39 home served by the Legion Auxiliary.**

**In the event of inclement weather,  
the ceremony will be held at the  
Post home.**

**Groton Post #39 is sponsoring  
the FREE viewing of the broadcast  
at**

**GDILIVE.COM**

**People in their vehicles can listen  
on the radio at 89.3 FM.**



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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Then I heard a voice from heaven say,  
“Write this: Blessed are the dead  
who die in the Lord from now on.”  
“Yes,” says the Spirit,  
“they will rest from their labor,  
for their deeds will follow them.”

❧ REVELATION 14:13 ❧



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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. In 2 Chronicles 9:21, which was not among the things Solomon's ships brought to emphasize the luxuriousness of Israel? *Ivory, Apes, Peacocks, Cedars*

3. From Proverbs 30, what will pluck out the eyes of anyone who scorns their parents? *Demons, Ravens, Doves, Quails*

4. In 1 Timothy 6:10, who wrote, "For the love of money is the root of all evil"? *Saint Jude, Isaiah, Moses, Paul*

5. From Matthew 8, what Roman official asked Jesus to heal his servant? *Marshall, Governor, Centurion, Jailor*

6. Who was the father of Hosea? *Uzzah, Beerli, Joash, Ahab*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Cedars, 3) Ravens, 4) Paul, 5) Centurion, 6) Beerli

*Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.*



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**FLASH GORDON**

TWO YEARS AGO, I COMMITTED FRIGIA TO THE WAR AGAINST MING.

A WAR THE ALLIES WOULD HAVE LOST WITHOUT OUR TREASURE AND BLOOD.

BUT EVEN IN VICTORY, THEY CRAVE MORE.

NOW THE THING THEIR GREED HAS AWOKEN IS DESTROYING SPIRES CARVED BY MY GRANDFATHERS' GRANDFATHERS' GRANDFATHERS.

I AM FRIA. THE NINTH QUEEN OF FRIGIA.

AND ON MY WATCH, A CREATURE FROM OUR PAST IS SMASHING DAY'S PEAK TO RUBBLE.

FLASH GORDON WAS CHARGED WITH FLYING A KELVIN-ZERO REACTOR INTO ITS MAW--

DAN SCHKADE 5-26-24

--BUT IT STRUCK HIM DOWN LIKE A PAPER KITE.

MY RONAL COMES TO HIM -- DECIDES THAT HE OWES IT TO FLASH TO ASSUME HIS MISSION.

THIS IS NOT RONAL'S HOMETLAND. HE CAME FROM ARBORIA TO UNITE OUR NATIONS IN MARRIAGE.

HE DIDN'T HAVE TO LOVE ME, BUT HE DID ANYWAY.

MY BRAVE, BEAUTIFUL HUSBAND.

RONAL SUCCEEDS WHERE FLASH FAILED.

HE DIES IN THE ARMS OF AN ALIEN SHEDDING TEARS IT IS NOT HER PLACE TO SHED.

I BURY HIM UNDER ONE OF FRIGIA'S FEW TREES.

PERHAPS GORDON TRIES TO APOLOGIZE. I DO NOT HEAR HIM.

I COMMAND THESE OUTSIDERS TO LEAVE AND NEVER RETURN.

**NEXT: DEATH PATROL**

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

**W**HY DO I START BACK WITH THE CLUBHEAD HELD SLIGHTLY ABOVE GROUND?

ONE REASON IS THAT THIS REDUCES THE CHANCE OF INCURRING A PENALTY BY INADVERTENTLY MOVING THE BALL.

GUARDING AGAINST STUBBING THE CLUB IN THE GRASS BEHIND THE BALL, WHICH WOULD DISRUPT THE ENTIRE SWING, IS ANOTHER REASON.

THE FINAL AND MOST IMPORTANT ONE IS THAT NOT GROUNDING THE CLUB PROMOTES SLOW, SMOOTH INITIATION OF THE SWING.

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## Patient Seems Unsure of ALS Diagnosis

DEAR DR. ROACH: My question is about amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). I have been diagnosed with this horrible, debilitating disease, and I don't know where I am headed. I went to a hospital for a second opinion and additional testing to rule out other possible causes of this numbness. Nary a test was done -- the neurologist looked at the electromyography (EMG) done by a neuromuscular doctor at another facility, and he just agreed with the diagnosis.

I wanted to get tests done to see if it was perhaps a concussion, if it was from using yard sprays or from COVID vaccines, or if it was due to my having a terrible bad back for years, but none of these were even considered. I am deteriorating rapidly. Would you please give me some suggestions?

Am I wrong for seeking other causes? -- J.B.

ANSWER: I am very sorry to hear that you have been diagnosed with ALS. I understand why you would like to believe there are other possibilities for this because there are no treatments for ALS that can stop the progression of this fatal disease.

The diagnosis of ALS is made after a thorough examination and history review. Electrodiagnostic studies, like an EMG or a nerve conduction test, can help support the diagnosis, but they do not make the diagnosis themselves. The nerve conduction study is normal for ALS, while the EMG shows the nerves that are not connecting to the muscles. Other diseases of the muscles and muscle nerves should be considered. MRI scans are usually performed, as they can identify conditions that mimic ALS.

The terrible back you mention could include a condition called cervical myelopathy, which has some features that can be mistaken for ALS. Routine blood and urine testing should be done to exclude other conditions, such as Lyme disease, and the spinal fluid is sometimes analyzed if the neurologist suspects immune-mediated nerve disease.

However, none of the other possibilities that you mention is likely to be confused for ALS by an experienced neurologist who does a complete exam.

I have three concerns: The first is that you are suggesting you may not have had a thorough evaluation so far. Second, the only symptom you mention is numbness, and although this can occasionally happen with ALS, you are much more likely to have weakness and muscle twitching without numbness. Third, ALS tends to progress slowly, not rapidly.

For all these reasons, and because you need to be sure of your condition, I recommend getting another opinion from a neurologist who doesn't rely on someone else's history review and exam.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 94-year-old female who takes one 0.75-mg pill of levothyroxine per day since 1970. It was prescribed because of low energy. My doctor thinks the usual blood test is all that is required for proper diagnostics. Would I benefit from a more thorough test, and if so, what would you recommend, as my energy level is now very low? -- S.H.

ANSWER: For most people with low thyroid levels, a simple test of the thyroid level and/or the TSH (thyroid stimulating hormone) level is all that is needed to be sure the dose of the replacement thyroid hormone, levothyroxine, is adequate. However, there are many causes for low energy. A low blood count and abnormalities of any critical organ can all cause fatigue.

The diagnosis starts with a careful history review and exam. Lab tests are important, but nothing is as likely to give the correct diagnosis as listening to the patient will.

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).

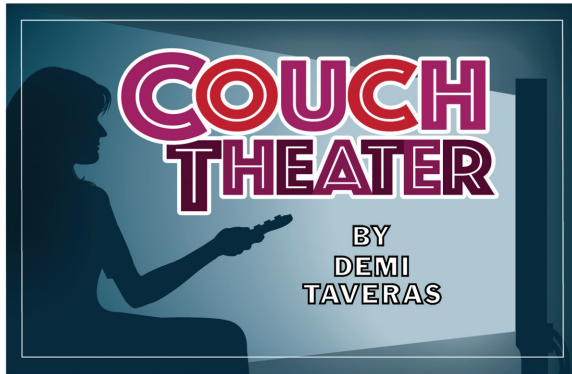
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**Emily Carey, left, and Liam Woodrum star in "Geek Girl."** Courtesy of Netflix

"Gaga Chromatica Ball" (TV-14) -- Calling all fans of the Mother Monster herself! A new concert experience from pop icon Lady Gaga reaches streaming on May 25, for all the Monsters who weren't able to attend the Chromatica Ball tour back in 2022. Immerse yourself in the dark, edgy

atmosphere of the Chromatica Ball with a stage inspired by brutalist architecture. Jam out to songs spanning her decades-long discography, like "Just Dance," "Bad Romance," "Shallow" and "Rain on Me." Filming for this TV special took place during the Los Angeles show at Dodger Stadium, and the special premieres on May 25. (Max)

"Geek Girl" (TV-PG) -- In her new series, actress Emily Carey goes from playing the tortured young queen Alicent in HBO's "House of the Dragon" to playing a socially awkward teenager named Harriet Manners. As a self-proclaimed "geek," Harriet has accepted a life of limitations until she suddenly gets discovered by a model agency that is desperate for new, raw talent. Although transforming Harriet from a geek to a high-fashion model won't be the easiest transition, luckily, she has the help of fashion connoisseur Wilbur Evans (Emmanuel Imani) and a gorgeous supermodel named Nick Park (Liam Woodrum). The 10-episode series releases on May 30. (Netflix)

"The Boys in the Boat" (PG-13) -- George Clooney ("Ticket to Paradise") sat on the director's chair once again to bring an inspiring story about a rowing team full of underdogs to the big screen. Set in 1936, an underprivileged engineering student named Joe Rantz (Callum Turner) tries out for the junior varsity rowing team at the University of Washington after hearing that a spot on the team comes with jobs and boarding. Even though the junior varsity team is less experienced, these go-getters begin pulling off upset after upset, outriving their own varsity team and other college teams. Now full of momentum, their coach (Joel Edgerton) sets the team's sights on getting a gold medal at the 1936 Olympics in Nazi Germany. Premieres May 28. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Love Undercover" (TV-MA) -- This seven-episode reality series puts a spin on the traditional dating show format that instantly reminded me of the 2009 TV special "I Get That a Lot," where celebrities like Nick Jonas and Jessica Simpson would pretend to be regular working-class citizens. In this new show out now, five international soccer stars go undercover in the United States to look for love, with the notion that women will fall in love with them for who they are, instead of their successful careers. The soccer players include Jamie O'Hara and Lloyd Jones from the United Kingdom; Sebastian Fassi and Marco Fabian from Mexico; and Ryan Babel from the Netherlands. (Peacock)

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1. What was "Sukiyaki" about?
2. Who wrote and released "Honky Tonk Women"?
3. Who won the 1989 Grammy Award for Best Female Country Vocal Performance for the album "Absolute Torch and Twang"?
4. Who wrote and released "Every Breath You Take"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "What would I do if she should need me and find me kissing you?"

Answers

1. The Japanese title of the 1961 song translates as "I Look Up As I Walk." With the generic lyrics it could have been about

lost love, but was instead about holding back tears while having an emotional response to a Japanese security treaty.

2. The Rolling Stones, in 1969. The song ended up in the "Band Hero" video game in 2009 and in the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2014.

3. k.d. lang. Born Kathryn Dawn Lang, lang prefers not to use capitals in the name as a nod to the poet e.e. cummings.

4. Sting, with the Police, in 1983. The song stayed at the top of the chart for eight weeks.

5. "What Will My Mary Say?" by Johnny Mathis in 1963. Originally released in 1961, the song didn't get much notice until the cover release by Mathis.

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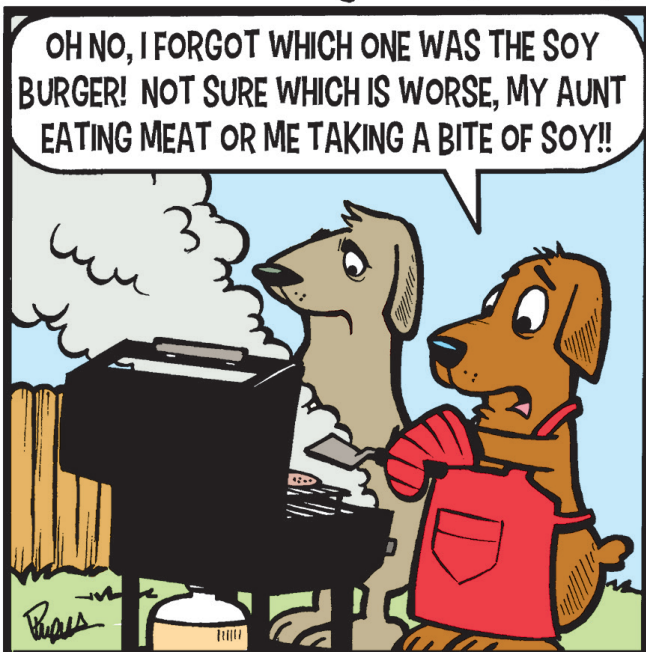
## GRIN *and* BEAR IT <sup>Wagner</sup>



"We seem to have found some undocumented income."

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



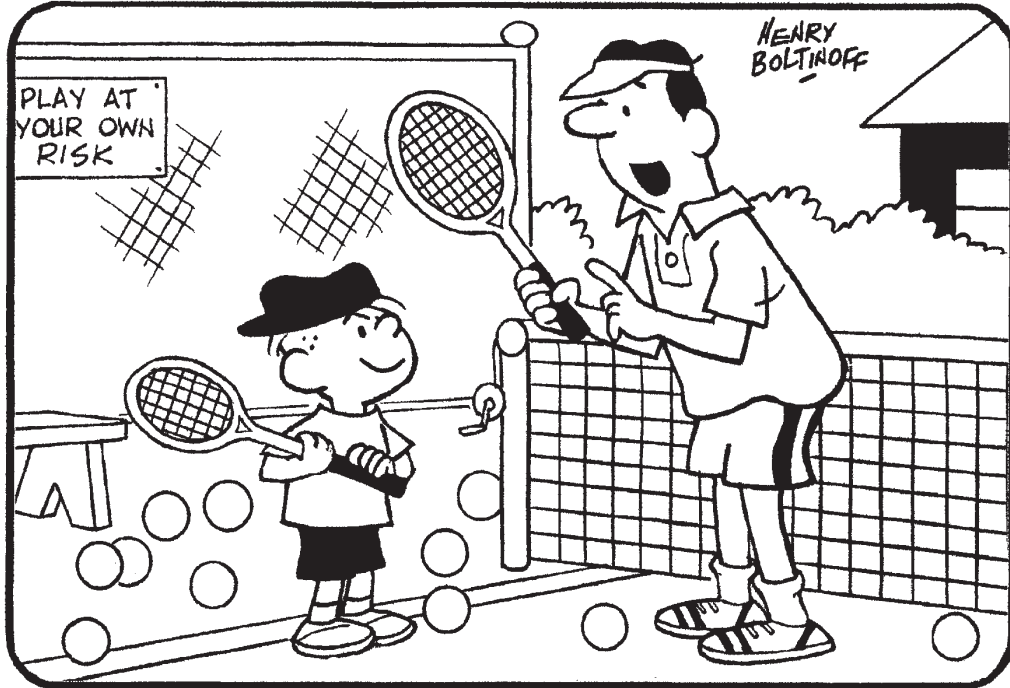
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# Groton Daily Independent

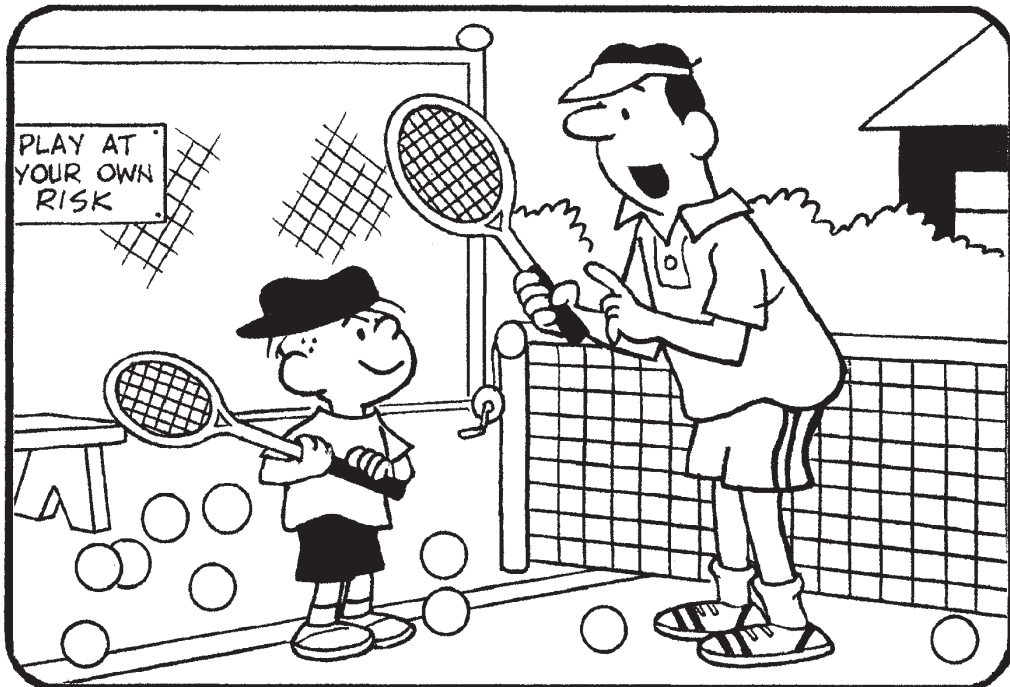
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Ball is missing. 2. Racket is longer. 3. Stripe on shorts is different. 4. Fence is not as wide. 5. Sign on fence is lower. 6. Bottom of shirt is different.



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\* If you keep aloe around for soothing your skin after being out in the sun, take this tip from J.C. in Florida: "Keep aloe in your fridge; it keeps it cool, and it feels even more refreshing."

\* Want to eat more fruits and veggies? Keep pre-cut fruit and easy veggie dippers like carrots, bell pepper strips and celery at eye level in see-through containers in your fridge. The more you see it, the more you will eat it.

\* WEDDING TIP: To create a beautiful garland for banisters, use white or light-colored tulle, draped in sections and gathered with a lovely bow. Twist the tulle around a string of clear lights for an even more dramatic effect.

\* To create an easy resting mat for toddlers, sew three pillowcases together in a row along the long end. When needed, stuff three pillows in, and it creates a long mat, suitable for naptime or TV time.

\* Use wide, flat rubber bands, such as you might find on a broccoli stalk, to identify your drinking glass. Write each person's name in permanent marker on the band, and slip over the glass. Another benefit? It makes the glass non-slip!

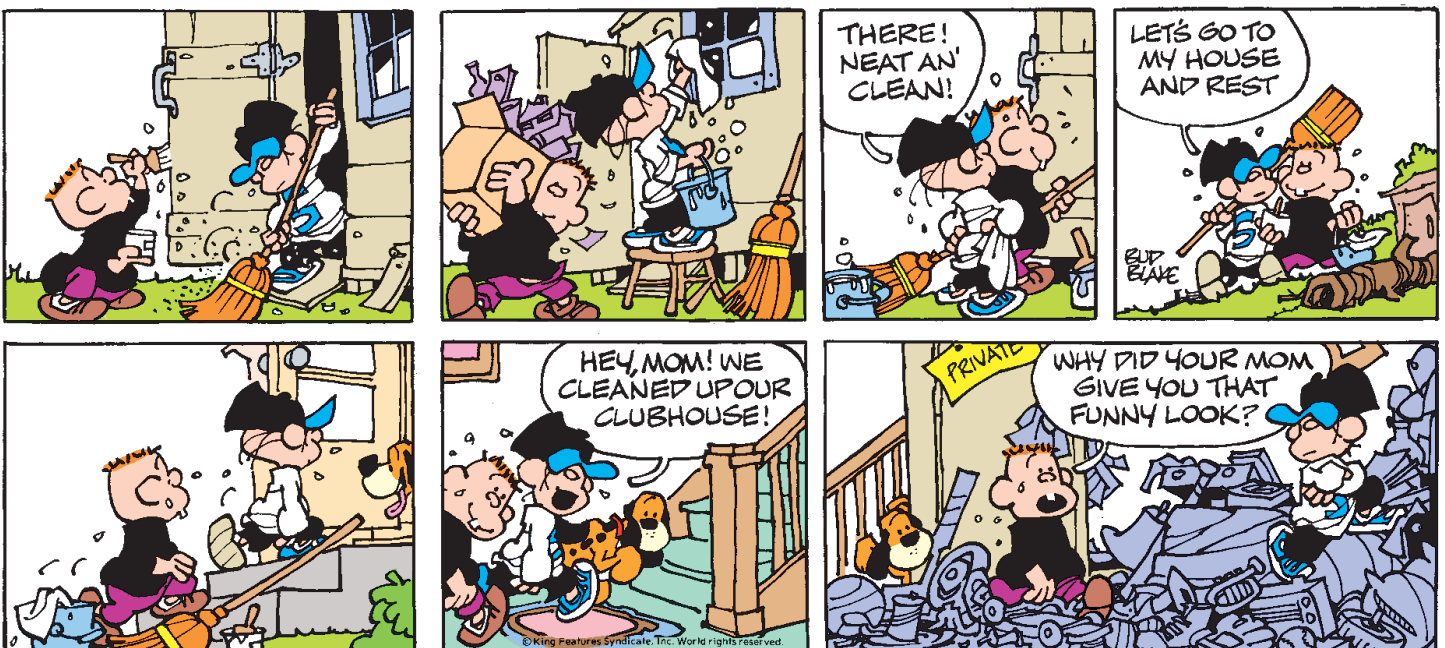
\* M.R. in Wisconsin writes: "Chalkboard paint is a wonderful creation for creative kids. If you rent and can't paint, you can purchase large squares of smooth pressboard at a building supply store and paint those. Then just mount them to the wall using mirror clips. The kids absolutely love ours!"

