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Sunday, April 13 ~ PALM SUNDAY

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m. (Procession of the Palms by youth)

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Sunday School sing in church, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 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.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; Easter Cantata with Aberdeen Alliance joining Groton in Groton, 6:30 p.m. Title is "Calvary's Love Story."

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Princess Prom, 4:30 p.m.

Sisseton-Britton-Webster JV baseball in Groton, doubleheader, 2 p.m.

Monday, April 14

Senior Menu: Spanish rice, green beans, peaches, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: French bread pizza, peas.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Smarter Balance Testing for grades 5, 8 11 (Science)

Groton Senior Citizens Meet, 1 p.m., Groton Community Center

JV Baseball at Northville, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

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

Tuesday, April 15

Senior Menu: Ham rotini bake, peas and carrots, five cup salad, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Waffles.

School Lunch: Sloppy joes, baked beans.

Smarter Balance Testing for grades 5, 8 11 (Science)

Track at Clear Lake, 2 p.m.

Junior High Track at Milbank, 4 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

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

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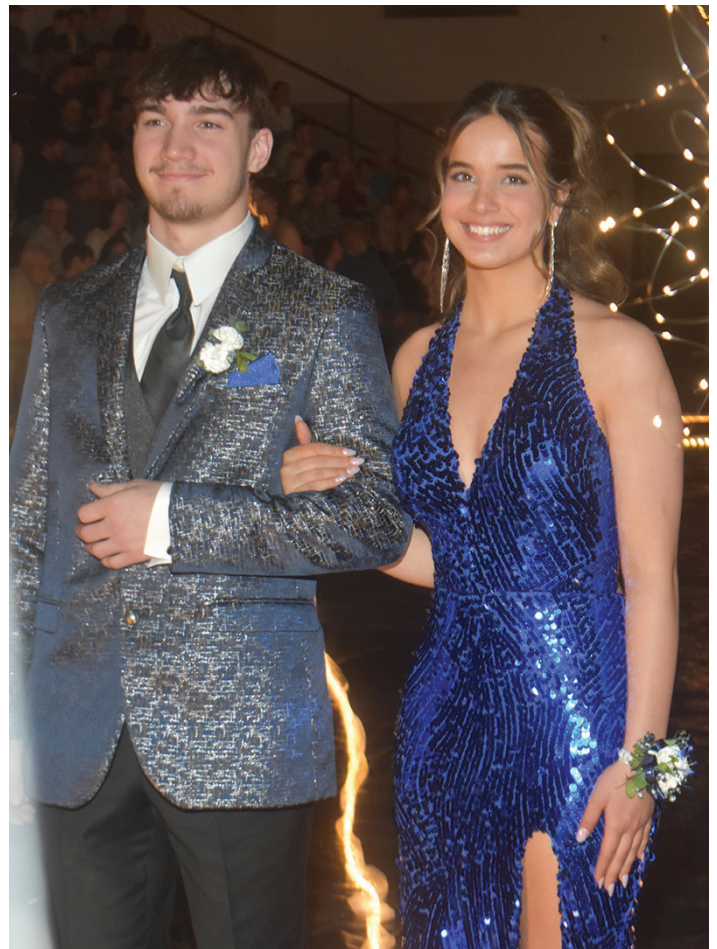
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GHS Junior-Senior Prom 2025 The Golden Hour



Junior Class President Olivia Stiegelmeier escorted by Daniel Person. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Senior Class President Gretchen Dinger escorted by Christian Ehresmann. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Paisley Bray escorted by Drew Thurston.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



London Bahr escorted by Ben Hoeft. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Halee Harder escorted by Payton Mitchell.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Jaedyn Penning escorted by Karter Moody.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Mia Crank escorted by Brody Lord. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



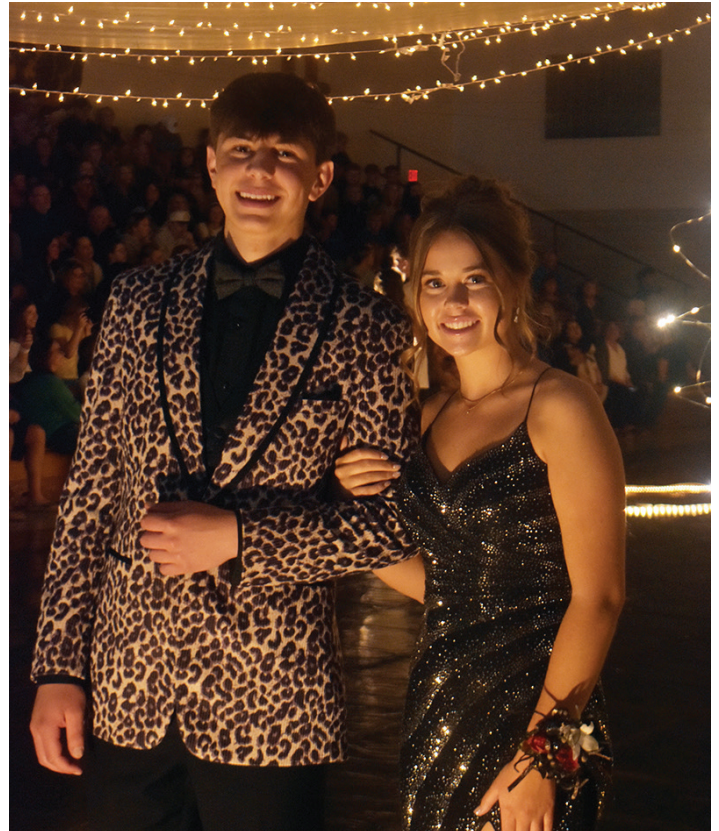
Carly Gilbert escorted by Blake Lord. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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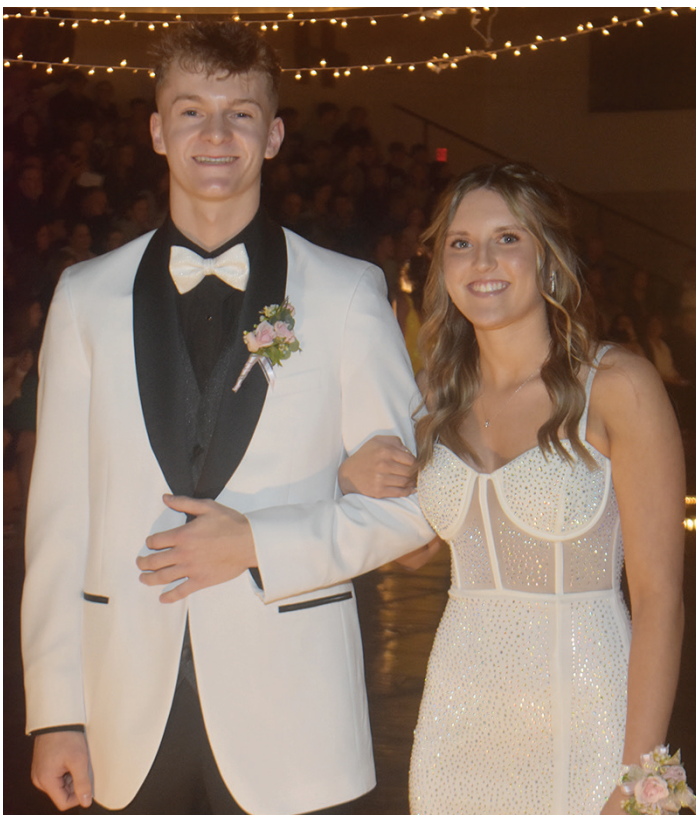
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Abby Yeadon escorted by Skyler Godel. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jaydin Stiles escorted by Carter Simon. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Brooklyn Hansen escorted by Ryder Johnson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Kella Tracy escorted by Turner Thompson.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Olivia Deutsch escorted by Blake Pauli. (Photo

by Paul Kosel)



Cambrina Bonn escorted by Hunter Kern.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Brenna Imrie escorted by Kellen Antonsen.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Reganne Miles escorted by Christopher Schwab.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Taylor Thorstenson escorted by Kaden Kampa.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Ashley Johnson escorted by Gavin Kroll.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Rylee Dunker escorted by Gage Sippel. (Photo
by Paul Kosel)



Emma Davies escorted by Keegan Mix. (Photo
lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)

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Hannah Sandness escorted by Lincoln Krause. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Kennedy Hansen escorted by Teylor Diegel. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jerica Locke escorted by Keegen Tracy. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Laila Roberts escorted by Becker Bosma.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Harley Johnson escorted by Caden McInerney. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



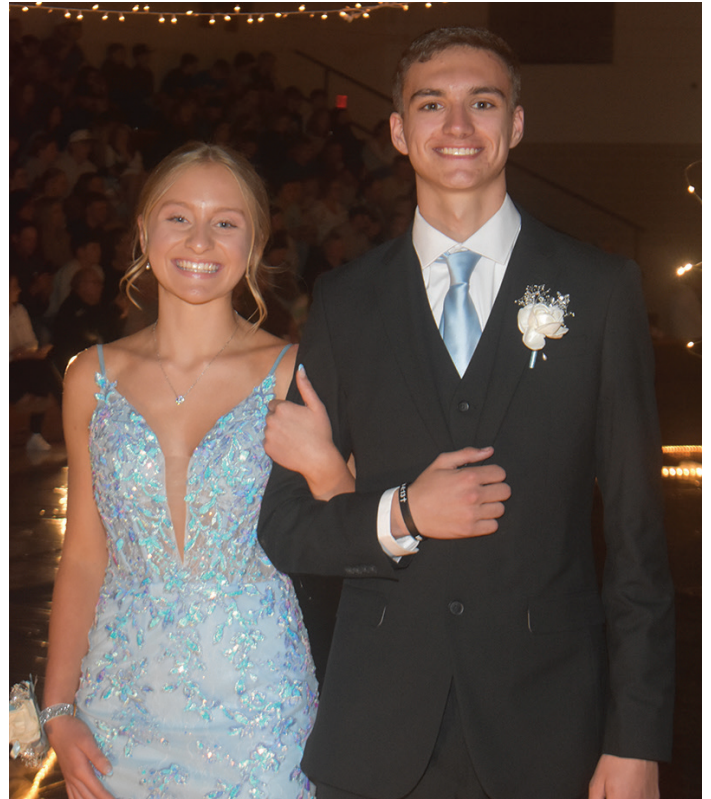
Kyleigh Kroll escorted by Karsten Jeschke.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Makenna Krause escorted by Drake Peterson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



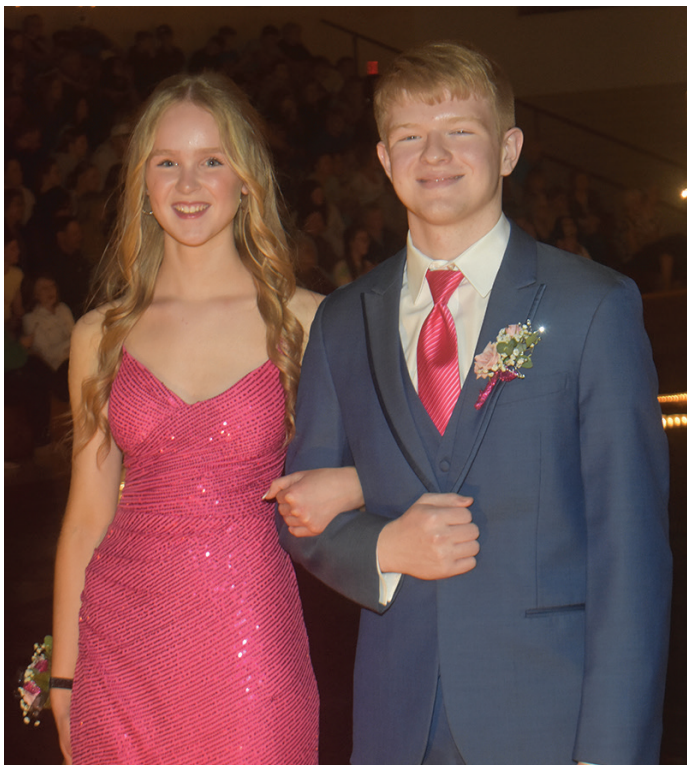
Ashlynn Warrington escorted by Jayden Schwan. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Elizabeth Fliehs escorted by Jace Johnson.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Teagan Hanten escorted by Nathan Unzen.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



McKenna Tietz escorted by Logan Pearson.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Gentry Pigors escorted by Axel Warrington.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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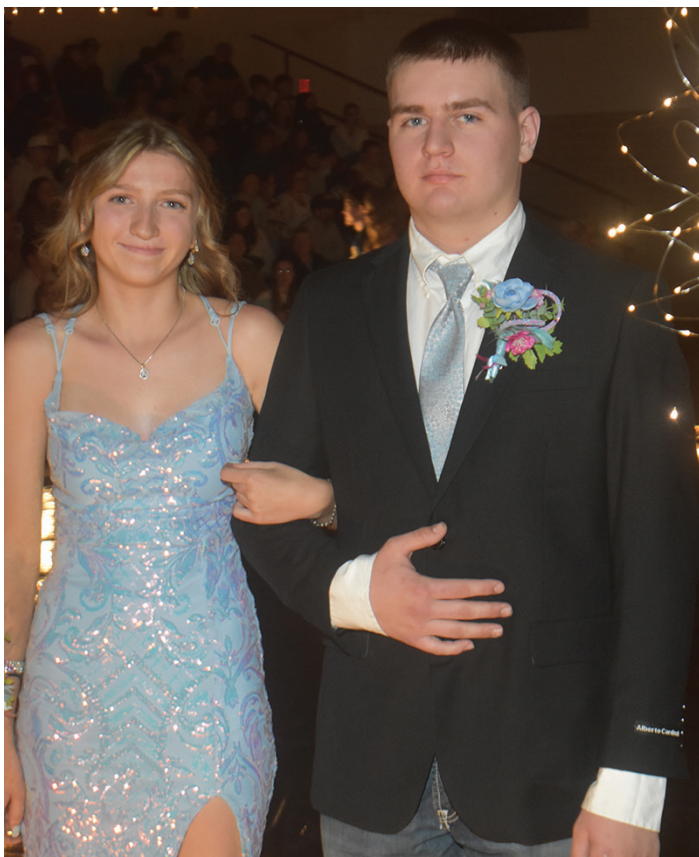
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Natalia Warrington escorted by Carter Kraft. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Kayla Lehr escorted by Kalen Godel. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Gracelynn Decker escorted by Charlie Frost. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Addison Hoeft escorted by Bradyn Wien.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Avery Crank escorted by Jacob Tewksbury.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Emerlee Jones escorted by Easten Ekern.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

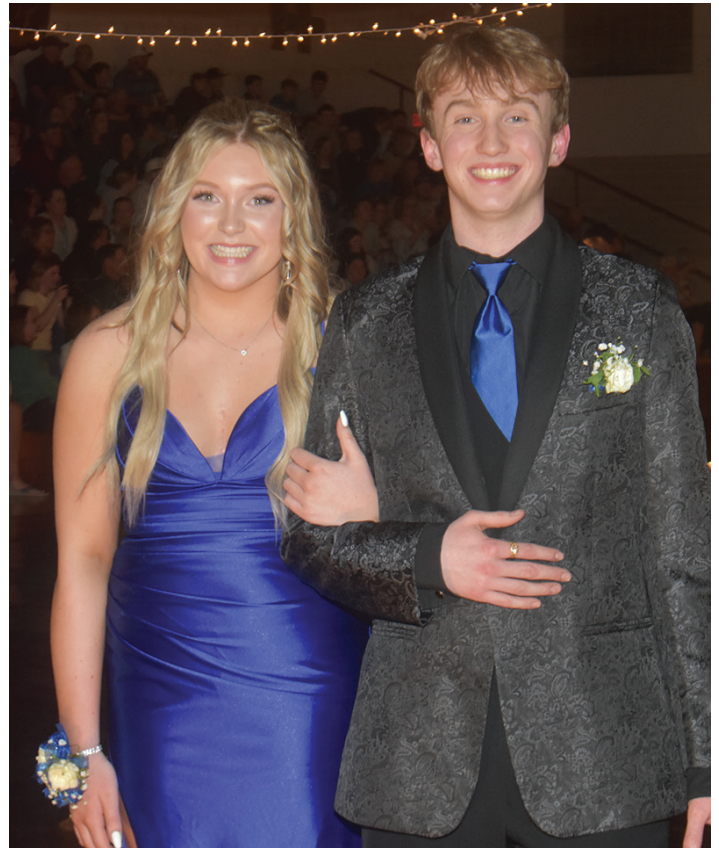
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Emma Kutter escorted by Korbin Kucker.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Macee Holcomb escorted by Garret Schultz. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Ashlyn Feser escorted by Micah King. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Talli Wright escorted by Logan Warrington.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Autumn Wegleitner escorted by Keegan Harry. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Raelee Lilly escorted by Micahel Opp. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Ella Bray escorted by Nick Morris. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



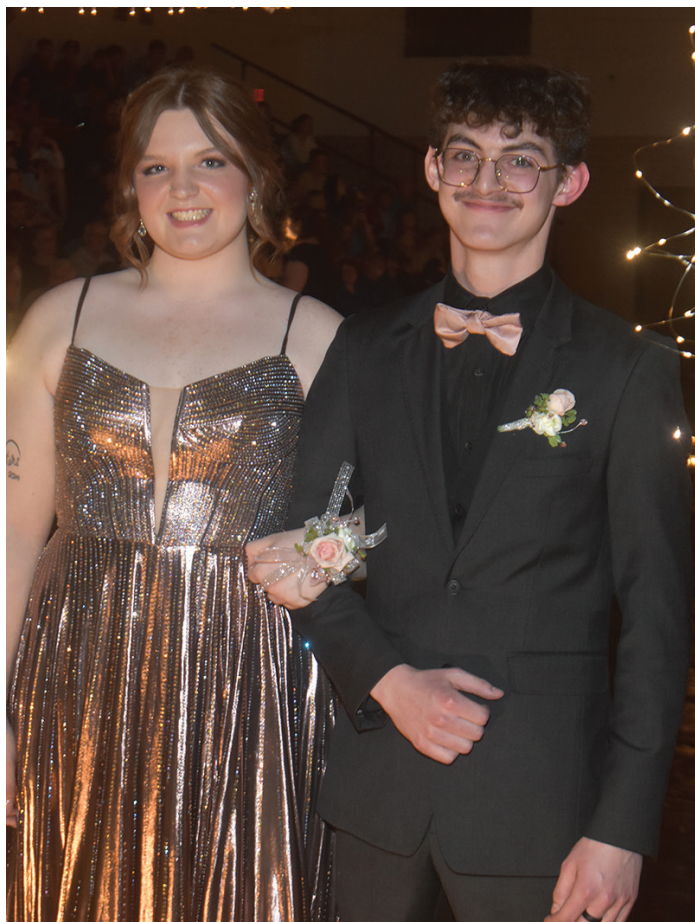
Karrah-Jo Johnson escorted by Zach Murray.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Faith Traphagen escorted by Ethan Kroll.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Emily Overacker escorted by Zachary Sidoti.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jeslyn Kosel and Rebecca Poor. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Faith Trappager escorted by Ethan Rol

(Photo by Paul)

The seniors. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Scooter for Sale

For sale a Kymco scooter super 8 for sale. In good shape. Asking \$1,000 for it. Contact Tina at 605-397-7285. Cash only

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Tina's Baskets - for Easter
605-397-7285

Cow basket - \$20



Rainbow basket - \$25



Includes - green drink cup, light up football, play dough, dinosaur bubble, bubbles, and 4 filled eggs

Includes- two color books 7 filled eggs, pink drink cup, crayons, Reese's candy, egg chalk, playdough, bubbles fan bubbles and a rabbit bubble

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Pink basket - \$20



Includes a pink bear with hugs in it , bubble machine, bubbles, side chalk bunny book, 6 eggs filled Reeses pieces candy



CALVARY'S LOVE STORY

*Easter Cantata presented by
Aberdeen Alliance Church and
Groton C&MA Church*

**APRIL
13
2025**

**GROTON C&MA
CHURCH**

**6:30 PM
706 N MAIN ST.
GROTON, SD**

**APRIL
16
2025**

**ABERDEEN
ALLIANCE CHURCH**

**7:00 PM
1106 S. ROOSEVELT ST.
ABERDEEN, SD**

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Detail of "Portrait of E.H."
by Erich Heckel (1917)

...He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake.

For when I am weak, then I am strong.

🌀 2 CORINTHIANS 12: 9,10 🌀

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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. What's the only book of the Bible that mentions Christ's tomb being sealed? *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*

3. From Matthew 28:2, who rolled back the stone from the door of Jesus' tomb and sat upon it? *Simon, An angel, Villagers, Disciples*

4. When Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" came upon the risen Jesus, who did He ask them to inform? *Priests, Disciples, No one, Villagers*

5. From John 20, which disciple doubted Jesus had risen unless he could see the wounds? *Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Thaddeus*

6. How long did Jesus remain after His resurrection before He ascended into heaven? *Instantaneously, 1 hour, 7 days, 40 days*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Matthew, 3) An angel, 4) Disciples, 5) Thomas (called Didymus), 6) 40 days

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

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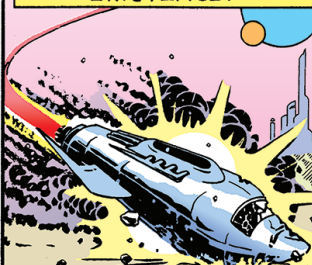


FLASH GORDON

3-30
By JIM KEEFE

CONTINUING:
THE WAY IT BEGAN!

FLASH GORDON, DALE ARDEN, AND DR. HANS ZARKOV CRASH-LAND ON AN ALIEN WORLD THREATENING EARTH'S EXISTENCE!



TAKEN CAPTIVE, THEY ARE BROUGHT BEFORE THE DESPOTIC RULER OF THIS HOSTILE WORLD.

SELF-PROCLAIMED EMPEROR OF THE UNIVERSE...

... **MING** THE MERCILESS!




ESCAPING MING'S CLUTCHES, THE MAROONED FUGITIVES' BRAVERY AND COURAGE RALLIES OTHERS.



UNITING UNDER FLASH'S LEADERSHIP, THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF MONGO RISE UP, BREAKING MING'S REIGN OF TERROR!

ELUDING JUSTICE, MING WAGES A NEVER-ENDING BATTLE TO REGAIN THE THRONE...

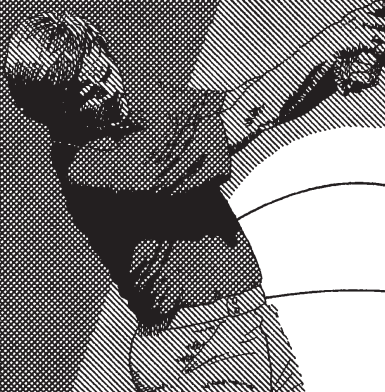


...AND EXACT REVENGE ON THE EARTHLINGS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS RUIN!

ORIGIN STORY DEDICATED TO FLASH'S CREATOR, ALEX RAYMOND

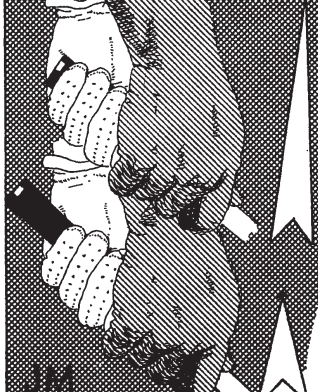
NEXT: NEW ADVENTURE!

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



CAN YOU HIT THE BALL HIGHER OR LOWER WITH EVERY CLUB AT WILL?

BEING ABLE TO DO SO WILL MAKE YOU A BETTER PLAYER.



TO FLY SHOTS HIGHER, HOLD THE CLUB LIGHTLY AND AS CLOSE TO ITS END AS POSSIBLE.

TO KEEP THE BALL LOW, CHOKEDOWN ON THE SHAFT AND HANG ONTO THE CLUB FIRMLY THROUGHOUT THE SWING.



Being Insistent About a Scan Saves the Life Of a Cancer Patient

DEAR DR. ROACH: About 12 years ago, I had a scan done to look for the cause of a problem that I was having for many months: pain in my abdomen and vomiting. (It turned out to be Barrett's esophagus, which was found with a scope.) Fortunately for me, I read the report from the scan. The report said there was a spot on my kidney that ought to be checked in a year. I was very busy at the time, and my doctor retired, so I had to find another one.

Five years went by, and one day during a routine visit with my doctor, I remembered the report and asked my new doctor for another scan. She said she couldn't order a scan without a reason. I then told her about the

report from five years ago, but she did a cursory look at my papers and said she could not find it. I asked her to keep looking. She looked again, found it, then ordered a scan.

This move saved my life. The scan showed something larger than before. I went to Johns Hopkins Hospital and met a very good doctor who told me there was an 80% chance that I had cancer, and we should forgo a biopsy and remove it. He did this, and the cancer was fully contained. I didn't have to do chemotherapy.

