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Sunday, June 15

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

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.

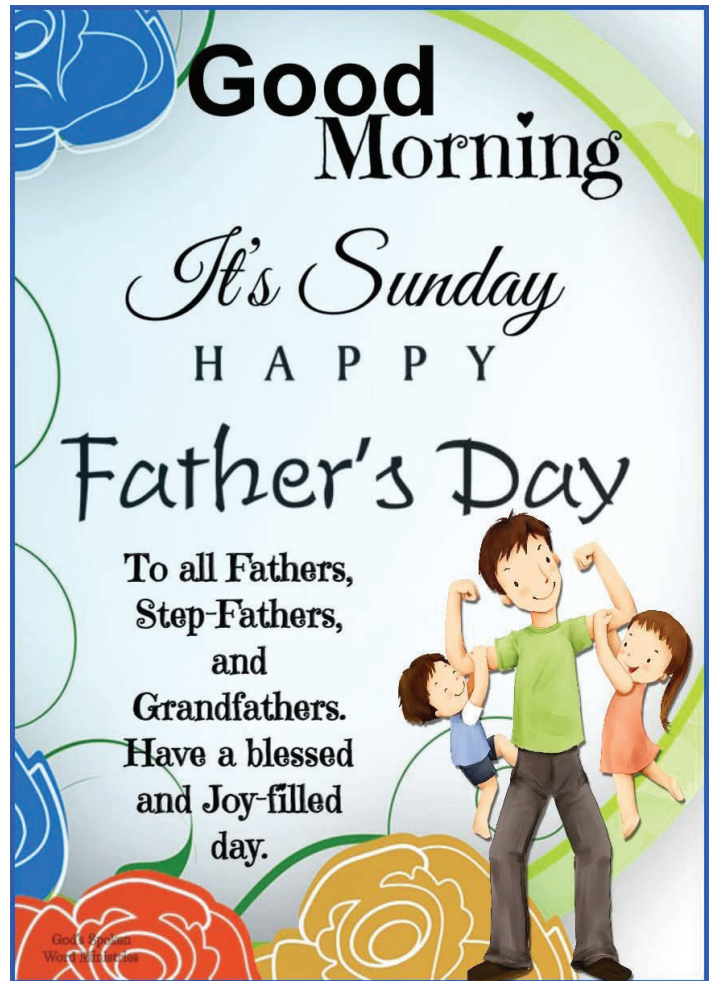
Emmanuel Lutheran worship 9 a.m.

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.

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PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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



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.

Jr. Legion hosts Redfield, 3 p.m.

Legion hosts Redfield, 1 p.m.

Monday, June 16

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage roll hot dish, mixed vegetables, apricots, whole wheat bread.

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

Jr. Teeners at Milbank, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U12 B&W at Sisseton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U10 W&R at Britton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U8 R&B at Britton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Softball: U8B hosts Claremont, 5:30 p.m.

T-Ball: G&B hosts Warner, Black at 6 p.m., Gold at 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study, 6:30 a.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

Trump's Troop Deployment Scrambles Constitutional Arrangements

Since his inauguration, President Donald Trump has engaged in a sustained program to scramble our constitutional arrangements and upend democratic principles. He abandoned respect for The Blue when he pardoned the January 6 rioters and insurrectionists who attacked U.S. Capitol Police as part of a plan to prevent congressional certification of the 2020 election, in which he was defeated by Joe Biden. He has asserted "absolute" authority under Article II of the Constitution, and laid waste to the doctrine of checks and balances through usurpation of the fundamental constitutional powers of Congress, his assault on judicial independence and denial of the authority of courts to exercise judicial review of executive actions. He has struck at the core of due process of law, freedom of speech and freedom of the press, and has marshaled the full force of the federal government against institutions of knowledge and expertise--law firms, American colleges and universities, the media -- created to educate and inform the public and advance and protect intellectual independence and freedom. In an unprecedented effort to control curriculum, faculty hirings, and student enrollment, Trump would enshrine himself as the putative head of Harvard University, just as he installed himself as President of the Kennedy Center. The totality of his efforts to remake our society, culture and government in his image overwhelms measurement.

President Trump's deployment of the National Guard and active-duty Marines—a total of some 4,700 soldiers—to counter protestors, the vast majority of whom were entirely peaceful, over the objections of the Los Angeles Mayor, Karen Bass, and California's Governor, Gavin Newsom, represents a continuation of his assault on our nation's laws and norms. Trump, Vice-President J.D. Vance, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, and other members of the administration have variously referred to the protestors as "insurrectionists," part of an "invasion" and "rebellion." Hegseth announced the use of federalized troops to protect ICE agents and federal buildings against attacks by protestors, but he refused to answer at a Senate hearing whether the soldiers might be used to enforce American laws. In a rambling speech at Fort Bragg, Trump, the first convicted felon elected to the presidency, referred to dissidents and protestors as "animals" and a "foreign enemy." The baseless use of these inflammatory words is designed to support Trump's consolidation of power and provide legal justification for his deployment of military forces.

Since his first term, when he asked General Mark Milley, Chair of the Joint Chiefs, if he could authorize shooting Black Lives protestors "in the legs," President Trump has long mused about using the military to crush protests. Trump's order this week did not specify any standards for the use of force by troops. Speaking of the forthcoming June 14 parade in Washington, D.C., commemorating the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army, Trump told reporters that protestors would be met by "very heavy force." Of course, peaceful protestors are protected by the First Amendment under freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, and they constrain governmental actions that would interfere with the exercise of those rights. Consider the crucial question of whether it is legal to deploy troops on American soil.

The 1878 Posse Comitatus Act prohibits, with one exception, the use of federal troops on domestic soil for the purpose of law enforcement. However, the 1807 Insurrection Act creates an exception by allowing the president to decide whether "unlawful obstructions, combinations or assemblages, or rebellion against the authority of the United States" overwhelms the capabilities of ordinary law enforcement agencies

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and renders the enforcement of federal law "impracticable." As a consequence, the congressional drafters of this statute, and its earlier version in 1795, the president is expected to await a call from a state's Governor asking for help. Trump did not receive from Governor Newsom a request for aid and assistance from the federal government. Newsom, like Mayor Bass, believed the Los Angeles Police Department was fully capable of handling, and where necessary, arresting, those who engaged in violence and vandalized property. For what it's worth, the LAPD declared that it did not need the intervention of the White House.

At bottom, Trump has manufactured a crisis; indeed, he said, "Los Angeles is burning." LA is not burning. With the falsification of an emergency, Trump created the pretext to deploy troops over the objections of state and local officials.

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.

Groton Legion Post 39's Carter Simon Takes Hit Streak Into Game Against Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser 18U

Groton Legion Post 39's Carter Simon takes a 5-game hitting streak into their matchup against Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser 18U on Sunday at Groton 1 p.m. Simon has gone 7-16 during the streak with two extra base hits.

Last Time Out:

Groton Legion Post 39 were defeated by Post 9 11-5 at Groton. Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser 18U fell to 2025 Lake Norden/Badger Legion 10-9.

Player Highlight:

Brevin Fliehs hits and pitches for Groton Legion Post 39. Fliehs primarily plays shortstop on the field. Fliehs has hit for power this season with four triples and three doubles among Fliehs's 14 hits. Fliehs gets ahead in the count fast on the bump. Fliehs has thrown first pitch strikes to 25 of the 47 batters they've faced this season.

About Groton Legion Post 39:

Groton Legion Post 39 has a record of 7-3 this season. Korbin Kucker's 1.258 OPS leads Groton Legion Post 39. The second baseman has a 0.500 OBP and a 0.758 slugging percentage this season. Gavin Englund leads Groton Legion Post 39 with 15 and two-thirds innings pitched. The starting pitcher has a 4.47 ERA this season. Karsten Fliehs leads Groton Legion Post 39 with 57 total fielding chances this season. Fliehs's primary position is catcher.

About Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser 18U:

Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser 18U has one win against five losses this season. Tate Bray's 1.167 OPS leads Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser 18U. The third baseman has a 0.667 OBP and a 0.500 slugging percentage this season. Hunter Binger leads Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser 18U with 12 and one-third innings pitched. Chase Odland leads Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser 18U with 21 total fielding chances this season. Odland's primary position is shortstop.

Groton Transit Fundraiser



When: Thursday, June 19, 2025

Time: 5:00 pm-7:00 pm

Where: Groton Community Center

*** Groton Transit Fundraiser will be held at the Groton Community Center-
109 N 3rd Street- One block East of Groton Transit***

Let us do the Cooking for you!! Burgers, Brats, Beans, Watermelon, Chips,
and the Famous Mini Donuts!!

Food*Fun*Door Prizes

FREE WILL DONATION

Please join us & Help support Groton Transit!

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Bats Stymied For Both Teams As Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Loses To Platte

By GameChanger Media

Both teams were strong on the hill on Saturday, but Platte was just a little bit stronger at the plate in their 3-1 victory over Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Nick Groeblichhoff started the game for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion and recorded 15 outs.

Platte opened the scoring in the bottom of the first thanks to two singles. Platte first got on the board when Kenyon Kuiper singled, scoring one run.

Kuiper earned the win for Platte. The starting pitcher surrendered three hits and one run over six innings, striking out 15 and walking three. Groeblichhoff took the loss for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The pitcher went five innings, giving up three runs (zero earned) on seven hits, striking out six and walking one.

Alex Abeln led Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with one run batted in. The shortstop went 1-for-3 on the day. Lincoln Krause, Abeln, and Groeblichhoff each collected one hit for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion.

Asher Kott and Kuiper were a force together in the lineup, as they each collected two hits for Platte. Isaac Leader led Platte with two runs batted in. The shortstop went 1-for-3 on the day.

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Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Lead Slips In Loss To Winner/Colome Jr Legion

By GameChanger Media

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion stayed in it until the end, but Winner/Colome Jr Legion pulled away late in a 5-4 victory on Saturday at Platte. The game was tied at four in the top of the seventh when one run scored on another play.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion got on the board in the bottom of the second inning after Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion scored on a wild pitch, and Lincoln Krause walked, each scoring one run.

Winner/Colome Jr Legion tied the game up in the top of the fourth thanks to two singles. Winner/Colome Jr Legion tied the game at two on a single by Evan Littau.

Winner/Colome Jr Legion took the lead in the top of the fifth. An error scored one run, to give Winner/Colome Jr Legion the leg up, 3-2.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion tied the game in the bottom of the sixth thanks to a walk by Alex Abeln, and a ground out by Isaiah Scepaniak.

Carter McKenzie earned the win for Winner/Colome Jr Legion. The starter gave up four hits and three runs over five innings, striking out nine and walking four. Abeln took the loss for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The pitcher went six and two-thirds innings, allowing four runs (two earned) on seven hits, striking out nine and walking one.

Abeln went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion in hits. Scepaniak and Abeln each drove in one run for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Krause led Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with three walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, accumulating six walks for the game. Krause stole two bases.

Mckenzie went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Winner/Colome Jr Legion in hits. Adryan Brandis threw an immaculate inning in the seventh, striking out the side on nine pitches. Mckenzie stole three bases.

Next up for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion is a game against Redfield on Sunday.

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Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion 1 - 3 Platte

📍 Away 📅 Saturday June 14, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
GRTN	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	1
PLTT	3	0	0	0	0	X	3	7	3

BATTING

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Krause #2 (C)	1	1	1	0	2	0
A Abeln #5 (SS)	3	0	1	1	0	1
R Schelle #8 (3B)	3	0	0	0	0	2
I Scepaniak #20	1	0	0	0	1	1
N Groebl... #13 (P)	1	0	1	0	0	0
J Schwan #11 (LF)	3	0	0	0	0	3
T McGa... #22 (CF)	3	0	0	0	0	3
K Oswald #12 (2B)	3	0	0	0	0	3
B Fliehs #19 (1B)	2	0	0	0	0	1
J Bisbee #15 (RF)	2	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	22	1	3	1	3	15

3B: A Abeln, **TB:** N Groeblinghoff, L Krause, A Abeln 3, **LOB:** 6

PITCHING

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
N Groe... #13	5.0	7	3	0	1	6
Totals	5.0	7	3	0	1	6

L: N Groeblinghoff, **P-S:** N Groeblinghoff 66-51, **BF:** N Groeblinghoff 24

Platte	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Q Stephens (CF)	3	1	0	0	0	0
B Veurink (RF)	3	0	0	0	0	1
K Kuiper (P)	3	1	2	1	0	0
A Kott (C)	3	1	2	0	0	1
D Ebel (1B)	3	0	0	0	0	2
I Leader (SS)	3	0	1	2	0	0
C Vanden Be... (2B)	1	0	1	0	1	0
C Baas (3B)	2	0	0	0	0	1
K Strand (LF)	2	0	1	0	0	1
Totals	23	3	7	3	1	6

TB: K Kuiper 2, A Kott 2, K Strand, I Leader, C Vanden Berge, **SB:** Q Stephens, A Kott, C Vanden Berge, **LOB:** 6

Platte	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
K Kuiper	6.0	3	1	1	3	15	0
Totals	6.0	3	1	1	3	15	0

W: K Kuiper, **P-S:** K Kuiper 96-66, **BF:** K Kuiper 25

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Winner/Colome Jr Legion 5 - 4 Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion

📍 Home 📅 Saturday June 14, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
WNNR	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	5	7	1
GRTN	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	4	5	3

BATTING

Winner/Colome Jr Legion	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	
A Brandis #31 (CF)	4	1	1	0	0	1
C Anderson #2 (SS)	4	1	1	0	0	2
M Fiester... #18 (C)	3	0	0	0	1	1
C Mckenzie #1 (P)	3	3	2	1	1	0
E Littau #34 (2B)	2	0	1	1	1	1
J Day #37 (RF)	4	0	0	0	0	0
L Dutt #39 (3B)	3	0	1	0	0	1
E Bice #23 (LF)	3	0	1	1	0	1
C Foster #32 (1B)	3	0	0	0	0	2
Totals	29	5	7	3	3	9

3B: C Anderson, **TB:** E Bice, C Anderson 3, C Mckenzie 2, L Dutt, E Littau, A Brandis, **HBP:** E Littau, **SB:** C Anderson, C Mckenzie 3, A Brandis, **LOB:** 7

PITCHING

Winner/Colome Jr Legion	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	
C Mcken... #1	5.0	4	3	4	9	0
A Brandis #31	2.0	1	1	2	4	0
Totals	7.0	5	4	6	13	0

W: C Mckenzie, **P-S:** C Mckenzie 107-61, A Brandis 32-20, **WP:** C Mckenzie 2, A Brandis, **HBP:** C Mckenzie 3, **BF:** C Mckenzie 26, A Brandis 9

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Krause #2 (SS)	1	0	0	0	3	1
A Abeln #5 (P)	3	0	2	1	1	0
N Groebl... #13 (1B)	3	0	0	0	0	1
B Fliehs #19 (1B)	1	0	0	0	0	0
I Scepan... #20 (3B)	4	0	1	1	0	0
T McGa... #22 (CF)	3	1	0	0	0	3
J Schwan #11 (LF)	2	1	0	0	0	2
J Bisbee #15 (2B)	4	0	1	0	0	3
K Oswald #12 (C)	2	1	0	0	2	2
X Ellene... #21 (RF)	3	1	1	0	0	1
Totals	26	4	5	2	6	13

TB: A Abeln 2, I Scepaniak, J Bisbee, X Ellenecker, **HBP:** J Schwan 2, T McGannon, **SB:** A Abeln, L Krause 2, **LOB:** 10

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	R	ER	BB	SO	HR		
A Abeln #5	6.2	7	4	2	1	9	0
B Fliehs #19	0.1	0	1	0	2	0	0
Totals	7.0	7	5	2	3	9	0

L: A Abeln, **P-S:** A Abeln 106-79, B Fliehs 14-6, **HBP:** A Abeln, **BF:** A Abeln 30, B Fliehs 3



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Minnesota House Democratic leader dead after 'politically motivated assassination'

Democratic Sen. John Hoffman also shot, expected to recover

BY: MICHELLE GRIFFITH - JUNE 14, 2025 11:26 AM

House Democratic-Farmer-Labor caucus leader Melissa Hortman, who was among the most influential Minnesota elected officials of the past decade, died on Saturday morning after a man impersonating a police officer shot her in her Brooklyn Park home, Gov. Tim Walz said.

Hortman's husband was also shot and killed, the governor said.

Walz, appearing emotional at a press conference in the north metro, said they were killed in an apparent "politically motivated assassination."

"Our state lost a great leader, and I lost the dearest of friends," Walz said. "(Hortman) was a formidable public servant, a fixture and a giant in Minnesota."

Democratic Sen. John Hoffman and his wife were also shot multiple times earlier in the evening in their Champlin home. Walz said they were out of surgery, and that he's "cautiously optimistic they will survive this assassination attempt."

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Superintendent Drew Evans said Champlin law enforcement received a call at about 2 a.m. that a person shot Hoffman and his wife.

Brooklyn Park Police Department Chief Mark Bruley said his officers assisted; a sergeant suggested checking in on Hortman's home. They live about five to eight miles away from each other. When Brooklyn Park police officers arrived at Hortman's home, they encountered a person who was dressed like a police officer who "immediately fired at them," Evans said. Police exchanged gunfire with the person, but they were able to escape.

The shooter is still at large, and Brooklyn Park is under a shelter-in-place order. Hundreds of police officers and SWAT teams are conducting a manhunt for the person, officials said.

Bruley said that when they arrived at Hortman's home, they saw a police SUV with its lights on and saw the suspect was impersonating a police officer.

In the SUV, police found a "manifesto," with a list of lawmakers and other officials on it. Hortman and Hoffman were on the list.

Hortman, who has two adult children, was first elected to the Legislature in 2004 and served as House speaker from 2019 to 2024. She lost two elections before winning, which she said gave her an understanding of what it takes to win swing seats and hold them.



Speaker emeritus Rep. Melissa Hortman talks to colleagues during a special legislative session Monday, June 9, 2025 at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul. (Photo by Nicole Neri/Minnesota Reformer)

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Her speakership will be remembered as among the most consequential in recent Minnesota political history. With Walz and Senate GOP Majority Leader Paul Gazelka, she guided the state through the pandemic before helping Democrats achieve a trifecta in the 2022 election.

During the 2023 legislative session, she helped bridge the wide gulf between moderates and progressives in her caucus to achieve a historic legislative agenda. Democrats codified abortion rights in law; invested in education, including universal schools meals, as well as transportation and housing; created paid family leave; legalized cannabis; and passed gun control laws.

The encomiums poured in Saturday. "There is no greater champion for Minnesota's working people than Melissa Hortman," said Joel Smith, President and Business Manager of LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota, the laborers union.

Hoffman was elected in 2012 and is known for his work on human services.

The Reformer sat down with Hortman at the Capitol on Thursday to discuss the 2025 session, which ended on Monday.

During his remarks Saturday, Walz denounced political violence and said the people involved in the shooting would be caught and held responsible.

"This was an act of targeted political violence. Peaceful discourse is the foundation of our democracy. We don't settle our differences with violence or at gunpoint," Walz said.

House Speaker Lisa Demuth, R-Cold Spring, who worked closely with Hortman in the Legislature to negotiate a state budget this year, said she was horrified by Hortman's murder.

"I am horrified by the evil attack that took place overnight, and heartbroken beyond words by the loss of Speaker-Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark," Demuth said in a statement.

This story was originally published by the Minnesota Reformer. Like South Dakota Searchlight, it's part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Minnesota Reformer maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor J. Patrick Coolican for questions: info@minnesotareformer.com.

Michelle Griffith covers Minnesota politics and policy for the Minnesota Reformer, with a focus on marginalized communities. Most recently she was a reporter with The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead in North Dakota where she covered state and local government and Indigenous issues. For two years she was also a corps member with Report for America, a national nonprofit that places journalists in local newsrooms and news deserts. She lives in St. Paul and likes to knit and watch documentaries in her free time.

Army parade, Trump birthday take over D.C., as 'No Kings' protests erupt across nation

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA AND ASHLEY MURRAY - JUNE 14, 2025 4:56 PM

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Saturday was set to celebrate his 79th birthday reviewing a parade of tanks, armament and marching soldiers gathered in the nation's capital for the Army's 250th anniversary celebration, amid heightened political tensions across the country and anti-Trump "No Kings" protests.

The parade, following a day of festivities showing off Army skills and equipment, was expected to begin around 6:30 p.m. Eastern along Constitution Avenue NW and run for a little more than an hour. Trump vowed on social media it would occur "rain or shine," given weather forecasts calling for showers.

According to the Army, 6,700 soldiers were expected to march. Crowds could also expect to see 150 tactical vehicles and weapons systems. Together the parade and festival cost between \$25 million and \$45 million, according to the Army.

