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Sunday, May 11

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

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

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

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist: 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.

High School Baseball in Groton: Hosting Sisseton-Britton-Webster: Varsity at 2 p.m. JV at 4 p.m.

Monday, May 12

Senior Menu: Meatball, mashed potato with gravy mixed vegetables, mixed fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.

School Lunch: French bread pizza, cooked broccoli.

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PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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



Girls Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course, 10a .m.
Junior High Track at Webster, 3 p.m.
School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 13

Senior Menu: Breaded chicken sandwich, scalloped potato, carrots, strawberry ambrosia.

School Breakfast: Egg omelets.

School Lunch: Chicken strips, sweet tots.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.

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We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

Is the President Required to Uphold the Constitution?

In an interview on May 4, 2025, with Kristen Welker, host of NBC's "Meet the Press," President Donald Trump was asked: "Don't you need to uphold the Constitution of the United States, as President?" Shockingly, Trump answered: "I don't know." Shocking, because Trump, on Inauguration Day three months ago--for the second time in his life--swore an oath to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." Shocking, because the Take Care Clause in Article II requires the president to "faithfully execute the laws." Shocking, because Article VI declares that "the Constitution and the Laws of the United States shall be the supreme Law of the Land." Trump's answer reflects, not ignorance of the solemnity of the oath that he took, but rather the authoritarianism that he is seeking to entrench in the United States, a governing approach that is embodied in a plebiscitary presidency.

The philosophical framework of a plebiscitary presidency toward which Trump is moving, represents the completion of Richard Nixon's conception of government. The model is not that created by the Framers of the Constitution, nor is it a parliamentary regime. Trump's expression of doubt about the binding nature of the Constitution, and his duty to uphold it, cannot be dismissed by his indifference our constitutional system--separation of powers, checks and balances, enumeration of powers-- but rather his disdain for it. Trump, as we have seen, has usurped fundamental congressional powers--lawmaking, appropriations and appointment, among others--and has unilaterally abolished statutory requirements, defied the Supreme Court's order requiring adherence to the commands of due process and engaged in a calculated disparagement of the free press, universities and other bodies committed to independent thought. Trump has subdued GOP leadership in Congress and party faithful, at his beck and call, are loathe to resist his personality, temperament and judgment. He is in command of the economy, and he has concentrated in his hands, alone, power over foreign and domestic policymaking. At this historic juncture, Trump's ambitions and perceptions determine acceptable fare for his presidential agenda and the nation.

Trump is engaged in an audacious reconstruction of the Constitution, one grounded in the premises of a plebiscitary presidency, which assumes that democracy is enhanced if the capacity to govern is vested in the White House, undeterred by constitutional restraints. In its glory, it speaks of the investment of the sovereignty of the nation in the chief executive and reflects contempt for the rule of law. As Trump told Time Magazine, "I run the country and the world." The plebiscitary presidency is intended, "as political scientist Theodore Lowi observed, "to evoke the powerful imagery of Roman emperors and French authoritarians who governed on the basis of popular adoration, with the masses giving their noisy consent to every course of action."

Robert Michels' classic, "Political Parties," published in 1911, explained the rationale of the "personal dictatorship conferred by the people in accordance with constitutional rules." By plebiscitary reasoning, "once elected the chosen of the people can no longer be opposed in any way. He personifies the majority and all resistance to his will is anti-democratic. He is, moreover, infallible, for 'he who is elected by six million votes, carries out the will of the people; he does not betray them.'" Imagine how much stronger the president would be if elected by 30 million votes. If the opposition becomes annoying it is for the voters themselves, "we are assured, who demand from the chosen of the people that he should use severe repressive measures, should employ force, should concentrate all authority in his own hands." The president,

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having aggrandized the powers of the legislature and judiciary, would become democracy personified.

Trump, it will be recalled, has spoken –repeatedly—in such grandiose terms. Daily, he reminds Americans of his victory in the 2024 presidential election, although baselessly claiming a “landside” victory, for the purpose of swelling his plebiscitary claims and aims. In his Meet the Press interview, he shrugged off constitutional limitations, by reiterating that he won the election--“they had their chance”—as if victory confers power beyond authority derived from the Constitution. In this twisted manner, a plebiscitary presidency may be seen as fulfillment of constitutional democracy. Of course, the Constitution is the sole source of governmental authority and the president, unless constitutional provisions are surrendered or trampled, has a solemn duty to uphold the Constitution.

David Adler is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality and civic education. This column is made possible with the support of the South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota NewsMedia Association and this newspaper.

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Photos from Al Sahli Track Meet in Aberdeen



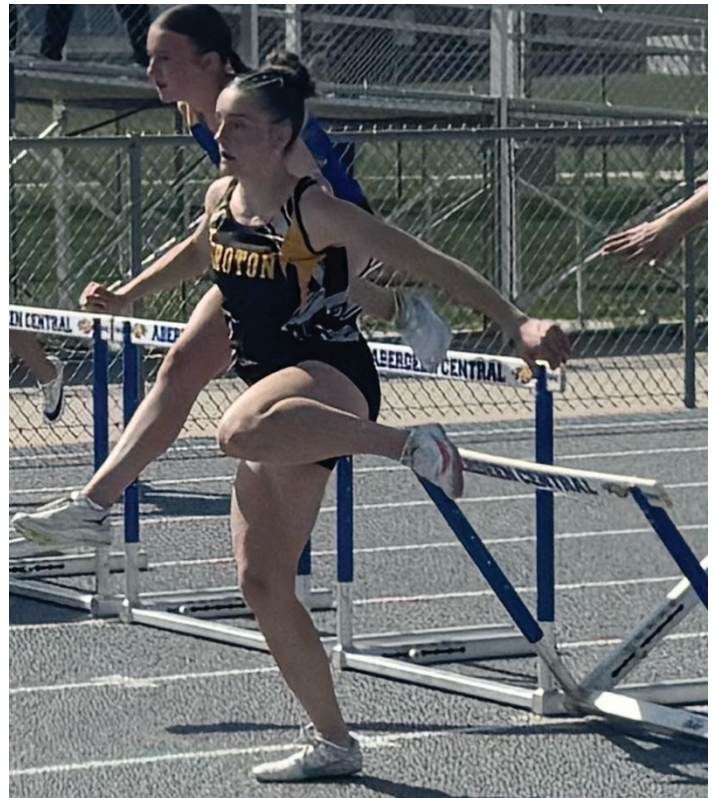
Groton Area middle distance standouts senior Faith Traphagen and freshman Ryelle Gilbert running one and two in the 800m race. Ryelle won the race setting a new personal record. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Makenna Krause hands off to Taryn Traphagen in the SMR 1600m relay finishing second and setting another personal record. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Groton Area Senior field event standout, Emma Kutter, begins her shot put throw. She eventually place third in the highly competitive field. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Groton Area hurdling standout Sophomore McKenna Tietz finishes fourth in the 100m hurdles and later second in the 300m hurdles in a highly competitive field. She set personal bests in both events. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

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Sophomore Taegan Hanten leaps in the long jump. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Groton Area standout sprinters Senior Laila Roberts hands off to Sophomore Kella Tracy in the 4x200m relay finishing first and setting a personal record. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

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Junior Lincoln Krause runs the second leg of the second place SMR 1600m relay. Setting a personal record. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Junior Lincoln Krause hands off to Junior Keggen Tracy in the SMR 1600 m relay finishing in a competitive close second. Setting a personal record. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Freshman Ethan Kroll jumps to set a personal record and place second in the triple jump. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

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Groton Area hurdlers in the 300m hurdles Talli Wright, Taegan Hanten, and Hannah Sandness. (Photos by Bruce Babcock)

Name Released in Pennington County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: Near the intersection of Main Street and 5th Avenue, Wall, SD

When: 4:33 p.m. Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Driver 1: Yvonne Marie Bull Bear, 58-year-old female from Wall, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 1999 Toyota Camry

Seat belt Used: No

Pennington County, S.D.- One person died in a single vehicle crash Tuesday afternoon in Wall, SD.

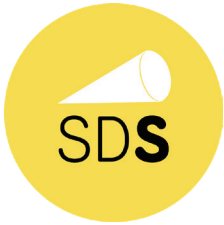
Preliminary crash information indicates Yvonne Marie Bull Bear, the driver of a 1999 Toyota Camry, was in a downtown Wall, SD parking lot near Main Street and 5th Avenue when the vehicle reversed into a wood fence then accelerated north over 5th Avenue and collided head-on with a light pole. Bull Bear was not wearing a seatbelt and died from her injuries.

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

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

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Note: Records of state-reportable crashes are now available at <http://www.safesd.gov/> . Records should be available about 10 days after the investigation is complete.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Noem's honorary degree sparks protest; meanwhile, a student she's trying to deport earns a doctorate

Contrasting scenes play out on opposite sides of South Dakota

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR AND SETH TUPPER - MAY 10, 2025 4:03 PM

An international student in western South Dakota overcame Kristi Noem's attempt to stop her from graduating Saturday, while hundreds of people protested on the other side of the state where Noem received an honorary degree and delivered a commencement speech.

The international student is Priya Saxena, from India. She received two degrees from South Dakota Mines in Rapid City: a doctorate in chemical and biological engineering and a master's degree in chemical engineering.

Noem's U.S. Department of Homeland Security — which she has led since resigning as South Dakota governor in January — has been trying to deport Saxena since last month, asserting that Saxena's permission to stay in the country should be revoked because she was convicted four years ago of failing to move over for flashing yellow lights, a misdemeanor. The action is part of a broader immigration crackdown by the Trump administration.

Saxena's student visa is not scheduled to expire until 2027, and if allowed to stay in the country, she could apply for an extension to work in fields related to her degrees.

Saxena and her attorney, Jim Leach, of Rapid City, sued and won a temporary restraining order that assured Saxena's graduation and will halt the government's action against her until at least next week, when she has a hearing on her request for a court order to stop her deportation while the lawsuit proceeds. Saxena and her attorney have said in court filings that she has not committed a deportable offense, and have called the government's actions "lawless."

Saxena's graduation went smoothly Saturday as she crossed the stage and received applause from the audience at Summit Arena in Rapid City. Her attorney and a university spokeswoman said Saxena preferred not to make any public comments.

Meanwhile in Madison

About 350 miles to the east at Dakota State University in Madison, Noem's speech and her acceptance of an honorary doctorate in public service went off without a hitch inside the university fieldhouse, where she did not reference the protesters or make any comments about her official duties.

Outside, she was loudly opposed.

Students and community members lined the sidewalks chanting phrases including "no honor for Noem" and "due process." Protesters said they were spotlighting Noem's "cruel" immigration policies and the university's decision to invite her to graduation.

"One thing that immediately came to my brain when I heard she was coming here was I was genuinely scared for the massive amounts of international students that we have on campus," said student Maya Plummer. "That's something we take pride in."

The ceremony in Madison included foreign students from countries such as Vietnam and India.

Noem's department has pursued enforcement actions against more than 1,000 international students. It has also removed temporary protected status for immigrants who fled danger in their home country, wrongly deported a Maryland man to a notorious prison in El Salvador, aired TV ads warning migrants

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to self-deport or avoid coming to the United States, and launched an initiative to provide up to \$1,000 in "travel assistance" to immigrants without legal authorization who self-deport, among other actions.

This week, U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Connecticut, accused Noem of running a department that's "out of control," saying it's at risk of spending all of its \$65 billion in funding before the end of the fiscal year.

The Dakota State University student senate and general faculty both voted against the honorary degree for Noem, citing concerns over Noem's policies and the message her recognition would send to international students and marginalized communities.

University spokespeople said they extended the invitation for Noem to speak and receive the honorary degree while she was still governor of South Dakota. The invite was based on her longstanding support of the university's nationally recognized cybersecurity programs.

Dakota State President José-Marie Griffiths said in her speech that Noem is among "a number of individuals who were instrumental in changing the trajectory of this institution" in recent decades. She said the university was transformed from one that was losing enrollment to one that's thriving as a flagship institution for computer technology.

"And by the way, there were protests for that decision, too," Griffiths said.

Noem gave students a five-point bullet list of advice during her approximately 10-minute speech.

She told students their education is important, "But I will tell you that the world still revolves on relationships. People will be successful based on the people that they know and the people that they spend time with."

Her other advice for students included, "You believed in Santa Claus for many years, at least believe in yourself for five minutes."

Attendees react

Among attendees, there were conflicting views about the protest. Some family members of graduates expressed frustration that the controversy overshadowed the event.

"Honestly, it's shocking because I feel like we should be here just celebrating the graduates," said Anico David of Sioux Falls, whose sister graduated. "People are making it bigger than it should be with all this protesting. In my opinion, it's kind of out of pocket and unnecessary."

Max Lerchen, who earned a master's degree, said honoring Noem "does not reflect the values that are held by the university," such as inclusion. He said university officials should have expected opposition, and protesters should not be blamed for pushing back.

"They knew it was going to be an unpopular decision to begin with," he said. "I think that's similar to being picked on by a bully, and you decide to fight back, and then people go, 'Why did you fight back?'"

Andrew Sogn, a spokesman for Dakota State University, said the institution hoped for "a celebratory atmosphere, and recognition of the graduates and their hard work."

When asked about the students and faculty who opposed Noem's honorary degree and speech, he said it was welcome, "because I think that we encourage open conversation and freedom of expression."

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

OPENING MAY 2ND
CLOSING JUNE 2ND

WEBER LANDSCAPING GREENHOUSE

620 WEST THIRD AVENUE

GROTON

HOURS OF OPERATION

M-F 10-6

SAT 10-4

SUN 12-4



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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



*Is not wisdom found among
the aged? Does not long life
bring understanding? To God
belong wisdom and power;
counsel and understanding
are His.*

❧ JOB 12:12,13 ❧

*Detail of "The Artist's Mother: Head and Bust,
Three-Quarters Right" by Rembrandt van Rijn (1628)*

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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. Which hour mentioned in the Bible means the last possible moment that something can be done? *First, Second, Eleventh, Twelfth*

3. Hebrews 9 says that when Christ appears a second time, it will be to *Awake the Heavens, Start anew, Save those who look for Him, Cease all evil*

4. How many times did the Israelites march around the walls of Jericho? *1, 2, 7, 13*

5. From I Kings 17, the ravens brought Elijah bread and *Water, Oil, Flesh, Nuts*

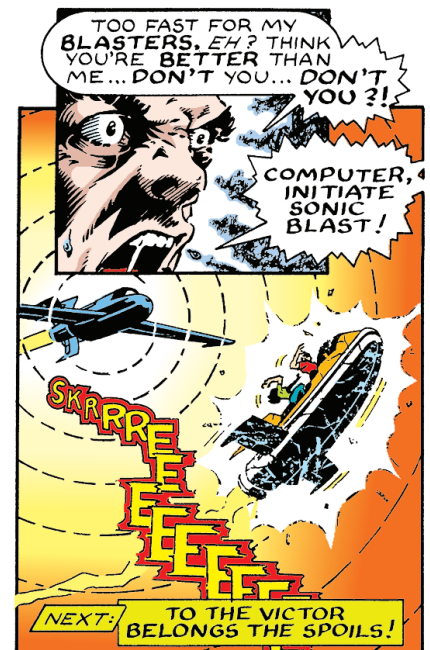
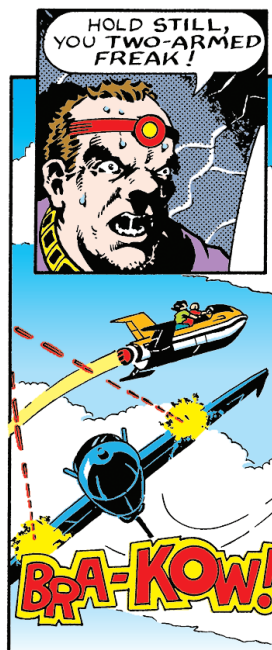
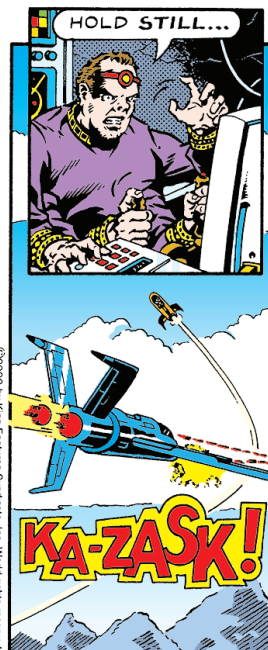
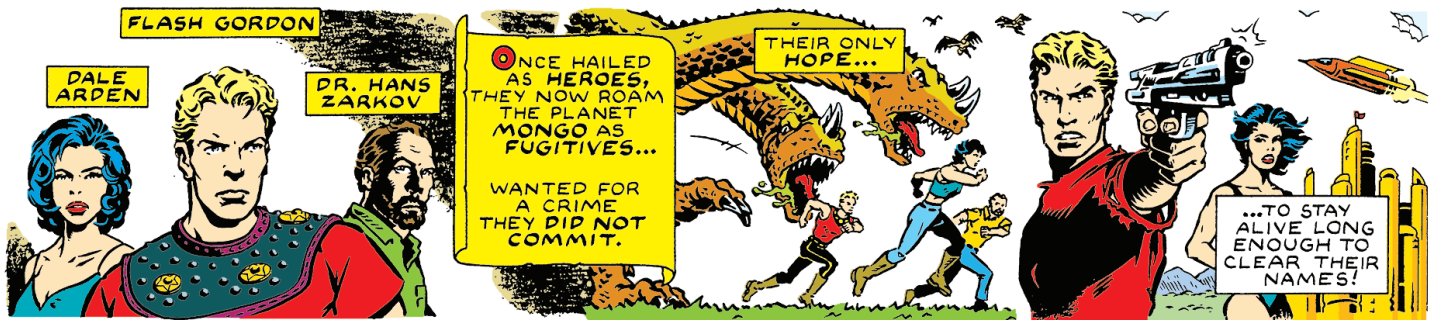
6. What Philistine city was home to Goliath? *Jericho, Bethel, Gaza, Gath*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Eleventh, 3) Save those who look for Him, 4) 13, 5) Flesh, 6) Gath

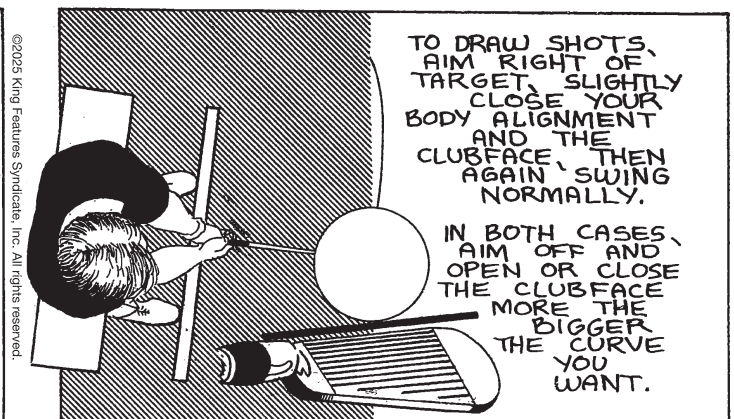
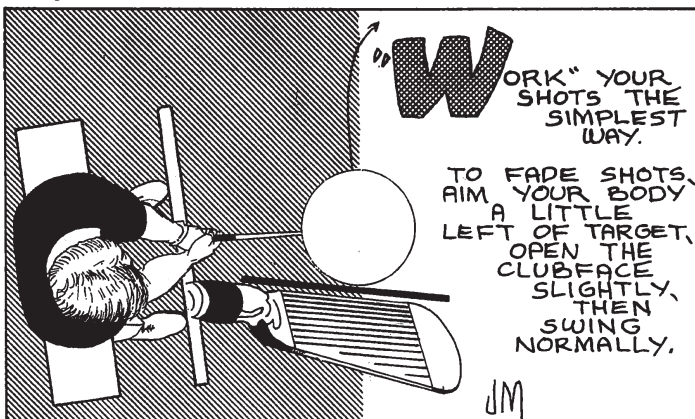
More than 1,200 brand-new trivia questions in Wilson Casey's latest book "Quest for Bible Knowledge" available in bookstores and online.

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Olive Oil Can Serve As a Remedy For Several Ailments

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 76-year-old male in good health. I go to the gym three days a week, eat well, and fast one day a week. I have been reading about taking a tablespoon of olive oil at night as a remedy for all kinds of things such as digestion issues and arthritis. I tried it, and I swear that the first day after ingesting it, I felt less pain in the arthritis in my hands and feet.

Is there any evidence that this practice is helpful? Also, does it matter what kind or brand of olive oil one uses? I bought special olive oil that is polyphenol-rich; it is lighter and more tasty than the extra-virgin oil I normally buy at the food market. What's your take on this? -- L.A.

ANSWER: Although I don't think olive oil is a cure for all ailments, there are certainly health benefits when using olive oil compared to most oils. The flavor and amount of polyphenol (an anti-inflammatory compound found in olive oil) will vary from one brand to another. These anti-inflammatory compounds can help symptoms of arthritis in some people.

Personally, I recommend extra-virgin olive oil (made from the initial squeezing of olives without chemical and heat treatment), which has the highest amount of the nutrients you want. But my advice is to choose based on the flavor you like and how much you want to spend rather than the polyphenol content. And of course, too much of anything, including olive oil, isn't good for you, but a tablespoon is fine.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I came down with a headache, but nothing showed up after a year of tests, including a CT scan, MRIs, and a spinal tap. Then I was told that I had a nummular headache, which I understand is rare. I have a sore spot in the back of my head and a feeling in my head that I just can't explain. I don't know how I made it through a year until I got on meds.

I am now taking 25 mg of lamotrigine a day. I'm at the point where I'll have a couple good days, then it comes back. Can this be cured? Is the medication that I'm taking OK, or is there something better? -- K.S.

ANSWER: A nummular headache (the name comes from the Latin word for coin as the sore spot is often the size and shape of a coin) is very uncommon, and I've never treated a case. I would defer treatment to a neurologist with expertise in headaches.

Gabapentin is a common treatment, but lamotrigine is also used. The best treatment is the one that works best for you. Although sometimes the condition will simply go away, it often doesn't, requiring chronic medication to keep symptoms under control.

I will note that you are on a tiny dose of lamotrigine. It needs to be started at a small dose, but when used for seizures, the usual dose is 400-600 mg per day (which takes several weeks to reach, titrating slowly). If it's working for you but not well enough, you might do better with a higher dose.

If a higher dose doesn't work, there are other medications to try such as antidepressants like amitriptyline and other seizure medications like carbamazepine. One other option to ask your neurologist about is botulinum toxin (Botox), which relieves pain by more than half in about two-thirds of patients.

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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"Another Simple Favor" (R) -- Director Paul Fieg's sequel to his 2018 success "A Simple Favor," starring Anna Kendrick ("Woman of the Hour") and Blake Lively ("It Ends with Us"), is out now! The two leading actresses reprise their roles from the first film -- a miracle in itself considering that Kendrick is rumored to despise her co-star, Lively, who's been in some heat recently due to her lawsuits against "It Ends with Us" director Justin Baldoni. But their professionalism (or Kendrick's, at least) carried them through well enough to play Stephanie and Emily again respectively. This time around, Emily is fresh out of prison and getting married to a wealthy mobster named Dante Versano (Michele Morrone). Clearly not learning from her past, Stephanie accepts Emily's invitation to be her maid of honor in Capri, Italy. Surely, a little party never killed anybody! (Amazon Prime Video)



From left, Lorraine Bracco, Brenda Vaccaro, Susan Sarandon and Talia Shire star in "Nonnas."

(Courtesy of Netflix)

"Nonnas" (PG) -- This heartwarming comedy film led by Vince Vaughn ("Bad Monkey") is the equivalent of getting served a freshly baked-to-perfection lasagna made directly from the kitchen of an Italian grandmother. Based on the life of Joe Scaravella, owner of the restaurant Enoteca Maria in Staten Island, New York, the film follows Joe (Vaughn) after losing his mother. Inspired by her and his nonna's family recipes, Joe decides to open up a restaurant with the catch being that he'll only hire Italian grandmothers to cook the food. Watch as a simple restaurant venture turns into the most memorable and cherished moment of his lifetime. Lorraine Bracco ("The Sopranos"), Susan Sarandon ("The Six Triple Eight"), Talia Shire (the "Rocky" series), and Brenda Vaccaro ("And Just Like That ...") are our lovely "Nonnas." Out now. (Netflix)

In Case You Missed It

"Logan Lucky" (PG-13) -- You might've checked out director Steven Soderbergh's latest film "Black Bag," starring Cate Blanchett and Michael Fassbender, which recently released on streaming services after its run in theaters. If Soderbergh's sleek and action-packed direction keeps you intrigued, his heist-comedy film from 2017 might be up your alley! It follows the strapped-for-cash Logan siblings -- Clyde, Jimmy and Mellie -- in West Virginia and their plan to pull off a heist during the Coca-Cola 600 NASCAR race on Memorial Day weekend. The cast is comprised of magnetic actors who absolutely nail the West Virginian accent, like Channing Tatum ("Blink Twice"), Adam Driver ("Ferrari"), Daniel Craig ("Queer"), and Riley Keough ("Daisy Jones & the Six"). Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

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1. Who released "Hey There Lonely Boy"?
2. A cover of which Kinks song gave Kirsty MacColl her biggest success?
3. Who released "There's a Moon Out Tonight"?
4. Which artist wrote and released "Careless Whisper"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "If the sky above you should turn dark and full of clouds, and that old north wind should begin to blow."

Answers

1. Ruby & the Romantics, in 1963. This was followed by Eddie Holman's "Hey There Lonely Girl," in 1969. Both songs

have been covered by several others.

2. "Days," released by the Kinks in 1968. MacColl's 1989 cover was later used in a camcorder commercial, getting her even more success.

3. The Capris, in 1958. No one paid attention when the song was first released. Several years later, however, the song climbed the charts after a DJ played it on the air.