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

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## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Annoyed state
- 6 Suitable
- 9 TV schedule abbr.
- 12 Road reversal
- 13 Cornfield noise
- 14 "— the Walrus"
- 15 Idaho's capital
- 16 Minor complaint
- 18 Vehicle's capacity
- 20 Intends
- 21 German pronoun
- 23 "... — quit!"
- 24 Unravels
- 25 Second in command

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

- 27 Fighting
- 29 "Already?"
- 31 Unparalleled
- 35 Track horse
- 37 Continental currency
- 38 Nepal's neighbor
- 41 D-Day vessel
- 43 — -de-France
- 44 Sole
- 45 Litter container
- 47 Without a sound
- 49 Aromas
- 52 Ornate vase
- 53 Bit of physics

- 54 Illuminated
- 55 "A spider!"
- 56 Summer on the Seine
- 57 Very small

### DOWN

- 1 Tavern
- 2 Jurist Lance
- 3 Savory brunch pies
- 4 Celestial bear
- 5 January, to Juana
- 6 Find not guilty
- 7 Painter Cezanne
- 8 Prefix with night or light
- 9 Leg bone
- 10 Pleasantly warm
- 11 Make — of (bungle)
- 17 "Peter Pan" author
- 19 Swiss money
- 21 Hosp. hook-ups
- 22 Corp. boss
- 24 Summer cooler
- 26 Spinach-eating sailor
- 28 German sausage
- 30 Granola grain

- 32 Man of La Mancha
- 33 Web address
- 34 Fair hirer, in ads
- 36 Boosler of comedy
- 38 Chef's hat
- 39 Accustom
- 40 Lose a starting contest
- 42 Letter-shaped hardware
- 45 Coagulate
- 46 "Garfield" dog
- 48 Cravat
- 50 Ske-daddle
- 51 CIA operative

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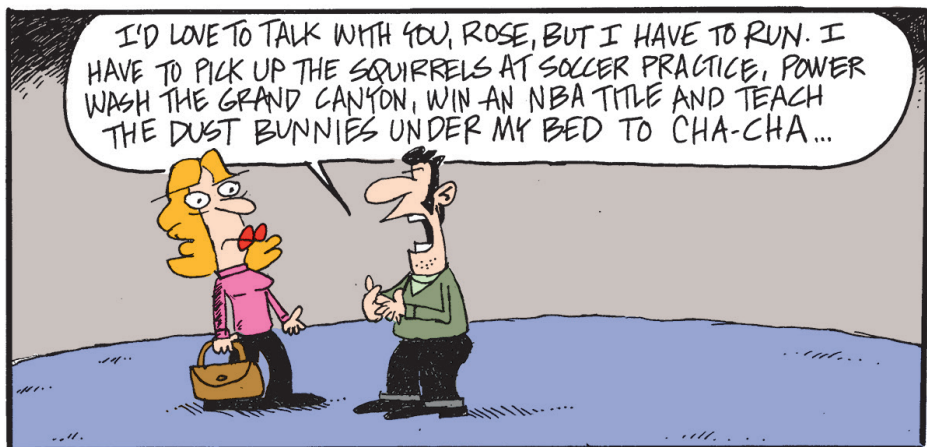
## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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

### Out on a Limb



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by Gary Kopervas

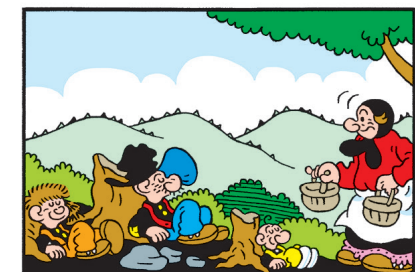
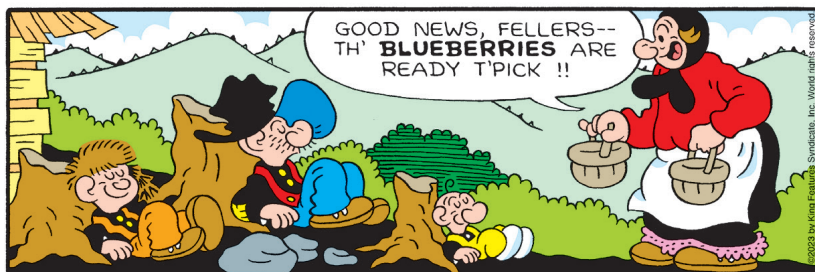
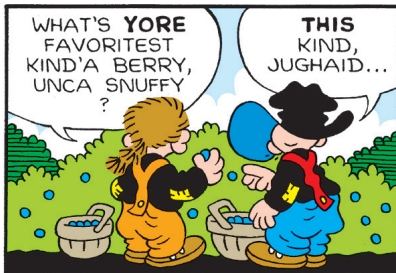
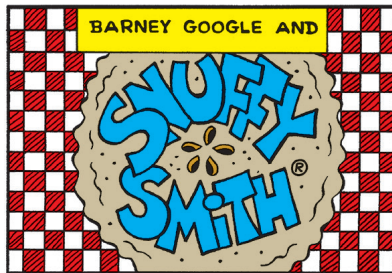
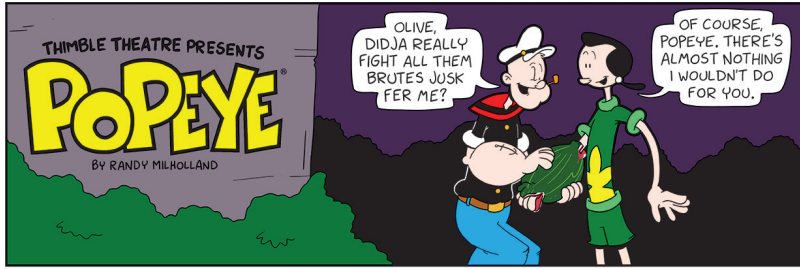
CARL IS CRAZY  
BUSY THIS WEEK.

KOPERVAS



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SIR ROGER FIGHTS DESPERATELY TO AVOID CAPTURE BY PRINCE VALIANT, TURNING CASTLE LOCKBRAMBLE TO WRECKAGE!

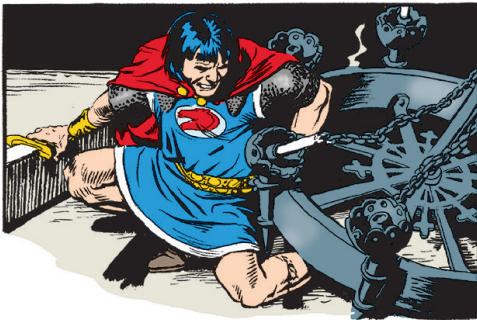


HE DOES NOT WAIT TO SEE HOW EFFECTIVE THE CHANDELIER WAS, INSTEAD USING THE TIME GAINED TO REACH HIS ARCHERY PRACTICE COURT...

YEATES  
3/31/13  
3973



... AND A SET OF THE WEAPONS WITH WHICH HE FEELS MOST CONFIDENT! NOW HE WILL HAVE THAT PRINCE VALIANT DEAD TO RIGHTS - AND AT A COMFORTABLE DISTANCE.

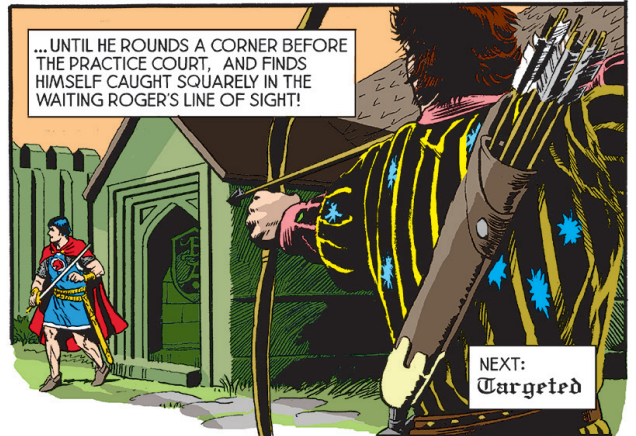


VAL, MEANWHILE, PULLS A NUMB AND BLEEDING LEG FROM UNDER THE WRECKAGE OF THE GREAT CHANDELIER. THAT WAS INDEED A NEAR THING, BUT THERE IS NO STOPPING NOW...

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...AND HE CONTINUES HIS PURSUIT, LIMPING FORWARD GRIMLY...



... UNTIL HE ROUNDS A CORNER BEFORE THE PRACTICE COURT, AND FINDS HIMSELF CAUGHT SQUARELY IN THE WAITING ROGER'S LINE OF SIGHT!

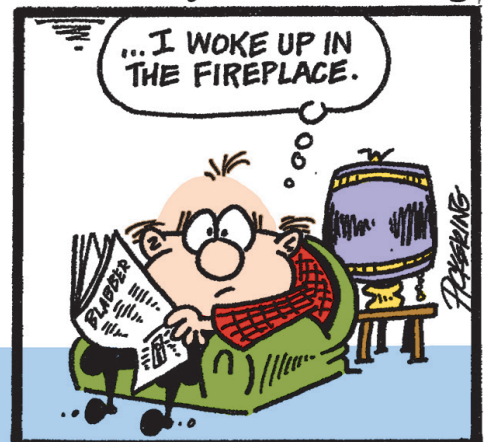
NEXT:  
**Targeted**

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### **Saving the Memories**

Many of us have created our family tree, hoping to leave something to the generations that will come after us. Having a list of the names of our ancestors and all their important dates is valuable, especially if you have a budding genealogist coming up through the ranks in your family.

But we can leave them more than that. We can leave them our personal history, our life story.

If this is a project you'd like to consider, there are several ways to proceed.

You can acquire an old-school cassette tape recorder, a stack of cassette tapes, and start talking. Label them as to the date you made the recording and the general topics you covered on each one.

You can go more high-tech and use the recording feature on your cellphone. Be sure you know how to save and backup the file.

If you prefer to use a computer, you can type your information, save the files and make backup copies, even printing out the pages. With typed pages you can make a memory book, including photos pasted onto the pages.

The hard part for many of us will be what to talk or write about. What will future generations care to know about us and the life we've lived?

You might start by flipping through your photo albums and making a list of potential topics. Pull out your scrapbooks to jog your memory.

A partial list of topics to consider: beloved pets, living through tough times, awards you've won, elderly relatives you remember, important people you've met, your first car, where you met your spouse, fads from high school, the scariest moment of your life, best vacation, a childhood toy, inventions that have come in your lifetime, the first place you ever lived, the dumbest fashion you ever wore, the person who had the most influence on you, etc.

Ready to start?

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1. What kicker from West Germany became an Oklahoma Sooners football legend when he made a 41-yard field goal in the final seconds to beat the Ohio State Buckeyes 29-28?

2. What is the nickname of the athletic teams at the University of California, Irvine?

3. Who are the only two racecar drivers representing the United States to have won a Formula 1 World Drivers' Championship?

4. What Jamaican boxer, who briefly held the WBC heavyweight title in 1986, was bludgeoned to death by his nephew in 2006?

5. What South American national soccer team won a shocking upset over Brazil in a 1950 FIFA World Cup final match that Brazilians call "The Maracana Smash"?

6. Name the 2023 sports drama film based on the true story of five young Mexican-American caddies who built their own golf course in South Texas in 1955.

7. What team won the 1989 World Series that was delayed by the Loma Prieta earthquake?



by Ryan A. Berenz

## Answers

1. Uwe von Schamann.

2. The Anteaters.

3. Phil Hill (1961) and Mario Andretti (1978).

4. Trevor Berbick.

5. Uruguay.

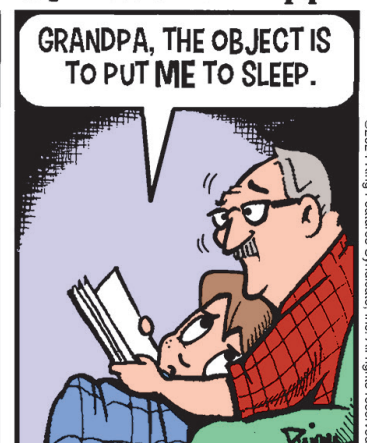
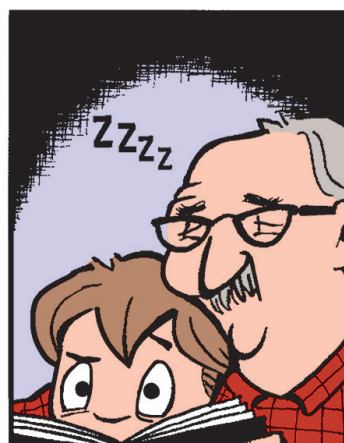
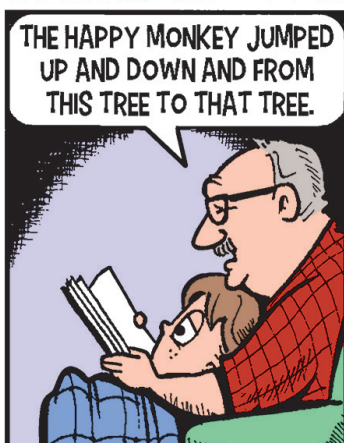
6. "The Long Game."

7. The Oakland A's beat the San Francisco Giants 4-0.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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## Keeping your pet healthy on a tight budget

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have a dog and a cat, and my last vet visit cost over \$300. It's incredibly difficult to pay for vet care on top of the ridiculous cost of housing, grocery prices and my own health care costs. How can I keep pet care affordable? -- John in Newton, Massachusetts

DEAR JOHN: Pet care can be quite pricey, and I know you want the best for your dog and cat. I just laid out a few hundred dollars for my senior cat's checkup and tests, so I feel your pain.

The Humane Society of the United States has some good information about cost-saving options, discounted

veterinary services and ways to stretch out payments: [www.humanesociety.org/resources/are-you-having-trouble-affording-your-pet](http://www.humanesociety.org/resources/are-you-having-trouble-affording-your-pet).

One interesting avenue is veterinary colleges. Today, almost every state has at least one school of veterinary medicine, and many operate low-cost clinics.

Check the town hall or municipal website for upcoming shot clinics. These are held in many communities at least once a year at an easy to access location (like a pet store) and offer required vaccinations at a very affordable cost. Some clinics also offer microchip services and pet wellness exams for a few dollars more.

Finally, if you have the means and just want to get your budget under control, take a look at pet insurance. There are a number of companies providing this service, with several coverage options -- including reimbursing the cost of annual exams and vaccinations, as well as care for unplanned injuries and illnesses. Coverage varies, and it's important to read the fine print and compare plans closely, but it can really help keep unexpected costs from derailing your checking account.

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

\* In 1925, a war between Greece and Bulgaria started after a stray dog crossed their border.

\* During the 1917 siege of Jerusalem, the British, in an effort to capture the city from an entrenched Ottoman garrison, airdropped cigarettes filled with large doses of opium in the hope their opponents would be too stoned to fight. It worked.

\* Holland, Michigan, has 168 miles of tubing coiled underneath its streets that circulates hot water in order to melt

any snow on the ground.

\* China's Three Gorges Dam is so huge that it's slowed the rotation of Earth.

\* Hard-rocker Ozzy Osbourne once fell asleep during a driving test and woke up to find a note on the seat that said, "You have failed." But give him credit for persistence: After 19 attempts, he finally managed to pass the test in 2009 at the age of 60, and then purchased a Ferrari.

\* In Wisconsin, it's legal for kids of any age to drink alcohol in a bar as long as they are with their legal guardian.

\* Dwayne Johnson's beard in the movie "Hercules" was made of yak testicle hair.

\* The Aztecs regarded childbirth as a form of battle. Women who didn't survive it were thought to rise to one of the highest heavens, the same one as for male warriors who died in battle.

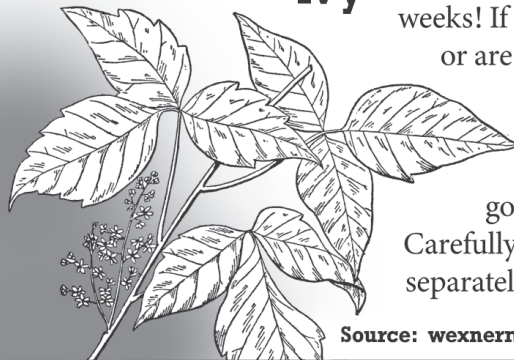
\* In 1986 a Soviet pilot made a bet with his co-pilot that he could land his airplane blind. He curtained all the cockpit windows and crashed the plane into the landing strip, killing 70 out of his 87 passengers.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "Life is like skiing. The goal is not to get to the bottom of the hill. It's to have a bunch of good runs before the sun sets." — Seth Godin

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### The Garden Bug



### Poison ivy

It's very common to see the three-lobed poison ivy plant when doing yardwork or hiking in the woods. Any part of your body that contacts

the urushiol oil in its leaves, stems and

roots may get an extremely itchy or

painful rash that can last days or even

weeks! If you must work near this plant

or are trying to remove it, use heavy

gloves, and wear as much

protective clothing and

gear as you can, including

goggles or a shield for your eyes.

Carefully remove these items and wash

separately when finished. — Brenda Weaver

Source: [wexnermedical.osu.edu](http://wexnermedical.osu.edu)





by Freddy Groves

## Getting help when leaving the service

Those who leave the service can be in for quite a life change, not only for them but for their families. The transition can be something of a challenge.

The VA knows this and has set aside \$4 million to be used this year as grants to organizations that help with that transition. Additionally, the grant organizations are expected to match that amount, effectively doubling the money.

The services these organizations are to provide include employment placement, interview training, resume help and more. Just getting help with a resume can be a huge step. Trying to translate your military MOS to its civilian equivalent can be daunting.

Besides the grants to organizations, the VA takes its own steps. See [benefits.va.gov/transition/transition-home](https://benefits.va.gov/transition/transition-home)

.asp for more information.

The Military to Civilian Readiness Pathway (M2C Ready) is a two-year effort: one year before you leave the service and one year afterward.

Part of M2C Ready is the Solid Start program, which helps veterans during the first year of leaving the service. They give you three calls during that first year (at the 90, 180 and 365 day marks) to make sure you know about the benefits you have. (A heads up ... take care that you're not talking to a scammer. Veterans are often targeted, so beware what personal info you disclose on the phone.)

You can call Solid Start at 800-827-0611 or see [benefits.va.gov/](https://benefits.va.gov/)

[TRANSITION/solid-start.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/TRANSITION/solid-start.asp). The page has lists and links to resources you can use. Among others, the sources include employment help, housing assistance, pensions, education, life insurance and getting your records. Don't miss the link to the VA Welcome Kit at the bottom of the page. Get one (it's a download) and keep it with your important documents.

If you're not actually leaving the service yet and are moving from one duty station to the next, hook up with TAP o the Transition Assistance Program. Check the "modules" at [benefits.va.gov/TRANSITION/VA-TAP-Course-Catalog.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/TRANSITION/VA-TAP-Course-Catalog.asp) for videos on topics of your choice. These are actual training sessions with resource guides.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. TELEVISION: What is the name of the community college in the sitcom "Community"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which two countries in South America are landlocked?
3. HISTORY: Where did the effective end of the Civil War take place?
4. U.S. STATES: Which state comes first alphabetically?
5. FOOD & DRINK: What is an affogato?
6. MOVIES: Which movie features the character Inigo Montoya?
7. ENTERTAINERS: What is singer/songwriter Taylor Swift's middle name?
8. ANATOMY: What is the smallest organ in the human body?
9. LITERATURE: Which fantasy novel (later made into an HBO series called "Game of Thrones") features a place called Winterfell?
10. GEOLOGY: What is the most malleable metal?

### Answers

1. Greendale Community College.
2. Bolivia and Paraguay.
3. Appomattox Court House, Virginia.
4. Alabama.
5. Dessert of ice cream and coffee.
6. "The Princess Bride."
7. Alison.
8. Pineal gland.
9. "A Song of Ice and Fire."
10. Gold.

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## National Travel and Tourism Week

As the beautiful vibrant colors of spring paint our landscapes and the sweet scent of renewal fills the air, it's time to celebrate one of the most thrilling aspects of South Dakota: travel and tourism. We are just wrapping up National Travel and Tourism Week. It's a perfect time to embark on a journey of appreciation for the countless blessings and opportunities that come with exploring our beautiful state.

Tourism is our second largest industry here in South Dakota, contributing billions of dollars to our state's economy each year. In 2023, tourism brought a grand total of 14.7 million visitors here. Those visitors spent \$4.96 billion, generating \$384 million in tax revenue, and supporting 57,835 jobs!