But tragedy and deep conflict marked the hours and days leading to the event. Early Saturday, a Minnesota Democratic state lawmaker and her husband were assassinated in their home in an "act of political violence," said Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, while another legislator and his wife were shot and gravely wounded.

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Late Friday, dozens of veterans breached barricades around the U.S. Capitol in protest of the Army parade. On Thursday, a Democratic U.S. senator from California was handcuffed and forcibly removed from a press conference with the head of Homeland Security.

Last weekend, multi-day protests erupted in Los Angeles after immigration raids swept across several Home Depots, typically where undocumented day laborers search for work, as Trump's mass deportations continue to be carried out.

And the president is in a legal standoff with California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, after Trump ordered more than 4,000 National Guard troops and 700 Marines to be sent to LA without Newsom's consent and Newsom sued. A federal appeals court froze a lower court's order directing Trump to return command of the Guard troops to Newsom.



An American flag is unfurled near the Washington Monument prior to a parade and celebration marking the 250th birthday of the U.S. Army June 14, 2025 in Washington, D.C. The parade, which coincides with President Donald Trump's 79th birthday, is designed to tell the history of the Army. (Photo by Samuel Corum/Getty Images)

'Yeah, I wanna be there'

In Washington, spectators from across the country began lining barriers along the Army parade route hours before the event's start.

Scott Aiken, 59, of Athens, Georgia, drove 10 hours for the parade. Aiken, who told States Newsroom he voted for Trump in the last three presidential elections, said he wanted to support the anniversary of the Army.

"My father was in the Army, and my wife's father was in the Army, and we're a supportive military family. And when I heard the parade was going to happen, I thought, 'Yeah, I wanna be there.' So we drove up from Athens on Thursday, and did the Capitol tour yesterday, and here we are."

When asked about the timing of Trump's birthday, Aiken said "whether it's on his birthday or not, I don't care. That's not the purpose of this."

Members of Trump's Cabinet and other allies on social media posted well wishes and greetings. "Wishing a very happy birthday to our incredible President Donald J. Trump!" Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem posted on X. Trump said on his social media site, Truth Social, "President Putin called this morning to very nicely wish me a Happy Birthday, but to more importantly, talk about Iran," referring to Russian President Vladimir Putin and a recent attack by Israel on Iran's military leaders.

Not everyone at the parade was wishing Trump well. Angelica Zetino, 24, and Shoshauna Brooks, 27, from Rockville and Gaithersburg, Maryland, stood out among the crowd as they carried signs protesting Trump's administration, particularly recent immigration raids.

The pair began their morning at a "No Kings" protest in Rockville before heading to D.C.

"They (the administration) just want to put on a show, which is OK, but we're here to support the people that can't have a voice for themselves," Brooks said.

Rallies opposing Trump

Throughout Saturday, protests unfolded across the U.S. bearing the theme "No Kings" to decry Trump's military display on his own birthday and the mass immigration arrests.

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The "No Kings" national organizers said in a press release that as of 2 p.m. Eastern, protesters had rallied at more than 1,500 sites across the country, with 600 more events scheduled through the rest of the day. "No Kings" was organized by liberal groups and labor unions including Indivisible, the American Federation of Teachers, American Civil Liberties Union, Public Citizen, MoveOn, 50501, Interfaith Alliance, Stand Up America, Common Defense, Human Rights Campaign and League of Conservation Voters.

Approximately 60 protesters were arrested outside the U.S. Capitol Friday evening, according to the U.S. Capitol Police. Veterans for Peace, a group that organized the demonstration, posted photos of the arrests and of several demonstrators wearing "Veterans Against Fascists" t-shirts.

Police said 75 people peacefully demonstrated outside of the U.S. Supreme Court.

"A short time later, approximately 60 people from the group left the Supreme Court so as a precaution, our officers began establishing a perimeter," a police spokesperson told States Newsroom in an email. "A few people pushed the bike rack down and illegally crossed the police line while running towards the Rotunda Steps. Our officers immediately blocked the group and began making arrests."

Among those arrested was an elderly Vietnam veteran using a walker, Capitol Police confirmed.

Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on June 10 that any protests at the military parade "will be met with very heavy force."

Two mules and a dog

A trickle of red "Make America Great Again" hats and apparel displaying support for the Army intermingled as supporters shuffled into the parade grounds Saturday afternoon.

The parade featured soldiers from every division, 150 vehicles, 50 aircraft, 34 horses, two mules and one dog, at a price tag in the tens of millions of dollars, according to the Army.

Among the vehicles and equipment that are expected to roll down Constitution Avenue between 15th and 23rd streets NW were Abrams tanks, first used in 1991 for Operation Desert Storm; High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, used to launch multiple rockets at precise aim from far distances; and 9,500-pound titanium M777 lightweight Howitzers that fire 105-pound shells up to 24 miles and are currently in use on Ukraine's battlefields.

Military aircraft that are expected to be seen above Washington in ceremonial flyovers, from AH-64 Apaches, UH-60 Blackhawks and CH-47 Chinooks. Army Golden Knights were set to parachute down to the White House South Lawn to present Trump with a folded flag.

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser expressed concern in the weeks leading up to the parade about the heavy tactical vehicles causing damage to the city's streets. The Army Corps of Engineers had installed large steel plates ahead of the event to reinforce the roads.

The parade coincided with the Army's 250th birthday celebration festival, which has been in the works for a year.

The parade appears to have been a late addition to the festivities. According to documentation obtained by local D.C. news outlet WTOP, America250 applied on March 31 for a permit for the parade. A May 21 press release about the parade from America250, which describes itself as a "nonprofit supporting organization to the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission," celebrated Trump's role in the event.

Trump wanted a military parade during his first term, but the idea was dismissed because of cost, NBC reported at the time.

The last time the U.S. staged a celebratory military parade was in 1991 under former President George H.W. Bush to recognize the victory in the first Gulf War.

Immigration enforcement and military

The big Army celebration early in Trump's second term came as the president has intertwined the U.S. military with his immigration policy, as shown in LA and elsewhere.

In his first days in office, Trump signed five executive orders that laid out the use of military forces within the U.S. borders and extended other executive powers to speed up the president's immigration crackdown.

He's directed the Department of Defense to use a naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to detain mi-

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grants. Military planes have been used in deportations – rather than standard commercial airplanes.

In April, he signed a proclamation creating a military buffer zone that stretches across Arizona, California and New Mexico just north of the U.S.-Mexico border. It means any migrant crossing into the United States would be trespassing on a military base, therefore allowing active-duty troops to hold them until U.S. Border Patrol agents arrive.

National and military experts have raised concerns that giving control over the Roosevelt Reservation to the military could violate the Posse Comitatus Act, an 1878 law that generally prohibits the military from being used in domestic law enforcement. A statutory exception in the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, is the Insurrection Act of 1807.

Trump has considered invoking the Insurrection Act, but has stopped short. The Insurrection Act is an existing presidential authority that would grant the president access to use all federal military forces, more than 1 million members.

The Insurrection Act has only been invoked 30 times, and is typically focused on an area of great civil unrest that has overwhelmed law enforcement.

The last time a president used it was 1992, during the Los Angeles riots, after four white police officers were acquitted in the brutal beating of Black motorist Rodney King.

In calling in the National Guard in LA last week, Trump cited a rarely used statute known as the protective power – 10 U.S.C. 12406 – to use National Guard troops to protect federal personnel and property, but not for broad law enforcement functions.

Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her areas of coverage include politics and policy, lobbying, elections and campaign finance.

Ashley Murray covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include domestic policy and appropriations.

No Kings protests around the nation denounce Trump's actions

BY: STATES NEWSROOM - JUNE 14, 2025 2:40 PM

With the nation's capital hosting multimillion-dollar celebrations and a parade marking the U.S. Army's 250th anniversary and President Donald Trump's birthday Saturday, No Kings demonstrations are underway around the country to protest the president's executive orders and actions that have left thousands without jobs and diminished government services and support.

In Maine, Democratic U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree attended a rally in York, handing out red roses to marchers. "People are angry. They want to know what to do, want to do something. They want to fight back," she said.

Rain wasn't enough to keep away the crowds.

The No Kings national organizers said in a press release that as of 2 p.m. ET, protesters had rallied at more than 1,500 sites across the country, with 600 more events scheduled through the rest of the day.

"We're just really concerned about losing our democracy," said Rhonda Clair of Hendricks County at the demonstration at the Indiana Capitol.

In South Carolina, Tessa Gonzalez, a pediatrician, attended the demonstration of thousands at the Statehouse grounds in Columbia. Her 8-year-old daughter and potential cuts to Medicaid moved her family to join the rally. The child has a rare genetic mutation and requires a specialized wheelchair.

"My daughter, 100% depends on Medicaid to provide the medicine, equipment — everything that she



Demonstrators hold signs during a No Kings protest on June 14, 2025, in Sioux Falls. (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

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needs to lead a happy, healthy life," Gonzalez said. "So it's essential."

Protesters in Georgia evoked the name of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. during a rally near the Gold Dome in Atlanta with signs that read, "Our only king is MLK Jr.!!!"

Anna Yousaf, an infectious disease doctor who works with vaccines at the CDC, told the Georgia Recorder she came out to oppose Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who she said is undermining public trust in vaccines to deadly effect.

"Disinformation used to be coming from non-governmental sources," she said. "Now, RFK Jr. is hijacking political organizations like the CDC, like the FDA, and using our name brand, if you will, to spread disinformation. And so people who would ordinarily go to a CDC resource for trusted information, now they're going to get disinformation from the health secretary of the United States."

"If he succeeds in his crusade to undermine vaccine confidence and restrict access, we will see thousands of people die, mostly children," she added.

Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen issued a state of emergency and activated the National Guard as a precaution, citing the reaction to recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis posted one message on social media Saturday, not mentioning the crowd outside his office but rather Army anniversary. "As Americans, we carry the sacred duty to remember, to reflect, and to protect the freedoms that generations of our countrymen have fought to secure."

Nikki Fried, chair of the Florida Democratic Party, appeared in Tallahassee and posted video comments on social media. "I'm standing on the Old Capitol steps as hundreds and hundreds of Americans are here showing up today to tell Donald Trump, 'No Kings in America.' We're going to fight for our Constitution, fight for our democracy," she said.

Massive crowds were crossing the Broadway Street bridge in Little Rock, Arkansas, where 15 demonstrations were expected across the state.

"June 14, Flag Day, is when President Donald Trump is holding a military parade in the nation's capital, wasting tens of millions of taxpayer dollars as a birthday gift to himself while his administration defies checks on his power, undermines our civil rights and tries to strip away essential benefits from veterans, seniors, hungry children and others," Indivisible NWA, the organizers of the No Kings protest in Fayetteville, Arkansas, said in a press release.

City spokesperson Gracie Ziegler said Fayetteville did not anticipate any major issues and that the protest's organizers have been very communicative.

"The police department is aware of the plans, and they'll be present to make sure everybody stays safe and peaceful, which is the goal of the organizers," Ziegler said.

The No Kings protests come as mostly nonviolent demonstrations have been building this week around the country in response to ICE raids and in solidarity with Los Angeles, where Trump sent troops in defiance of Democratic California Gov. Gavin Newsom. U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla, D-California, was forcibly removed and handcuffed by federal authorities Thursday during Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's press conference in Los Angeles.

Saturday's protests also coincide with the 250th anniversary of the Army. A military parade will mark the occasion in D.C., where critics have blasted the parade's cost and optics as Congress weighs the budget reconciliation package that proposes massive cuts to safety net programs.

Earlier this week, Trump said that protests at the Army parade "will be met with very heavy force."

The U.S. Capitol Police told States Newsroom that protesters were arrested outside the Capitol late Friday after they pushed down bike rack barriers around the building and began running for the Rotunda steps. Veterans for Peace, a group that organized the demonstration, posted photos of the arrests on social media and of several demonstrators wearing "Veterans Against Fascists" t-shirts. Among those arrested was an elderly Vietnam veteran using a walker, Capitol Police confirmed.

Niki Kelly of Indiana Capital Chronicle, Ainsley Platt of Arkansas Advocate, Ross Williams of Georgia Recorder, Cassandra Stephenson of Tennessee Lookout, Juan Salinas of Nebraska Examiner, Michael Moline of Florida Phoenix, Jessica Holdman of South Carolina Daily Gazette, Delilah Brumer of Colorado Newslane and Jane Norman of States Newsroom's D.C. Bureau contributed to this report.

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Measles cases are in 34 states with North Dakota now the focus As RFK Jr. overhauls federal vaccination panel, experts say shots have helped slow a Texas outbreak

BY: TIM HENDERSON, STATELINE - JUNE 14, 2025 11:11 AM

As super-contagious measles continues to spread and nears a six-year U.S. record, cases in its original epicenter of West Texas may be subsiding as hesitant residents become more concerned and willing to vaccinate, while North Dakota is a new focus with the highest rate of any state.

The reality of measles may be overcoming vaccine misinformation in some areas, despite the purge of experts from decision-making roles in the Trump administration under Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. The nation's top vaccine expert resigned under pressure in March.

And on June 11, Kennedy appointed eight new members of an immunization advisory panel — some of whom are vaccine critics — after sacking all 17 members of the group two days earlier. Kennedy called his actions “a major step towards restoring public trust in vaccines.”

The University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, however, called the committee's mass replacement “one of the darkest days in modern public health history.” The Infectious Diseases Society of America called the move “reckless, shortsighted and severely harmful,” saying Kennedy's criticism of the original 17 committee members is “completely unfounded.”

In West Texas, where outbreaks are concentrated, the city of Lubbock hasn't seen a new case in 20 days, said Katherine Wells, public health director for the city. The area is east of the largest Texas outbreaks, which were centered on a Mennonite community with religious objections to vaccination.

Wells attributed the recent success to a combination of more vaccinations, public awareness campaigns and willingness to stay home when sick to avoid transmission.

“I talked to some people who, because there's so much information about the risk of vaccines and the bad side effects, I can see from a parent's perspective, ‘Why would I give my child that?’” Wells said. “Now they've seen measles in their community, so now they're thinking, ‘OK, now I'm going to get vaccinated.’”

Outbreak moves north

In North Dakota, however, the state's 34 cases give it the highest rate in the nation, followed by New Mexico and Texas, according to the North Dakota Public Health Association, a nonprofit health advocacy group that published an analysis of individual states' data on Facebook. The state's first case since 2011 was reported May 2.

“This is not a result of local public health failure,” the organization posted. “This is a result of persons in the community choosing not to have their children vaccinated and resisting local public health recommendations and urgent efforts to increase vaccination uptake.”

Dr. Stephen McDonough, a pediatrician and former state health officer in North Dakota, said he hasn't seen signs of improvement in the state. He doubts recent federal moves will do anything but make the situation worse.

“The outbreak in North Dakota is real, has not peaked yet and is expanding,” McDonough said in an



Residents browse offerings at a 2023 festival in downtown Fargo, N.D. Measles outbreaks starting in May have grown to 34 cases in North Dakota, giving the state the highest rate in the country, followed by New Mexico and Texas.

(Photo courtesy of Visit Fargo-Moorhead)

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interview. "It was just a matter of time before North Dakota experienced a measles outbreak due to our low immunization rate."

Middle school band students in Minot, North Dakota, had to cancel trips to a regional band festival and parade in May because of the outbreak. Some 150 unvaccinated children were asked to quarantine for 21 days to avoid further spread.

North Dakota had a 90% vaccination rate among kindergarteners for the 2024-2025 school year, a number that has declined from about 95% in the 2019-2020 school year, according to state records. Vaccination coverage at 95% or above is needed to halt measles transmission.

North Dakota's small population makes its measles rate misleading, said Jenny Galbraith, an immunization manager for the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services.

However, the state has suffered from low vaccination rates in recent years as more parents have claimed exemptions based on personal philosophy, religion or other reasons as allowed by state law. With about 7% of children exempted, it's almost impossible to reach the goal of 95% vaccination, she said.

One hopeful sign is that North Dakota hasn't seen a new measles case since May 28, Galbraith said. "It's hard to say it's getting better because we're not out of the woods yet," she said.

It's not always possible to overcome vaccine misinformation in the rural areas where it has taken root, said Lori Tremmel Freeman, CEO of the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

Increases in vaccination are generally in "areas where people are already comfortable getting vaccinated," she said, rather than areas such as parts of North Dakota and Oklahoma "that are more leery of vaccines and harder to penetrate because of misinformation." Texas County in Oklahoma has 16 confirmed cases, almost all among unvaccinated people.

But local officials can keep stressing the benefits of vaccination and also the need to stay home when measles symptoms appear, advice that those unwilling to vaccinate may be more likely to heed, Freeman said.

"In this day and age, it's an embarrassment that we've lost three people to measles," she said, referring to the three deaths reported this year.

'Cautiously optimistic' in Texas

According to a federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention update June 13, there are 1,197 confirmed cases affecting 34 states. Navajo County, Arizona, reported the state's first four cases this week.

There have been 21 measles outbreaks, defined as clusters of three or more related cases, this year compared with 16 in all of last year, according to the CDC. Cases are now more than four times higher than they were all of last year. And with less than half the year over, case numbers are closing in on 2019's high of 1,274.

That's still a small number compared with almost 28,000 cases in 1990, when an outbreak centered in California hit low-income areas with low vaccination rates.

While the total case count grows, the number of weekly new infections is dropping since a peak of 116 in late March.

In Texas, outbreaks have slowed as unvaccinated people have either gotten vaccinated or become infected and gained immunity, said Lara Anton, spokesperson for the Texas Department of State Health Services.

"The number of new cases in West Texas has slowed down and we are cautiously optimistic that this trend will continue," Anton said.

The current list of states affected by confirmed measles cases this year: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Washington.

Tim Henderson covers demographics for Stateline. He has been a reporter at the Miami Herald, the Cincinnati Enquirer and The Journal News in suburban New York. Henderson became fascinated with census data in the early

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1990s, when AOL offered the first computerized reports. Since then he has broken stories about population trends in South Florida, including a housing affordability analysis included in the 2007 Pulitzer-winning series "House of Lies" for the Miami Herald, and a prize-winning analysis of public pension irregularities for The Journal News. He has been a member and trainer for the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting since its inception 20 years ago, specializing in online data access and visualization along with demographics.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Do not incline my heart
to any evil thing,
to practice wicked works
with men
who work iniquity...*

PSALM 141:4



Detail of *Revolt* by Käthe Kollwitz (1897)

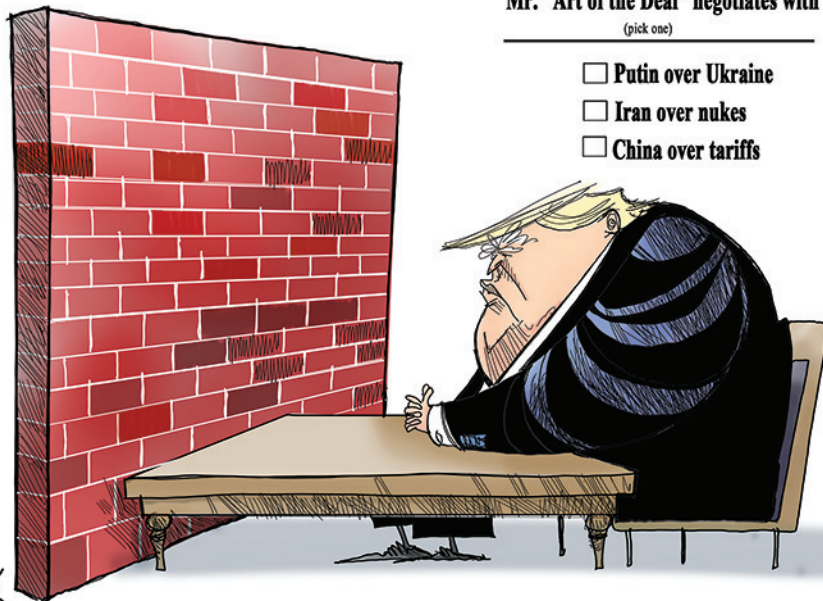
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CURRENT EVENTS QUIZ

Mr. "Art of the Deal" negotiates with
(pick one)

- ☐ Putin over Ukraine
- ☐ Iran over nukes
- ☐ China over tariffs

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EMAIL: WALESNOT@kfj.net
KIRK



BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. Who/what does “their eyes stand out with fatness” refer to in Psalms 73? *Demons, Wicked rich, Serpents, Unholy*

3. From 1 Kings 17, what was the widow’s cruse miraculously kept full of? *Milk, Water, Oil, Light*

4. Who reaped a crop a hundred times the grain he sowed? *Gideon, Isaac, Samson, Hanun*

5. Whose daughter was referred to as “Talitha” by Jesus? *Zeresh, Jairus, Jeremiah, Shelomith*

6. From Acts 16, who sold purple cloth? *Lydia, Zimri, Sisera, Hannah*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Wicked rich, 3) Oil, 4) Isaac, 5) Jairus, 6) Lydia

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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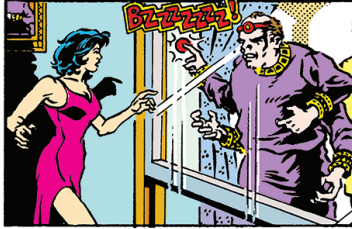
OUR
STORY
SO
FAR...