4. George Michael, in 1984.

5. "You've Got a Friend," by Carole King, in 1971. Legend says that King wrote the song in response to the James Taylor song "Fire and Rain," with its line about "lonely times when I could not find a friend." The song won a Grammy for Song of the Year.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN^{and} BEAR IT[®] *Wagner*

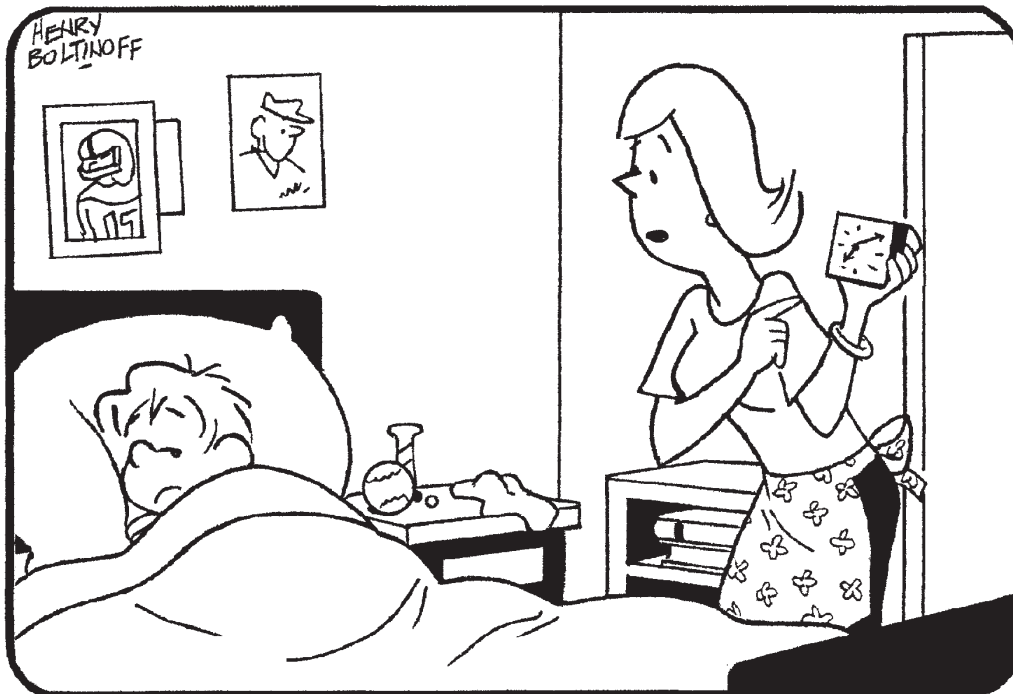
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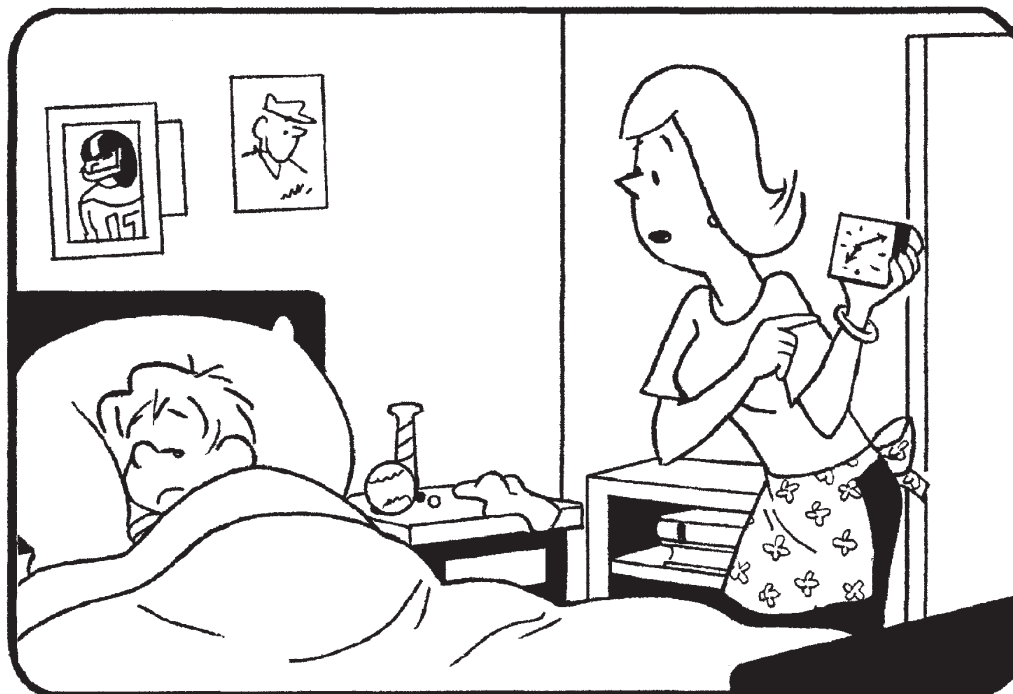
“The magic is gone? Well, let’s see if we can pull something out of the hat.”

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Apron is shorter. 2. Bat is longer. 3. Bookcase is wider. 4. Picture is different. 5. Hand is moved. 6. Bracelet is moved.

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* Great ways to remove stuck labels: nail polish remover (NOT for use on plastics), WD-40 oil, soaking in hot water, rubbing alcohol.

* "Do you love burgers? Here's a great thing our family does that saves money and is very handy: When ground beef goes on sale, we buy a large quantity and premake many burger patties, seasoned and shaped just as we like them. Then we separate them with butcher's paper cut into squares. We put them in stacks, into empty bread bags to store in the freezer. When we are getting ready to cook out, the patties don't have to be all the way defrosted; just put on the grill and cooked up!" -- A.J. in Florida

* "It's easy to make custom art for your walls. If you find an image that you like, or have a great digital photo, simply take it to a copy shop and have it printed in a large format. Then you can frame it and hang it on your wall. Now I can enjoy all my grandbabies' pictures." -- A.F. in Mississippi

* "When shopping for printers these days, make sure you take a peek at the cost of replacement ink cartridges. Some are more expensive than others, and your use could make a printer that looks like a great deal a not-so-great deal. Be sure to do your homework!" -- W.L. in Washington

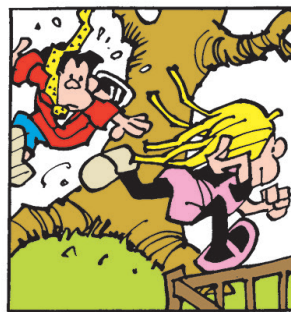
* It's worth a reminder now that picnic and barbecue season is in full force: The best tablecloths, especially on a windy day, are fitted single sheets. Simply fit the sheet over a standard picnic table and it's in place and ready. The elastic at the corners keeps it from flying away. You can look at thrift and discount stores for fun patterns or just plain colors!

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 Swedish car
5 Do sums
8 Gym pads
12 Bruins' sch.
13 Cattle call
14 Modern money
15 Tall, thin person
17 Bickering
18 Sound from a hot wok
19 Small bill
20 Elitists
21 Warm-up run
22 "Top Gun" target
23 Fall flower
26 "Hamilton" or "Rent"
30 Old money of Rome

- 31 Weir
32 Tiers
33 Not generic
35 Flaxen, as hair
36 Stitch
37 Hosp. workers
38 Smiles broadly
41 Bikini half
42 Solidify
45 "The Wire" actor Idris
46 Tilt towards
48 Region (Abbr.)
49 Kreskin's claim

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| 51 | | | | | 52 | | | | 53 | | | |

- 50 Without
51 "Shoo!"
52 Holy Fr. woman
53 Sch. supporters

DOWN

- 1 Long lunches?
2 High cards
3 Regrettably
4 Prohibit
5 Surrounded by
6 Hand (out)
7 Anonymous Jane
8 2004 Lindsay Lohan movie
9 Prefix with pilot
10 Chicago paper, for short
11 Lushes
16 Indigent
20 Venus, to Serena
21 "Hacks" actress
22 Silent
23 Cleric's tunic
24 Navy address
25 — -la-la
26 Frenzied
27 Bill's partner
28 Bristle
29 Leary's drug

- 31 Morning moisture
34 — Moines
35 Muffin choice
37 Cover with cloth
38 Wagers
39 Power co. supply
40 "East of Eden" girl
41 Optimum
42 Bitty biter
43 Sicilian spouter
44 Privation
46 French article
47 AOL, for one

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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| S | A | A | B | | A | D | D | | M | A | T | S |
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| S | S | S | | O | N | E | | S | N | O | B | S |
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Olive



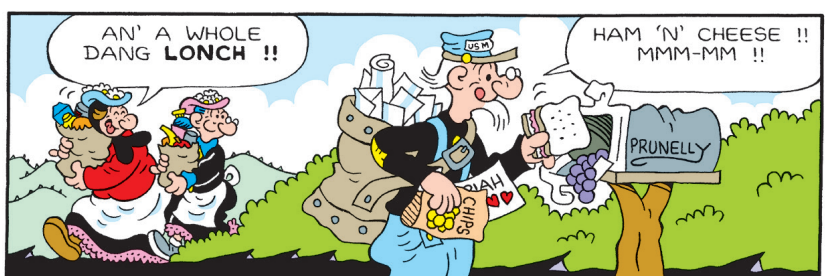
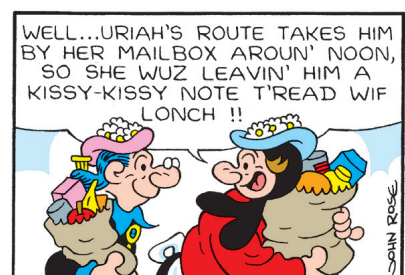
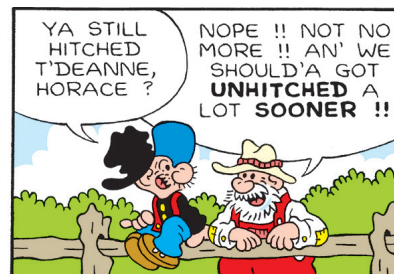
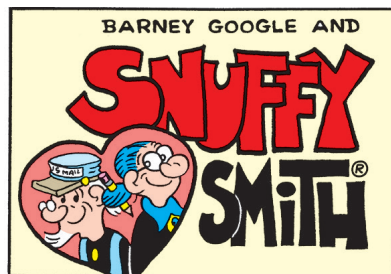
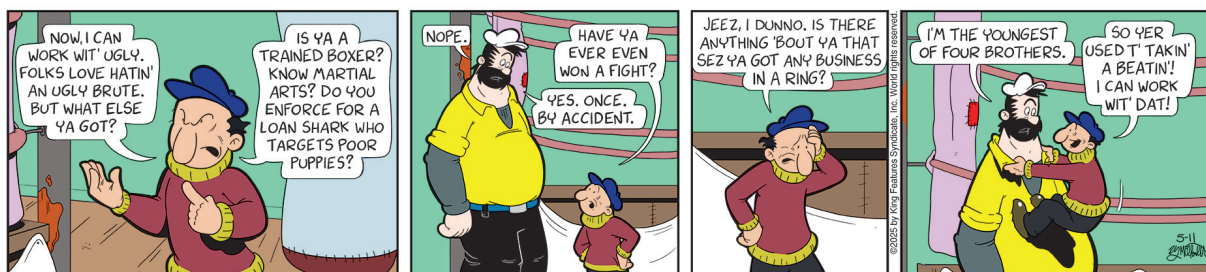
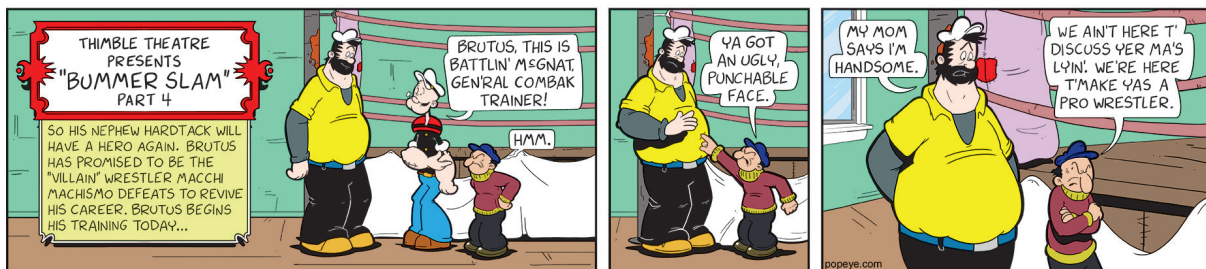
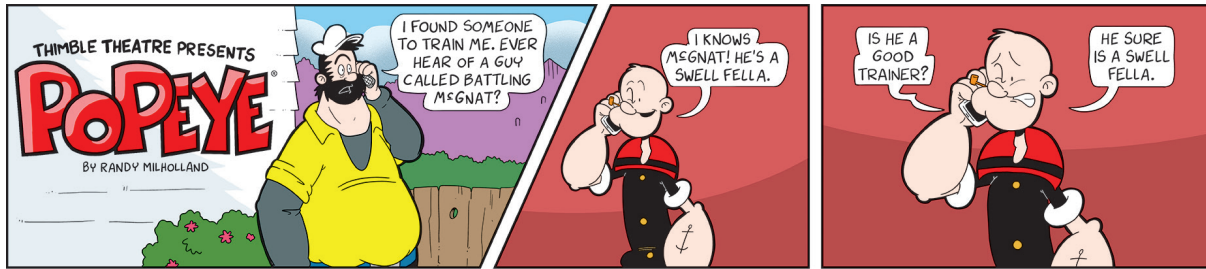
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



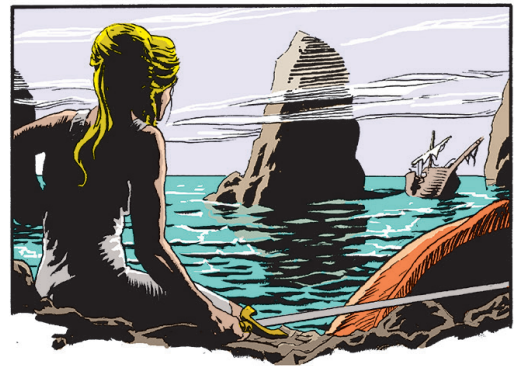
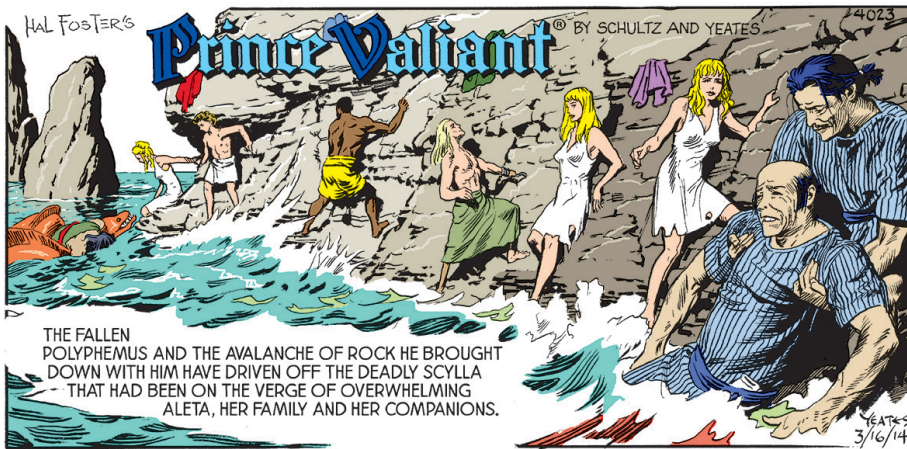
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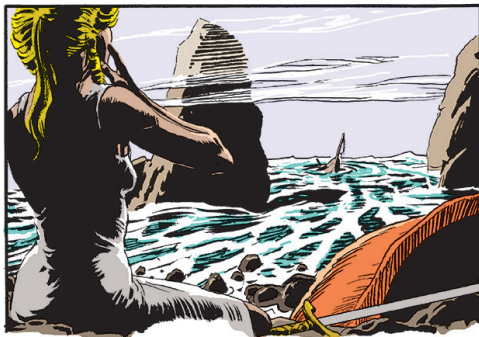


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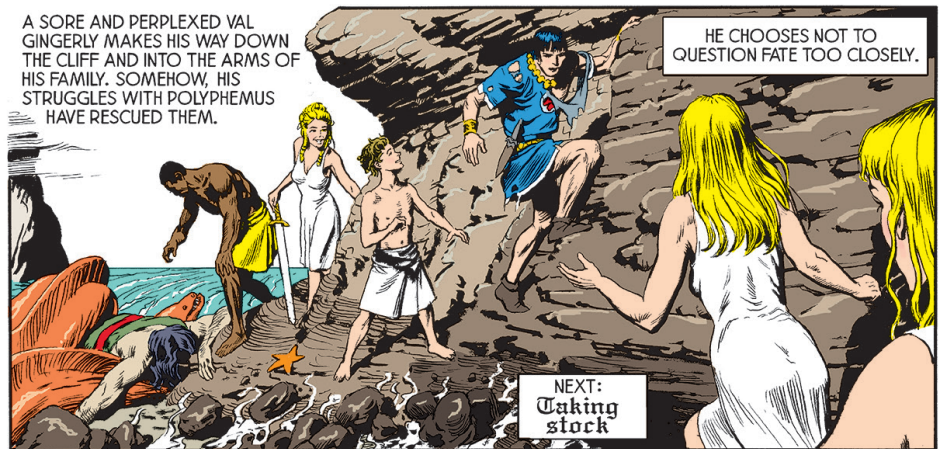


BUT WHAT OF THE SWIFTLY RISING TIDE? ALETA NOTICES A SUDDEN STILLNESS- IT NO LONGER RISES. THEN, WITH APPALLING SPEED...



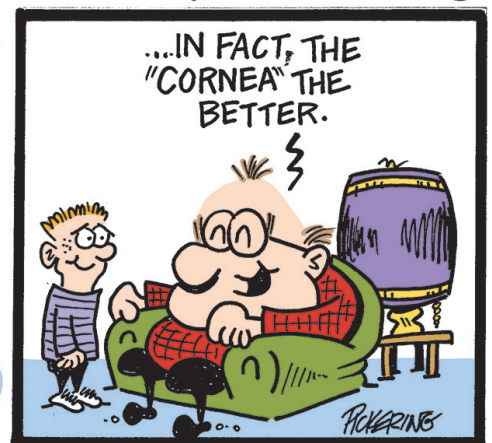
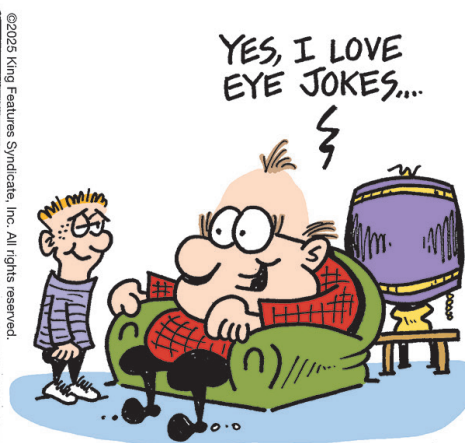
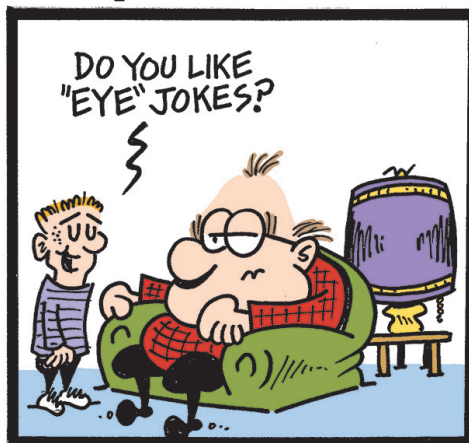
...THE TIDE REVERSES ITSELF! WITH A FURY EXCEEDING ITS INFLUX IT RUSHES AWAY, CARRYING ALL IN ITS PATH! THE WRECKAGE OF THE ISLAND QUEEN IS SWEEPED INTO THE DEPTHS AS IF IT NEVER EXISTED.

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Senior discounts are even more important now

The price increases we might see because of the expected tariffs make this a good time to get used to hunting for senior discounts on all the goods and services we need and want.

As usual, the definition of "senior" varies from store to store and restaurant to restaurant. One might stick to the age 65, when we used to start collecting Social Security, and others might look at age 50, when AARP starts identifying us as potential subscribers -- or anywhere in between.

Despite the occasional confusion about age, there are discounts to be had.

Shop your local stores first. They're more likely to offer senior discounts because they want your business, and your repeat business.

Check Goodwill and The Salvation Army stores for discount days.

Ask your local grocery stores about senior discount days. You might need a loyalty card, but even those can often get you rewards cash.

Don't forget pharmacies, eyeglass stores, gyms, clothing stores, travel agencies, movie theaters, insurance agents, auto repair locations -- anywhere you spend money. They're not likely to offer you any discount unless you ask for it. But they do want your business, and it's to their benefit to give you a discount.

Scroll through the discount area of the AARP website and see if a membership makes sense for you. (I get \$20 off an annual Walmart+ plan, which pays for my AARP membership.)

Search for discounts online by looking for "senior discounts 2025" and your area. Then call in advance to verify that a certain discount is available.

Don't be shy about asking. In fact, before you go to any restaurant or store, make it a rule to call and inquire, and to verify the age they consider senior. After all, it's your money, and every dollar discounted is a dollar you get to keep.

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Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



Open 24/7

Senior Citizens 65+
Physical Therapy.

\$20 a month

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1. Salukis is the nickname for Southern Illinois University's athletic teams. What is a Saluki?

2. Name the golf course in Lancashire, England, that hosted The Open Championship 11 times from 1926-2012.

3. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Rice, 1978 American League MVP, spent his entire Major League Baseball playing career from 1974-89 with what team?

4. Between brothers Sterling and Shannon Sharpe, who had more career NFL touchdown receptions?

5. What businessman and promotor, nicknamed the "P.T. Barnum of NASCAR," was president of Charlotte Motor Speedway from 1976 to 2008?

6. In a May 1996 loss to Evander Holyfield, what boxer claimed he suffered vision problems and accused Holyfield's camp of putting a foreign substance on the gloves?

7. Linebacker Freddie Joe Nunn held what NFL franchise's career sack record with 66.5 from 1993 until it was broken in 2021?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. A breed of hound favored by ancient Egyptian royalty.

2. Royal Lytham & St. Annes Golf Club.

3. The Boston Red Sox.

4. Sterling, with 65 (Shannon had 62).

5. Humpy Wheeler.

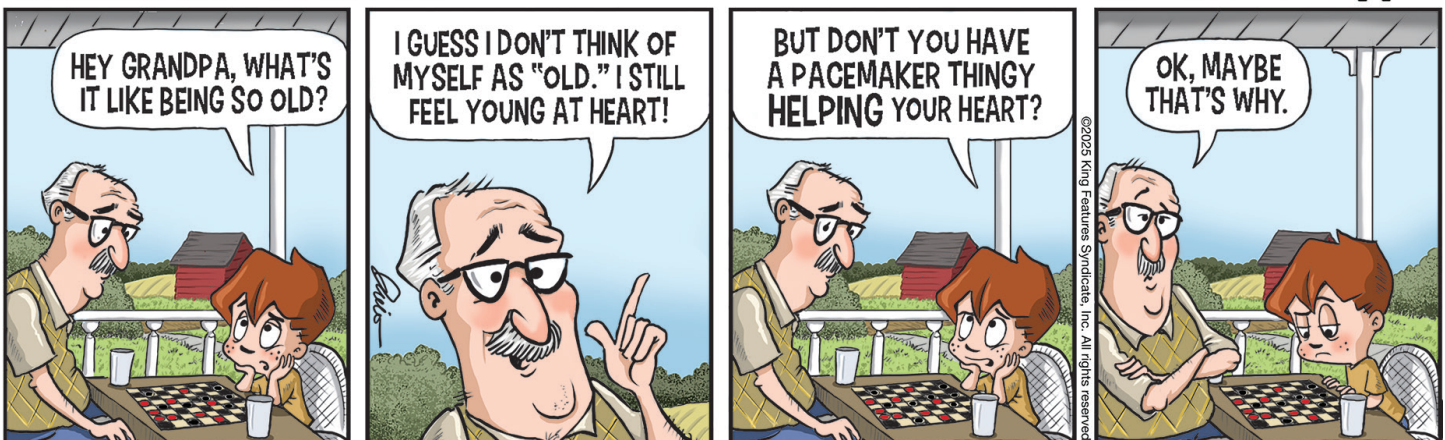
6. Bobby Czyz.

7. The Arizona Cardinals.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Don't pee on your neighbor's lawn (or let your dog do it)

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Can you settle a dispute between me and my neighbor? Bob doesn't want my dog peeing or pooping on his lawn. I told him that my dog is just helping fertilize his grass, and he should be grateful for the free nutrients. Yesterday, as I was hanging out on my back patio, Bob threw a bag full of old dog poop over the fence; it broke when it landed and scattered all over the patio. I just don't get it. We used to be friends, but now I'm not so sure. Who's right in this situation? -- Doug H., via email

DEAR DOUG: Please tell me this is a prank letter, because otherwise I'm going to tear my hair out. One of the biggest commandments of dog ownership is Thou

Shalt Not Annoy Thy Neighbors.

Allowing your dog to relieve himself on your neighbor's lawn is more than just annoying; it opens you to a potential lawsuit. Clearly, it's causing strife for your neighbor. Even if dog poop actually did fertilize lawns (it doesn't), you and your dog are trespassing on private property. You're also destroying your neighbor's lawn. Dog pee burns grass and kills it, leaving awful bare spots surrounded by yellow, dying grass. Dog poop doesn't disappear; it sits there and stinks, blocks airflow to the grass and kills it.