But the impact of travel and tourism extends far beyond economic gains. Travel creates lifelong memories among families, allows us to meet new people, and has the power to unite us at a time when the world often feels divided. Tourism gives us the perfect opportunity to show off our world-renowned South Dakota hospitality.

Travel and tourism are also woven into the fabric of our communities. The tourism industry supports countless small businesses, local artisans, and entrepreneurs who rely on visitors to sustain their livelihoods. From quaint bed and breakfasts to family-owned restaurants serving up hearty Midwestern fare, these establishments are the lifeblood of our towns and cities, infusing them with character and charm that our visitors say they love.

I heard about one family who visited from Australia for Christmas. They said their trip was, "magical...the best Christmas EVER!" And their eight-year-old daughter plans to come back for every Christmas forever. They loved cutting down their own Christmas tree, the 1880 Train, Mammoth Site, sledding, and the prairie dogs – it even snowed for them on Christmas Day!

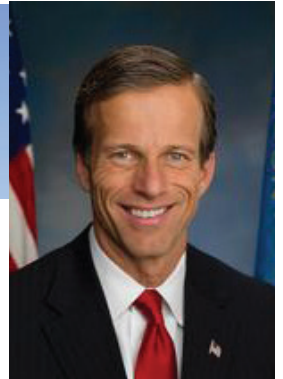
Whether it's exploring the iconic Mount Rushmore National Memorial, marveling at the otherworldly landscapes of Badlands National Park, or immersing oneself in the rich history of De Smet and our pioneering history, our state offers so many unique experiences that cater to every taste and interest. As we close out National Travel and Tourism Week, our peak tourism season is still just beginning. So let us continue to embrace exploration and welcome the world to experience the beauty and hospitality of our great nation.

If you or a family you know is interested in visiting beautiful South Dakota, visit [TravelSouthDakota.com](https://www.TravelSouthDakota.com) and start planning your trip today.

Here's to the spirit of adventure, the joy of discovery, and the endless possibilities that await us on the open road. Happy National Travel and Tourism Week, South Dakota!



**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## Freedom Is Not Free

The month of May is a special time to honor the brave men and women who serve and who have served our country in uniform. The entire month is observed as Military Appreciation Month. We also celebrate Armed Forces Day and honor the fallen on Memorial Day.

In his first inaugural address, President Eisenhower, himself an accomplished general, said, "We must be ready to dare all for our country. For history does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid." If you want to see these words in action, just look to the men and women of the United States military.

Many military members join the service at a young age, often right after high school or college. They choose a path different from many of their peers. They subject themselves to a life of regimentation and roll calls. They embrace challenging physical and mental demands. And they choose a life that asks them to forgo comfort for sacrifice, up to and including the sacrifice of their own lives.

Many of us don't see their sacrifices or the sacrifices that their families make along with them. It can be easy to forget as we go about our daily lives that our lives of freedom are only possible because of the men and women who spend their lives defending our country.

During Military Appreciation Month, my thoughts turn to South Dakotans serving in the armed forces, especially the South Dakota National Guard and the airmen at Ellsworth Air Force Base. They represent the very best of our state, and I am grateful every day for their service and sacrifice. South Dakotans know and value the sacrifices that our military families make, and I am tremendously proud of how the Black Hills Region has worked to support our airmen and National Guard Members, earning national recognition.

Memorial Day in particular is an occasion to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice defending our country. These brave Americans gave their lives for our country and for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. It's a debt that we can never fully repay, and we owe it to them to recommit ourselves to living lives worthy of their sacrifice.

"[H]istory does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid." The men and women of the United States military stand strong – ready to answer the call when their country needs them. We owe them all a great debt for securing our freedoms and defending our country. May God bless and protect the men and women of the United States military, and may He continue to bless America.

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CONGRESSMAN  
**DUSTY JOHNSON**  
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



## Great Faces, Great Places

### **BIG Update**

It was a big week in Congress and started with my bill to create a digital asset framework passing the House with broad bipartisan support. The Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century (FIT21) Act is a historic piece of legislation and the first of its kind to receive a vote in Congress. This bill is the result of two committees working together for over a year, which is an unprecedented feat.

America is the only G7 country without an established framework for digital asset trading, which has enticed many developers to innovate overseas. This shift in innovation could prevent the U.S. from remaining the global leader in tech and finance.

FIT21 is the solution. It will fill gaps in America's regulatory market to ensure predictability and certainty for innovators. Rep. French Hill (R-AR) and I published an op-ed in the Washington Times detailing the urgency of the issue.

### **BIG Idea**

In 2022, President Biden signed an executive order that could lead to the creation of a central bank digital currency (CBDC). A CBDC is essentially a digital dollar and would allow the government to track and restrict transactions of private citizens. Governments like the Chinese Communist Party use this technology to surveil their citizens. Canada even went as far to freeze the bank accounts of individuals who participated in trucker protests. This is antithetical to American values.

I voted to pass the CBDC Anti-Surveillance State Act to prevent the U.S. from developing a digital currency. We must protect the financial privacy and liberty of Americans..

### **BIG News**

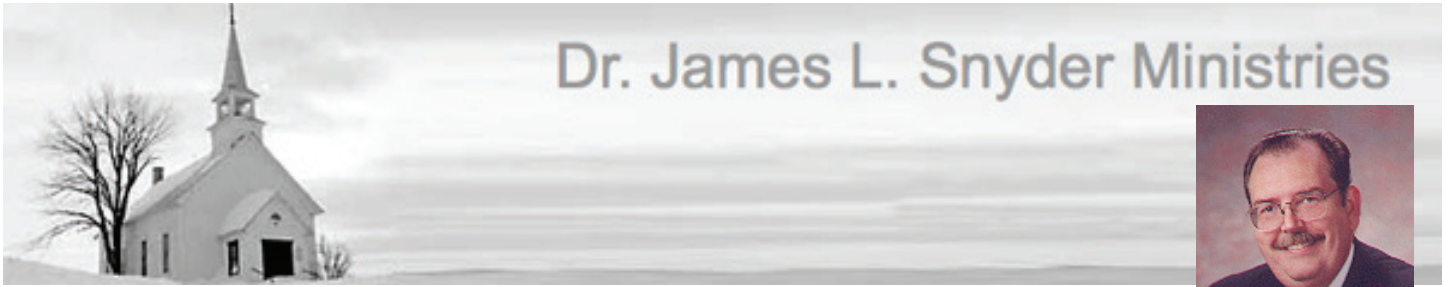
The Farm Bill is an essential piece of legislation for farm and ranch country. It's renewed every five years, allowing members of Congress to update programs in the bill to better serve rural America.

The final bill is the result of more than 80 listening sessions across 40 states to hear from farmers and ranchers on what their priorities are. I worked on drafting this bill with the House Ag Committee to ensure South Dakota priorities are included. After months of collaboration, the final text is strong and provides valuable updates for rural America. I'm proud the bill contains dozens of my priorities to improve rural broadband, farm safety net programs, increase trade, and more.

**BIG NEWS** – The Farm Bill advanced out of the House Agriculture Committee after hours of debate and discussion on the text. Agriculture is South Dakota's number one industry, and this Farm Bill will do well to support it.

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## My Only Exercise Is Jumping to Conclusions

Over the past few weeks (or was it months?) I've been recovering from some health issues. They were not that serious, just annoying. I spent one day in the hospital and the rest of the time in bed, which is not the kind of vacation I want.

During all that time, I've not had much time to exercise. I asked about it when I was at the Doctor's for my last examination. I said, "Doctor, what should I do about exercising? I haven't been able to do much of that during my sickness."

Looking at me rather grimly, he said, "If I were you I would exercise daily."

Smiling at the doctor, I said, "Thank You, I appreciate that."

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage drove me to the Doctor's appointment and was now driving me back to the house. While driving, she looked at me and said, "Well, do you think you're going to start exercising now? What are you going to do first?"

I just looked at her and laughed.

"What are you laughing about?" She said.

"Did you hear what the doctor said? He said he would exercise daily for me."

Looking at me with her eyes rolling in her head, she said, "This is why I have to come with you when you go to the doctors. You never hear what the doctor says. That is not what he said."

"You heard it as well as I did," I said, "he said, 'If I were you, I would exercise daily.'"

Still rolling her eyes, she said, "That is not what I heard him say."

I was still chuckling, and then she said, "I think you have some loose marbles rolling around in your head."

Smiling at her, I said, "Thank you, my dear, for recognizing that I have some activity in my head."

I glanced in her direction and noticed she wasn't laughing at all, but her eyes were still rolling.

I must say that jumping to conclusions is a great way to exercise. And it solves a lot of problems.

I had one exercise project that I wanted to do. I wanted to run to the store and get an Apple Fritter and run back. Now the problem with that is, my energy is not up to the place where I can run that far. And, sneaking out of the house at this time would not work for me at all.

I have been jumping to conclusions for as long as I can remember. That is because I don't let people say everything on their mind. If I think I know what they're saying, I jump immediately to what turns out to be the wrong conclusion.

When I was a young kid at home, my father would often say to me, "Son, do you want a spanking?"

At the time, I never knew if it was a rhetorical question or if he was giving me a choice. That is the only time I can remember that I didn't jump to some conclusion.

If I look at my life, I can blame a lot of my problems on my habit of jumping to conclusions. If only I would just let people say everything on their mind and wait until they're done to make some kind of a decision.

I remember many years ago when I met the young lady who is now The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. We were riding along in a van with some of the other young people at the Bible school we were going to.

Just before we got back to the dormitory, she said to me quietly, "Wouldn't it be nice to be married?"



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I did not know what she was talking about because I was too naïve then, so I jumped to the conclusion and said, "That would be wonderful."

I was the last in the Bible school to know I had become engaged. I jumped to a conclusion I had no understanding about.

Under the circumstances, that was probably the best conclusion I ever reached. It just took me a long time to understand what it meant.

I jump to conclusions because I think I know what that person is talking about. I wouldn't get into so much trouble if I weren't so smart.

A dumb person would usually say, "What do you mean?" And then wait for the explanation.

A smart person would think he knows what that person is talking about and jumps to conclusions.

I come from Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Dutch have a saying that goes like this: "Throw Papa down the stairs..." There's a pause, and after the pause, they finish it by saying, "His hat."

If you don't listen to the whole sentence, you're liable to throw Papa down the stairs. But if you listen to the entire sentence, you will throw his hat down the stairs.

There are times when I don't listen to the entire sentence.

In my Bible reading, I discovered a verse dealing with this.

Proverbs 25:8-9, "Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame. Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another."

I get into trouble when I respond "hastily" to what I hear. I need to slow down and listen to the whole sentence, not just what I want to hear.

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: How feasible is creating orbiting solar plants that can beam energy down to Earth? If it's possible, when can we expect to see such tech implemented? — P.R., via email

In the 1941 short story *Reason*, science fiction author Isaac Asimov introduces a space station that produces energy by sending microwave beams to the planets. This concept is closer to reality as international space programs and research labs test the technology necessary to bring it to life. Traditional solar technologies convert sunlight into usable energy here on Earth. However, their use is limited to daytime hours and restricted by weather and geography. The idea of an orbiting solar plant bypasses these restrictions, allowing energy harvesting above the clouds.

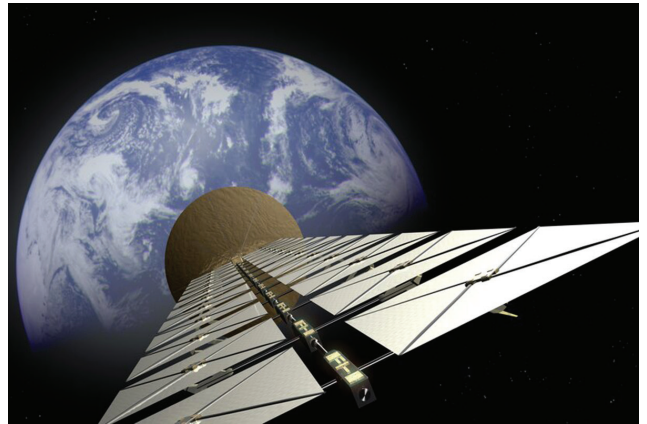
There are different designs, but the principles are similar: A large satellite transforms solar power into electricity using photovoltaic cells made of material that generates voltage and electric current when exposed to light. The power is then beamed down to earth by microwaves (or lasers) to dedicated receiving stations that turn the energy back into electricity to get fed into the local grid.

Entities such as the European Space Agency (ESA), Space Solar (a start-up in the UK), and the California Institute of Technology are investing working on launching this type of project. Besides the obvious benefit of having all sun, all the time, orbiting solar plants have various other benefits. There are no dangerous byproducts as there are for other energy production methods: no fly ash from coal or radioactive waste from nuclear power. The entirely renewable—it will not run out in the age of humanity—so it is harmless could help limit the impacts of climate change if adopted on a global scale.

So why don't we already have these power-generating stations orbiting in space? There are still challenges to overcome. The cost is prohibitive, the structure would need to be about 2,000 metric tons, roughly equivalent to the weight of 286 male African elephants and need to be a mile and a quarter in diameter, with a little over a half-mile-long transmitter. Another challenge is engineering, particularly the parts used for such power-beaming structures. Given the difficulty of reaching the satellites for maintenance and repairs, it is suggested that parts must withstand at least 15 years in space. Additionally, there's a need to improve the efficiency of current wireless power transmission to ensure that all the energy can be collected down to Earth.

There are some significant drawbacks, too. Solar plants orbiting closer to Earth would transmit energy more easily, but light pollution would be difficult for humans and both flora and fauna to cope with. Research also suggests that exposure to artificial light at night can increase health issues in humans, including obesity, depression, diabetes and more.

Whether Asimov's proposal from nearly a century ago will be implemented remains to be seen. The ESA has recently sought ideas to make it more feasible. "The potential of this concept to contribute to long-term sustainable energy is very high," says ESA Engineer Advenit Makaya. For the time being, you can invest in solar power on Earth and keep your eyes on the sky as the technology advances and costs drop.



**Generating solar power on satellites in space and beaming the power down to earth may not just be the stuff of science fiction only for much longer.** Credit: European Space Agency.



### **COMMENTARY**

## **Palliative care: Little understood, but life-changing for those who need it**

**Better access could improve lives and reduce hospital stays and costs**

**MICHELE SNYDERS**

The role of palliative care is often misunderstood, just like the word itself isn't one people fully comprehend when they first hear it, often confusing it with hospice.

In reality, very few of us are untouched by the need for this care, often with an aging parent, perhaps a friend dealing with illness, or we might even need it ourselves. Many South Dakotans benefit from palliative care as they go about their daily lives, remaining as active as is reasonably possible while coping with difficult circumstances. These folks deserve comfort, care and dignity and to have it without incurring great expense and the debt that often comes with it.

Palliative care is focused on providing relief from the symptoms and stress of serious illness, such as cancer, with the goal of improving quality of life for both the patient and family. Palliative care is delivered by a specially trained team of doctors, nurses, social workers and chaplains who provide an extra layer of support to anyone with a serious illness wherever they receive care, no matter their prognosis. It is provided alongside curative treatment and is based on what matters most to the patient. Easily accessible palliative care is largely not available for many South Dakota residents, specifically for many located in rural settings.

Even in areas with relatively good access to palliative care, gaps remain, especially for home-based palliative care provided by an interdisciplinary team. Reimbursement for palliative care is generally restricted to physicians and advanced practice providers, limiting organizations' ability to provide a specially trained interdisciplinary team, but this team is critical to support the patient and caregivers. They address not only physical symptoms, but also psychosocial, emotional and spiritual stressors of serious illness. This interdisciplinary care not only improves the patient's daily life enjoyment, but also frequently reduces the cost of care for health systems and payers. In short, it improves health and financial outcomes and should be forefront on the agenda for anybody who wants a healthier South Dakota.

With that in mind, last month South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations (SDAHO), alongside a palliative care provider from South Dakota, joined a group of advocates from the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network in Washington, D.C., to attend a meeting of the Patient Quality of Life Coalition to let our South Dakota congressional delegation know about the need for better access to palliative care.

It was in support of the federal Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA), a bipartisan bill that aims to tackle some of the current obstacles preventing many patients from accessing palliative care, chiefly availability of practitioners. PCHETA's goals largely center on improved training and education around palliative care, attempting to bolster resources available but also to help people understand why palliative care matters. This federal legislation could have a big impact in our state. PCHETA's goals resonate strongly in my life and with many folks I work with every day in my role as Hospice and Palliative Care Program manager for SDAHO.

As an advanced hospice and palliative care certified social worker, I have had the privilege to support patients and families on their journey living with serious illness. As a person living with a serious illness myself, I have also experienced the benefits of receiving palliative care. Ensuring all South Dakotans have access to palliative care is both professionally and personally crucial to me.



Palliative care plays a crucial role in the lives of many, and getting the infrastructure in place to make sure it serves our family, friends and neighbors well in the future is important business. This legislation can help increase access to these critical services that should not be limited to urban or hospital-based care, as they often are now. For lawmakers concerned about increasing health care costs, PCHETA also promises to be a prudent investment.

During the 2024 South Dakota legislative session, a definition of palliative care was formally added to state law. It was a small but crucial step in helping people receive the care they need, where they need it. The definition starts the process of establishing the structure needed for the reimbursement of the entire interdisciplinary team.

There is much work ahead and I look forward to partnering with many in South Dakota on setting a strong foundation in place so that palliative care is available to all who need it. I also want to thank Sen. Mike Rounds for sponsoring PCHETA and ask Sen. John Thune to consider signing on as a sponsor, putting needed federal emphasis and resources toward improving the lives of South Dakotans who badly need these services.

Palliative care isn't always easy to understand, but for those living with serious illness, it can be life-changing. For a complicated and overburdened health care system, it can reduce hospital stays and care costs. For those who want to improve health care outcomes in South Dakota, it must be part of the solution.

*Michele Snyders is the Hospice and Palliative Care Program manager for the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations and an advanced hospice and palliative care certified social worker. She is a graduate of Augustana University with advanced degrees from Cal State-San Marcos and Wurzweiler School of Social Work. She lives in Sioux Falls.*

## **Rodent or riparian restorer: East-west views diverge as state considers beaver protections**

**Animals increasingly viewed as benefit to Black Hills but remain a nuisance to some**

**BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - MAY 25, 2024 7:00 AM**

Some Black Hills residents have a growing appreciation for large rodents with environmental engineering prowess: beavers.

The admiration spans from foresters to anglers and ranchers. It stems from beavers' role in mitigating forest fires, retaining water during drought, and creating and maintaining wetland habitats.

However, this newfound enthusiasm emerges as state data indicates a decline in the Black Hills beaver population.

The state Department of Game, Fish and Parks periodically surveys the number of locations where beavers have stored food for the winter. There was a 73% drop in the number of those locations from 2012 to 2023, indicating severe population stress, according to the department.

At the May 2 Game, Fish and Parks Commission meeting, commissioners rejected petitions from Nancy Hilding of the Prairie Hills Audubon Society to reduce beaver trapping or require better monitoring of trapping in the Black Hills. But some commissioners suggested the department should draft its own proposal to achieve similar goals.

Commission Vice Chair Travis Bies said the state needs to alleviate pressure on the Black Hills beaver population.

"Something needs to be done, more than what we're doing," Bies said.

He pointed out the folly of allowing year-round beaver trapping in much of the state while also investing in beaver reintroduction efforts in the Black Hills.

### **Beaver dam analogs**

The reintroduction effort includes installing human-made beaver dams – called beaver dam analogs – along creeks with deeply eroded streambeds and banks, with a goal of reintroducing beavers to some of

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those locations.

Deeply cut streams flow fast and rarely overflow or cause the water table to rise in surrounding land. If the streams had beaver dams, they would hold more water in the soils in the floodplain, which helps support grazing and mitigates the effects of drought and wildfires.

Floodplains with beavers also provide productive grazing land for cattle ranchers during a drought, according to Lori Brown, western South Dakota rangeland specialist with the Nature Conservancy. She said beaver dam analogs have long been used by ranchers in other Western states, and more recently became popular among western South Dakota ranchers.

"We've seen the benefits already," said Brown, who's also a rancher. "Fire mitigation, water storage, there is tangible economic value we can tie to beavers on the landscape."

Krista Ehlert is a South Dakota State University assistant professor and range specialist. She said 80% of prairie life comes from only 2% of the land: riparian zones along creeks and streams.

"They're the vein of blood that feeds prairies," she said.

Ehlert said a study in Oregon found the land near beaver-dammed creeks and streams benefitted from a 20% increase in vegetation and a 200% increase in the area holding water late in the grazing season.

"You have forage that is staying greener longer," she said.

But there's more work needed to bring beavers to the analogs, according to Black Hills National Forest Rangelands Management Specialist Matt Scott.

He said his team, partners and volunteers have installed around 200 beaver dam analogs in the Black Hills. They look for locations with water flow conditions that will not break what they build, and suitable beaver vegetation.