FLASH AND DALE ARE HELD PRISONER BY KING WARTOG...

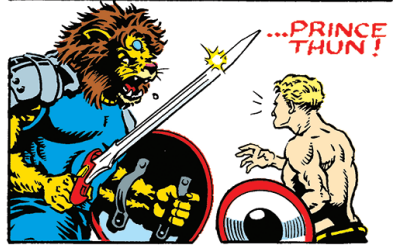


...A DICTATOR WHO USES MIND CONTROL TO ENSURE HIS ABSOLUTE RULE.

HAVING SPURNED HIS ADVANCES, DALE IS SUBJECT TO A DEMONSTRATION OF WARTOG'S POWER.



AS DALE WATCHES, WARTOG PITS FLASH AGAINST ANOTHER OF HIS PRISONERS...

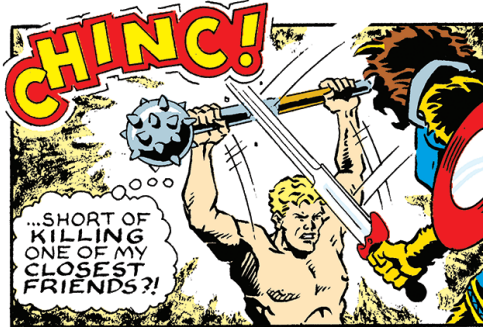
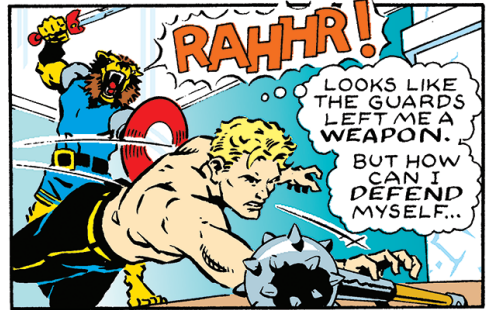
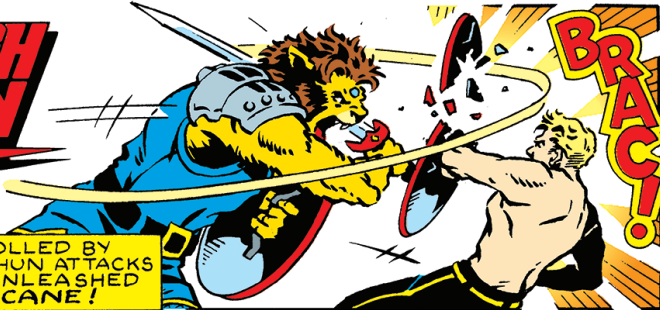


...PRINCE THUN!

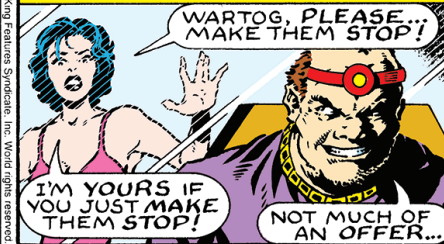
FLASH GORDON

6/1 BY JIM KEEFE

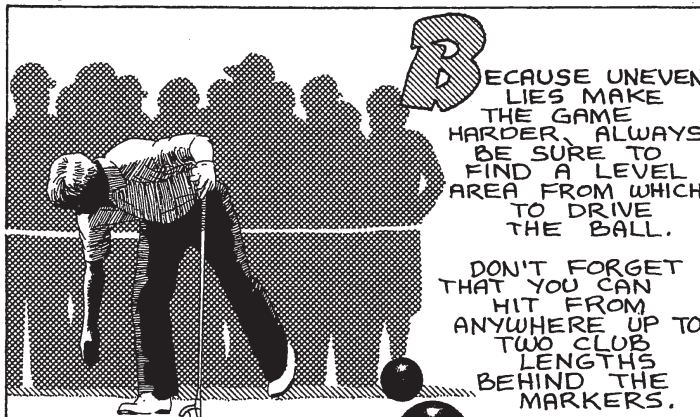
HIS MIND CONTROLLED BY WARTOG, PRINCE THUN ATTACKS FLASH WITH THE UNLEASHED FURY OF A HURRICANE!



MEANWHILE, ON THE BALCONY ABOVE, DALE FRANTICALLY ATTEMPTS TO INTERCEDE...



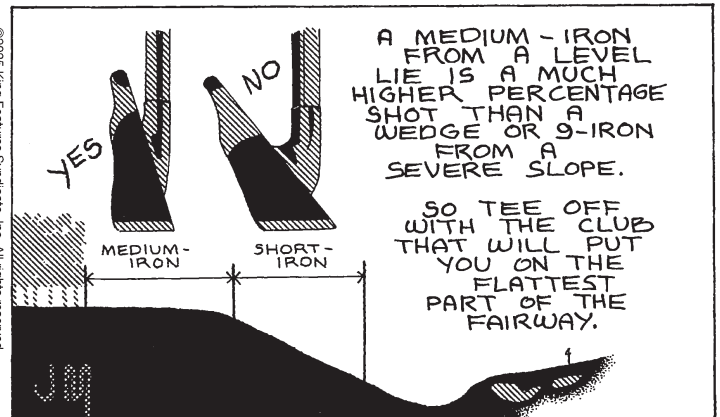
Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



BECAUSE UNEVEN LIES MAKE THE GAME HARDER, ALWAYS BE SURE TO FIND A LEVEL AREA FROM WHICH TO DRIVE THE BALL.

DON'T FORGET THAT YOU CAN HIT FROM ANYWHERE UP TO TWO CLUB LENGTHS BEHIND THE MARKERS.

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A MEDIUM-IRON FROM A LEVEL LIE IS A MUCH HIGHER PERCENTAGE SHOT THAN A WEDGE OR 9-IRON FROM A SEVERE SLOPE.

SO TEE OFF WITH THE CLUB THAT WILL PUT YOU ON THE FLATTEST PART OF THE FAIRWAY.



Using Supplements To Lower Heart Risk Isn't Backed By Evidence

DEAR DR. ROACH: I recently had a CT scan, and my score was 184. My cardiologist put me on 40 mg of Lipitor, which I reluctantly took for three weeks until I developed severe pain in my feet and hands. I stopped taking it, and the pain went away.

I'm a 64-year-old male in excellent shape. I'm currently taking a chelation supplement, vitamin K2 (MK-7), and red rice yeast with CoQ10. Do you have any suggestions for the treatment of my issue? -- A.D.

ANSWER: I'm sorry to say that I disagree with all of your choices. Lipitor is a reasonable choice for the prevention of heart attacks and strokes in a person at an increased risk, such as a 64-year-old man with a coronary

calcium score of 184. (I can't give a better assessment of your risk without knowing a lot more about you, such as your blood pressure and cholesterol.)

Muscle aches are not uncommon with statin drugs like Lipitor, but research has shown that in most people with muscle or joint aches who take statins, the medication is not the underlying cause. (In one study where a person didn't know whether they were taking a statin, the symptoms disappeared. In another, a person who changed from a statin to a placebo every two months was very likely to have no more pain on the placebo than they would on the statin.)

TITLE: Nonetheless, there are other statins that might not cause pain, as well as alternatives like ezetimibe and bempedoic acid, which do not increase the risk of muscle aches and have been proven to reduce heart risk.

A recent large trial on chelation using powerful intravenous infusions did not show any improvement in hospitalizations for heart disease, heart attack, stroke or death compared to a placebo. I don't recommend an unregulated oral supplement.

Although people who take menaquinone-7 (also called vitamin K2) have a lower heart disease risk than those who don't, a randomized trial to prevent calcification of the aortic valve found no benefit. I did not find a trial showing that treating people with vitamin K2 led to a reduced heart risk.

Red yeast rice contains the same active ingredient as the statin drug lovastatin, but at such a low dose that cholesterol levels were not substantially lowered in a recent trial. CoQ10 has been repeatedly shown to be no better than a placebo at reducing statin side effects.

In addition to medication therapy, it's important not to underestimate the effects of a healthy, plant-based diet and regular moderate exercise.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I read your recent column on stevia. It was interesting and helpful, but what I did not see mentioned was the fact that stevia side effects "might include bloating." Boy howdy! We're talking gas city when I ate some sugar-free chocolates that contained stevia instead of sugar.

The flatulence resulting from these stevia chocolates lasted for hours. Stevia produces worse gas than refried beans, onion rings or Brussels sprouts. My advice for anyone eating any food supplemented with stevia is to make sure that you stay home during the hours following ingestion so you can pass gas in private. -- Anon.

ANSWER: Stevia itself doesn't cause gas in most people. But when I looked up the brand of sugar-free chocolates you mention (the name of which I'm not going to print), I found that they have a large amount of maltitol and sorbitol. These are sugar alcohols that are sweet, do not get absorbed, and are very well-known for causing bloating, gas and diarrhea.

Not everyone will get these side effects, but I am almost sure it was the sugar alcohols, not the stevia, that caused your symptoms.

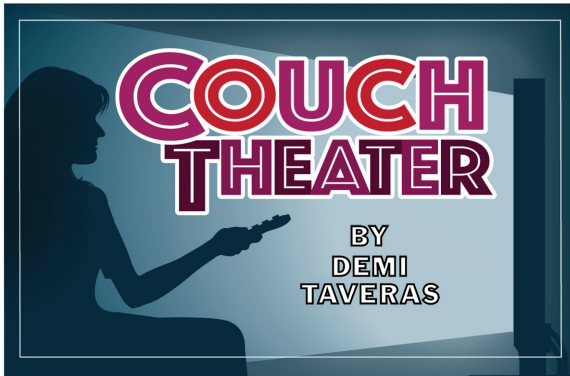
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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"Sally" (PG) -- June is Pride Month in the United States, and this documentary's release about the first LGBT astronaut is very timely and topical! Premiering June 17, this doc details the life of Sally Ride, whose list of firsts is quite legendary. Not only was she a part of the first class of NASA astronauts to include women, Ride was the first American woman in space (third woman overall and the youngest American overall). Her list of achievements is even more legendary, but they didn't come without sacrifice. In the doc, her longtime partner, Tam O'Shaughnessy, provides her account of their 27-year relationship and the significance of these sacrifices as two professional queer women working to achieve their dreams during the late 1900s. (Disney+)

"Love Me" (R) -- This postapocalyptic romance movie starring Kristen Stewart ("Love Lies Bleeding") and Steven Yeun ("Nope") went completely under the radar during its theatrical release last year, although a film that takes the plot of "WALL-E" and spins it on its head isn't going to be a major blockbuster draw like "Deadpool & Wolverine." Taking place long after the year 2500 and the major extinction of humanity, the film follows a weather buoy that was left to greet any lifeform that encounters Earth. The buoy happens upon a passing satellite, which is the first object that the buoy is able to make contact with. Lonely and yearning to learn about human life, the buoy becomes online friends with the satellite, leading to a beautiful connection that evolves to almost become humanlike. Premieres June 16. (Paramount+)

"Skincare" (R) -- Deemed as a thriller, even though it assumes the form of an action-comedy, this directorial debut from Austin Peters is led by none other than the prolific Elizabeth Banks ("The Better Sister"), who knows how to bring relatable comedy to life. Banks portrays Hope Goldman, an aesthetician who runs a skincare studio in Los Angeles. Hope prepares to launch a skincare line, but her dream starts to dwindle in the distance when another skincare studio opens up directly across from her and garners lots of success. Slowly but surely, attempts are made to sabotage Hope's work, forcing her to decide how far she's willing to go to save her dream. If you've seen Banks' "Cocaine Bear," you should know that she's willing to go pretty far! Premieres June 17. (Hulu)

"We Were Liars" (TV-MA) -- This new eight-episode series hitting streaming on June 18 is based on the 2014 young adult novel by E. Lockhart and almost feels like a cleaner version of Netflix's "Outer Banks." Emily Alyn Lind ("Gossip Girl") stars as Cadence Sinclair Eastman, a 17-year-old who spends her summers on a private island near Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, thanks to the wealth and notoriety that comes with the Sinclair name. Usually, these summers consist of normal teenage shenanigans like parties, dates, and late nights, but one summer night results in a terrible accident for Cadence, leaving her with a serious bout of amnesia. A year later, she returns to her summer island to see if she can piece together what happened to her and who was involved. (Amazon Prime Video)



From left, Emily Alyn Lind, Esther McGregor, Joseph Zada and Shubham Maheshwari star in "We Were Liars" (Courtesy of Amazon Prime Video)

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1. Which Beatle penned and released "What Is Life"?
2. Name the artist who released "If You Gotta Make a Fool of Somebody."
3. Name the one Bertie Higgins song that topped the charts.
4. Which duo released "It's Raining Men"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "She was afraid to come out of the locker, She was as nervous as she could be."

Answers

1. George Harrison, in 1971, on his triple album "All Things Must Pass." As a single, the song was the B-side to his "My Sweet Lord." He'd written the song intending it for Billy Pres-

ton, but ultimately decided to hold it back.

2. James Ray, in 1961. The song has been covered by numerous others, including Timi Yuro, Aretha Franklin and Lou Rawls. An Italian version was released in 1964.

3. "Key Largo," his debut single released in 1981.

4. The Weather Girls, in 1982. The song was nominated for a Grammy the following year.

5. "Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polkadot Bikini," by Brian Hyland, in 1960. Although classified as a novelty song, it went to No. 1 on the Hot 100 chart. The "surf" movies soon followed, as did the popularity of the bikini.

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GRIN and BEAR IT *Wagner*



"Junior says he won't make the mistakes you made. ... He's going to SAVE his comic books!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



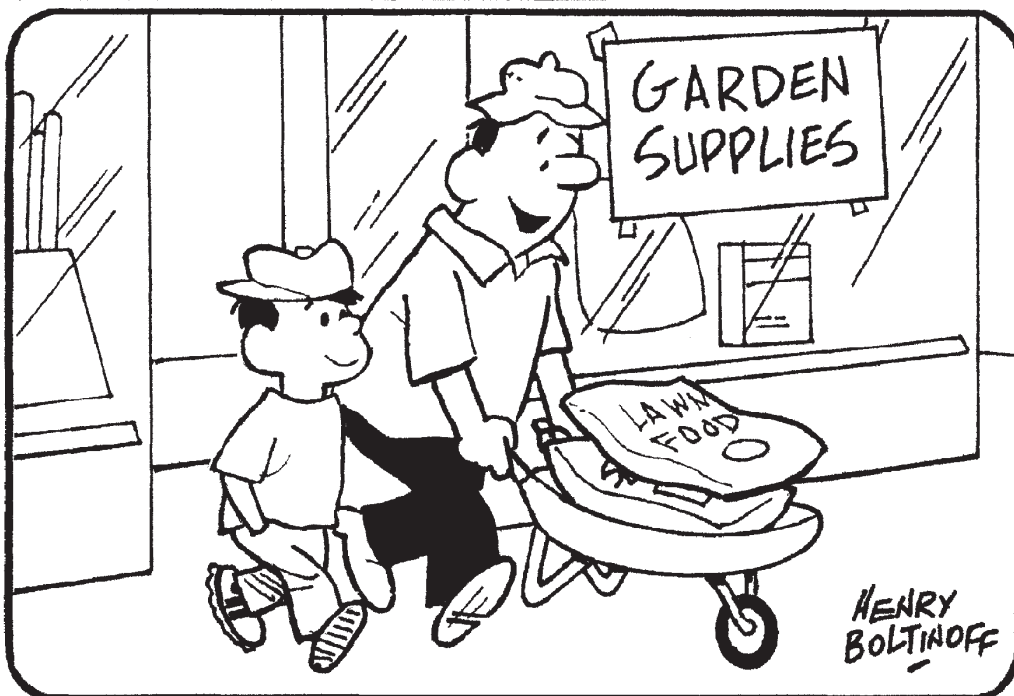
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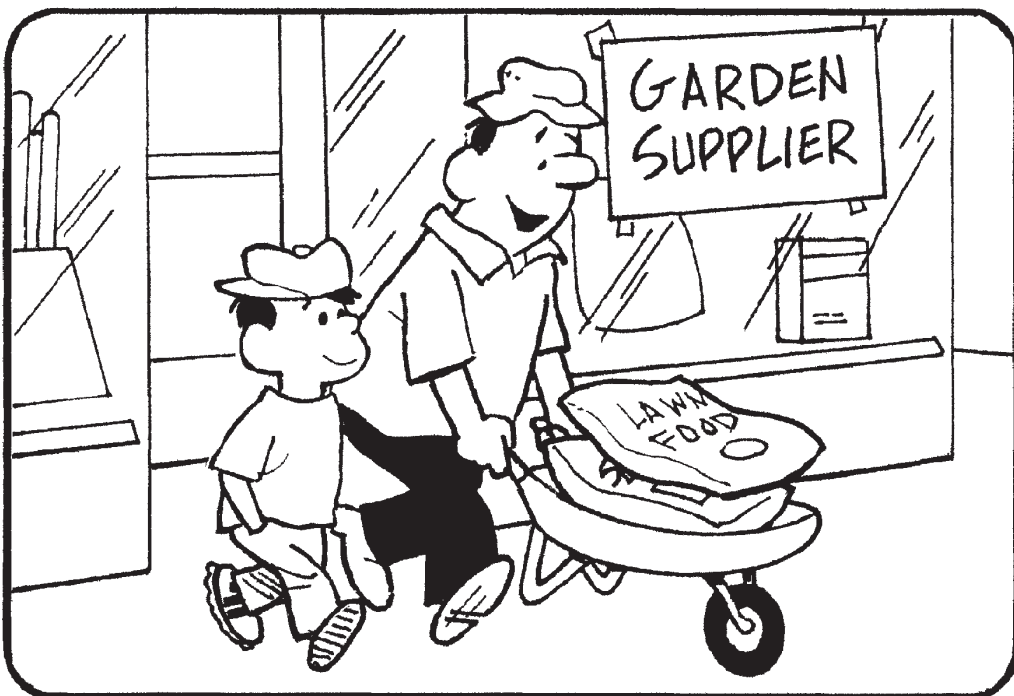
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Word on sign is different. 2. Door is different. 3. Wheel is larger. 4. Box in window is moved. 5. Building is not as wide. 6. Hat is different.

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* Add a cinnamon stick or softener sheet to your vacuum bag when you change it. While you clean, you will distribute the good smell throughout your home.

* To ripen a green tomato, wrap it in a sheet of newspaper or place it in a paper bag. It can then be left on the counter for several days to ripen.

* "Need to remove fruit or food coloring stains on your hands or your countertop? White vinegar will clean it off. It's good for so many things." -- R.N. in Washington

* "Instead of baking soda, I use three or four charcoal briquettes in a bowl to control odor and moisture in my refrigerator. I place the briquettes in a shallow dish, then cover the top of the bowl with a small piece of cheesecloth and secure it with

a fat rubber band. The best thing is that I can still use these briquettes on the grill. In the summer, they get changed very regularly." -- M.L. in Virginia

* When it comes to fruits and vegetables, five a day is nice, but more matters. Try setting aside time after you come home from the grocery store for prepping fruits and vegetables. Pre-bag snack sizes of carrots, celery, strawberries, grapes, cantaloupe and apples. Pre-cut veggies for meals to make later in the week. Slice tomatoes and onions for sandwiches, and tear and separate lettuce for salads. They all make great, healthy treats, and it makes it easier to get your recommended servings!