If you want to resolve this situation peacefully, go apologize to your neighbor, offer to clean up your dog's mess and keep your dog away from his property. That means leashing your dog on walks, picking up his poop as soon as he goes and disposing of it at home or in a municipal waste bin. That's your option. There is only one.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* More than 300 different species of bacteria are found in dental plaque.

* Bones found at Seymour Island indicate that 37 to 40 million years ago, penguins stood at a formidable 6 feet tall and weighed 250 pounds.

* PEZ candies were originally anti-smoking mints.

* World War II is known as “the blessed war” to many Icelanders because the country has that conflict to thank for its independence.

* Jeanne-Genevieve Garnerin was the first female parachutist. In 1799, she jumped from a hot air balloon. This jump was recorded to be around 900 meters high (over 3,000 feet). She was also one of the earliest women to fly in a balloon.

* In the 1920s and '30s, many movie theaters had signs instructing ladies to “Please Remove Your Hats” to keep their elaborate headwear from blocking anyone’s view.

* Jeannette Rankin became the first female member of Congress in 1916, four years before the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote, was ratified.

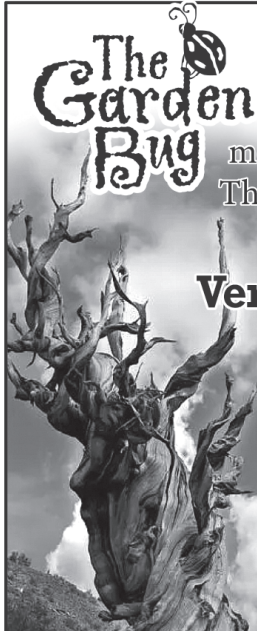
* Mike Tyson saw Muhammad Ali’s last match at the age of 14 and got mad at Larry Holmes for beating Ali. Tyson called Ali on the phone and told him, “I’ll grow up and get him back for you.” Seven years later, Tyson met Holmes for a match, and the then-retired Ali stepped in the ring and said, “Remember what you promised.” Tyson made good on his vow in the fourth round.

* The platypus doesn’t have a stomach at all: Its esophagus goes straight to its intestines.

* Rainbows are full circles when viewed from a different perspective, and everyone sees a unique version depending on how their eyes perceive light.

Thought for the Day: “Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.” -- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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The Garden Bug

Very old trees

Bristlecone pines, known for their long life spans, live in harsh conditions high in the mountains of California, Nevada and Colorado. The oldest one known is nicknamed Methuselah (after the longest-lived person in the Bible), and is located in a remote area of the Inyo National Forest in California. Known as “extremophiles,” these trees grow very slowly; their wood is very dense and resinous, and resistant to insects. Often only a strip of living tissue connects the roots to a handful of live branches. – Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.usda.gov,
www.nps.gov

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by Freddy Groves

Our prisons must be full

Are we short on prison space in this country? We must be. It's the only logical explanation for so many criminals being given probation instead of prison time.

For example, there were the scammers who sold misbranded N95 masks during the pandemic and price gouged hospitals. The masks were promised to be approved by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) when they were not

and were accompanied by test-result literature that was actually for a different mask. Hospitals paid \$2.6 million for the masks that had much lower filtration efficiency.

So what was the punishment? One year of probation and a fine of only \$9,500.

Then there was the real estate agent property manager who didn't tell anybody about the lead-based paint in the housing where veterans lived with their families. Any structure built before 1978 likely has lead-based paint, a serious health hazard. The agent knew this and still signed rental agreements without notifying residents about the paint. A baby living there was found to have high blood lead levels because of the lead in the paint.

The agent's scammer pals, a hazardous material mitigation service, were hired to go in and clean up the lead paint. They didn't and were eventually nailed with one count of the False Claims Act. And after putting lives in danger, what was the punishment for the real estate agent and the scammer pals? Probation and fines.

Then there was the guy who schemed to grab Covid funding to the tune of nearly a half million dollars. Punishment: a fine and -- you guessed it -- probation.

And what of the guy who groped a student nurse at a VA hospital, a case of abusive sexual contact? The guidelines indicate he could have gotten up to two years in prison. Yet he gets a free pass. Once again: probation.

I can only conclude that our prisons are full. There's no other explanation for only giving probation to these criminals.

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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. MOVIES: What is the name of Han Solo's ship in the "Star Wars" series?

2. TELEVISION: What is Ray Barone's job on the sitcom "Everybody Loves Raymond"?

3. U.S. STATES: The Baltimore Ravens' name is a nod to which past famous resident?

4. PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented in the condition called "alliumphobia"?

5. LITERATURE: Who created the fictional detective Lord Peter Wimsey?

6. GAMES: Which chess piece can't move in a straight line?

7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby mouse called?

8. SCIENCE: What does the acronym RNA stand for?

9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was the first to wear contact lenses?

10. ASTRONOMY: Which constellation contains Polaris, the North Star?

Answers

1. Millennium Falcon.
2. Sportswriter.
3. Edgar Allen Poe, who wrote the poem "The Raven."
4. Fear of garlic.
5. Dorothy L. Sayers.
6. Knight.
7. A pinky or pup.
8. Ribonucleic Acid.
9. Lyndon Johnson.
10. Ursa Minor (The Little Dipper).

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

The First 100 Days

By: Mackenzie Decker

On January 27, Larry Rhoden was sworn in as the 34th Governor of South Dakota. May 7 marks his 100th day as our Governor. Though the time has passed quickly, the list of accomplishments is long and offers a preview of what we can expect from his leadership.

On his second day in office, Governor Rhoden introduced a pillar of civility during his joint address to the South Dakota Legislature. In his first week, he successfully brokered a swift and unanimous confirmation of Lt. Governor Tony Venhuizen. He hosted daily press interactions for his first two weeks in office. He continued this pattern of civil discourse by meeting with legislators, taking daily walks through the House and Senate floors, and chairing meetings to draft a historic property tax reform bill.

New South Dakota governors typically have at least a week of preparation and an inauguration behind them before the third floor is filled with legislators. In that regard, Governor Rhoden was weeks behind, but he was still able to pass a Governor's bill and bring property tax reform to citizens that need it most.

On his 49th day in office, the two-week legislative recess began. Governor Rhoden could have hung his hat on a successful Legislative Session. He could have used the time to move through the rest of the transition details, prepare for an aggressive self-imposed timeline to move the men's prison project forward, and quietly sign bills from his office. Instead, he added a new property tax relief proposal and launched his Open for Opportunity Tour. He did sign bills, of course, in between stops all over the state.

After arriving back in Pierre on one of our first tour days, Governor Rhoden insisted on corralling us all together one more time before we jumped in our cars to go home. The reason? To thank us all for making the day possible and emphasize his opinion that we were doing a great job.

In the final days leading up to this 100 day milestone, we delivered more wins for our state. Weeks of quiet work with the Trump Administration brought freedom to a South Dakota family, as Governor Rhoden joined U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins and other leaders to announce that unfair charges against the Maude family had been dropped. That same week, the prison task force passed the first hurdle with a unanimous vote that we need a new prison.

Without the opportunities that Secretary Noem created while serving as Governor, and without the team they built together, the first 100 days of the Rhoden Administration would have looked much different. Many of the same faces gather around the table at our regular staff meetings, and we share a similar meeting agenda as before. Another similarity with the previous administration: a Governor with the energy and conviction for a 24-7 job!

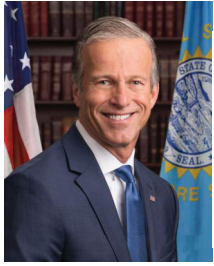
Governor Rhoden fully understands what it takes to be successful. From where I sit as Chief of Staff, I know every accomplishment from day one to 99 took the effort of multiple team members doing their job exceptionally well. For Governor Rhoden, teamwork goes beyond the names in the Governor's Office roster. He embraces God, his wife Sandy, his family, state legislators, media professionals, tribal and community leaders, and many more in the work to keep South Dakota strong, safe, and free.

If the next 365 days are anything like the last 100, we are all in for a real treat.

Mackenzie Decker serves as Chief of Staff for Governor Larry Rhoden.

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JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

To Protect and Serve

Every day, men and women in communities across America put on their uniform and badge and go to work protecting the public. Police officers can't be sure what their day will bring, but they know duty often calls them into dark places, to run toward danger, and confront evil. During Police Week, we have a chance to express our gratitude for their selfless service.

The job description of a police officer is hardly ordinary. Police officers "may work nights, odd shifts, and during emergencies." He or she "may be exposed to dangerous life-threatening situations." The job calls for knowledge of the law, calm under pressure, and the courage to go where others fear, and I am grateful for the men and women who answer the call.

Unfortunately, South Dakotans have been reminded recently of the dangers law enforcement faces every day. Last month, a Sioux Falls police officer was shot while pursuing a criminal in the city. Thankfully, the officer is expected to make a full recovery, and the criminal who shot at the officers pursuing him has been arrested.

Last year, a Moody County sheriff's deputy was killed in the line of duty. Chief Deputy Ken Prorok was helping Madison Police apprehend a criminal in a high-speed chase. The driver of the vehicle being pursued intentionally maneuvered to strike Chief Deputy Prorok and killed him. I know his loss continues to bear on the people of the community he served, and I'm proud that the U.S. Senate will honor his heroism and sacrifice in its Police Week resolution this year.

Both of these stories illustrate the bond of law enforcement officers and the critical support officers provide one another in the field. The presence of fellow law enforcement officers when one of their own falls in the line of duty is another sign of that solidarity that inspires us to do our part to stand with the men and women who protect our communities.

As a U.S. senator, I'm proud to stand with South Dakota law enforcement. This year, one of the first bills that the Senate passed was the HALT Fentanyl Act, which would permanently classify fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances as the deadliest type of drug. South Dakota is no stranger to the scourge of fentanyl overdoses, and this bill would ensure law enforcement has the tools it needs to go after the people bringing this poison into our country and communities.

Police officers confront the dangers in our society. Dangerous situations and individuals. We frequently find police officers doing the little things as well: speaking to classrooms of students, helping a stranded motorist, buying shoes for a child in need. Police officers live every day by that creed to both protect and serve. Thank you for all that you do to keep us safe.

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Strengthening Small Businesses

BIG News

I've been supportive of many of the big changes to our federal government over the last few months. Many of these changes have long been needed. Not every change has been perfectly executed, though. National Weather Service offices across our state are facing staff and resource reductions. The Rapid City office was forced to suspend its overnight shift and their weather balloon launches, which provide valuable data on atmosphere conditions. We know severe weather can strike at any time of the day or night, so maintaining 24/7 operations is critical to ensure public safety.

Just last week, in the middle of the night, a tornado touched down near Rosebud and injured six people. Thankfully, no lives were lost, but this highlights the need to have around-the-clock weather monitoring to protect lives. I reached out to the Administration to express my concerns and request the resources needed to keep public safety a top priority..

BIG Idea

Nearly 99% of South Dakota's businesses are small businesses. From Main Street storefronts to manufacturing facilities, these businesses drive innovation and economic growth. I'm celebrating these entrepreneurs and leaders during Small Business Week and am grateful for their hard work to support our communities.

This week, I introduced a bill to give small business owners in our state more options to keep ownership local. Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) are a valuable tool in providing an option for a business to become employee-owned, as many in South Dakota are. The American Ownership and Resilience Act will improve the ability for business owners to convert their operation into an ESOP, rather than sell to foreign capital firms or dissolving. This bill will keep these companies local, strong, and American-owned, protecting jobs, preserving communities, and countering efforts by foreign competitors like China to buy U.S. businesses..

BIG Update

This week the Midwest Honor Flight came to D.C., and I had the opportunity to greet the 85 veterans at the World War II Memorial. The Honor Flight does a great job of bringing veterans to our nation's capital to see the memorials dedicated to their service. It's always an honor to meet them and thank them for their service.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

Whatever Happened to "My Space"

When I was young, one of my life priorities was "My Space." I defended it with everything I had.

In school, I had to defend "My Space." Several times, I even had to go to the principal's office and explain what "My Space" was all about. He didn't seem to understand, and I had to explain it several times.

At home with my siblings, I had to define the parameters of "My Space." Even though I explained it to them several times, they never seemed to get it. Their idea, and I do not know where it came from, was that "My Space" was "Their Space." No matter how often I explained it to them, they never seemed to understand what I was discussing.

One of the great privileges of moving away from home was that I could now defend "My Space" without any interference from anyone. I can't tell you how much I enjoy that freedom.

Then, I thought about it for the first time in, I don't know how many years. Somehow, "My Space" was being violated.

I had to move my office somewhere when I retired from the church. I had close to 10,000 books, so I needed somewhere to put them. So, we added an office space to our home. It cost some money, but it was a way of establishing "My Space."

Fortunately, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage supervised the construction of my retirement office. There had to be a lot of shelves for all my books, and she could put them all together.

When it was finished, I was so happy to see my books on the bookshelf in my new "My Space" office at the house. I could enter the door, sit at my desk, and be all alone to do what I wanted.

Sometimes, I sit behind my desk and look around at all the books in my office. Except for Bible commentaries and dictionaries, I have read every book in my library. Some I have read several times. And I know just about where I got every one of them. They are the occupants of "My Space."

Then something happened violating "my Space."

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage babysits our great-granddaughter while our granddaughter is working. We have had our great-granddaughter for about two years now. She's about 2 ½ years old and has more energy than a troop of monkeys at a zoo.

If I had half her energy, I would accomplish a lot in life. Just watching her energy drains me of the little energy I have.

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In the morning, I like to watch the news on TV before starting the day. Halfway through watching the news, the great-granddaughter arrives for the day.

She will come into the living room, jump on the couch, and say, "Papaw, George."

I've realized that when she says that, she wants to watch a program called Curious George, a TV cartoon for children. Who gave her the right to "My Space" TV?

For some reason, she believes she can invade "My Space" and turn the TV to the program she wants to watch, regardless of what I'm watching. This is truly an invasion of "My Space."

However, she thinks she deserves to watch whatever she wants on TV, regardless of what I am watching at the time.

At lunchtime, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will have my lunch plate in the refrigerator for me to pick up. I will come to the kitchen, pick up my lunch plate, sit in my chair, and watch the news at noon.

It's my time to relax and enjoy lunch.

Just as I'm beginning to eat my lunch, the little great-granddaughter will come to me and take things off of my plate for herself. Being a great-grandfather, I cannot say that word with two letters, "NO." Who gave her the right to "My Space" lunch?

I don't know whether she understands I can't say that word, or maybe she's just playing me with a cute little giggle, a smile, and puppy eyes. As far as she is concerned, "My Space" is also "Her Space." Where she got that idea, I will never know. I'm suspicious that maybe she was born with it, or perhaps her great-grandmother taught her how to do it.

In any case, "My Space" has been thoroughly violated. I'm beginning to think the only time I will restore "My Space" is when they put me in my coffin and drop me in the grave.

Pondering this the other day, I wondered how or if it was possible to regain "My Space." What must I do to establish the perimeters that will separate me from everybody else?

I remember reading I the Psalms verses that support my idea of "My Space". David said in Psalm 91:1, 4 - "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."

If I am under the "shadow of the Almighty", nobody can ever compromise my safety. I don't have to worry about my situation because I am not defined by that. I am defined by my abiding under the shadow of the Almighty. If you can compromise the "Almighty" then I'll worry, but not before. Good luck with that.

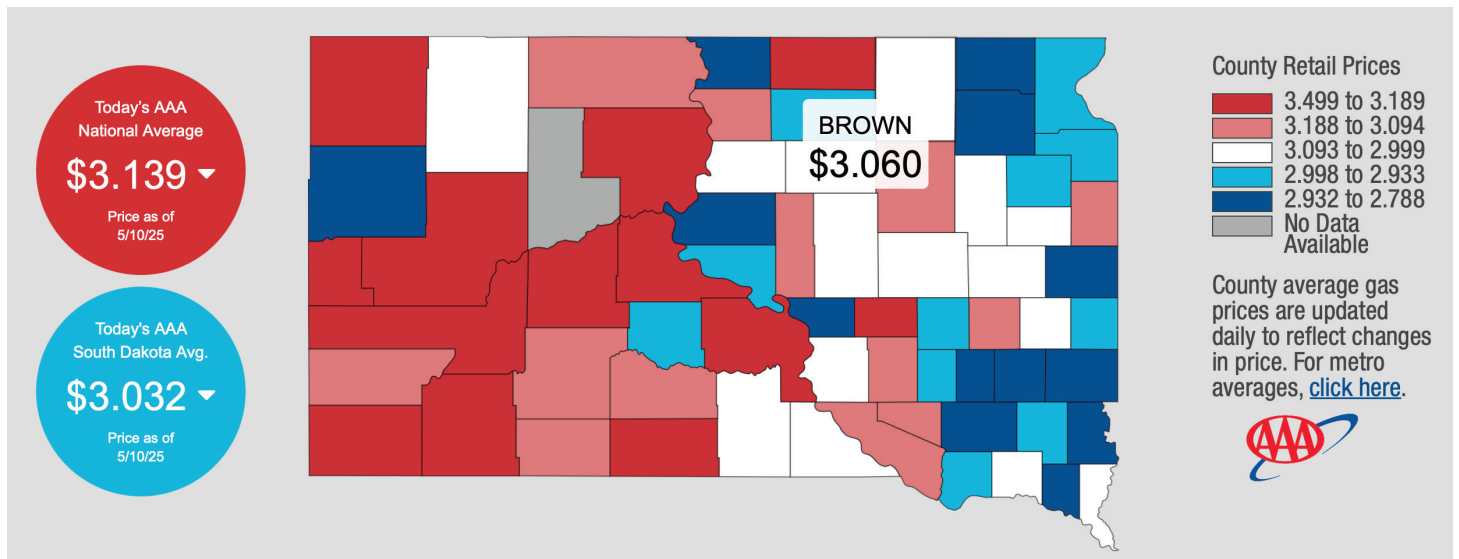
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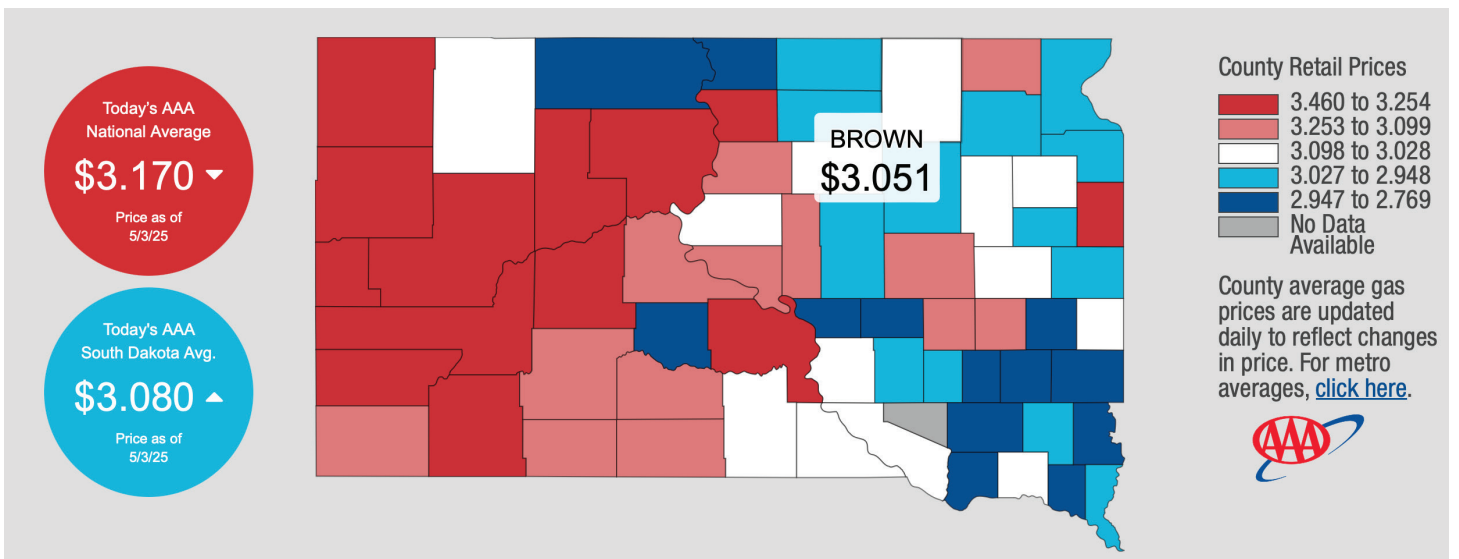
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

| | Regular | Mid-Grade | Premium | Diesel |
|----------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Current Avg. | \$3.032 | \$3.246 | \$3.702 | \$3.250 |
| Yesterday Avg. | \$3.060 | \$3.253 | \$3.713 | \$3.237 |
| Week Ago Avg. | \$3.080 | \$3.254 | \$3.686 | \$3.246 |
| Month Ago Avg. | \$3.100 | \$3.288 | \$3.706 | \$3.313 |
| Year Ago Avg. | \$3.328 | \$3.495 | \$3.905 | \$3.617 |

This Week



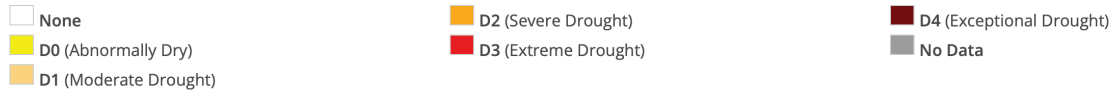
Last Week



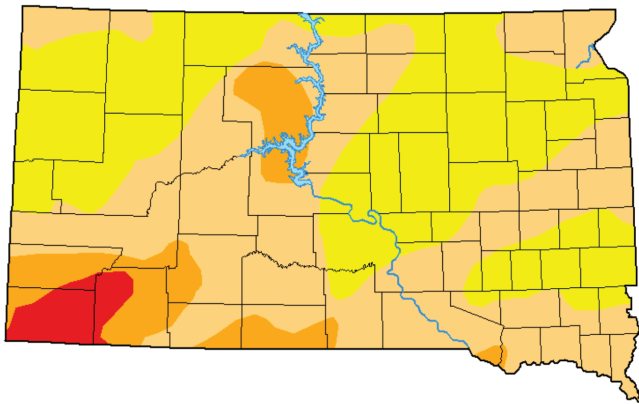
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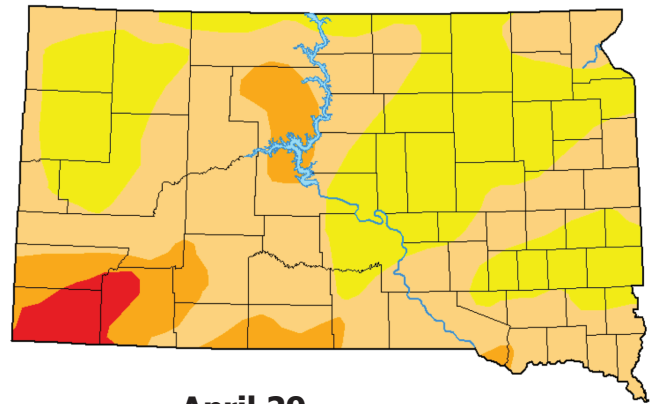
Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



May 6



April 29

Mostly dry weather prevailed this past week (April 29 to May 5) across the Northern to Central Great Plains. Based on multiple soil moisture indicators including CPC, NLDAS, and NASA SPoRT along with the Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDri), extreme drought (D3) was expanded to include more of western North Dakota. This D3 expansion coincides with recent wildfires and dust storms. Soil moisture (below the 10th percentile), VegDri, and 60 to 90-day SPEI supported an expansion of severe drought (D2) across central Nebraska. D3 was added to parts of northeastern Nebraska based on VegDRI soil moisture below the 5th percentile, and longer-term extreme drought signal. Farther to the west, a broad 1-category improvement was made to northeastern Wyoming and adjacent areas of western South Dakota due to recent wetness and a positive recovery among multiple drought indicators. Improvements were also warranted for the upper Green River basin of western Wyoming. However, a drier-than-normal April resulted in a 1-category degradation to parts of southern Wyoming.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Which U.S.-based Fortune 500 companies are turning their backs on previous climate commitments, and which are forging ahead toward carbon neutrality? – L.J., via email

Many Fortune 500 companies have pledged ambitious climate goals, including net-zero emissions and investing in renewable energy. But while some are making meaningful progress, others are quietly scaling back. Economic pressures, shifting political landscapes and industry-specific challenges have led some corporations to deprioritize sustainability, raising concerns about the future of corporate climate action.



Microsoft is among the Fortune 500 companies still leaning into their climate commitments. Credit: Angel Bena, Pexels.com.

One of the most notable examples is BP, which recently announced a shift away from its previous renewables target, doubling down on fossil fuel production. Other energy companies have also weakened their emissions reduction targets. Some have cited economic uncertainty and fluctuating energy prices as reasons. Meanwhile, in the tech and retail sectors some firms have quietly abandoned carbon neutrality goals, either removing or delaying key targets without much public acknowledgement.

While some corporations are stepping back, others are pushing forward with their climate goals. Tech giants like Microsoft, Apple and Google remain leaders in sustainability, continuing their investments in carbon removal, renewable energy and energy-efficient operations. Microsoft has reaffirmed its goal to be carbon negative by 2030 and is expanding its use of carbon capture technology. In the automotive sector, some companies are maintaining their transition to electric vehicles, despite policy uncertainties. Ford and GM, for example, continue to invest in EV production and infrastructure though the pace has slowed.