It has now been five years with yearly scans and no problems in my kidney. Please encourage people to read their reports. -- F.B.

ANSWER: Although doctors should read these carefully and act on them appropriately, important findings can be overlooked sometimes. You are absolutely right that you are your own best health advocate, and you did the right thing by bringing the finding up to your new doctor.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 79-year-old woman who received the original Zostavax vaccine around 2010. Then, when the newer, improved Shingrix vaccine became available, I was given the two-shot series in 2019.

Feeling quite confident that I was well-protected, I was shocked when I was diagnosed with a very painful case of shingles in September 2021, followed by post-herpetic neuralgia that lasted for six months. I have heard that shingles can recur, sometimes more than once. My question is, should I get Zostavax again in the hope that it will maybe protect me this time around? -- B.K.

ANSWER: You did everything right to prevent shingles but still got the infection and its complication, which doesn't seem fair. Fortunately, this is a rare situation. Recurrent shingles happens more commonly in people with immune deficiency, women, and older adults. Anyone at risk for HIV should consider getting an HIV test if they get shingles or recurrent shingles.

The live Zostavax vaccine is no longer available in the United States, even though it is available in many other countries. Still, I don't recommend it as the protection from the vaccine is not long-lived.

There are no strong data in getting another dose (or more) of the Shingrix vaccine in your situation, but you could discuss it with your doctor. Another option is having an available supply of antiviral medicine such as valacyclovir (Valtrex) to use as soon as another recurrence happens.

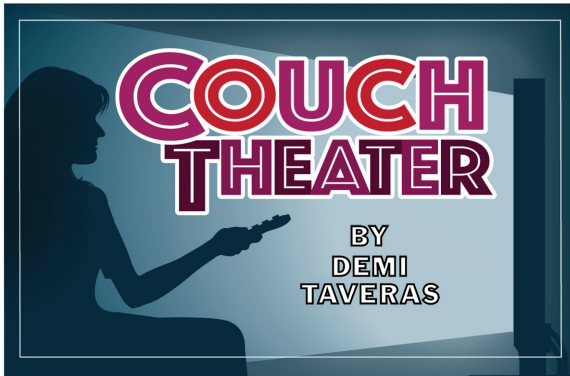
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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"Mickey 17" (R) -- Everyone's been looking forward to director Bong Joon Ho's follow-up film to his 2019 masterpiece "Parasite." For his new sci-fi black comedy, he employed the acting talents of Robert Pattinson -- who got to take a break from being "The Batman" -- as well as Naomi Ackie

("Blink Twice"), Steven Yeun ("Nope"), Toni Collette ("Juror #2") and Mark Ruffalo ("Poor Things"). Pattinson plays expendable Mickey Barnes in the year 2050, and as an expendable, Mickey is tasked with deadly missions. Luckily, a new clone of him regenerates with his restored memories after each death. That is until the 17th version of Mickey survives an accident, only to find Mickey 18 alive and well. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Your Friends & Neighbors" (TV-MA) -- Jon Hamm ("The Morning Show") leads this new drama series that has already been renewed for a second season! Hamm stars as Andrew Cooper, a hedge fund manager in New York who gets fired from his job. Andrew has also recently divorced his wife, Mel (Amanda Peet), and feels the pressure to maintain his family's wealth amid his firing. So, as he's looking around at the riches that surround his friends and neighbors, Andrew concludes that a little looting never hurt anyone. Surely, these affluent people wouldn't miss a diamond bracelet here or a Chanel bag there, right? If you don't want to miss the shenanigans that will inevitably follow Andrew's flawed plan, the first two episodes of this nine-episode season are out now for you to give a try! (Apple TV+)

"The Carters: Hurts to Love You" (TV-MA) -- Another documentary is releasing about the tortured Carter family, their music careers in Hollywood, and the tragic deaths that some of the Carter siblings continue to meet. In the doc, the only two living siblings, Nick (of the Backstreet Boys) and model Angel (Aaron's twin), discuss their rollercoaster childhoods and the effect these deaths have had on their family. Of course, never-before-seen home videos are interspersed throughout the doc, and interviews with celebrity friends like Melissa Joan Hart and Scout Willis are included. Check it out on April 15. (Paramount+)

In Case You Missed It

"Aftersun" (R) -- Before Paul Mescal ever suited up to play Lucius Verus in "Gladiator II," he gave an incredible performance as a young father in this coming-of-age drama film from the production company A24. Calum (Mescal), who's approaching his 31st birthday, takes his 11-year-old daughter Sophie on a vacation to Turkey. While Sophie records her resort experience through a video camera and enjoys reaching teenage milestones during her vacation, Calum feigns to be an easygoing happy dad but suffers deeply from depression, anxiety and trauma. Viewers watch as he inwardly battles depressive episodes that hang like a dark cloud over the memorable events of Sophie's holiday. Watch now. (Hulu)

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Jon Hamm stars in "Your Friends & Neighbors."

(Courtesy of Apple TV+)

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1. Name the theme song from the film "Same Time Next Year."
2. The Supremes had five No. 1 songs in 1964. What were the songs?
3. Which Lady Gaga song was used in the 2011 animated film "Puss in Boots"?
4. Who was the first to release "What a Fool Believes"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "People put me down cause that's the side of town I was born in."

Answers

1. "The Last Time I Felt Like This," by Johnny Mathis and

Jane Olivior in the 1978 film.

2. "Back in My Arms Again," "Baby Love," "Come See About Me," "Stop! In the Name of Love," "Where Did Our Love Go?"

3. "Americano." The song was used at the end of the film when Puss and Kitty Softpaws are dancing across rooftops and then through the credits.

4. The Doobie Brothers, in 1978. The song ended up with a Grammy for Song of the Year and was later inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

5. "Down in the Boondocks," by Billy Joe Royal, in 1965. Royal's version was meant to be a demo to be sent to Gene Pitney, but the song was good enough for a record company to promote it.

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GRIN and BEAR IT *by Wagner*



"You can't file jointly with your dog, Mr. Figby."

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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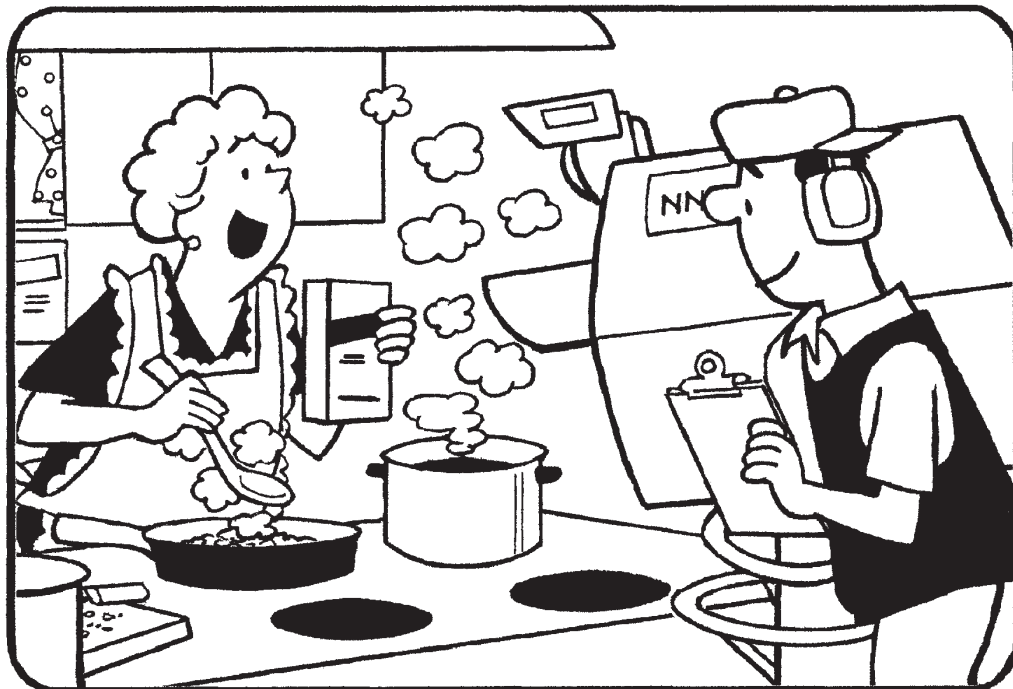
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Pot is moved. 2. Box is larger. 3. Apron is different. 4. Cabinet is wider. 5. Curtain is different. 6. Nose is smaller.

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* Yard sale, tag sale, garage sale ... whatever you call it, if you do it right, you can walk away with a decluttered home and a nifty bit of cash, too. Here's my tip: Advertise, advertise, advertise -- on local message boards and websites, as well as using signs. The more people you drive to your sale, the more you are likely to sell.

* "When you put jewelry out at a garage sale, you can display it for better results. Use a window screen for paired earrings, or maybe a tie rack for necklaces. I sell a lot of costume stuff in my sales. Kids especially like it." -- R.G. in Mississippi

* One way to organize a tag sale is to group items in bins by price. Or have a dollar table. If you have lots of clothes, you might price it by the piece and have good price breaks for

people who buy lots of pieces.

* "Put well-marked sports equipment in a place that can be viewed by passersby. Make attractive displays of toys and tools as well. People are always looking for these." -- M.H. in Alabama

* Not sure how to price your items for resale? The rule for yard sales is as follows: For items that are new, still with tags or in original, unopened packaging, price it as 50% off retail. For items that are in good working condition, with all parts and accessories, mark it 30% of what you paid. Other items should be marked down to 20% of what you paid. Be honest with yourself. If something is just usable, but not really worth a buck, put it in a "free" bin. Your customers will be grateful, and you might make an additional sale.

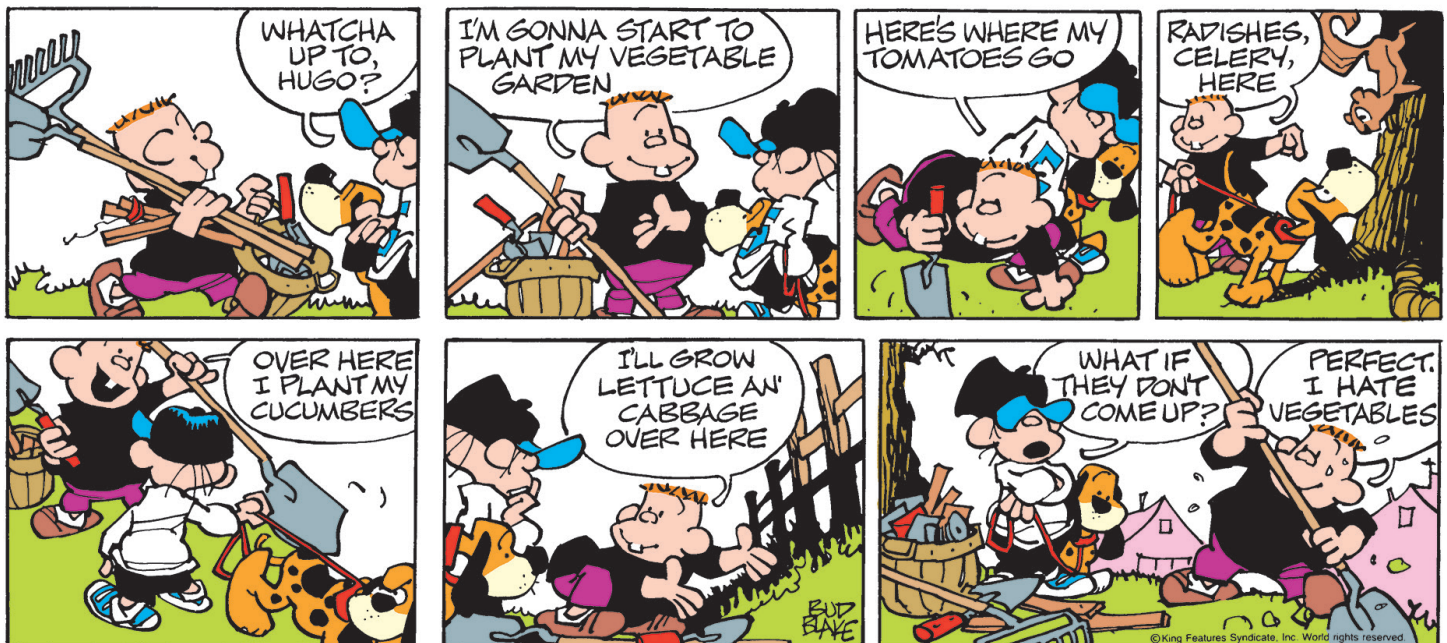
* Be sure to have plastic bags on hand. Boxes and newspaper are handy if you are selling any dishes or glassware, too.

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 Barn birds
5 Snooze
8 Humdrum
12 Nerd's kin
13 Somewhat (Suff.)
14 Green land
15 Hindu royal
16 "My word!"
17 Taxi alternative
18 Allow
20 Peace
Nobelist Lech
22 Poetic contraction
23 Armed conflict
24 Melville captain
27 Shortly
32 — canto
33 Nonpro sports org.
34 DDE's opponent
35 Parts
38 L-Q bridge
39 Moray, for one
40 Attempt
42 "Rats!"
45 Actress Phylicia
49 China setting
50 "The Greatest"
52 Empty truck's weight

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

- 53 Male deer
54 Meadow
55 Inventor's inspiration
56 Sharpen
57 Family
58 "Brian's Song" star
7 "That was close!"
8 Biondi in "It's a Wonderful Life"
9 Resident of Monrovia
10 War god
11 Wife of Zeus
19 French article
21 "Adorbs!"
24 Sit-up targets
25 Haw preceder
26 Resident of Oran
28 D.C. baseballer
29 Resident of Vienna
30 Summer sign
31 Mentalist's gift
36 Household
37 Yale grad
38 Spiritualist
41 Egyptian sun god
42 Sprint
43 Regarding
44 Chat
46 "Mary — Little Lamb"
47 Bailiwick
48 Campus big-wig
51 Island garland

DOWN

- 1 Shrek, for one
2 Gradually withdraw
3 Sultry Horne
4 Winter vehicle
5 Resident of Lagos
6 Enzyme suffix

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— King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

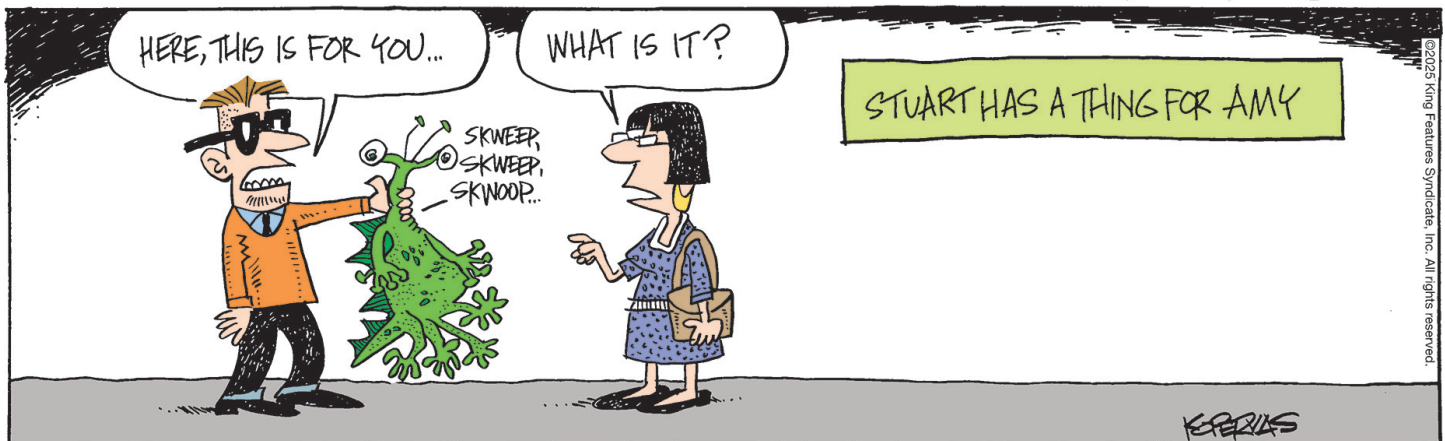
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Olive



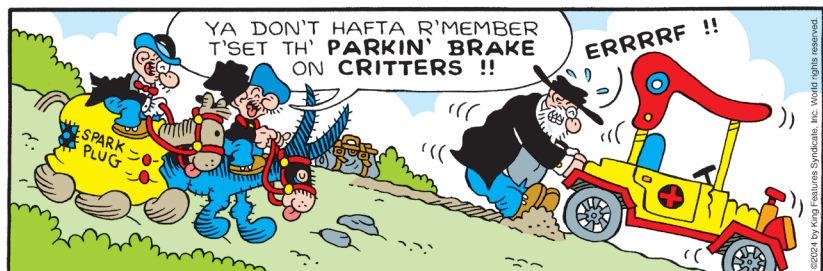
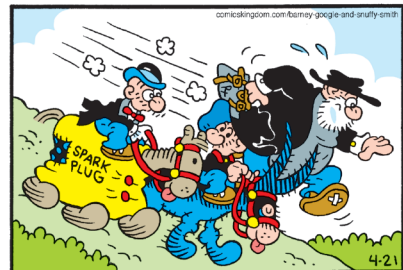
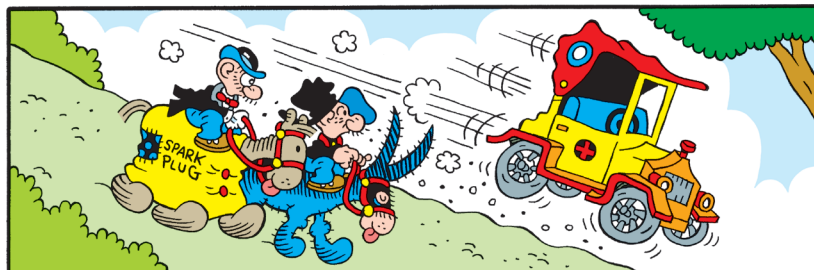
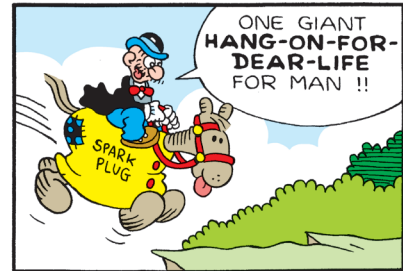
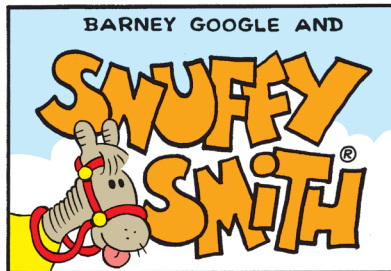
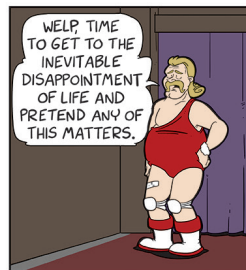
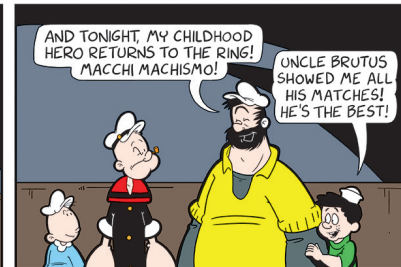
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



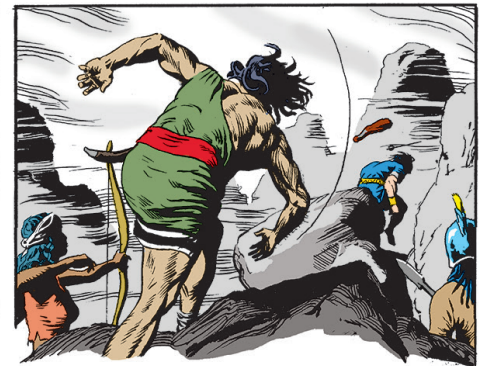
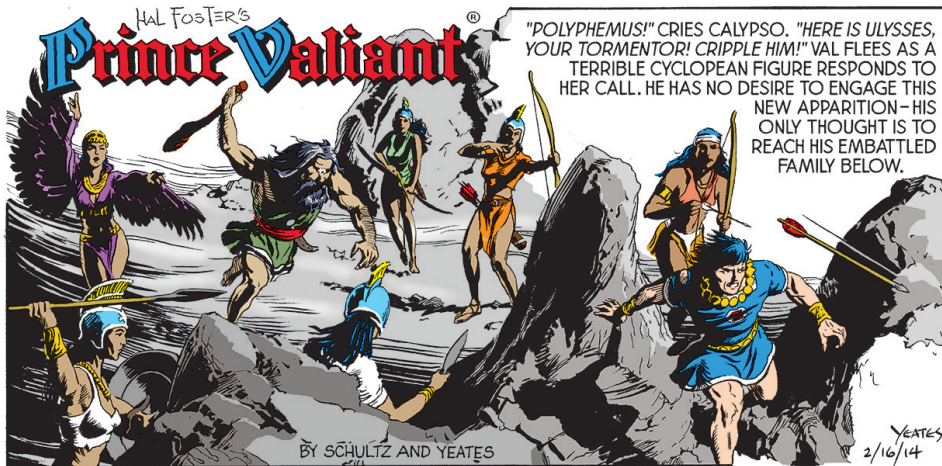
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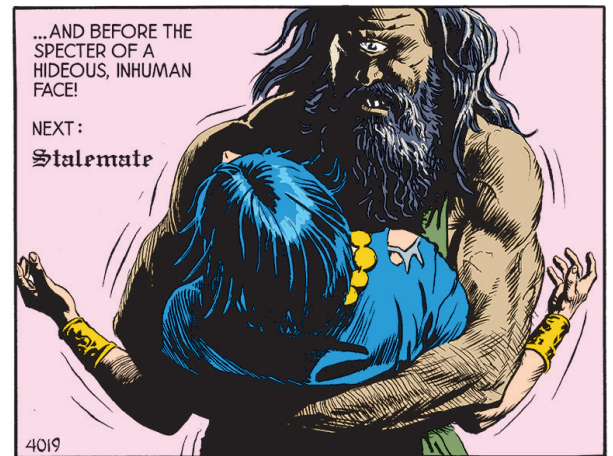


VAL MOVES SWIFTLY, EVEN THROUGH THIS TORTURED LANDSCAPE, BUT THE LUMBERING GIANT IS RESOURCEFUL ...

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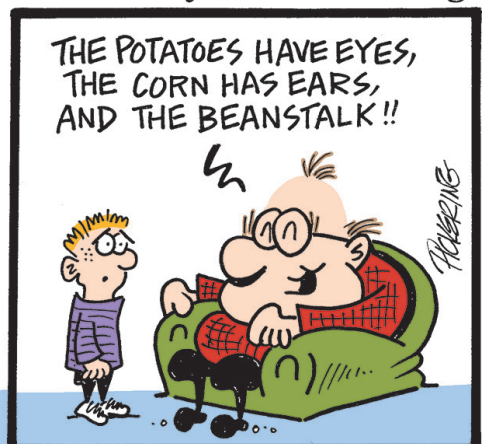
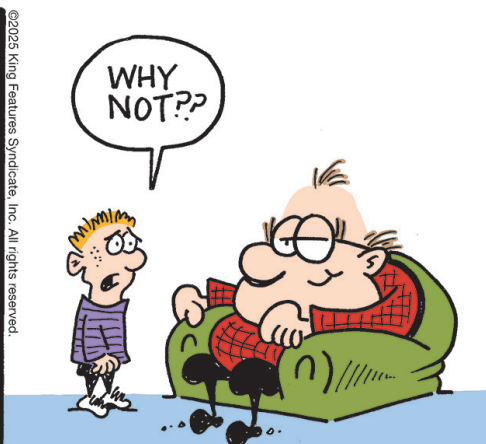
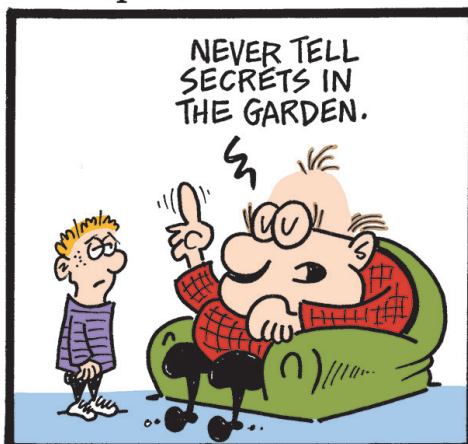


...WITH GOOD AIM. HIS CLUB CATCHES VAL A GLANCING BLOW, BUT THAT IS MORE THAN ENOUGH...



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

A new internet scam

I'd thought I could identify an internet scam when it showed up, but there's a new one out now. It's slick and potentially dangerous if you fall for it.