"If they don't have that willow and aspen to eat, they're not going to stick around," he said.

Scott said that the goal is to create a home where the rodent then does the maintenance work. He said the newly created wetland habitats filter the water, mitigate downstream flooding, prevent excessive soil erosion by regulating streamflow, and bring more life to the Black Hills by creating habitat for fish, wildlife and insects.

Additionally, because the floodplain near a stream becomes soaked when dozens of beaver dam analogs are installed every 100 feet or so, investments into beavers are also seen as wildfire mitigation.

"Instead of having to jump two feet, that fire now has to jump 200 feet," Scott said.

## Beaver believers

The benefits have turned Hans Stephenson into a beaver believer. He is a Black Hills Fly Fishers board member and owns Dakota Angler & Outfitter in Rapid City, meaning his business and lifestyle depend on plentiful and healthy trout habitats.

He has been helping with efforts to bring more beavers to the Black Hills.

"Pretty much every stream in the Black Hills is incised," Stephenson said, referring to deeply cut streams. He said trout benefit from the ponds that beaver dams create, and those habitats can become prime fishing spots.

"A lot of my time anymore is spent thinking about this," he said. "I want to get as many of these analogs on Rapid Creek as we can."

In Rapid City, beavers are viewed less favorably because they've chewed down trees in the parks along Rapid Creek. But now that there are more beaver dam analogs installed along creeks higher in the Black Hills, they can be live-trapped and relocated.

"We don't know how many there are, but there are a lot of them in town," Stephenson said.

To mitigate beaver damage to trees in Rapid City, volunteers and city officials are covering the bottom of some trees with a coat of bark-colored paint mixed with sand, which they hope will deter beavers.

Stephenson first learned of the benefits of beavers while reading "Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter."

Ben Goldfarb wrote the book. He's excited to see the tide shifting in western South Dakota.

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"I now meet more ranchers who love beavers than hate them," Goldfarb said. "And these are people whose dads shot beavers, and whose dad's dad shot beavers."

## East River vs. West River

Views on beavers are different in farm-laden eastern South Dakota, where wetlands are sometimes drained with perforated pipes buried in the ground to manage moisture in fields.

"In the row crop community, there is definitely less tolerance and acceptance of beavers," Goldfarb said.

The divide was on display during the recent GF&P Commission meeting at Custer State Park.

"I really do think we should shut the trapping down in the Black Hills for now," said Commission Vice-Chair Bies, a rancher from Fairburn on the edge of the Black Hills.

Meanwhile, Commissioners Julie Bartling of Gregory and Robert Whitmyre of Webster said the beaver situation is different farther east, where many landowners see beavers as pests that flood cropland, block drainage systems and damage trees.

"I can't speak to what happens out here," Bartling said of the Black Hills.

Trappers can pursue beavers from January 1 to March 31 on national forest land in the Black Hills. From November 1 to April 20, they can trap on non-national forest land in the Black Hills.

Elsewhere in the state, beavers can be trapped year-round. The state does not require trappers to report the numbers of beavers they catch.

## From fur trade to a nuisance

Before European settlement in North America, the beaver population was an estimated 100 million to 200 million.

European trappers valued beaver pelts for the fur trade, particularly for making fashionable hats back in Europe. The demand led to widespread trapping during the 17th and 18th centuries, drastically reducing beaver populations.

The alteration of landscapes for farms, ranches and cities reduced areas available for beaver habitats. Wetlands were drained and streams were diverted, further diminishing the suitable environments necessary for beaver survival.

By the late 19th century, beavers were nearly wiped out in many parts of the United States.

Conservation efforts began in the early 20th century, including reintroduction projects and habitat restoration, which have helped to recover the beaver population to around 10 million to 15 million.

In South Dakota, beavers are one of the animals targeted by the state Game, Fish and Parks' Wildlife Damage Management program. People can contact the department and ask it to trap or shoot beavers, deer, coyotes, geese and other animals that are damaging property, killing livestock or causing other problems.

The department received 430 requests for help with beavers in 2023 and eliminated 1,126 of them, while spending \$304,251 on those efforts. Most beaver-related requests came from counties east of the Missouri River such as Lincoln, Minnehaha, Roberts, Day and Brown, and also from Gregory County on the river's western bank.

*Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.*



## New solar will help keep power on during scorching summer, report says

BY: ROBERT ZULLO - MAY 25, 2024 2:50 PM

With some parts of the country already facing heat waves, the organization in charge of setting reliability standards for the American electric grid is warning that a scorching summer could lead to a shortage of power generation in some regions.

The warning comes as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says there's a 99% chance that 2024 will rank among the five warmest years on record and 55% chance it will be the hottest on record.

Overall, though, the analysis by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation painted a rosier picture than last year's report, in part because of a surge in solar power development.

The nation has enough energy supply to handle normal peak demand, called "load" in the electric industry, largely because of 25 gigawatts of new solar power capacity — at full capacity that's the rough equivalent maximum output of 25 large fossil or nuclear power plants. (The number of homes that can be powered from one gigawatt of solar can vary widely across the country). But the new panels have helped move some areas from what NERC calls "elevated risk" of power shortfalls in last year's analysis to "normal risk" this year.

"Resource additions are providing needed capacity to keep up with rising peak demand in most areas," Mark Olson, the organization's manager of reliability assessments, told the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Thursday. New power transfer agreements, growth in demand response programs, which incentivize customers to reduce power usage during times of grid stress, and delayed power plant retirements "are also contributing to an overall improved resource outlook for the upcoming summer," NERC says.

### A solar surge

A separate FERC staff presentation said solar will make up 10% of overall national electric generation capacity by the end of this summer, with natural gas providing 42%, coal providing 14% and wind power at 13%.

Solar power is growing fast across the country, with the U.S. hitting five million total solar installations (most of them residential), per the Solar Energy Industries Association. Reaching that milestone took 50 years, but the industry group projects that hitting 10 million solar installations will only take six years. Solar power for the first time accounted for more than half of new electric generation capacity added in 2023, the group noted.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration expects "a record addition" of new utility-scale solar power this year, with about 36.4 gigawatts projected to be installed. More than half of that new capacity is planned for Texas, California and Florida. The Gemini facility scheduled to begin operation this year near Las Vegas, with a planned solar capacity of nearly 700 megawatts and battery storage capacity of up to 380 megawatts, is expected to become the nation's largest solar project. Battery storage is also growing rapidly, with more than 14 gigawatts expected to be added this year, according to the EIA. Batteries complement solar generation well, since solar's peak production doesn't generally line up with peak demand on the grid, which happens later in the day. Batteries allow excess solar power to be banked for when it's needed.

But a changing power mix also comes with new challenges and risks, NERC warned.

In his presentation to FERC, Olson said that while the overall summer electric reliability outlook has improved, some regions are seeing what he described as growing risks during extreme weather.

"Shortages could occur when demand is high and solar, wind or hydro output are low," he said.

Those regions include parts of the Midwest and South in the grid area managed by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, New England, Texas, much of the Southwest and California. Grid operators, though, are becoming increasingly adept at planning and running electric grids with large amounts of intermittent resources.

"It's refreshing to finally get the recognition that renewables can help with reliability," said Simon Mahan,

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executive director of the Southern Renewable Energy Association.

## Shifting seasons and climate change

While most of the country has historically been “summer-peaking,” meaning regions hit their highest demand for electricity during the summer months, some areas are increasingly seeing demand spike in winter, a trend that is expected to continue as result of heating electrification, other decarbonization policies and more extreme, protracted cold weather events. Indeed, the majority of recent electric grid failures have been during severe winter weather, such as Winter Storm Elliott in 2022, which caused blackouts in several southern states and Uri in 2021, which caused a catastrophic collapse of the Texas electric grid that caused an estimated 246 deaths.

But summer heat still poses risks, NERC says, contributing to both high demand and power plant outages, such as at natural gas power plants.

“Last summer brought record temperatures, extended heat waves and wildfires to large parts of North America,” the organization said. And though energy emergency alerts were few and no electricity supply interruptions happened as a result of insufficient power resources, grid operators “faced significant challenges and drew upon procedures and protocols to obtain all available resources, manage system demand and ensure that energy is delivered over the transmission network to meet the system demand.” Utilities and state and local officials in many areas also “used mechanisms and public appeals to lower customer demand during periods of strained supplies,” NERC added.

Christy Walsh, a senior attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council’s Sustainable FERC Project, said the reliability reports show how climate change is central to the pressures facing the electric grid.

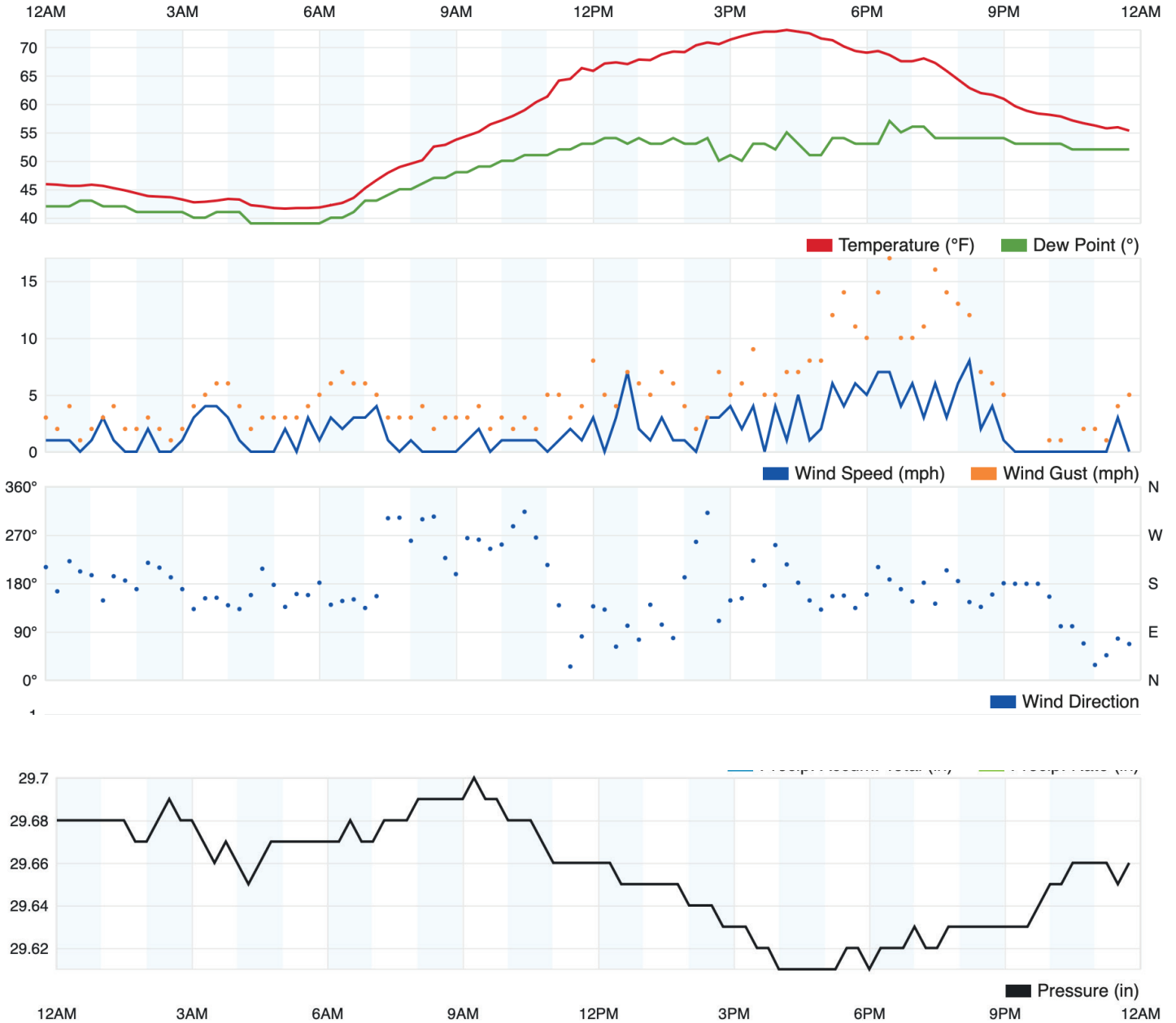
“And it needs to be at the center of our solutions too,” she said in a statement to States Newsroom. “Earlier and more intense hurricanes brought on by increasing sea temperatures are a new and noteworthy concern, and this underscores the need for more large-scale transmission and connections between regions. Most of the new additions were wind, solar and storage, and last summer especially we saw just how crucial these resources can be during extreme heat events. We need to make sure we have a grid that can withstand the weather and move resources around during times of stress.”

*Robert Zullo is a national energy reporter based in southern Illinois focusing on renewable power and the electric grid. Robert joined States Newsroom in 2018 as the founding editor of the Virginia Mercury. Before that, he spent 13 years as a reporter and editor at newspapers in Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Louisiana. He has a bachelor’s degree from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. He grew up in Miami, Fla., and central New Jersey.*

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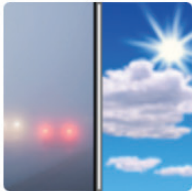




## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





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Today	Tonight	Memorial Day	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
<b>High: 74 °F</b>	<b>Low: 49 °F</b>	<b>High: 69 °F</b>	<b>Low: 46 °F</b>	<b>High: 69 °F</b>
Patchy Fog then Mostly Sunny	Chance T-storms	Chance Showers and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Sunny



## Near Seasonal Temperatures Today

May 26, 2024  
5:31 AM

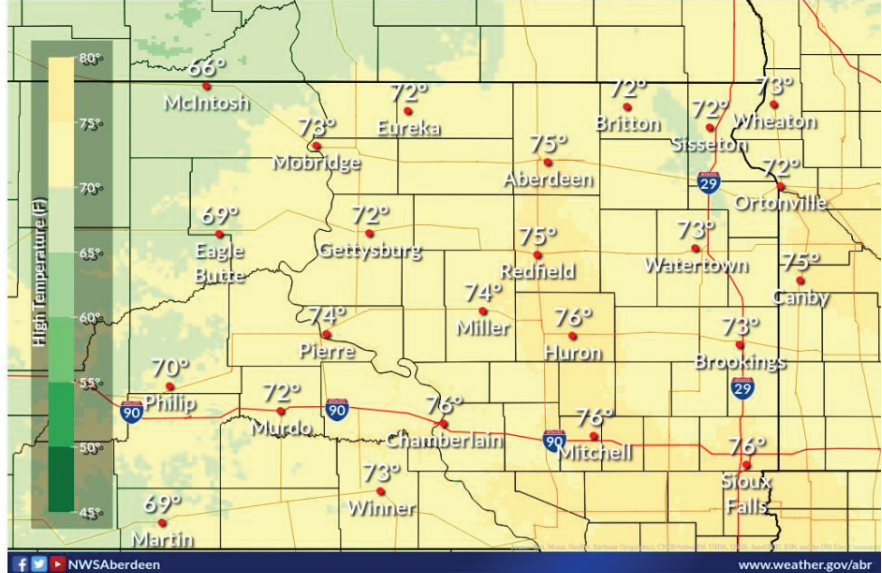
### Key Messages

- Normal Highs Range from 68-74°F
- Wind: NE/NW 5-15 MPH
- Scattered T-Storms Developing Across the Missouri Valley Midday through Late Afternoon. Activity Shifts East into James Valley By Late Afternoon and Evening.
- A Few Storms Could Become Strong Enough To Produce Small Hail and Localized Gusty Winds

### Today's High Temperatures

30-60% Chance for Showers & Thunderstorms

Weather Forecast Office  
Aberdeen, SD  
Issued May 26, 2024 4:41 AM CDT



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

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Some will begin the day with low clouds and fog, especially across parts of the Missouri and James Valleys. This will give way to a mix of sun and clouds and temperatures warming into the upper 60s to low 70s. Clouds will thicken across central South Dakota by midday with scattered showers and thunderstorms developing during the midday and afternoon hours. These storms will track east into the James Valley and northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota late this afternoon into tonight. A couple of storms by later today could be strong enough to produce small hail and gusty winds, but no organized severe weather is expected.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 73 °F at 3:55 PM

Low Temp: 42 °F at 5:15 AM

Wind: 18 mph at 6:21 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 21 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 97 in 2018

Record Low: 30 in 1992

Average High: 74

Average Low: 49

Average Precip in May.: 2.79

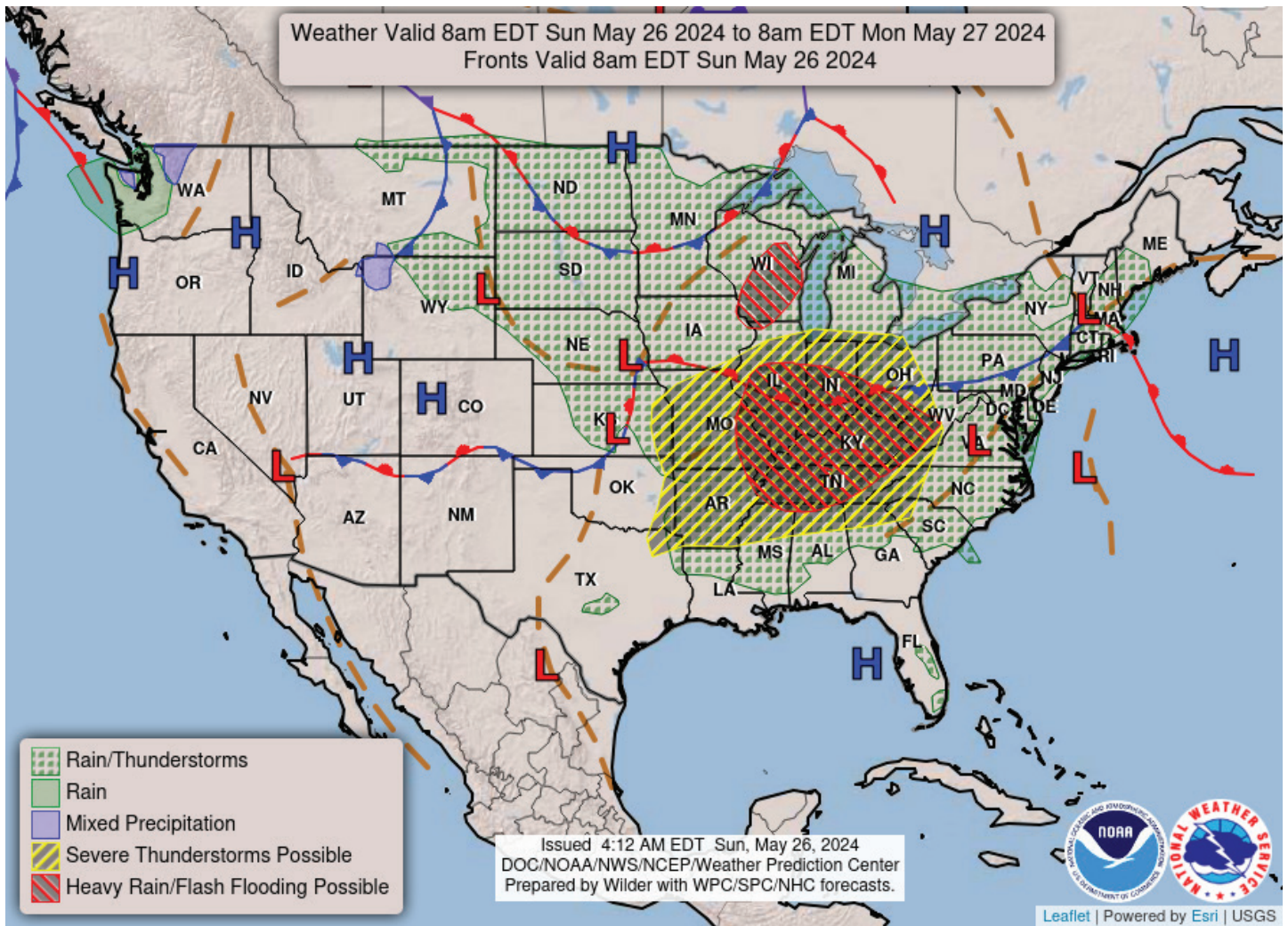
Precip to date in May: 2.07

Average Precip to date: 6.76

Precip Year to Date: 6.61

Sunset Tonight: 9:10:14 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:48:06 am





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## Today in Weather History

May 26, 1983: Unofficial rainfall of up to 5 inches caused widespread flooding of basements and streets in and near Aberdeen. Only 1.72 inches of rain was reported at the Aberdeen airport.

May 26, 1985: Hail of unknown diameter was five inches deep, 1 mile north of Rosholt. Some hail remained on the ground until the following morning.

May 26, 1992: A widespread frost and hard freeze hit most of South Dakota except portions of the south-east causing up to \$14 million in potential crop losses to growing corn, soybeans, wheat, and other crops. Some low temperatures include; 23 degrees 12 miles SSW of Harrold; 26 at one mile west of Highmore and 23 north of Highmore; 27 in Kennebec; and 28 degrees 1 NW of Faulkton and at Redfield.