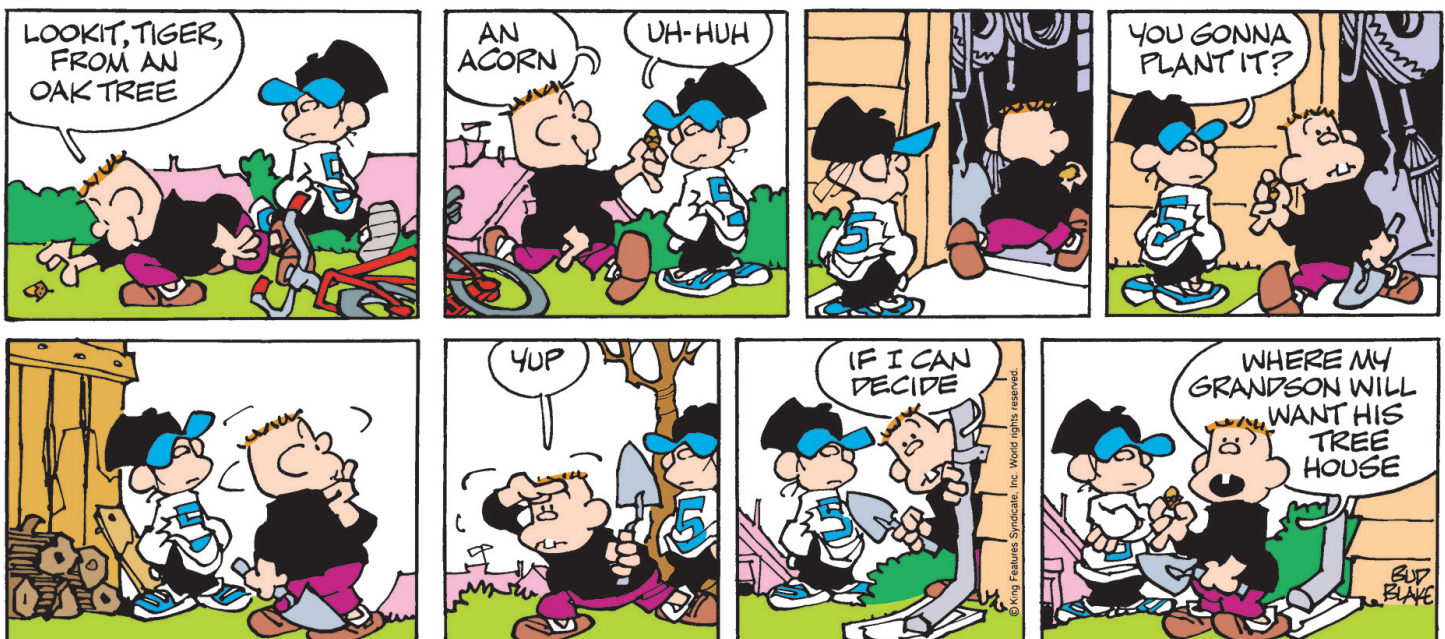
* Have a stained coffee pot but don't want to use a harsh chemical cleanser to scrub that stain off? For gritty cleaning power, try using a tablespoon of milk and a tablespoon of salt. The salt gives you scrubbing power, and the milk's acids help gently dissolve the stains.

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 Wildebeests
5 Snitch
8 Utah ski resort
12 Impetuous
13 Adam's mate
14 Acquires
15 "Zip- —
-Doo-Dah"
16 Beer purchases
18 Fawcett of '70s TV
20 Speeder's punishment
21 Chanteuse Edith
23 Chap
24 Edible pod
28 "Auld Lang —"

- 31 Blunder
32 — -Croat
34 Texas tea
35 Scrambled wd.
37 Brazilian city
39 Dad on "Black-ish"
41 San — Obispo, Calif.
42 Thelma's buddy
45 Brother's son
49 Ink-loaded accessory
51 Continental coin

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

- 52 Carry
53 Rage
54 Family
55 Beholds
56 Scoundrel
57 To-do list item

DOWN

- 1 Tennis great Steffi
2 Zilch
3 Addict
4 Everest guide
5 Molds anew
6 Bird (Pref.)

- 7 Libretto
8 You can count on it
9 Comment to a jackpot winner
10 Youngster
11 CEO's aide
17 Farm squealer
19 Melodies
22 Untamed
24 Salty expanse
25 Samovar
26 School alumnus
27 Was plentiful
29 Zero

- 30 "Strange Magic" gp.
33 Mayberry boy
36 Tony-winner Tammy
38 Phase
40 "Sixth sense"
42 D-Day carriers
43 Oklahoma tribe
44 Grand tale
46 Luau dance
47 Historic times
48 Policy expert
50 Notre Dame coach

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

Olive



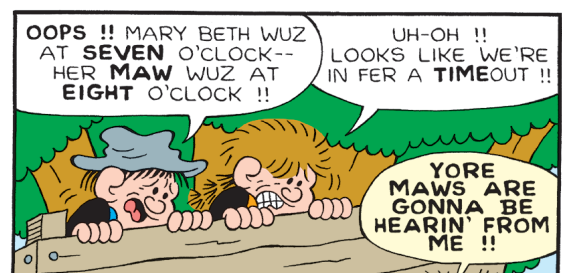
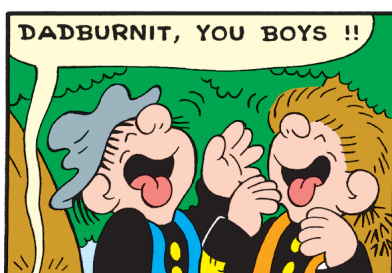
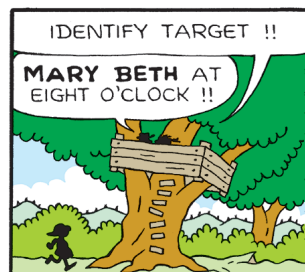
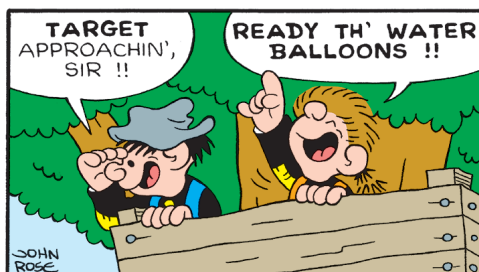
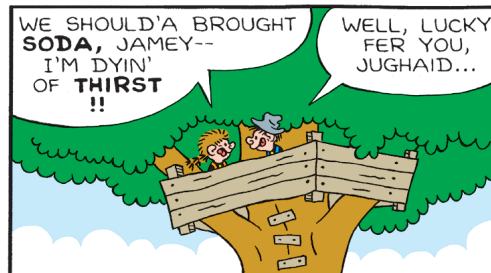
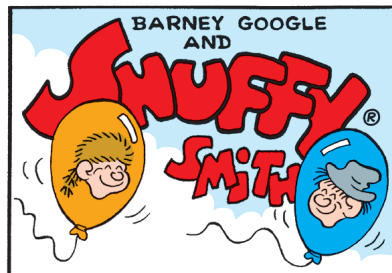
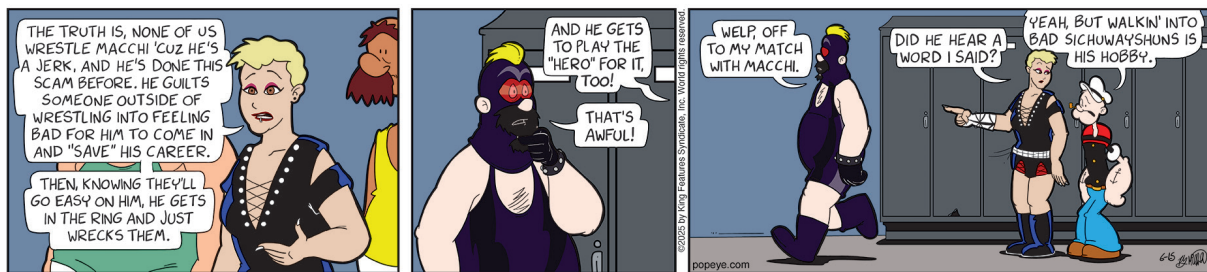
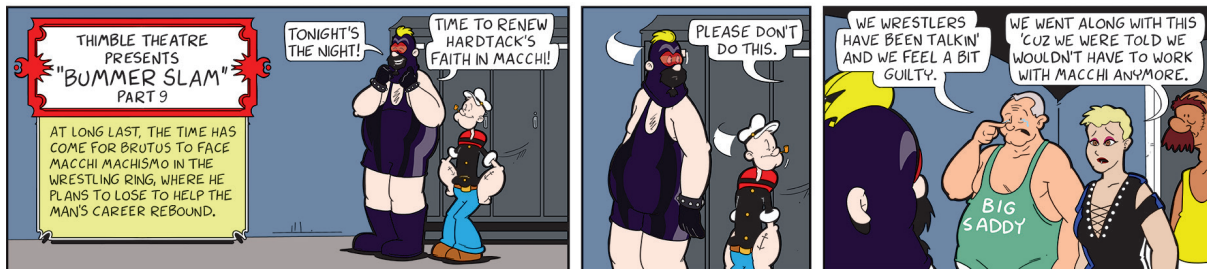
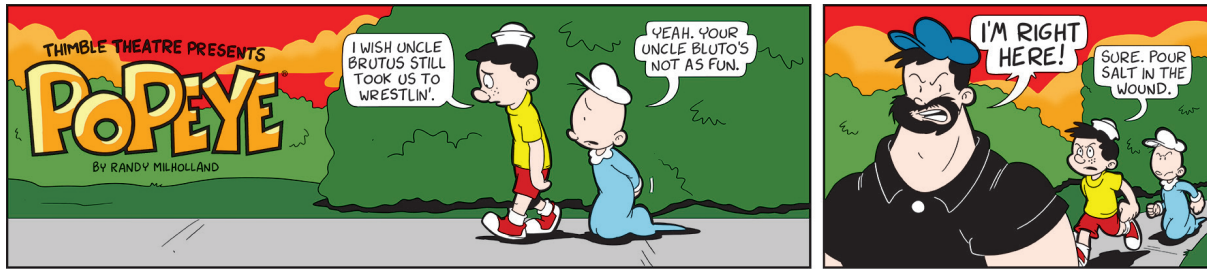
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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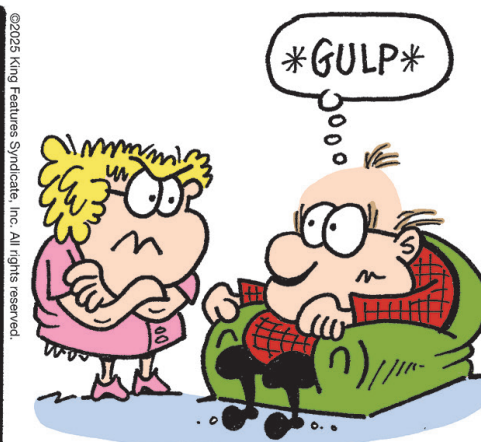
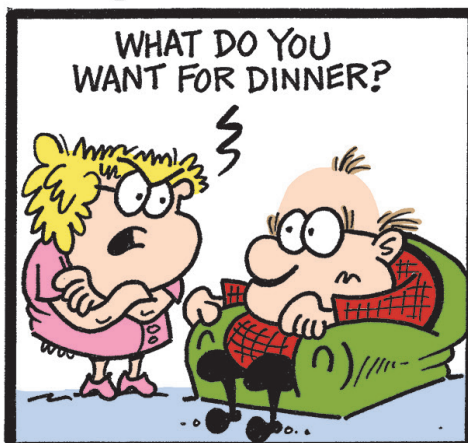
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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Avoiding falls

The numbers are shocking: Per the CDC, one in four seniors age 65 or older experience falls each year. That's 25% of seniors. Of those, 37% suffer an injury that either keeps them from their normal activities for at least a day or that requires medical care.

Per the map accompanying that CDC article on falls, several states exceed that 25% average -- by a lot. When it comes to deaths, falls are the number one cause of injury-related deaths among seniors, and the numbers are grim.

The reason for all the falls varies. We might have a physical condition that affects coordination. We might be taking a drug that causes dizziness. We might be wearing shoes that aren't good for sturdy walking.

We need to do everything we can to avoid being a victim of fall injury. While there are several factors we can't do anything about, there are other things that are under our control.

For example, increase the number of lamps in your home, and turn them on to make sure there are no dark areas. Have one of the lamps controlled by the switch at the door.

Keep clear paths around the house and don't let magazines or newspapers stack up on the floor next to your recliner. Don't let phone or electrical cords drape across walking areas.

Get rid of small area rugs.

Have someone install grab bars in the shower, and use an anti-slip mat.

Ask the senior center about creating a class on exercises to increase balance and strength, or even a falls prevention seminar. Or check YouTube online for videos.

Get your eyes checked every year and your prescription upgraded if necessary.

To learn more about avoiding falls, go to either the CDC ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)), the National Council on Aging ([ncoa.org](https://www.ncoa.org)) or Mayo ([mayoclinic.org](https://www.mayoclinic.org)) websites and do a search for fall prevention.

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1. A Sept. 29, 2016, game between the Chicago Cubs and Pittsburgh Pirates ended with what unusual final score?

2. What pro wrestler and mixed martial arts fighter briefly had a seat on the city council of Huntington Beach, California, from 2020-21?

3. Michael Zagaris would sneak onto the field at Kezar Stadium to take snapshots before he was eventually hired as the official photographer for what NFL team in 1973?

4. Name the identical twins who played basketball for the Indiana Hoosiers and were selected 10th and 11th overall in the 1965 NBA Draft.

5. Who did Gigi Fernandez partner with to win gold medals for the USA in women's doubles tennis at the 1992 Barcelona and 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics?

6. Who became the first Indigenous woman to represent Australia in any sport when she played for the women's national cricket team in 1958?

7. Born Cornelius McGillicuddy, this Baseball Hall of Famer has the all-time record for Major League Baseball wins as a manager with 3,731. He's better known to baseball fans by what name?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. The game was called a 1-1 tie due to weather and was not resumed or replayed.

2. Tito Ortiz.

3. The San Francisco 49ers.

4. Dick and Tom Van Arsdale.

5. Mary Joe Fernandez (no relation).

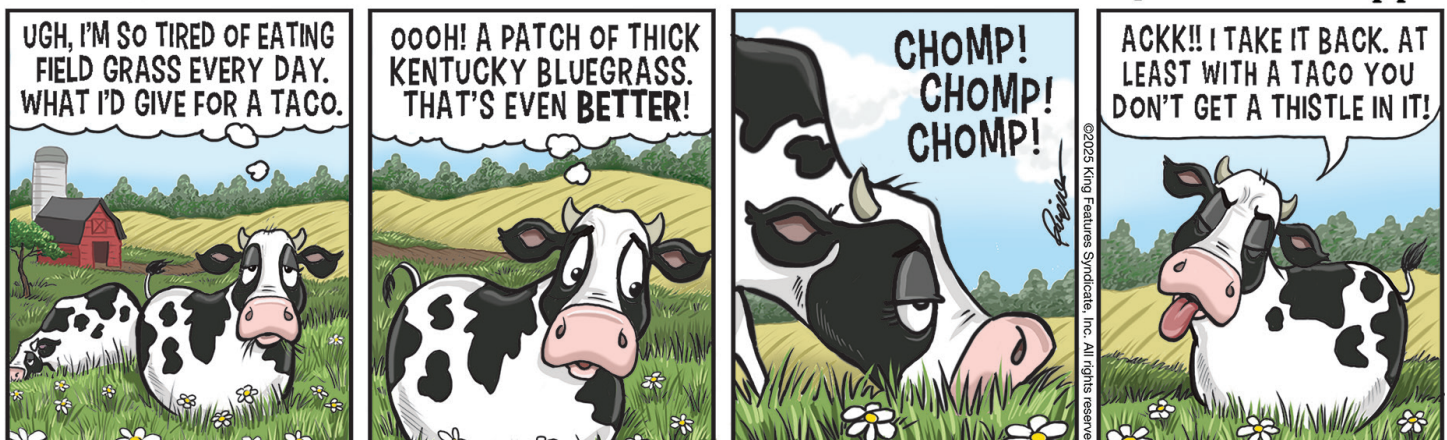
6. Faith Thomas.

7. Connie Mack.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Treating pet sunburns and heat injuries

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I took my German Shepherd "Maximilian" for a walk at lunchtime today. Since we got back, he's been limping and whining. I don't see any debris on his paws, but the pads on his front paws feel hot. Did he burn them somehow? -- Greg B., Tampa

DEAR GREG: From his symptoms, it's very likely that he burned his pads on a hot sidewalk or street. You'll need to treat them quickly; first aid is straightforward for this injury.

-- Fill a shallow bowl with cold (but not icy) water. Gently submerge your dog's paws in the water -- you may need to do one at a time and give him treats

throughout the process -- for 10 to 15 minutes. (If he doesn't tolerate the water bowl at all, wrap each paw in a cool cloth instead.)

-- Wash his paws with cool, soapy water or disinfect carefully, and pat them dry immediately.

-- Put clean socks on his paws so he doesn't lick them, and encourage him to rest.

Check Maximilian's paw pads every few hours. If you see any sign of broken skin, blisters or infection, or if he is still limping tomorrow, take him to the vet for further evaluation and treatment.

Burnt pads can happen very quickly in the summertime, especially in southern states. Walk dogs in the early morning before sunrise or just after sunset to minimize this risk, or keep them on the grass and away from pavement during the day. Booties provide some protection, but can't always stop heat transfer to paws. After each walk, check their pads and wrap in a cool cloth for a few minutes, if they feel warm.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* Dorothy Straight was just 4 years old when she wrote and illustrated "How the World Began" for her grandmother. It was officially published two years later.

* Worms make up the majority of a robin's diet, but it won't mind if you leave out a dessert tray as well. In fact, robins are partial to pastry dough, fruit cake and coconut cake.

* Flowers placed at a grave were originally brought to promote good will with the spirit of the deceased.

* Movie director Guillermo del Toro owns a house contain-

ing a room with an endless rainstorm projected onto all its windows and audio to match. He often uses this room to write in.

* Red hair is the thickest hair color by strand.

* Chock full o'Nuts coffee does not contain nuts. It's named for a chain of nut stores that the founder converted into coffee shops.

* On his deathbed, Steve Jobs asked for five different oxygen masks so he could choose the one with the best design.

* The silhouette on the official NBA logo is Los Angeles Lakers guard Jerry West.

* Tsutomu Yamaguchi was in Hiroshima for work when the first A-bomb hit, made it home to Nagasaki for the second, and lived to be 93.

* M&Ms were invented exclusively for American soldiers in World War II.


* Lake Hillier in Western Australia stays a striking deep pink color all year long. Some scientists believe its hue is due to high salt levels combined with a salt-loving algae, *Dunaliella salina*, and a pink bacteria called halobacteria.

* Tribal African tongues and other languages describe blue and green as different shades of the same color.

Thought for the Day: "Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former." -- Albert Einstein

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The Garden Bug



Green June Beetle

June beetles, also called May beetles or June bugs, commonly appear in the Northern Hemisphere during warm spring evenings. They are attracted to lights. They feed on foliage and flowers at night, sometimes causing considerable damage. Their larvae live in the soil, and can destroy crops and kill lawns and pastures by severing the grasses from the roots.

- Brenda Weaver



by Freddy Groves

Kudos to whistleblower pharmacists

Imagine working for a company that pressures you to act illegally, or at the very least to dance around the edges of the law. Imagine also that in your job you have people's lives in your hands. That's what a well known pharmacy did for many years, and now they're going to pay the price -- \$300 million, to be exact.

The large chain pharmacy in question has been nailed for filling millions of unlawful prescriptions for opioids in violation of the False Claims Act and submitting claims for reimbursement from several government agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs. Worse was when they forced their pharmacists to not bother checking to see if the prescriptions for opioids were legit, to just keep cranking out the prescriptions.

And even worse was that they continued to force these prescriptions to be filled despite there being evidence that the prescriptions had problems. Specifically, the prescriptions were filled in excessive quantities or were in dangerous high-risk combinations. To add to this, they withheld information from the pharmacists about the prescribers, which kept them from being able to warn other pharmacies. In short, the pharmacists were pushed to just get the products out.

The company denied the allegations, of course, issuing at least one rather snippy news release saying that the "rules" don't exist and seeming to lay the blame for the problem on the pharmacists.

Thank heaven for brave whistleblowers. Now, with a new agreement between the pharmacy chain and the government, the pharmacists will have backing and oversight when it comes to having the information needed to verify suspect prescriptions for controlled substances, they'll receive training about their obligations and they can do their job correctly without pressure to push through every prescription without regard for its legality -- or safety.

And now I understand, several years after the fact, why my own pharmacist bailed out and went to work for a very small mom-and-pop pharmacy. He was a good guy. I hear he's much happier now.

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Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. MOVIES: What is the title of the first James Bond film?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the color of the "black box" that records an airplane's performance?
3. TELEVISION: What is the theme song for the long-running sitcom "All in the Family"?
4. LITERATURE: What is the name of Ron Weasley's family home in the "Harry Potter" series?
5. GAMES: How many dice are used in a game of Yahtzee?
6. SCIENCE: What does a mole measure in chemistry?
7. MYTHOLOGY: What is the Greek god of darkness called?
8. FOOD & DRINK: Which type of liquor is traditionally used in a gimlet?
9. ASTRONOMY: How many moons does Saturn have?
10. CHEMISTRY: What is the chemical symbol for gold?