It's called the CAPTCHA scam. CAPTCHA stands for "completely automated public turing test to tell computers and humans apart." They are those annoying interruptions when you're trying to access a webpage. You typically have to click a box to prove you're not a robot. Then you have to type in the skewed letters on the screen and click all the parts of the streetlight, or car or bus or whatever the image is. All this before it allows you to go to the page you're trying to see.

The newest scam is that these CAPTCHAs are spreading malware in your computer with every step.

This is a sneaky scam because we've been lulled into complacency about those CAPTCHA verification tests, and we might tend to just click on it to get through it. Things are different now. If you come across a CAPTCHA, check the address of the webpage by looking for "https" to be sure that little "s" is present.

Here's how the scams work:

You might be instructed to download a file or to press certain keys.

Or, after completing the first step, you might end up on a fake webpage that looks a lot like the one you were trying to get to.

Once you get through the steps, malware is installed on your computer without you knowing, and its job is to hunt for personal information on your machine.

If you suddenly get a CAPTCHA popping up when you don't expect it, back out of the page. Don't go there.

Even if you're sure you're safe, don't download anything that a CAPTCHA steers you to.

And as always, keep good virus protection on your computer.

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Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460
Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



Living Heart Fitness Center

Senior Citizens 65+
Physical Therapy.

\$20 a month

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1. Dan Gable, a freestyle wrestler who won gold at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, hailed from what U.S. state?

2. Name the Major League Baseball first baseman/outfielder who wrote the 1994 book "I Ain't an Athlete, Lady ..." and penned an ESPN.com column titled "Chewing the Fat."

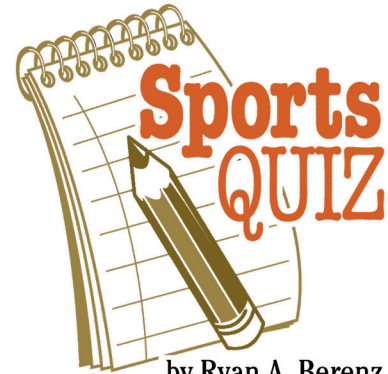
3. Who was crew chief of the Hendrick Motorsports No. 48 car driven by Jimmie Johnson that won seven NASCAR Cup Series championships from 2006-16?

4. Before his careers playing in Major League Baseball (1942-49) and broadcasting, Buddy Blattner was a 1936-37 world champion in what sport?

5. Italian brothers Piero and Raimondo D'Inzeo competed in what sport in eight straight Olympics from 1948-76?

6. What is the name of Japan's Nippon Professional Baseball Central League team based in Hiroshima?

7. Holly Manthei, the NCAA women's soccer all-time assists leader with 129, played for what college team?



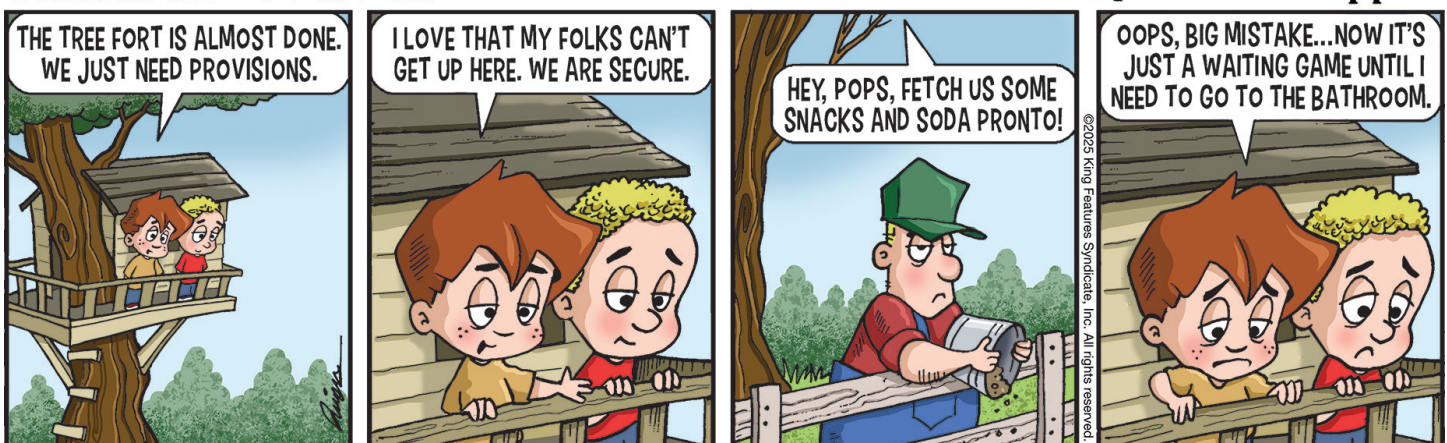
by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Iowa.
 2. John Kruk.
 3. Chad Knaus.
 4. Table tennis.
 5. Equestrian show jumping.
 6. The Hiroshima Toyo Carp.
 7. The University of Notre Dame Fighting Irish.
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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have an adventurous Short-haired Pointer named "Gordie" who loves running through the woods behind my home while I walk behind him. He occasionally comes back with scrapes and cuts. I want to share with your readers how I take care of his minor injuries, and when a vet visit is necessary.

Most of the time, Gordie's scrapes are very minor. I always check him when we get back to the house, because he can easily pick up ticks, too. I remove any clinging ticks and kill them right away. I check the pads under his paws, and run my hand along his coat to remove burrs. If he has a scrape on his side or paw, I clean it with warm water, disinfect it and put some antibiotic ointment on it. If it's a place where he can scratch or lick, I cover it with a gauze bandage for a couple of days.

Last month, Gordie limped over to me with a deep laceration on his left front paw pad. Fortunately, we weren't far from home. I carried him inside and gently looked at the injury. It wasn't bleeding too badly, but the cut was very deep, and trying to clean it was very painful for him. This time, we had to see the vet. I wrapped his paw in gauze to protect it and off we went. The vet stitched him up, and Gordie has to wear a lampshade collar for the next week or so to let it heal.

I hope my story will be helpful to readers. -- Tyler N., Dracut, Massachusetts

DEAR TYLER: This is very helpful! Best wishes to Gordie for a speedy recovery.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* Every unborn baby grows a mustache in the womb, which then spreads to cover the entire body. The baby then consumes this fine hair, called lanugo, and excretes it after birth with its first bowel movement, which is a substance called meconium.

* In 2013, "Star Wars" was dubbed in Navajo, making it the first major motion picture to be dubbed in a Native American language.

* Your brain sees the world upside down. When the rods and cones of your retina send an image to the brain -- say, you're looking at a tree -- the image that gets transmitted to the brain is upside down. The brain automatically rotates the image in its visual cortex.

* Researchers at Oregon State University patented a strain of seaweed that's not only rich in protein, but tastes remarkably like bacon when cooked.

* The term "pipe dream" is a reference to the crazy dreams people have while smoking opium.

* Death rates in boxing exploded after the introduction of the boxing glove. Almost nobody ever died bare knuckle boxing because head punches often resulted in broken hands, so nobody used them.

* A typical piano has about 12,000 parts, 10,000 of which are moving.

* The shooting of JFK assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was the first known human killing seen on live television.


* Nylon replaced silk as the most common dental floss material following silk's increased price during the second World War.

* Studies show that 88% of women wear shoes that are too small for their feet.

* After Korean soccer player Ahn Jung-hwan scored the goal that eliminated Italy from the 2002 World Cup, the Italian club where he played canceled his contract for "ruining Italian soccer."

Thought for the Day: "Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself." -- George Bernard Shaw


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Attracting pollinators

Hummingbirds, butterflies, bees and other pollinators are dusted loosely with pollen grains each time they feed on a flower's nectar or gather pollen from it. The grains are then transferred to each flowering plant the pollinators visit as they continue to feed, and these plants become fertilized. The more pollinators are attracted to your garden and protected from hazardous conditions while there, the more they will visit, and help your plants to reproduce. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: extension.umd.edu, seedsavers.org, www.xerces.org, usda.gov



Bee balm

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by Freddy Groves

Finding other veterans

The Veteran Buddy Link, created by Together We Served, has over 2.4 million veterans listed in its directory. And you're invited to join them.

The Buddy Link's purpose is clear right on the front page: "Veterans take care of each other, and no veteran should ever feel alone." And once you join you'll be able to hook up with other veterans in your area. To register you only need to add your name, email address and branch of service. Then, if you like, you can add a little info about why you want to connect

with other veterans in your area. Once you do that, an email will go out to the veterans around you in the same ZIP code.

Take a look at the site at togetherweserved.com/buddylink.

From the main menu you can find the unit directory (158,000 units included so far), military photos, places to honor and remember veterans and, best of all, the veteran locator.

If you want to get an idea of the site before you sign up, take a look at the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/togetherweserved) or the Instagram page (www.instagram.com/togetherweserved), which is broken down by branch of service.

From the very beginning (2003), Together We Served's goal has been to help veterans reconnect with other veterans they've served with and to post photos (937,000 so far) and memories for others to see. Especially appreciated is the service recognition plaque that you can create with your badges, insignia and ribbon rack on a printable graphic that you can frame.

We won't have another official Buddy Check until October, but there's no need to wait until then to hook up with veterans around you. And if you'll want to participate in the Buddy Check in October, don't wait until the last minute. You'll need to do a bit of peer-to-peer training (watching a 34-minute video) before then. At that point, your mission will be to reach out to 10 other veterans and be sure they're doing OK.

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Wishing Well®

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

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1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What do you call a person who has lived to the age of 100 years?
2. HISTORY: When were cigarette commercials banned from American television?
3. MOVIES: Whose life is depicted in the movie "Raging Bull"?
4. U.S. STATES: In which state are the Catskill Mountains located?
5. TELEVISION: Which long-running TV drama was set in Cabot Cove, Maine?
6. MEASUREMENTS: How long is the ancient measurement called a cubit?
7. FOOD & DRINK: What is a dish called Cullen Skink?
8. CHEMISTRY: A diamond is composed of which single element?
9. GEOGRAPHY: What country is home to the Baffin, Victoria and Ellesmere islands?
10. ANATOMY: What is another name for the condition called "pilo-erection"?

Answers

1. A centenarian.
2. Jan. 2, 1971.
3. Jake LaMotta (played by Robert De Niro).
4. New York.
5. "Murder, She Wrote."
6. 1.5 feet.
7. Scottish soup made of smoked haddock, potatoes and onions.
8. Carbon.
9. Canada.
10. Goosebumps.

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

The Dakotas: North and South

We have a friendly rivalry with our neighbors to the north in North Dakota. I've joked many times that I'd much rather have Mount Rushmore than oil – and we all know that South Dakota's Badlands are far more stunning! But we're a lot more similar to North Dakota than probably any other state in the Union.

My predecessor, Governor Noem, had a strong relationship with Governor Doug Burgum of North Dakota. In fact, as the new Secretary of the Interior, Burgum is helping us get ready for the upcoming Mount Rushmore Fireworks over Independence Day in 2026! His successor, Governor Kelly Armstrong, is new to the role like me.

Governor Armstrong and I recently had the opportunity to share something pretty special: we visited the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe together. Standing Rock is one of two tribes with land on both sides of the South Dakota-North Dakota border. It was the first time in a decade that both governors have been on that reservation simultaneously.

We visited Chairwoman Janet Alkire and their tribal council leaders. We discussed several key topics affecting the tribe, including education, economic development, water permits, and the latest on federal funding.

After the great conversation, we took a driving tour of the reservation and stopped by a local school. I met with several bright students and faculty members and saw the kids hard at work, learning to shape their futures!

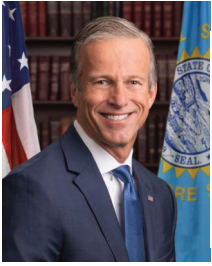
We are at our strongest when we work together. At times, mutual trust with our Native American tribes has been tough to maintain. We are all neighbors, so part of keeping South Dakota strong, safe, and free means doing the same for our Native American people. I will continue to work hard to be a governor for all South Dakotans.

We may have friendly rivalries – or even legitimate debates or disagreements. I am committed to listening so that I can understand the concerns that our communities face. That goes for small towns, big cities, tribal reservations, and communities on both sides of the Missouri River.

I'll say it again: we are strongest when we work together. I look forward to working with both our North Dakota neighbors and all nine South Dakota tribes to keep our communities strong, safe, and free.

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JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Republicans Are Working to Make the Tax Cuts Permanent

It's that time of year again: Tax Day. I don't know anyone who looks forward to April 15th. Whether you're getting a refund or you owe money to the IRS, I think most South Dakotans would rather they were keeping more of their money and sending less to Uncle Sam.

Republicans agree, which is why we worked so hard to pass the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) in 2017. As a result of these tax cuts, most Americans had a smaller tax bill. And while most Americans paid less in taxes, revenue was actually greater than expected, because our economy grew, businesses created jobs, and poverty decreased.

These are significant gains, but they're at risk next year if TCJA is allowed to expire. If these tax cuts aren't extended, it would mean a \$4 trillion tax hike on American families and small businesses, including farms and ranches. Republicans won't let that happen. We're working hard to make these tax cuts permanent and protect hardworking families from a bigger tax bill next year.

Without extending the tax cuts, a typical family of four would see a \$1,700 tax hike next year. The child tax credit would go from \$2,000 to \$1,000 per child. The standard deduction, which is used by most tax filers, would drop from about \$30,000 for a married couple to about \$16,000. So it's critical that these tax policies be extended to ensure South Dakota families don't face smaller paychecks and bigger tax bills next year.

Extending the tax cuts is also critical for small businesses that would otherwise face a \$600 billion tax hike. Most small businesses benefit from a 20 percent small business deduction that was included in TCJA. This deduction helped business owners invest in their operations and create jobs, and extending this tax policy will ensure they can continue to be an engine for growth.

Making TCJA permanent will also be good for our economy. In the years after the law first passed, the economy grew faster than expected. We saw a 50-year low in unemployment. Poverty fell to a record low. And there was a narrowing of the income disparity in our country. And by extending this tax policy we can bring in more revenue the right way: by growing the economy.

Of course, we can't deny that our country has a deficit problem, a problem driven chiefly by out-of-control spending. Unfortunately, we saw an incredible growth in government spending under the Biden administration. Federal spending in 2024 was 54 percent higher than it was in 2019. And as part of our agenda, Republicans are going to take a good, hard look at how taxpayer dollars are being spent and work to return the nation to a more sustainable spending and fiscal trajectory.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was a major success in President Trump's first term. It delivered on its promise of lower taxes, greater growth, and a stronger America. We have an opportunity to make those gains permanent and to set our country on a course for a healthy economy for years to come. We plan to seize that opportunity and deliver permanent tax relief for the American people.

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Cutting the Pork

BIG Update

The House passed the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act to strengthen election security. The SAVE Act requires proof of citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections and requires states to remove noncitizens from existing voter rolls. Only U.S. citizens should be voting in U.S. elections.

For too long, the federal government has been spending money we do not have. Continuing on this road is not an option. On Thursday, the House took a significant step to reduce out-of-control spending by passing a budget resolution, which is a key step in the reconciliation process to extend the Trump tax cuts, unleash American energy, and keep our borders secure..

BIG Idea

I met with the South Dakota Pork Producers this week to discuss fixes to California's Proposition 12 policy (livestock housing regulations), potential tariff impacts, and more. Consistency and clarity are important for our pork producers as they make decisions about their operations. Prop 12 has resulted in higher costs for consumers and has the potential to price out small farms. I'm committed to supporting our pork producers and using my position on the Ag Committee to reverse Prop 12 – protecting producers and lowering pork prices across the country..

BIG News

After more than 70 countries reached out to the White House to negotiate down their tariffs, President Trump announced a 90-day pause on many reciprocal tariffs. As I've said in the past, I do not support high tariffs across the board, especially for a prolonged period of time. However, tariffs targeted to key strategic industries can be good policy, and tariffs can also be an effective negotiating tool.

China, however, has not initiated a negotiation but has raised the bar by implementing retaliatory tariffs against the U.S. China now faces a 145% tariff on imported American goods. Let me be clear – China is not our friend. Not only has China evaded our shipping laws and customs enforcement to make a buck, but they have employed slave/forced labor, smuggled fentanyl and illicit vapes into America, purchased farmland near U.S. military bases, and consistently hacked U.S. Agencies and telecommunications companies like Verizon and AT&T.

President Trump is sending a strong signal to China – don't take advantage of the U.S. I urge President Trump and China's President Xi to come to the negotiating table quickly and agree on a trade policy that protects American producers and consumers – a deal that China must uphold.

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MARCH 31-APRIL 6, 2025

We had another busy week out in Washington! We continue to meet with representatives from South Dakota organizations who travel to DC, as well as nominees for positions within the executive branch. We also held another "vote-a-rama" on Friday night into early Saturday

morning on a budget resolution. This version includes an extension of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which was included in the House version of the resolution. If these tax cuts are not extended, South Dakotans could pay an average of \$2,421 per year in additional taxes. It took us all night, but the Senate was able to pass this budget resolution that gets us another step closer to delivering on President Trump's agenda: securing the border, bolstering our national security, unleashing American energy and extending tax cuts for hardworking Americans. More on this and the rest of my week in my Weekly Round[s] Up:

South Dakota groups I met with: Representatives from the City of Box Elder; representatives from South Dakota Trade; Mark Luecke, CEO of Medgene Labs; leaders from the Eastern South Dakota Soil and Water Research Farm; Joni Ekstrum, Executive Director of South Dakota Biotech; Ethan Gladue and Taylor Van Emmerik, students at the University of South Dakota who were in town with the Fraternal Government Relations Coalition; South Dakota members of the U.S. Travel Association, including Secretary of Tourism Jim Hagen; Bret Afdahl, Director of the South Dakota Department of Labor's Division of Banking; South Dakota members of the Small Business Payment Alliance; and South Dakota members of 340B Health.

South Dakota towns represented: Box Elder, De Smet, Hartford, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Tea, Utica and Watertown.

Other meetings: George Street, nominee to serve as Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center; Thomas Mason, Director of the Los Alamos National Lab; Lt. Gen. Heath Collins, Director of the Missile Defense Agency; Matthew Lohmeier, nominee to serve as Undersecretary of the Air Force; Michael Jensen, nominee to serve as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict; Hung Cao, nominee to serve as Undersecretary of the Navy; Brandon Williams, nominee to be Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration; Jane Fraser, CEO of Citi; Dr. Mike Witherell, Director of Lawrence Berkeley National Lab; Dr. Young-Kee Kim, Director of Fermilab; Dr. John Wagner, Director of Idaho National Laboratory; Lara Abrash, Chair of the Board of Directors at Deloitte; and Aaron Lukas, nominee to serve as Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence. I spoke to a group from the Conference of State Bank Supervisors who are in town for their annual fly-in event. I hosted our Senate Bible Study, where Galatians 5:16 was our verse of the week.

Hearings: I attended four hearings. Two of them were closed hearings in the Select Committee on Intelligence. The other two hearings were in the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC). In the first SASC hearing of the week, we heard from Lt. Gen. Dan Caine, nominee to serve as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. You can watch a clip of my questions [here](#). In the second, we heard from the leaders of U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command. Watch the clip [here](#).

Classified briefings: I had two classified briefings: one as part of my work on the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the other on operations in East Asia.

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Votes taken: 36 – As I mentioned, we voted through the night on amendments to the budget resolution. For past vote-a-ramas, because this legislation isn't able to be filibustered, Senate Democrats have held up the legislation by debating on the floor and offering a series of amendments. Despite the delay, the Senate still passed the budget resolution. In addition to the vote-a-rama, we also voted on nominees to several executive positions and Congressional Resolutions of Disapproval to overturn Biden-era regulations that are still in place from the previous administration.

Legislation introduced: I introduced legislation to help rural hospitals that are at risk of being closed. The Rural Hospital Technical Assistance Program Act would codify an existing pilot program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that provides technical assistance to rural hospitals to prevent closures, improve their financial and operational performance and strengthen essential healthcare services in rural communities. You can read more about this legislation [here](#).

My staff in South Dakota visited: Aberdeen, Custer, Deadwood, Dupree, Ft. Pierre, McIntosh and Timber Lake.

Steps taken: 53,645 steps or 26.42 miles.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

The Journey of 1,000 Miles Begins with an Apple Fritter

Life has many paths, and I have discovered that traveling any of them takes a lot of energy.

Unlike The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, my energy comes from those wonderful Apple Fritters. I can't remember the first time I had one, but I vividly remember the last time.

Trying to get through life successfully is quite an energetic activity; everybody needs that energy. Finding that energy is the great secret of life.

For years, I have tried convincing The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage of the value of an Apple Fritter, at least for me. We've had this argument or rather discussion, and I have tried to prove that an Apple Fritter is a fruit. After all, isn't an apple fruit? And shouldn't we be eating fruit?

On the other side of the dining room table, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage gets her energy from eating broccoli. I don't even like pronouncing the name, let alone seeing it on the dining room table. But for her, broccoli is the Queen of all vegetables. (Yuck)

I argue that I'm a fruit guy, but she misuses that phrase and calls me a fruity guy.

I can remember one time in my life when I ate broccoli. It was so disgusting that I have never eaten it again. I can't even stand the smell of broccoli in our house.

Every once in a while, I smell broccoli from the kitchen and know it's on the dinner menu tonight. I don't mind having broccoli on the table, but I certainly do not accept having it on my plate.

Through the years, I have tried to negotiate with her and tell her I will eat Apple fritters when she eats broccoli. After all, it's what we like.

Once I was a good negotiator. My mother was trying to get me to eat spinach, which I really hated. One Saturday, I was watching Popeye the Sailor on TV. When my mother saw me watching it, she said, "See, Popeye loves spinach. I think you should be eating spinach too."

Without even looking at her, I said, "Popeye also smokes a pipe. Does that mean I can smoke a pipe?" That discussion never came up again.

That's the only negotiating on food I've ever won.

For some reason, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage hates Apple fritters. I think she hates them more than I hate broccoli.

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For me, Apple fritters provide the energy I need to build up my attitude of excitement in life. Nothing does that better than Apple fritters.

She argues that because of my health condition, my food has to be sugar-free. I don't know who came up with that idea, but a sugar-free menu certainly is not appealing.

"Don't you know," she will explain, "that there is sugar in those Apple fritters? And you need to be on a sugar-free diet."

After years of debate, I finally thought of a solution. I talked to the baker where I get most of my Apple fritters and we both came to an amicable agreement. I asked him how much sugar was in an Apple Fritter, and he told me. I asked if he could make the sugar free instead of paying for it. After all, if all the sugar is free, then according to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, it is okay for me to eat.

I tried explaining to her that sugar is always free whenever I buy an Apple Fritter, so technically speaking, the Apple fritters I purchase at my bakery are sugar-free.

How to be simpler than that is beyond my resources. She didn't accept that argument and seriously said, "That is not what I'm talking about. The sugar in that Apple Fritter is dangerous to your health."

Apart from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, nothing is sweeter than an Apple Fritter. Whether I pay for the sugar or it comes free doesn't really matter to me. Honestly, I don't eat Apple fritters every day. I am very disciplined when it comes to my diet. I can't explain my frequency for obvious reasons.

Once in a while, I have this inward yearning for an Apple Fritter. If I haven't had one in some time, I begin thinking about it and am famished for one.

Controlling my diet at my age is very important. I'm not as young or skinny as I once was. I understand that and realize I cannot eat like I am 18. But sometimes, I need to enjoy something that will nourish my current enthusiasm. Several things come to my mind, but the first thing is an Apple Fritter.

I'm not sure who invented the Apple Fritter, but I'd like to meet them someday, shake their hand, and thank them.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I will celebrate our 54th wedding anniversary this August. Amazingly, we've been together this long, and our only disagreement during that time has been the Apple Fritters/broccoli controversy. That's a remarkable accomplishment, especially in the day we live.

So, if I gave up Apple Fritters, we would have no disagreements. What kind of life would that be?

While thinking about this a favorite verse of Scripture came to mind. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3)

It's not so much what you don't agree on but rather on what you do agree on. That's what brings to people together.