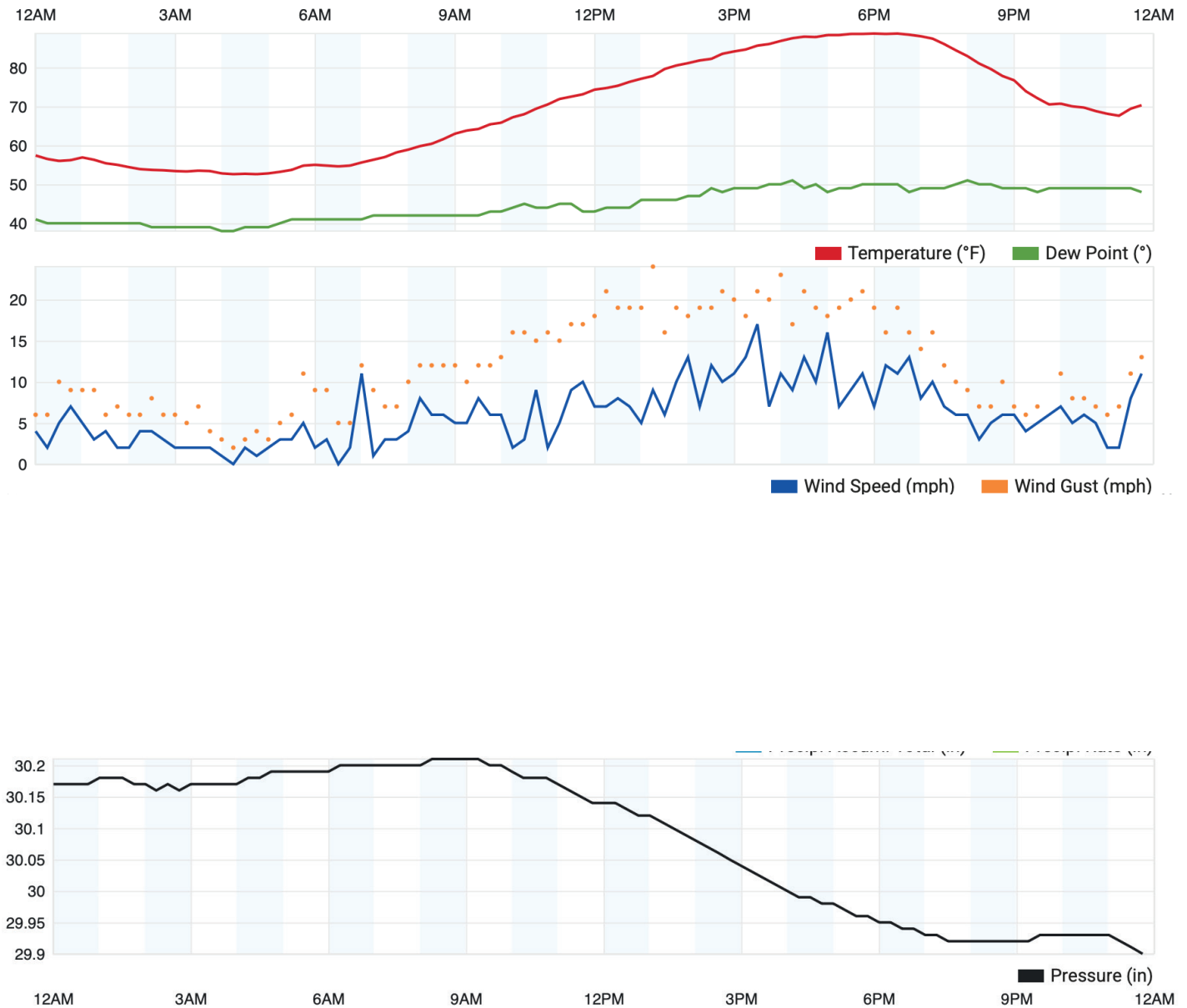
Retail and consumer goods firms are busily reducing plastic waste, adopting sustainable packaging and decarbonize supply chains, efforts that align with consumer demand. Former Unilever CEO Paul Polman, a strong corporate sustainability advocate, warns about the risks of companies backtracking: "Businesses that fail to take sustainability seriously will not have a seat at the table in the future economy."

In some cases, companies are accused of greenwashing—making sustainability claims without meaningful action. The growing use of carbon credits is also controversial as critics argue some businesses rely on offsets rather than directly cutting emissions. Investor and consumer pressure remain key forces in corporate sustainability. As regulations tighten, and the clean energy market expands, companies that continue investing in sustainability may gain a competitive edge. Meanwhile those that scale back risk reputational damage and financial consequences. For consumers, staying informed and supporting businesses that remain committed to sustainability is one way to influence corporate behavior.

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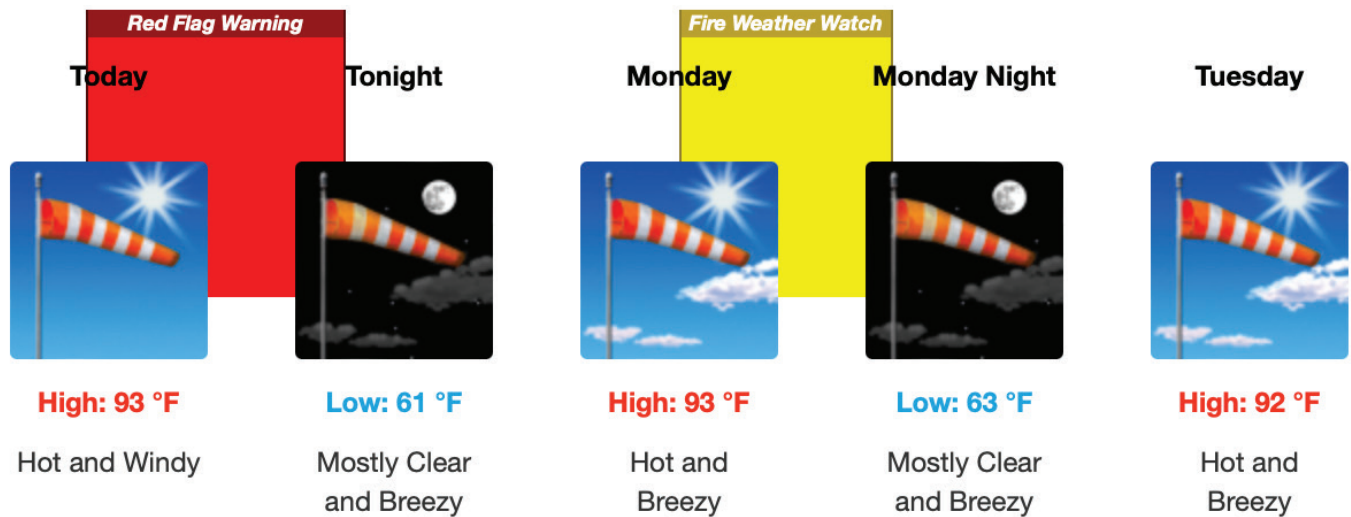
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Fire Weather Headlines Sunday

May 10, 2025
3:31 PM

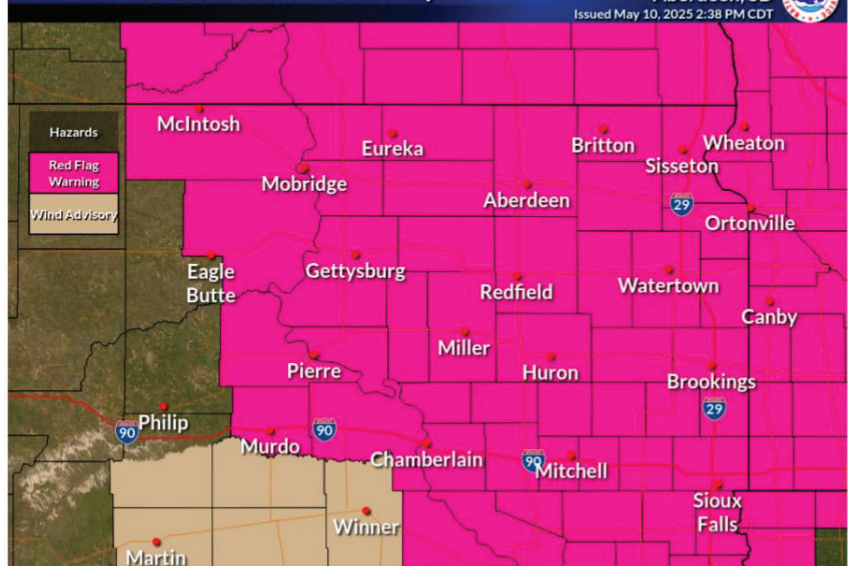
Valid May 11th: 11 AM CDT/10 AM MDT through 9 PM CDT/8 PM MDT

Key Messages

- Strong wind and low humidity combine to create the potential for fire weather concerns **Sunday**.
 - ◆ South winds will be 20-35 mph with gusts up to 50 mph.
 - ◆ Humidity will drop to as low as 14%.
- Any fires that ignite will spread rapidly and become difficult to control or suppress.

Fire Weather Headlines Sunday

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued May 10, 2025 2:38 PM CDT



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Strong wind and low humidity combine to create fire weather concerns on Sunday. The entire Aberdeen forecast area is within the Red Flag Warning. Southerly winds will be 20-35 miles per hour, and humidity will drop as low as 14%. Any fires that ignite will spread rapidly and become difficult to control or suppress.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 89 °F at 5:31 PM

Low Temp: 52 °F at 4:31 AM

Wind: 25 mph at 3:13 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 49 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 95 in 1900

Record Low: 18 in 1946

Average High: 69

Average Low: 42

Average Precip in May.: 1.21

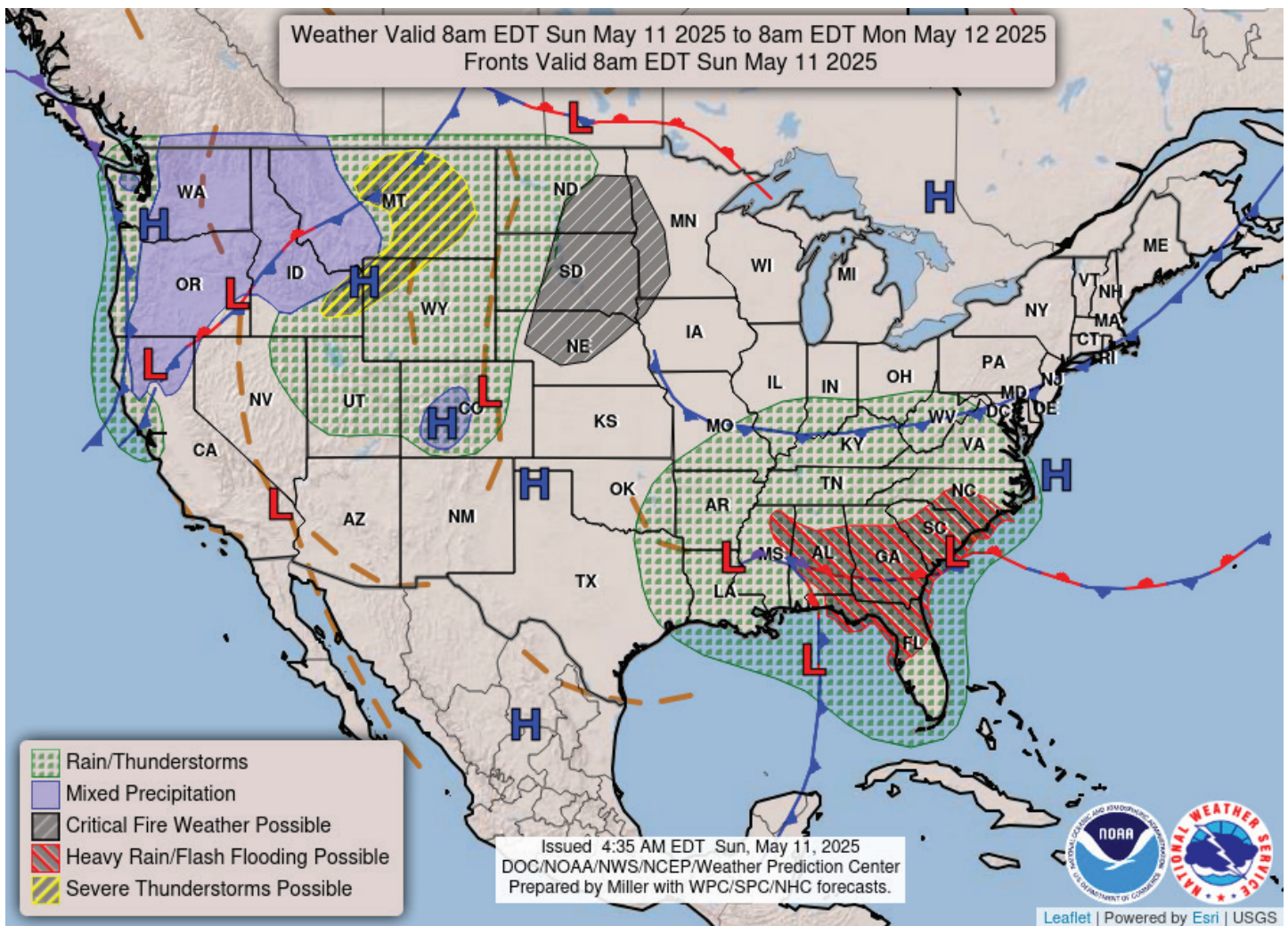
Precip to date in May.: 0.30

Average Precip to date: 5.18

Precip Year to Date: 2.93

Sunset Tonight: 8:53:17 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:03:01 am



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Today in Weather History

May 11th, 1966: Late season snow fell in north central and northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Amounts include 4 inches in Timber Lake; 3 in Eureka, 2 NNW of Mobridge and Roscoe; and 2 inches in Artichoke Lake, MN, Pollock, and Waubay.

May 11th, 1998: Torrential rains of 2 to 4 inches with some amounts nearing 5 inches fell across a large part of Brown, Marshall, Day, Spink, and Clark counties on the evening of the 11th. This heavy rain only exacerbated the already extensive flooding from years of above-average precipitation. Day County was most affected by this round of heavy rain, where area lakes were already at new record levels. Blue Dog, Waubay, Rush, and Bitter Lake in Day County were just a few of the lakes hard hit. Extensive sandbagging was done around Blue Dog Lake to save many homes. Some residents of Blue Dog Lake said they had never seen the lake so high in over 35 years of living there. Many more roads flooded after this heavy rain event and remained so for quite some time. Spots on U.S. Highway 12 and U.S. Highway 25 flooded near Holmquist and Webster. There remained only one road open to the town of Grenville in northeastern Day County. In all five counties, the rising water took away many more acres of farm and pastureland, drowning many already planted crops. One farmer in Spink County said sixty percent of his farm was under water. Some farmhouses and outbuildings became surrounded by water, leaving some families stranded. After this heavy rain, around sixty percent of the crop and pastureland in Day County and one-third in Spink County had been inundated by a swollen water table and several years of above normal precipitation. The continued flooding has tremendously impacted the economy in the five-county area. Some rainfall amounts on this day include 4.7 inches just north of Crocker in Clark County, 4.52 at Webster, 4.01 at Doland, 3.81 at Waubay NWR, 3.60 at Turton, 2.63 at Conde, 2.60 at Groton, 2.41 at Clark, and 2.18 inches at Aberdeen.

Additional heavy rain of 2 to 4 inches fell mainly during the evening of the 11th across southern and central Hand County. Many creeks in the area became rushing torrents through the night and the day of the 12th. Also, low-lying areas and a lot of crop and pastureland were flooded. Some businesses and homes in the Miller, Saint Lawrence, Ree Heights, and Vayland areas were flooded. Some sandbagging was done to try to save some properties in Miller. U.S. Highway 14 at the east end of Miller was flooded for several hours, along with many other streets and county and township roads in southern and central Hand County. Many of the roads were damaged as a result of the flooding. Some people in Miller said they had never seen it flood this bad in 35 years. Some rainfall amounts include 3.99 inches at Miller, 3.10 inches 3 miles south of Ree Heights, and 2.65 at Ree Heights.

1953 - A tornado hit Waco, TX, killing 114 persons and burying some downtown streets under five feet of fallen bricks. (The Weather Channel)

1966 - The 1.6 inch snow at Chicago, IL, was their latest measurable snow of record. Previously the record was 3.7 inches on the 1st and 2nd of May set in 1940. (The Weather Channel)

1970 - A very powerful tornado struck the city of Lubbock, TX, killing 26 persons, injuring more than 500 others, and causing 135 million dollars damage. It was the most destructive tornado of record up until that time, and came on the 17th anniversary of the twister which struck Waco TX killing 114 persons. A second tornado killed two others persons in Lubbock, and the two tornadoes damaged or destroyed nearly a quarter of the city. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Early morning thunderstorms produced up to four inches of rain in southern Texas, with flooding reported from Maverick County to Eagle Pass. Evening thunderstorms in northern Illinois produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 70 mph. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the southwestern U.S. Reno, NV, reported a record high of 89 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in the High Plains Region. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 71 mph at Gillette WY, and baseball size hail was reported at Pecos TX and Fort Stockton TX. Fort Stockton TX was deluged with 7.75 inches of rain in less than two hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2005 - Strong thunderstorms affected parts of the U.S. Great Plains. In the Hastings, Nebraska area, significant severe weather occurred, including very large hail, damaging winds and widespread flooding. Radar estimated rainfall accumulation locally exceeded 10 inches.

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Highway signs and signals can be very helpful if we follow their directions and commands. If we “read and heed” them, safe passage is usually assured. But, if for some reason we go against the warnings – danger lurks.

In fifteen words, Solomon gives us some critical advice:

“Avoid it, do not travel on it, turn from it, and go on your way!”

But what is this “it?”

The “path of the wicked” or “the way of wicked men.” That’s simple and easy to read. But we are inclined to say, “Simple may not always be easy!”

Again and again, we are encouraged to walk in “paths of righteousness.” In this verse, however, we are given four important tactics for “safe passage”:

1. Avoid it (temptation): What a simple first step. How much better life would be for all of us if we did everything we could to avoid temptation. Allowing ourselves to become intrigued by the lusts of the world is where evil begins.

2. Travel by it: means that we will stay as far away as possible from being tempted. If we know some “thing” can destroy our walk with God, run quickly from it.

3. Turn from it: means that we activate our will immediately and do not delay or hesitate to seek refuge in God.

4. Get away from it as soon as possible: To delay is to invite disaster and defeat. Hesitation allows time for the devil to seduce us. Run into the arms of God for His protection!

Prayer:

We thank You, Father, for giving us guidance that is simple and easy to follow.

Now, give us Your strength, power, and courage to follow it.

In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Today’s Scripture:

“Don’t even think about it; don’t go that way. Turn away and keep moving.” — Proverbs 4:15

We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God’s grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God’s Word and we pray this good “seed” finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.09.25

9 10 12 48 60 16

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$110,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.10.25

10 12 27 45 51 1

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$33,780,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.10.25

5 12 19 43 47 14

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 7 Mins 10
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.10.25

11 22 24 26 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$20,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.10.25

24 36 43 47 69 22

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.10.25

5 20 28 39 42 13

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$93,000,000

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

Albanian election sees old rivals, new parties and an ambitious promise of EU membership

By LLAZAR SEMINI Associated Press

TIRANA, Albania (AP) — Prime Minister Edi Rama is seeking a fourth term as Albania's prime minister in a general election on Sunday, after taking on his political nemesis in a boisterous campaign dominated by the country's uphill effort to join the European Union.

Rama's Socialist Party says it can deliver EU membership in five years, sticking to an ambitious pledge while battling conservative opponents with public recriminations and competing promises of pay hikes.

Opening up the election to voters abroad for the first time has added to the volatility, along with the appearance of new parties, a shift in campaigning to social media and a recent TikTok ban. And Rama's opponents have hired a heavy hitter from the United States to steer their campaign.

The country of 2.8 million people, with 3.7 million eligible voters including the diaspora casting ballots for the first time by mail, will elect 140 lawmakers to four-year terms, choosing from 2,046 candidates representing 11 political groupings, including three coalitions.

Turnout until 10 a.m. (0800 GMT), three hours after polls opened, was 13.15%, according to the Central Election Commission, slightly less than four years ago. Polls close at 7 p.m. (1700 GMT).

Black and blue baseball caps

Rama, 60, secured the start of EU membership negotiations last October and is relying heavily on that momentum. His campaign also highlighted achievements in infrastructure and justice reform.

Under the party slogan "Albania 2030 in EU, Only with Edi and SP," Rama insists that full EU accession is possible by 2030 with annual funding of 1 billion euros (\$1.13 billion) upon joining.

"Today is the people's words. Let's wait for the people to speak," said Rama after casting his ballot.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas is pressing Albania to continue reforms — particularly in governance and anti-corruption efforts — to stay on track for EU membership.

Commentators are also skeptical. "It is an electoral pledge which is a citizens' desire," independent analyst Aleksander Cipa says, describing Rama's timeline as "not realizable."

Rama's main challenger is Sali Berisha, a hoarse-voiced and energetic 80-year-old survivor of Albania's tumultuous politics. Berisha, a former president and prime minister, has led the conservative Democratic Party of Albania since its founding in 1990, when student protests marked the end of communist isolation.

He argues that Albania still isn't ready for EU membership. Berisha's leadership — fraught with party feuds and corruption allegations — and messaging remain contentious. He started the campaign borrowing from U.S. President Donald Trump's slogan, which he changed to "Make Albania Great Again," but eventually settled on "Grandiose Albania."

Albania's Democratic Party hired Chris LaCivita, the veteran Republican political consultant and architect of Trump's 2024 presidential campaign.

Berisha often appears at rallies wearing a blue baseball cap marked with a No. 1, the party's position on the ballot. In response, Rama sports a black cap emblazoned with the Socialist Party's No. 5.

Economic and tourism pledges

Economic concerns have been central to the campaign.

The Socialists say they will accelerate a tourism boom, from 10 million arrivals in 2024 to 30 million by 2030, diversifying destinations by expanding infrastructure projects.

The Democrats argue that the government's dismal performance has driven more than 1 million Albanians to leave the country over the past decade.

After casting his ballot, Berisha called on Albanians to vote "for themselves, for their children, their pensions and salaries, employment, business, their farm."

Both parties have made similar promises: a minimum pension of 200 euros (\$225), an average monthly

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salary of 1,200 euros (\$1,365), and a minimum wage of 500 euros (\$570) – about 20% or higher than current levels. Berisha also advocates a 10% flat tax, value-added tax refunds for basic food items, a consumer card loaded with government money for retirees to buy basic foodstuffs at discounted prices and other benefits.

The pledges have blurred ideological lines and politics dominated by two parties has encouraged the creation of alternatives. Several newer parties — two from the center-right and two left-wing ones — could emerge as kingmakers, if no major party wins a majority.

But analyst Lutfi Dervishi considers that scenario unlikely.

"It's a campaign without debate and results without surprises," he said. "Elections won't shake up the current scene — neither the system nor the main actors."

Corruption and justice

Despite Albania's significant improvement in Transparency International's corruption index — rising from 116th in 2013 to 80th in the ranking in 2024 — corruption remains the country's Achilles' heel and a stumbling block for European integration.

Sweeping judicial reforms launched in 2016 with support from the EU and U.S. led to investigations and prosecutions of senior officials. Several former ministers, mayors and high-ranking officials have been jailed, while others face ongoing investigations.

Despite promises of cleaner governance, both major parties are fielding candidates facing corruption allegations.

Berisha himself has been charged with corruption and is awaiting trial. In 2021, the U.S. government barred him and his close relatives from entering the country over alleged corruption. The United Kingdom followed suit in 2022.

Last October, Ilir Meta, a former president and now head of the left-wing Freedom Party of Albania that's allied with Berisha, was arrested on corruption allegations. He's running for a parliamentary seat in Tirana.

The capital's mayor, Erion Veliaj, a senior Socialist official, was detained in February amid a corruption investigation involving public funds. He's not running for reelection. All the accused have denied wrongdoing.

While Rama's Socialists take credit for the reformed judiciary, Berisha has vowed to dissolve it, describing it as a tool of the Rama government's selective justice.

TikTok and the 'swamp owl'

Social media has become a primary vehicle for campaigning. Rama hosts daily Facebook livestreams to engage with voters. Berisha has followed suit, though less frequently.

The government has imposed a 12-month ban on TikTok, citing concerns over incitement and online bullying. Opposition parties condemned the move as censorship.

A code of conduct introduced by the Albanian ombudsman to encourage ethical campaigning fell flat as political discourse grew increasingly toxic. Rama described Berisha as a "swamp owl" — a metaphor for graft — while Berisha branded Rama as a "chief gangster."

Albania's past elections often have been marred by irregularities, including vote-buying and ballot manipulation.

More than 570 international observers will be monitoring this year's parliamentary election, highlighting the international community's stake in ensuring a credible and transparent process.

Ukrainian president welcomes Russian overtures, but says ceasefire must come before peace talks

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday welcomed Russia's offer for direct peace talks, but insisted there must be a full, temporary ceasefire in place before negotiations can start.

Zelenskyy, writing on X, called Russian President Vladimir Putin's counter-offer to start talks without a ceasefire a "positive sign," and said that "the entire world has been waiting for this for a very long time."

He added, however, that "the very first step in truly ending any war is a ceasefire."

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Meanwhile, Russia resumed mass drone attacks in Ukraine early on Sunday, after its self-declared 3-day pause expired.

Russia launched 108 attack drones and simulator drones from six different directions, Ukraine's Air Force said on Sunday. It said 60 drones were shot down and another 41 simulator drones failed to reach targets due to Ukrainian countermeasures.

The Ukrainian president appeared to insist on his proposal to start a 30-day unconditional ceasefire on Monday. "There is no point in continuing the killing even for a single day. We expect Russia to confirm a ceasefire — full, lasting, and reliable — starting tomorrow, May 12th, and Ukraine is ready to meet," Zelenskyy said.

Putin in remarks to the media overnight effectively rejected that ceasefire offer and proposed restarting direct talks with Ukraine in Istanbul on Thursday instead "without preconditions." He said a ceasefire might be agreed on during the negotiations.

Putin's counteroffer came after leaders from four major European countries threatened to ratchet up pressure on Moscow if it does not accept an unconditional 30-day ceasefire in Ukraine that they offered on Saturday in a strong show of unity with Kyiv.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, in comments aired by Russian state TV on Sunday, called Putin's proposal "very serious" and said it "confirms a real intention for find a peaceful solution."