Answers

1. "Dr. No."
2. Orange.
3. "Those Were the Days."
4. The Burrow.
5. Five.
6. The amount of chemical substance.
7. Erebus.
8. Gin.
9. 274.
10. Au.

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Peace & Prosperity

There's a beat-up old book sitting on my desk at the State Capitol. It's full of pictures that were taken by my dad. Long after he passed, we found an old camera hidden amongst his old possessions. We got the film developed, and lo and behold – the photos were all from his service in World War II. They started with his service in the Battle of the Bulge and continue through the end of the war in Europe.

My dad helped liberate the notorious Mauthausen Concentration Camp, and the book includes those photos as well. The pictures are difficult to look at because of the horrific things that were done there, and my dad didn't talk about it much.

I recently went on a trade mission to Israel, and I joined a wreath-laying ceremony at Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center. While I was there, they showed me portions of the memorial specific to the Mauthausen Concentration Camp. By remembering and honoring the dead, we can ensure that atrocities like the Holocaust never happen again. And we can work together to build a more peaceful and more prosperous world.

I don't use the word "awesome" very much. Americans use it far too often and far too frivolously. It's supposed to mean "inspiring awe or admiration," but to most Americans, it just means "yeah, that's pretty good." But let me tell you, Israel is truly an awesome place. The history is awesome, that of both God and of man. Beyond that, the nation of Israel is taking incredible actions to maintain the peace and prosperity of their people.

Israel is a nation beset by enemies on all sides. In just these last few days, conflict has broken out between them and Iran as Israel moves to defend themselves, and we are praying for the safety of their people. Yet theirs is a land where freedom rules, where anyone can be who they set out to be. Jews, Muslims, and Christians live side by side and have all the same opportunities.

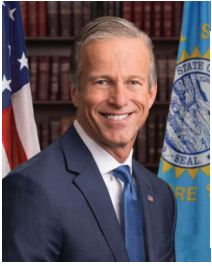
Israel even has the highest birth rate in the developed world – kind of like South Dakota has the highest birth rate in America! With freedom comes happiness and the hope of building a better life.

While I was in Israel, I met with key leaders like President Isaac Herzog, Speaker of the Knesset Amir Ohana, and Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar. Those meetings were an important part of strengthening our relationship and working together for our mutual peace and prosperity. By working together with Israel, one of our greatest allies, we will keep South Dakota Open for Opportunity for generations to come.

I also spent an evening with the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee. He hosted our trade delegation for a reception at this house. Ambassador Huckabee used to be Governor of Arkansas, so he understands what it means to advance opportunities for his home state. Ambassador Huckabee has stood for freedom his entire career and appreciates what a strong Israel means for America's own peace and prosperity. I was grateful for his kindness and counsel.

Our time was very well spent to support South Dakota's economy! Our trade delegation was made up of South Dakota defense and agriculture businesses that are actively seeking sales in the Israeli market, and previous such missions have paid tremendous dividends. As President & CEO of South Dakota Trade Jesse Fonkert said, "Businesses are generating real opportunities that have already produced millions in sales and a robust pipeline for even more expansion."

That's how we continue expanding peace and prosperity – by working together, strengthening relationships, honoring the past, and looking to the future with hope for all the opportunities in front of us.



JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

A Safer, Stronger America

Since taking office in January, President Trump has swiftly changed the status quo at the southern border. Border towns that were overwhelmed with illegal immigrants during the Biden era are now quiet as illegal crossings have dropped significantly. Border Patrol agents are no longer processing thousands of illegal immigrants per day, they are back on patrol and have greater bandwidth to prevent illegal crossings. And criminal illegal aliens who had taken up residence in our country are being removed.

The improved situation at the border and the progress on deporting criminal illegal immigrants make our country safer. But sustaining these efforts and keeping our country secure for the long-term will require more resources. That's where Congress comes in. The Republican Congress has been working for months to advance a reconciliation bill that makes a generational investment in border security, alongside other gains like preventing a tax hike on working families, strengthening our military, and unleashing American energy.

This bill will provide the Trump administration with the resources it needs to continue its border security efforts for years to come. That includes funding to finish the border wall, facilitate deportations, and invest in the technology and personnel needed to prevent illegal aliens and illegal drugs from getting across the border. President Trump has brought a new direction to border security, and our bill will ensure that those new policies can go the distance.

But this bill is not the only effort in Congress to protect our country from dangers coming from the border. Congress has passed the HALT Fentanyl Act, which will ensure law enforcement has a critical tool to go after the people bringing fentanyl-related substances into our country and peddling them in our communities.

Sadly, no part of our country has been immune to the crisis of drug overdoses. With better border security policies in place, border agents have greater bandwidth for duties like drug interdiction efforts, and because of the HALT Fentanyl Act, law enforcement can be sure it will have a critical tool to arrest and prosecute criminals bringing this poison into our country.

President Biden left a mess at the southern border. President Trump and Republicans are working hard to clean it up. We're working to make sure that law enforcement officials in our communities and at our borders have everything they need to do the job we ask them to do – to keep us safe.

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It's Time for CLARITY

BIG News

The images and videos of vandalism, looting, assault on law enforcement, and rioting in Los Angeles are troubling. These are not protesters, but are violent individuals upset about U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers who are enforcing the law.

California Governor Newsom's soft-on-crime policies have led to vicious assaults on law enforcement. This is not the American way. Local law enforcement and ICE officers deserve our respect and support for keeping us all safe..

BIG Idea

South Dakota has \$29 million in funding from federal electric vehicle (EV) programs that are unusable due to rules that were attached when it was received from the Biden Administration. The EV agenda of the Biden Administration has passed, but South Dakota and other states are left with money that can only be used on EV infrastructure.

I introduced the Highway Funding Flexibility Act to allow states like South Dakota to reallocate these dollars to other highway and infrastructure projects that are a priority. States would be able to use these dollars for engineering, design, construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation of roads, bridges, and truck parking facilities.

More than \$7 billion was allocated across the country for EV projects, and there are few EV chargers to show for it. America's transportation infrastructure is lagging behind China's and it's time to prioritize the health of our roads and bridges. Congress and the White House should empower states to make the necessary investments to address their unique transportation needs..

BIG Update

For too long, the United States has resisted creating a regulatory framework for digital assets. That's not a strategy – it's a surrender. My bill, the Digital Asset Market Clarity (CLARITY) Act would establish clear rules of the road for digital asset regulation, giving certainty to developers and consumers. This week, the CLARITY Act passed the House Agriculture Committee by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 47-6.

Sooner than we expect, digital assets and blockchain technology will transform almost every industry. Our landmark legislation will foster innovation and investment in America to ensure our country powers the future of blockchain and digital assets development.

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JUNE 2-8, 2025



We are back in session in Washington D.C. after a week working back in South Dakota. I was fortunate to spend the week of Memorial Day at events in Watertown, Brookings, Vermillion and Huron. In Huron, I spoke at a ceremony to dedicate the United States Postal

Service (USPS) office as the First Lieutenant Thomas Michael Martin Post Office Building. You can read more about that event here. Now, we're back in D.C. meeting with constituents and taking votes on the newest members of President Trump's administration. We are also working on the reconciliation package in order to extend the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. More on my week in my Weekly Round[s] Up:

South Dakota groups I met with: South Dakota members of Doctors for America; South Dakota Growth Energy; South Dakota members of the McKesson Corporation; South Dakota Realtors; the South Dakota Trucking Association; Jeff Kippley, Vice President of the National Farmers Union; the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association; Blue Star Families; and a group of South Dakota Legislators and Landowners.

South Dakota towns represented: Aberdeen, Aurora, Brookings, Canton, Custer, Dell Rapids, Gary, Huron, Kyle, Leola, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Union Center and Watertown.

Other meetings: Christopher Fox, nominee for Inspector General of the Intelligence Community; Darrel Hackett, President of BMO Harris Bank; Mark Dimondstein, President of the American Postal Workers Union; Joseph Aoun, President of Northeastern University; Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, Director of the National Institutes of Health; Dr. Fabiola Gianotti, Director-General of CERN; Rob Larew, President of the National Farmers Union; Jack Dever, nominee for General Counsel at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Steve Witkoff, Special Envoy to the Middle East; and Gerald Goodfellow, CEO of the Small Business Consulting Corporation.

I spoke at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Annual Capital Markets Summit and the Special Competitive Studies Project's AI Expo. I also attended our weekly Senate Bible Study, where our verse of the week was Philippians 4:8, and our weekly Senate Prayer Breakfast, where Senator Roger Marshall of Kansas was our speaker.

Hearings: I attended two hearings this past week: one closed hearing in the Select Committee on Intelligence and one in the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Classified briefings: I attended one classified briefing this past week.

Votes taken: 15 – all on nominees for members of President Trump's administration. I voted to confirm all of these nominees.

My staff in South Dakota visited: Bison and Fort Pierre.

Steps taken: 53,845 steps or 25.21 miles.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

To Be or Not to Be, That's My Confusion

After many years of denial, I finally realized how easily I am confused. Why it took me so long to realize this, I will never know.

If only I could go back to my wonderful teenage years when I knew everything and nobody could tell me what to do. Why do those days go by so quickly?

Now, I'm at the stage where I'm looking at life a little more realistically than I did back in my teenage years.

The main problem with this is not only can I get confused, but I rarely know when I'm confused. That in itself is confusing to me.

I am not blaming old age because, as I look at my life, I've been confused throughout although I didn't know it at the time. I have no idea what old age contributes to my state of confusion each day.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is the one person in our home who is never confused. I'm not sure how she has done this all these years. It can't be easy living with someone like me, who's always confused.

I'll be working in my office, she'll step in and say, "Are you ready to go?"

A little surprised, I look up from my desk and say, "Go where?"

She looks at me for a moment and says, "Don't you remember you have a doctor's appointment today?"

What," I will say, "do I have a doctor's appointment for?"

At that point, I am in a real state of confusion. But I had to ask, "It's not a psychiatrist, is it?"

"Oh, I wish," she says and walks away.

I could not remember my doctor's appointment for today. Do I really have a doctor's appointment? Or is she taking me to see her doctor?

Surely, there must be some advantage to being confused. I'm going to search for it until I find it, and until then, I will operate in my confused mode.

When I grab my truck keys and head for the door, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage often asks, "Do you know where you're going?"

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I don't think I would've been confused if she hadn't asked that question. Obviously she knows something I didn't know. I look back at her, smile, and ask, "No, where am I going?"

On my way to the door, I thought I knew where I was going. I carefully planned everything out: where I was going and what I would do and when I would return home. But when she questioned me, all that came up in my fuzzy mind was confusion. Do I really know where I'm going?

I wouldn't say this out loud, but I sometimes think she does that intentionally to confuse me. And boy, is she an expert at that. When I'm confused I'm easy to manipulate.

When working on a writing project I am never confused. I know exactly what I'm doing and quite content and what I'm doing.

My biggest problem is knowing if I should do something or not. I can never figure that out. "To do, or not to do?" That seems to be my confusion.

I get up early in the morning, take my coffee to my easy chair, and enjoy those few moments of quietness. During that time, I think of my schedule for the day.

It's easy to think of what I could do, but my most demanding job is figuring out what I should not do. If I do everything I want to do, I'm never going to finish anything. I need to learn to manage my time so I don't sink into the swamp of confusion.

Thinking along this line, it occurred to me that if I could figure out what not to do I believe I could get much more done. Differentiating between "do and don't" is very hard for me.

If I do what I don't have to do, it takes away time to do what I should do. Oh boy, this is very confusing.

I recently spent a week observing The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, watching her every step. I wanted to see her aspect of "do and don't". The end result of that week was I couldn't find anything she didn't do. She is the Do Queen of the Parsonage. I could not find one thing she didn't do.

I wish I could understand how that happens and differentiate between "do and don't". That would eliminate some of my confusion, I think.

Perhaps that is why people get old and forget things. Maybe it's a good thing to forget some things. If only I could select the things to forget, my life would be a lot better and less confusing.

Until then, I will wallow in my confusion.

While pondering this I was reminded of a verse of Scripture in Philippians 3:13-14. "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

With all of the things in front of the apostle Paul, he boiled his life down to just one thing, "forgetting," and then "reaching forth." To know what to forget enables me to understand what to reach forward to. That certainly will simplify my life.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com

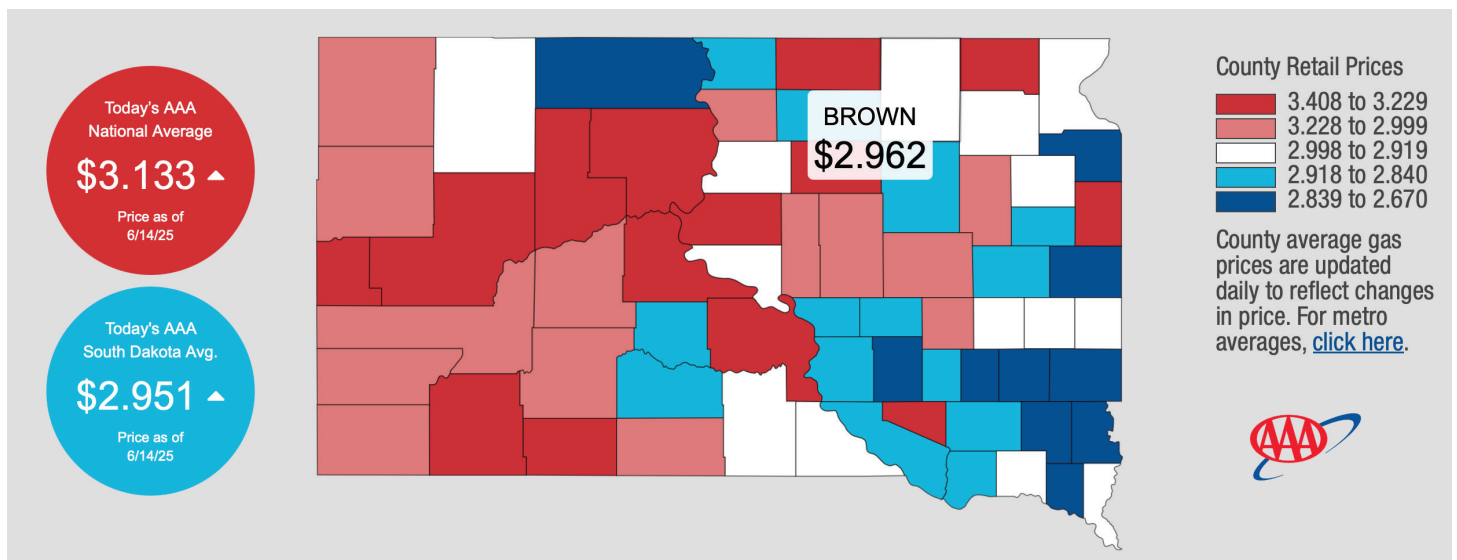
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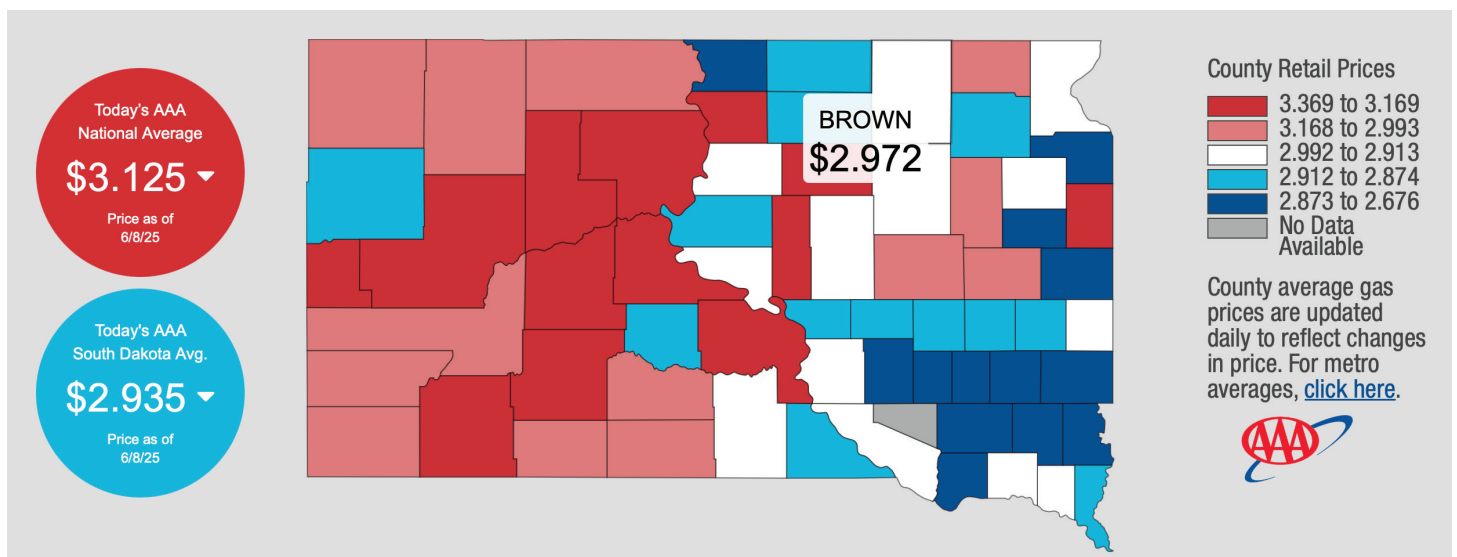
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$2.951	\$3.139	\$3.608	\$3.196
Yesterday Avg.	\$2.945	\$3.142	\$3.587	\$3.190
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.944	\$3.141	\$3.621	\$3.166
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.024	\$3.205	\$3.689	\$3.221
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.251	\$3.426	\$3.858	\$3.382

This Week



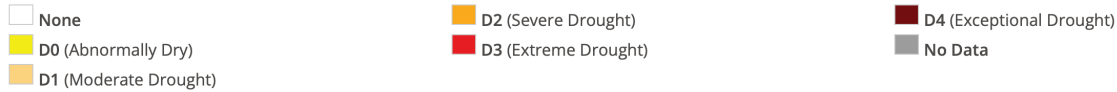
Last Week



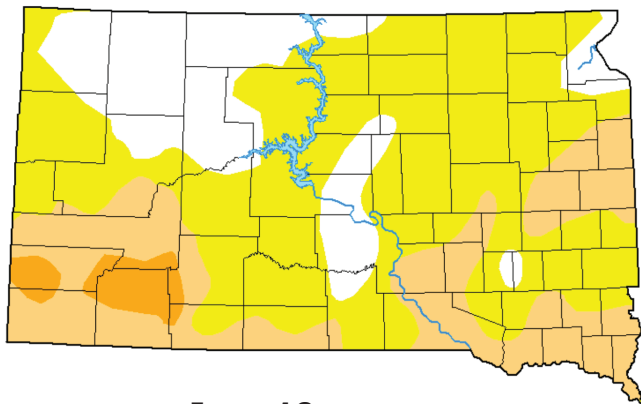
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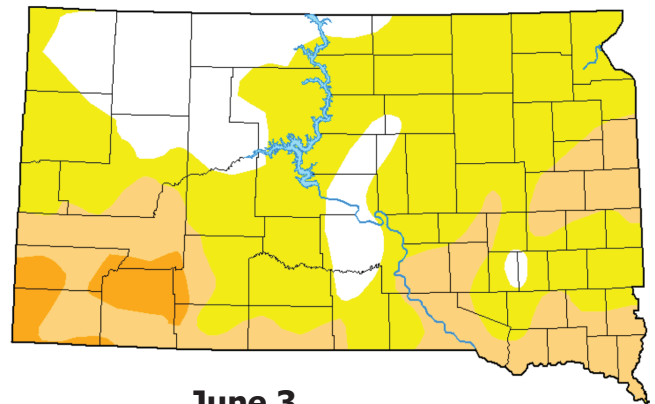
Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



June 10



June 3

The High Plains experienced a mix of drought improvements and degradations over the past week, driven by rainfall. Kansas saw the most widespread improvements, especially in the southern and eastern regions, where many areas received over two inches of rain, leading to significant one-category upgrades. However, north-central Kansas received less precipitation, and drought conditions there either persisted or worsened. Nebraska also benefited from recent storms, with helpful rainfall improving conditions in the central and southeastern parts of the state, though some areas now show signs of short-term moisture surplus. Colorado had a similar split. While much of the central and eastern regions received beneficial rainfall and saw improvements, the northwestern and southwestern corners remained dry and experienced drought deterioration. Wyoming followed an east-west divide as well: rain improved conditions in the central and eastern areas, but the west remained dry, resulting in further degradation. Long-term moisture deficits and below-average snowmelt runoff continue to be a concern across western parts of both Colorado and Wyoming. In South Dakota, the southwest corner received 1 to 3 inches of rain, leading to localized improvement, while the rest of the state remained mostly unchanged. North Dakota saw little change overall, with limited but sufficient moisture keeping conditions stable.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: How do oil and gas companies foil efforts by climate activists? – J.L., via email

In recent years, many climate activists have protested against oil and gas companies for their role in exacerbating climate change and more. Recent examples include the ubiquitous “Just Stop Oil” protests, which have shown up from the Louvre Museum to Easter Island. Oil and gas companies defend their actions as necessary for energy security, but critics accuse them of undermining climate progress.