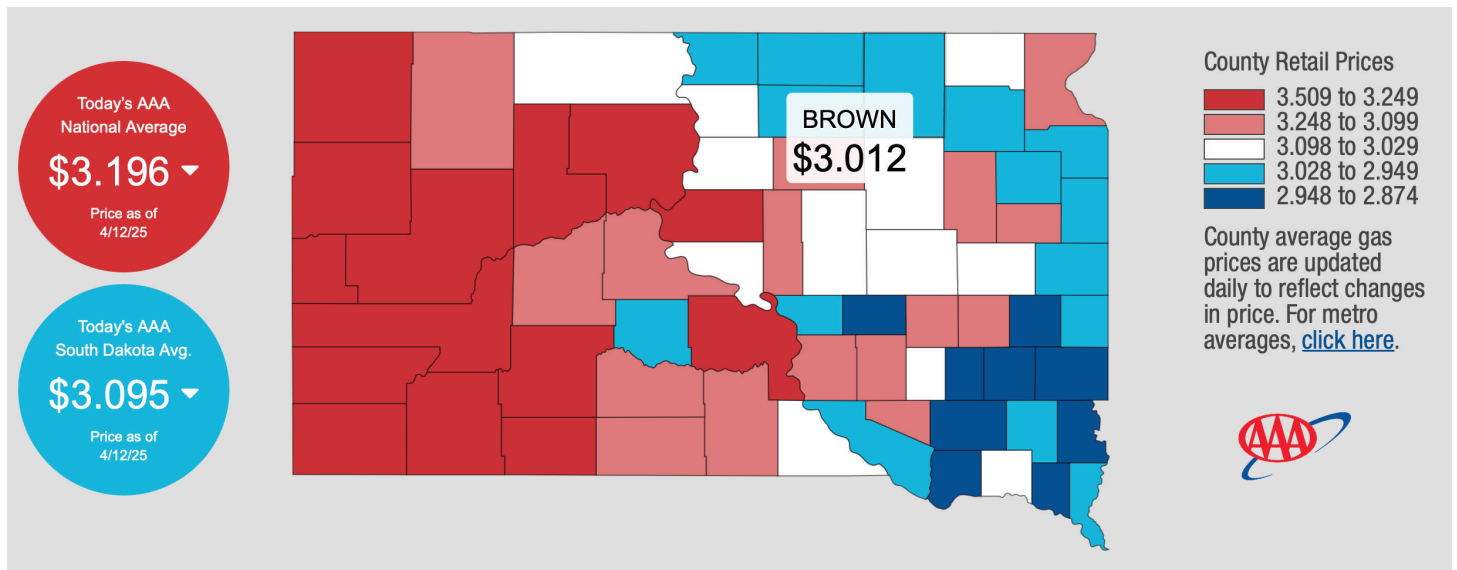
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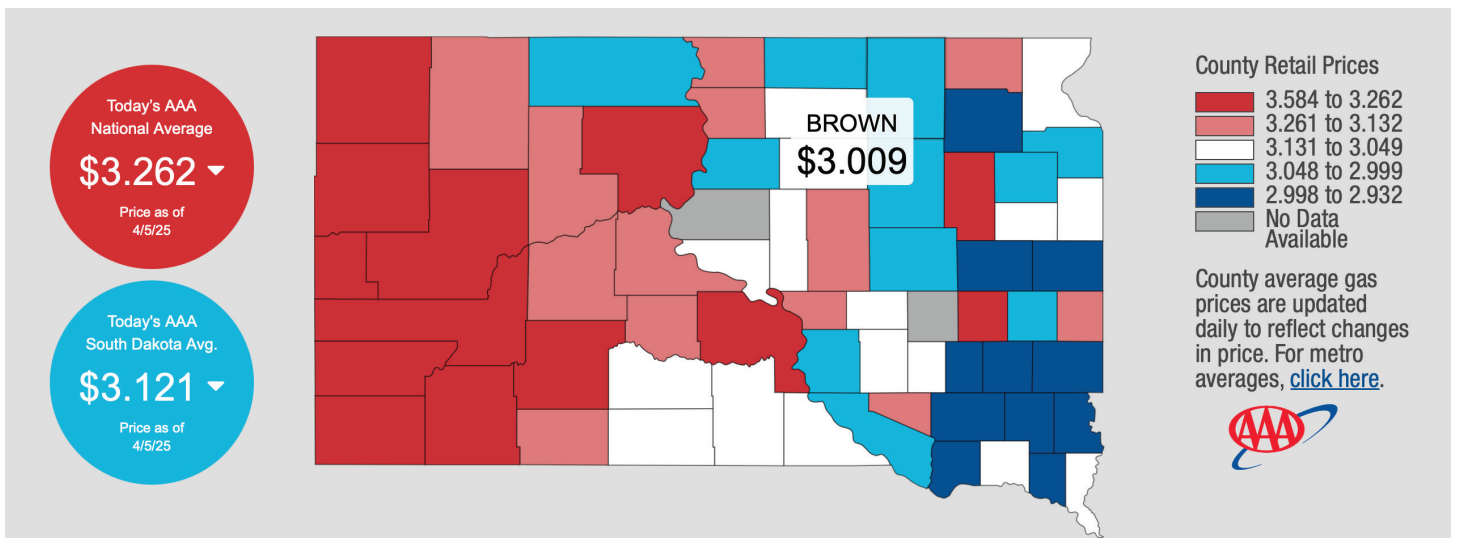
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

| | Regular | Mid-Grade | Premium | Diesel |
|----------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Current Avg. | \$3.095 | \$3.291 | \$3.701 | \$3.289 |
| Yesterday Avg. | \$3.099 | \$3.292 | \$3.703 | \$3.308 |
| Week Ago Avg. | \$3.121 | \$3.318 | \$3.744 | \$3.334 |
| Month Ago Avg. | \$2.968 | \$3.163 | \$3.573 | \$3.292 |
| Year Ago Avg. | \$3.390 | \$3.532 | \$3.958 | \$3.714 |

This Week



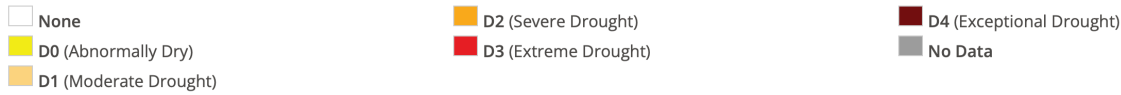
Last Week



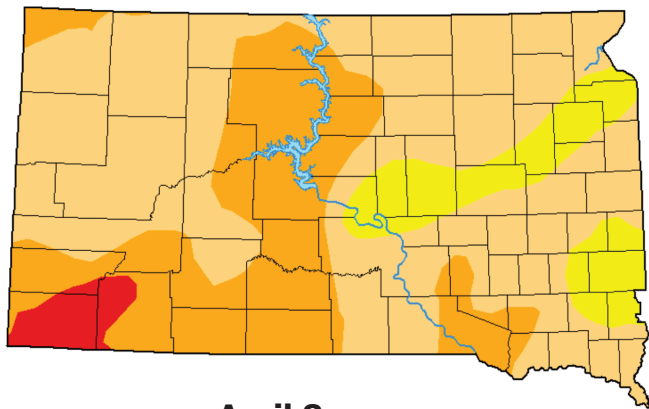
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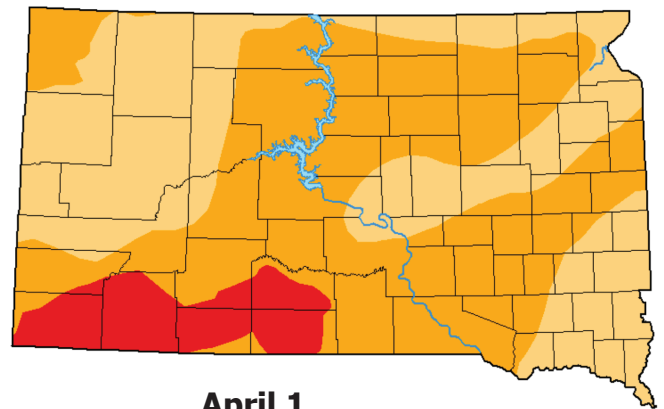
Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



April 8



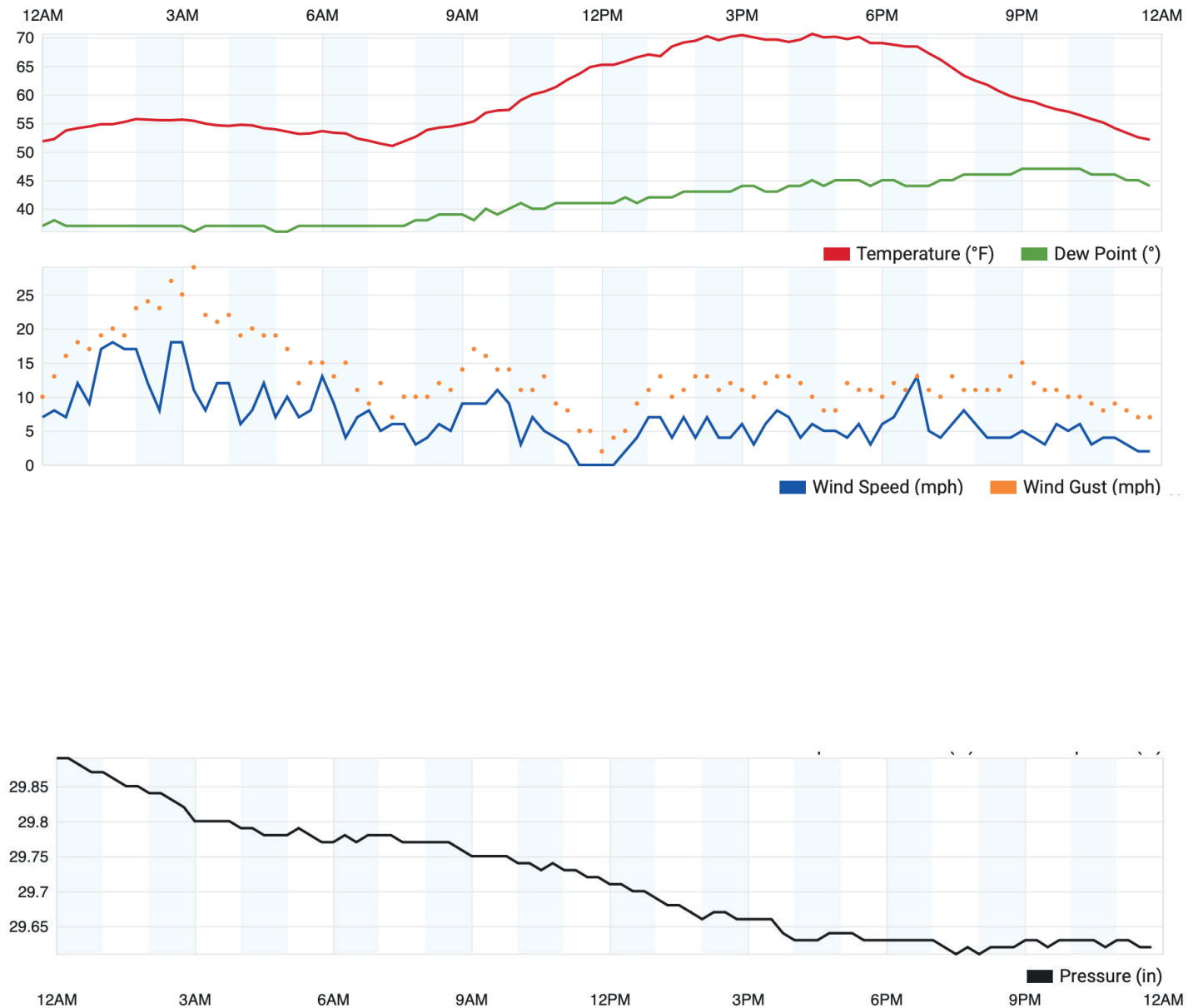
April 1

On this week's map, improvements were made in the region, namely in northern Kansas, northern Nebraska, and South Dakota, where shorter-term precipitation (past 30-60 days) is normal to above normal. Additionally, these areas were showing improvements in other drought indicators including soil moisture, streamflow activity, and satellite-based vegetation health. In western North Dakota, areas of Extreme (D3), Severe (D2), and Moderate (D1) drought expanded on the map in response to a combination of factors, including numerous recent impact reports from the agricultural sector, below-normal precipitation (past 30 days), and low streamflow and soil moisture levels. For the week, generally dry conditions prevailed across western portions of the region, while eastern portions received modest accumulations of <1.5 inches (liquid). In terms of temperatures, below-normal average temperatures (ranging from 2 to 10+ degrees F) were logged across the entire region.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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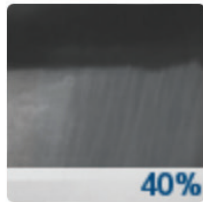
Today



High: 64 °F

Partly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
Showers and
Breezy

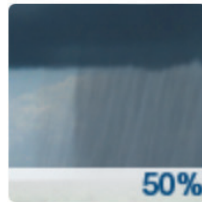
Tonight



Low: 36 °F

Chance
Showers and
Breezy

Monday



High: 52 °F

Chance
Showers and
Windy

Monday Night



Low: 28 °F

Partly Cloudy
and Blustery
then Mostly
Clear

Tuesday



High: 60 °F

Sunny



Fire Weather Watch on Sunday

April 12, 2025
3:59 PM

Key Messages

- A **Fire Weather Watch** has been issued for Sunday afternoon through Sunday evening for portions of south central South Dakota.
- Dry grasses and strong winds (gusts up to 55 mph) will create **very high to extreme** grassland fire danger across central South Dakota Sunday.
 - ◆ Any fires that ignite will spread rapidly & become difficult to control or suppress.



Fire Weather Watch

Sunday Afternoon Through Sunday Evening

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD

Issued Apr 12, 2025 2:37 PM CDT



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

A Fire Weather Watch has been issued for Sunday afternoon through late Sunday night for portions of south central South Dakota. Dry grasses, relative humidity dropping between 20-30%, and strong winds (gusts up to 55 mph) will create very high to extreme grassland fire danger across central South Dakota Sunday.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 71 °F at 3:00 PM

Low Temp: 51 °F at 7:26 AM

Wind: 29 mph at 3:11 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 13 hours, 29 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 92 in 2003

Record Low: 9 in 2013

Average High: 57

Average Low: 30

Average Precip in April.: 0.62

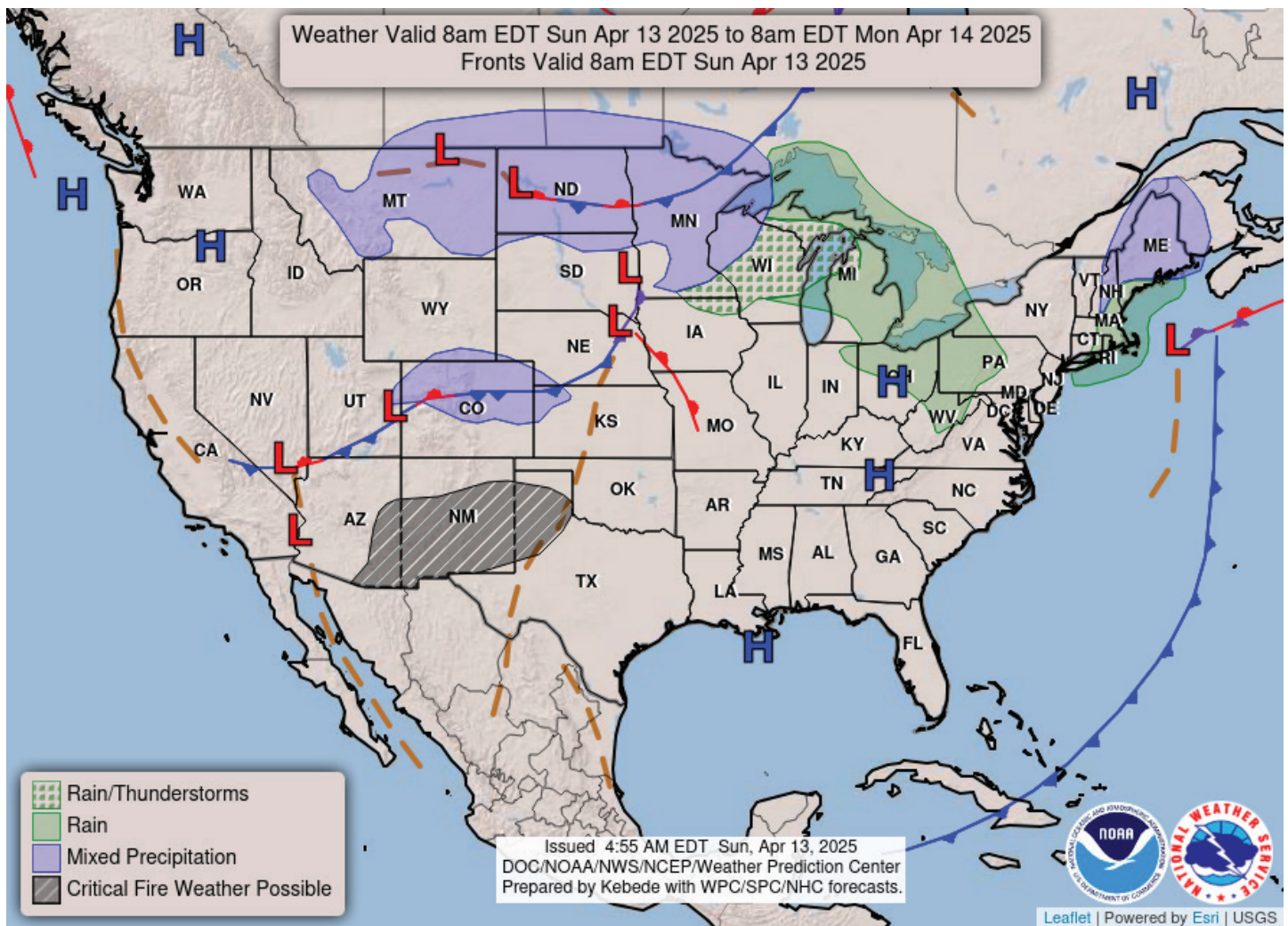
Precip to date in April.: 1.07

Average Precip to date: 2.68

Precip Year to Date: 1.70

Sunset Tonight: 8:17:43 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:46:04 am



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Today in Weather History

April 13th, 1986: A significant spring storm quickly intensified, bringing blizzard conditions to much of the Northern Plains Region. Up to 18 inches of snow was reported in North Dakota, and in South Dakota, winds gusting to 90 mph whipped the snow into fifteen-foot-high drifts. Livestock losses were in the millions of dollars; it was the worst blizzard ever for some areas.

April 13th, 1995: Flooding, resulting from snowmelt from the two major snowstorms in April and saturated soils, caused extensive road damage and inundation. The flooding caused several road closings and numerous flooded basements in many counties. Also, many lakes were overfull in Day and Campbell Counties. Flooded farmland caused severe delays in small grain planting. Spink, Sully, McPherson, and Brown Counties were declared disasters.

April 13th, 2010: Unyielding south winds developed over central and northeast South Dakota in the early afternoon and continued into the early evening hours. South winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts of nearly 70 mph caused some structural and shingled damage across the area. A pickup on Interstate 90 lost a camper to the high winds. The high winds, low humidity, and dry fuels helped fan several grassland fires across the region. The most substantial fire started from a downed power line in Campbell County near Glenham. The fire grew five miles long by two miles wide and traveled eight miles before it was under control. Almost 6000 acres were burned, and nearly 20 fire departments were dispatched.

1877 - The second coastal storm in just three days hit Virginia and the Carolinas. The first storm flattened the sand dunes at Hatteras, and widened the Oregon inlet three quarters of a mile. The second storm produced hurricane force winds along the coast of North Carolina causing more beach erosion and land transformation. (David Ludlum)

1955 - The town of Axis, AL, was deluged with 20.33 inches of rain in 24 hours establishing a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - A major spring storm quickly intensified bringing blizzard conditions to much of the Northern Plains Region. Up to 18 inches of snow was reported in North Dakota, and in South Dakota, winds gusting to 90 mph whipped the snow into drifts fifteen feet high. Livestock losses were in the millions of dollars, and for some areas it was the worst blizzard ever. (Storm Data)

1987 - Thunderstorms in northern Texas produced wind gusts to 98 mph at the Killeen Airport causing a million dollars property damage. Two airplanes were totally destroyed by the high winds, and ten others were damaged. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure off the Atlantic coast produced high winds across North Carolina, with gusts to 78 mph reported at Waves. The high winds combined with high tides to cause coastal flooding and erosion. About 275 feet of land was eroded from the northern tip of Pea Island. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms in central Florida produced golf ball size hail and a tornado near Lakeland FL. Fair and mild weather prevailed across most of the rest of the nation. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in central Oklahoma and north central Texas. Thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced up to six inches of golf ball size hail along I-40 near El Reno, and produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Okarche. Thunderstorms over north central Texas produced softball size hail northwest of Rotan, and high winds which injured two persons southeast of Itasca. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2004 - The latest measurable snowfall on record hits Jackson, TN, causing six traffic fatalities.

2006 - The University of Iowa campus is hit by an F2 tornado. The storm severely damaged many buildings in the area, including a sorority and a local church. No fatalities were reported in the storm that caused more than \$12 million in damage.

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ATTENTION!

There are very few pictures of "Attention!" that can rival a US Marine standing tall after hearing that word. As soon as that "word" is shouted by a "superior" heels come together, muscles tighten, and faces freeze as though they were carved in granite. Persons who have served in the military know the significance of that word. When "shouted to subordinates" it results in an external rigidity that is very visible to the onlooker and represents an internal attitude of concentration that is waiting for a command to be obeyed and followed with no hesitation.

Throughout His Word, God uses many different ways to get the "attention" of His children. There are times when He speaks directly to a person. There are times when He speaks to one person through another person. When God wants the attention of His children, He has many options.

We read in Job that one of God's options to get our attention is through suffering: "For He wounds, but He also binds up; He injures, but His hand also heals," wrote Job.

In Proverbs 1:2 we find a word that can be translated with several different meanings: instruction, discipline, training and chastened. But, in this instance, there is no doubt that it means "to teach by discipline" or "through punishment."

We often hear stories about people who "have to hit bottom" before they are willing to do something about a problem that is destroying them. It may be God at work. He often uses suffering and hardship to get our attention by "raising the bottom" to "save" us because He loves us.

"The Lord disciplines those He loves," wrote Solomon. God often uses discipline to get our "attention" when we abandon Him. Why? Because He refuses to let us destroy ourselves!"

Prayer: Lord, we know You love us. Do whatever is necessary to keep us in Your will - even if it means we must suffer for You to get our attention. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: For gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight. Proverbs 1:2

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: 04.11.25

15 37 38 56 58 19

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$96,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.12.25

16 24 42 50 52 8

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$30,800,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.12.25

1 14 16 19 41 12

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 6 Mins 20
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.12.25

3 7 21 28 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$107,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.12.25

5 10 46 49 60 16

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.12.25

16 22 44 45 53 19

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$100,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

03/22/2025 Spring Vendor Fair at the GHS Gym 10am-2pm
03/29/2025 Men's Singles Bowling Tournament at the Jungle 10am, 1pm & 4pm
04/05/2025 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39, 6-11:30pm
04/06/2025 Pancake Sunday, Historical Society Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, Community Center
04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp
04/12/2025 Groton Firemens Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
05/12/2025 High School Girls Golf Meet at Olive Grove
05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm
06/07/2025 Day of Play
06/13/2025 SDSU 4 Person Scramble at Olive Grove
06/21/2025 Groton Triathlon
06/23/2025 Ladies 2 Person Scramble at Olive Grove
07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/09/2025 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
07/11-13/25 2025 VFW 12U Class B State Baseball Tournament
07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
07/16/2025 Men's Pro Am Golf at Olive Grove
07/25/2025 Ferney Open Scramble Golf at Olive Grove
08/01/2025 Wine on Nine Fundraiser at Olive Grove
08/09/2025 2nd Annual Celebration in the Park/Rib Cook-Off 1-9:30pm
08/14/2025 Family Fun Fest, Downtown Main Street 5:30-7:30pm (2nd Thursday)
08/23/2025 Glacial Tournament at Olive Grove
09/05/2025 Homecoming Parade 1pm
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
09/07/2025 Sunflower Classic Couples Scramble at Olive Grove
10/10/2025 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
10/11/2025 Pumpkin Fest 10am-3pm City Park
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1:30pm
12/06/2025 Olive Grove Holiday Party and Silent Live Auction Fundraiser

News from the **AP** Associated Press

USHL presents inaugural Gaudreau Award to Ethan Wyttenbach of the Sioux Falls Stampede

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The United States Hockey League on Saturday named Ethan Wyttenbach of the Sioux Falls Stampede the inaugural winner of the Gaudreau Award in honor of the late Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau.

The league established the award to pay tribute to the brothers who died last summer when they were struck by a car while riding their bicycles in their home state of New Jersey. Parents Guy and Jane Gaudreau surprised Wyttenbach in the locker room to deliver the news.

"This award was created to honor their legacy and to serve as a shining example of excellence, character, and heart both on and off the ice," said USHL President and Commissioner Glenn Hefferan, who is also a New Jersey native. "Johnny and Matthew left an immeasurable impact on the communities where they lived and played. They were not only exceptional players and teammates but, most importantly, extraordinary people. Their love for the game was only surpassed by their love for their families."

Wyttenbach was Sioux Falls' top scorer this season despite missing time with an injury. Before getting hurt, he also led the team in community service hours. The league said he spent time filling food bags at Feeding South Dakota, served dinners at the St. Francis House and rung bells for The Salvation Army, along with school visits and youth hockey practices.