1771: Thomas Jefferson recorded the greatest flood ever known in Virginia. The great Virginia flood occurred as torrential rains in the mountains brought all rivers in the state to record high levels.

1917: A major tornadic thunderstorm took a 293-mile track across parts of central Illinois and Indiana. Once believed to be a single tornado, the later study indicated it was likely at least eight separate tornadoes. The first touchdown was about 50 miles south-southeast of Quincy, Illinois. The tornadic storm tracked due east, before beginning a northeast curve near Charleston; separate tornadic storms then curved southeast from Charleston. The towns of Mattoon and Charleston bore the brunt of the tornado. Damage from this severe tornado in Mattoon was about 2.5 blocks wide and 2.5 miles long, with over 700 houses destroyed, while the Charleston portion was 600 yards wide and 1.5 miles long, with 220 homes damaged. Dozens of farms were hit along the path, and at least three farm homes were swept away between Manhattan and Monee. Another estimated F4 tornado touched down 6 miles south of Crown Point and devastated a dozen farms. A total of 7 people died, and 120 were injured. 53 people were killed in Mattoon, and 38 were killed in Charleston. Overall, 101 people in Illinois were killed during the tornado outbreak, with 638 injured.

1984 - Thunderstorms during the late evening and early morning hours produced 6 to 13 inches of rain at Tulsa OK in six hours (8.63 inches at the airport). Flooding claimed fourteen lives and caused 90 million dollars property damage. 4600 cars, 743 houses, and 387 apartments were destroyed or severely damaged in the flood. (Storm Data) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in southwest Iowa spawned five tornadoes and produced up to ten inches of rain. Seven inches of rain at Red Oak forced evacuation of nearly 100 persons from the town. Record flooding took place in southwest Iowa the last twelve days of May as up to 17 inches of rain drenched the area. Total damage to crops and property was estimated at 16 million dollars. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - There was "frost on the roses" in the Upper Ohio Valley and the Central Appalachian Mountain Region. Thirteen cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Youngstown OH with a reading of 30 degrees. Evening thunderstorms in North Dakota produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Jamestown. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms in produced large hail in eastern Oklahoma during the pre-dawn hours, and again during the evening and night. Hail two inches in diameter was reported near Prague, and thunderstorm winds gusted to 70 mph near Kenefic. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from eastern Colorado to western Arkansas and north-eastern Texas. Severe thunderstorms spawned three tornadoes, and there were eighty-eight reports of large hail or damaging winds. Evening thunderstorms over central Oklahoma spawned strong tornadoes east of Hinton and east of Binger, produced hail three inches in diameter at Minco, and produced wind gusts to 85 mph at Blanchard. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2003: A BMI Airbus bound for Cyprus from Manchester, England encountered a violent thunderstorm over Germany. The plane bounced and twisted violently as it ran into severe turbulence with huge hailstones pounding the exterior. A football-sized hole was punched in the aircraft's surface. None of the 213 passengers or eight crew members was seriously hurt.

2009: Northeast of Anchorage, Alaska, two hikers climbed a ridge to see a developing storm better. Lightning knocked the couple unconscious. Regaining consciousness, they called emergency services as the woman was unable to walk. The man's shoes looked as though they had melted.



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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### THE HAND OF GOD

Someone estimated that humans breathe eighteen times a minute, approximately 1,080 times an hour and about 25,000 times a day. That amounts to 912,500,000 breaths a year - a staggering number!

Our lungs are critical to our well-being. They provide our blood with oxygen that nourishes our brain that allows us to think. They are the exhaust system that removes carbon dioxide and water. If we stop breathing, we die.

Yet, we are rarely aware of a single breath that we take or the importance of breathing until we have a serious cough or illness.

So often we take this simple yet critical gift from God for granted. We inhale and then exhale. Occasionally we breathe in more deeply than at other times, and we can feel our lungs expand and contract. We even hear the noise that comes from exhaling.

What a wonderful gift from God. A gift that provides life! The Bible says that "For the life of every living thing is in His hand, and the breath of all humanity."

How very easy it is for each of us to go through life unaware and ungrateful for the simple gifts that God gives us. Rarely do we pause and think, then give thanks to Him for His simple yet significant gifts that make life possible and purposeful.

Let's breathe a prayer of thanksgiving now!

Prayer: Father, we rejoice in the goodness of Your gifts that we rarely recognize. Give us grateful hearts for all of Your blessings, especially the breath of life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: For the life of every living thing is in His hand, and the breath of all humanity. Job 12:10



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:  
05.24.24

46 54 56 67 70 16

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$489,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.25.24

12 17 27 29 40 10

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$2,650,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.25.24

2 4 21 26 42 18

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 35 Mins 41 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.25.24

7 8 10 24 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$119,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.25.24

23 25 39 40 47 10

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

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.25.24

6 33 35 36 64 24

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$131,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)



## News from the Associated Press

### **Hamas rocket attack from Gaza sets off air raid sirens in Tel Aviv for the first time in months**

By WAFAA SHURAF, TIA GOLDENBERG and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Hamas fired a barrage of rockets from Gaza that set off air raid sirens as far away as Tel Aviv for the first time in months on Sunday in a show of resilience more than seven months into Israel's massive air, sea and ground offensive.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage in what appeared to be the first long-range rocket attack from Gaza since January. Palestinian militants have continued to sporadically fire rockets and mortar rounds at communities along the Gaza border since then.

Hamas' military wing claimed the attack, and rocket launches could be heard in central Gaza. The Israeli military said eight projectiles crossed into Israel after being launched from the area of the southern Gaza city of Rafah, where Israeli forces recently launched an incursion. It said "a number" of the projectiles were intercepted.

Earlier, aid trucks had entered Gaza from southern Israel through a new agreement to bypass the Rafah crossing with Egypt after Israeli forces seized the Palestinian side of it earlier this month. But it was unclear if humanitarian groups would be able to access the aid because of ongoing fighting in the area.

Egypt refuses to reopen its side of the Rafah crossing until control of the Gaza side is handed back to Palestinians. It agreed to temporarily divert traffic through Israel's Kerem Shalom crossing, Gaza's main cargo terminal, after a call between U.S. President Joe Biden and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

But that crossing has been largely inaccessible because of fighting linked to Israel's offensive in the nearby city of Rafah. Israel says it has allowed hundreds of trucks to enter, but United Nations agencies say it is usually too dangerous to retrieve the aid on the other side.

The war between Israel and Hamas, now in its eighth month, has killed nearly 36,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and fighters in its count. Around 80% of the population's 2.3 million people have fled their homes, severe hunger is widespread and U.N. officials say parts of the territory are experiencing famine.

Hamas triggered the war with its Oct. 7 attack into Israel, in which Palestinian militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and seized some 250 hostages. Hamas is still holding some 100 hostages and the remains of around 30 others after most of the rest were released during a cease-fire last year.

#### **SOUTHERN GAZA LARGELY CUT OFF FROM AID**

Egypt's state-run Al-Qahera TV aired footage of what it said were trucks entering Gaza through Kerem Shalom. Khaled Zayed, head of the Egyptian Red Crescent in the Sinai Peninsula, which handles the delivery of aid from the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing, said 200 aid trucks and four fuel trucks are scheduled to be sent to Kerem Shalom on Sunday.

It was not immediately clear if the U.N. was able to retrieve the aid from the Gaza side.

Southern Gaza has been largely cut off from aid since Israel launched what it says is a limited incursion into Rafah on May 6. Since then, over 1 million Palestinians have fled the city, with most having already been displaced from other parts of the besieged territory.

Northern Gaza is still receiving aid through two land routes that Israel opened in the face of worldwide outrage after Israeli strikes killed seven aid workers in April.

A few dozen trucks have also been entering Gaza daily through a U.S.-built floating pier, but its capacity remains far below the 150 trucks a day that officials had hoped for. Aid groups say the territory needs a total of 600 trucks a day to meet colossal humanitarian needs.

#### **NETANYAHU RESISTS PRESSURE TO END WAR**

Netanyahu has said Israel must take over Rafah in order to eliminate Hamas' last remaining battalions and achieve its goal of "total victory" over the militants, who have recently regrouped in other parts of

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Gaza where the military had already operated.

Netanyahu faces growing pressure from the Israeli public to make a deal with Hamas to free the remaining hostages, something Hamas has refused to do without guarantees for an end to the war and the full withdrawal of Israeli troops. Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders have ruled that out.

Scuffles broke out between Israeli police and protesters in Tel Aviv on Saturday after thousands gathered to demonstrate against the government and demand the return of the hostages. The protesters called for Netanyahu's resignation and demanded new elections.

International pressure is also growing, as the war leaves Israel increasingly isolated on the world stage.

Last week, three European countries announced they would recognize a Palestinian state, and the chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Court requested arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, along with three Hamas leaders.

On Friday, the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to end its military offensive in Rafah. The top United Nations court also said Israel must give war crimes investigators access to Gaza.

Israel is unlikely to comply with the orders, and has sharply condemned the ICC's move toward arrest warrants for its leaders. Israel says it makes every effort to avoid harming civilians and blames their deaths on Hamas because the militants operate in dense, residential areas.

## ISRAEL DENIES REPORT OF CAPTURED SOLDIER

Hamas claimed to have captured an Israeli soldier during fighting in northern Gaza and released video late Saturday showing a wounded man being dragged through a tunnel. The Israeli military denied any of its soldiers had been captured, and Hamas did not provide any other evidence to substantiate its claim.

In a separate development, the Israeli military said it had detained a suspect over a widely circulated video in which a man dressed as an Israeli soldier threatens mutiny. In the video, the man said tens of thousands of soldiers were ready to disobey Defense Minister Yoav Gallant over his suggestion that Palestinians should govern Gaza after the war and pledged loyalty to Netanyahu alone.

It was not clear if the man was on active duty, or when or where the video was made. Yair Netanyahu, the prime minister's son, had shared the video on social media, sparking criticism from political opponents. The prime minister's office released a brief statement condemning all forms of military subordination.

## At least 5 dead in Texas after severe weather sweeps across Texas and Oklahoma, authorities say

By KEN MILLER Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Powerful storms across Texas and Oklahoma obliterated homes and struck a highway travel center where drivers had rushed to take shelter, leaving thousands of people without power and a wide trail of damage Sunday. A sheriff said at least five people were dead in one rural community in Texas and many more were injured.

The destructive storms began Saturday night and included a tornado that overturned heavy recreational vehicles and shut down an interstate near Dallas. Officials said multiple people were transported to hospitals by ambulance and helicopter in the Texas county of Denton but did not immediately know the full extent of injuries.

In neighboring Cooke County, Sheriff Ray Sappington told The Associated Press that the five dead included three family members who were found in one home near Valley View, a rural community near the border with Oklahoma.

"We do have five confirmed (dead), but sadly, we think that that number is probably going to go up," Sappington said. "There's nothing left of this house. It's just a trail of debris left. The devastation is pretty severe."

Forecasters had issued tornado and severe thunderstorm warnings for parts of both states, as some heat records were broken during the day in South Texas and residents received triple-digit temperature warnings over the long holiday weekend.

A tornado crossed into northern Denton County in Texas late Saturday and overturned tractor-trailer

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trucks, stopping traffic on Interstate 35, Denton County Community Relations Director Dawn Cobb said in a statement.

The tornado was confirmed near Valley View, moving east at 40 mph (64 kph), prompting the National Weather Service to issue a tornado warning for northern Denton County, Cobb said.

The storm damaged homes, overturned motorhomes and knocked down power lines and trees throughout the area including points in Sanger, Pilot Point, Ray Roberts Lake and Isle du Bois State Park, Cobb said.

People who suffered injuries in the storm were transported to area hospitals by ground and air ambulances, but the number of injuries in the county was not immediately known, Cobb said, while a shelter was opened in Sanger.

The fire department in the city of Denton, about 37 miles (59.5 kilometers) north of Forth Worth, Texas, posted on X that emergency personnel were responding to a marina "for multiple victims, some reported trapped."

The Claremore, Oklahoma, police announced on social media that the city about 28 miles (45 kilometers) east of Tulsa was "shut down" as a result of storm damage including downed power lines and trees and inaccessible roads.

Earlier Saturday night, the National Weather Service's office in Norman, Oklahoma, said via the social platform X that the warning was for northern Noble and far southern Kay counties, an area located to the north of Oklahoma City. "If you are in the path of this storm take cover now!" it said.

A following post at 10:05 p.m. said storms had exited the area but warned of a storm moving across north Texas that could affect portions of south central Oklahoma.

At 10:24 p.m., the weather service office in Fort Worth posted a message warning residents in Era and Valley View they were in the direct path of a possible tornado and to immediately seek shelter. The Forth Worth office continued to post notices and shelter warnings tracking the movement of the storm through midnight and separately issued a severe thunderstorm warning with "golf ball sized hail" possible.

The weather service office in Tulsa, Oklahoma, warned on X of a dangerous storm moving across the northeast part of the state through 2 a.m. and issued severe thunderstorm notices for communities including Hugo, Boswell, Fort Towson, Grainola, Foraker and Herd.

Excessive heat, especially for May, was the danger in South Texas, where the heat index was forecast to approach 120 degrees Fahrenheit (49 degrees Celsius) in some spots during the weekend. Actual temperatures will be lower, although still in triple-digit territory, but the humidity will make it feel that much hotter.

The region is on the north end of a heat dome stretching from Mexico to South America, National Weather Service meteorologist Zack Taylor said.

Sunday looks like the hottest day with record highs for late May forecast for Austin, Brownsville, Dallas and San Antonio, Taylor said.

Brownsville and Harlingen near the Texas-Mexico border already set new records Saturday for the May 25 calendar date — 99 degrees Fahrenheit (37 degrees Celsius) and 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius), respectively — according to the weather service.

April and May have been a busy month for tornadoes, especially in the Midwest. Climate change is heightening the severity of storms around the world.

April saw the United States' second-highest number of tornadoes on record. So far for 2024, the country is already 25% ahead of the average number of twisters, according to the Storm Prediction Center in Norman.

Iowa was hit hard last week, when a deadly twister devastated Greenfield. And other storms brought flooding and wind damage elsewhere in the state.

The storm system causing the severe weather was expected to move east as the Memorial Day weekend continues, bringing rain that could delay the Indianapolis 500 auto race Sunday in Indiana and more severe storms in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Kentucky.

The risk of severe weather moves into North Carolina and Virginia on Monday, forecasters said.



## UN migration agency estimates more than 670 killed in Papua New Guinea landslide

By ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The International Organization for Migration on Sunday increased its estimate of the death toll from a massive landslide in Papua New Guinea to more than 670 as emergency responders and traumatized relatives gave up hope that any survivors will now be found.

Serhan Aktoprak, the chief of the U.N. migration agency's mission in the South Pacific island nation, said the revised death toll was based on calculations by Yambali village and Enga provincial officials that more than 150 homes had been buried by Friday's landslide. The previous estimate had been 60 homes.

"They are estimating that more than 670 people (are) under the soil at the moment," Aktoprak told The Associated Press.

Local officials had initially put the death toll on Friday at 100 or more. Only five bodies and a leg of a sixth victim had been recovered by Sunday, when an excavator donated by a local builder became the first piece of mechanical earth-moving equipment to join the recovery effort.

Relief crews were moving survivors to safer ground on Sunday as tons of unstable earth and tribal warfare, which is rife in the Papua New Guinea Highlands, threatened the rescue effort.

Around 250 additional houses have been condemned since the landslide because of still-shifting ground, leaving an estimated 1,250 people homeless, officials said.

The national government meanwhile is considering whether it needs to officially request more international support.

Crews have given up hope of finding survivors under earth and rubble 6 to 8 meters (20 to 26 feet) deep.

"People are coming to terms with this so there is a serious level of grieving and mourning," Aktoprak said.

He said the new estimated death toll was "not solid" because it was based on the average size of the region's families per household. He would not speculate on the possibility that the actual toll could be higher.

"It is difficult to say. We want to be quite realistic," Aktoprak said. "We do not want to come up with any figures that would inflate the reality."

Government authorities were establishing evacuation centers on safer ground on either side of the massive swath of debris that covers an area the size of three to four football fields and has cut the main highway through the province.

Beside the blocked highway, convoys that have transported food, water and other essential supplies since Saturday to the devastated village 60 kilometers (35 miles) from the provincial capital, Wabag, have faced risks related to tribal fighting in Tambitanis village, about halfway along the route. Papua New Guinea soldiers were providing security for the convoys.

Eight locals were killed in a clash between two rival clans on Saturday in a longstanding dispute unrelated to the landslide. Around 30 homes and five retail businesses were burned down in the fighting, local officials said.

Aktoprak said he did not expect tribal combatants would target the convoys but noted that opportunistic criminals might take advantage of the mayhem to do so.

"This could basically end up in carjacking or robbery," Aktoprak said. "There is not only concern for the safety and security of the personnel, but also the goods because they may use this chaos as a means to steal."

Longtime tribal warfare has cast doubt on the official estimate that almost 4,000 people were living in the village when a side of Mount Mungalo fell away. The count was years old and did not take into account people who had relocated to the village more recently to flee clan violence that authorities are unable to contain.

Local authorities on Sunday accepted the village population had been substantially more than 4,000 people when the limestone mountainside sheared away, but a revised estimate was not yet available.

Justine McMahon, country director of the humanitarian agency CARE International, said moving survivors to "more stable ground" was an immediate priority along with providing them with food, water and shelter.

The military was leading those efforts.

The numbers of injured and missing were still being assessed on Sunday. Seven people including a child had received medical treatment by Saturday, but officials had no details on their conditions.

Papua New Guinea Defense Minister Billy Joseph and the government's National Disaster Center director Laso Mana were flying from Port Moresby by helicopter to Wabag on Sunday to gain a firsthand perspective of what is needed.

Aktoprak expected the government would decide by Tuesday whether it would officially request more international help.

The United States and Australia, a near neighbor and Papua New Guinea's most generous provider of foreign aid, are among governments that have publicly stated their readiness to do more to help responders.

Papua New Guinea is a diverse, developing nation with 800 languages and 10 million people who are mostly subsistence farmers.

## **Bangladesh evacuates hundreds of thousands as a severe cyclone approaches from the Bay of Bengal**

NEW DELHI (AP) — Bangladesh evacuated nearly 800,000 people from vulnerable areas on Sunday as the country and neighboring India awaited the arrival of a severe cyclone that has formed over the Bay of Bengal.

The storm is expected to cross Bangladesh and India's West Bengal coasts around midnight Sunday. The India Meteorological Department said it is expected to reach maximum wind speeds of up to 120 kilometers per hour (75 mph), with gusts up to 135 kph (85 mph) hitting West Bengal's Sagar Island and Bangladesh's Khepupara region on Sunday night.

Bangladesh's junior minister for disaster management and relief, Mohibur Rahman, said volunteers have been deployed to evacuate people to 4,000 cyclone shelters across the country's coastal region. The government also closed all schools in the region until further notice.

India's Kolkata airport will be closed for 21 hours from midnight Sunday. Bangladesh shut down the airport in the southeastern city of Chattogram and canceled all domestic flights to and from Cox's Bazar.

Bangladeshi authorities also suspended loading and unloading in the country's largest main seaport in Chittagong and started moving more than a dozen ships from the jetties to the deep sea as a precaution.

This is the first cyclone in the Bay of Bengal ahead of this year's monsoon season, which runs from June to September.

Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected in most places over coastal districts in India's West Bengal state. A storm surge about 1 meter (3.1 feet) high is expected to flood low-lying areas of coastal West Bengal and Bangladesh.

Such storms can uproot trees and cause major damage to thatched homes and power and communication lines, the statement said.

India's coasts are often hit by cyclones, but changing climate patterns have caused them to become more intense, making preparations for natural disasters more urgent.

## **Sunak's plan to make 18-year-olds do national service grabs attention on UK election trail**

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — All 18-year-olds in Britain will have to perform a year of mandatory military or civilian national service if the governing Conservative Party wins the July 4 national election, the party said Sunday.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak pledged to bring back a form of national service for the first time in more than 60 years, seeking to energize his election campaign after a faltering start.

The U.K. introduced military conscription for men and some women during World War II, and imposed 18 months of mandatory military service for men between 1947 and 1960. Since then Britain has had an

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all-volunteer military whose size has steadily shrunk.

Under the plan, a small minority of 18-year-olds — 30,000 out of an estimated 700,000 — would spend 12 months in the military, working in areas such as logistics or cyber defense. The rest would spend one weekend a month working for charities, community groups, or organizations such as hospitals, the police and the fire service.

Sunak said the program would help “create a shared sense of purpose among our young people and a renewed sense of pride in our country.”

It remains unclear how it will be made compulsory. Home Secretary James Cleverly said no one would be forced to serve in the military.