One way energy companies fight climate activists is lobbying. According to Open Secrets, more than \$2 billion has been spent on lobbying in the U.S. since 2000, which highlights the huge role lobbying plays and how often policy changes. In this regard, many fossil fuel lobbyists coordinate with lawmakers to push laws that disincentivize climate activism, with some anti-protesting laws carrying 10-year penalties.

Another way energy companies fight climate activism is by funding research to shape the public narrative. For decades, people have known the detrimental effects that energy companies have on the environment. In attempts to delay action, ExxonMobil and others have spread misinformation like “climate has changed naturally in the past, so today’s climate change must be natural.” In another example, the Heartland Institute, a free-market think tank, sent packages to 25,000 science teachers every week. The package contained a book written by the organization titled “Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming,” and a DVD that would play a video rejecting the role of humans in the climate crisis.

These companies also use lawsuits and legal strategies to intimidate detractors. One instance involved Chevron when in 2011, it was found guilty of knowingly discharging cancer-inducing waste and chemicals into the northern Ecuadorian Amazon. Despite the initial win for the indigenous and Amazonians, the decision was overruled seven years later at an arbitration court, where many believed Chevron used its financial dominance to its advantage. Today, Chevron has still not paid back Ecuador for the irreparable damage done years ago. While the company seems to have been let off the hook, there are still people who demand justice from Chevron.

With growing environmental sentiment across the globe, more people are joining movements to uncover the ugly truth about oil and gas companies. Next time you fill up your gas from a station, consider where this gas came from. What story hides behind the multimillion-dollar facade that companies keep up to ensure a lucrative business? Cases like the Heartland Institute highlight the lengths to the industry will go to maintain their operations, and it is imperative to stay informed as citizens and customers.

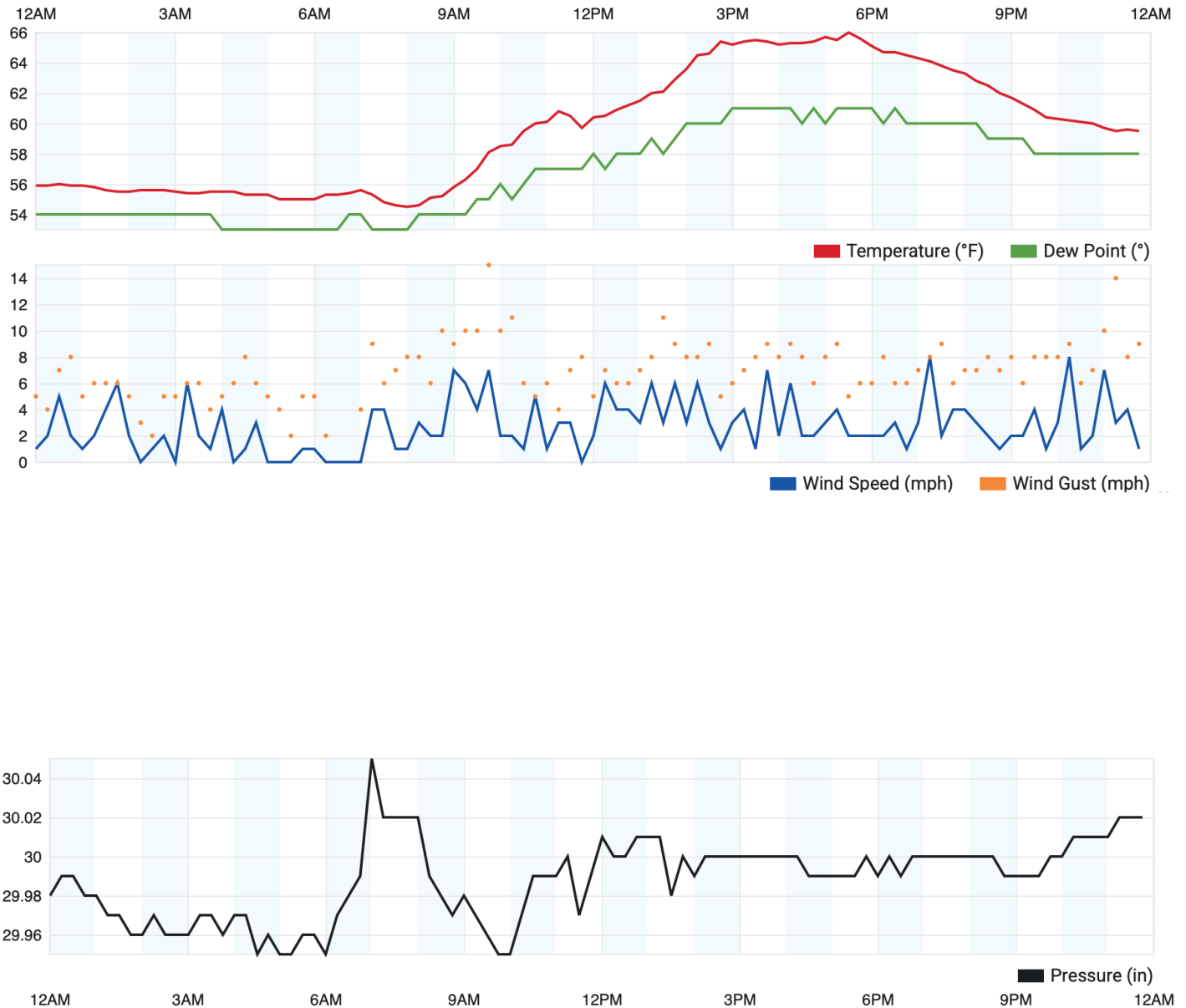


Oil and gas companies are working hard to thwart efforts by climate activists to raise awareness about the risks of too many emissions. Credit: Pexels.com.

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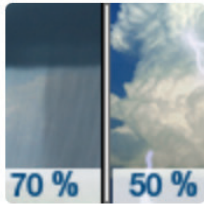
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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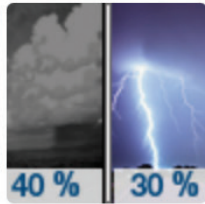
Today



High: 81 °F

Showers
Likely then
Chance
T-storms

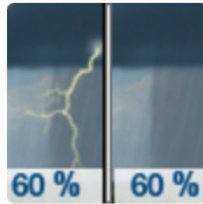
Tonight



Low: 61 °F

Chance
Showers then
Chance
T-storms

Monday



High: 81 °F

T-storms
Likely then
Showers
Likely

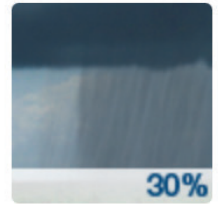
Monday Night



Low: 57 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms

Tuesday



High: 77 °F

Chance
Showers

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Isolated to scattered
severe storms *possible*

TIMING

This evening

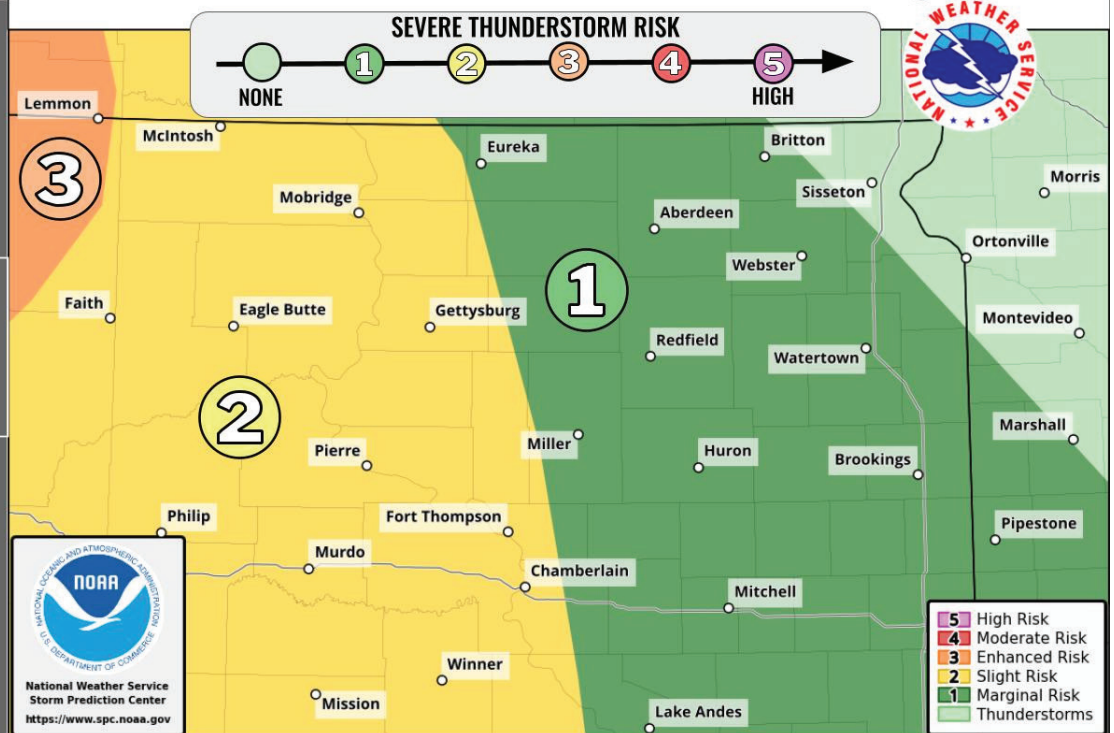
PRIMARY THREATS



DAMAGING WIND

Get your up to date
forecast at
weather.gov/abr

SEVERE STORMS Possible This Evening



Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected this evening. The main threat will be strong/damaging wind gusts of 60+ mph for the slight risk (level 2 out of 5) area and wind gusts up to 60 mph for the marginal risk (level 1 out of 5) area.

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THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

3

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Numerous severe storms possible

TIMING

Monday afternoon

PRIMARY THREATS



LARGE HAIL

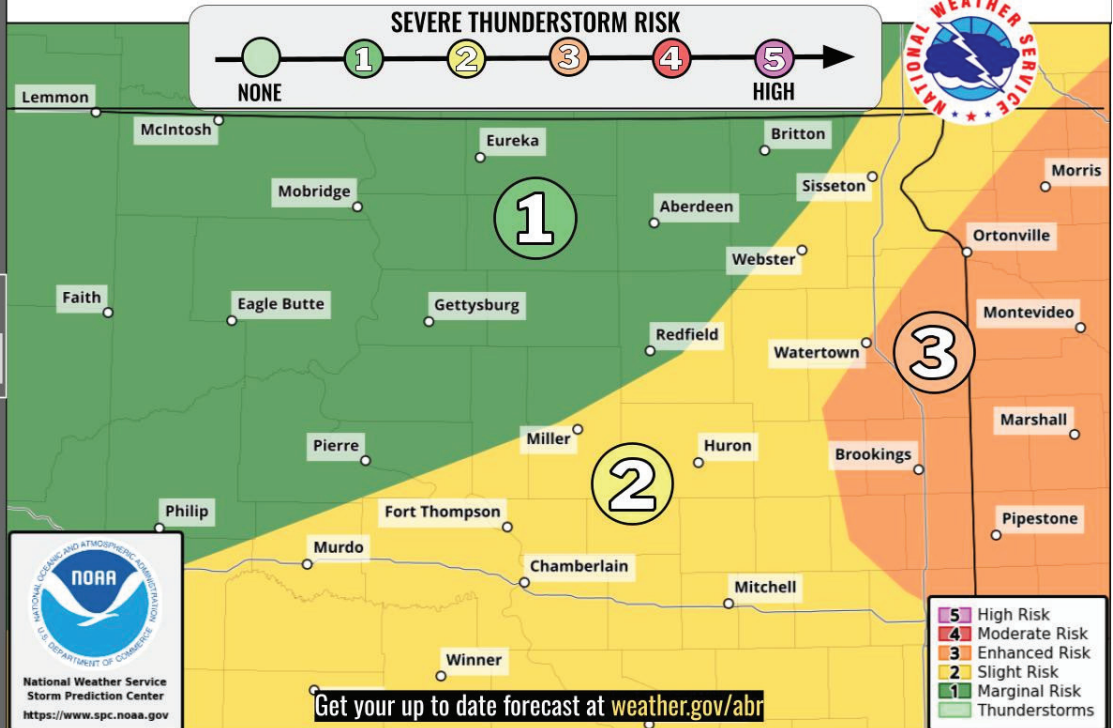


DAMAGING WIND



ISOLATED / BRIEF TORNADO POSSIBLE

SEVERE STORMS Possible Monday Afternoon



Scattered to numerous storms are expected Monday afternoon. All threats (large hail, damaging winds, and a tornado or two) are possible. The tornado threat would be mainly over the Sisseton Hills into west central MN where there is an enhanced risk (level 3 out of 5) for severe thunderstorms.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 66 °F at 5:29 PM

Low Temp: 54 °F at 7:53 AM

Wind: 15 mph at 9:40 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 43 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 105 in 1933

Record Low: 36 in 1968

Average High: 80

Average Low: 55

Average Precip in June.: 1.77

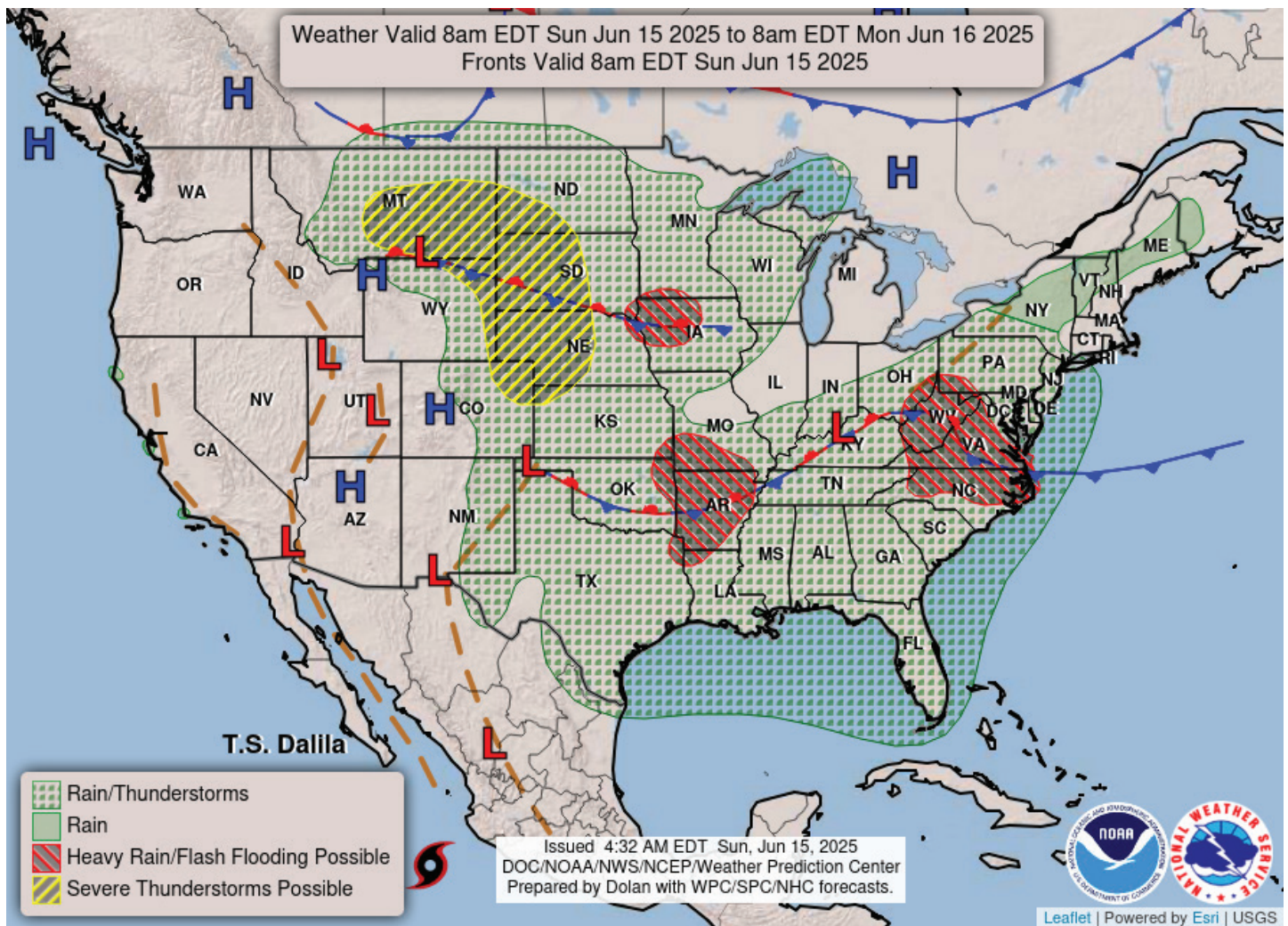
Precip to date in June: 1.98

Average Precip to date: 9.02

Precip Year to Date: 8.03

Sunset Tonight: 9:24:37 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:41:27 am



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Today in Weather History

June 15th, 1935: An estimated F3 tornado moved east from 17 miles southwest of Onida. There was near F4 damage to one farm about 9 miles SSW of Onida. The storm destroyed a house, injured five people, and killed an estimated 60 cattle. At another farm, the home shifted over the storm cellar, trapping a family.

June 15th, 1977: Thunderstorms with heavy rain and some hail began on the 15th and continued into the 16th. At Watertown, almost 6.9 inches of rain fell during these two days. In Deuel County, Gary received 6 inches, Altamont 5.5, Brandt 4.5, and Goodwin 3.70 inches in Clear Lake. Other amounts include 4.85 inches at 3NE of Raymond, 4.57 inches in Clark, 4.21 at 1NE of Bryant, and 3.97 inches in Castlewood.

June 15th, 1978: Numerous severe thunderstorms developed over central South Dakota. Tornadoes, funnel clouds, hail up to baseball size, and wind gusts near 80 mph caused widespread destruction. The estimated loss was between 20 and 25 million dollars. The Governor declared some counties disaster areas. Six trailers were destroyed, and a home was unroofed northwest of Aberdeen. The storms injured 15 people.

June 15th, 1978: Torrential rains began during the evening and continued into the morning of the 16th. Heavy rains were estimated to have been between 5 and 6 inches, causing flash flooding south of Watertown. Some rainfall amounts include 2.43 inches in Watertown, 2.07 inches in Castlewood, and 2.05 inches in Clear Lake. Hail caused severe crop damage in Hughes County.

1662 - A fast was held at Salem MA with prayers for rain, and the Lord gave a speedy answer. (David Ludlum)

1879 - McKinney ND received 7.7 inches of rain in 24 hours, a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1896 - The temperature at Fort Mojave, CA, soared to 127 degrees, the hottest reading of record for June for the U.S. The low that day was 97 degrees. Morning lows of 100 degrees were reported on the 12th, 14th and 16th of the month. (The Weather Channel)

1953 - Dust devils are usually rather benign weather phenomena, however, two boys were injured by one near Prescott AZ. One of the boys suffered a black eye, and the other boy had two vertebrae fractured by wind-blown debris. (The Weather Channel)

1957 - East Saint Louis was deluged with 16.54 inches of rain in 24 hours, a record for the state of Illinois. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in the northwestern U.S. A tornado damaged five homes and destroyed a barn near Salmon ID. It lifted a metal shed 100 feet into the air, and deposited it 100 yards away. Hail an inch and a half in diameter caused ten million dollars damage to automobiles at Nampa ID. (The National Weather Channel) (Storm Data)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms in the Central High Plains Region spawned five tornadoes around Denver, CO, in just one hour. A strong (F-3) tornado in southern Denver injured seven persons and caused ten million dollars damage. Twenty-six cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 97 degrees at Portland ME was a record for June. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast States. The thunderstorms spawned eight tornadoes, including strong (F-3) tornadoes which injured three persons at Mountville PA and four persons at Columbia, PA. There were 111 reports of large hail and damaging winds, including wind gusts to 80 mph at Norfolk, VA, and Hogback Mountain, SC. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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"I'm bored with it all!"