More than 20 people killed in Russian missile attack on Ukrainian city of Sumy

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — More than 20 people have been killed in a Russian missile strike on the Ukrainian city of Sumy, the city's acting mayor said Sunday.

Two ballistic missiles struck the heart of the city as local people gathered to celebrate Palm Sunday.

"On this bright Palm Sunday, our community has suffered a terrible tragedy," Artem Kobzar said in a statement on social media. "Unfortunately, we already know of more than 20 deaths."

The strike comes less than a day after Russia and Ukraine's top diplomats accused each other of violating a tentative U.S.-brokered deal to pause strikes on energy infrastructure, underscoring the challenges of negotiating an end to the 3-year-old war.

Israel strikes a hospital in Gaza, forcing evacuation as strikes intensify

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza (AP) — Israel struck a hospital in northern Gaza early Sunday, forcing patients to evacuate as attacks intensified.

The pre-dawn strike hit Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, after Israel issued an evacuation warning, according to Gaza's ministry of health. One patient died during the evacuation because medical staff were unable to provide urgent care, it said.

The hospital, run by the Diocese of Jerusalem, was attacked on Palm Sunday, which commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Hours later, a separate strike on a car in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, killed at least seven people — six brothers and their friend — according to staff at the morgue of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, which received the bodies.

Israel said it struck a command and control center used by Hamas at the hospital to plan and execute attacks against Israeli civilians and soldiers, without providing evidence. It said prior to the strike, steps

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were taken to mitigate harm, including issuing warnings, and using precise munitions and aerial surveillance.

The strikes came hours after Israel's defense minister said that military activity would rapidly expand across Gaza and that people would have to evacuate from "fighting zones." Israel also announced Saturday the completion of the Morag corridor, cutting off the southern city of Rafah from the rest of Gaza, with the military saying it would soon expand "vigorously" in most of the small coastal territory.

Israeli authorities have vowed to pressure Hamas to release the remaining 59 hostages, 24 believed to be alive, and accept proposed new ceasefire terms.

The director of Al-Ahli Hospital, Dr. Fadel Naim, said they were warned of the attack before it was struck. In a post on X, he wrote that the emergency room, pharmacy and surrounding buildings were severely damaged, impacting more than 100 patients and dozens of medical staff.

The health ministry said the strike destroyed the ward for outpatients and laboratories and damaged the emergency ward.

Medical facilities often come under fire in wars, but combatants usually depict such incidents as accidental or exceptional, since hospitals enjoy special protection under international law. In its 18-month campaign in Gaza, Israel has stood out by carrying out an open campaign on hospitals, besieging and raiding them, some several times, as well as hitting multiple others in strikes while accusing Hamas of using them as cover for its fighters.

Last month Israel struck Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis city, the largest in southern Gaza, killing two people and wounding others and causing a large fire, the territory's health ministry said. The facility was overwhelmed with dead and wounded when Israel ended the ceasefire with a surprise wave of airstrikes.

The war started after Hamas killed 1,200 people during its Oct. 7, 2023, attack, mostly civilians, and took 250 people captive, many of whom were eventually freed in ceasefire deals.

More than 50,000 Palestinians in Gaza have so far been killed in Israel's retaliatory offensive, according to the health ministry there, which does not differentiate between combatants and civilians in its count but says more than half of the dead are women and children.

Southeast Asia water festivals begin, but earthquake recovery blunts Myanmar's celebrations

By GRANT PECK Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Several Southeast Asian countries kicked off their annual water festival holiday on Sunday, but in the wake of a devastating earthquake last month, Myanmar is missing out on the fun.

The holiday is an occasion for merrymaking during what is usually the hottest time of the year. In Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, millions normally take part in a mix of raucous play with uninhibited splashing of water on friends and strangers alike, and sober ceremonies to show respect to one's elders.

Temperatures this time of year can creep above 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit). Many who have moved to cities for work return to their native villages and towns to reunite with their families. The celebration is normally spread over several days, culminating on the actual New Year's Day.

In Myanmar, the holiday is called Thingyan. But this year, the country is struggling to recover from the 7.7 magnitude earthquake on March 28 that devastated its central heartland, killing more than 3,600 people and leveling structures from new condos to ancient pagodas.

Central Myanmar was shaken again on Sunday by a 5.5 magnitude earthquake in one of the biggest aftershocks since the March 28 temblor.

Even before last month's quake, Myanmar was reeling from a repressive military that seized power in 2021 and is carrying out a brutal war on the pro-democracy forces trying to unseat it. In 2020, the pandemic also quashed celebrations.

Still, the holiday offered a brief respite from the grim struggles of daily life in one of the region's poorer countries, and this is the first year Myanmar could celebrate Thingyan's inclusion on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, an honor attained last December.

A few days after the quake, the military government announced that this year's festival would be ob-

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served peacefully in pursuit of traditional culture and would not include joyous singing and dancing, due to a nationwide grieving period.

People are free to celebrate privately and quietly, and items related to the festival, including water guns, are being sold in malls and stores. However, there is no government-organized entertainment. In Yangon, the country's largest city, major festival pavilions and decorations that were already being built in front of the City Hall were dismantled.

People's Square, a major celebration spot in Yangon, will not host the festival this year, but a traditional charity feast will be held without music and dance, the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper reported on Thursday.

In Yangon, the downtown area near City Hall was quiet, in sharp contrast to many past occasions.

The only visible signs of the holiday were the sights of children playing with water in the streets of residential neighborhoods, and mostly elderly people going to Buddhist monasteries and pagodas for traditional prayers.

In the capital, Naypyitaw, state-media reported Saturday that a quiet celebration of the holiday's recognition by UNESCO would include events such as applying Thanaka, a yellowish-white paste made from ground tree bark as a traditional natural cosmetic, gently washing the heads and cutting the nails of elderly people as a gesture of respect, and donating food.

Neighboring Thailand, where the holiday is called Songkran, was expected to celebrate with revelry as usual. It sees a mass exodus of the workforce in the capital, Bangkok, return to their upcountry home towns, often extending what is officially a three-day holiday into an entire working week.

Foreign tourists join locals in almost orgiastic water fights, especially in Bangkok's Khao San Road backpackers district. Water pistols are merely small arms. It is not unusual to see huge buckets of water dumped on any convenient target. Moving vehicles serve as both platforms and targets for attacks.

The holiday is historically pegged to a seasonal movement of the sun, critical to largely agrarian societies. The water hijinks originated in olden days as a ceremony to welcome rainy season. A traditional ritual still practiced by many involves cleansing images of the Buddha and washing the hands and feet of elders.

There is a darker side to the goings-on, as well. Thailand already has one of the world's highest rates of traffic fatalities, which spikes during Songkran with so many on the move and often inebriated.

Cambodia, where the holiday is called Choul Chnam Thmey, and Laos, where it is Pi Mai Lao, have similar celebrations, generally smaller in scale and less raucous than those in Thailand.

50 years after Lebanon's civil war began, a bullet-riddled bus stands as a reminder

By ABBY SEWELL Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — It was an ordinary day in Beirut. In one part of Lebanon's capital, a church was inaugurated, with the leader of the Christian Phalange party there. In another, Palestinian factions held a military parade. Phalangists and Palestinians had clashed, again, that morning.

What happened next on April 13, 1975, would change the course of Lebanon, plunging it into 15 years of civil war. It would kill about 150,000 people, leave 17,000 missing and lead to foreign intervention. Beirut became synonymous with snipers, kidnappings and car bombs.

Lebanon has never fully grappled with the war's legacy, and in many ways it has never fully recovered, 50 years later. The government on Sunday will mark the anniversary with a minute of silence.

The massacre

Unrest had been brewing. Palestinian militants had begun launching attacks against Israel from Lebanese territory. Leftist groups and many Muslims in Lebanon sympathized with the Palestinian cause. Christians and some other groups saw the Palestinian militants as a threat.

At the time, Mohammad Othman was 16, a Palestinian refugee in the Tel al-Zaatar camp east of Beirut.

Three buses had left camp that morning, carrying students like him as well as militants from a coalition of hardline factions that had broken away from the Palestinian Liberation Organization. They passed through

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the Ein Rummaneh neighborhood without incident and joined the military parade.

The buses were supposed to return together, but some participants were tired after marching and wanted to go back early. They hired a small bus from the street, Othman said. Thirty-three people packed in.

They were unaware that earlier that day, small clashes had broken out between Palestinians and Phalange Party members guarding the church in Ein Rummaneh. A bodyguard for party leader Pierre Gemayel had been killed.

Suddenly the road was blocked, and gunmen began shooting at the bus "from all sides," Othman recalled.

Some passengers had guns they had carried in the parade, Othman said, but they were unable to draw them quickly in the crowded bus.

A camp neighbor fell dead on top of him. The man's 9-year-old son was also killed. Othman was shot in the shoulder.

"The shooting didn't stop for about 45 minutes until they thought everyone was dead," he said. Othman said paramedics who eventually arrived had a confrontation with armed men who tried to stop them from evacuating him.

Twenty-two people were killed.

Conflicting narratives

Some Lebanese say the men who attacked the bus were responding to an assassination attempt against Gemayel by Palestinian militants. Others say the Phalangists had set up an ambush intended to spark a wider conflict.

Marwan Chahine, a Lebanese-French journalist who wrote a book about the events of April 13, 1975, said he believes both narratives are wrong.

Chahine said he found no evidence of an attempt to kill Gemayel, who had left the church by the time his bodyguard was shot. And he said the attack on the bus appeared to be more a matter of trigger-happy young men than a "planned operation."

There had been past confrontations, "but I think this one took this proportion because it arrived after many others and at a point when the authority of the state was very weak," Chahine said.

The Lebanese army had largely ceded control to militias, and it did not respond to the events in Ein Rummaneh that day. The armed Palestinian factions had been increasingly prominent after the PLO was driven out of Jordan in 1970, and Lebanese Christians had also increasingly armed themselves.

"The Kataeb would say that the Palestinians were a state within a state," Chahine said, using the Phalange Party's Arabic name. "But the reality was, you had two states in a state. Nobody was following any rules."

Selim Sayegh, a member of parliament with the Kataeb Party who was 14 and living in Ein Rummaneh when the fighting started, said he believes war had been inevitable since the Lebanese army backed down from an attempt to take control of Palestinian camps two years earlier.

Sayegh said men at the checkpoint that day saw a bus full of Palestinians "and thought that is the second wave of the operation" that started with the killing of Gemayel's bodyguard.

The war unfolded quickly from there. Alliances shifted. New factions formed. Israel and Syria occupied parts of the country. The United States intervened, and the U.S. embassy and Marine barracks were targeted by bombings. Beirut was divided between Christian and Muslim sectors.

In response to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, a Shiite militant group was formed in the early 1980s with Iranian backing: Hezbollah. It would grow to be arguably the most powerful armed non-state group in the region.

Hezbollah was the only militant group allowed to keep its weapons after Lebanon's civil war, given special status as a "resistance force" because Israel was still in southern Lebanon. After the group was badly weakened last year in a war with Israel that ended with a ceasefire, there has been increasing pressure for it to disarm.

The survivors

Othman said he became a fighter because "there were no longer schools or anything else to do." Later he would disarm and became a pharmacist.

He remembers being bewildered when a peace accord in 1989 ushered in the end of civil war: "All this war and bombing, and in the end they make some deals and it's all over."

Of the 10 others who survived the bus attack, he said, three were killed a year later when Christian militias attacked the Tel al-Zaatar camp. Another was killed in a 1981 bombing at the Iraqi embassy. A couple died of natural causes, one lives in Germany, and he has lost track of the others.

The bus has also survived, as a reminder.

Ahead of the 50th anniversary of the attack, it was towed from storage on a farm to the private Nabu Museum in Heri, north of Beirut. Visitors took photos with it and peered into bullet holes in its rusted sides.

Ghida Margie Fakih, a museum spokesperson, said the bus will remain on display indefinitely as a "wake-up call" to remind Lebanese not to go down the path of conflict again.

The bus "changed the whole history in Lebanon and took us somewhere that nobody wanted to go," she said.

As Hungary votes on amendment to ban LGBTQ+ Pride, what does it mean for other basic rights?

By JUSTIN SPIKE Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Hungarian lawmakers are preparing to vote on a constitutional amendment viewed by many critics as both a crackdown on the freedoms of assembly and expression and the most recent move by the populist government to restrict the rights of LGBTQ+ communities.

The amendment, which will almost certainly be passed on Monday by the two-thirds majority of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's nationalist Fidesz party, would permanently codify a ban on public events held by LGBTQ+ communities — including the popular Pride event that draws thousands annually in the capital, Budapest.

It will also provide a constitutional basis for denying the gender identities or sexual characteristics of minority groups, and allow for some Hungarians to have their citizenship suspended if they are deemed to pose a threat to Hungary's security or sovereignty.

Here's what the amendment will do, what it entails for LGBTQ+ Hungarians, and for some of the basic rights of all citizens in the Central European nation.

A ban on LGBTQ+ events?

The amendment, the 15th to Hungary's constitution since it was unilaterally authored and approved by the ruling Fidesz-KDNP coalition in 2011, gives legal support to a law fast-tracked in March that made it an offense to hold or attend events that violate the country's contentious "child protection" legislation, which prohibits the "depiction or promotion" of homosexuality to minors aged under 18.

That law also allows authorities to use facial recognition tools to identify individuals that attend prohibited events — such as Budapest Pride — and can come with fines for violators of up to 200,000 Hungarian forints (\$546).

Some legal experts have argued that such a restriction on assembly rights violates Hungary's constitution. In order to bring the Pride ban in line with constitutional protections, the amendment declares that children's rights to moral, physical and spiritual development supersede any other fundamental right other than the right to life — including that to peacefully assemble.

The amendment also declares that "a person's sex at birth is a biological characteristic and can be either male or female" — an expansion of an earlier amendment that prohibits same-sex adoption by stating that a mother is a woman and a father is a man.

This declaration will provide a constitutional basis for denying the gender identities of transgender people, as well as ignoring the existence of intersex individuals, who are born with atypical sexual characteristics that do not align with binary conceptions of male and female.

The human rights agency of the United Nations has written that up to 1.7% of the global population is born with intersex traits.

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The amendment, as well as previous legislation targeting LGBTQ+ communities, is reminiscent of similar restrictions against sexual minorities in Russia. Orbán, seen as Russian President Vladimir Putin's closest ally in the European Union, has in recent years prohibited same-sex adoption and banned any LGBTQ+ content including in television, films, advertisements and literature that is available to minors.

His government argues that its policies are designed to protect children from "sexual propaganda," but critics view them as part of a broader effort to scapegoat sexual minorities and mobilize his conservative base.

Citizenship could be suspended

Hungary has taken vigorous steps in recent months to protect its national sovereignty from what it claims are foreign efforts to influence its politics or even topple Orbán's government.

The self-described "illiberal" leader has accelerated his longstanding efforts to crack down on critics such as media outlets and groups devoted to civil rights and anti-corruption, which he says have undermined Hungary's sovereignty by receiving financial assistance from international donors.

In a speech laden with conspiracy theories in March, Orbán compared people who work for such groups to insects, and pledged to "eliminate the entire shadow army" of foreign-funded "politicians, judges, journalists, pseudo-NGOs and political activists."

As part of the government's sovereignty protection efforts, the newest constitutional amendment will make it possible to suspend the Hungarians' citizenship if they are deemed to pose a threat to public order, public security or national security.

Such suspensions would apply to Hungarian citizens who also hold citizenship of another country that is not a member of the EU or European Economic Area. Such suspensions may last for a maximum of 10 years.

'This is fascism'

The passage of the law banning Pride set off a wave of protests in Hungary with thousands taking to the streets to demand the restoration of assembly rights. Demonstrators employed the tactic of blocking bridges and major thoroughfares in Budapest, something Orbán later said would be prohibited by new legislation.

Reacting to the ban on Pride, local organizers wrote: "This is not child protection, this is fascism."

On Monday, when lawmakers vote to approve the constitutional amendment, the opposition Momentum party will attempt to blockade the parliament and prevent the vote from taking place. The party accused Orbán's government of being an "intimidating and cowardly power," writing on social media: "Let's collectively prevent them from leading us down the Putin road and depriving us of our freedom."

Another protest is expected after the passage of the amendment.

The Hungarian Helsinki Committee, a human rights group, has said the planned amendment "is a significant escalation in the Government's efforts to suppress dissent and weaken human rights protection."

The group, along with rights groups the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International and Hát-tér Society, have urged the European Commission to launch a procedure against Hungary's government, arguing the amendment and other recent legislation breaches EU law.

Via porn, gore and ultra-violence, extremist groups are sinking hooks online into the very young

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — After his arrest, the boy's mother was stunned to discover that her 12-year-old had been learning how to kill and gorging on videos of decapitation and torture so gruesome they made even case-hardened French court officials look away. The mother told criminal investigators that she'd thought her son had been playing video games and doing homework during the hours he spent in his room.

The child's descent into the internet's darkest recesses started innocently enough, with online searches about Islam after an aunt gave him a Quran as a gift, says the boy's lawyer. From there, more searching, automated algorithms that steer users' online experiences and the boy's curiosity ultimately led him to

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encrypted chats and ultraviolent propaganda pumped out by Islamic State militants and other extremist groups that are worming their way via apps, video gaming and social media into the minds of the very young.

Paul-Edouard Lallois, the French prosecutor who secured the boy's conviction on two terror-related charges last August, says the thousands of images and other extreme content that the child viewed so warped his understanding of the world and of right and wrong that "it will take years and years of work to enable this kid to recover normal bearings."

The prosecutor believes that left unstopped, the boy was on a trajectory to possibly becoming a "completely dehumanized soldier" who risked joining the ranks of digitally radicalized teenagers in France and beyond who are hatching terror plots and expressing support for extremism. The huge library of violent content, several terabytes of data, that the boy amassed included video tutorials on bomb-making, the prosecutor said.

"It is possible to completely upend the mental bearings of such a young child," he said. "Do that for a few years and, even before he has turned 18, he's already capable of, yes, committing an attack and the worst things with just a knife."

An emerging global threat

Across Europe and further afield, the picture is similar: Counterterrorism agencies are grappling with a new generation of attackers, plotters and acolytes of extremism who are younger than ever and have fed on ultraviolent and potentially radicalizing content largely behind their screens. Some are appearing on police radars only when it's already too late — with knife in hand, as they're carrying out an attack.

Olivier Christen, France's national anti-terrorism prosecutor who handles the country's most serious terror investigations, has a firsthand view of the surging threat. His unit handed terror-related preliminary charges to just two minors in 2022. That number leapt to 15 in 2023 and again last year, to 19.

Some are "really very, very young, around 15 years old, which was something that was almost unheard of no more than two years ago," Christen said in an interview with The Associated Press. It "demonstrates the strong effectiveness of the propaganda disseminated by terrorist organizations, which are quite good at targeting this age group."

The so-called "Five Eyes" intelligence-sharing network that usually shuns the limelight, comprising U.S., U.K., Canadian, Australian and New Zealand security agencies, is so alarmed that it took the unusual step in December of calling publicly for collective action, saying: "Radicalized minors can pose the same credible terrorist threat as adults."

In Germany, an Interior Ministry task force launched after deadly mass stabbings last year is focusing on teenagers' social networks, aiming to counter their growing role in radicalization. In France, the domestic DGSI security agency says 70% of suspects detained for involvement in alleged terror plots are under the age of 21.

In Austria, security services say a 19-year-old suspect arrested in August, with an 18-year-old and a 17-year-old, for an alleged ISIS-inspired plot to slaughter Taylor Swift concertgoers, was radicalized online. So, too, was a suspected ISIS supporter, aged 14, detained this February for an alleged plan to attack a Vienna train station, Austrian authorities say.

The VSSE intelligence agency in Belgium says almost a third of suspects detained there for plotting attacks from 2022 to 2024 were minors — the youngest only 13. Extremist propaganda "is just a click away for young people in search of an identity or a purpose," it said in a report in January, with radicalization occurring at speeds that are "nothing short of meteoric."

A path from porn to jihadi propaganda

Counterterror investigators say the online radicalization of a child can sometimes take just months. Digitally nimble, kids are adept at covering their tracks and skirting parental controls. The 12-year-old's mother had no inkling that her boy was consulting extremist content, the family's lawyer, Kamel Aissaoui, told The AP.

And unlike previous generations of militants who were easier for police to track and monitor because they interacted in the real world, their successors are often interacting only in digital spaces, including on

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encrypted chats to mask their identities and activities, investigators say.

"They live on their phones, their tablets, their computers, in contact with people they don't know," said a senior official from a European intelligence agency who spoke to The AP on condition of anonymity to discuss its work combatting illegal extremist activity.

Some start "to imagine who they would attack, how they would go about it, doing actual reconnaissance, hunting for a weapon, consulting tutorials on how to make explosives," the official said.

For some kids, the process starts with violent pornography or a fascination for gory images, counterterrorism investigators say. From there, more clicks can lead to grisly murder videos from Mexican drug cartels and ultimately to jihadi decapitations, throat-slitting and torture, in videos that are sometimes slickly produced with music and are shared on chat groups.

"Often they're heavy consumers of everything that is broadcast on the Web and especially things that are forbidden," said Christen, the French national anti-terror prosecutor. "It's something of a chain reaction that gets them to the ultra-violence disseminated by jihadi movements."

Kids from all backgrounds

Aissaoui, the child's lawyer, said the trial was so tough on the 12-year-old that the hearing had to be paused twice because he was so distraught. He says the boy isn't violent and was simply a victim of apps and other digital tools that expose kids to extremist content.

"He was directed from site to site, and so on and so forth, until he came across things he should never have seen," the lawyer said.

The boy is now in residential care without access to social networks, with specialized educators and regular visitation rights for his parents, the prosecutor told AP.

Counterterrorism investigators say they're dealing with kids from an array of backgrounds. Some have behavioral difficulties and some tend to be loners whose social interactions are largely virtual, but others raise no concerns with their behavior before it draws police attention.

Police analysis of the 12-year-old boy's computer and phone found 1,739 jihadi videos, "a phenomenal quantity of scenes of decapitation, throat-slitting, shootings," the prosecutor said. He also had how-to videos on bomb-making and killing, including one that appeared to show the real-life death of a tied-down man being methodically chopped into pieces.

"I have seen some horrible things in my career," he said. "But this goes beyond all comprehension."

Trump receives a standing ovation as he enters a UFC event in Miami

By STEPHANY MATAT and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — President Donald Trump entered to a standing ovation and cheers from a crowd of thousands attending a UFC event on Saturday night, shaking hands with supporters against a backdrop of fans waving his trademark MAGA hats.

Just as Trump entered, he greeted podcast host Joe Rogan, who sat to the right of the president. On the other side of Trump sat Elon Musk, billionaire and chief of the Department of Government Efficiency. Trump, who accented his dark suit with a bright yellow tie, pumped his fist in the air, prompting cheers to strains of "Taking Care of Business."

He brought along several members of his administration and White House team, including Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., FBI Director Kash Patel, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard and White House communications aides Steven Cheung and Taylor Budowich. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, also joined Trump for UFC 314.

Trump entered the arena with UFC President Dana White, with whom he has been close for decades. He was also accompanied by his granddaughter, Kai Trump, the daughter of Donald Trump Jr.

Throughout the fight, the UFC jumbotron frequently featured the president, drawing roars from the sold-out arena. The crowd periodically cheered "USA," and Trump briefly danced to the Village People's "YMCA" standing from his seat, firing up the crowd.

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In between fights, Trump would occasionally shake hands with people who approached him and lean in to speak to Musk, who at times held his son on his shoulders. However, he mostly stayed seated, acknowledging and speaking to fighters who would go against the net to greet the president.

The Republican president is a longtime UFC fan and sports enthusiast, who has frequently attended major fights. The mixed martial arts fight at Miami's Kaseya Center was Trump's first UFC visit since he took office in January, and it came weeks after Trump attended the Saudi-sponsored LIV golf tournament at his golf club in Miami.

In a further nod to his sports enthusiasm, Trump has also attended the Super Bowl and Daytona 500 since taking office. He sat cageside at a UFC championship fight in New York City last November, shortly after he won the 2024 election.

Aside from the president, the main event for the UFC 314 fight is a championship bout between Australian former champion Alexander Volkanovski and Brazilian fighter Diego Lopes, who are competing for the featherweight championship title. It's the fourth UFC event in Miami, in a county that supported the president by about 11 percentage points in the November election.

The president arrived in West Palm Beach on Friday for his 10th visit to South Florida since he became president, spending the evening in his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach. He flew to Miami after playing golf at his club in West Palm Beach.

"You know who's going to win? Dana White. Dana White's gonna win," Trump told reporters Saturday night aboard Air Force One.

His close affiliation with UFC helped boost his 2024 presidential campaign among young male voters prior to the November election, where he made promoting hypermasculine tones a signature of the campaign.