Cleverly said Sunday that the main goal of the new plan was not boosting the military but building “a society where people mix with people outside their own communities, mix with people from different backgrounds, different religions, different income levels.”

The Conservatives estimated the cost of the national service plan at 2.5 billion pounds (\$3.2 billion) a year. They said it would be paid for partly by taking 1.5 billion pounds (\$1.9 billion) from the U.K. Shared Prosperity Fund, which was set up in 2022 to regenerate poor communities.

Labour said the national service announcement was a “desperate 2.5 billion pound unfunded commitment” from a party “bankrupt of ideas.”

Former Labour Home Secretary Alan Johnson said the Tory plan amounted to “compulsory volunteering” and predicted “it’ll never happen.”

Elections in the United Kingdom have to be held no more than five years apart. The prime minister can choose the timing within that period and Sunak, 44, had until December to name the date.

He took most people — including those in his own party — by surprise when he announced on Wednesday that the election would be held on July 4. The Conservatives, who have been in office for 14 years, are trailing the opposition Labour Party led by Keir Starmer in opinion polls and are trying to overcome a widespread sense that voters want change.

Sunak’s election announcement outside 10 Downing Street saw him drenched with rain and drowned out by protesters blasting a Labour campaign song. One of his first campaign stops was at the Belfast shipyard where the doomed ocean liner Titanic was built — another detail seized on gleefully by opponents.

Voters will elect lawmakers to fill all 650 seats in the House of Commons. The leader of the party that can command a Commons majority — either alone or in coalition — will become prime minister.

## **A 19th century flag disrupts leadership at an Illinois museum and prompts a state investigation**

By JOHN O’CONNOR AP Political Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is once again under the spotlight after a manager failed to consult a collections committee before purchasing a 21-star flag whose description as a rare banner marking Illinois’ 1818 admission to the Union is disputed.

The flag’s acquisition through an online auction for more than \$15,000 precipitated an investigation by Illinois’ Office of the Executive Inspector General about money used for the purchase. The purchase also led to division in the Springfield museum’s leadership and may have prompted the firing of an employee who said the acquisition skirted procedures.

The flag, measuring 7-foot-5 by 6-foot-5 (2.26 meters by 1.96 meters), is known as a “Grand Luminary” because its 21 stars are arranged in the shape of a star. The museum is confident it represents Illinois’ admission as the 21st state, spokesperson Christopher Wills said.

Such flags are rare because the design was changed a year later when Alabama and Maine joined the Union.

But Jeff Bridgman, a respected vexillologist, or flag expert, told The Associated Press its construction and materials indicate the flag was produced decades later, during the Civil War, and is perhaps a Southern exclusionary flag whose stars represent states that remained loyal to the Union.



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Bridgman, who stocks roughly 3,000 mostly 19th century flags, says it is not from 1818.

"If it was," he said, "I would have been after it at the auction."

This is not the first possible blow to the museum's credibility.

Its prized purchase of a purported Lincoln stovepipe hat appraised at \$6.5 million went sour when evidence linking it to the 16th president was questioned. A director was fired in 2019 for sending without approval a copy of the Gettysburg Address, written in Lincoln's hand, to a Texas exhibit operated by conservative political commentator Glenn Beck.

The museum's acquisitions chief, Ian Hunt, submitted a request to the executive director to pursue the 21-star flag on Nov. 6, according to documents provided to the AP under an open-records request.

The flag had been part of the prestigious Zaricor Flag Collection. Hunt won the auction on Nov. 13 and the museum paid \$15,625 for the flag using the King Hostick trust fund, an endowment to finance state historic research and artifact acquisition.

Museum policy dictates that purchases exceeding \$2,000 be proposed for advance consideration by a collections committee composed of department heads. The panel hadn't met regularly because of a staff vacancy, but it convened to consider the flag on Dec. 7, three weeks after its purchase, and voted 7-2 in favor.

Then-registrar Eldon Yeakel and research director Brian Mitchell voted "no." Mitchell declined to comment to the AP. Staff comments at the bottom of the document recording the vote include concerns about the flag's authenticity and storage.

The committee vote would have been closer had the acquisition not been a done deal, Yeakel said. The museum fired Yeakel May 6, citing his poor performance and rules violations, but he blamed his "no" vote. Wills declined comment.

Yeakel said he told investigators with the Executive Inspector General that the flag purchase improperly sidestepped committee concurrence. They asked him if he knew of fraud or abuse in the transaction and whether King Hostick funds were tapped. He told them he didn't know of any fraud or abuse or the details concerning Hostick money or its intended use.

Two museum employees, one current and one former, told the AP that their complaints to the inspector prompted the investigation. They requested anonymity for fear of retribution.

Neil Olson, general counsel for the inspector general, declined comment on the probe. The office has not released any findings.

In cases of wrongdoing, the inspector general's office can recommend corrective remedies, including discipline or dismissal. The inspector also may conduct a criminal investigation or refer a probe to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Wills said the museum has not been made aware of any complaints to the inspector general but was "clearly allowed" to use Hostick money for the flag. He conceded a "misstep" by Hunt for proceeding without committee consideration but noted museum policy only requires the committee's "recommendation" on pricey purchases.

After the late Ben Zaricor purchased the flag in 1995, he had renowned vexillologist Howard Madaus examine it. Madaus determined the flag was made entirely of cotton in 1818-20.

Bridgman considered Madaus, who died in 2007, a respected colleague and friend, but he said Madaus got this one wrong.

While he hasn't examined the flag personally, Bridgman said high-resolution images show the blue canton is wool or a wool blend, typical of Civil War-era flags. It is worn in long, narrow holes.

"Cotton doesn't do that. Wool absolutely does," Bridgman said.

A 2003 report by respected conservator Fonda Thomsen determined at least part of the flag is made of wool but "the flag was not examined sufficiently to draw any conclusions."

Museum officials have not yet inspected the flag, which was delivered to a conservation company for stabilization and cleaning to ensure its longevity. The estimated cost of conservation is \$18,000.

The AP asked other vexillologists to examine photos of the flag and judge its age. Only one responded.

Dave Martucci of Washington, Maine, said via email that he is familiar with the flag and believes the "design, construction and size" point toward 1818, not 1861.

Regardless of its history, Wills said the flag has "a solid pedigree" and was a sound investment.

"We're always open to learning more about it," Wills said. "And if it turns out that it's from a different era with a different story, that's the way it goes. We'll tell that story. And it just so happens that that story is a good one, too."

## **Trump, accustomed to friendly crowds, confronts repeated booing during Libertarian convention speech**

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump was booed repeatedly while addressing the Libertarian Party National Convention on Saturday night, with many in the crowd shouting insults and decrying him for things like his COVID-19 policies, running up towering federal deficits and lying about his political record.

When he took the stage, many jeered while some supporters clad in "Make America Great" hats and T-shirts cheered and chanted "USA! USA!" It was a rare moment of Trump coming face-to-face with open detractors, which is highly unusual for someone accustomed to staging rallies in front of ever-adoring crowds.

Libertarians, who prioritize small government and individual freedoms, are often skeptical of the former president, and his invitation to address the convention has divided the party. Trump tried to make light of that by referring to the four criminal indictments against him and joking, "If I wasn't a Libertarian before, I sure as hell am a Libertarian now."

Trump tried to praise "fierce champions of freedom in this room" and called President Joe Biden a "tyrant" and the "worst president in the history of the United States," prompting some in the audience to scream back: "That's you."

As the insults continued, Trump eventually hit back, saying "you don't want to win" and suggesting that some Libertarians want to "keep getting your 3% every four years."

Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson won about 3% of the national vote in 2016, but nominee Jo Jorgensen got only a bit more than 1% during 2020's close contest.

Libertarians will pick their White House nominee during their convention, which wraps on Sunday. Trump's appearance also gave him a chance to court voters who might otherwise support independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. who gave his own Libertarian convention speech on Friday.

Polls have shown for months that most voters do not want a 2020 rematch between Trump and President Joe Biden. That dynamic could potentially boost support for an alternative like the Libertarian nominee or Kennedy, whose candidacy has allies of Biden and Trump concerned that he could be a spoiler.

Despite the raucous atmosphere, Trump continued to press on with his speech, saying he'd come "to extend a hand of friendship" in common opposition to Biden. That prompted a chant of "We want Trump!" from supporters, but more cries of "End the Fed!" — a common refrain from Libertarians who oppose the Federal Reserve. One person who held up a sign reading "No wannabe dictators!" was dragged away by security.

Trump tried to win over the crowd by pledging to include a Libertarian in his Cabinet, but many in the crowd hissed in disbelief. The former president did get a big cheer when he promised to commute the life sentence of the convicted founder of the drug-selling website Silk Road, Ross Ulbricht, and potentially release him on time served.

That was designed to energize Libertarian activists who believe government investigators overreached in building their case against Silk Road, and who generally oppose criminal drug policies more broadly. Ulbricht's case was much-discussed during the Libertarian convention, and many of the hundreds in the crowd for Trump's speech hoisted "Free Ross" signs and chanted the phrase as he spoke.

Despite those promises, many in the crowd remained antagonistic. One of the candidates vying for the Libertarian presidential nomination, Michael Rectenwald, declared from the stage before the former president arrived that "none of us are great fans of Donald Trump." After his speech, Rectenwald and other

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Libertarian White House hopefuls took the stage to scoff at Trump and his speech.

Those for and against Trump even clashed over seating arrangements. About two hours before the former president's arrival, Libertarian organizers asked Trump supporters in the crowd to vacate the first four rows. They wanted convention delegates — many of whom said they'd traveled from around the country and bought expensive tickets to the proceedings — could sit close enough to hear the speech.

Many of the original seat occupants moved, but organizers eventually brought in more seats to calm things down.

The Libertarian split over Trump was reflected by Peter Goettler, president and chief executive of the libertarian Cato Institute, who suggested in a Washington Post column that the former president's appearance violated the gathering's core values and that "the political party pretending to be libertarian has transitioned to a different identity."

Trump's campaign noted that Biden didn't attend the Libertarian convention himself, and argued that the former president's doing so was part of an ongoing effort to reach would-be supporters in places that are not heavily Republican — including the former president's rally Thursday in the Bronx during a pause in his New York hush money trial.

The Libertarian ticket will try to draw support from disaffected Republicans as well as people on the left. Such voters could also gravitate toward Kennedy.

Trump didn't dwell on Kennedy on Saturday night. But, after previously praising him and once considering him for a commission on vaccination safety, the former president has gone on the attack against Kennedy. He suggested on social media that a vote for Kennedy would be a "wasted protest vote" and that he would "even take Biden over Junior."

The former president, while in office, referred to the COVID-19 vaccine as "one of the greatest miracles in the history of modern-day medicine." He's since accused Kennedy of being a "fake" opponent of vaccines.

In his speech at the Libertarian convention, Kennedy accused Trump and Biden of trampling on personal liberties in response to the pandemic. Trump bowed to pressure from public health officials and shut down businesses, Kennedy said, while Biden was wrong to mandate vaccines for millions of workers.

For his part, Biden has promoted winning the endorsement of many high-profile members of the Kennedy family, in an attempt to marginalize their relative's candidacy.

Kevin Munoz, a spokesperson for Biden's reelection campaign, slammed Trump and top Republicans for opposing access to abortion and supporting limits on civil society, saying in a statement Saturday, that "freedom isn't free in Trump's Republican Party and this weekend will be just one more reminder of that."

## **National Spelling Bee reflects the economic success and cultural impact of immigrants from India**

By BEN NUCKOLS Associated Press

When Balu Natarajan became the first Indian American champion of the Scripps National Spelling Bee in 1985, a headline on an Associated Press article read, "Immigrants' son wins National Spelling Bee," with the first paragraph noting the champion "speaks his parents' native Indian language at home."

Those details would hardly be newsworthy today after a quarter-century of Indian American spelling champs, most of them the offspring of parents who arrived in the United States on student or work visas.

This year's bee is scheduled to begin Tuesday at a convention center outside Washington and, as usual, many of the expected contenders are Indian American, including Shradha Rachamreddy, Aryan Khedkar, Bruhat Soma and Ishika Varipilli.

Nearly 70% of Indian-born U.S. residents arrived after 2000, according to census data, and that dovetails with the surge in Indian American spelling bee champions. There were two Indian American Scripps winners before 1999. Of the 34 since, 28 have been Indian American, including three straight years of Indian American co-champions and one year (2019) when eight champions were declared, seven of Indian ancestry.

The experiences of first-generation Indian Americans and their spelling bee champion children illustrate



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the economic success and cultural impact of the nation's second-largest immigrant group.

As of 2022, there were 3.1 million Indian-born people living in the U.S., and Indian American households had a median income of \$147,000, more than twice the median income of all U.S. households, according to census data. Indian Americans also were more than twice as likely to have college degrees.

Indians received 74% of the H-1B visas for specialized occupations approved in fiscal 2021, and a record total of nearly 269,000 students from India were enrolled at U.S. colleges and universities in 2022-23, according to the Institute of International Education.

Those numbers paint a picture of a high-achieving demographic that is well-suited for success in academic competitions.

Ganesh Dasari, whose daughter and son each made multiple appearances at the Scripps bee, holds a doctorate in civil engineering from the University of Cambridge and was recruited to the U.S. to work for ExxonMobil on an H-1B visa. He quickly obtained a green card.

"Me and my wife, we came from a similar background. We both benefited from having the education ... so we put a lot of emphasis on educating our kids," Dasari said. "We basically introduced them to anything academic, and a couple of sports, but clearly there was a bias in our thinking that education is a higher priority than sports."

In his 2016 address to Congress, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned "spelling bee champions" among his country's contributions to the U.S. while that year's co-champs, Nihar Janga and Jairam Hathwar, watched from the gallery.

Even among Indian American spellers, a particular subgroup is overrepresented: families from the southern states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, where Telugu is the primary language. Hyderabad, the capital of Telangana, is India's information-technology hub and the region supplies many H-1B visa recipients.

"Whenever we go to the spelling bee events, everybody speaks that language," Dasari said. "We realized there are so many people from the same state."

Deval Shah, the father of last year's champion, Dev Shah, grew up in the northwestern state of Gujarat and proudly noted Dev was the first spelling bee champion of Gujarati descent. The parents of the 2022 winner, Harini Logan, are from Chennai in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Shah is an engineer, his wife is a physician, and both of Harini's parents were trained as software engineers.

Indian-born parents of kids with an affinity for spelling have a network of similar families to provide guidance and support, as well as access to organizations like the North South Foundation, which offers academic competitions aimed at the Indian diaspora.

"The reason Indian American immigrants really dominate, the main reason is the North South Foundation," Shah said.

When Harini won her first NSF spelling competition, Ganesh Dasari was one of the judges, and "he was literally chasing us down" to tell them "Harini has tremendous potential to be on the national stage," said Rampriya Logan, Harini's mother.

Ishika, a 13-year-old from Spring, Texas, who will be competing at Scripps this year for the third time, woke her parents at 6 a.m. the day after she lost a third-grade classroom spelling bee, saying she wanted to participate in more bees. Her mother, an IT manager who immigrated to the U.S. in 2006, then reached out to ask advice from other families from the Houston area whose children were high-level spellers.

The relative wealth and stability of Indian American households could lead observers to conclude their children are benefiting primarily from a privileged upbringing. The truth is more nuanced, said Devesh Kapur, a professor of South Asian Studies at Johns Hopkins University and a co-author of "The Other One Percent: Indians in America."

"It is important to note that the children participating in the spelling bee competition come from striving middle-class immigrant families, often in occupations like IT, and not from wealthier Indian American households in finance or tech start-ups or consulting," Kapur said.

Natarajan, a Chicago-based physician and health care executive, now serves as the volunteer president of the NSF, and he experienced the spelling bee as a parent when his son, Atman Balakrishnan, competed. He said he sometimes feels out of place because he was born in the U.S. and he admires the grit

of Indian-born parents and their children.

"It's hard to describe, but it's a very specific mindset that just drives effort and in many ways drives outcomes and sustainable success," Natarajan said.

## Grayson Murray dies at age 30 a day after withdrawing from Colonial, PGA Tour says

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

Two-time PGA Tour winner Grayson Murray died Saturday morning at age 30, one day after he withdrew from the Charles Schwab Cup Challenge at Colonial.

There were no immediate details on the circumstances of his death, only shock and grief from the PGA Tour and his management team.

"I am at a loss for words," PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan said. "The PGA Tour is a family, and when you lose a member of your family, you are never the same. We mourn Grayson and pray for comfort for his loved ones."

His management company, GSE Worldwide, confirmed the death and said it was heartbroken.

"We will hold off on commenting until we learn further details, but our heart aches for his family, his friends and all who loved him during this very difficult time," GSE said in a statement.

Monahan said he spoke with Murray's parents to offer condolences, and they asked that the tournament in Fort Worth, Texas, continue.

He said grief counselors would be on site at the PGA Tour and Korn Ferry Tour event in Knoxville, Tennessee. Monahan headed to Texas and later appeared on CBS as the third round was ending.

"To see the devastation on the faces of every player coming in is really difficult to see and really just profound," Monahan said. "Grayson was a remarkable player, but he was a very courageous man. I've always loved that about him."

Murray, who had dealt with alcohol and mental health issues in the past, made a massive turnaround this year and won the Sony Open, hitting wedge to 3 feet for birdie on the final hole to get into a playoff and winning it with a 40-foot putt.

He also won the Barbasol Championship in 2017.

"It was a huge shock. My heart sank," said Webb Simpson, who learned of Murray's death shortly before teeing off at Colonial. He said Murray was the first winner of his junior tournament and they shared the same swing coach as juniors.

"I just hate it so much," Simpson said. "I'm going to miss him. I'm thankful he was in the place with his faith before this morning happened."

Murray was No. 58 in the world rankings coming off a tie for 43rd in the PGA Championship last week at Valhalla. He also made the cut in his Masters debut, finishing 51st, and was in the field for the U.S. Open next month at Pinehurst No. 2.

Murray, who grew up in North Carolina, was among the most talented juniors in the country. He won the prestigious Junior World Championship in San Diego three straight years and earned the Arnold Palmer Scholarship at Wake Forest.

He wound up going to three colleges, lastly at Arizona State, and won as a 22-year-old PGA Tour rookie at the Barbasol Championship.

Murray said in January that he had been sober for eight months, was engaged to be married, had become a Christian and felt his best golf was ahead of him. He was appointed to the 16-member Player Advisory Council.

"My story is not finished. I think it's just beginning," Murray said in Hawaii. "I hope I can inspire a lot of people going forward that have their own issues."

Murray said he used to drink during tournament weeks as a rookie because he knew he had talent and felt he was invincible. He also brought attention to himself through social media, openly criticizing other

players and getting into one social media spat with Kevin Na over Na's reputation as a slow player.

But he felt like he turned the corner when he sought help — letting others fight for him, is how he explained it this year.

"It took me a long time to get to this point," Murray said in January. "That was seven years ago, over seven years ago. I'm a different man now. I would not be in this position right now today if I didn't put that drink down eight months ago."

Peter Malnati played with Murray at Colonial. He offered to go on the CBS telecast Saturday afternoon and immediately broke down trying to talk about him.

"It's a huge loss for all of us on the PGA Tour," Malnati said. "As much as we want to beat each other, we're one big family, and we lost one today. It's terrible."

## Rare blue-eyed cicada spotted during 2024 emergence at suburban Chicago arboretum

By ERIN HOOLEY Associated Press

LISLE, Ill. (AP) — It was late morning when The Morton Arboretum's Senior Horticulturist Kate Myroup arrived at the Children's Garden with a special guest: a rare, blue-eyed female *Magicicada cassini* cicada, spotted earlier in the day by a visitor.

A lucky few saw the cicada Friday at the arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, before its release back into the world in suburban Chicago to join its red-eyed relatives, the more common look for most cicada species, as the 2024 cicada emergence gets underway.

As the enclosure opened, the blue-eyed lady took flight into a tree. The unique bug then flew down to land on the pants of Stephanie Adams, plant health care leader. Intrigued young guests snapped photos.

"It's a casualty of the job," said Adams, who frequently is decorated with the bugs.

Floyd W. Shockley, collections manager of the Department of Entomology at the Smithsonian Institute, said the blue-eyed cicada is rare, but just how rare is uncertain.

"It is impossible to estimate how rare since you'd have to collect all the cicadas to know what percentage of the population had the blue eye mutation," he said.

Periodical cicadas emerge every 13 or 17 years. Only the 17-year brood is beginning to show so far in spots as far north as Lisle, where three different species are digging out of the ground, attaching to trees, shedding their exoskeleton and putting on a show.

"The appearance of them on the trees, just the sheer volume of them, looks like science fiction," Adams said. "It's definitely something to see."