"The goals of the talks are clear: to eliminate the root causes of the conflict. And also to ensure the interests of the Russian Federation," Peskov said.

India and Pakistan ceasefire shaken by overnight border fighting in disputed Kashmir region

By MUNIR AHMED and AIJAZ HUSSAIN Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A ceasefire to end the conflict between India and Pakistan was shaken by overnight border fighting in the disputed Kashmir region.

People on both sides of the Line of Control, which divides the territory, reported heavy exchanges of fire between Indian and Pakistani troops. The fighting subsided by Sunday morning.

The two countries agreed to a truce a day earlier after talks to defuse the most serious military confrontation between them in decades following a gun massacre of tourists that India blames on Pakistan, which denies the charge.

As part of the ceasefire, the nuclear-armed neighbors agreed to immediately stop all firing and military action on land, in the air and at sea. They accused each other of repeatedly violating the deal just hours later.

Drones were spotted Saturday night over Indian-controlled Kashmir and the western state of Gujarat according to Indian officials.

In the Poonch area of Indian-controlled Kashmir, people said the intense shelling from the past few days had traumatized them.

"Most people ran as shells were being fired," said college student Sosan Zehra who returned home Sunday. "It was completely chaotic."

In Pakistan-controlled Kashmir's Neelum Valley, which is three kilometers from the Line of Control, people said there were exchanges of fire and heavy shelling after the ceasefire began.

Resident Mohammad Zahid said: "We were happy about the announcement but, once again, the situation feels uncertain."

U.S. President Donald Trump was the first to post about the deal, announcing it on his Truth Social platform. Indian and Pakistani officials confirmed the news shortly after.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting on Sunday with top government and military officials.

India, unlike Pakistan, has not said anything about Trump or the U.S. since the deal was announced. Nor has India acknowledged anyone beyond its military contact with the Pakistanis.

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Both armies have engaged in daily fighting since Wednesday along the rugged and mountainous Line of Control, which is marked by razor wire coils, watchtowers and bunkers that snake across foothills populated by villages, tangled bushes and forests.

They have routinely blamed the other for starting the skirmishes while insisting they were only retaliating. India and Pakistan's two top military officials are due to speak again on Monday.

What is the traditional Sunday blessing that popes deliver in St. Peter's Square?

By GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — For thousands of Catholic pilgrims in Rome, it's the unmissable Vatican appointment: the midday Sunday blessing the pope delivers from a window overlooking St. Peter's Square.

The new pope, Leo XIV, is scheduled to deliver his first such prayer on Sunday from the loggia where he first appeared in public after being elected three days ago. His most recent predecessors delivered Sunday blessings, including their first, from a window in the Apostolic Palace overlooking the square.

Here is a look at the history, meaning and memorable moments from Sunday blessings of popes past.

The history of the pope's Sunday blessing

In 1954, which he had declared a special year of veneration to the Virgin Mary, Pope Pius XII started reciting in public a traditional Catholic midday prayer to her. He first delivered it from the pope's summer residence, just outside Rome, at Castel Gandolfo.

Back at the Vatican, he kept it up from a window facing St. Peter's Square at the Apostolic Palace, the 16th-century building where the papal apartments are. Pope Francis broke with tradition by living at a Vatican guest house instead, but still maintained the Sunday prayer tradition from the palace.

It's become a chance for ordinary faithful to see the pope relatively up close. Especially since the papacy of St. John Paul II — from 1978 to 2005 — popes have added short messages touching on different topics of the day.

When a pope misses the weekly occasion, as Francis did earlier this year during his hospitalization, it makes global news.

The Vatican announced Leo would deliver his first such prayer on Sunday, which is coincidentally Mother's Day in Italy and the United States, among other countries.

The prayer to Mary

The Angelus is the short prayer to Mary that many Catholics recite daily.

Often prayed before Mass, but traditionally accompanied by the tolling of bells at dawn, midday and early evening, it references the moment when the Gospels say the Archangel Gabriel told Mary she would become the mother of God, and she accepted.

"Angelus" is Latin for angel, and the prayer's first verse is "The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary." The faithful then answer, "And she conceived of the Holy Spirit," followed by a Hail Mary and a few more verses and prayers.

This "annunciation" scene is so pivotal in Christian dogma that it's been represented by some of the most celebrated painters for centuries. Some artists have also portrayed the faithful reciting the Angelus, a practice that is believed to have started in the Middle Ages.

During Eastertime — the current liturgical season, spanning 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost — the prayer is substituted with another devotion to Mary, the Regina Coeli (also spelled Caeli, Latin for "Queen of Heaven") that encourages rejoicing in Christ's resurrection.

Memorable Sunday prayer moments

Looking frail, St. John Paul II appeared at his hospital window for his last Angelus prayer less than three weeks before he died in 2005. He didn't speak, only blessing the crowd with an olive branch. An archbishop delivered his message, with the trademark exhortation to young people not to be afraid to follow Jesus.

Tens of thousands of people packed St. Peter's Square when Pope Benedict XVI gave his final Sunday prayer in 2013 before becoming the first pope in 600 years to resign. They cheered him on as he reassured

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the faithful he wasn't abandoning the church, but rather turning to prayer because of his advancing age.

At his first Angelus in 2013, Francis introduced a key motif of his papacy: mercy. "A bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just," he told the crowd.

More recently, Francis used the Sunday blessings to call for peace, especially in Ukraine and Gaza. But he also would close his blessings with the down-to-earth phrase: "Have a good lunch."

Israeli strikes on Gaza kill 10 people, mostly women and children

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli strikes overnight and into Sunday killed 10 people in the Gaza Strip, mostly women and children, according to local health officials.

Two of the strikes hit tents in the southern city of Khan Younis, each killing two children and their parents. Other strikes killed a child and a man riding a bicycle, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies from all the strikes.

The Israeli military says it only targets militants and tries to avoid harming civilians. It blames Hamas for civilian deaths in the 19-month-old war because the militants are embedded in densely populated areas. There was no immediate Israeli comment on the latest strikes.

Israel has sealed Gaza off from all imports, including food, medicine and emergency shelter, for over 10 weeks in what it says is a pressure tactic aimed at forcing Hamas to release hostages. Israel resumed its offensive in March, shattering a ceasefire that had facilitated the release of more than 30 hostages.

Aid groups say food supplies are running low and hunger is widespread.

U.S. President Donald Trump, whose administration has voiced full support for Israel's actions, is set to visit Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates this week in a regional tour that will not include Israel.

The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking 251 hostage. Fifty-nine hostages are still inside Gaza, around a third of them believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Israel's offensive has killed over 52,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were combatants or civilians. The offensive has destroyed vast areas of the territory and displaced some 90% of its population of around 2 million.

Israel recovers remains of soldier killed in Lebanon in 1982

In a separate development, Israel said it retrieved the remains of a soldier killed in a 1982 battle in southern Lebanon after he had been classified as missing for more than four decades.

The recovery of Sgt. 1st Class Tzvi Feldman's remains brought more closure to a case that has plagued Israel for years. The Israeli military said his remains were recovered from deep inside Syria, without providing further details.

Feldman went missing, along with five other Israeli soldiers, in a battle with Syrian forces in the Lebanese town of Sultan Yaaqoub. Several years later, two of the missing soldiers were returned alive to Israel in prisoner exchanges with Syria. The remains of another soldier were returned in 2019, after Russia said it had helped locate them in Syria, while the fate of the other two remained unknown.

"For many long years, I have authorized numerous covert operations to locate the missing from Sultan Yaaqoub, and I promised the Feldman family that I would never stop working to bring their son home," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday.

Cases of soldiers missing for decades have a powerful emotional and political resonance in Israel, where military service is compulsory for most Jewish men.

Passenger bus skids off a cliff in Sri Lanka, killing 21 people and injuring at least 14 others

By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — A passenger bus skidded off a cliff in Sri Lanka's tea-growing hill country on Sunday, killing 21 people and injuring at least 14 others, an official said.

The accident occurred in the early hours of Sunday near the town of Kotmale, about 140 kilometers (86 miles) east of Colombo, the capital, in a mountainous area of central Sri Lanka, police said.

Deputy Minister of Transport and Highways Prasanna Gunasena told the media that 21 people died in the accident and 14 others are being treated in hospitals.

Local television showed the bus lying overturned at the bottom of a precipice while workers and others helped remove injured people from the rubble.

The driver was injured and among those admitted to the hospital for treatment. At the time of the accident, nearly 50 people were traveling on the bus.

The bus was operated by a state-run bus company, police said.

Deadly bus accidents are common in Sri Lanka, especially in the mountainous regions, often due to reckless driving and poorly maintained and narrow roads.

A million Ukrainian refugees are still in Poland. Now presidential candidates vow to put Poles first

By VANESSA GERA Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — In the early months of 2022, as Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began, millions of Ukrainians — mostly women and children — fled to Poland, where they were met with an extraordinary outpouring of sympathy. Ukrainian flags appeared in windows. Polish volunteers rushed to the border with food, diapers, SIM cards. Some opened their homes to complete strangers.

In the face of calamity, Poland became not just a logistical lifeline for Ukraine, but a paragon of human solidarity.

Three years later, Poland remains one of Ukraine's staunchest allies — a hub for Western arms deliveries and a vocal defender of Kyiv's interests. But at home, the tone toward Ukrainians has shifted.

Nearly a million Ukrainian refugees remain in Poland, with roughly 2 million Ukrainian citizens overall in the nation of 38 million people. Many of them arrived before the war as economic migrants.

As Poland heads into a presidential election on May 18, with a second round expected June 1, the growing fatigue with helping Ukrainians has become so noticeable that some of the candidates have judged that they can win more votes by vowing less help for Ukrainians.

"The mood of Polish society has changed towards Ukrainian war refugees," said Piotr Długosz, a professor of sociology at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow who has carried out research on the views toward Ukrainians across central Europe.

He cited a survey by the Public Opinion Research Center in Warsaw that showed support for helping Ukrainians falling from 94% at the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022 to 57% in December 2024.

"Many other studies confirm the change in mood," he said. "At the same time, it should be remembered that helping refugees after the outbreak of the war was a natural moral reflex, that one should help a neighbor in need. All the more so because Poles remember the crimes committed by Russians against Poles during and after two world wars."

Candidates adjust to anti-Ukrainian sentiment

Among those to transform the shift in mood into campaign politics is conservative candidate Karol Nawrocki, a historian and head of the Institute of National Remembrance who is the Law and Justice party's chosen candidate and one of the frontrunners.

Law and Justice, still in government in 2022, led the humanitarian response to the crisis along with

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President Andrzej Duda, a conservative backed by the party who traveled to Kyiv during the war.

As Nawrocki seeks to succeed Duda, he is showing ambivalence toward Ukrainians, stressing the need to defend Polish interests above all else.

Duda and Law and Justice have long admired Donald Trump, and Nawrocki — who was welcomed at the White House by Trump on May 1 — has at times used language that echoes the American president's.

"Ukraine does not treat us as a partner. It behaves in an indecent and ungrateful way in many respects," Nawrocki said in January.

After Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's tense visit to the Oval Office in February, Nawrocki declared the Ukrainian leader needed to "rethink" his behavior toward allies.

Last month Nawrocki vowed that if he wins, he will introduce legislation that would prioritize Polish citizens over Ukrainians when there are waits for medical services or schools.

"Polish citizens must have priority," Nawrocki said in a campaign video. "Poland first. Poles first."

Further to the right, candidate Sławomir Mentzen and his Confederation party have gone beyond that. He has blamed Ukrainians for overburdened schools, inflated housing prices, and accused them of taking advantage of Polish generosity.

At an April 30 rally of a far-right candidate, Grzegorz Braun, his supporters climbed up to a balcony on city hall in Biała Podlaska and pulled down a Ukrainian flag that had been hanging there since February 2022 as an expression of solidarity.

The political center is adjusting too.

Rafał Trzaskowski, the liberal-minded mayor of Warsaw from Prime Minister Donald Tusk's centrist party who welcomed Ukrainians to his city in 2022, proposed in January that only Ukrainian refugees who "work, live and pay taxes" in Poland be granted access to the popular "800+" child benefit — 800 zlotys (\$210) per month per child.

The requirements were already tightened recently, and some refugee advocates described it as a concession to far-right narratives.

Ukrainians say they're helping Poland, too

Ukrainian Ambassador to Poland Vasyl Bodnar disputes claims that Ukrainians are taking more than they give. About 35,000 receive support without working, he said, but what they receive is only a fraction of what Ukrainians contribute in taxes. He noted that some 70,000 Ukrainian-run businesses now operate in Poland.

"Ukrainians are helping the Polish economy to develop," he told The Associated Press.

Małgorzata Bonikowska, president of the Center for International Relations, said that it is normal for tensions to emerge when large numbers of people from different cultures suddenly live and work side-by-side. And Poles, she added, often find Ukrainians pushy or entitled, and that rubs them the wrong way. "But there is still very stable support for helping Ukraine. We truly believe Ukrainians are Europeans, they are like our brothers."

Rafał Pankowski, a sociologist who heads Never Again, a group that fights xenophobia, has tracked anti-Ukrainian sentiment from the start of the full-scale war. At first, the far right was very isolated in its anti-Ukrainian opinions, he said.

"What is happening this year is harvest time for all those anti-Ukrainian propagandists, and now it goes beyond the far right," he said.

Kateryna, a 33-year-old Ukrainian who has lived in Poland for years, has seen the change up close. In 2022, strangers often greeted her with sympathetic looks and with the words "Slava Ukraini" (Glory to Ukraine).

But then last fall, a man on a tram cursed her for reading a Ukrainian book. This spring, outside a social security office, another man shoved her and screamed, "No one wants you here."

Such incidents remain rare — Poles and Ukrainians co-existing on friendly terms is still the norm. But she feels such incidents were unthinkable three years ago.

She asked that her last name not be used because she works as a manager in a company that would

require to have clearance to be identified publicly.

Her parents remain in Ukraine, and her brother serves in the army. Like many in the region, she believes Ukrainian resistance is keeping Poland safe by holding the Russians at bay.

Tensions now, she worries, only serve Moscow. "We must stick together," she said.

Dutch-led Suriname team digitizes 100,000 documents to preserve Jewish history in the Caribbean

By MOLLY QUELL Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The fire that caused significant damage in April to historic buildings in Suriname's capital city was not the only threat facing the nearby Neveh Shalom Synagogue.

As firefighters battled to save the historic city center of Paramaribo — a UNESCO World Heritage site — the synagogue's volunteers were busy scanning thousands of archival documents in an effort to preserve the history of the thousands of Jews who have called the Surinamese capital home since the 1700s.

The blaze was contained before reaching the synagogue, but at the mercy of other threats, including the tropical climate, insects and time, it was a reminder of how fragile the 100,000 historic documents, kept on pages stored in filing cabinets for decades, were and how vital the preservation project was.

The operation to digitize the birth records, land sales and correspondence has been overseen by Dutch academic Rosa de Jong, who had used the archive as part of a PhD study on how Jewish refugees fled the horrors of World War II to the Caribbean, including the tiny South American country of Suriname.

"I felt that my work comes with an obligation to preserve the past that I'm building my career on," De Jong told The Associated Press.

When she finished her academic research, at the University of Amsterdam, last year, De Jong saw an opportunity to return to Suriname and safeguard the files that had been crucial to her work.

She raised the financing for cameras, hard drives and travel expenses and returned to Suriname with the aim of making high-quality scans of the hundreds of folios held by the synagogue.

The result is more than 600 gigabytes of data stored on multiple hard drives. One will be donated to the National Archives of Suriname to be included in their digital collections.

The archived documents show how Suriname was a hub of Jewish life for the Americas. The British who colonized the region gave Jews political and religious autonomy when they first moved to Suriname in 1639 to manage tobacco and sugar cane plantations.

When the Dutch took control of the colony, they continued this practice. When Jewish people were forced out of other places in the Americas, they often fled to Suriname.

On Christmas Eve in 1942, more than 100 Dutch Jewish refugees, fleeing the horrors of the Holocaust, arrived in Paramaribo.

Liny Pajgin Yollick, then 18, was among them. In an oral history project for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, she described the relief she felt when she arrived in Suriname to the sound of a familiar song.

"I remember it was morning and they played Dutch National Anthem for us when we arrived, and everybody was crying. We were very emotional when we heard that because many of us never thought we would ever hear it again," she said.

When the Netherlands was freed from Nazi German occupation three years later, Teroenga, the magazine published for the Jewish congregations in Suriname, ran with the headline "Bevrijding" ("Liberation"). The archive at Neveh Shalom has a copy of every edition of Teroenga.

Key to De Jong's preservation project has been 78-year-old Lilly Duijm, who was responsible for the archive's folders of documents for more than two decades.

Born in Suriname, when she was 14 she moved to the Netherlands where she eventually became a nurse. But she returned to her homeland in 1973, just before the colony got its independence, and her four children grew up in Paramaribo.

More than anyone, she knows how precious the archive was.

"I told the congregation, as long as the archive is still here, I will not die. Even if I live to be 200 years old," she tearfully told AP. "This is keeping the history of my people."

An Alaska Mother's Day tradition: Mingling with ice age survivors on a farm

By MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

PALMER, Alaska (AP) — It is one of Alaska's favorite Mother's Day traditions, getting up close and personal with animals that have survived the ice age.

All moms get a daisy and free admission Sunday at the Musk Ox Farm in Palmer, about an hour's drive north of Anchorage. Once inside they will have the chance to view 75 members of the musk ox herd, including three young calves just getting their feet under them. Also a draw is an old bull named Trebek, named after the late "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek, a benefactor of the facility.

"Who doesn't want to celebrate Mother's Day with a musk ox mom and the most adorable calf you're ever going to find in your life?" said Mark Austin, the farm's executive director.

Mother's Day is the traditional start of the summer season for the farm, which traces its roots back to 1964 and at several locations before moving in 1986 to Palmer.

That move put it on Alaska's limited road system, provided easier access to grazing land than in tundra communities and it to incorporate educational opportunities at the farm facility, which is dwarfed by the the Talkeetna and Chugach mountain ranges.

"When we opened the doors here, we started doing Mother's Day as a grand opening every year," Austin said.

He called it a natural decision, celebrating mothers with cute, newborn baby musk oxen on the grounds. So far this year, three baby musk oxen have been born and are on display, and more could be on the way.

Mother's Day is the busiest day of the year, attracting more than 1,500 visitors. It is a tradition that now stretches over three generations.

"It's a huge, just kind of rite of passage for a lot of people," Austin said. "If we ever talked about not doing it, there'd be a riot."

Musk oxen are ice age survivors.

"They were running around with saber-toothed tigers and mastodons, and they're the ones that lived," Austin said. The herd members all have diverse personalities, he added, and they are crafty, smart and inquisitive.

Their closest relatives to animals of today would be Arctic goats. Mature musk ox bulls can stand 5 feet (about 1.5 meters) tall and weigh as much as 800 pounds (about 360 kilograms), while female cows are smaller at about 4 feet (about 1.2 meters) and up to 500 pounds (about 230 kilograms), according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's website.

They are stocky, long-haired animals with a slight hump in their shoulder, a short tail and horns, the website says. The Inupiat call musk ox "itomingmak," which means "the animal with skin like a beard," for its long hair hanging nearly to the ground.

The mammals once roamed across northern Europe, Asia, Greenland and North America before they began to die off. By the 1920s the last remaining ones were in Greenland and Canada.

Efforts to reintroduce the musk ox to Alaska started in 1934, when 34 were delivered to Fairbanks from Greenland. Since then, the wild population has grown to about 5,000, located throughout the nation's largest state, Austin said.

The nonprofit farm welcomes donations from visitors on Sunday. Some people will make a beeline for the baby musk oxen, while others will throw a \$100 bill on the counter first.

"We do like to see the donation, but we truly offer this as an event to the community, as a thank you," Austin said. "It really gives us a chance to give something back."

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Cannes, the global Colosseum of film, readies for 78th edition with new challenges on the horizon

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

Nowhere is the border-crossing nature of cinema more evident than the Cannes Film Festival, which kicks off Tuesday in the wake of U.S. President Donald Trump's vow to enact tariffs on international films.

Cannes, where filmmakers, sales agents and journalists gather from around the world, is the Olympics of the big screen, with its own golden prize, the Palme d'Or, to give out at the end. Filmmakers come from nearly every corner of the globe to showcase their films while dealmakers work through the night to sell finished films or packaged productions to various territories.

"You release a film into that Colosseum-like situation," says Brazilian director Kleber Mendonça Filho, who's returning to Cannes with "The Secret Agent," a thriller set during Brazil's dictatorship. "You've got to really prepare for the whole experience because it's quite intense — not very far from the feeling of approaching a roller coaster as you go up the steps at the Palais."

Perhaps as much as ever, all eyes in the movie world will be on the 78th Cannes Film Festival when it gets underway this week. That's not just because of the long list of anticipated films set to premiere at the Cote d'Azur festival (including films from Spike Lee, Wes Anderson, Lynne Ramsay, Richard Linklater and Ari Aster) and the extensive coterie of stars set to walk the fabled red carpet (Jennifer Lawrence, Denzel Washington, Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart among them).

As the movies, and the Oscar race, have grown more international, the global launchpad of Cannes has become only more central to the larger film ecosystem — even with the ongoing absence of Netflix. Recent editions of Cannes have produced a string of Academy Awards contenders, including this year's best-picture winner, "Anora."

At the same time, geopolitics course through Cannes unlike any other festival. The Cannes red carpet can be as much a platform for political protest as it is for glamour. This year's festival will include a dissident Iranian filmmaker (Jafar Panahi), a Ukrainian filmmaker (Sergei Loznitsa) and the first Nigerian production in the official selection (Akinola Davies Jr.'s "My Father's Shadow").

The many roads to Cannes

In the run-up to the festival, three filmmakers from different corners of the world spoke about their roads to the Cannes competition lineup. For many directors, reaching the Cannes competition — this year, that's 22 movies vying for the Palme d'Or — is career milestone.

"It's meaningful for me. It's meaningful for the country," says Oliver Hermanus, speaking from outside Cape Town. Hermanus, the South African filmmaker of "Moffie" and "Living," is in competition for the first time with "The History of Sound," a period love story starring Paul Mescal and Josh O'Connor.

"I was born here and made movies here for most of my career, so I still see myself as a South African filmmaker who's interested in the South African perspective on things and South African representation," adds Hermanus. "The competition is something I've always wanted to be part of."

Chie Hayakawa, the Japanese filmmaker of 2022's "Plan 75," is also in competition for the first time. She first came to Cannes with a student film that she never expected to make it into the festival's shorts program. This week, she'll debut "Renoir," a semiautobiographical tale about an 11-year-old girl with a father who has terminal cancer.

"It gives me a huge encouragement and keeps me motivated to making films," Hayakawa said from Tokyo. "I don't feel like I'm going to compete with other films. But it's meaningful. I know how prestigious and meaningful it is to be in competition."

"Film is global and easily crosses the borders of any country or culture," she adds. "That's what's special about Cannes."

Will tariffs topple Cannes?

Cannes' global approach is part of what makes this year more complicated than usual. Trump sent shock waves through Hollywood and the international film community when he announced on May 4 that all movies "produced in Foreign Lands" will face 100% tariffs.

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The White House has said no final decisions have been made. Options being explored include federal incentives for U.S.-based productions, rather than tariffs. But the announcement was a reminder of how international tensions can destabilize even the oldest cultural institutions.

Filho first attended Cannes as a critic. Once he began making movies, the allure of the festival remained. To him, participating in Cannes means joining a timeline of cinema history. "The Secret Agent" marks his third time in competition.

"I have always felt that there was a seriousness that I appreciated," Filho says. "For example, I will be attending a 2 a.m. test for sound and picture. This is done with scientist types who will take care of the projection and how everything will go."

As to the threat of tariffs? He shrugs.

"I have been trained by Brazil, because we had a very strange and weird historic moment under (former president Jair) Bolsonaro," Filho said. "I used my training to say: This is probably some bad idea or misunderstanding that will be corrected in the coming days or weeks. Even for leaders like them, Bolsonaro and Trump, it makes no sense whatsoever."

'Everything to lose, everything to gain'

The Cannes Film Festival originally emerged in the World War II years, when the rise of fascism in Italy led to the founding of an alternative to the then-government controlled Venice Film Festival. In the time since, Cannes' resolute commitment to cinema has made it a beacon to filmmakers. Countless directors have come to make their name.

This year is no different, though some of the first-time filmmakers at Cannes are already particularly well-known. Stewart ("The Chronology of Water"), Scarlett Johansson ("Eleanor the Great") and Harris Dickinson ("Urchin") will all be unveiling their feature directorial debuts in Cannes' Un Certain Regard sidebar section.

Many Cannes veterans will be back, too, including Tom Cruise ("Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning"), Robert De Niro (who's to receive an honorary Palme d'Or 49 years after "Taxi Driver" premiered in Cannes) and Quentin Tarantino (to pay tribute to low-budget Western director George Sherman).

Hermanus first came to Cannes with his 2011 film "Beauty." He went naively optimistic before realizing, he laughs, that a Cannes selection is "a potential invitation to a beheading.

"Even going now with 'The History of Sound,' I'm trying to be realistic about the fact that it's a gladiatorial arena. It's everything to lose and everything to gain," says Hermanus. "When Cannes selected us, it came down to me and Paul going, 'Oh God, here comes the real stress. Will we survive the intensity of Cannes?' — which we both agreed is the reason to go."

A split jury and a lie sent him to prison. Now he's working to change Louisiana's law

By SARA CLINE Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — As 18-year-old Bobby Gumpright rode his bike home from his bartending job in New Orleans in 1999, he began to concoct a story about why he didn't have any money. In the throes of addiction and not wanting to admit he had spent his paycheck on drugs, Gumpright lied to his father and said a Black man had robbed him at gunpoint.