As tariffs put trade between China and the US in peril, Chinese businesses ponder the future

By HUIZHONG WU and DIDI TANG Associated Press

When the first two rounds of 10% tariffs hit, Zou Guoqing, a Chinese exporter, groaned but didn't find the barriers insurmountable. He gave up some of his profits and offered his client, a snow-bike factory in Nebraska, price cuts ranging from 5% to 10%. It seemed to work: The factory agreed to a new order of molds and parts.

But when President Donald Trump announced an additional 34% universal tariff on Chinese goods on April 2, Zou, who's been exporting to the U.S. for more than a decade, was incredulous.

"There's not a thread of feasibility," said Zou, who does business in the eastern Chinese city of Ningbo. "It looks like I would have no choice but give up trading with the U.S."

Then came 50% more from Trump, followed by another hike — pushing the universal tariff on Chinese goods to the sky-high 145%, and Zou said he now could only hope that the two leaders can communicate. "We are pausing the shipments," he said, "until the leaders talk."

The 145% tariff from the United States and the retaliatory 125% tariff from China are putting businesses doing trade between the U.S. and China on edge. They're fretting not only about their next orders, but also the viability of their business if there's no quick relief. Experts are worried the decades-long trade ties that have underpinned the relationship between the world's two largest economies could be unraveling.

Trade ties are tested

If the high tariff is sustained for the next six months or longer, "that would actually lead to a real effective decoupling between the American and Chinese economies," said Chen Zhiwu, professor of finance at Hong Kong University Business School.

Josh Lipsky, senior director of the Atlantic Council's GeoEconomics Center, said the sky-high tariff, if kept in place, amounts to "almost a trade embargo," making it impossible for China to export low-value items such as apparel to the U.S. It also would force U.S. businesses to source elsewhere, away from China, if there should be alternatives, he said.

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In a turn, the Trump administration late Friday said it would exclude electronics like smartphones and laptops from reciprocal tariffs, which means they won't be subject to the 145% tariffs levied on China. The exemption seemed to reflect Trump's realization that his China tariffs are unlikely to shift more manufacturing of smartphones, computers and other gadgets to the U.S. any time soon.

In China, the central tariff office flat-out declared there was "no possibility for market acceptance" of U.S. goods exported to China" at the current tariff level.

"Everyone's pretty worried," said Hu Jianlong, founder of Brands Factory, a consultancy that works with Chinese companies trying to break into overseas markets. "At this point in time, there's no good way forward. This situation has not resolved ... there's no final number. And so everyone's still waiting to see how this will develop."

The high-stakes tariff war has come more than 20 years after China — with the help of the United States — joined the World Trade Organization and began to see its economy soar on luring foreign investments and exporting to the U.S. and other Western markets. By last year, China-U.S. trade was \$582 billion, but tensions have flared over China's widening trade imbalance with the U.S. That led to the first tariff skirmish during the first Trump term.

The trade deficit has since narrowed but stayed stubbornly high, at a time when the U.S. and other Western markets have also grown concerned about another onslaught of Chinese products such as electric vehicles.

Decouple or 'de-risk'?

During his four-year term, former President Joe Biden stressed that the U.S. was not trying to decouple from China but to "de-risk." He took the "small-yard, high-fence" approach, under which his administration put up barriers in targeted sectors such as advanced chips, artificial intelligence and quantum computing that have national security implications.

Now, Trump is declaring universal tariffs on Chinese goods but has said he's also willing to talk with Beijing. It remains unclear what his goals might be.

"What are they looking for in those negotiations? How much is it possible to reduce these tariffs? What are the other demands apart from China removing its retaliatory tariffs that the United States wants to put forward. We don't know what that would be," said Greta Peisch, who served as the general counsel for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in 2021-2024.

The message from China's leadership is loud and clear. It will talk only when the U.S. stops "maximum pressure and capricious and destructive behavior," said Lin Jian, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson.

Li Cheng, professor of political science at the University of Hong Kong, said the Chinese leadership is upset over being singled out by Trump when the U.S. president paused reciprocal tariffs for 90 days for all other countries. Beijing wants to make sure that "Donald Trump not state one thing in the morning and say other things in the evening," Li said, and that Trump's policies on China are not hijacked by his anti-China, hawkish advisers.

With no leadership-level negotiations in the immediate future, businesses are exploring their options.

Lisa Li, who works in sales for an athletic wear manufacturer in the northern Chinese province of Hebei, said her business was negotiating with clients over whether they could split the increased costs. It's too early to say if her company is to give up on the U.S. market, she said, but it will "definitely expand other avenues for sales," such as in Australia or Europe.

Differing views, but optimism is sagging

In the eastern Chinese city of Wenzhou, a manufacturing hub, a holiday lights maker was less optimistic. Bo, who shared only his surname out of concern for retaliation, said he could "only give up" if the tariff hikes were here to stay because other markets might not work.

"In the past few years, the European market has been in a slump," Bo said. "So we had wanted to try and develop our business in the United States."

In Hong Kong, Danny Lau, who runs an aluminum-coating factory in the nearby southern Chinese city of Dongguan, said one of his U.S. clients would keep buying from him for an ongoing project but was unsure about the next project. Another client told Lau that the chances are slim to strike a deal when tariffs

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are so high. Lau has been exploring other markets, but he says it's not easy because some may find his high-quality products too expensive.

At a port in the Chinese city of Shanghai, ships heading to the U.S. had almost vanished by Thursday, the day after Trump's tariff on China took effect, according to a report by the financial news site Caixin. Major shipping lines were drastically cutting back on trans-Pacific routes, the report said.

For the longer term, the tariff war is likely to prompt Chinese businesses to diversify their supply chains and move part of their manufacturing capacity outside of China, and even to the United States, said Hu, the consultant.

Some might follow in the footsteps of the Tianjin steelmaking business, which gave up trading with the U.S. after both Trump and Biden raised tariffs on Chinese steel. "The best plan is to not come into contact," said David Yu, who works in the company's foreign sales department.

However, not everyone is ready to give up on the U.S. market. Zou, the exporter in Ningbo, describes the U.S. market as "reliable and without finicky demands."

"It's the best market on Earth," he said. "I am waiting for the rainbow after the storm."

No booze, no cover, no judging: Inside Mexico City's free dance parties

By CATERINA MORBIATO Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — It's 4 p.m. on a recent Sunday afternoon, and a pavilion of towering windows in a Mexico City urban park is nearly packed. The public is diverse, but everyone here wants the same thing: to dance freely, at no cost, without harassment or prejudice.

Twenty-somethings, children with their mothers, teenagers and elderly couples gather around the disc jockey's console. A murmur fills the air as roughly 300 people await the start. The first notes then pierce the air and a shiver runs through the crowd.

"This is an open invitation for everyone to move as they wish in a safe space!" said Axel Martínez, one of the collective's founders, as he grabs a microphone and cheers the revelers on. At their own pace, each person is carried away by the music — and no one seems surprised by the moves of others.

From experimental jazz pieces and smooth Egyptian hip-hop to the more familiar pulse of cumbias grooved with an electronic touch, people dance to it all.

The party was organized by the Nueva Red de Bailadores or NRB (New Network of Dancers), a collective that aims to create spaces where people can gather to dance freely. There's no cover charge, no booze, and no pressure to do the "right" moves.

Dancing with peace of mind

The collective began nine years ago as a simple gathering of friends dancing freely in an apartment. As word spread, their numbers swelled from 20 to 50, then more than 100 — so they had to move to a park.

"The New Network of Dancers is (a community) of philosophy and action," said Martínez. "Dancing alone is very fulfilling, but dancing with a lot of people is also very enriching."

As their numbers grew, the NRB approached the authorities and established a relationship with the agency responsible for preserving Mexico City's historic center and with museum directors, who agreed to provide sound equipment and other resources for the events.

Building on its network of contacts, it has organized some 300 dancing sessions in ever more striking and unexpected spaces, such as old factories and gardens.

The latest NRB party featured two dance floors — one inside and one outside the pavilion — both areas filled with joy and lightness. As organizers pointed out, their parties forgo police and security, fostering a sense of collective care where attendees look out for one another.

"Being able to come to a space where you feel happiness and respect ... it gives you peace of mind," said Ana Celia Agustín, 29, a regular at NRB dances.

A key to the collective's success comes from having become a real social network, and what NRB member

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Elías Herrera describes as a “virtuous circle” between online and in-person interaction that the collective has unleashed.

While social media videos and posts have played a role in promoting the dance parties, word-of-mouth has been key to make them so popular.

“I knew a lot about dancing and my body always mixed it with alcohol,” said Mateo Cruz, 27. “Here I found a new place. It’s been an eye-opening experience for me to discover that I have all this stuff inside me that I can let go of. I can completely free myself from what others think, from what I think myself.”

‘Fun without any trouble’

The Mexican capital is a city that dances, especially in its most popular neighborhoods, where public space is often turned into a dance floor for market anniversaries, patron saint celebrations or simply the joy of weekend cumbias.

Generally, however, these parties feature a more homogenous crowd and musical selection. In contrast, the NRB dances have opened the dance floor to a more diverse audience and invites everyone on a shape-shifting musical journey.

Isabel Miraflores, a 73-year-old retired high school assistant principal, came with her husband and said she enjoyed both the dancing and the presence of people of different ages. “I think it’s wonderful because it’s a free event,” she said. “We get together with people from all parts of society and we have fun without any trouble.”

The sun has set, it’s almost 7 p.m., and there is just over one hour left before the dance ends, but dozens are still waiting in line to enter the pavilion in the famed Bosque de Chapultepec, an urban park that stretches across more than 2,000 acres in the heart of Mexico City.

“In a capitalist reality like ours, it’s very difficult to find an alternative, especially one that is free,” said Martínez. “Accessibility is everything for us.”

Assisted living isn’t just for people. A zoo in Spain helps elderly elephants age gracefully

By JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — At the Barcelona Zoo, a 40-year-old African elephant places her foot through the metal barrier where a zookeeper gently scrubs its sole — the beloved pachyderm gets her “pedicure,” along with apple slices every day.

The treatment is part of the zoo’s specialized geriatric care for aging animals that cannot be reintroduced into the wild as zoos world over increasingly emphasize lifelong care.

“Sending them back into nature would be an error,” said Pilar Padilla, head of the zoo’s mammal care. “It is very likely they wouldn’t survive.”

Zoos have undergone a rethink in recent decades with the emphasis on the conservation of species and education, moving away from the past paradigm that often displayed exotic animals as a spectacle.

The new approach includes knowing how to adapt to the needs of aging animals, which has led zoos to create bigger, more nature-like enclosures, such as the Sahel-Savannah area at the zoo in the Spanish city of Barcelona.

Along with breeding programs to reintroduce fit animals into nature, zoos today want to ensure that animals living longer due to advancements in veterinary care can age gracefully, said Martín Zordan, the CEO of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, or WAZA.

“Specialized geriatric care is becoming increasingly essential,” Zordan told The Associated Press at the organization’s Barcelona offices.

Zordan said that just like older people, elderly animals require more care: regular health checks, arthritis treatment, softer foods or nutritional supplements, adapted living spaces and monitoring of mental and behavioral health.

Along with caring for a pair of aging elephants, the Barcelona Zoo is also the home for a 15-year-old wolf, a leopard and a tiger who are both 17, as well as some older birds — including a flock of senior flamencos.

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It's not alone — several zoos in the United States, for example, highlight their treatment of older animals, such as the zoos in Baltimore and Baton Rouge.

A study of grief

Zookeepers at the Barcelona Zoo, not far from the city's Mediterranean coastline, are closely monitoring its two aging female pachyderms, Susi and Bully (pronounced BUH'-yi), as they cope with the recent death of Yoyo, their former pen-mate and long-time companion.

Yoyo died in December at age 54.

Susi, at 52, is now among the oldest known African elephants in captivity, even though WAZA said the age of animals born in the wild is approximate. Bully, who is 40, is also considered old for an African elephant. All three were captured in the wild and spent time in circuses and other zoos before coming to Barcelona.

The zoo is now working with the University of Barcelona to study the impact of Yoyo's death on Susi and Bully. It's the first study of its kind, focused on elephants not from the same family after the death of a long-time companion, Padilla told The Associated Press during a recent visit to the zoo's elephant enclosure.

At first, Susi and Bully showed their shock by not eating, but are now adapting well and turning to one another, including even sharing food, Padilla said, adding that Susi has taken on the dominant role that Yoyo had.

The proof is in the teeth

For elephants, their teeth are the real age test.

"What marks the decline of the animal is the wear on their teeth," Barcelona zookeeper José María Santamaría said after finishing the Bully's pedicure. "They go through six sets of molars during their life, and when they reach around 40 years old they lose the last set."

Susi and Bully require daily checkups, food suited for their now molar-less mouths and extra attention to their legs — hence the daily pedicures and the enclosure's soft sandy floor to cushion aching feet.

"Those are the sort of considerations taken because we care about these animals living comfortably and leading lives with dignity," Zordan said.

Ecuador's incumbent president and a leftist lawyer again vie for the top job in a runoff election

By GONZALO SOLANO and REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — A conservative young millionaire who is Ecuador's incumbent president and a leftist lawyer are again the choices as Ecuadorians head to the polls on Sunday in the country's second presidential runoff election in less than two years.

President Daniel Noboa and leftist challenger Luisa González have promised voters solutions to the extortions, killings, kidnappings and other crimes that became part of everyday life as Ecuador emerged from the pandemic.

Voters chose Noboa over González in the runoff of a snap election in October 2023. Both advanced to Sunday's contest after being the top vote-getters in February's first-round election. Noboa won 44.17% of the votes while González garnered 44%.

Analysts expect Sunday's results to have a very tight margin. Polls open at 7 a.m. local time (1200 GMT; 8 a.m. EST) and close at 5 p.m. (2200 GMT; 6 p.m. EST) Initial results are expected two hours after polls close.

Voters are primarily worried about the violence that transformed the country, starting in 2021 — a spike in crime tied to the trafficking of cocaine produced in neighboring Colombia and Peru.

Both candidates have promised tough-on-crime policies, better equipment for law enforcement and international help to fight drug cartels and local criminal groups.

More than 13 million people are eligible to vote, which is mandatory for adults up to the age of 65. It is optional for people aged 16 and 17 and over 65. Failure to vote results in a \$46 fine.

In 2023, Noboa and González were largely unknown to most voters as they sought the presidency for

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the first time. They were first-term lawmakers in May 2023, when then-President Guillermo Lasso dissolved the National Assembly, shortening his own mandate as a result and triggering that year's snap election.

Noboa's first foray into politics was his stint as lawmaker. An heir to a fortune built on the banana trade, Noboa opened an event-organizing company when he was 18 and then joined his father's Noboa Corp., where he held management positions in the shipping, logistics and commercial areas.

González, 47, held various government jobs during the presidency of Rafael Correa, who led Ecuador from 2007 through 2017 with free-spending socially conservative policies and grew increasingly authoritarian in his last years as president.

Noboa, 37, declared Ecuador to be in a state of "internal armed conflict" in January 2024, allowing him to deploy thousands of soldiers to the streets to combat gangs and to charge people with terrorism counts for alleged ties to organized crime groups.

Under his watch, the homicide rate dropped from 46.18 per 100,000 people in 2023, to 38.76 per 100,000 people in 2024. But despite the decrease, the rate remained far higher than the 6.85 homicides per 100,000 people seen in 2019.

Some of Noboa's heavy-handed crime-fighting tactics have come under scrutiny for testing the limits of laws and norms of governing. He has also been criticized for allegations of electoral anomalies he made after February's vote.

Following the first-round election, Noboa said there had been "many irregularities" and that in certain provinces "there were things that didn't add up." He provided no further details or evidence. Electoral observers from the Organization of American States and the European Union ruled out fraud.

Central Myanmar shaken by new quake in one of the biggest aftershocks since March 28 temblor

BANGKOK (AP) — A magnitude 5.5 earthquake struck on Sunday morning near Meiktila, a small city in central Myanmar, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The quake came as Myanmar is engaged in relief efforts following a massive 7.7 magnitude temblor that also hit the country's central region on March 28. The epicenter of the latest quake was roughly halfway between Mandalay, Myanmar's second-biggest city, which suffered enormous damage and casualties in last month's earthquake, and Naypyitaw, the capital, where several government offices were then damaged.

There were no immediate reports of major damage or casualties caused by the new quake, one of the strongest of hundreds of aftershocks from the March 28 temblor. As of Friday, the death toll from that quake was 3,649, with 5,018 injured, according to Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun, a spokesperson for Myanmar's military government.

Myanmar's Meteorological Department said Sunday's quake occurred in the area of Wundwin township, 97 kilometers (60 miles) south of Mandalay, at a depth of 20 kilometers (12 miles). The U.S. Geological Survey estimated the depth at 7.7 km (4.8 miles).

Two Wundwin residents told The Associated Press by phone the quake was so strong that people rushed out of buildings and that ceilings in some dwellings were damaged. A resident of Naypyitaw also reached by phone said he did not feel the latest quake. Those contacted asked not to be named for fear of angering the military government, which prefers to closely control information.

The United Nations last week warned that damage caused by the March 28 quake will worsen the existing humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, where a civil war had already displaced more than 3 million people.

It said the quake severely disrupted agricultural production and that a health emergency loomed because many medical facilities in the quake zone were damaged or destroyed.

Sunday's quake occurred on the morning of the first day of the country's three-day Thingyan holiday, which celebrates the traditional New Year. Public festivities for the holiday had already been canceled.

New gear could keep California crab fishermen on the water longer, and whales safe

By AMY TAXIN Associated Press

After years of a shortened crab fishing season aimed at preventing whale entanglements off the West Coast, California crabbers are experimenting with a new fishing method that allows them to stay on the water longer while keeping the marine mammals safe.

The state has been running a pilot program since 2023 to try out so-called pop-up gear to protect whales while finding a solution to fishermen's woes and is expected to fully authorize the gear for spring Dungeness crab fishing in 2026.

The gear, which uses a remote device to pull up lines laid horizontally across the sea floor, also is being tried on lobster in Maine, black sea bass in Georgia and fisheries in Australia and Canada.

"Unfortunately, it has been six years we've been delayed or closed early for whales," said Brand Little, a San Francisco Dungeness crab fisherman who is among those participating in the pilot.

"This is a way to get our industry back," he said.

The effort comes after reports of whale entanglements off the Pacific Coast spiked a decade ago during a marine heat wave. The change in temperature drove whales, many of them threatened or endangered humpbacks, to seek out food sources closer to the California coast, where they were caught in vertical fishing lines that had been strung between crab pots on the ocean floor and buoys bobbing on the surface.

In response, California state regulators barred Dungeness crab fishing when whales are known to be present. That shortened the season significantly, giving fishermen a narrow window in which to make a living. So some began trying pop-up gear and determined the method works and is worth the additional cost.

No more vertical lines

The gear lets fishermen use a remote-operated, acoustic release device to pop-up a crab pot from the ocean floor rather than have it tethered to a floating buoy. Pots can be strung together with ropes laid horizontally instead of vertically, so whales can pass over them while migrating through the area.

"If you remove the vertical line, you have removed the entanglement risk, and you have allowed a fishery to continue," said Ryan Bartling, senior environmental scientist supervisor with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Many long-time Dungeness crab fishermen have been slow to warm up to the idea due to the cost, which can run \$1,000 per pop-up device plus an on-board unit. It also takes time to restrung the pots after an intense winter season of derby-style fishing, which takes place when whales are calving in warmer waters to the south.

There also is a need for a unified tracking system since the gear isn't visible on the surface, Bartling said.

More than four dozen whales were entangled in fishing nets in 2015, compared with an annual average of 10 in prior years, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Many were humpback whales, which were listed as endangered in the 1970s and have been recovering since protections were put in place, the agency said.

Environmental advocates sued California over the increased entanglements and reached a settlement with the state in 2019 that encouraged the use of ropeless gear.

Bart Chadwick, who owns San Diego-based Sub Sea Sonics, said he previously used pop-up technology to retrieve expensive equipment while conducting environmental work at sea. When he retired from his job, he made tweaks so it could be adapted for fishing.

"It allows them to fish in places they wouldn't otherwise," Chadwick said, adding the technology also reduces gear losses.

Only for springtime

Most Dungeness crab fishermen make their money during the early part of the season when whales typically aren't near the California coast. Experts say the pop-up gear won't work then due to crowding and the technology is currently being considered solely for the smaller spring season, which starts April

16 in central California.

Geoff Shester, senior scientist at conservation organization Oceana, said he thinks the method could eventually be used more broadly if fishermen find it efficient and cost-effective.

"Think about electric cars, or hybrids, or even digital cameras," Shester said. "Every time you have a new technology, there is a lot of resistance at first."

Crab fisherman Ben Platt said he was a vocal opponent but will join this year's pilot since multiple pots now can be strung together, making the method simpler and cheaper. Still, he said many fishermen have concerns and aren't likely to get on board.

"We'll just have to see and take a look at the results," Platt said.

For Stephen Melz, who fishes out of Half Moon Bay, California, having more time out on the ocean is key. Years ago, he said he would go out for Dungeness crab starting in November and fish through the spring.

Now, with the shortened season, he said there is no room for error and the gear helps him get out so he can pay his bills.

"Better than just sitting at dock," he said.

New laws complicate Wyoming's abortion situation as bans set to be argued in state Supreme Court

By MEAD GRUVER Associated Press

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) — When a Wyoming woman phoned the state's only abortion clinic recently to make an appointment to end her pregnancy, she received news that complicated her life even more.

Wellspring Health Access had stopped providing abortions that same day, responding to a slew of new requirements for the Casper clinic to become a licensed surgical center.

"It was kind of really bad timing on my part," said the woman, who declined to be named because of abortion's stigma in her community.

Though abortion remains legal in Wyoming, it has become increasingly difficult because of new requirements for abortion clinics and women seeking abortions. In this case, the woman had to go to Colorado, which partially borders southern Wyoming.

On Wednesday, the Wyoming Supreme Court is set to hear arguments over state abortion bans that a lower court judge has suspended and struck down as unconstitutional. But even if the state high court agrees with those rulings, access to abortion in Wyoming stands to remain uncertain.

New state laws make getting abortions much harder

One new law targets Wellspring Health Access as Wyoming's only abortion clinic, requiring licensure as an outpatient surgical center at a cost of up to \$500,000 in renovations, according to the clinic.

The law also requires the clinic's physicians to get admitting privileges at a hospital within 10 miles (16 kilometers). A hospital three blocks from the clinic is under no obligation to admit its doctors, however.

"This is an abortion ban without banning abortion," said Julie Burkhart, founder and president of Wellspring Health Access.

A second new law requires women to get ultrasounds at least 48 hours before a medication abortion, costing them \$250 or more plus gas money and travel time in a state where ultrasounds are unavailable in many rural areas.

The Wyoming Legislature is well within its rights to regulate abortion to protect women from even the small chance of an abortion mishap, argued an attorney for the state, John Woykovsky, at a recent court hearing on the new laws.

Unsettled abortion laws have far-reaching effects

In most cases, a transvaginal ultrasound is required to obtain a fetal image in the earliest stages of pregnancy, when most abortions are done. That invasiveness, especially for victims of rape and abuse, caused Gov. Mark Gordon, a Republican, to veto the ultrasound bill a few days after he signed the surgical center requirement into law Feb. 27.

The Republican-dominated Legislature overrode his veto, leading Wellspring Health Access, the Wyoming

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abortion access advocate Chelsea's Fund and others to sue over it and the licensing law.

Meanwhile, the legal uncertainty caused Wellspring Health Access, which opened in 2023 after an arson attack delayed the original date by almost a year, to halt both medication and surgical abortions.

Several dozen abortion opponents attended a Tuesday hearing in Casper on whether to suspend the laws while the lawsuit moves ahead. If that happens, clinic abortions will resume, to the dismay of opponents, said Ross Schriftman, president of the local Wyoming Right to Life chapter.

"No inspections, no confirmation of whether the people committing the abortions are licensed doctors for Wyoming and no continuity of care to the hospital," Schriftman said by email.

Abortion proponents claim support among Wyoming women

A former Wyoming resident who, in 2017, got an abortion in neighboring Colorado, her closest option at the time, sympathized with rural Wyoming women seeking abortions now.

"God forbid it's the winter," said Ciel Newman, who now lives in New Mexico. "Wyoming's a huge, rural state without much interstate coverage."

The amount of business at Wellspring Health Access shows that the lawmakers who passed the abortion laws are out of step with their constituents, Burkhardt said.

"We have had people coming in our doors each and every week that we've been open," Burkhardt said. "If people who come from Republican states, or more traditional-leaning states, didn't approve of abortion, we would go out of business because people just wouldn't show up."

Is abortion access a Wyoming health care right?

In the case about to be argued before the state Supreme Court, the same groups and women are suing over laws banning abortion that Wyoming has passed since 2022. They include the first explicit ban on medication abortions in the U.S.

In November, a judge in Jackson ruled the bans violated a 2012 constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right of competent adults to make their own health care decisions.