Power and prestige, influence and insight, victory and valor seemed worthless to Winston Churchill as he faced death. His final words expressed hopelessness and emptiness as he slipped into a coma nine days before he died. What a tragic statement from a man who shaped the course of history as he was about to face eternity without Christ.

As he was struggling to breathe, a colleague took the hand of Michael Faraday, the brilliant chemist and scientist, and asked, "What will be your occupation in heaven?"

He replied, "I shall be with Christ, and that is enough!"

Two famous men who lived two world-influencing lives. However, when it came to facing death, one looked backward in despair, the other forward in faith—a faith filled with hope and expectation.

What a startling difference God made in their lives.

"Hopes placed in men die with them; all the promise of their power comes to nothing."

Solomon shared his great wisdom with these words.

He clearly stated the difference between a life lived for God, and a life lived for any other reason or purpose:

One who does not live for God or know Christ personally will eventually see all of his hopes and dreams die.

Living only for this life—or living a life that focuses on oneself—ends with a sense of hopelessness and insignificance.

When this life ends, another begins — in the presence of God or the depths of darkness.

What a blessed hope we have if we choose to accept the love, grace, and mercy of God.

Hope can be ours because of Christ.

Choose Christ.

Find life.

Have hope.

Prayer: How great is Your love, Lord. As unworthy as we are, we have forgiveness of our sins, a purpose for living, and hope for the future through Your Son.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "Hopes placed in men dies with them; all the promise of their power comes to nothing." Proverbs 11:7

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: 06.13.25

8 10 22 40 47 1

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$280,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.14.25

19 22 26 31 51 9

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,150,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.14.25

6 22 31 35 37 9

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 13 Hrs 30 Mins 17 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.14.25

13 21 22 23 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$29,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.14.25

19 20 39 47 55 15

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.14.25

4 6 9 23 59 25

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$90,000,000

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
09/6-7/25 Fly in/Drive in at Groton Municipal Airport
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
11/30/2025 Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m.
12/06/2025 Olive Grove Holiday Party and Silent Live Auction Fundraiser

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Israel and Iran trade strikes for a third day as nuclear talks are called off

By JON GAMBRELL, NATALIE MELZER and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Israel unleashed airstrikes across Iran for a third day on Sunday and threatened even greater force as some Iranian missiles evaded Israeli air defenses to strike buildings in the heart of the country. Planned talks on Iran's nuclear program, which could provide an off-ramp, were canceled.

The region braced for a protracted conflict after Israel's surprise bombardment of Iran's nuclear and military sites on Friday killed several top generals and nuclear scientists, and neither side showed any sign of backing down. Iran said Israel struck two oil refineries, raising the prospect of a broader assault on Iran's heavily sanctioned energy industry that could affect global markets.

The Israeli military, in a social media post, warned Iranians to evacuate arms factories, signaling what could be a further widening of the campaign.

Explosions shook Iran's capital, Tehran, at around noon and again around 3:30 p.m. Semiofficial news agencies close to Iran's Revolutionary Guard reported one strike in the area of Vali-e Asr Square downtown and another in a neighborhood named for the air force, which is headquartered there.

U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed full support for Israel's actions while warning Iran that it can only avoid further destruction by agreeing to a new nuclear deal.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Sunday that if the Israeli strikes on Iran stop, then "our responses will also stop." He said the United States "is a partner in these attacks and must take responsibility."

Explosions in Tehran

Iran's U.N. ambassador said Saturday that 78 people had been killed and more than 320 wounded. There has been no official update since then.

Israel says 13 people have been killed and more than 360 wounded in Iranian attacks. Iran has fired over 270 missiles, 22 of which made impact, according to official Israeli figures. The country's main international airport and airspace remained closed for a third day.

Israeli strikes targeted Iran's Defense Ministry early Sunday after hitting air defenses, military bases and sites associated with its nuclear program. The killing of several top generals and nuclear scientists in targeted strikes indicated that Israeli intelligence has penetrated Iran at the highest levels.

In a sign that Iran expects the Israeli strikes to continue, state television reported that metro stations and mosques would be made available as bomb shelters for the public beginning on Sunday night.

Death toll mounts in Israel

In Israel, at least six people, including a 10-year-old and a 9-year-old, were killed when a missile hit an apartment building in Bat Yam, near Tel Aviv. Daniel Hadad, a local police commander, said 180 people were wounded and seven are still missing.

An Associated Press reporter saw streets lined with damaged and destroyed buildings, bombed out cars and shards of glass. Responders used a drone at points to look for survivors. Some people could be seen leaving the area with suitcases.

Another four people, including a 13-year-old, were killed and 24 wounded when a missile struck a building in the Arab town of Tamra in northern Israel. A strike on the central city of Rehovot wounded 42.

The Weizmann Institute of Science, an important center for research in Rehovot, said "there were a number of hits to buildings on the campus." It said no one was harmed.

Israel has sophisticated multi-tiered air defenses that are able to detect and intercept missiles fired at populated areas or key infrastructure, but officials acknowledge it is imperfect.

Urgent calls to deescalate

World leaders made urgent calls to deescalate. The attack on nuclear sites set a "dangerous precedent,"

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China's foreign minister said. The region is already on edge as Israel seeks to annihilate Hamas, an Iranian ally, in the Gaza Strip, where the war is still raging after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu brushed off such calls, saying Israel's strikes so far are "nothing compared to what they will feel under the sway of our forces in the coming days."

Israel, the sole though undeclared nuclear-armed state in the Middle East, said it launched the attack to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. The two countries have been adversaries for decades.

Iran has always said its nuclear program was peaceful, and the U.S. and others have assessed it has not pursued a weapon since 2003. But it has enriched ever larger stockpiles of uranium to near weapons-grade levels in recent years and was believed to have been able to develop multiple weapons within months if it chose to do so. The U.N.'s atomic watchdog censured Iran last week.

Araghchi, Iran's top diplomat, said Israel had targeted an oil refinery near Tehran and another in a province on the Persian Gulf. He said Iran had targeted "economic" sites in Israel, without elaborating.

Semiofficial Iranian news agencies reported that an Israeli drone strike had caused a "strong explosion" at an Iranian natural gas processing plant. The extent of damage at the South Pars natural gas field was not immediately clear. Such sites have air defense systems around them, which Israel has been targeting.

An oil refinery was also damaged in the northern Israeli city of Haifa, according to the firm operating it, which said no one was wounded.

Iran calls nuclear talks 'unjustifiable'

A senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive nuclear talks, said Washington remained committed to them and hoped the Iranians would return to the table.

Araghchi, Iran's foreign minister, said Saturday that the nuclear talks were "unjustifiable" after Israel's strikes, which he said were the "result of the direct support by Washington."

In a post on his Truth Social account early Sunday, Trump reiterated that the U.S. was not involved in the attacks on Iran and warned that any retaliation directed against it would bring an American response "at levels never seen before."

"However, we can easily get a deal done between Iran and Israel, and end this bloody conflict!!!" he wrote. 'More than a few weeks' to repair nuclear facilities

In Iran, satellite photos analyzed by AP show extensive damage at Iran's main nuclear enrichment facility in Natanz. The images shot Saturday by Planet Labs PBC show multiple buildings damaged or destroyed. The structures hit include buildings identified by experts as supplying power to the facility.

U.N. nuclear chief Rafael Grossi told the Security Council that the above-ground section of the Natanz facility was destroyed. The main centrifuge facility underground did not appear to have been hit, but the loss of power could have damaged infrastructure there, he said.

Israel also struck a nuclear research facility in Isfahan. The International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. nuclear watchdog, said four "critical buildings" were damaged, including Isfahan's uranium conversion facility. The IAEA said there was no sign of increased radiation at Natanz or Isfahan.

An Israeli military official, speaking on condition of anonymity on Sunday in line with official procedures, said it would take "many months, maybe more" to restore the two sites.

Anti-Trump demonstrators crowd streets, parks and plazas across the US. Organizers say millions came

By MARC LEVY, CLAUDIA LAUER and JIM VERTUNO Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Masses of demonstrators packed into streets, parks and plazas across the United States on Saturday to protest President Donald Trump, marching through downtowns and small towns, blaring anti-authoritarian chants mixed with support for protecting democracy and immigrant rights.

Organizers of the "No Kings" demonstrations said millions had marched in hundreds of events. Governors across the U.S. had urged calm and vowed no tolerance for violence, while some mobilized the National Guard ahead of marchers gathering.

Confrontations were isolated. But police in Los Angeles, where protests over federal immigration en-

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forcement raids erupted a week earlier and sparked demonstrations across the country, used tear gas and crowd-control munitions to clear out protesters after the formal event ended. Officers in Portland also fired tear gas and projectiles to disperse a crowd that protested in front of a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building well into the evening.

And in Salt Lake City, Utah, police were investigating a shooting during a march downtown that left one person critically injured. Three people were taken into custody, including a man believed to be the shooter, who also suffered a gunshot wound, according to Police Chief Brian Redd.

Redd said it was too early to tell if the shooting was politically motivated and whether those involved knew each other. The shooter appeared to be walking alongside the group of thousands who were marching, he added. Video feeds showed demonstrators running for safety as gunshots rang out.

Huge, boisterous crowds marched, danced, drummed, and chanted shoulder-to-shoulder in New York, Denver, Chicago, Austin and Los Angeles, some behind "no kings" banners. Atlanta's 5,000-capacity event quickly reached its limit, with thousands more gathered outside barriers to hear speakers in front of the state Capitol. Officials in Seattle estimated that more than 70,000 people attended the city's largest rally downtown, the Seattle Times reported.

Trump was in Washington for a military parade marking the Army's 250th anniversary that coincides with the president's birthday. About 200 protesters assembled in northwest Washington's Logan Circle and chanted "Trump must go now" before erupting in cheers. A larger-than-life puppet of Trump — a caricature of the president wearing a crown and sitting on a golden toilet — was wheeled through the crowd.

In some places, organizers handed out little American flags while others flew their flags upside down, a sign of distress. Mexican flags, which have become a fixture of the Los Angeles protests against immigration raids, also made an appearance at some demonstrations Saturday.

In Culpepper, Virginia, police said one person was struck by an SUV when a 21-year-old driver intentionally accelerated his SUV into the crowd as protesters were leaving a rally. The driver was charged with reckless driving.

The demonstrations come on the heels of the protests over the federal immigration enforcement raids that began last week and Trump ordering the National Guard and Marines to Los Angeles, where protesters blocked a freeway and set cars on fire.

"Today, across red states and blue, rural towns and major cities, Americans stood in peaceful unity and made it clear: we don't do kings," the No Kings Coalition said in a statement Saturday afternoon after many events had ended.

Philadelphia

Thousands gathered downtown, where organizers handed out small American flags and people carried protest signs saying "fight oligarchy" and "deport the mini-Mussolinis."

Karen Van Trieste, a 61-year-old nurse who drove up from Maryland, said she grew up in Philadelphia and wanted to be with a large group of people showing her support.

"I just feel like we need to defend our democracy," she said. She is concerned about the Trump administration's layoffs of staff at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the fate of immigrant communities and Trump trying to rule by executive order, she said.

A woman wearing a foam Statue of Liberty crown brought a speaker system and led an anti-Trump sing-along, changing the words "young man" in the song "Y.M.C.A." to "con man."

"I am what the successful American dream looks like," said C.C. Téllez, an immigrant from Bolivia who attended the protest. "I've enjoyed great success here in the United States, and I've also contributed heavily to my community. And if there was space for me, I think there's a way for everybody else to belong here as well."

Los Angeles

Thousands gathered in front of City Hall, waving signs and listening to a Native American drum circle before marching through the streets.

As protesters passed National Guard troops or U.S. Marines stationed at various buildings, most interac-

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tions were friendly, with demonstrators giving fist bumps or posing for selfies. But others chanted "shame" or "go home" at the troops.

Amid signs reading "They fear us don't back down California" and "We carry dreams not danger," one demonstrator carried a 2-foot-tall (60-centimeter) Trump pinata on a stick, with a crown on his head and sombrero hanging off his back. Another hoisted a huge helium-filled orange baby balloon with blond hair styled like Trump's.

A few blocks from City Hall, protesters gathered in front of the downtown federal detention center being guarded by a line of Marines and other law enforcement. It was the first time that the Marines, in combat gear and holding rifles, have appeared at a demonstration since they were deployed to city on Friday with the stated mission of defending federal property.

Peter Varadi, 54, said he voted for Trump last November for "economic reasons." Now, for the first time in his life, he is protesting, waving a Mexican and U.S. combined flag.

"I voted for Donald Trump, and now I regret that, because he's taken this fascism to a new level," Varadi said. "It's Latinos now. Who's next? It's gays. Blacks after that. They're coming for everybody."

Even after the formal event ended, the downtown streets were packed with a jubilant crowd as people danced to salsa music and snacked on hot dogs and ice cream bought from vendors, many of whom are Latino immigrants. But the previously calm demonstration turned confrontational as police on horseback moved into the crowd and struck some people with wood rods and batons as they cleared the street in front of the federal building.

New York City

Marchers in the crowd that stretched for blocks along Fifth Avenue had diverse reasons for coming, including anger over Trump's immigration policies, support for the Palestinian people and outrage over what they said was an erosion of free speech rights.

But there were patriotic symbols, too. Leah Griswold, 32, and Amber Laree, 59, who marched in suffragette white dresses, brought 250 American flags to hand out to people in the crowd.

"Our mothers who came out, fought for our rights, and now we're fighting for future generations as well," Griswold said.

Some protesters held signs denouncing Trump while others banged drums.

"We're here because we're worried about the existential crisis of this country and the planet and our species," said Sean Kryston, 28.

Minnesota

Gov. Tim Walz and law enforcement encouraged people not to attend rallies "out of an abundance of caution" following the shootings of the Democratic state lawmakers.

Dozens of events were canceled, but tens of thousands still turned out for demonstrations in Duluth, Rochester and St. Paul, which included a march to the state Capitol. Walz canceled his scheduled appearance at the St. Paul event.

Authorities said the suspect had "No Kings" flyers in his car and writings mentioning the names of the victims as well as other lawmakers and officials, though they could not say if he had any other specific targets.

Seda Heng, 29, of Rochester, said she was heartbroken by the shootings, but still wanted to join the rally there. "These people are trying to do what they can for their communities, for the state, for the nation," Heng told the Minnesota Star-Tribune.

North Carolina

Crowds cheered anti-Trump speakers in Charlotte's First Ward Park before marching, chanting "No kings. No crowns. We will not bow down."

Marchers stretched for blocks, led by a group of people holding a giant Mexican flag and bystanders cheering and clapping along the way.

Jocelyn Abarca, a 21-year-old college student, said the protest was a chance to "speak for what's right" after mass deportations and Trump's deployment of the National Guard in Los Angeles.

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"If we don't stop it now, it's just going to keep getting worse," she said.

Naomi Mena said she traveled an hour to demonstrate in Charlotte to represent her "friends and family who sadly can't have a voice out in public now" to stay safe.

Texas

A rally at the Texas Capitol in Austin went off as planned despite state police briefly shutting down the building and the surrounding grounds after authorities said they received a "credible threat" to Democratic state lawmakers who were to attend.

Dozens of state troopers swarmed through the grounds about four hours before the event, but the area was later opened and the rally started on time. The building remained closed.

The Department of Public Safety later said one person was taken into custody "in connection with the threats made against state lawmakers" after a traffic stop in La Grange, Texas, about 65 miles (105 kilometers) east of Austin. State police did not detail the threat or immediately identify the person, but said there was no additional active threat.

Mississippi

A demonstration of hundreds of people opened to "War Pigs" by Black Sabbath playing over a sound system on the state Capitol lawn in Jackson.

"A lot of stuff that's going on now is targeting people of color, and to see so many folks out here that aren't black or brown fighting for the same causes that I'm here for, it makes me very emotional," said Tony Cropper, who traveled from Tennessee to attend the protest.

Some people wore tinfoil crowns atop their heads. Others held signs inviting motorists to "Honk if you never text war plans."

Melissa Johnson said she drove an hour-and-a-half to Jackson to protest because "we are losing the thread of democracy in our country."

Portland

Earlier in the day, thousands of protesters lined the streets in downtown Portland for several blocks, waving signs as passing cars honked in support. They marched around the city draped in American flags to the beat of drums and music.

By late afternoon, a small group of demonstrators amassed across the river to protest in front of an ICE office where three people were arrested Wednesday night after starting a small fire against the building, police said.

Federal immigration officers fired tear gas, flash bangs and rubber bullets in an effort to clear out the remaining protesters in the evening. Some protesters threw water bottles back and tended to each other's wounds. The police department wrote on X that the event was declared a riot.

At least two people were detained and taken inside the federal immigration building.

Authorities still searching for suspect in shooting of 2 Minnesota state lawmakers

By TIM SULLIVAN, STEVE KARNOWSKI and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

BROOKLYN PARK, Minn. (AP) — A massive search was stretching into its second day for a man who authorities say posed as a police officer and fatally shot a Democratic state lawmaker in her suburban Minneapolis home, an act Gov. Tim Walz called "a politically motivated assassination." Authorities said the suspect also shot and wounded a second lawmaker and was trying to flee the area.

Former House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, were killed in their Brooklyn Park home early Saturday. Sen. John Hoffman, also a Democrat, and his wife, Yvette, were injured at their Champlin address, about 9 miles (about 15 kilometers) away.

Authorities identified the suspect as 57-year-old Vance Boelter, and the FBI issued a reward of up to \$50,000 for information leading to his arrest and conviction. They shared a photo taken Saturday of Boelter wearing a tan cowboy hat and asked the public to report sightings. Hundreds of law enforcement officers

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fanned out in the search for the suspect.

Authorities had not given any details on a possible motive as of Saturday night.

Boelter is a former political appointee who served on the same state workforce development board as Hoffman, records show, though it was not clear if or how well they knew each other.

The attacks prompted warnings to other state elected officials and the cancellation of planned "No Kings" demonstrations against President Donald Trump, though some went ahead anyway. Authorities said the suspect had "No Kings" flyers in his car and writings mentioning the names of the victims as well as other lawmakers and officials, though they could not say if he had any other specific targets.

A Minnesota official told AP the suspect's writings also contained information targeting prominent lawmakers who have been outspoken in favor of abortion rights. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing.

Law enforcement agents recovered several AK-style firearms from the suspect's vehicle, and he was believed to still be armed with a pistol, a person familiar with the matter told AP. The person could not publicly discuss details of the investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The shootings happened at a time when political leaders nationwide have been attacked, harassed and intimidated amid deep political divisions.

"We must all, in Minnesota and across the country, stand against all forms of political violence," said Walz, a Democrat. He also ordered flags to fly at half-staff in Hortman's honor.

"Such horrific violence will not be tolerated in the United States of America. God Bless the great people of Minnesota, a truly great place!" President Donald Trump said in a statement.

Exchange of gunfire

Police responded to reports of gunfire at the Hoffmans' home shortly after 2 a.m., Champlin police said, and found the couple with multiple gunshot wounds.

After seeing who the victims were, police sent officers to proactively check on Hortman's home. There they encountered what appeared to be a police vehicle and a man dressed as an officer at the door, leaving the house.

"When officers confronted him, the individual immediately fired upon the officers who exchanged gunfire, and the suspect retreated back into the home" and escaped on foot, Brooklyn Park Police Chief Mark Bruley said.

Multiple bullet holes could be seen in the front door of Hoffman's home.

John and Yvette Hoffman each underwent surgery, according to Walz.

Two Democrats targeted

Hortman, 55, had been the top Democratic leader in the state House since 2017. She led Democrats in a three-week walkout at the beginning of this year's session in a power struggle with Republicans. Under a power sharing agreement, she turned the gavel over to Republican Rep. Lisa Demuth and assumed the title speaker emerita.

Hortman used her position as speaker in 2023 to champion expanded protections for abortion rights, including legislation to solidify Minnesota's status as a refuge for patients from restrictive states who travel to the state to seek abortions — and to protect providers who serve them.

Walz called her a "formidable public servant, a fixture and a giant in Minnesota."

Hortman and her husband had two adult children.

The initial autopsy reports from the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office gave their cause of death as "multiple gunshot wounds."

The reports said Melissa Hortman died at the scene while her husband was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Hoffman, 60, was first elected in 2012 and was chair of the Senate Human Services Committee, which oversees one of the biggest parts of the state budget. He and his wife have one daughter.

The suspect

Boelter was appointed to the workforce development board in 2016 and then reappointed in 2019 to a four-year term that expired in 2023, state records show.