The fabrication spun out of control when a detective, armed with photos of potential suspects, asked Gumpright to point to the culprit.

Across town, Jermaine Hudson, a 20-year-old Black man, was pulled over for a traffic stop and taken into custody. He figured he would soon be released to go home to his pregnant wife and 10-month-old daughter.

Instead, he was charged with a crime he didn't commit.

Even though two jurors didn't believe Gumpright's story, Hudson was found guilty by a split jury, a practice that 20 years later would be deemed unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court, which acknowledged

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its origins from racist Jim Crow laws.

Nearly 1,000 people convicted by split juries remain in prison in Louisiana.

Now, 25 years after Gumpwright's lies sent Hudson to prison, the two unlikely friends are sharing their story in a push for legislation to give some of those people a chance to have their cases retired.

A split decision

As Hudson sat in the courtroom in 2001, he grappled with a reality that he didn't create.

"Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought my life would have been at a standstill ... missing out on my kids' life, on my life," Hudson told The Associated Press last month.

Two witnesses testified: the officer who responded to the 911 call and Gumpwright.

As Gumpwright took the stand, Hudson prayed the stranger would acknowledge the wrongful allegation and his nightmare would end.

A prosecutor asked Gumpwright, who is white, if he was sure it was Hudson who robbed him. He responded, "110%."

In a 10-2 vote, the jury convicted Hudson of armed robbery. The judge sentenced him to 99 years in prison.

A practice rooted in racism

At the time of Hudson's trial, only Louisiana and Oregon allowed convictions if one or two jurors disagreed.

Louisiana adopted the practice in 1898, fueled by efforts to maintain white supremacy after the Civil War. Diluting the voice of Black jurors allowed the often-white majority to determine the outcome.

In 2018, Louisiana voters did away with the use of nonunanimous jury convictions, two years before the Supreme Court ruling.

Of the 1,500 people in Louisiana prisons from split jury convictions at that time, about 80% were Black and most were serving life sentences, according to a Project of Justice Initiative analysis.

Following the high court decision, Oregon's Supreme Court granted new trials to hundreds of people. But Louisiana's Supreme Court rejected arguments to apply the ruling retroactively, leaving people like Hudson locked up with scarce legal options or waiting on a miracle.

Waiting 22 years for freedom

Years of Hudson's life dwindled away as he missed the birth of his second daughter, graduations and other milestones. He prayed Gumpwright would "come forward with the truth."

"This can't be my final destination. This can't be the end of my life," Hudson often thought.

Gumpwright tried to numb his guilt with drugs and alcohol, but it never went away. "I was either gonna kill myself or I was gonna come forward," he told the AP.

In 2021, Hudson was preparing to take a new deal: plead guilty to armed robbery in exchange for a sentence of time served. Just days before the bargain was finalized, Hudson received news he long waited for. Gumpwright, who had entered a drug treatment facility, had come clean about his lies.

After spending 22 years behind bars, Hudson was released.

A few months later, Gumpwright answered a phone call from a blocked number.

"I bet you never thought you'd hear from me," Hudson said.

Fixing an injustice

A packed committee room at the state Capitol fell silent last month as a man wearing a suit and tie took to the microphone.

"My name is Bobby Gumpwright," he said, his hand trembling. "I come before you as a citizen of Louisiana. ... I'm also a man who lives each day with the consequences of a terrible sin."

Gumpwright told lawmakers his story, the true one. Sitting behind him was Hudson.

The pair first met in New Orleans, six months after Hudson's release. They have spent the past two years advocating for a bill that would give inmates convicted by split juries the opportunity to ask for a retrial. The measure does not automatically grant a retrial.

The duo say their story is an example of how an innocent man can be imprisoned for decades under an unconstitutional practice and that it's never too late to right a wrong.

"I couldn't change the past, but I could refuse to live the lie any longer while injustice continued," Gum-

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priest told lawmakers. "Louisiana can't change the past. But Louisiana can refuse to let its injustice live on."

The measure failed last year, but a legislative committee backed a similar bill in April. It still needs approval from the governor, House and Senate, which could debate it this week.

People cheered as the bill cleared its first hurdle. Gumprecht and Hudson hugged, holding each other up, as they cried tears of joy.

An unlikely bond

Both men said they needed one another to heal.

Hudson wanted to know why Gumprecht lied. Gumprecht sought forgiveness.

"I'm not the type of man to hold grudges or to hate anyone," Hudson said. "I have a forgiving heart. And in order for me to really move on I forgave him, because I understood what he was going through."

Sober for four years, Gumprecht, 44, is now an addiction counselor. Hudson, 47, moved to Texas, got married, bought a house, is starting a business and spends time with his two grandsons.

Gumprecht attended Hudson's housewarming and met his family. They text each other words of encouragement every day and keep photos of each other close by.

"My friend? That's an understatement," Hudson said about his relationship with Gumprecht. "He's my brother."

Economic jitters and soaring gold prices create a frenzy for US jewelry merchants

By JAIMIE DING Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — At the biggest jewelry center in the United States, Alberto Hernandez fired up his machine on a recent day and waited until it glowed bright orange inside before shoveling in an assortment of rings, earrings and necklaces weighing about as much as a bar of soap: just under 100 grams, or 3.2 troy ounces.

Minutes later, the bubbling liquid metal was cooling in a rectangular cast the size of a woman's shoe. An X-ray machine determined it was 56.5% gold, making it worth \$177,000 based on the price of gold that day.

As gold prices soar to record highs during global economic jitters, hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of gold are circulating through the doors of St. Vincent Jewelry Center in downtown Los Angeles on any given day.

Many of the center's 500 independent tenants, which include jewelers, gold refiners and assayers, say they have never seen such a surge in customers.

"Right now, we're seeing a lot of rappers and stuff melting their big pieces," said Alberto's nephew, Sabashden Hernandez, who works at A&M Precious Metals. "We're getting a lot of new customers who are just getting all of their grandfather's stuff, melting it down pretty much."

Gold's current rally comes as President Donald Trump issues ever-changing announcements on tariffs, roiling financial markets and threatening to reignite inflation.

In response, people across the country are flocking to sell or melt down their old jewelry for quick cash, including middlemen like pawn shop owners. Others, thinking their money might be safer in gold than in the volatile stock market, are snapping it up just as fast.

Los Angeles jeweler Olivia Kazanjian said people are even bringing in family heirlooms.

"They're melting things with their family's wedding dates and things from the 1800s," Kazanjian said.

She recently paid a client for a 14-karat gold woven bracelet with intricate blue enamel work that could be turned into a brooch. The customer walked away with \$3,200 for the amount of gold contained in the piece measured in troy ounces, the standard for precious metals equivalent to 31 grams.

But Kazanjian doesn't plan to melt the piece. The real artistic and historical value was a lot more, she said.

"It's just stunning ... and you won't see that kind of craftsmanship again," Kazanjian said, adding she has persuaded some customers to change their minds about melting items. "It's a piece of history, and if you're lucky enough to inherit it, it's a piece of your family."

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Businesses on the sales side of the action, offering gold bars and other material, also are working hard to keep up with the frenzy.

"Stuff comes in and it goes right out," said Edwin Feijoo, who owns Stefko Cash for Gold in Pennsylvania and receives shipments from customers across the U.S. looking to sell their gold. "Everybody's busy right now."

Business hasn't been good for everyone, though.

For some jewelers who source their products from places abroad like Italy, Turkey and China, the combination of high gold prices and added tariffs have cut into profit margins and hurt demand.

"Our profit margins are so razor thin here," said Puzant Berberian, whose family founded V&P Jewelry inside St. Vincent in 1983. Berberian said he recently paid an extra \$16,000 on a package from overseas.

Customers also are feeling "sticker shock" when they can't afford the things they used to. A chunky, 14-karat gold bracelet weighing about 10 grams (0.32 troy ounces) might have sold for around \$600 last year, but now it's closer to \$900, Berberian said.

Some believe those trends could continue, both for consumers and businesses.

Customers hoping to buy bullion "think gold will go up" even more, according to Sam Nguyen, whose business, Newport Gold Post Inc., has bought and sold gold and other precious metals at St. Vincent for five years. While gold has cooled from its record high of \$3,500 per troy ounce, Nguyen thinks it could reach \$4,000 to \$5,000 by year's end.

Jeff Clark agrees. The founder of The Gold Advisor, which provides investment advice, said he wouldn't be surprised if gold prices continue rising since the metal is considered a haven for people to park their money when there is anxiety about a possible recession.

"History shows it has gone much higher in the past," Clark said, referring to a frenzy in the 1970s when the average price of gold increased 17-fold amid double-digit inflation rates. "If the fear and uncertainty continues in the general populace, the prices are going to keep going up."

Former Panamanian president Martinelli leaves Nicaraguan embassy for asylum in Colombia

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Former Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli left the Nicaraguan embassy in Panama City where he had sought refuge more than a year ago after the courts upheld a money laundering sentence against him and headed to Colombia where he has received political asylum, the government said late Saturday.

Panama's foreign ministry said in a statement that Colombian President Gustavo Petro sent Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino a formal note saying that he had granted Martinelli asylum and that Panama had granted the former president safe passage to Colombia.

"The Republic of Colombia is a State that has historically recognized with the utmost respect, compliance, and promotion the institutions of International Law, including the asylum system within the Inter-American system," the statement said.

Martinelli, 73, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for money laundering in July 2023 in connection with the purchase of a publishing group. Following the confirmation of that sentence, the former president sought refuge in the Nicaraguan diplomatic mission in Panama after President Daniel Ortega's government granted him asylum. He had remained inside the embassy for more than a year.

Martinelli is a businessman and supermarket magnate who governed Panama from 2009 to 2014, a period of rapid economic growth driven by the construction of major projects such as the first metro in Central America and the expansion of the interoceanic canal. But his government was tainted by accusations of bribery and cost overruns. He was sanctioned by the United States for corruption in January 2023.

Martinelli maintains that his prosecution was politically motivated as he sought to run for a second term of office.

In 2023, he won his party's nomination to seek the presidency again. However, he was convicted of

money laundering, and after the Supreme Court denied his appeal, he was ineligible to run.

Ultimately, Martinelli supported his running mate, current President Mulino.

Nicaragua granted Martinelli political asylum in February 2024. Panama had refused to grant Nicaragua permission to move Martinelli to Nicaragua.

The Colombian government had not previously commented on the matter.

Turkish Tufts University student back in Boston after release from Louisiana detention center

By RODRIQUE NGOWI and CLAIRE RUSH Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A Tufts University student from Turkey returned to Boston on Saturday, one day after being released from a Louisiana immigration detention center where she was held for over six weeks.

Upon arrival at Logan Airport, Rumeysa Ozturk told reporters she was excited to get back to her studies during what has been a "very difficult" period.

"In the last 45 days, I lost both my freedom and also my education during a crucial time for my doctoral studies," she said. "But I am so grateful for all the support, kindness and care."

A federal judge ordered Ozturk's release Friday pending a final decision on her claim that she was illegally detained following an op-ed she co-wrote last year criticizing her university's response to Israel and the war in Gaza.

Ozturk said she will continue her case in the courts, adding, "I have faith in the American system of justice."

She was joined by her lawyers and two of Massachusetts' Democratic members of Congress, Sen. Edward Markey and Rep. Ayanna Pressley.

"Today is a tremendous day as we welcome you back, Rumeysa," Markey said. "You have made millions and millions of people across our country so proud of the way you have fought."

Appearing by video for her bail hearing the previous day, Ozturk, 30, detailed her growing asthma attacks in detention and her desire to finish her doctorate focusing on children and social media.

U.S. District Judge William Sessions in Vermont ruled that she was to be released on her own recognizance with no travel restrictions. She was not a danger to the community or a flight risk, he said, while noting that he might amend the release order to consider any conditions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, in consultation with her lawyers.

Sessions said the government offered no evidence for why Ozturk was arrested other than the op-ed.

The U.S. Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review did not respond to an email message seeking comment Friday afternoon.

Ozturk was one of four students who wrote the opinion piece last year in campus newspaper The Tufts Daily. It criticized the university's response to student activists demanding that Tufts "acknowledge the Palestinian genocide," disclose its investments and divest from companies with ties to Israel.

On March 25 immigration officials surrounded Ozturk in Massachusetts and took her into custody. She was then driven to New Hampshire and Vermont and flown to a detention center in Basile, Louisiana.

Her student visa had been revoked several days earlier, but she was not informed of that, her lawyers said.

Ozturk's lawyers first filed a petition on her behalf in Massachusetts, but they did not know where she was and were unable to speak to her until more than 24 hours after she was detained. A Massachusetts judge later transferred the case to Vermont.

A State Department memo said Ozturk's visa was revoked following an assessment that her actions "may undermine U.S. foreign policy by creating a hostile environment for Jewish students and indicating support for a designated terrorist organization" including co-authoring an op-ed that found common cause with an organization that was later temporarily banned from campus.

A Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said in March, without providing evidence, that investigations found that Ozturk engaged in activities in support of Hamas, which the U.S. has designated as a terrorist group.

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This week a federal appeals court upheld Sessions' order to bring Ozturk back to New England for hearings to determine whether her constitutional rights, including free speech and due process, were violated, as her lawyers argue.

Immigration proceedings for Ozturk, initiated in Louisiana, are being conducted separately in that state and Ozturk can participate remotely, the court said.

US-China tariff talks to continue Sunday, an official tells AP, as Trump touts 'great progress made'

By PAUL WISEMAN, DIDI TANG and JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — President Donald Trump said "great progress" was being made in ongoing U.S.-China talks over tariffs menacing the global economy, and even suggested a "total reset" was on the table as tariff negotiations are set to continue Sunday in Switzerland.

No major breakthrough was announced in discussions that lasted over 10 hours between U.S. officials, including Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, and a delegation led by Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng. Still, Trump struck an upbeat tone.

"A very good meeting today with China, in Switzerland. Many things discussed, much agreed to. A total reset negotiated in a friendly, but constructive, manner," the president wrote on his Truth Social platform. "We want to see, for the good of both China and the U.S., an opening up of China to American business. GREAT PROGRESS MADE!!!"

He gave no further details, and officials at the White House also offered little information during and after the opening day of discussions.

Trump's post followed an official telling The Associated Press that talks would continue Sunday. The official requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the discussions, which could help stabilize world markets roiled by the U.S.-China standoff. They've been shrouded in secrecy, and neither side made comments to reporters as they left.

In an editorial late Saturday, China's official Xinhua News Agency said the talks had come about "at the request of the U.S. side" — noting an earlier point of contention — and said China agreed to them "after taking full account of global expectations, national interests and appeals from U.S. businesses and consumers."

"Whether the road ahead involves negotiation or confrontation, one thing is clear: China's determination to safeguard its development interests is unshakable, and its stance on maintaining the global economic and trade order remains unwavering," Xinhua said.

"Talks should never be a pretext for continued coercion or extortion, and China will firmly reject any proposal that compromises core principles or undermines the broader cause of global equity," it added.

Several convoys of black vehicles left the residence of the Swiss ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva, which hosted the talks aimed at de-escalating trade tensions between the world's two biggest economies. Diplomats from both sides also confirmed that the talks took place.

The opening day of negotiations were held in the sumptuous 18th-century "Villa Saladin" overlooking Lake Geneva. The former estate was bequeathed to the Swiss state in 1973, according to the Geneva government.

Trump's assessment aside, prospects for a major breakthrough appeared dim when the talks opened. Still, there is hope that the two countries will scale back the massive taxes — tariffs — they have slapped on each other's goods, a move that would relieve world financial markets and companies on both sides of the Pacific Ocean that depend on U.S.-China trade.

Trump last month raised U.S. tariffs on China to a combined 145%, and China retaliated by hitting American imports with a 125% levy. Tariffs that high essentially amount to the countries' boycotting each other's products, disrupting trade that last year topped \$660 billion.

And even before talks got underway, Trump suggested Friday that the U.S. could lower its tariffs on China, saying in a Truth Social post that "80% Tariff seems right! Up to Scott."

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Sun Yun, director of the China program at the Stimson Center, noted it will be the first time He and Bessent have talked. She doubts the Geneva meeting will produce any substantive results.

"The best scenario is for the two sides to agree to de-escalate on the ... tariffs at the same time," she said, adding even a small reduction would send a positive signal. "It cannot just be words."

Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has aggressively used tariffs as his favorite economic weapon. He has, for example, imposed a 10% tax on imports from almost every country in the world.

But the fight with China has been the most intense. His tariffs on China include a 20% charge meant to pressure Beijing into doing more to stop the flow of the synthetic opioid fentanyl into the United States.

The remaining 125% involve a dispute that dates back to Trump's first term and comes atop tariffs he levied on China back then, which means the total tariffs on some Chinese goods can exceed 145%.

During Trump's first term, the U.S. alleged that China uses unfair tactics to give itself an edge in advanced technologies such as quantum computing and driverless cars. These include forcing U.S. and other foreign companies to hand over trade secrets in exchange for access to the Chinese market; using government money to subsidize domestic tech firms; and outright theft of sensitive technologies.

Those issues were never fully resolved. After nearly two years of negotiation, the United States and China reached a so-called Phase One agreement in January 2020. The U.S. agreed then not to go ahead with even higher tariffs on China, and Beijing agreed to buy more American products. The tough issues — such as China's subsidies — were left for future negotiations.

But China didn't come through with the promised purchases, partly because COVID-19 disrupted global commerce just after the Phase One truce was announced.

The fight over China's tech policy now resumes.

Trump is also agitated by America's massive trade deficit with China, which came to \$263 billion last year.

Trump slaps hefty tariffs on Switzerland

In Switzerland Friday, Bessent and Greer also met with Swiss President Karin Keller-Sutter.

Trump last month suspended plans to slap hefty 31% tariffs on Swiss goods -- more than the 20% levies he plastered on exports from European Union. For now, he has reduced those taxes to 10% but could raise them again.

The government in Bern is taking a cautious approach. But it has warned of the impact on crucial Swiss industries like watches, coffee capsules, cheese and chocolate.

"An increase in trade tensions is not in Switzerland's interests. Countermeasures against U.S. tariff increases would entail costs for the Swiss economy, in particular by making imports from the USA more expensive," the government said last week, adding that the executive branch "is therefore not planning to impose any countermeasures at the present time."

The government said Swiss exports to the United States on Saturday were subject to an additional 10% tariff, and another 21% beginning Wednesday.

The United States is Switzerland's second-biggest trading partner after the EU -- the 27-member-country bloc that nearly surrounds the wealthy Alpine country of more than 9 million. U.S.-Swiss trade in goods and services has quadrupled over the last two decades, the government said.

The Swiss government said Switzerland abolished all industrial tariffs on Jan. 1 last year, meaning that 99% of all goods from the United States can be imported into Switzerland duty-free.

South Korean conservative party fails in a bid to switch presidential candidates

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's embattled conservative party canceled then reinstated the presidential candidacy of Kim Moon Soo within hours as internal turmoil escalated ahead of the June 3 election.

Saturday's chaotic U-turn, after a failed attempt to replace Kim with former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, underscored the People Power Party's leadership crisis following the ouster of former President Yoon Suk

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Yeol over his martial law imposition in December, which possibly doomed the conservatives' chances of winning another term in government.

Kim, a staunch conservative and former labor minister under Yoon, was named the PPP's presidential candidate on May 3 after winning 56.3% of the primary vote, defeating a reformist rival who had criticized Yoon's martial law. But the PPP's leadership, dominated by Yoon loyalists, had spent the past week desperately pressuring Kim to step aside and back Han, whom they believed stood a stronger chance against liberal Democratic Party frontrunner Lee Jae-myung.

After talks between Han and Kim failed to unify their candidacies, the PPP's emergency committee took the unprecedented step early Saturday of nullifying its primary, canceling Kim's nomination and registering Han as both a party member and its new presidential candidate. However, the replacement required approval through an all-party vote conducted through an automated phone survey, which ultimately rejected the switch on Saturday night.

"While we cannot disclose the figures, the vote on switching the candidate was rejected by a narrow margin," party spokesman and lawmaker Shin Dong-wook said. Kim, who had denounced the party's attempt to replace him as an "overnight political coup," was immediately reinstated as the candidate and plans to officially register with election authorities on Sunday, according to the party.

"Now everything will return to its rightful place," Kim said in a statement.

Kim, 73, was a prominent labor activist in the 1970s and '80s, but joined a conservative party in the 1990s, saying he gave up his dream of becoming a "revolutionist" after witnessing the collapse of communist states. Since then, he has served eight years as governor of South Korea's Gyeonggi province and completed three terms in the National Assembly.

Han served as acting president after Yoon was impeached by the legislature in December and officially removed by the Constitutional Court in April. He resigned from office May 2 to pursue a presidential bid, arguing his long public service career qualifies him to lead the country amid growing geopolitical uncertainty and trade challenges intensified by the policies of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Han, who had called for unity after being promoted as the candidate, said in a statement that he "humbly accepts" the voice of party members.

Han and Kim have lagged well behind Lee in recent opinion polls. Lee, who spearheaded the Democrats' efforts to oust Yoon, ridiculed the PPP efforts to switch candidacies, telling reporters Thursday, "I have heard of forced marriages but never heard of forced unity."

Russia's Putin proposes direct talks with Ukraine in Istanbul on May 15, 'without preconditions'

By SAMYA KULLAB and JOANNA KOZLOWSKA Associated Press

Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed restarting direct talks with Ukraine in Istanbul on May 15, "without preconditions," an offer that came in response to Ukraine and its allies urging Moscow to commit to an unconditional 30-day ceasefire or face additional sanctions.

Putin referenced the unsuccessful 2022 peace talks that took place in Istanbul in March, shortly after Moscow's full-scale invasion, and proposed "restarting" them without preconditions in remarks to reporters in the early hours of Sunday.

"We are committed to serious negotiations with Ukraine," Putin said, adding that he doesn't rule out agreeing to a ceasefire later, in the course of direct talks with Ukraine.

Putin's proposal came after leaders from four major European countries threatened to ratchet up pressure on Moscow if it does not accept an unconditional 30-day ceasefire in Ukraine that they offered on Saturday in a strong show of unity with Kyiv.

The leaders of France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Poland said their proposal for a ceasefire to start on Monday was supported by U.S. President Donald Trump, whom they had briefed over the phone earlier in the day.

Trump has called for Ukraine and Russia to meet for "very high level talks," saying they are "very close

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to a deal" on ending the bloody three-year war.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has previously said he was ready for peace talks, but only after a ceasefire is in place.

Moscow's proposals

Putin said that Russia proposed several ceasefires in recent months — a halt on strikes on energy infrastructure, which Ukraine had agreed to, a unilateral 30-hour Easter truce and another unilateral ceasefire on May 8-10 that has since expired.

Ukrainian officials said Russia repeatedly violated all of those.

Putin on Sunday accused Ukraine of sabotaging "these initiatives time and time again" and launching multiple attacks on Russia.

In March, the United States proposed an immediate, limited 30-day truce, which Ukraine accepted, but the Kremlin has held out for terms more to its liking.

Putin on Sunday once again said the Kremlin needs a truce that would lead to a "lasting peace" instead of one that would allow Ukraine to rearm and mobilize more men into its armed forces.

He said he would speak to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and ask him to facilitate the peace talks on May 15.

Shortly after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Turkey hosted unsuccessful talks between Russian and Ukrainian negotiators aimed at ending the hostilities. The proposed deal reportedly included provisions for Ukraine's neutral status and put limits on its armed forces, while delaying talks on the status of Russian-occupied areas.

Moscow has blamed Kyiv and the West for the talks collapsing.

Putin said that "those who truly want peace cannot but support" his proposal to restart the peace talks.

'A very important signal'

Zelenskyy, speaking to reporters alongside the European leaders in Kyiv on Saturday, called their meeting "a very important signal."

In a joint statement, as published on Zelenskyy's official website, the five leaders called for a ceasefire "lasting at least 30 days" from Monday, to make room for a diplomatic push to end the war.

"An unconditional ceasefire by definition cannot be subject to any conditions. If Russia calls for such conditions, this can only be considered as an effort to prolong the war and undermine diplomacy," the statement read.

French President Emmanuel Macron said that the U.S. would take the lead in monitoring the proposed ceasefire, with support from European countries, and threatened "massive sanctions ... prepared and coordinated, between Europeans and Americans," should Russia violate the truce.

Macron traveled to Kyiv with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

"This is Europe stepping up, showing our solidarity with Ukraine," Starmer said.

Retired Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, Trump's special envoy to Ukraine, said Saturday that a "comprehensive" 30-day ceasefire, covering attacks from the air, land, sea and on infrastructure, "will start the process for ending the largest and longest war in Europe since World War II."

Meanwhile, Putin on Saturday held a series of bilateral talks with foreign officials who had attended Moscow's own celebrations marking the defeat of Nazi Germany, in an apparent attempt to underscore the West's failure to isolate it on the global stage. Putin's interlocutors included To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and the leaders of Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso and the Palestinian Authority.

Europe threatens more sanctions if Russia ignores ceasefire offer

Progress on ending the three-year war has seemed elusive in the months since Trump returned to the White House, and his previous claims of imminent breakthroughs have failed to come to fruition. Trump has previously pushed Ukraine to cede territory to Russia to end the war, threatening to walk away if a deal becomes too difficult.

Since the start of U.S.-mediated talks, Russia has kept up attacks along the roughly 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line, including deadly strikes on residential areas with no obvious military targets.

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The ceasefire would include a halt to fighting on land, sea and in the air. The European leaders threatened to ratchet up sanctions, including on Russia's energy and banking sectors, if Putin did not comply.

The priority was to make it too costly for Russia to keep fighting in Ukraine, said Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha.

When asked how the monitoring mechanism would work, Sybiha told The Associated Press the details were still being discussed.

Addressing skepticism over whether fresh sanctions against Moscow, which has so far managed to keep fighting in the war, Merz said "almost all member states of the European Union and a large coalition of the willing around the world are determined to enforce these sanctions even if our initiative of the weekend should fail."