Even if the justices agree, Wellspring Health Access stands to suffer. Before the new laws, the clinic saw as many as 22 patients a day, 70% of whom were there for abortions: half surgical, half by pills.

Now, Wellspring Health Access doesn't offer abortions and sees about five patients a day, all of whom are transgender people receiving hormone replacement therapy, according to the clinic.

Twenty-three other states, including 14 that have not totally banned abortion, have passed requirements similar to Wyoming's that opponents call "targeted regulation of abortion providers," or TRAP, laws. Surgical center licensing and hospital admitting privileges are typical requirements, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that advocates for abortion access.

Few states have passed TRAP laws since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, but abortion remains an unsettled issue in several. A licensing law in Missouri stood to curtail abortions until it was blocked by a judge, pointed out Kimya Forouzan, state policy advisor for the Guttmacher Institute.

"They still have a major impact on the ability to provide care," Forouzan said in an email.

An even longer drive to get an abortion

The Wyoming woman recently seeking a surgical abortion at Wellspring Health Access had to drive more than twice as far from her hometown, more than four hours each way, to have the procedure at the Planned Parenthood in Fort Collins, Colorado.

"Even though I support abortion fully, it's not something that I thought I personally would ever do," the woman said, adding that Wellspring Health Access helped cover her costs.

"It was a humbling experience," she said. "It just gave me a lot more compassion for people who have experienced abortions as well as people who aren't able to take that route."

Russia and Ukraine accuse each other of failing to pause strikes after US envoy leaves Moscow

By The Associated Press undefined

Russia and Ukraine's top diplomats on Saturday used a high-level conference in Turkey to once again trade accusations of violating a tentative U.S.-brokered deal to pause strikes on energy infrastructure, underscoring the challenges of negotiating an end to the 3-year-old war.

The two foreign ministers spoke at separate events at the annual Antalya Diplomacy Forum, a day after U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff met with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss peace prospects. Ukraine's European allies on Friday promised billions of dollars to help Kyiv keep fighting Russia's invasion.

While Moscow and Kyiv both agreed in principle last month to implement a limited, 30-day ceasefire, they issued conflicting statements soon after their separate talks with U.S. officials in Saudi Arabia. They differed on the start time of halting strikes, and alleged near-immediate breaches by the other side.

"The Ukrainians have been attacking us from the very beginning, every passing day, maybe with two or three exceptions," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, adding that Moscow would provide the U.S., Turkey and international bodies with a list of Kyiv's attacks during the past three weeks.

A representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry separately told state media Saturday that Moscow has been sharing intelligence with the U.S. regarding more than 60 supposed breaches of the deal by Kyiv.

Trump says 'Russia has to get moving'

Lavrov on Saturday insisted Russia had stuck to the terms of the deal.

His Ukrainian counterpart, Andrii Sybiha, fiercely contested that claim, saying Russia had launched "almost 70 missiles, over 2,200 (exploding) drones, and over 6,000 guided aerial bombs at Ukraine, mostly at civilians," since agreeing to the limited pause on strikes.

"This clearly shows to the world who wants peace and who wants war," he said.

Russian forces hold the advantage in Ukraine, and Kyiv has warned Moscow is planning a fresh spring offensive to ramp up pressure on its foe and improve its negotiating position.

Ukraine has endorsed a broader U.S. ceasefire proposal, but Russia has effectively blocked it by imposing far-reaching conditions. European governments have accused Putin of dragging his feet.

"Russia has to get moving" on the road to ending the war, U.S. President Donald Trump posted on social media Friday. He said the war is "terrible and senseless."

Lavrov on Saturday reiterated that a prospective U.S.-backed agreement, also discussed in Saudi Arabia, to ensure safe navigation for commercial vessels in the Black Sea could not be implemented until restrictions are lifted on Russian access to shipping insurance, docking ports and international payment systems.

Details of the prospective deal were not released, but it appeared to mark another attempt to ensure safe Black Sea shipping after a 2022 agreement that was brokered by the U.N. and Turkey but halted by Russia the following year.

Ukraine reports death of F-16 pilot

Ukraine's air force said a second F-16 fighter jet supplied by Western allies has been lost and its pilot, 26-year-old Pavlo Ivanov, killed.

Ukraine's General Staff said the F-16 crashed while repelling a Russian missile strike. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Saturday offered condolences to Ivanov's family, saying, "We are proud of our soldiers. We will give a strong and apt response."

Ukraine said the first F-16 was shot down last August, after it intercepted three Russian missiles and a drone.

Since last July, Ukraine has received multiple batches of the fighter jets from Denmark and the Netherlands, with U.S. approval. Their total number has not been disclosed.

Meanwhile, Russian drones killed at least two civilians in Ukraine's southern Kherson region on Saturday, according to local Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin.

Brazil's former president Bolsonaro transferred to Brasilia after hospitalization for abdominal pain

SAO PAULO (AP) — Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was transferred Saturday by medical aircraft from northeastern Brazil to the capital Brasilia after being hospitalized with abdominal pain a day earlier.

Bolsonaro was hospitalized Friday morning while traveling in northeastern Brazil. The pain was caused by a bowel obstruction and was related to long-term effects of being stabbed in the abdomen in September 2018, his doctors said.

Bolsonaro has been in and out of hospitals since the attack at a campaign event before Brazil's 2018 presidential election. The conservative leader underwent several surgeries during his presidency from 2019-2022.

"After so many similar episodes over the past few years, I had gotten used to the pain and discomfort. But this time, even the doctors were surprised," he said in a social media post Saturday, adding that a longtime physician told him it was "the most serious case since the attack."

Bolsonaro also said he would likely undergo another surgery. Earlier on Saturday, doctors at Rio Grande Hospital in the northeastern state of Rio Grande do Norte told journalists he was stable and not in need of emergency surgery, said further procedures would depend on his recovery.

Doctors also said the transfer to Brasilia was requested by his family and would happen Saturday afternoon.

The far-right leader was admitted to a hospital in Santa Cruz, a small city in Rio Grande do Norte, and later transferred to a hospital in the state's capital, Natal. Bolsonaro was set to start a trip across the region to promote his party's right-wing agenda, eyeing next year's presidential election, though he himself is barred from running. The region traditionally has been a political bastion of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Iran and US envoys hold 1st negotiation over Tehran's nuclear program, and talk face-to-face

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — Iran and the United States will hold more negotiations next week over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program, Iranian state television reported Saturday at the end of the first round of talks between the two countries since President Donald Trump returned to the White House.

Iran's state-run broadcaster revealed that U.S. Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi "briefly spoke" together — the first time the two nations have done that since the Obama administration.

Tehran's declaration that the two sides spoke face-to-face — even if briefly — suggests the negotiations went well even to Iranian state TV, which long has been controlled by hard-liners.

In a statement released Saturday afternoon, the White House described the discussions as "very positive and constructive," while conceding the issues that need to be resolved "are very complicated."

"Special Envoy Witkoff's direct communication today was a step forward in achieving a mutually beneficial outcome," the White House said.

Trump told reporters on Air Force One on Saturday while flying to Miami for a UFC event that the talks are "going okay."

"I can't tell you because nothing matters until you get it done so I don't like talking about it but it's going ok. The Iran situation is going pretty good, I think," he said.

The next round of talks will take place Saturday, April 19, according to the Iranian and American statements.

This first round of talks began at around 3:30 p.m. local. The two sides spoke for over two hours at a location in the outskirts of Muscat, Oman's capital, ending the talks around 5:50 p.m. local time. The convoy believed to be carrying Witkoff returned to Muscat before disappearing into traffic around a neighborhood

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that is home to the U.S. Embassy.

The stakes of the negotiations couldn't be higher for the two nations closing in on half a century of enmity. Trump repeatedly has threatened to unleash airstrikes targeting Iran's nuclear program if a deal isn't reached. Iranian officials increasingly warn that they could pursue a nuclear weapon with their stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels.

Talks took place Saturday afternoon in Oman

Associated Press journalists saw a convoy believed to be carrying Witkoff leave the Omani Foreign Ministry on Saturday afternoon and then speed off into the outskirts of Muscat. The convoy went into a compound and a few minutes later, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei wrote on the social platform X that the "indirect talks" had begun.

Afterward, Araghchi described the meeting as constructive to Iranian state TV, with four rounds of messages exchanged during the indirect portion.

"Neither we nor the other side are interested in fruitless negotiations — so-called 'talks for the sake of talks,' wasting time, or drawn-out, exhausting negotiations," he said. "Both sides, including the Americans, have said that their goal is also to reach an agreement in the shortest possible time. However, that will certainly not be an easy task."

That the two men spoke face-to-face satisfied a demand of the Americans. Trump and Witkoff both had described the talks as being "direct."

"I think our position begins with dismantlement of your program. That is our position today," Witkoff told The Wall Street Journal before his trip. "That doesn't mean, by the way, that at the margin we're not going to find other ways to find compromise between the two countries."

He added: "Where our red line will be, there can't be weaponization of your nuclear capability."

Araghchi, however, sought to downplay the encounter as "a brief initial conversation, greetings and polite exchanges" — likely to avoid drawing the anger of hard-liners in Iran.

Badr al-Busaidi, Oman's foreign minister who shuttled between the two sides, said the countries have a "shared aim of concluding a fair and binding agreement."

"I would like to thank my two colleagues for this engagement, which took place in a friendly atmosphere conducive to bridging viewpoints and ultimately achieving regional and global peace, security and stability," al-Busaidi wrote on X. "We will continue to work together and put further efforts to assist in arriving at this goal."

Sanctions relief and enrichment remain top issues

While the U.S. side can offer sanctions relief for Iran's beleaguered economy, it remains unclear just how much Iran will be willing to concede. Under the 2015 nuclear deal, Iran could only maintain a small stockpile of uranium enriched to 3.67%. Today, Tehran's stockpile could allow it to build multiple nuclear weapons if it so chooses and it has some material enriched up to 60%, a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels. Judging from negotiations since Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the deal in 2018, Iran will likely ask to keep enriching uranium up to at least 20%.

One thing it won't do is give up its program entirely. That makes the proposal of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of a so-called Libyan solution — "you go in, blow up the facilities, dismantle all the equipment, under American supervision, American execution" — unworkable.

Iranians including Ayatollah Ali Khamenei have held up what ultimately happened to the late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi, who was killed with his own gun by rebels in the country's 2011 Arab Spring uprising, as a warning about what can happen when you trust the United States.

Intellectually disabled teen shot by Idaho police dies after being removed from life support

By MARTHA BELLISLE and REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — An autistic, nonverbal teenage boy who was shot repeatedly by Idaho police from the other side of a chain-link fence while he was holding a knife died Saturday after being removed from life support, his family said.

Victor Perez, 17, who also had cerebral palsy, had been in a coma since the April 5 shooting, and tests Friday showed that he had no brain activity, his aunt, Ana Vazquez, told The Associated Press. He had undergone several surgeries, with doctors removing nine bullets and amputating his leg.

Police in the southeast Idaho city of Pocatello responded to a 911 call reporting that an apparently intoxicated man with a knife was chasing someone in a yard. It turned out to be Perez, who was not intoxicated but walked with a staggered gait due to his disabilities, Vazquez said. His family members had been trying to get the large kitchen knife away from him.

Video taken by a neighbor showed that Perez was lying in the yard after falling over when four officers arrived and rushed to the fence at the edge of the yard. They immediately ordered Perez to drop the knife, but instead he stood and began stumbling toward them.

Officers opened fire within about 12 seconds of getting out of their patrol cars and made no apparent effort to de-escalate the situation.

"Everybody was trying to tell the police, no, no," Vazquez said. "Those four officers didn't care. They didn't ask what was happening, what was the situation."

"How's he going to jump the fence when he can barely walk?" she said.

The shooting outraged Perez's family and Pocatello residents, and about 200 people attended a vigil Saturday morning outside the Pocatello hospital where he was treated. Another crowd of protesters gathered outside the Pocatello City Hall building, which also houses the police department, on Saturday afternoon. Police snipers were stationed on a nearby rooftop during the protest, though no violence was reported. Many of the protesters held signs with phrases like, "Do better, PPD" and "Justice for Victor," and passing cars honked in acknowledgment.

A police spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

"Those police broke our family," Vasquez said on Saturday, shortly after Perez' death. "There is no way to explain the pain that we are feeling right now. It's like our hearts are kind of empty — it's not full anymore."

The officers, whose names have not been released, were placed on administrative leave.

Decisions about whether charges should be filed against them will be made after an independent investigation by the Eastern Idaho Critical Incident Team, Bannock County Prosecutor Ian Johnson told the AP via email.

"When that investigation is complete a report will be submitted for review," he said. "In a continued effort to ensure independent and objective consideration, said report will be reviewed by an agency outside of Bannock County."

Pocatello Mayor Brian Blad said in a statement Friday, after the family announced that Perez had no brain activity, that officials' thoughts and prayers were with them.

"We recognize the pain and grief this incident has caused in our community," Blad said.

Blad said Thursday that the city was "addressing this matter with the seriousness and thoroughness it deserves and with the appropriate respect for the gravity of the situation."

"The criminal, external, and internal investigations regarding the officer-involved shooting are underway, which is why we cannot answer questions out of concern of interfering with or compromising the investigation," he said.

Perez loved watching professional wrestling, eating fries and taking walks while holding his mother's hand, Vasquez said. He would always notice when Vasquez painted her nails his favorite color blue, or when she wore a new weave, showing his admiration by touching her hair, she said.

"I'm going to miss him when he used to get in his weird moods, and I used to put him to bed," she said.

"He wouldn't want to sleep and would wake up again, and I would have to walk him back to the bed. I would promise him, 'Hey, I'll be back tomorrow but you need to lay down and sleep.'"

Vasquez said she didn't know what was next for the family, other than that an autopsy will be performed on Monday. Right now, she said, they need a moment to rest.

Take a trip to Ohio to learn about William McKinley, Trump's much-admired Gilded Age president

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — If you've been intrigued by President Donald Trump's praise of his long-ago White House predecessor William McKinley and yearn to know more, it's time you head to Ohio.

America's 25th president was born and is buried in the Buckeye State, where museums and monuments to him abound. Websites promoting the state's McKinley attractions have seen a surge in page views since Trump began highlighting McKinley's Gilded Age presidency, which ran from 1897 until his assassination in 1901. Officials hope a bump in summer tourism will follow.

"I don't think there has been as much interest in William McKinley in at least a century, in terms of kind of the public consciousness," said Kevin Kern, an associate professor of history at the University of Akron. The last time was in 1928, when McKinley's face was printed on the \$500 bill.

While Trump has attached himself to McKinley, Kern says the two Republicans' political positions are, in many respects, "really apples and oranges."

In McKinley's day, the United States was just becoming the world's foremost manufacturing power. Tariffs were viewed as a way to protect that momentum. Today, the economy is global.

Kern also noted that Republicans took huge losses in the 1890 election after the imposition of the McKinley Tariff, and that McKinley appeared to change his tune on tariffs in a speech delivered the day before he was assassinated in 1901.

Within an easy drive of Cleveland, you can find a host of sites for learning more about McKinley's politics and personal life. Here's a closer look:

A monument to McKinley's birth

McKinley was born in 1843 in Niles, a Youngstown suburb about 70 miles (112.65 kilometers) east of Cleveland. Here, you'll find the National McKinley Birthplace Memorial, a classical Greek marble monument that sits on the site of McKinley's former one-room schoolhouse. A McKinley statue stands at the center of the well-manicured Court of Honor, which is flanked by a small museum and the community's library. The McKinley birthplace home and research center sits nearby.

Tackling McKinley's legacy in Canton

Canton is perhaps best known for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The city, about 60 miles (96.56 kilometers) from either Cleveland or Niles, is where the kindly and mild-mannered McKinley spent most of his adult life. A young McKinley settled here after serving in the Civil War, began his law career and married Ida Saxton McKinley.

The McKinley Presidential Library and Museum is a great place to dig into the shared policy goals — especially tariffs and territorial expansion — that attract Trump to McKinley.

An animatronic William and Ida McKinley greet visitors to the museum's McKinley Gallery, which features interactive opportunities as well as historical furnishings, clothing, jewelry and campaign memorabilia. The building also houses a presidential archive and a science center complete with dinosaurs and a planetarium. The site's dominant feature, however, is the imposing McKinley Monument, which looms on a hill atop 108 stone steps. It houses the mausoleum where the McKinleys and their two young daughters are buried.

More McKinley memorabilia is on display at the Canton Classic Car Museum.

A McKinley statue buffeted by history

The residents of Arcata, California, were not so enamored of McKinley's imperialist legacy.

In 2018, amid national soul-searching over historical monuments, the liberal college town decided to remove an 8-foot sculpture of McKinley, the annexation treaty for Hawaii in his hand, from their town

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square. Over a century old, the statue had been moved to Arcata from San Francisco, where it was toppled in the 1906 earthquake.

It now stands at the stately Stark County Courthouse in downtown Canton, where McKinley worked as a county prosecutor before being elected a congressman and Ohio governor. It was placed there in 2023 after being bought back from Arcata by a Canton foundation and restored.

Glimpsing the McKinleys' home life

A three-block walk from the courthouse is the Saxton-McKinley House, part of the National First Ladies Historic Site operated in partnership with the National Park Service. Originally Ida's home, the elegant Victorian mansion was the couple's residence at different times during their marriage. It's not the house from which McKinley conducted his fabled "front porch campaign" of 1896; that was demolished in the 1930s.

A replica of the porch and the actual chair McKinley sat in can be found at the McKinley museum, however, and a tabletop replica of his "campaign house" is on view at the Stark County District Library, which now sits on the site.

If you'd like to see the porch where another Ohio president carried out his front porch campaign, try the James A. Garfield Historic Site in Mentor, about 30 miles (48.28 kilometers) northwest of Cleveland.

Tale of two churches

The granddaughter of John Saxton, a city pioneer and founder of the Canton Repository newspaper, Ida Saxton attended Canton's First Presbyterian Church, a few blocks from their home. Now known as Christ Presbyterian Church, this is where the McKinleys were married in 1871, the "new" stone building's tower yet uncompleted. William's church was the nearby Crossroads United Methodist. Ida had a series of stained glass panels depicting the phases of her husband's life installed there after this death.

For the hardy traveler

If you're willing to travel a bit farther afield, several other sites could add to your McKinley experience. `

First is the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museums, located about 85 miles (136.79 kilometers) west of Cleveland in Fremont. Known as Spiegel Grove, the site established in 1916 is home of the nation's first presidential library. Its museum explores Hayes' service in the Civil War, when he was McKinley's commander.

In Columbus, about 150 miles (241.40 kilometers) southwest of Cleveland, a McKinley statue in front of the Ohio Statehouse faces west. This was where McKinley, then governor, would stand to doff his hat to Ida as she looked out the window of their apartment at the Neil House. The legendary hotel was torn down in 1980 to make way for the Huntington Center now dominating that block.

Rounding out the timeline of McKinley's life, a 96-foot tall obelisk memorializing him sits on Niagara Square in Buffalo, New York. He was assassinated by an anarchist while appearing at the Pan-American Exposition there in 1901.

US won't say whether it's facilitating return of mistakenly deported man, despite judge's order

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

The Trump administration confirmed to a federal judge Saturday that a Maryland man who was mistakenly deported last month remains confined in a notorious prison in El Salvador.

But the government's filing did not address the judge's demands that the administration detail what steps it was taking to return Kilmar Abrego Garcia to the United States. The government said only that Abrego Garcia, 29, is under the authority of the El Salvador government.

Abrego Garcia's location was confirmed to the court by Michael G. Kozak, who identified himself in the filing as a "Senior Bureau Official" in the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs.

The filing comes one day after a U.S. government attorney struggled in a hearing to provide U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis with any information about Abrego Garcia's whereabouts. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Thursday that the Trump administration must bring him back.

Xinis issued an order Friday requiring the administration to disclose Abrego Garcia's "current physical

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location and custodial status” and “what steps, if any, Defendants have taken (and) will take, and when, to facilitate” his return.

“It is my understanding based on official reporting from our Embassy in San Salvador that Abrego Garcia is currently being held in the Terrorism Confinement Center in El Salvador,” Kozak’s statement said. “He is alive and secure in that facility. He is detained pursuant to the sovereign, domestic authority of El Salvador.”

Kozak’s statement did not address the judge’s latter requirements.

Xinis was exasperated Friday with the government’s lack of information.

“Where is he and under whose authority?” the judge asked during the hearing. “I’m not asking for state secrets. All I know is that he’s not here. The government was prohibited from sending him to El Salvador, and now I’m asking a very simple question: Where is he?”

The judge repeatedly asked a government attorney about what has been done to return Abrego Garcia, asking pointedly: “Have they done anything?”

Drew Ensign, a deputy assistant attorney general, told Xinis that he had no personal knowledge about any actions or plans to return Abrego Garcia. But he told the judge the government was “actively considering what could be done” and said that Abrego Garcia’s case involved three Cabinet agencies and significant coordination.

Before the hearing ended, Xinis ordered the U.S. to provide daily status updates on plans to return Abrego Garcia.

The Justice Department did not immediately respond Saturday evening to an Associated Press request for comment.

Abrego Garcia has lived in the U.S. for roughly 14 years, during which he worked construction, got married and was raising three children with disabilities, according to court records.

If he is returned, he will get to face the allegations that prompted his expulsion: a 2019 accusation from local police in Maryland that he was an MS-13 gang member.

Abrego Garcia denied the allegation and was never charged with a crime, his attorneys said. A U.S. immigration judge subsequently shielded him from deportation to El Salvador because he likely faced persecution there by local gangs that terrorized his family.

The Trump administration deported him there last month anyway, later describing the mistake as “an administrative error” but insisting he was in MS-13.

Tragic New York City helicopter crash hits home in Barcelona where victims were well known

By JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — As they sat inside a helicopter shortly before a flight over the towering skyscrapers of New York City, Agustin Escobar flashed a thumbs-up while his wife and children beamed big smiles.

A trip that was intended to celebrate their middle child’s upcoming birthday ended up being the final moments for the family of five from Spain. Moments later, their sightseeing helicopter broke apart in midair and crashed into the Hudson River between New York City and New Jersey, killing them and the pilot.

Condolences poured in Friday for the Barcelona family, including Spain’s prime minister, the company where the parents worked and the school where their children studied.

Escobar was global CEO of rail infrastructure at Siemens Mobility, while his wife, Mercè Camprubí Montal worked for Siemens Energy, a separate company. Camprubí Montal’s grandfather was a former president of the famous Barcelona FC soccer club.

The children were 4, 8 and 10 years old, and the middle child’s 9th birthday would have been Friday, according to New York City Mayor Eric Adams.

“Unimaginable,” was how Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez described the tragedy.

“The news that has reached us about a helicopter accident in the Hudson River is devastating,” Sánchez said on X during a state visit to China. “Five members of a Spanish family, including three children, have

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lost their lives. It is an unimaginable tragedy. I feel for the loss of their loved ones."

Classmates shocked

Students at the Jesuits of Sant Ignasi school in Barcelona's upscale Sarria neighborhood wept and embraced their parents Friday afternoon, after learning of the deaths of their friends and classmates, as seen by an Associated Press reporter.

The school held a minute of silence in the morning, Oleguer Bertran, an 18-year-old student, told the AP.

A father at the school's entrance said his son had been friends with one of children who perished, and is completely devastated. The man declined to be named.

The school published a statement on Instagram saying it was "devastated by the death of a family of our community." It declined to comment when contacted by the AP.

'My endless source of energy and happiness'

Escobar was originally from Puertollano, a small city in central Spain's Castilla La Mancha region.

"I want to express my sorrow for the traffic helicopter accident in New York that claimed the lives of Agustín Escobar and his family," regional president Emiliano García-Page wrote on X. "In 2023, we named him a Favorite Son of Castilla La Mancha."

Escobar worked for the tech company Siemens for more than 27 years, most recently as global CEO for rail infrastructure at Siemens Mobility, according to his LinkedIn account. In late 2022, he briefly became president and CEO of Siemens Spain.

He regularly posted about the importance of sustainability in the rail industry and often traveled internationally for work, including to India and the United Kingdom in the past month. He also was vice president of the German Chamber of Commerce for Spain since 2023.

In a LinkedIn post in 2022, he thanked his family, "my endless source of energy and happiness, for their unconditional support, love ... and patience."

Soccer club connection

Camprubí Montal hailed from northeast Catalonia, where Barcelona is. She had worked for Siemens Energy for about seven years, including as its global commercialization manager and as a digitalization manager, according to her LinkedIn account.

She was also closely tied to the history of the famous Barcelona soccer club. Her grandfather, Agustí Montal i Costa, was president of the club from 1969 to 1977, and her great-grandfather Agustí Montal i Galobart, presided over the club from 1946-1952.

The club has not commented on her death.

"We are deeply saddened by the tragic helicopter crash in which Agustin Escobar and his family lost their lives. Our heartfelt condolences go out to all their loved ones," Siemens said in a statement Friday.