## Chile accuses volunteer firefighter and ex-forestry official with causing huge fire that killed 137

By PATRICIA LUNA Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — A Chilean judge on Saturday ordered a volunteer firefighter and a former forestry official detained for allegedly planning and causing a mammoth forest fire in the Valparaiso region that caused 137 deaths and made 16,000 people homeless in February.

The court in Valparaiso ruled the two men, who were arrested Friday, could be held for 180 days while they are investigated.

The chief prosecutor in the case, Osvaldo Ossandón, told journalists that the main suspect is Francisco Mondaca, a 22-year-old volunteer firefighter in Valparaiso who is accused of physically starting the fire. He said flares and fireworks were found in Mondaca's vehicle.

The other suspect was identified as Franco Pinto, a former employee of the National Forest Corporation. He is accused of planning the crime.

The regional prosecutor for Valparaiso, Claudia Perivancich, said investigators have evidence the two men agreed "in advance to carry out conduct of this type when the weather conditions were adequate."



Prosecutors said that according to Mondaca's testimony, there was an economic motive behind the plot — providing more work in fighting fires. They said they had not ruled out the possibility of more people being involved.

The commander of the Valparaiso Fire Department, Vicente Maggiolo, said, "We are very dismayed by the situation."

Maggiolo called it an isolated incident and said it should not tarnish the work of the fire department. "We have been saving lives for more than 170 years," he told TVN.

Christian Little, executive director of the forestry department, described the detention of a former official as "a pain" for the agency.

Both the fire department and forestry agency said they would tighten hiring procedures.

The megafire began Feb. 2 in the Lago Peñuelas nature reserve, in the central region of Chile, and for several days burned several communes, including destroying more than 10,000 homes. It is considered Chile's worst tragedy since a magnitude 8.8 earthquake killed more than 500 people on Feb. 27, 2010.

## Scuffles erupt between police, protesters demanding return of Israeli hostages still held in Gaza

By YESICA FISCH Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Scuffles between Israeli police and protesters erupted in Tel Aviv on Saturday after thousands gathered to demonstrate against the government and demand that it bring back the hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza.

Meanwhile, a small U.S. military vessel and what appeared to be a strip of docking area washed up on a beach near the southern Israeli city of Ashdod, not far from the U.S.-built pier on which the Israeli military said humanitarian aid is moving into the Palestinian territory.

Also on Saturday, Israeli bombardments were reported in northern and central Gaza.

Some protesters in Tel Aviv carried photos of the female soldiers who appeared in a video earlier in the week showing them soon after they were abducted during the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7 started the war between Israel and Hamas. Some held banners reading "Stop the war" and "Help." They called on the government to reach a deal to release the dozens of hostages still in captivity.

The protesters also called for the resignation of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and demanded new elections.

"We all saw the video, we could not stay at home after the government abandoned all these people," said Hilit Sagi, from the group "Women Protest for the Return of All Hostages."

Divisions among Israelis have deepened over how Netanyahu has handled the war against Hamas after the attack that killed about 1,200 people and saw 250 others taken hostage. Israel says around 100 hostages are still being held in Gaza, along with the bodies of around 30 more.

"Basically they are not doing enough in order for the hostages to come back, either with military force, with (a) hostages' deal, negotiating. Nothing is being done," said Snir Dahan, uncle of hostage Carmel Gat, still in captivity in Gaza.

Earlier in the week, the bodies of three hostages killed were recovered from Gaza, Israel's army said Friday. The army said they were killed on the day of the attack and their bodies were taken to Gaza. The announcement came less than a week after the army said it found the bodies of three other Israeli hostages killed on Oct. 7.

Around half of the 250 hostages taken by Hamas and other militants have been freed, most in swaps for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel during a weeklong cease-fire in November.

Netanyahu's government has faced increasing pressure, both at home and abroad, to stop the war and allow humanitarian aid into the enclave that is home to 2.3 million Palestinians, almost 80% of whom have been displaced.

Also this week, three European countries announced they would recognize a Palestinian state, and the

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chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Court requested arrest warrants for Israeli leaders, along with Hamas officials.

On Friday the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to end its military offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah and to open the nearby border crossing for crucial humanitarian aid. The top United Nations court also said Israel must give war crimes investigators access to Gaza.

However, the judges stopped short of ordering a full cease-fire across the entire Palestinian territory, and Israel is unlikely to comply with the court's ruling. South Africa accuses Israel of committing genocide against the Palestinians during the war in Gaza, which Israel vehemently denies.

"We were hoping the war would end," said Islam Abu Kamar, who moved from Gaza City to Rafah following the ground operation launched by Israel after the Hamas attack in October.

In the past two weeks, more than a million Palestinians have fled Rafah as Israeli forces pressed deeper into the city. Israel's takeover this month of the Rafah border crossing, a key transit point for fuel and supplies for Gaza, has contributed to bringing aid operations to near collapse, the U.N. and relief groups say.

Israel says it needs to invade Rafah to destroy Hamas' last stronghold. Egypt said it agreed to send U.N. humanitarian aid trucks through the Kerem Shalom border crossing, Israel's main entry point into southern Gaza. But it remains unclear if the trucks will be able to enter because fighting still rages in Rafah.

Israel said aid is moving into the Palestinian territory through northern Gaza and via the U.S.-built pier. On Saturday, a small U.S. military boat and what appeared to be a strip of docking area washed up on a beach near the southern Israeli city of Ashdod.

The U.S. Central Command said four of its vessels supporting the humanitarian aid mission were affected by rough seas with two of them anchoring near the pier off the Gaza coast and another two in Israel.

U.S. officials said no injuries were reported and the U.S. is working with the Israeli army to recover the vessels, Central Command said.

American officials hope the pier at maximum capacity can bring the equivalent of 150 truckloads of aid to Gaza daily. That's a fraction of the 600 truckloads of food, emergency nutritional treatments and other supplies that USAID says are needed each day to bring people in Gaza back from the brink of famine and address the humanitarian crisis brought on by the 7-month-old Israel-Hamas war.

Israeli bombardments continued in the enclave on Saturday with reports of strikes northern and central Gaza. Witnesses said people were killed in strikes on the cities of Jabaliya and Nuseirat.

More than 35,000 Palestinians have been killed in the war, according to the Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between combatants and civilians.

## Sean Baker's 'Anora' wins Palme d'Or, the Cannes Film Festival's top honor

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

Sean Baker's "Anora," a comic but devastating Brooklyn odyssey about a sex worker who marries the son of a wealthy Russian oligarch, won the Cannes Film Festival's top award, the Palme d'Or.

The win Saturday for "Anora" marked a coronation for Baker, the 53-year-old indie filmmaker of "The Florida Project" who used iPhones to make his 2015 film "Tangerine." It's also, remarkably, the fifth straight Palme d'Or won by specialty distributor Neon, following "Parasite," "Titane," "Triangle of Sadness" and last year's winner, "Anatomy of a Fall." Baker accepted the prize with his movie's star, Mikey Madison, watching in the audience at the Cannes closing ceremony.

"This, literally, has been my singular goal as a filmmaker for the past 30 years, so I'm not really sure what I'm going to do with the rest of my life," said Baker, laughing.

But Baker, the first American filmmaker to win the Palme since Terrence Mallick in 2011 with "The Tree of Life," quickly answered that his ambition would remain to "fight to keep cinema alive." The director said the world needed reminding that "watching a film at home while scrolling through your phone, answering emails and half paying attention is just not the way — although some tech companies would like us to

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think so."

"So I say the future of cinema is where it started: in a movie theater," said Baker, who dedicated his award to all sex workers "past, present and future."

The awards were chosen by the nine-member jury led by Greta Gerwig, who told reporters she was "forever changed as a filmmaker because of this experience." Gerwig praised "Anora" as having the feeling of classical cinema, saying it felt like an Ernst Lubitsch or Howard Hawks film that lead in unexpected directions.

While "Anora" was arguably the most acclaimed film of the festival, its win was a slight surprise. Many expected either the gentle Indian drama "All We Imagine As Light" or the Iranian film "The Seed of the Sacred Fig" to win. Both of those films also took home prizes.

It wasn't the only jolt of the closing ceremony, though. Before George Lucas was given an honorary Palme d'Or, his old friend and sometimes collaborator Francis Ford Coppola appeared to present it to him, reuniting two of the most pivotal figures of the last half-century of American moviemaking. Coppola, who earlier in the festival premiered his self-financed sci-fi epic "Megalopolis," called him his "kid brother." Lucas called Coppola "a big friend and a brother and a mentor."

"I'm just a kid who grew up in a vineyard in Modesto, California, who makes movies in San Francisco, with my friend Francis," said Lucas. "It's definitely a different world. I've actually never made a film in Hollywood as a director."

"All We Imagine As Light," about sisterhood in modern Mumbai, won the Grand Prix, Cannes' second-highest honor. Payal Kapadia's second feature was the first Indian in competition in Cannes in 30 years.

Afterward, Kapadia urged a wide understanding of Indian cinema, saying "there's amazing work going on in our country."

"Not just Bollywood," said Kapadia.

The jury awarded a special prize to Mohammad Rasoulof's "The Seed of the Sacred Fig," a drama made secretly in Iran. Days ahead of the film's premiere, Rasoulof, facing an eight-year prison sentence, fled Iran on foot. His film, which includes real footage from the 2022-2023 demonstrations in Iran, channels Iranian oppression into a family drama. The Cannes crowd met an emotional Rasoulof with a lengthy standing ovation.

Coralie Fargeat's body horror film "The Substance," starring Demi Moore as a Hollywood actress who goes to gory extremes to remain youthful, won for best screenplay.

"I really believe that movies can change the world, so I hope this movie will be a little stone to build new foundations," said Fargeat. "I really think we need a revolution and I don't think it has really started yet."

Some thought Moore, who attended the awards ceremony, might take best actress. But that honor instead went to an ensemble of actors: Karla Sofía Gascón, Zoe Saldaña, Selena Gomez and Adriana Paz for Jacques Audiard's "Emilia Perez," a Spanish-language musical about a Mexican drug lord who transitions to a woman. Gascón, who accepted the award, is the first trans actor to win a major prize at Cannes.

"This award is not just for me. It's for all people who are fighting for themselves and their rights," Gascón told reporters. "We've been insulted, denigrated, subjected to a lot of violence without even knowing why. I think this award is so much more than anyone could imagine."

Explaining the jury's unusual choice of giving best actress to an ensemble, Gerwig said each performer was a standout, "but together they're transcendent." "Emilia Perez" also won Cannes' jury prize, giving it a rare two awards at a festival where prizes are usually spread around.

Best actor went to Jesse Plemons for Yorgos Lanthimos' "Kinds of Kindness." In the film, three stories are told with largely the same company of actors. Plemons, a standout in several chapters, didn't attend the closing ceremony.

Portuguese director Miguel Gomes won best director for his "Grand Tour," an Asian odyssey in which a man flees his fiancée from Rangoon in 1917.

"Sometimes I get lucky," shrugged Gomes.

The Camera d'Or, the prize for best first feature across all of Cannes official selections, went to Halldan Ullmann Tøndel for "Armand," starring "The Worst Person in the World" star Renate Reinsve. Tøndel is the



grandson of Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman and Norwegian actor Liv Ullman.

Last year's top winners in Cannes went on to considerable arthouse success and awards-season runs through the Oscars. That included the Palme winner "Anatomy of a Fall" and the Grand Prix winner "The Zone of Interest."

Whether this year's Cannes lived up to that lineup was a regular conversation topic during the festival. But it was a notably eventful Cannes not just for the some of the films — including "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga" and Kevin Costner's "Horizon: An America Saga" — that screened but for other surrounding dramas.

After stalling for years in France, the #MeToo movement gained momentum ahead of the festival following allegations by Judith Godrèche against two prominent French filmmakers. She brought her short "Moi Aussi" to the festival.

The wars in Gaza and Ukraine were sometimes referenced in press conferences and in subtly symbolic ways on the red carpet. Festival workers, seeking better protections, protested during the opening night ceremony. The Olympic flame, ahead of its arrival in Paris for the summer games, stopped by. Honorary Palmes were also given to Meryl Streep and the Japanese anime factory Studio Ghibli.

## What we know about the young missionaries and religious leader killed in Haiti

By DÁNICA COTO and JIM SALTER Associated Press

The local director of a mission group in Haiti and a young missionary couple from the U.S. were attacked and fatally shot by gang members after leaving a youth group activity at a church, a family member told The Associated Press.

Thursday's killings of Jude Montis, the local director of Missions in Haiti Inc., and Davy and Natalie Lloyd happened in the community of Lizon in northern Port-au-Prince. Natalie Lloyd is the daughter of a Republican state representative in Missouri.

Haiti's capital has been crumbling under the relentless assault of violent gangs that control 80% of the city, while authorities await the arrival of a police force from Kenya as part of a U.N.-backed deployment aimed at quelling gang violence in the troubled Caribbean country.

Here are some things to know about the missionary work, which focused on helping the children of Haiti, and the gang attack that took three lives.

### WORKING IN HAITI

Missions in Haiti's website says its goal is "to see the Gospel of Christ make a difference in the lives of Haiti's young people."

Davy Lloyd's parents, David and Alicia Lloyd, of Oklahoma, started the organization in 2000 with the aim of focusing on the children of Haiti. David and Alicia Lloyd are full-time missionaries in the country.

"Although the entire nation is steeped in poverty, the children suffer the worst," they wrote on the website. "Thousands are malnourished, uneducated, and headed for hopeless lives apart from Christ."

Hannah Cornett, Davy's sister, told AP that they grew up in Haiti. Davy went to the U.S. to attend a Bible college and married Natalie in June 2022. After the wedding, the couple wasted little time moving to Haiti to do humanitarian work.

Cornett said Montis, a Haitian, worked at Missions in Haiti for 20 years.

The organization's efforts include House of Compassion, which provides housing for 36 children — 18 boys and 18 girls, the website says. "All are destined to stay at House of Compassion until they have finished school and are ready to be on their own."

Good Hope Boys' Home provides a home for 22 boys, according to the website. The organization also built a church, a bakery and a school with more than 240 students.

### THE ATTACK

A Facebook posting on the Missions in Haiti page stated that Davy Lloyd, 23, and Natalie Lloyd, 21, along with some children, were leaving a church when gang members in three trucks ambushed them.

Davy Lloyd later called his family to tell them that gang members hit him on the head with the barrel of

a gun, forced him upstairs, stole their belongings and left him tied up, Cornett said.

As people were helping untie Davy Lloyd, another group of armed gunmen showed up, Cornett said.

"No one understood what they were doing, not sure what took place but one was shot and killed and now this gang went into full attack mode," Missions in Haiti's posting said.

The couple and Montis fled to a house connected to the mission.

"They tried to take cover in there, but the gang shot up the house," Cornett said.

Ben Baker, Natalie Lloyd's father and a state representative in Missouri, said Friday on Facebook that the couple's bodies were safely transported to the U.S. Embassy.

Cassidy Anderson, a spokesperson for the family, said in a later Facebook post on Baker's page that they were working to retrieve the bodies.

"We have to obtain a waiver that will allow their bodies to be transported without being fully embalmed due to the lack of facilities that provide that service in Haiti," the post said. "After that, we have to find an airline that will be willing to do the transport. Prayers that this will all go smoothly."

## GRIEVING FAMILIES

Cornett said Montis left behind two children, ages 2 and 6.

Montis' family could not be reached for comment Friday, and Missions in Haiti did not respond to an AP request for comment.

Missions in Haiti said in a Facebook post Saturday that they were "facing the most difficult time of our life."

"The embassy is working on getting all the paper work done in order for them to be flown to the states and many more behind the scenes to make happen more quickly and safely," the post said, adding that the children and staff of Missions in Haiti have been relocated to a safer location.

Baker wrote on Facebook that his heart was broken "in a thousand pieces."

"I've never felt this kind of pain," he said. "Most of you know my daughter and son-in-law Davy and Natalie Lloyd are full time missionaries in Haiti. They were attacked by gangs this evening and were both killed. They went to Heaven together. Please pray for my family we desperately need strength. And please pray for the Lloyd family as well. I have no other words for now."

## Top assassin for Sinaloa drug cartel extradited to US to face charges, Justice Department says

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top assassin for the Sinaloa drug cartel who was arrested by Mexican authorities last fall has been extradited to the U.S. to face drug, gun and witness retaliation charges, the Justice Department said Saturday.

Néstor Isidro Pérez Salas, also known as "El Nini," is a leader and commander of a group that provided security for the sons of imprisoned drug lord Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, and also helped in their drug business, federal investigators said. The sons lead a faction known as the little Chapos, or "Chapitos," that has been identified as one of the main exporters of the deadly synthetic opioid fentanyl to the U.S.

Fentanyl is blamed for about 70,000 overdose deaths per year in the United States.

"We allege El Nini was one of the Sinaloa Cartel's lead sicarios, or assassins, and was responsible for the murder, torture, and kidnapping of rivals and witnesses who threatened the cartel's criminal drug trafficking enterprise," U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a news release Saturday.

Court records did not list an attorney for Pérez Salas who might comment on his behalf.

The Justice Department last year announced a slew of charges against cartel leaders, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration posted a \$3 million reward for the capture of Pérez Salas, 31. He was captured at a walled property in the Sinaloa state capital of Culiacan last November.

In a written statement, President Joe Biden thanked Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador for extraditing Pérez Salas.

"Our governments will continue to work together to attack the fentanyl and synthetic drug epidemic that is killing so many people in our homelands and globally, and to bring to justice the criminals and organizations producing, smuggling, and selling these lethal poisons in both of our countries," Biden said.

The nickname Nini is apparently a reference to a Mexican slang saying "neither nor," used to describe youths who neither work nor study.

At the time of his arrest, Mike Vigil, former head of international operations for the U.S Drug Enforcement Administration, called him "a complete psychopath."

Pérez Salas commanded a security team known as the Ninis, "a particularly violent group of security personnel for the Chapitos," according to an indictment unsealed last year in New York. The Ninis "received military-style training in multiple areas of combat, including urban warfare, special weapons and tactics, and sniper proficiency."

Pérez Salas participated in the torture of a Mexican federal agent in 2017, authorities said. He and others allegedly tortured the man for two hours, inserting a corkscrew into his muscles, ripping it out and placing hot chiles in the wounds.

According to the indictment, the Ninis carried out gruesome acts of violence.

The Ninis would take captured rivals to ranches owned by the Chapitos for execution, with some victims fed — dead or alive — to tigers the Chapitos raised as pets, the indictment said.

## **Richard M. Sherman, who fueled Disney charm in 'Mary Poppins' and 'It's a Small World,' dies at 95**

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Richard M. Sherman, one half of the prolific, award-winning pair of brothers who helped form millions of childhoods by penning the instantly memorable songs for "Mary Poppins," "The Jungle Book" and "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" — as well as the most-played tune on Earth, "It's a Small World (After All)" — has died. He was 95.

Sherman, together with his late brother Robert, won two Academy Awards for Walt Disney's 1964 smash "Mary Poppins" — best score and best song, "Chim Chim Cher-ee." They also picked up a Grammy for best movie or TV score. Robert Sherman died in London at age 86 in 2012.

The Walt Disney Co. announced that Sherman died Saturday in a Los Angeles hospital due to age-related illness. "Generations of moviegoers and theme park guests have been introduced to the world of Disney through the Sherman brothers' magnificent and timeless songs. Even today, the duo's work remains the quintessential lyrical voice of Walt Disney," the company said in a remembrance posted on its website.

Their hundreds of credits as joint lyricist and composer also include the films "Winnie the Pooh," "The Slipper and the Rose," "Snoopy Come Home," "Charlotte's Web" and "The Magic of Lassie." Their Broadway musicals included 1974's "Over Here!" and stagings of "Mary Poppins" and "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" in the mid-2000s.

"Something good happens when we sit down together and work," Richard Sherman told The Associated Press in a 2005 joint interview. "We've been doing it all our lives. Practically since college we've been working together."

Their awards include 23 gold and platinum albums and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. They became the only Americans ever to win first prize at the Moscow Film Festival for "Tom Sawyer" in 1973 and were inducted into the Songwriters' Hall of Fame in 2005.

President George W. Bush awarded them the National Medal of Arts in 2008, commended for music that "has helped bring joy to millions."

Most of the songs the Shermans wrote — in addition to being catchy and playful — work on multiple levels for different ages, something they learned from Disney.

"He once told us, early on in our career, 'Don't insult the kid — don't write down to the kid. And don't write just for the adult.' So we write for grandpa and the 4-year-old — and everyone in between — and all see it on a different level," Richard Sherman said.

The Shermans began a decade-long partnership with Disney during the 1960s after having written hit pop songs like "Tall Paul" for ex-Mouseketeer Annette Funicello and "You're Sixteen," later recorded by Ringo Starr.



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They wrote over 150 songs at Disney, including the soundtracks for such films as "The Sword and the Stone," "The Parent Trap," "Bedknobs and Broomsticks," "The Jungle Book," "The Aristocrats" and "The Tigger Movie."