The leaders also discussed security guarantees for Ukraine.

Building up Kyiv's military capabilities will be a key deterrent against Russia and require supplying Ukraine with robust quantities of arms to deter future attacks and investing in its defense sector. A force comprised of foreign troops could also be deployed as an added "reassurance" measure, Macron said.

He said details about potential European deployments to Ukraine were still being fine-tuned. No mention was made of NATO membership, still Kyiv's top choice for a security guarantee.

Earlier on Saturday, the European leaders joined a ceremony at Kyiv's Independence Square marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. They lit candles alongside Zelenskyy at a makeshift flag memorial for fallen Ukrainian soldiers and civilians slain since Russia's invasion.

Russian attacks continue

Russian shelling in Ukraine's northern Sumy region over the past day killed three residents and wounded four more, local officials said. Another civilian died Saturday as a Russian drone struck the southern city of Kherson, according to regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin.

The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv on Friday warned of a "potentially significant" Russian air attack in the coming days, without giving details.

Russia in November gave the U.S. brief advance warning before striking Ukraine for the first time with its Oreshnik intermediate-range ballistic missile, an experimental hypersonic weapon that Putin claimed could travel at 10 times the speed of sound.

Ukrainian Telegram channels linked the embassy's warning to reports of an imminent flight ban by Moscow over the Kapustin Yar military training and rocket launch complex. A similar flight ban preceded November's strike. There was no immediate comment from Russian officials.

Trump said last week that he doubts Putin wants to end his war in Ukraine, expressing new skepticism that a peace deal can be reached soon, and hinted at further sanctions against Russia.

Ukraine's European allies view its fate as fundamental to the continent's security, and pressure is now mounting to find ways to support Kyiv militarily, regardless of whether Trump pulls out.

India and Pakistan accuse each other of violating ceasefire hours after reaching deal

By RIAZAT BUTT, AIJAZ HUSSAIN and RAJESH ROY Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire Saturday after U.S.-led talks to end the most serious military confrontation between the nuclear-armed rivals in decades but accused each other of violating the deal just hours later.

The ceasefire had been expected to bring a swift end to weeks of escalating clashes, including missile and drone strikes, triggered by the mass shooting of tourists last month that India blames on Pakistan, which denies the charge. But multiple explosions were heard in two large cities of Indian-controlled Kashmir hours after the countries agreed to the deal.

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said late Saturday that "there had been repeated violations of the understanding arrived between the two countries" and accused Pakistan of breaching the agreement.

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"We call upon Pakistan to take appropriate steps to address these violations and deal with the situation with seriousness and responsibility," he said at a news conference in New Delhi. Misri said the Indian army was "retaliating" for what he called a "border intrusion."

In Islamabad, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry blamed Indian forces for initiating the ceasefire violation. The ministry said Pakistan remains committed to the agreement and its forces were handling the situation with responsibility and restraint.

"We believe that any issues in the smooth implementation of the ceasefire should be addressed through communication at appropriate levels," the ministry said.

The first word of the truce came from U.S. President Donald Trump, who posted on his Truth Social platform that India and Pakistan had agreed to a full and immediate ceasefire: "Congratulations to both Countries on using Common Sense and Great Intelligence. Thank you for your attention to this matter!"

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said in a speech Saturday that his country agreed to the ceasefire in the larger interest of peace in the region and hoped all the outstanding issues with India, including the long-running dispute over the Kashmir region, would be resolved through peaceful dialogue.

Misri said the head of military operations from both countries spoke Saturday afternoon and agreed "that both sides would stop all firing and military action on land, and in the air and sea."

However, hours after the agreement, explosions heard by residents in Srinagar and Jammu in Indian-controlled Kashmir were followed by blackouts in the two cities. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Omar Abdullah, the region's top elected official, said in a post on social media: "What the hell just happened to the ceasefire? Explosions heard across Srinagar!!!"

Working toward a broader agreement

Conflict between India and Pakistan is not rare, with the two countries having periodically engaged in wars, clashes and skirmishes since gaining independence from British India in 1947.

The ceasefire in the latest hostilities came after the countries fired volleys of cross-border missile strikes Saturday, when India said it targeted Pakistani air bases after Islamabad fired several high-speed missiles at military and civilian infrastructure in Punjab state. Pakistan said it responded with retaliatory strikes.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he and Vice President JD Vance had engaged with senior officials from both countries over the past 48 hours. They included Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sharif, India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and the Pakistani Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir.

Rubio said the two governments agreed to "start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site."

Though Pakistanis had initially celebrated their army's retaliation, they were later jubilant about the truce, saying it was a moment of national pride and relief after days of tension.

In Islamabad, Zubaida Bibi expressed her joy at the restoration of peace with India.

"War brings nothing but suffering," she said. "We are happy that calm is returning. It feels like Eid to me. We have won."

Trading strikes before the ceasefire

Tensions have soared since the attack at a popular tourist site in Indian-controlled Kashmir left 26 civilians dead, mostly Indian Hindu tourists, on April 22.

Before the ceasefire was reached, India's military said Pakistan had targeted health facilities and schools at its three air bases in Kashmir early Saturday and India had launched missile strikes in response. They targeted Nur Khan air base in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, near the capital Islamabad, Murid air base in Chakwal city and Rafiqui air base in the Jhang district of eastern Punjab province, according to Pakistan's military spokesman.

Pakistan's military said it launched retaliatory strikes against a Indian missile storage facility and air bases in the cities of Pathankot and Udhampur.

The Associated Press could not independently verify all the actions attributed to Pakistan or India.

After the announcement of Pakistani retaliation, residents in Indian-controlled Kashmir said they heard

loud explosions at multiple places, including Srinagar, Jammu and Udhampur.

"Explosions that we are hearing today are different from the ones we heard the last two nights during drone attacks," said Shesh Paul Vaid, the region's former top police official and Jammu resident. "It looks like a war here."

Residents living near Srinagar's airport, which is also an air base, said they were rattled by the explosions and booming sound of jets.

"I was already awake, but the explosions jolted my kids out of their sleep. They started crying," said Srinagar resident Mohammed Yasin.

Omar Abdullah, Indian-controlled Kashmir's top elected official, welcomed the ceasefire. But he said had it happened two or three days earlier "we might have avoided the bloodshed and the loss of precious lives."

Pope Leo XIV lays out vision of papacy and identifies AI as a main challenge for humanity

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Leo XIV laid out the vision of his papacy Saturday, identifying artificial intelligence as one of the most critical matters facing humanity and vowing to continue with some of the core priorities of Pope Francis.

But in a sign he was making the papacy very much his own, Leo made his first outing since his election, traveling to a sanctuary south of Rome that is dedicated to the Madonna and is of particular significance to his Augustinian order and his namesake, Pope Leo XIII.

Townpeople of Genazzano gathered in the square outside the main church housing the Madre del Buon Consiglio (Mother of Good Counsel) sanctuary as Leo arrived and greeted them. The sanctuary, which is managed by Augustinian friars, has been a place of pilgrimage since the 15th century and the previous Pope Leo elevated it to a minor basilica and expanded the adjacent convent in the early 1900s.

After praying in the church, Leo greeted the townspeople and told them they had both a gift and a responsibility in having the Madonna in their midst. He offered a blessing and then got back into the passenger seat of the car, a black Volkswagen. En route back to the Vatican, he stopped to pray at Francis' tomb at St. Mary Major Basilica.

The after-lunch outing came after Leo presided over his first formal audience, with the cardinals who elected him pope. In it Leo repeatedly cited Francis and the Argentine pope's own 2013 mission statement, making clear a commitment to making the Catholic Church more inclusive and attentive to the faithful and a church that looks out for the "least and rejected."

Leo, the first American pope, told the cardinals that he was fully committed to the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the 1960s meetings that modernized the church. He identified AI as one of the main issues facing humanity, saying it poses challenges to defending human dignity, justice and labor.

Some signs about the future emerge

The Vatican, meanwhile, provided hints of its own about the Leo pontificate: It revealed Saturday that Leo would retain the motto and coat of arms that he had as bishop of Chiclayo, Peru that emphasize unity in the church.

The motto, "In Illo uno unum," was pronounced by St. Augustine in a sermon to explain that "although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one." The emblem is that of the Augustinian order: a pierced flaming heart and a book, representing the Scriptures.

The Vatican also provided details about the pectoral cross that Leo is wearing: It was a gift from the Augustinian order when he was made a cardinal in 2023. It contains relics of St. Augustine and his mother, St. Monica, who was crucial in his conversion to Christianity.

St. Augustine of Hippo is one of the theological and devotional giants of early Christianity. The Augustinian order, formed in the 13th century as a community of "mendicant" friars, is dedicated to poverty, service and evangelization.

Identifying with Pope Francis

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Leo referred to AI in explaining the choice of his name: His namesake, Pope Leo XIII, was pope from 1878 to 1903 and laid the foundation for modern Catholic social thought. He did so most famously with his 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, which addressed workers' rights and capitalism at the dawn of the industrial age. The late pope criticized both laissez-faire capitalism and state-centric socialism, giving shape to a distinctly Catholic vein of economic teaching.

In his remarks Saturday, Leo said he identified with his predecessor.

"In our own day, the church offers everyone the treasury of its social teaching in response to another industrial revolution and to developments in the field of artificial intelligence that pose new challenges for the defense of human dignity, justice and labor," he said.

Toward the end of his pontificate, Francis became increasingly vocal about the threats to humanity posed by AI and called for an international treaty to regulate it.

Francis in many ways saw the Chicago-born Augustinian missionary Robert Prevost as something of an heir apparent: He moved him to take over a small Peruvian diocese in 2014, where Prevost later became bishop and head of the Peruvian bishops conference, and then called him to Rome to take over one of the most important Vatican offices vetting bishop nominations in 2023.

In the speech, delivered in Italian in the Vatican's synod hall — not the Apostolic Palace — Leo made repeated references to Francis and the mourning over his death. He held up Francis' 2013 mission statement, "The Joy of the Gospel," as something of his own marching orders.

He cited Francis' insistence on the missionary nature of the church and the need to make its leadership more collegial. He cited the need to pay attention to what the faithful say "especially in its most authentic and inclusive forms, especially popular piety."

Again, referring to Francis' 2013 mission statement, Leo cited the need for the church to express "loving care for the least and rejected" and engage in courageous dialogue with the contemporary world.

A quick conclave

Greeted by a standing ovation, Leo read from his prepared text, only looking up occasionally. Even when he first appeared to the world on Thursday night, Leo read from a prepared, handwritten text in Italian that he must have drafted sometime before his historic election or the hour or so after. He seemed most comfortable speaking off-the-cuff in the few words he pronounced in Spanish.

Prevost was elected the 267th pontiff on Thursday on the fourth ballot of the conclave, an exceptionally fast outcome given this was the largest and most geographically diverse conclave in history and not all cardinals knew one another before arriving in Rome.

Madagascar Cardinal Désiré Tsarahazana told reporters on Saturday that on the final ballot, Prevost had received "more" than 100 of the 133 votes. That suggests an extraordinary margin, well beyond the two-thirds, or 89 votes, necessary to be elected.

A comment from a contender

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican secretary of state who had been considered one of the top contenders to be pope, offered his congratulations on Saturday in a letter published in his hometown paper, *Il Giornale di Vicenza*.

Parolin praised Leo's grasp of today's problems, recalling his first words from the loggia when he spoke of the need for a peace that is "disarmed and disarming." Parolin said he had appreciated Prevost's leadership in Chiclayo, saying he helped handle a particularly thorny problem — with no details — and grew to appreciate his governance more closely at the Vatican handling the bishops' office.

Specifically, Parolin praised Leo's understanding of people and situations, his "calmness in argumentation, balance in proposing solutions, respect, care and love for everyone."

Saints QB Derek Carr is retiring because of 'significant degenerative changes' to his right shoulder

By BRETT MARTEL AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — New Orleans Saints veteran starting quarterback Derek Carr is retiring because of a labral tear in his right shoulder and "significant degenerative changes" to his rotator cuff, the team announced Saturday.

Carr, 34, has played for 11 pro seasons since being selected out of Fresno State by the then-Oakland Raiders in the second round of the 2014 NFL draft.

He was acquired by the Saints as a free agent in 2023 but had mixed results in New Orleans, going 14-13 as a starter while struggling through oblique, hand and head injuries that caused him to miss seven games last season.

Carr, who was entering the third year of a four-year, \$150 million contract, experienced unexpected pain in his throwing shoulder when he began to ramp up training on his own this offseason. That led to the diagnosis which now has cut short his career.

"Surgery was an option, jeopardizing the entire 2025 season, yet there was no guarantee Derek would return to the level of strength, function and performance of play to which he was accustomed," the Saints said in a written announcement.

The Saints did not acknowledge Carr's injury until the day before this year's NFL draft in late April. Carr did not speak publicly about the injury until a few days later, when he delivered a guest sermon at a Las Vegas church. In that sermon, Carr said his critics were "lying" about him when they questioned the unusual timing of the injury, as well as both the team's and Carr's initial reticence to address it openly or answer questions about it.

Carr has career passing totals of 41,245 yards, 257 touchdowns and 112 interceptions. The four-time Pro Bowler retires with a 77-92 regular-season record as a starter, 0-1 in the playoffs.

Carr said he made his decision in consultation with his wife, Heather, and "upon reflection of prayer."

"For more than 11 years, we have been incredibly blessed, and we are forever grateful and humbled by this experience," Carr said. "It's difficult to find the right words to express our thanks to all the teammates, coaches, management, ownership, team officials and especially the fans who made this journey so special."

"I sleep well knowing that I gave my teammates, my coaches, and my cities my all," Carr added.

The decision also comes after New Orleans, heading into its first season with Kellen Moore as coach, used a high second-round draft choice to select Louisville's Tyler Shough.

Now Shough, who learned of Carr's decision just before taking the field for a rookie camp practice on Saturday, will have a chance to compete for a starting job.

"All I want is an opportunity," said the 26-year-old Shough, who, in part because of injuries, spent seven years at the college level with three programs, starting with Oregon and Texas Tech. "I've been at points in my career where I would just be dying to get on the field because I was injured. I was a backup before and I was a starter. So, I know a lot of those roles and what it looks like, and I think I can operate well in any of them."

"I'm just really excited for that opportunity to go out there and prove myself," he added.

Other QBs on the Saints roster include second-year pro Spencer Rattler and third-year player Jake Haener, who did not post a victory between them in seven games last season, six of which Rattler started.

Carr's retirement "will provide some of those younger quarterbacks a chance to just get ready from a rep standpoint and opportunity standpoint," Moore said. "Obviously, those guys will be ready and fired up for that."

Moore was noncommittal about the possibility of bringing in an established veteran QB through free agency.

"We'll certainly have awareness of it," Moore said. "We're ready if the opportunity presents itself."

Since the AFL-NFL merger in 1966, just 12 quarterbacks who were not drafted in the first round have started season-openers as rookies. One of them was Carr. Another was the Cowboys' Dak Prescott in

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2016, when Moore was a reserve QB in Dallas.

Prescott "was obviously a fourth-round pick and probably wasn't anticipating being a starter that year," noted Moore, who also coached Prescott as Dallas' QBs coach in 2018 and as offensive coordinator from 2019 to 2022. "These guys all come from different paths."

Newark mayor denies trespassing at immigration detention center following arrest

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ, CLAUDIA LAUER and BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI Associated Press

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka on Saturday denied trespassing at a new federal immigration detention center during a confrontation that led to his arrest while the Democrat was at the facility with three members of Congress.

Baraka, who has been protesting the center's opening this week, was released around 8 p.m. Friday after spending several hours in custody. He was accused of trespassing and ignoring warnings to leave the Delaney Hall facility.

Tricia McLaughlin, an assistant secretary for public affairs with the Department of Homeland Security, said in an interview with CNN on Saturday that the investigation was ongoing, and the department also released more video of the confrontation. McLaughlin also accused Baraka, who is seeking his party's nomination for governor, of playing "political games."

"I'm shocked by all the lies that were told here," Baraka said, who said he had been invited there for a press conference. "No one else arrested, I was invited in, then they arrested me on the sidewalk."

Baraka, who is running to succeed term-limited Gov. Phil Murphy, has embraced the fight with the Trump administration over illegal immigration. He has aggressively pushed back against the construction and opening of the 1,000-bed detention center, arguing that it should not be allowed to open because of building permit issues.

Alina Habba, interim U.S. attorney for New Jersey, said on the social platform X that Baraka trespassed at the detention facility, which is run by private prison operator Geo Group.

Habba said Baraka had "chosen to disregard the law."

Video of the incident showed that Baraka was arrested after returning to the public side of the gate to the facility.

Witnesses describe a heated argument

Witnesses said the arrest came after Baraka attempted to join three members of New Jersey's congressional delegation, Reps. Robert Menendez, LaMonica McIver, and Bonnie Watson Coleman, in attempting to enter the facility.

When federal officials blocked his entry, a heated argument broke out, according to Viri Martinez, an activist with the New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice. It continued even after Baraka returned to the public side of the gates.

"There was yelling and pushing," Martinez said. "Then the officers swarmed Baraka. They threw one of the organizers to the ground. They put Baraka in handcuffs and put him in an unmarked car."

The Department of Homeland Security said in a statement that the lawmakers had not asked for a tour of Delaney Hall, which the agency said it would have facilitated. The department said that as a bus carrying detainees was entering in the afternoon "a group of protesters, including two members of the U.S. House of Representatives, stormed the gate and broke into the detention facility."

Ned Cooper, a spokesperson for Watson Coleman, said the three lawmakers went there unannounced because they planned to inspect it, not take a scheduled tour.

"Contrary to a press statement put out by DHS we did not 'storm' the detention center," Watson Coleman said in a statement. "The author of that press release was so unfamiliar with the facts on the ground that they didn't even correctly count the number of Representatives present. We were exercising our legal oversight function as we have done at the Elizabeth Detention Center without incident."

Video shows the mayor standing on the public side of the gate

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In video of the altercation shared with The Associated Press, a federal official in a jacket with the logo of Homeland Security Investigations can be heard telling Baraka he could not enter the facility because "you are not a Congress member."

Baraka then left the secure area, rejoining protesters on the public side of the gate. Video showed him speaking through the gate to a man in a suit, who said: "They're talking about coming back to arrest you." "I'm not on their property. They can't come out on the street and arrest me," Baraka replied.

Minutes later several ICE agents, some wearing face coverings, surrounded him and others on the public side. As protesters cried out, "Shame," Baraka was dragged back through the gate in handcuffs.

Rep. Menendez said in a statement that as members of Congress, they have the legal right to carry out oversight at DHS facilities without prior notice and have done so twice already this year. But on Friday, "Throughout every step of this visit, ICE attempted to intimidate everyone involved and impede our ability to conduct oversight."

In an interview Saturday with MSNBC, Baraka recounted being put in a cell, getting his fingerprints taken and being the subject of a mug shot. He said he would continue to try to gain entry to the detention facility. "We don't know what's going on in there," said Baraka, who has a court date scheduled for Thursday.

The detention center

The two-story building is next to a county prison formerly operated as a halfway house.

In February, ICE awarded a 15-year contract to The Geo Group Inc. to run the detention center. Geo valued the contract at \$1 billion, in an unusually long and large agreement for ICE.

The announcement was part of President Donald Trump's plans to sharply increase detention beds nationwide from a budget of about 41,000 beds this year.

Baraka sued Geo soon after the deal was announced.

Geo touted the Delaney Hall contract during an earnings call with shareholders Wednesday, with CEO David Donahue saying it was expected to generate more than \$60 million a year in revenue. He said the facility began the intake process May 1.

Hall said the activation of the center and another in Michigan would increase capacity under contract with ICE from around 20,000 beds to around 23,000.

DHS said in its statement that the facility has the proper permits and inspections have been cleared.

Five fishermen who spent 55 days adrift at sea arrive in the Galapagos Islands after rescue

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Five fishermen who spent 55 days adrift at sea arrived Saturday at a port in the Galapagos Islands after being rescued by a tuna boat, the Ecuadorian navy said on X.

The three Peruvians and two Colombians had been missing since mid-March and were found on May 7 by an Ecuadorian boat called Aldo.

The fishermen had reported damage to the boat's alternator two days after setting sail from Pucusana Bay, to the south of Peru's capital Lima, the navy said in a separate post on Friday.

The failure caused communication and navigation tools to malfunction, Ecuadorian navy Frigate Capt. Maria Fares told The Associated Press, adding that they had no power on the boat.

"They had no starter, lights and everything that a battery generates," she said. To survive, they had to "take rusted water out of the engine (and) when a fish passed by, they caught it and parboiled it to eat." Fares added that they also drank rain and sea water to survive.

The men are in stable condition and the navy said it is coordinating with local and foreign authorities to ensure their safe return to their respective countries.

Earlier this year, another Peruvian fisherman, 61-year-old Máximo Napa, spent 95 days at sea alone. He was also rescued by an Ecuadorian vessel and returned to Lima in mid-March to be reunited with his family.

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Israeli airstrikes kill 23 in Gaza as outcry over aid blockade grows

By WAFAA SHURAFU Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza City (AP) — Israeli airstrikes overnight and into Saturday killed at least 23 Palestinians in Gaza, including three children and their parents whose tent was bombed in Gaza City, health officials said.

The bombardment continued as international warnings grow over Israeli plans to control aid distribution in Gaza as Israel's blockade on the territory of over 2 million people is in its third month.

The U.N. and aid groups have rejected Israel's aid distribution moves, including a plan from a group of American security contractors, ex-military officers and humanitarian aid officials calling itself the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation.

Among the 23 bodies brought to hospitals over the past 24 hours were those of the family of five whose tent was struck in Gaza City's Sabra district, Gaza's Health Ministry said.

Another Israeli strike late Friday hit a warehouse belonging to UNRWA, the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, in the northern area of Jabaliya. Four people were killed, according to the Indonesian Hospital, where bodies were taken.

AP video showed fires burning in the shattered building. The warehouse was empty after being hit and raided multiple times during Israeli ground offensives against Hamas fighters over the past year, said residents including Hamza Mohamed.

Israel's military said nine soldiers were lightly wounded Friday night by an explosive device while searching Gaza City's Shijaiyah neighborhood. It said they were evacuated to a hospital in Israel.

Israel resumed its bombardment in Gaza on March 18, shattering a two-month ceasefire with Hamas. Ground troops have seized more than half the territory and have been conducting raids and searching parts of northern Gaza and the southernmost city of Rafah. Large parts of both areas have been flattened by months of Israeli operations.

Under Israel's blockade, charity kitchens are virtually the only source of food left in Gaza, but dozens have shut down in recent days as food supplies run out. Aid groups say more closures are imminent. Israel has said the blockade is meant to pressure Hamas to release remaining hostages and disarm. Rights groups have called the blockade a "starvation tactic" and a potential war crime.

Israel accuses Hamas and other militants of siphoning off aid in Gaza, though it hasn't presented evidence for its claims. The U.N. denies significant diversion takes place, saying it monitors distribution.

The 19-month-old war in Gaza is the most devastating ever fought between Israel and Hamas. It has killed more than 52,800 people there, more than half of them women and children, and wounded more than 119,000, according to the Health Ministry. The ministry's count does not differentiate between civilians and combatants. Israel says it has killed thousands of militants, without giving evidence.

Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas after the Oct. 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel in which militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapped over 250 others. Hamas still holds about 59 hostages, with around a third believed to still be alive.

Hamas released a video Saturday showing hostages Elkana Bohbot and Yosef-Haim Ohana, who appeared under duress. They were abducted during the Oct. 7 attack from a music festival where over 300 people were killed. Hamas released a video of them a month and half ago and has released several videos of Bohbot alone since then.

Protesters on Saturday night rallied once more in Tel Aviv to demand a ceasefire that would bring all hostages home.

"Can you grasp this? The Israeli government is about to embark on a military operation that could and will endanger the lives of the hostages," Michel Illouz, father of hostage Guy Illouz, told the gathering, referring to the plan to vastly expand operations in Gaza.

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Transgender issues are a strength for Trump, AP-NORC poll finds

By GEOFF MULVIHILL and LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — About half of U.S. adults approve of how President Donald Trump is handling transgender issues, according to a new poll — a relative high point for a president who has the approval overall of about 4 in 10 Americans.

But support for his individual policies on transgender people is not uniformly strong, with a clearer consensus against policies that affect youth.

The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey conducted this month found there's more support than opposition on allowing transgender troops in the military, while most don't want to allow transgender students to use the public school bathrooms that align with their gender identity and oppose using government programs to pay for gender-affirming health care for transgender youth.

Schuyler Fricchione, a 40-year-old stay-at-home mother from northern Virginia, is one of those who opposes the government paying for gender-affirming care, especially for young people.

She said she doesn't want people to make major changes that they might later regret. But she said that because of her Catholic faith, she doesn't want to exclude transgender people from public life. "It's very important to me that everyone understands their dignity and importance as a person."

"It is something I am kind of working through myself," she said. "I am still learning."

Most adults agree with Trump that sex is determined at birth

About two-thirds of U.S. adults agree with President Donald Trump that whether a person is a man or woman is determined by their biological characteristics at birth.

The poll found that Republicans overwhelmingly believe gender identity is defined by sex at birth, but Democrats are divided, with about half saying gender identity can differ from biological characteristics at birth. The view that gender identity can't be separated from sex at birth view contradicts what the American Medical Association and other mainstream medical groups say: that extensive scientific research suggests sex and gender are better understood as a spectrum than as an either-or definition.

A push against the recognition and rights of transgender people, who make up about 1% of the nation's population, has been a major part of Trump's return to the White House — and was a big part of his campaign.

He has signed executive orders calling for the government to classify people by unchangeable sex rather than gender, oust transgender service members and kick transgender women and girls out of sports competitions for females. Those actions and others are being challenged in court, and judges have put many of his efforts on hold.