'Smiles on their faces'

Escobar had traveled to the New York area on business, and his family flew in to extend the trip by a few days, said Steven Fulop, mayor of Jersey City. Photos the tour company posted on its website show the family smiling in the helicopter before takeoff.

On Saturday, Adams and Joan Camprubí Montal, Mercè Camprubí Montal's brother, visited the crash site and laid flowers.

"It is our way of saying, as New Yorkers, we stand united with this family during this moment of grief, and their grief is ours," Adams said.

Joan Camprubí Montal on Saturday expressed gratitude for the outpouring of condolences to his family

"They left together. They left without suffering. And they left with a smile on their faces. And that's important for us as a family," he said.

Israel cuts off Gaza's southern city of Rafah and vows to 'vigorously' expand in the territory

By SAM MEDNICK and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel announced Saturday it had completed construction of a new security

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corridor cutting off the southern city of Rafah from the rest of Gaza, and the military said it would soon expand "vigorously" in most of the small coastal territory.

Palestinians were further squeezed into shrinking areas.

"Activity will expand rapidly to additional locations throughout most of Gaza and you will have to evacuate the fighting zones," Defense Minister Israel Katz said in a statement, without saying where Palestinians were meant to go.

The statement urged Palestinians to remove Hamas and release the remaining hostages, saying: "This is the only way to stop the war."

Israeli troops were deployed last week to the new security corridor referred to as Morag, the name of a Jewish settlement that once stood between Rafah and Khan Younis, after the army ordered sweeping evacuations covering most of Rafah — an indication it could soon launch another major ground operation.

The Rafah municipality in a statement called Israel's actions a "flagrant breach of international legitimacy."

Israel has vowed to seize large parts of Gaza to pressure Hamas to release the remaining 59 hostages, 24 of them believed to be alive, and accept proposed new ceasefire terms.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government has also imposed a monthlong blockade on food, fuel and humanitarian aid that has left the territory's roughly 2 million Palestinians facing acute shortages as supplies dwindle — a tactic that rights groups say is a war crime.

Israel has claimed that enough supplies entered Gaza during the two-month ceasefire that it shattered last month. Aid groups have disputed that.

Netanyahu has said Morag would be "a second Philadelphi corridor," referring to the Gaza side of the border with Egypt farther south, which has been under Israeli control since May 2024. Israel has also reasserted control of the Netzarim corridor, which cuts off Gaza's northern third from the rest of the territory.

The corridors, coupled with a buffer zone that Israel has razed and expanded, give it more than 50% control of the territory.

Katz said Palestinians interested in "voluntarily" relocating to other countries would be able to as part of a proposal by U.S. President Donald Trump. Palestinians have rejected the proposal and expressed their determination to remain in their homeland.

Trump and Israeli officials have not said how they would respond if Palestinians refuse to leave Gaza. But Human Rights Watch and other groups say the plan would amount to "ethnic cleansing" — the forcible relocation of the civilian population of an ethnic group from a geographic area.

Many Palestinians have been crowding into squalid tent camps or the rubble of their previous homes, often displacing multiple times in response to Israel's evacuation orders since the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, killed some 1,200 people, many of them civilians, and sparked the war.

Israel on Saturday ordered the evacuation of areas east of Khan Younis ahead of an attack. Military spokesperson Avichay Adraee added that militants had fired rockets into Israel from these areas. In the evening, several neighborhoods in Nuseirat in central Gaza were told to evacuate after Israel said it had intercepted a projectile from the territory.

Hamas has said the bombardment poses risks to the hostages as well. On Saturday, the family of the last living American held in Gaza responded to the release of a new video showing Edan Alexander speaking under duress.

"When you sit down to mark Passover, remember that this is not a holiday of freedom as long as Edan and the other 58 hostages are not home," the family said in a statement.

Families and supporters again rallied in Tel Aviv for a deal to bring everyone home.

Israeli strikes across Gaza continued, killing at least 21 people in the last 24 hours, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants but says most of the over 50,000 Palestinians killed in the war have been women and children.

The ministry said at least 1,500 people have been killed since Israel's surprise bombardment resumed the war last month.

Israel says it has killed around 20,000 militants in the war, without providing evidence.

Trump administration says it will exclude some electronics from reciprocal tariffs

By MAE ANDERSON and MICHAEL LIEDTKE Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Trump administration late Friday said it would exclude electronics like smartphones and laptops from reciprocal tariffs, a move that could help keep the prices down for popular consumer electronics that aren't usually made in the U.S.

It would also benefit big tech companies like Apple and Samsung and chip makers like Nvidia, setting the stage for a likely tech stock rally on Monday.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said items like smartphones, laptops, hard drives, flat-panel monitors and some chips would qualify for the exemption. Machines used to make semiconductors are excluded too. That means they won't be subject to the current 145% tariffs levied on China or the 10% baseline tariffs elsewhere.

It's the latest tariff change by the Trump administration, which has made several U-turns in their massive plan to put tariffs in place on goods from most countries.

The exemption seemed to reflect the president's realization that his China tariffs are unlikely to shift more manufacturing of smartphones, computers and other gadgets to the U.S. any time soon, if ever, despite the administration's predictions that the trade war prod Apple to make iPhones in the U.S. for the first time.

But that was an unlikely scenario after Apple spent decades building up a finely calibrated supply chain in China. What's more, it would take several years and cost billions of dollars to build new plants in the U.S., and then confront Apple with economic forces that could triple the price of an iPhone, threatening to torpedo sales of its marquee product.

Trump's decision to exempt the iPhone and other popular electronics made in China mirrors the similar relief that he gave those products during the trade war of his first term in the White House. But Trump began his second term seemingly determined to impose the tariffs more broad this time, triggering a meltdown in the market values of Apple and other technology powerhouses.

The turmoil battered the stocks of tech's "Magnificent Seven" -- Apple, Microsoft, Nvidia, Amazon, Tesla, Google parent Alphabet and Facebook parent Meta Platforms. At one point earlier this week, the combined Magnificent Seven's combined market value had plunged by \$2.1 trillion, or 14%, from April 2 when Trump unveiled sweeping tariffs on a wide range of countries.

Some of the losses eased this past Wednesday when Trump paused the tariffs outside of China, paring the lost value in the Magnificent Seven to \$644 billion, or a 4% decline, from April 2. Now, the stage is set for another tech rally Monday when trading resumes in the U.S. stock market, with Apple likely leading the way because the iPhones made in China remain the company's biggest money maker.

The electronics exemption also should relieve consumer worries that the China tariffs would result in hefty price hikes on smartphones and other devices that have become essential tools of modern living.

It's the kind of friendly treatment that industry was envisioning when Apple CEO Tim Cook, Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos assembled behind the president during his Jan. 20 inauguration. That united display of fealty reflected Big Tech's hopes that Trump would be more accommodating than President Joe Biden's administration's and help propel an already booming industry to even greater heights.

Apple won praise from Trump in late February when the Cupertino, California, company committed to invest \$500 billion and add 20,000 jobs in the U.S. during the next four years. The pledge was an echo of a \$350 billion investment commitment in the U.S. that Apple made during Trump's first term when the iPhone was exempted from China tariffs.

The move takes off "a huge black cloud overhang for now over the tech sector and the pressure facing U.S. Big Tech," said Wedbush analyst Dan Ives in a research note.

In a statement issued Saturday, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt did not address the exemptions specifically but indicated the administration still plans to push for tech companies to move manufacturing to the U.S.

"President Trump has made it clear America cannot rely on China to manufacture critical technologies such as semiconductors, chips, smartphones, and laptops," Leavitt said in an emailed statement.

She said the administration has secured U.S. investments from tech companies including Apple, TSMC and Nvidia and these companies are "hustling to onshore their manufacturing in the United States as soon as possible."

Neither Apple nor Samsung responded to a request for comment Saturday. Nvidia declined to comment.

Dominican club collapse death toll rises to 226 after woman pulled from rubble dies in hospital

By MARTÍN ADAMES Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — A woman hospitalized after being rescued from the rubble of a roof collapse at a popular nightclub in the Dominican Republic died on Saturday, raising the death toll to 226, health officials said.

The latest victim was a 41-year-old Costa Rican national, according to the National Health Service. Earlier in the day, health officials said four other people hospitalized after the disaster had died overnight.

Officials said 189 people were rescued alive from the rubble of the popular venue in the capital Santo Domingo. More than 200 were injured, with 14 still hospitalized, including four in critical condition.

The roof at the Jet Set nightclub collapsed during a merengue concert in the early hours of Tuesday. Politicians, athletes and a fashion designer were among those enjoying live music when disaster struck.

As of Saturday, friends and relatives remained at a forensics institute waiting for the return of their loved ones' bodies. Later in the day, health authorities said 225 bodies had been returned to their families.

Health minister Victor Attalah told journalists there had been a delay in identifying victims because the majority of them had to be matched using biometric data.

Victims identified so far include former Major League Baseball players Octavio Dotel and Tony Enrique Blanco Cabrera. Nelsy Cruz, the governor of the northwestern province of Montecristi, whose brother is seven-time MLB All-Star Nelson Cruz, also died.

Officials have said it is too soon to determine why the roof fell, although prosecutors visited the scene on Thursday after rescue crews began packing up and removed heavy equipment.

On Thursday, President Luis Abinader and First Lady Raquel Arbaje attended the burial of singer Rubby Pérez in Santo Domingo's National Theater. Pérez had been performing on stage at the packed club when dust began falling from the ceiling and, seconds later, the roof caved. Mourners clad in black and white streamed into the theater and some doubled over in tears as a recording of Pérez singing the national anthem played.

Regulators order corrective action as Keystone Pipeline operators aim to restore service

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Federal regulators have ordered the operator of the Keystone Pipeline to take several corrective actions after a rupture caused 147,000 gallons of oil to spill onto farmland in North Dakota, and the company said its goal is to resume deliveries to refineries on Tuesday.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration directed South Bow to submit the failed section of pipe to a third-party lab for mechanical and metallurgical testing, the agency said in a statement Friday.

The company must also conduct and submit a root cause analysis of Tuesday's failure and review all in-line inspection reports from the past 10 years to identify anomalies that may be present in the failed pipe, adjacent joints, or anywhere else on the system, the agency added.

"PHMSA has already secured the operator's full cooperation and written commitment to take any steps necessary to repair the line and identify the cause of the failure," acting Administrator Ben Kochman said in the statement. "Multiple PHMSA investigators are on the ground in North Dakota and in the operator's control room facility in Calgary working to determine the cause of the accident."

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The order also requires an evaluation of the pipeline's special permit, which allows the line to operate at higher-than-normal pressures, to determine if new or modified conditions are necessary.

South Bow is still investigating the cause of the spill along the Keystone Pipeline near Fort Ransom, North Dakota, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) southwest of Fargo. The spill from the underground pipeline released an estimated 3,500 barrels, or 147,000 gallons of crude oil onto farmland. Workers have already recovered thousands of gallons of the oil.

The affected pipeline segment cannot be restarted until the federal agency gives the operator permission. South Bow said in an update Saturday that it's aiming to restore service and energy deliveries by Tuesday as it carries out the order.

South Bow also said its response and recovery efforts were continuing. The company said its crews were preparing to repair and replace of the affected section of pipe. It also said crews were onsite with vacuum trucks and other cleanup equipment, and that their work would continue over the weekend, too.

The company also said it would restrict operating pressures on the Canadian sections of Keystone, as agreed to with Canadian energy regulators.

The 2,689-mile (4,327 kilometers) pipeline stretches from Alberta, Canada, to refineries in Illinois, Oklahoma and Texas. The spill has raised concerns about the impacts of a prolonged shutdown on energy prices, particularly for gasoline and diesel.

"Our primary focus remains on the safety of onsite personnel and mitigating risk to the environment," South Bow said. "We are committed to the community surrounding Fort Ransom and will continue clean-up activities until the site is fully remediated."

Judge relaxes ban on DOGE access to sensitive US Treasury information

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York judge has relaxed a ban she'd put on Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency preventing it from accessing sensitive Treasury Department information related to millions of Americans.

Judge Jeannette A. Vargas said in a written opinion late Friday that one DOGE worker, Ryan Wunderly, can access sensitive payment and data systems if he completes training that Treasury employees typically go through before given such access and submits a financial disclosure report.

The ruling came in a lawsuit brought by 19 Democratic state attorneys general who sued over privacy issues amid DOGE's assertion that it was working to modernize Treasury payment systems.

The lawsuit contended that Musk's 'DOGE' team was composed of "political appointees" who should not have access to Treasury records handled by "civil servants" specially trained in protecting such sensitive information as Social Security and bank account numbers.

Vargas said Wunderly will be able to access payment records, payment systems and any other Treasury Department data systems containing personally identifiable information and confidential financial information of payees.

Vargas put the ban in place two months ago.

Musk's Department of Government Efficiency was created to find and eliminate wasteful government spending. Its access to Treasury records and its inspection of government agencies has led some to criticize Musk while his supporters praise the idea of reining in bloated government finances.

Attacks on famine-hit camps in Sudan's Darfur leave at least 100 people dead, UN official says

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan's notorious paramilitary group launched a two-day attack on famine-hit camps for displaced people that left more than 100 dead, including 20 children and nine aid workers, in the Darfur region, a U.N. official said Saturday.

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The Rapid Support Forces and allied militias launched an offensive on the Zamzam and Abu Shorouk camps and the nearby city of el-Fasher, the provincial capital of North Darfur province, on Friday, said U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan Clementine Nkweta-Salami.

El-Fasher is under the control of the military, which has fought the RSF since Sudan descended into civil war two years ago, killing more than 24,000 people, according to the United Nations, though activists say the number is likely far higher.

The camps were attacked again on Saturday, Nkweta-Salami said in a statement. She said that nine aid workers were killed "while operating one of the very few remaining health posts still operational" in Zamzam camp.

"This represents yet another deadly and unacceptable escalation in a series of brutal attacks on displaced people and aid workers in Sudan since the onset of this conflict nearly two years ago," she said.

Nkweta-Salami didn't identify the aid workers but Sudan's Doctors' Union said in a statement that six medical workers with the Relief International were killed when their hospital in Zamzam came under attack on Friday. They include Dr. Mahmoud Babaker Idris, a physician at the hospital, and Adam Babaker Abdallah, head of the group in the region, the union said. It blamed the RSF for "this criminal and barbaric act."

In a statement Saturday evening, Relief International mourned the death of its nine workers, saying they were killed the previous day in a "targeted attack on all health infrastructure in the region," including the group's clinic.

The group said the central market in Zamzam along with hundreds of makeshift homes in the camp were destroyed in the attack.

The offensive forced about 2,400 people to flee the camps and el-Fasher, according to the General Coordination for Displaced Persons and Refugees, a local group in Darfur.

Zamzam and Abu Shouk shelter more than 700,000 people who have been forced to flee their homes across Darfur during past bouts of fighting in the region, Nkweta-Salami said.

Late last month, the Sudanese military regained control over Khartoum, a major symbolic victory in the war. But the RSF still controls most of Darfur and some other areas.

The two camps are among five areas in Sudan where famine was detected by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, IPC, a global hunger monitoring group. The war has created the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with about 25 million people — half of Sudan's population — facing extreme hunger.

Scottie Scheffler gets a break from an azalea, escapes a magnolia and trails by 3 at the Masters

By BEN NUCKOLS AP Sports Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Even the azaleas at Augusta National seem to love Scottie Scheffler. The magnolia trees weren't so friendly, though.

The two-time Masters champion's title defense took some unusual detours into the flora surrounding Augusta National's ryegrass fairways and bentgrass greens Friday, and if he hopes to win a third green jacket Sunday, he'll have to rally from another unfamiliar spot — three shots outside the lead.

Scheffler led by five shots at the halfway point in 2022 and won by three. Last year, he was tied for the lead after the second round and won by four — part of a nine-win season that included a gold medal at the Paris Olympics.

This time, he's at 5-under 139 and tied for fifth through 36 holes. Justin Rose was 8 under, with Bryson DeChambeau and Rory McIlroy also ahead of the defending champ.

Over his first 24 holes of this Masters, Scheffler played the sort of golf that makes even McIlroy jealous — bogey- and drama-free. Then he began to wobble, with three bogeys in a five-hole stretch.

And for a few seconds, it looked like he'd made a mess of the par-3 12th. His approach sailed well beyond the front left hole location and landed on an upslope covered by blooming azaleas — but the bushes spat out the ball, leaving a manageable chip.

From there, Scheffler's elite short game took over. He chipped in for an improbable birdie that got him

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back under par for the day.

"When you're playing for the wind to be into and it turns around and goes straight down, I mean, it's very challenging," Scheffler said. "I was fortunate to see the ball come out of the bushes there and was able to take advantage of the break."

The excitement wasn't over as the wind started gusting and temperatures cooled over his final six holes. He birdied Nos. 14 and 17 but had a three-putt bogey on the par-3 16th.

On the 18th, he sent his drive left, where it settled under a magnolia, and Scheffler addressed the ball from his knees before asking for a rules official and sitting down in the pine straw. He ultimately punched out to the fairway, sent his third shot over the green and got up and down for bogey.

"It's quite challenging and you get winds like that. You've really got to manage your expectations, manage yourself around the course," he said. "Sometimes I did a good job of that. Other times today, maybe not so good."

No fan favorite when he won his first Masters, Scheffler has grown in the patrons' esteem since. During his nearly two years as the world's top-ranked player, he has let his guard down a bit, showing more of his dry, sarcastic sense of humor. But mostly, fans admire his incredible shot-making.

On Friday afternoon, even as McIlroy and DeChambeau moved up the leaderboard ahead of him, spectators crowded the tee boxes and marveled at Scheffler's perfectly struck approaches to the par-3 fourth and sixth holes, the second of those leading to birdie.

He's seeking to become the first to win back-to-back Masters since Tiger Woods in 2002 and the second ever to win three of four. Jack Nicklaus did it in 1963, '65 and '66.

Eight players have won three or more green jackets: Nicklaus has six, Woods has five, Arnold Palmer won four, and Nick Faldo, Gary Player, Sam Snead and Jimmy Demaret won three each. At 28, Scheffler would also become the only active player under 30 with three major titles.

This is Scheffler's first Masters as a dad, with 11-month-old Bennett having joined him for Wednesday's Par 3 Contest, wearing a white caddie jumpsuit.

He still has a chance for another memorable moment with his son at the 18th hole Sunday.

Majority of polls close in Gabon's first presidential election since a military coup in 2023

By MONIKA PRONCZUK and YVES LAURENT GOMA Associated Press

LIBREVILLE, Gabon (AP) — The majority of polls closed in the oil-rich Gabon on Saturday in a presidential election that the country's military rulers hoped would legitimize their grip on power.

It's the first election since a 2023 military coup ended a political dynasty that lasted over 50 years. Analysts have predicted an overwhelming victory for the interim president who led the coup. The polls were due to close at 6 p.m. local time, but there was no official confirmation from the authorities. Interim results were expected overnight or on Sunday.

Some 920,000 voters, including over 28,000 overseas, were registered across more than 3,000 polling stations. A third of the country's 2.3 million people live in poverty despite its vast oil wealth.

The interim president, Gen. Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, 50, the former head of the republican guard, toppled President Ali Bongo Ondimba nearly two years ago. He hopes to consolidate his grip on power for a seven-year term in office.

After casting his ballot on Saturday in the capital, Libreville, Oligui Nguema said: "I have a feeling of pride, I have a feeling of joy. I see so much enthusiasm from the Gabonese people gathered here and who want to turn the page to join the new Republic."

He called the election "transparent" and "peaceful."

Bongo was placed under house arrest after the coup, but then freed a week later due to health concerns. His wife and son were detained and charged with corruption and embezzlement of public funds. Bongo himself was not charged.

Following the coup, Oligui Nguema promised to "return power to civilians" through "credible elections."

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But he proclaimed himself the interim president and then a presidential candidate, following the adoption by the parliament of a new contentious electoral code allowing military personnel to run.

He has touted himself as a leader who wants to unify the Gabonese and give them hope, running his presidential campaign under the slogan: "We Build Together."

The country's new constitution, adopted in a referendum in November, has set the presidential term at seven years, renewable once, instead of the unlimited five-year term. It also states family members can't succeed a president and has abolished the position of prime minister.

A challenger with an anti-colonial approach

A total of eight candidates are running for president.

However, Oligui Nguema's main challenger is Bongo's former Prime Minister Alain Claude Bilie-By-Nze, who, in a recent interview with The Associated Press, pledged "a break with the old system and a new independence. Political, diplomatic and economic independence."

In a region where France is losing longstanding allies in many of its former colonies, Gabon stands out as one of only a few where that partnership has not been threatened. It still has more than 300 French troops present, one of only two African countries still hosting them.

Oligui Nguema has not signaled an end to the French military presence, but Bilie-By-Nze has said "no subject is off limits" in renegotiating the ties between the two countries.

Bilie-By-Nze also said during the interview with AP that he didn't expect the election to be fair or transparent. "Everything has been done to lock down the vote," he said.

However, earlier this week, Laurence Ndong, spokeswoman for Oligui Nguema, denied the allegations, saying: "For the first time, Gabon will have a free and transparent election."

Bilie-By-Nze voted on Saturday in his hometown of Makokou in the north of the country. In a video message, he said he was concerned that unused voting cards could be used for potential electoral fraud. 'The military has failed'

Voters lined up early Saturday in the capital, Libreville, as the election progressed peacefully.

Jonas Obiang told the AP while waiting to cast his ballot in the working-class district of Damas that he would choose Bilie-By-Nze because he viewed the 2023 coup as a continuation of the malpractice.

"General Oligui Nguema led the country with the same people who plundered the country, the former members of the Bongo regime. I will not vote for him," he said.

His views were echoed by Antoine Nkili, a 27-year-old unemployed man with a master's degree in law.

"The choice is personal, but I'm telling you that for me, the military has failed," Nkili said. "They promised to reform the institutions, but they haven't. Instead, they've enriched themselves."

Jean Bie, 57, who works in the construction sector, said the military rule has benefited the population.

"In 19 months, General Oligui Nguéma has completed several projects expected of the former regime. I'm voting for him, hoping he'll do more over the next seven years," he said.

Today in History: April 13, Tiger Woods wins first Masters by record margin

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, April 13, the 103rd day of 2025. There are 262 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On April 13, 1997, 21-year-old Tiger Woods became the youngest golfer to win the Masters Tournament in Augusta, Georgia, finishing a record 12 strokes ahead of Tom Kite in second place.

Also on this date:

In 1743, Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States, was born in Shadwell in the Virginia Colony.

In 1861, Fort Sumter in South Carolina fell to Confederate forces in the first battle of the Civil War.

In 1873, members of the pro-white, paramilitary White League attacked Black state militia members

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defending a courthouse in Colfax, Louisiana; three white men and as many as 150 Black men were killed in what is known as the Colfax Massacre, one of the worst acts of Reconstruction-era violence.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Jefferson Memorial in Washington on the 200th anniversary of his birth.

In 1964, Sidney Poitier became the first Black performer to win an Academy Award for acting in a leading role for his performance in "Lilies of the Field."

In 1999, right-to-die advocate Dr. Jack Kevorkian was sentenced in Pontiac, Michigan, to 10 to 25 years in prison for second-degree murder for administering a lethal injection to a patient with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. (Kevorkian ultimately served eight years before being paroled.)

In 2005, a defiant Eric Rudolph pleaded guilty to carrying out the deadly bombing at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and three other attacks in back-to-back court appearances in Birmingham, Alabama, and Atlanta.

In 2009, at his second trial, music producer Phil Spector was found guilty by a Los Angeles jury of second-degree murder in the shooting of actor Lana Clarkson. (Later sentenced to 19 years to life, Spector died in prison in January 2021.)

In 2011, A federal jury in San Francisco convicted baseball slugger Barry Bonds of a single charge of obstruction of justice but failed to reach a verdict on the three counts at the heart of allegations that he knowingly used steroids and human growth hormone and lied to a grand jury about it. (Bonds' conviction for obstruction was overturned in 2015.)

In 2016, the Golden State Warriors became the NBA's first 73-win team by beating the Memphis Grizzlies 125-104, breaking the 72-win record set by the Chicago Bulls in 1996.

In 2017, Pentagon officials said U.S. forces struck a tunnel complex of the Islamic State group in eastern Afghanistan with the GBU-43/B MOAB "mother of all bombs," the largest non-nuclear weapon ever used in combat by the military.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Al Green is 79. Actor Ron Perlman is 75. Singer Peabo Bryson is 74. Bandleader-drummer Max Weinberg is 74. Chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov is 62. Golf Hall of Famer Davis Love III is 61. Actor-comedian Caroline Rhea is 61. Actor Rick Schroder is 55. Actor Glenn Howerton is 49. Actor Kelli Giddish is 45. Singer-rapper Ty Dolla \$ign is 43. Actor Allison Williams is 37.