"It's a Small World" — which accompanies visitors to Disney theme parks' boat ride sung by animatronic dolls representing world cultures — is believed to be the most performed composition in the world. It was first debuted at the 1964-65 New York World's Fair pavilion ride.

The two brothers credited their father, composer Al Sherman, with challenging them to write songs and for their love of wordsmithing. His legacy of songs includes "You Gotta Be a Football Hero," "(What Do We Do On a) Dew-Dew-Dewy Day" and "On the Beach at Bali-Bali." His sons went on to popularize the terms "fantasmagorical" and "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious."

The Shermans teased songs out of each other, brainstorming titles and then trying to top each other with improvements. "Being brothers, we sort of short-cut each other," Richard Sherman said. "We can almost look at each other and know, 'Hey, you're onto something, kiddo.'"

Away from the piano, the two raised families and pursued their own interests, yet still lived close to each other in Beverly Hills and continued working well into their 70s. When "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" came to Broadway in 2005, they added new lyrics and four new songs.

Richard Sherman is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, and their two children: Gregory and Victoria. He also is survived by a daughter, Lynda, from a previous marriage.

A private funeral will be held on Friday; Disney said a celebration of life service will be announced later.

Though they were estranged for a number of years, the brothers largely avoided sibling rivalry. When asked about that, Richard Sherman was philosophical, touching and jokey all at the same time — much like the trunkful of songs he wrote with his brother.

"We're human. We have frailties and weaknesses. But we love each other very much, respect each other," he said. "I'm happy that he's a successful guy. That makes me a successful guy."

## Nicki Minaj's England concert postponed after rapper was detained by Dutch authorities over pot

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — Nicki Minaj's concert in Manchester scheduled for Saturday night was postponed after police in the Netherlands discovered marijuana in her bags as she was preparing to leave the country.

Promoter Live Nation said the performance will be rescheduled and tickets will be honored.

"Despite Nicki's best efforts to explore every possible avenue to make tonight's show happen, the events of today have made it impossible," the promoter said in a statement. "We are deeply disappointed by the inconvenience this has caused."

Minaj tweeted earlier Saturday that she was stopped at the Amsterdam airport as she was about to board a plane for the concert in Manchester. Police told her they found marijuana in her bags, and it would have to be weighed, she tweeted. Cannabis is illegal in the Netherlands, but it is tolerated for recreational use.

Robert Van Kapel, a spokesperson for the Netherlands military police, said a 41-year-old American woman had been arrested for exporting "soft drugs." He did not identify the woman or elaborate on the type of drugs in question. Police later tweeted that they fined the woman and released her.

Minaj, who is 41 years old, tweeted that she believes police just wanted to make her late for her concert in Manchester.

"Told you, it's to try to make me late so that they can write negative stories. Jealousy is a disease. You know the rest," Minaj tweeted.

Her representatives didn't immediately respond to messages Saturday.

The Trinidadian-born rapper is best known for her hits "Super Freaky Girl," "Anaconda" and "Starships." She has been nominated for 12 Grammy awards over the course of her career. The Manchester concert is part of her "Pink Friday 2" tour, which includes stops in Paris, Poland, Germany, Romania and Switzerland.

## UN court order demanding that Israel halt its Gaza offensive further isolates the US position

By ERIC TUCKER and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.N. court's order that Israel halt its offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah has deepened a disconnect with the United States over a military operation that faces mounting international condemnation but that American officials describe, at least for now, as limited and targeted.

The decision Friday by the International Court of Justice in The Hague adds to the pressure facing an increasingly isolated Israel, coming just days after Norway, Ireland and Spain said they would recognize a Palestinian state, and the chief prosecutor of a separate international court sought arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as well as leaders of Hamas.

The Biden administration stands apart from the global community — though it is opposed to a major offensive in Rafah, the administration also insists that the steps its close ally Israel has taken so far have not crossed red lines.

Administration officials so far have appeared determined to press on with military and political support for Israel following the deadly Hamas attack it endured last October, while also pressuring its ally to avoid a full-scale military operation in densely populated Rafah.

"What we have seen so far in terms of Israel's military operations in that area has been more targeted and limited, has not involved major military operations into the heart of dense urban areas," national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters at a White House briefing this week.

But, he added, "We now have to see what unfolds from here."

A State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe the administration's internal assessment of the situation, said the operation in Gaza had "not yet moved into the core heart of Rafah that gets us to the densest of dense areas."

Earlier this month, the White House announced it was pausing a shipment of some 3,500 bombs, including massive 2,000-pound explosives that the Biden administration said were leading to civilian deaths. President Joe Biden warned during a CNN interview that "if they go into Rafah, I'm not supplying the weapons that have been used historically to deal with Rafah."

U.S. officials in pressuring Israel had suggested that a major operation was a red line that would undermine stalled negotiations on a deal to return Israeli hostages taken by Hamas and would lead Biden to further dial back what weaponry he would send Israel.

But the tone at the White House seemed to take a notable shift this week after Sullivan returned from a visit to Israel, where he said he had been briefed on "refinements" in the Israeli plan to root out Hamas in Rafah, and to Saudi Arabia.

During Sullivan's talks with Netanyahu and other officials during the trip, the Israeli side addressed many of Biden's concerns about its plans for Rafah, according to a senior administration official who requested anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter.

The official said the administration stopped short of greenlighting the Israeli plan but Israeli officials' altered planning suggested they were taking Biden's concerns seriously.

That assessment may be of little consolation to Palestinians still trapped in Rafah — the southernmost part of the Gaza Strip on the border with Egypt, and the site of a critical crossing for aid. More than 1 million people sought refuge there in recent months after escaping fighting elsewhere but some 900,000 have since fled the city.

Israel has brought hundreds of trucks in through the other main border crossing, Kerem Shalom, but the U.N. and aid groups say Israeli military operations make it dangerous for them to pick up food, water and other supplies for starving Palestinians.

The U.S. Agency for International Development says Gaza requires a steady flow of 600 trucks a day of food and other aid to reverse the onset of what the heads of USAID and the U.N. World Food Program call famine in the north and to keep it from spreading to the south.

Even with a U.S. pier starting to bring in a small amount of aid by sea, Gaza has received only a fraction

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of the amount of supplies needed since the start of the Israeli offensive.

Leading international humanitarian groups welcomed the ICJ ruling for the pressure they hoped it would bring. Doctors Without Borders said it was confirmation of how "catastrophic" the situation had become for Palestinian civilians in Gaza and "the desperate need for humanitarian aid to be scaled up immediately."

There's no practical mechanism to force Israel to comply with the court order, which, in addition to ordering a halt to the offensive, also mandates an increase of humanitarian aid to the region and access to Gaza for war crimes investigators.

Israel showed no signs that it intended to change course after Friday's ruling. The war in Gaza followed an Oct. 7 attack on Israel that killed roughly 1,200 people, about a quarter of them soldiers, with another 250 taken captive. At least 35,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, according to the Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between combatants and civilians.

The court's demands go beyond what the U.S. has asked of Israel at the moment, though Washington has nonetheless signaled that it remains opposed to a more intrusive operation in Gaza.

"When it comes to Rafah, we've made known for a long time our concerns about a full-on military assault of Rafah and the damage that that could do to civilian population absent a clear and credible plan to protect it," Secretary of State Antony Blinken told the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Wednesday.

Blinken also reiterated that the administration does not believe a major offensive would achieve the results that Israel is looking to achieve, "which is to deal effectively and durably with Hamas."

"Our concerns about a full-on military assault in Rafah remain," he said. "We have other ways of dealing with the challenge posed by Hamas that we believe can be more effective and more durable."

## Millions vote in India's grueling election with Prime Minister Modi's party likely to win third term

By ASHOK SHARMA Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Millions of Indians voted Saturday in the next-to-last round of a grueling national election with a combined opposition trying to rattle Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign for a third-consecutive term for himself and his Hindu nationalist party.

Many people lined polling stations before the start of voting at 7 a.m. to avoid the blazing sun at the peak of Indian summer. The temperature soared to 43 degrees Celsius (109 degrees Fahrenheit) in the afternoon in the Indian capital.

"This (election) is also like a festival, so I don't have a problem voting in the heat," said Lakshmi Bansal, a housewife.

Saturday's voting in 58 constituencies, including seven in New Delhi, will complete polling for 89.5% of 543 seats in the lower house of Parliament. The remaining 57 seats will be decided on June 1, wrapping up a six-week election. The votes will be counted on June 4.

President Droupadi Murmu and External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar were among the early voters. Opposition Congress party leaders, Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi, also voted in New Delhi.

Mehbooba Mufti, a former top elected official of Indian-controlled Kashmir, held a protest with her supporters Saturday claiming that scores of her party workers were detained by police to prevent them from voting. Mufti, the chief of the People's Democratic Party who is contesting the parliamentary election in the Anantnag-Rajouri district, said she complained to election officials.

In West Bengal state, workers belonging to the All India Trinamool Congress party blocked the car of Agnimitra Paul, one of Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party candidates, as she proceeded to vote in the Medinipur constituency. The two parties are rivals in the state and their activists often clash on the streets.

Trinamool leader and state's top elected official Mamta Banerjee accused the BJP of launching an attack that left one activist dead on Friday in the Purba Medinipur district. Several houses and shops were burned in the area, the Press Trust of India news agency quoted Banerjee as saying.

Suwendu Adhikari, a BJP leader in the state, accused Trinamool members of attacking and killing an



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activist on Thursday, an accusation rejected by his rivals, PTI reported.

The election is considered one of the most consequential in India's history and will test Modi's political dominance. If Modi wins, he'll be only the second Indian leader to retain power for a third term, after Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first prime minister.

Most polls predict a win for the BJP, which is up against a broad opposition alliance led by the Congress and powerful regional parties. But a less-than-expected turnout in the previous five rounds of voting has left some doubts about the BJP's projected margin of victory.

"When the polls began it felt like a one-horse race, with Modi leading from the front. But now we are seeing some kind of shift," political analyst Rasheed Kidwai said. "The opposition is doing better than expected and it appears that Modi's party is rattled. That's the reason you see Modi ramping up anti-Muslim rhetoric to polarize voters."

Kidwai said the opposition had challenged Modi by centering its campaign narrative on social justice and rising unemployment, making the contest closer than expected.

Modi ran his campaign like a presidential race, a referendum on his 10 years of rule. He claimed to help the poorest with charity, free health care, providing toilets in their homes, and helping women get free or cheap cooking gas cylinders.

But he changed tack after a poor turnout in the first round of the election and began stirring Hindu nationalism by accusing the Congress party of pandering to minority Muslims for votes.

Hindus account for 80%, and Muslims nearly 14%, of India's over 1.4 billion people.

Manish Bhatia, a New Delhi voter, said that "politics on the basis of caste and religion is dangerous for the country," adding that voting should be based on how candidates perform.

Nearly 970 million voters — more than 10% of the world's population — were eligible to elect 543 members to the lower house of Parliament for five years.

Voters' relative apathy has surprised some analysts. In the five rounds of polling, turnout ranged between 62.2% to 69.16% — averaging 65.9%. By comparison, India's 2019 national election registered the highest-ever turnout — 67.11%. Modi's BJP won 303 seats in Parliament in 2019.

Modi's inauguration of a massive Hindu temple for the god Rama, his massive roadshows and big public rallies raised the BJP's hopes of a massive surge in voters' support.

The current prime minister came to power in 2014, dislodging the Congress party that governed the country for nearly 55 years after India won independence from British colonialists in 1947.

Before the election, the opposition INDIA alliance was seen bickering, but it has since held together, particularly after two chief ministers of two opposition-controlled states were sent to jail on corruption charges. Both deny the accusations.

One of them — New Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal — has since been released on bail and returned to the campaign trail.

In March, Gandhi completed a 6,713-kilometer (4,171-mile) walk across the country, starting in the violence-hit northeastern state of Manipur, to raise awareness on issues of poverty, unemployment, and democracy with voters.

"The walk helped Gandhi boost his image as a serious politician among the voters, and that is helping the opposition," Kidwai, the analyst, said.

## Emergency convoy delivers provisions to survivors of devastating landslide in Papua New Guinea

By ROD McGUIRK and KEIRAN SMITH Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Survivors searched through tons of earth and rubble by hand looking for missing relatives while a first emergency convoy delivered food, water and other provisions Saturday at the site of a landslide that devastated a remote village in the mountains of Papua New Guinea and was feared to have buried scores of people, officials said.

An assessment team reported "suggestions" that 100 people were dead and 60 houses buried by the

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mountainside that collapsed in Enga province a few hours before dawn Friday, said Serhan Aktoprak, the chief of the International Organization for Migration's mission in the South Pacific island nation.

Confirming a firm number of those who have died will be difficult "given it is considered culturally taboo to ask survivors of the status of their relatives," Aktoprak said.

Only three bodies had been recovered by early Saturday from the vast swath of earth, boulders and splintered trees that struck part of Yambali, a village of nearly 4,000 people that is 600 kilometers (370 miles) northwest of the capital, Port Moresby.

Medical treatment was provided to seven people, including a child, said Aktoprak, who is based in Port Moresby. He had no information about the extent of their injuries.

"It is feared that the number of casualties and wounded will increase dramatically," he said.

A spokesperson for Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape said Saturday he would release information about the scale of the destruction and loss of life when it becomes available.

Philip Mene, an IOM program associate, said survivors "are removing the rubble by hand" as they try to find their relatives.

"It is noticeable that relatives are coming to terms that the people below the debris are all but lost," he said Saturday.

"Most likely hope recovering any survivors is slowly diminishing."

All food gardens that sustain the village's subsistence farming population were destroyed and the three streams that provide drinking water were buried by the landslide.

A convoy left the provincial capital of Wabag on Saturday morning carrying food, water and other essentials to the devastated village 60 kilometers (35 miles) away.

The relief effort was delayed by the landslide closing the province's main highway, which serves the Porgera Gold Mine and the neighboring town of Porgera.

Further convoys are planned for Sunday, including the arrival of heavy earth-moving machinery to help clear the 6 to 8 meters (20 to 26 feet) of debris, earth and rocks which has fallen from the Mungalo mountain that sits above Yambali.

Emergency responders may face challenges using heavy machinery due to the risk and "cultural sensitivities of desecrating bodies that may be within the rubble," Mene said.

Papua New Guinea is a diverse, developing nation of mostly subsistence farmers with 800 languages. There are few roads outside the larger cities.

With 10 million people, it is the most populous South Pacific nation after Australia, which is home to around 27 million.

It is located on the eastern half of the island of New Guinea and sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," the arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where much of the world's earthquake and volcanic activity occurs. In March, the country was hit by a 6.9 magnitude earthquake.

The United States and Australia are building closer defense ties with the strategically important nation, where China is seeking closer security and economic ties.

U.S. President Joe Biden and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said their governments stood ready to help respond to the landslide.

Biden, who was to become the first sitting U.S. president to visit Papua New Guinea a year ago but canceled the trip to focus on a debt crisis in Congress, said he was heartbroken by the loss of life and devastation.

"Our prayers are with all the families impacted by this tragedy and all the first responders who are putting themselves in harm's way to help their fellow citizens," Biden said in a statement.

"The United States stands with Papua New Guinea — our close partner and friend — today and always," Biden added.

Albanese posted on the social media platform X: "All Australians grieve for our brothers and sisters in Papua New Guinea after the terrible landslide."

Australia is Papua New Guinea's near neighbor and most generous provider of foreign aid.

## Up close and personal, cicadas display Nature's artwork. Discerning beholders find beauty in bugs.

By SETH BORENSTEIN and CAROLYN KASTER Associated Press

With rich reds, gentle greens and basic blacks, Nature's screaming, crawling artwork is the epitome of rare beauty — at least in the eyes of some beholders. To others, it may seem just creepy.

It's a colorful, ever-changing canvas of bugs. Lots of them.

A once-in-221-year convergence of two broods of periodical cicadas are emerging at the same time. The big effect of the cicadas is the sheer numbers. Trillions are expected to populate 16 states by mid to late June. They can be overwhelming, messy and loud.

But individually, up close and personal, a cicada has splashes of color, subtle shapes and that special something that some scientists and artists say translate to beauty. Even if to the average person it's just a bug.

To artists and scientists, cicadas are more awe-inspiring than awful.

Periodical cicadas are "more otherworldly-looking" than other insects and then the fact they come out every 13 or 17 years adds to their allure, making "them feel like something out of a science fiction movie," said Jonathan Monaghan, a Washington, D.C.-based visual artist.

"Up close, there is a subtle beauty, particularly with their vibrant cadmium red eyes," Monaghan said in an email. "Visually, they are at their best freshly molted because there is more contrast on their bodies, showing off some really interesting patterns. Overall though, I still think they are rather goofy looking."

When collage artist Luis Martin, a self-described art engineer in Brooklyn, first saw cicadas, he was entranced.

"They were just so beautiful and diaphanous that I kind of fell in love," said Martin, who sported a cicada bolo tie during a Zoom interview. "It looked like a fairy."

But it's a love/fear kind of thing. They also seem scary, he said.

"It kind of goes back to these beautiful colors that we tend to think is kind of ugly, right? Because they're brown, they're kind of metallic, kind of like alien," Martin said. "As a brown person myself I find them absolutely beautiful. I can totally see myself in them."

Not just himself, but Frida Kahlo, Martin said. He could see the artist's signature eyebrows in the close-up cicada face images.

Scientists are even more mesmerized.

"There's a lot of things in the world today to get freaked out about. Cicadas aren't one of them," said Mount St. Joseph University biologist Gene Kritsky, who wrote a book on this year's dual emergence. "They're beautiful insects. They've got these red eyes, black bodies, orange-colored veins on these membranous wings. I love the way they come up in these big numbers. I like that I can predict when they come out. It's a scientific experiment every time.

"But what I really like about them, they got me tenure."

## Today in History: May 26, Obama nominates Sotomayor to Supreme Court

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, May 26, the 147th day of 2024. There are 219 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 26, 2009, President Barack Obama nominated federal appeals judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a measure creating the Montana Territory.

In 1865, Confederate forces west of the Mississippi surrendered in New Orleans.



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In 1938, the House Un-American Activities Committee was established by Congress.

In 1940, Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of some 338,000 Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, began during World War II.

In 1954, explosions rocked the aircraft carrier USS Bennington off Rhode Island, killing 103 sailors. (The initial blast was blamed on leaking catapult fluid ignited by the flames of a jet.)

In 1971, Don McLean recorded his song "American Pie" at The Record Plant in New York City (it was released the following November by United Artists Records).

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in Moscow. (The U.S. withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

In 1981, 14 people were killed when a Marine jet crashed onto the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off Florida.

In 1994, Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley were married in the Dominican Republic. (The marriage ended in 1996.)

In 2004, nearly a decade after the Oklahoma City bombing, Terry Nichols was found guilty of 161 state murder charges for helping carry out the attack. (Nichols later received 161 consecutive life sentences.)

In 2009, California's Supreme Court upheld the Proposition 8 gay marriage ban but said the 18,000 same-sex weddings that had taken place before the prohibition passed were still valid.

In 2011, Ratko Mladic (RAHT'-koh MLAH'-dich), the brutal Bosnian Serb general suspected of leading the massacre of 8,000 Muslim men and boys, was arrested after a 16-year manhunt. (Mladic was extradited to face trial in The Hague, Netherlands; he was convicted in 2017 on genocide and war crimes charges and is serving a life sentence.)

In 2020, Minneapolis police issued a statement saying George Floyd had died after a "medical incident," and that he had physically resisted officers and appeared to be in medical distress; minutes after the statement was released, bystander video was posted online. Protests over Floyd's death began, with tense skirmishes developing between protesters and Minneapolis police. Four police officers who were involved in Floyd's arrest were fired.

In 2022, it was revealed that the gunman who massacred 19 children and two teachers at a Texas elementary school was inside for more than an hour before he was killed in a shootout with police. The amount of time that elapsed stirred anger and questions among family members, who demanded to know why authorities did not storm the place and put a stop to the rampage more quickly.

Today's Birthdays: Sportscaster Brent Musburger is 85. Rock musician Garry Peterson (Guess Who) is 79. Singer Stevie Nicks is 76. Actor Pam Grier is 75. Actor Philip Michael Thomas is 75. Country singer Hank Williams Jr. is 75. Former British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is 75. Actor Margaret Colin is 66. Actor Doug Hutchison is 64. Actor Genie Francis is 62. Comedian Bobcat Goldthwait is 62. Singer-actor Lenny Kravitz is 60. Actor Helena Bonham Carter is 58. Distance runner Zola Budd is 58. Rock musician Phillip Rhodes is 56. Actor Joseph Fiennes (FYNZ) is 54. Singer Joey Kibble (Take 6) is 53. Actor-producer-writer Matt Stone is 53. Singer Lauryn Hill is 49. Contemporary Christian musician Nathan Cochran is 46. Actor Elisabeth Harnois is 45. Actor Hrach Titizian is 45.