The public is divided on some issues — and many are neutral

Despite being a hot-button issue overall, a big portion of the population is neutral or undecided on several key policies.

About 4 in 10 people supported requiring public schoolteachers to report to parents if their children are identifying at school as transgender or nonbinary. About 3 in 10 opposed it and a similar number was neutral.

About the same portion of people — just under 4 in 10 — favored allowing transgender troops in the military as were neutral about it. About one-quarter opposed it.

Tim Phares, 59, a registered Democrat in Kansas who says he most often votes for Republicans, is among those in the middle on that issue.

One on hand, he said, "Either you can do the job or you can't do the job." But on the other, he added, "I'm not a military person, so I'm not qualified to judge how it affects military readiness."

This month, a divided U.S. Supreme Court allowed Trump's administration to enforce a ban on transgender people in the military while legal challenges proceed, a reversal of what lower courts have said.

Most object to government coverage of gender-affirming care for youth

About half oppose allowing government insurance programs such as Medicare and Medicaid to cover gender-affirming medical care, such as hormone therapy and surgery, for transgender people 19 or older.

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About two-thirds oppose it for those under 19.

And on each of those questions, a roughly equal portion of the populations support the coverage or is neutral about it.

One of Trump's executive orders keeps federal insurance plans from paying for gender-affirming care for those under 19. A court has ruled that funding can't be dropped from institutions that provide the care, at least for now.

Meanwhile, Trump's administration this month released a report calling for therapy alone and not broader gender-affirming health care for transgender youth. Twenty-seven states have bans on the care for minors, and the Supreme Court is expected to rule in coming months over whether the bans can hold.

Forming a stance is easy for some

While Democrats are divided on many policies related to transgender issues, they're more supportive than the population overall. There is no anguish over the issue or other transgender policy questions for Isabel Skinner, a 32-year-old politics professor in Illinois.

She has liberal views on transgender people, shaped partly by her being a member of the LGBTQ+ community as a bisexual and pansexual person, and also by knowing transgender people.

She was in the minority who supported allowing transgender students to use the public-school bathrooms that match their gender identity — something that at least 14 states have passed laws to ban in the last five years.

"I don't understand where the fear comes from," Skinner said, "because there really doesn't seem to be any basis of reality for the fear of transgender people."

A Tennessee earthquake rattles homes as far away as Atlanta with 4.1 magnitude

By BEN FINLEY and BILL CORMIER Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A 4.1-magnitude earthquake in Tennessee woke up families and rattled homes as far away as Atlanta as it spread tremors across portions of the southern U.S. on Saturday morning. No injuries or major damage were immediately reported.

The website for USGS said the earthquake originated shortly after 9 a.m. EDT about 12 miles (20 kilometers) from Greenback, Tennessee, which is about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Knoxville.

More than 23,000 reports from the public were received by USGS in the first hour after the earthquake, USGS spokeswoman Ayesha Davis told The Associated Press in an email. Meteorologists at television news stations serving Georgia and North Carolina reported feeling the tremors as well.

There is a 5% chance of a magnitude 4 or larger aftershock in the next week, according to USGS.

Gabriela Reilly was making waffles with her husband when they felt their entire home shake in Braselton, Georgia, which is northeast of Atlanta.

"Our ceiling fan started shaking for about 10 seconds," she said. "I thought a giant aircraft had flown low right over the neighborhood, but my husband said, 'No, that was definitely an earthquake!'"

Jason Pack was still in bed at his home outside Knoxville when he felt the walls shaking and heard a rumbling that was loud enough to wake up his family and for the dog to start barking.

"In east Tennessee, you're used to tornadoes and floods, that kind of thing," Pack said. "It's unusual to have an earthquake."

Pack has experienced tremors before, although this one is probably the strongest he's felt in Tennessee.

"Even though this one was small, it's a good reminder — if it had been a big quake, would you know what to do? Drop, cover, and hold on if you're inside," said Pack, a retired FBI agent who now works in crisis communications. "Stay clear of buildings if you're outside."

Damage does not usually occur from earthquakes until they reach a magnitude of somewhere above 4 or 5, according to USGS, although it depends on variables such as building construction, soil and distance from the epicenter.

The southeastern U.S. carries a significant earthquake risk, particularly around the New Madrid Seismic

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Zone to the west and in the East Tennessee Seismic Zone, which is where Saturday's earthquake occurred, said Davis.

Since 1950, 15 other earthquakes of magnitude 4 or larger have occurred within 155 miles (250 kilometers) of Saturday's earthquake, Davis said. The largest of those was a magnitude 4.7 earthquake near Knoxville in November 1973.

More recently, two tremors struck the seismic zone in December 2018. One was a 4.4 magnitude earthquake that was centered in Decatur, Tennessee, which is south of Knoxville. It shook homes as far away as Atlanta.

Another earthquake struck a few days later with a magnitude of 3.0. Its epicenter was about two miles (four kilometers) southeast of Mascot, near Knoxville. It also was felt in parts of Georgia, Kentucky and North Carolina.

Seismic waves from earthquakes spread more efficiently in the Eastern U.S. compared to the West because of the region's geology, Davis said.

"Earthquakes in the East are felt over a much larger distance and by more people," she said.

Trump team mulls suspending the constitutional right of habeas corpus to speed deportations. Can it?

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller says President Donald Trump is looking for ways to expand its legal power to deport migrants who are in the United States illegally. To achieve that, he says the administration is "actively looking at" suspending habeas corpus, the constitutional right for people to legally challenge their detention by the government.

Such a move would be aimed at migrants as part of the Republican president's broader crackdown at the U.S.-Mexico border.

"The Constitution is clear, and that of course is the supreme law of the land, that the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus can be suspended in a time of invasion," Miller told reporters outside the White House on Friday.

"So, I would say that's an option we're actively looking at," Miller said. "Look, a lot of it depends on whether the courts do the right thing or not."

What is habeas corpus?

The Latin term means "that you have the body." Federal courts use a writ of habeas corpus to bring a prisoner before a neutral judge to determine if imprisonment is legal.

Habeas corpus was included in the Constitution as an import from English common law. Parliament enacted the Habeas Corpus Act of 1679, which was meant to ensure that the king released prisoners when the law did not justify confining them.

The Constitution's Suspension Clause, the second clause of Section 9 of Article I, states that habeas corpus "shall not be suspended, unless when, in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it."

Has it been suspended previously?

Yes. The United States has suspended habeas corpus under four distinct circumstances during its history. Those usually involved authorization from Congress, something that would be nearly impossible today — even at Trump's urging — given the narrow Republican majorities in the House and Senate.

President Abraham Lincoln suspended habeas corpus multiple times amid the Civil War, beginning in 1861 to detain suspected spies and Confederate sympathizers. He ignored a ruling from Roger Taney, who was the Supreme Court chief justice but was acting in the case as a circuit judge. Congress then authorized suspending it in 1863, which allowed Lincoln to do so again.

Congress acted similarly under President Ulysses S. Grant, suspending habeas corpus in parts of South Carolina under the Civil Rights Act of 1871. Also known as the Ku Klux Klan Act, it was meant to counter violence and intimidation of groups opposing Reconstruction in the South.

Habeas corpus was suspended in two provinces of the Philippines in 1905, when it was a U.S. territory

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and authorities were worried about the threat of an insurrection, and in Hawaii after the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor, but before it became a state in 1959.

Writing before becoming a Supreme Court justice, Amy Coney Barrett co-authored a piece stating that the Suspension Clause “does not specify which branch of government has the authority to suspend the privilege of the writ, but most agree that only Congress can do it.”

Could the Trump administration do it?

It can try. Miller suggested that the U.S. is facing “an invasion” of migrants. That term was used deliberately, though any effort to suspend habeas corpus would spark legal challenges questioning whether the country was facing an invasion, let alone presenting extraordinary threats to public safety.

Federal judges have so far been skeptical of the Trump administration’s past efforts to use extraordinary powers to make deportations easier, and that could make suspending habeas corpus even tougher.

Trump argued in March that the U.S. was facing an “invasion” of Venezuelan gang members and evoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, a wartime authority he has tried to use to speed up mass deportations.

His administration acted to swiftly deport alleged members of Tren de Aragua to a notorious prison in El Salvador, leading to a series of legal fights.

Federal courts around the country, including in New York, Colorado, Texas and Pennsylvania, have since blocked the administration’s uses of the Alien Enemies Act for many reasons, including amid questions about whether the country is truly facing an invasion.

If courts are already skeptical, how could habeas corpus be suspended?

Miller, who has been fiercely critical of judges ruling against the administration, advanced the argument that the judicial branch may not get to decide.

“Congress passed a body of law known as the Immigration Nationality Act which stripped Article III courts, that’s the judicial branch, of jurisdiction over immigration cases,” he said Friday.

That statute was approved by Congress in 1952 and there were important amendments in 1996 and 2005. Legal scholars note that it does contain language that could funnel certain cases to immigration courts, which are overseen by the executive branch.

Still, most appeals in those cases would largely be handled by the judicial branch, and they could run into the same issues as Trump’s attempts to use the Alien Enemies Act.

Have other administrations tried this?

Technically not since Pearl Harbor, though habeas corpus has been at the center of some major legal challenges more recently than that.

Republican President George W. Bush did not move to suspend habeas corpus after the Sept. 11 attacks, but his administration subsequently sent detainees to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, drawing lawsuits from advocates who argued the administration was violating it and other legal constitutional protections.

The Supreme Court ruled in 2008 that Guantanamo detainees had a constitutional right to habeas corpus, allowing them to challenge their detention before a judge. That led to some detainees being released from U.S. custody.

Soviet-era spacecraft plunges to Earth after 53 years stuck in orbit

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

A Soviet-era spacecraft plunged to Earth on Saturday, more than a half-century after its failed launch to Venus.

Its uncontrolled entry was confirmed by both the Russian Space Agency and European Union Space Surveillance and Tracking. The Russians indicated it came down over the Indian Ocean, but some experts were not so sure of the precise location. The European Space Agency’s space debris office also tracked the spacecraft’s doom after it failed to appear over a German radar station.

It was not immediately known how much, if any, of the half-ton spacecraft survived the fiery descent from orbit. Experts said ahead of time that some if not all of it might come crashing down, given it was built to withstand a landing on Venus, the solar system’s hottest planet.

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The chances of anyone getting clobbered by spacecraft debris were exceedingly low, scientists said. Launched in 1972 by the Soviet Union, the spacecraft known as Kosmos 482 was part of a series of missions bound for Venus. But this one never made it out of orbit around Earth, stranded there by a rocket malfunction.

Much of the spacecraft came tumbling back to Earth within a decade of the failed launch. No longer able to resist gravity's tug as its orbit dwindled, the spherical lander — an estimated 3 feet (1 meter) across — was the last part of the spacecraft to come down. The lander was encased in titanium, according to experts, and weighed more than 1,000 pounds (495 kilograms).

Any surviving wreckage will belong to Russia under a United Nations treaty.

After following the spacecraft's downward spiral, scientists, military experts and others could not pinpoint in advance precisely when or where the spacecraft might come down. Solar activity added to the uncertainty as well as the spacecraft's deteriorating condition after so long in space.

After so much anticipation, some observers were disappointed by the lingering uncertainty over the exact whereabouts of the spacecraft's grave.

"If it was over the Indian Ocean, only the whales saw it," Dutch scientist Marco Langbroek said via X.

As of Saturday afternoon, the U.S. Space Command had yet to confirm the spacecraft's demise as it collected and analyzed data from orbit.

The U.S. Space Command routinely monitors dozens of reentries each month. What set Kosmos 482 apart — and earned it extra attention from government and private space trackers — was that it was more likely to survive reentry, according to officials.

It was also coming in uncontrolled, without any intervention by flight controllers who normally target the Pacific and other vast expanses of water for old satellites and other space debris.

Louisiana governor pushes Trump to weigh primary challenger to GOP Sen. Bill Cassidy, AP sources say

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

President Donald Trump and Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry have discussed U.S. Rep. Julia Letlow challenging U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy in next year's Republican primary, according to multiple people familiar with the matter.

The Republican governor's promotion of a new challenger to Cassidy reflects unease within Trump's base about the two-term senator. Cassidy voted to convict Trump in Trump's 2021 impeachment trial over the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. And Cassidy, who is a medical doctor, expressed doubts about Trump's pick of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as the nation's health secretary before voting to confirm Kennedy.

Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate and have a favorable electoral map in the 2026 midterms to help them keep control. But Cassidy is among several GOP senators up for reelection next year who are facing challenging primaries over past moves to distance themselves from Trump.

For the senator, "the biggest hurdle is going to be the impeachment vote. That's what he has to overcome. And I don't think he has the mindset to say, 'I made a mistake,'" said Eddie Rispone, the Republican nominee for Louisiana governor in 2019 and a Cassidy supporter. "And Louisiana is a big Trump state."

Landry, a close Trump ally, spoke last month with the president about Letlow as a potential Senate candidate, according to two people with knowledge of the conversation. They were granted anonymity to share contents of a conversation they were not authorized to discuss publicly.

A spokesperson for Letlow declined to comment on a potential campaign for Senate or the discussion between Landry and Trump. Landry's office declined to comment.

Landry, elected in 2023, has been advocating for Letlow to consider a run, according to the people who confirmed their April conversation about Letlow. A Senate seat would be a safe bet for a Republican given that Trump received 60% of the vote in carrying Louisiana last year.

Republican insiders describe Landry and Cassidy not as close, but as having a cordial working relationship despite a difference in their feelings of loyalty to Trump, which creates some distance between Cassidy

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and segments of the party base in the state.

"Senator Cassidy delivers conservative results for the people of Louisiana," Cassidy spokesperson Ashley Bosch said in a statement. "He's worked hard to support the President's agenda and we're confident voters will re-elect him next year."

Letlow is a three-term Republican representative from northeast Louisiana. She won the seat in a special election in March 2021 after her husband, Luke, had been elected but died of complications from COVID-19.

Letlow sits on the influential House Appropriations Committee. Her district was a mostly rural swath of northeast Louisiana when she arrived in Congress. It has shifted as a result of a redistricting map ordered by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2024 and now also include parts of metropolitan Baton Rouge, where Cassidy lives.

Cassidy already faces one major challenger, Louisiana State Treasurer John Fleming, a former congressman.

Some Republican activists in the state condemned Cassidy for his 2021 vote to convict Trump, a vote Cassidy said afterward he was "at peace" casting.

The state Republican executive committee voted unanimously to censure Cassidy. The Republican committee in Bossier Parish, which includes the city of Shreveport in northwest Louisiana, adopted a censure measure describing Cassidy as "an object of extreme shame" and called for his resignation.

Trump revived his public contempt for Cassidy a year ago after the senator spoke out when the then-former president promised to pardon those convicted in connection with the Capitol riot; Trump did that after taking office in January.

In an April 2024 post on Truth Social, Trump called Cassidy "one of the worst Senators in the United States Senate" and a "disloyal lightweight."

Louisiana's new congressional primary election system also could be a wrinkle for Cassidy.

Until the new system was adopted this year, congressional candidates from all parties seeking the same office ran on the same ballot regardless of party affiliation. In these so-called jungle primaries, only a candidate who received 50% of the vote would win the office outright. If no one reached the threshold, the top two finishers would face each other in a runoff.

Next year, only voters who note Republican affiliation on their voter registration — and those who affiliate with no party — will be able to participate in the GOP Senate primary. The effect is seen as a potential challenge for Cassidy, who had benefited from the less-partisan nature of the old system.

"It does tighten it a little bit for him, because you do have the far-right Republicans — for them, it's going to be hard to forgive him for that impeachment vote," Rispone said.

Still, Cassidy has a clear fundraising advantage, with more than \$7.4 million in his campaign account at the end of the first quarter. Cassidy has also begun laying the campaign groundwork in Louisiana and is expected to announce his candidacy formally in the coming weeks.

And in a sign things might not be as bad with Trump as they were, Cassidy received different sort of recognition from the president at an economic event at the White House this month.

"We have some great people, great senators, here," Trump said. "Bill Cassidy, thank you, Bill."

Tax the rich? Slash spending? Republicans wrestle with economic priorities in the Trump era

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — What, exactly, the Republican Party stands for in terms of economic policy in the second Trump administration is a question reaching an inflection point.

Is it the party that promotes free-market prosperity or a 21st-century populism?

Does it stick with the "No new taxes" pledge that has been GOP political orthodoxy for decades or do Republicans tax the rich, as President Donald Trump suggests?

Roll back the Obama-era's health care expansion and the President Joe Biden's green energy investments

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or protect the federal flow of investment dollars generating jobs in the states?

Slash deficit spending or spike the nation's now \$36 trillion debt load?

Free trade or Trump's tariffs?

As House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., and Republicans race to draft Trump's "big, beautiful bill" of \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks and \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts, the final product will set the party on a defining path.

It's still a work in progress.

"This idea of the American dream where we are the best country in the world — which I believe we are — will be gone and it'll be our fault, so we have to do something right now to address it," said Rep. Rich McCormick, R-Ga.

"And everybody wants to say, 'Oh, yeah, we should do something,' but nobody's willing to say what that hard choice is."

The GOP is shape-shifting its economic policy priorities in real time, transforming from a party that once put a premium on lower taxes and smaller government into something more reflective of the interests of the working-class coalition that depends on the federal safety net and put Trump in the White House.

On the one side, there's the old-school Republican stalwarts who have guided policy thinking for years. Among them are former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, anti-tax crusader Grover Norquist, who says tax increases would be "stupid, destructive" and the influential Club for Growth, which pours millions into political campaigns.

But a rising neo-populist power center with proximity to Trump carries clout, with Steve Banon and others who reject the traditional trickle-down economic policies and propose a new direction that more benefits Americans.

Divisions run strong within the Republican Party, which holds the majority on Capitol Hill, and is bulldozing past Democratic objections to push its package forward on its own. GOP lawmakers are under mounting pressure to set aside their differences by Johnson's Memorial Day deadline, especially as Trump's tariffs stoke unease, and they are eager to signal that the economy is under control on their watch.

"This is a once in a generation bill," said Rep. August Pfluger, R-Texas, chairman of the Republican Study Committee, a large group of House conservatives.

He said not only would the emerging package extend the tax breaks and cut spending, "it also gives us a mentality just to settle the markets, to give some predictability, to give everybody in our country the ability to go, hey, our economy is going to be strong."

This weekend, Republican leaders are working to finish the 11 separate sections that will make up that big package before potential public hearings in the coming week.

But the final three — on tax policy, Medicaid and green energy programs, and food stamp assistance — have proved to be the most difficult, posing the biggest political risks.

Moderate conservative Republicans in the House have signed on to letters opposing steep cuts to Medicaid, which provides health care to more than 70 million Americans.

The Medicaid program has expanded in the 15 years since the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, became law, as more states signed up for federal cost-sharing allotments, and people benefited from enhanced federal credits to pay their insurance premiums. Republicans who pledged to "repeal and replace" the health law during Trump's first term are now insisting they only want to target what they say is waste, fraud and abuse in Medicaid, as many fight to save its more popular parts.

Many of those same moderate GOP lawmakers also oppose rolling back the green energy tax breaks that Democrats approved under Biden as companies invest in wind, solar and other renewable energy development.

At the same time, the more conservative Republicans are roaring back, insisting on deep cuts.

Some 30 Republicans said the party must hold to the original GOP budget framework of up to \$2 trillion in spending cuts, which they argue are needed to prevent the tax cuts from piling on annual deficits that are fueling the nation's debt load. The cost of the tax cuts, first approved by Republicans in 2017, during Trump's first term, is expected to grow if Republicans add other priorities, including no taxes on tipped wages or Social Security income. Estimates put the final costs beyond \$7 trillion.

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"We must hold that line on fiscal discipline to put the country back on a sustainable path," wrote Rep. Lloyd Smucker, R-Pa., and colleagues.

Meanwhile, Johnson is negotiating with a core group of five Republicans from the highest tax regions in New York, New Jersey and California who claim they will not vote for any plan unless it reinstates a bigger state and local tax deduction, called SALT, for their constituents.

They called the latest proposal to triple the cap on state and local tax deductions, which is now \$10,000 a year, to \$30,000 "insulting."

Trump himself has waded into the debate in uneven ways. The president told Johnson this past week that he wanted to see a higher tax rate on incomes of \$2.5 million for single filers, or \$5 million for couples, only to sort of back off the idea Friday.

"Republicans should probably not do it, but I'm OK if they do!!!" Trump wrote on social media.

With Republicans going it alone, over the objections of Democrats in the House and Senate critical of the tax package as a giveaway to the rich that will hurt Americans who depend on federal services, leaders will need almost every Republican on board.

One Republican, Rep. Chip Roy of Texas, a member of the House Freedom Caucus, implored his colleagues not to worry about the politics of the next midterm election and to stick to party principles.

"How about we do the job we got elected 5 months ago to do and see where the chips fall," he posted on social media. "Cut Spending. Shrink the Deficit. Cut Taxes. Lead."

Experts call Kennedy's plan to find autism's cause unrealistic

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — For many experts, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s promise for "pulling back the curtain" to find autism's causes in a few months is jarring — and unrealistic.

That's because it appears to ignore decades of science linking about 200 genes that play a role — and the quest to understand differences inside the brain that can be present at birth.

"Virtually all the evidence in the field suggests whatever the causes of autism — and there's going to be multiple causes, it's not going to be a single cause — they all affect how the fetal brain develops," said longtime autism researcher David Amaral of the UC Davis MIND Institute.

"Even though we may not see the behaviors associated with autism until a child is 2 or 3 years old, the biological changes have already taken place," he said.

Kennedy on Wednesday announced the National Institutes of Health would create a new database "to uncover the root causes of autism and other chronic diseases" by merging Medicaid and Medicare insurance claims with electronic medical records and other data. He has cited rising autism rates as evidence of an epidemic of a "preventable disease" caused by some sort of environmental exposure and has promised "some of the answers by September."

What is autism?

Autism isn't considered a disease. It's a complex brain disorder better known as autism spectrum disorder, to reflect that it affects different people in different ways.

Symptoms vary widely. For some people, profound autism means being nonverbal and having significant intellectual disabilities. Others have far milder effects, such as difficulty with social and emotional skills.

Autism rates are rising — not among profound cases but milder ones, said autism expert Helen Tager-Flusberg of Boston University.

That's because doctors gradually learned that milder symptoms were part of autism's spectrum, leading to changes in the late 1990s and early 2000s in diagnosis guidelines and qualifications for educational services, she said.

What's the state of autism research?

The link between genes and autism dates back to studies of twins decades ago. Some are rare genetic variants passed from parent to child, even if the parent shows no signs of autism.

But that's not the only kind. As the brain develops, rapidly dividing cells make mistakes that can lead to

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mutations in only one type of cell or one part of the brain, Amaral explained.

Noninvasive testing can spot differences in brain activity patterns in babies who won't be diagnosed with autism until far later, when symptoms become apparent, he said.

Those kinds of changes stem from alterations in brain structure or its neural circuitry — and understanding them requires studying brain tissue that's available only after death, said Amaral, who's the scientific director of a brain banking collaborative called Autism BrainNet. The bank, funded by the nonprofit Simons Foundation, has collected more than 400 donated brains, about half from people with autism and the rest for comparison.

What about environmental effects?

Researchers have identified other factors that can interact with genetic vulnerability to increase the risk of autism. They include the age of a child's father, whether the mother had certain health problems during pregnancy including diabetes, use of certain medications during pregnancy, and preterm birth.

Any concern that measles vaccinations could be linked to autism has been long debunked, stressed Tager-Flusberg, who leads a new Coalition of Autism Scientists pushing back on administration misstatements about the condition.

What about Kennedy's database plan?

The U.S., with its fragmented health care system, will never have the kind of detailed medical tracking available in countries like Denmark and Norway — places with national health systems where research shows similar rises in autism diagnoses and no environmental smoking gun.

Experts say Kennedy's planned database isn't appropriate to uncover autism's causes in part because there's no information about genetics.

But researchers have long used insurance claims and similar data to study other important questions, such as access to autism services. And the NIH described the upcoming database as useful for studies focusing on access to care, treatment effectiveness and other trends.

Today in History: May 11, Deep Blue defeats Kasparov

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, May 11, the 131st day of 2025. There are 234 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On May 11, 1997, the IBM supercomputer Deep Blue defeated chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov in the final game of a six-game match in New York, winning 3 ½-2 ½ and marking the first time a computer won a match against a reigning world champion.

Also on this date:

In 1935, the Rural Electrification Administration was created as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

In 1946, the first CARE packages, sent by a consortium of American charities to provide relief to the hungry of postwar Europe, arrived at Le Havre, France.

In 1953, one of the deadliest tornadoes in Texas history devastated the city of Waco, killing 114 people and injuring nearly 600.

In 1960, Israeli agents captured Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In 1973, the espionage trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo in the "Pentagon Papers" case came to an end as Judge William M. Byrne dismissed all charges, citing government misconduct.

In 1981, reggae artist Bob Marley died in a Miami hospital at age 36 of acral lentiginous melanoma.

In 1984, Claus Barbie, the Nazi Gestapo chief known as the "Butcher of Lyon," went on trial in Lyon for crimes against humanity after being extradited from Bolivia, where he lived for over 30 years after World War II. (Barbie would be found guilty and would die in prison four years later.)

In 1996, an Atlanta-bound ValuJet DC-9 caught fire shortly after takeoff from Miami and crashed into the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 people on board.

Today's Birthdays: Rock singer Eric Burdon is 84. Actor Frances Fisher is 73. Former MTV VJ Martha

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Quinn is 66. Olympic boxing gold medalist Mark Breland is 62. Actor Tim Blake Nelson is 61. Basketball Hall of Famer Lauren Jackson is 44. Former NFL quarterback Cam Newton is 36. Latin pop singer Prince Royce is 36. Actor Lana Condor is 28. Singer-actor Sabrina Carpenter is 26.