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Corporate records show Boelter's wife filed to create a company called Praetorian Guard Security Services LLC with the same Green Isle mailing address listed for the couple. Boelter's wife is listed as president and CEO and he is listed as director of security patrols on the company's website.

The website says the company provides armed security for property and events and features a photo of an SUV painted in a two-tone black and silver pattern similar to a police vehicle. Another photo shows a man in black tactical gear with a military-style helmet and a ballistic vest.

An online resume says Boelter is a security contractor who has worked in the Middle East and Africa, in addition to past managerial roles at companies in Minnesota.

Around 6 a.m., Boelter texted friends to say he had "made some choices," the Minnesota Star Tribune reported.

In the messages, read to reporters by David Carlson, Boelter did not specify what he had done but said: "I'm going to be gone for a while. May be dead shortly, so I just want to let you know I love you guys both and I wish it hadn't gone this way. ... I'm sorry for all the trouble this has caused."

Political violence

Minnesota House Speaker Lisa Demuth, a Republican from Cold Spring, called the attack "evil" and said she was "heartbroken beyond words" by the killings.

The shootings are the latest in a series of attacks against lawmakers across parties.

In April a suspect set fire to the home of Democratic Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, forcing him and his family to flee during the Jewish holiday of Passover. The suspect said he planned to beat Shapiro with a small sledgehammer if he found him, according to court documents.

In July 2024, Trump was grazed on the ear by one of a hail of bullets that killed a Trump supporter. Two months later a man with a rifle was discovered near the president's Florida golf course and arrested.

Other incidents include a 2022 hammer attack on the husband of then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in their San Francisco home and a 2020 plot by anti-government extremists to kidnap Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and start a civil war.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said he asked Capitol Police to "immediately increase security" for Minnesota Democratic Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith. He also asked Majority Leader John Thune, a Republican, to hold a briefing on member security.

Israel targets Iran's Defense Ministry headquarters as Tehran unleashes deadly missile strike

By JON GAMBRELL, MELANIE LIDMAN and JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Israel launched an expanded assault on Iran on Sunday, targeting its energy industry and Defense Ministry headquarters, while Tehran unleashed a fresh barrage of deadly strikes.

The simultaneous attacks represented the latest burst of violence since a surprise offensive by Israel two days earlier aimed at decimating Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program.

New explosions boomed across Tehran as Iranian missiles entered Israel's skies in attacks that Israeli emergency officials said caused deaths around the country, including four in an apartment building in the Galilee region. A strike in central Israel killed an 80-year-old woman, a 69-year-old woman and a 10-year-old boy, officials said.

Casualty figures weren't immediately available in Iran, where Israel targeted its Defense Ministry headquarters in Tehran as well as sites that it alleged were associated with the country's nuclear program. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard claimed that Iranian missiles targeted fuel production facilities for Israeli fighter jets, something not acknowledged by Israel.

Amid the continued conflict, planned negotiations between Iran and the United States over Tehran's nuclear program were cancelled, throwing into question when and how an end to the fighting could come.

"Tehran is burning," Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said on social media.

Both Israel's military and Iran state television announced the latest round of Iranian missiles as explo-

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sions were heard near midnight, while the Israeli security cabinet met.

Israel's ongoing strikes across Iran have left the country's surviving leadership with the difficult decision of whether to plunge deeper into conflict with Israel's more powerful forces or seek a diplomatic route.

Urgent calls to deescalate

World leaders made urgent calls to deescalate and avoid all-out war. The attack on nuclear sites set a "dangerous precedent," China's foreign minister said. The region is already on edge as Israel makes a new push to eliminate the Iranian-backed militant group Hamas in Gaza after 20 months of fighting.

Israel — widely believed to be the only nuclear-armed state in the Middle East — said its hundreds of strikes on Iran over the past two days have killed a number of top generals, nine senior scientists and experts involved in Iran's nuclear program. Iran's U.N. ambassador has said 78 people were killed and more than 320 wounded.

U.S. intelligence agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency have repeatedly said Iran was not pursuing a nuclear weapon before Israel unleashed its campaign of airstrikes targeting Iran beginning Friday. But Iran's uranium enrichment has reached near weapons-grade levels, and on Thursday the U.N.'s atomic watchdog censured Iran for not complying with obligations meant to prevent it from developing a nuclear weapon.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has made the destruction of Iran's nuclear program his top priority, said Israel's strikes so far are "nothing compared to what they will feel under the sway of our forces in the coming days."

In what could be another escalation if confirmed, semiofficial Iranian news agencies reported an Israeli drone struck and caused a "strong explosion" at an Iranian natural-gas processing plant. It would be the first Israeli attack on Iran's oil and natural gas industry. Israel's military did not immediately comment.

The extent of damage at the South Pars natural gas field was not immediately clear. Such sites have air defense systems around them, which Israel has been targeting.

Iran calls nuclear talks 'unjustifiable'

The sixth round of U.S.-Iran indirect talks on Sunday over Iran's nuclear program will not take place, mediator Oman said. "We remain committed to talks and hope the Iranians will come to the table soon," said a senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss diplomacy.

Iran's top diplomat said Saturday the nuclear talks were "unjustifiable" after Israel's strikes. Abbas Araghchi's comments came during a call with Kaja Kallas, the European Union's top diplomat.

The Israeli airstrikes were the "result of the direct support by Washington," Araghchi said in a statement carried by the state-run IRNA news agency. The U.S. has said it isn't part of the strikes.

On Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump urged Iran to reach a deal with the U.S. on its nuclear program, adding that "Iran must make a deal, before there is nothing left."

US helps to shoot down Iranian missiles

Iran launched its first waves of missiles at Israel late Friday and early Saturday. The attacks killed at least three people and wounded 174, two of them seriously, Israel said. The military said seven soldiers were lightly wounded when a missile hit central Israel, without specifying where.

U.S. ground-based air defense systems in the region were helping to shoot down Iranian missiles, said a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the measures.

Israel's main international airport said it will remain closed until further notice.

First responders were looking for survivors and clearing the remnants of a missile that fell on a neighborhood outside of Tel Aviv early Sunday morning.

An Associated Press reporter saw streets lined with damaged and destroyed buildings, bombed out cars and shards of glass.

Responders used a drone at points to look for survivors in some of the areas that were too hard to access. Some people were fleeing the area with their belongings in suitcases.

'More than a few weeks' to repair nuclear facilities

Israel attacked Iran's main nuclear enrichment facility in Natanz. Satellite photos analyzed by AP show extensive damage there. The images shot Saturday by Planet Labs PBC show multiple buildings damaged

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or destroyed. The structures hit include buildings identified by experts as supplying power to the facility.

U.N. nuclear chief Rafael Grossi told the Security Council that the above-ground section of the Natanz facility was destroyed. The main centrifuge facility underground did not appear to have been hit, but the loss of power could have damaged infrastructure there, he said.

Israel said it also struck a nuclear research facility in Isfahan, including "infrastructure for enriched uranium conversion," and said it destroyed dozens of radar installations and surface-to-air missile launchers in western Iran. Iran confirmed the strike at Isfahan.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said four "critical buildings" at the Isfahan site were damaged, including its uranium conversion facility. "As in Natanz, no increase in off-site radiation expected," it added.

An Israeli military official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with official procedures, said that according to the army's initial assessment "it will take much more than a few weeks" for Iran to repair the damage to the Natanz and Isfahan nuclear sites. The official said the army had "concrete intelligence that production in Isfahan was for military purposes."

Israel denied it had struck the nuclear enrichment facility in Fordo, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) southeast of Tehran.

Among those killed were three of Iran's top military leaders: one who oversaw the entire armed forces, Gen. Mohammad Bagheri; one who led the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, Gen. Hossein Salami; and the head of the Guard's aerospace division, which oversees its arsenal of ballistic missile program, Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh. On Saturday, Khamenei named a new leader for the Revolutionary Guard's aerospace division: Gen. Majid Mousavi.

Military parade rolls through DC as 'No Kings' protesters across US decry Trump

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The grand military parade that President Donald Trump had been wanting for years barreled down Constitution Avenue on Saturday with tanks, troops and a 21-gun salute, playing out against a counterpoint of protests around the country by those who decried the U.S. leader as a dictator and would-be king.

The Republican president, on his 79th birthday, sat on a special viewing stand south of the White House to watch the display of American military might, which began early and moved swiftly as light rain fell and clouds shrouded the Washington Monument. The procession, with more than 6,000 soldiers and 128 Army tanks, was one Trump tried to make happen in his first term after seeing such an event in Paris in 2017, but the plans never came together until the parade was added to an event recognizing the Army's 250th anniversary.

"Every other country celebrates their victories. It's about time America did too," Trump declared in brief remarks at the parade's end.

The president praised the strength of the military's fighting forces and said U.S. soldiers "fight, fight fight and they win, win win" — putting a new twist on a line that Trump regularly delivered during his 2024 campaign rallies after he survived an assassination attempt.

Early in the evening's pageantry, the Army's Golden Knights parachute team descended from overcast skies toward the reviewing stand. The team had been scheduled to appear at the end of the parade, but jumped earlier than planned in the drizzly skies above the National Mall.

At times, Trump stood and saluted as troops marched past the reviewing stand. But attendance appeared to fall far short of early predictions that as many as 200,000 people would attend the festival and parade. There were large gaps between viewers near the Washington Monument on a day when steamy weather and the threat of thunderstorms could have dampened turnout.

Hours before the parade started, demonstrators turned out in streets and parks around the nation to sound off against the Republican president. They criticized Trump for using the military to respond to

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people protesting his deportation efforts and for the muscular military show in the U.S. capital.

Displays of military might

The daylong display of America's Army came as Trump has shown his willingness to use the nation's military might in ways other U.S. presidents have typically avoided. In the last week, he has activated the California National Guard over the governor's objections and dispatched the U.S. Marines to provide security during Los Angeles protests related to immigration raids, prompting a state lawsuit to stop the deployments.

As armored vehicles rolled down the street in front of the president, on the other side of the country, the Marines who Trump deployed to Los Angeles appeared at a demonstration for the first time, standing guard outside a federal building. Dozens of Marines stood shoulder to shoulder in full combat gear beside the National Guard, Homeland Security officers and other law enforcement. Hundreds of protesters facing them jeered in English and Spanish, telling the troops to go home.

A previously calm demonstration in downtown Los Angeles turned chaotic when police on horseback charged at the crowd, striking some with rods and batons as they cleared the street in front of the federal building and fired tear gas and crowd control projectiles.

In Washington, hundreds protesting Trump carried signs with messages that included "Where's the due process?" and "No to Trump's fascist military parade" as they marched toward the White House.

A larger-than-life puppet of Trump was wheeled through the crowd, a caricature of the president wearing a crown and sitting on a golden toilet.

Other protesters waved pride flags and hoisted signs, some with pointed messages such as "I prefer crushed ICE," referring to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. Other messages included "The invasion was HERE Jan. 6th, NOT in L.A." and "Flip me off if you're a FASCIST."

"No Kings" rallies unfolded in hundreds of cities, designed to counter what organizers said were Trump's plans to feed his ego on his 79th birthday and Flag Day. Organizers said they picked the name to support democracy and speak out against what they call the authoritarian actions of the Trump administration.

Veterans, supporters and protesters

Meanwhile, on the National Mall, a display of armored vehicles, helicopters and military-grade equipment was set up to commemorate the Army's birthday. Vendors outside the Army festival sold gear marking the military milestone. Others hawked Trump-themed merchandise.

Larry Stallard, a retired American Airlines pilot, said he traveled to Washington from Kansas City for the weekend "to see the military and see Trump."

Stallard, who voted for Trump, said it was "hard to believe" people were upset about the cost of the event when "they blow that in 10 seconds on things that we don't even need."

Doug Haynes, a Navy veteran who voted for Trump, attended the daylong festival to celebrate the Army's 250th birthday, but said the parade "was a little over the top."

Pointing at a nearby tank, Haynes said that having them roll down the street is a "very bold statement to the world, perhaps."

The parade was added just two months ago to the long-planned celebration of the Army's birthday and has drawn criticism for its price tag of up to \$45 million and the possibility that the lumbering tanks could tear up city streets. The Army has taken a variety of steps to protect the streets, including laying metal plates along the route.

About 6 in 10 Americans said Saturday's parade was "not a good use" of government money. The vast majority of people, 78%, said they neither approve nor disapprove of the parade overall, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Kathy Straus traveled from Richmond, Virginia, to attend the parade, carrying a sign criticizing its cost and arguing the money could have been used to feed veterans.

"I thought that it would be more effective to come here than go to a protest with people that think similar to me," said Straus.

The parade wound down Constitution Avenue, lined with security fencing and barriers. A flyover of military aircraft included World War II-era planes, including a B-25 Mitchell bomber, and Army helicopters flew

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low over the crowd, below the top of the Washington Monument. Mounted soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division made an appearance — horses once played a crucial role in warfare, but today they're mostly used in ceremonial events like today's parade.

Trump swore in 250 new recruits and returning soldiers into service, with soldiers repeating an oath after him.

"Welcome to the United States Army! And have a great life," Trump said to them afterward.

Country music singer Warren Zeiders performed, as did "God Bless the U.S.A." singer Lee Greenwood. The event was capped off by a fireworks show.

It appeared that plans to have U.S. Air Force fighter jets fly over were scrapped because of the weather.

Authorities still searching for suspect in shooting of 2 Minnesota state lawmakers

By TIM SULLIVAN, STEVE KARNOWSKI and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

BROOKLYN PARK, Minn. (AP) — Hundreds of law officers fanned out across a Minneapolis suburb Saturday in pursuit of a man who authorities say posed as a police officer and fatally shot a Democratic state lawmaker in her home in what Gov. Tim Walz called "a politically motivated assassination." Authorities said the suspect also shot and wounded a second lawmaker and was believed to be trying to flee the area.

Democratic former House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, were killed in their Brooklyn Park home. Sen. John Hoffman, also a Democrat, and his wife, Yvette, were injured at their Champlin address, about 9 miles (about 15 kilometers) away.

Authorities identified the suspect as 57-year-old Vance Boelter, and the FBI issued a reward of up to \$50,000 for information leading to his arrest and conviction.

Authorities displayed a photo taken Saturday of Boelter wearing a tan cowboy hat and asked the public to report sightings. Drew Evans, superintendent of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, said investigators obtained video as well.

He did not give details on a possible motive.

Boelter is a former political appointee who served on the same state workforce development board as Hoffman, records show, though it was not clear if or how well they knew each other.

The early morning attacks prompted warnings to other elected officials around the state and the cancellation of planned "No Kings" demonstrations against President Donald Trump, though some went ahead anyway. Authorities said the suspect had "No Kings" flyers in his car and writings mentioning the names of the victims as well as other lawmakers and officials, though they could not say if he had any other specific targets.

A Minnesota official told The Associated Press that the suspect's writings also contained information targeting prominent lawmakers who have been outspoken in favor of abortion rights. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing.

The shootings happened at a time when political leaders nationwide have been attacked, harassed and intimidated amid deep political divisions.

"We must all, in Minnesota and across the country, stand against all forms of political violence," Walz, a Democrat, said at a news conference. "Those responsible for this will be held accountable."

The governor also ordered flags to fly at half-staff in Hortman's honor.

Law enforcement agents recovered several AK-style firearms from the suspect's vehicle, and he was believed to still be armed with a pistol, a person familiar with the matter told AP. The person could not publicly discuss details of the investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

An overnight shooting

Police responded to reports of gunfire at the Hoffmans' home shortly after 2 a.m., Champlin police said, and found the couple with multiple gunshot wounds.

After seeing who the victims were, police sent officers to proactively check on Hortman's home. There

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they encountered what appeared to be a police vehicle and a man dressed as an officer at the door, leaving the house.

"When officers confronted him, the individual immediately fired upon the officers who exchanged gunfire, and the suspect retreated back into the home" and escaped on foot, Brooklyn Park Police Chief Mark Bruley said.

Multiple bullet holes could be seen in the front door of Hoffman's home.

John and Yvette Hoffman each underwent surgery, according to Walz.

"We are cautiously optimistic they will survive this assassination attempt," the governor said at a morning news conference.

Trump said in a statement that the FBI would join in the investigation.

"Our Attorney General, Pam Bondi, and the FBI, are investigating the situation, and they will be prosecuting anyone involved to the fullest extent of the law. Such horrific violence will not be tolerated in the United States of America. God Bless the great people of Minnesota, a truly great place!"

Two Democratic lawmakers targeted

Hortman, 55, had been the top Democratic leader in the state House since 2017. She led Democrats in a three-week walkout at the beginning of this year's session in a power struggle with Republicans. Under a power sharing agreement, she turned the gavel over to Republican Rep. Lisa Demuth and assumed the title speaker emerita.

Hortman used her position as speaker in 2023 to help champion expanded protections for abortion rights, including legislation to solidify Minnesota's status as a refuge for patients from restrictive states who travel to the state to seek abortions — and to protect providers who serve them.

Walz called her a "formidable public servant, a fixture and a giant in Minnesota."

"She woke up every day, determined to make this state a better place," he said. "She is irreplaceable."

Hortman and her husband had two adult children.

The initial autopsy reports from the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office gave their cause of death as "multiple gunshot wounds."

The reports said Melissa Hortman died at the scene while her husband was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Hoffman, 60, was first elected in 2012 and was chair of the Senate Human Services Committee, which oversees one of the biggest parts of the state budget. He and his wife have one daughter.

State Patrol Col. Christina Bogojevic asked people "out of an abundance of caution" not to attend "No Kings" protests. Bogojevic said authorities did not have any direct evidence that the protests would be targeted, but noted the "No Kings" flyers in the car.

Organizers announced that all demonstrations in the state were canceled, but many people still showed up for protests at the Capitol and elsewhere in the Twin Cities area.

The suspect

Boelter was appointed to the workforce development board in 2016 and then reappointed in 2019 to a four-year term that expired in 2023, state records show.

Corporate records show Boelter's wife filed to create a company called Praetorian Guard Security Services LLC with the same Green Isle mailing address listed for the couple. On a website for the business, Boelter's wife is listed as president and CEO, while he is listed as director of security patrols.

The homepage says it provides armed security for property and events and features a photo of an SUV painted in a two-tone black and silver pattern similar to a police vehicle, with a light bar across the roof and "Praetorian" painted across the doors. Another photo shows a man in black tactical gear with a military-style helmet and a ballistic vest.

An online resume says Boelter is a security contractor who has worked in the Middle East and Africa, in addition to past managerial roles at companies in Minnesota.

Boelter texted friends at a Minneapolis residence, where he had rented a room and would stay one or two nights a week, to say he had "made some choices," the Minnesota Star Tribune reported.

In the messages, read to reporters by David Carlson, Boelter did not specify what he had done but said:

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"I'm going to be gone for a while. May be dead shortly, so I just want to let you know I love you guys both and I wish it hadn't gone this way. ... I'm sorry for all the trouble this has caused."

A former next-door neighbor in Inver Grove Heights, where Boelter used to live, said he hardly knew him but remembers his daughters because they kayaked and ice skated on the pond behind the homes.

"It's really sad for the kids, very, very nice kids," Michael Cassidy said. He added that the suspect's wife once came over to play with his wife and daughter.

Massive search

Hundreds of police and sheriff deputies, some in tactical gear with assault-style weapons, were scattered throughout the town. Some checkpoints were set up. Police lifted a shelter-in-place order in the afternoon, saying they had reason to believe the suspect was no longer in the area.

"This is crazy, someone going after representatives," said Brooklyn Park resident Douglas Thompson, 62. "This is wrong. I'm hoping they'll catch them."

Political violence

Minnesota House Speaker Lisa Demuth, a Republican from Cold Spring, called the attack "evil" and said she was "heartbroken beyond words" by the killings.

The shootings are the latest in a series of attacks against lawmakers across parties.

In April a suspect set fire to the home of Democratic Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, forcing him and his family to flee during the Jewish holiday of Passover. The suspect said he planned to beat Shapiro with a small sledgehammer if he found him, according to court documents.

In July 2024, Trump was grazed on the ear by one of a hail of bullets that killed a Trump supporter. Two months later a man with a rifle was discovered near the president's Florida golf course and arrested.

Other incidents include a 2022 hammer attack on the husband of then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in their San Francisco home and a 2020 plot by anti-government extremists to kidnap Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and start a civil war.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said he asked Capitol Police to "immediately increase security" for Minnesota Democratic Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith. He also asked Majority Leader John Thune, a Republican, to hold a briefing on member security.

"Condemning violence is important but it is not enough," Schumer said on the social platform X. "We must also confront the toxic forces radicalizing individuals and we must do more to protect one another, our democracy, and the values that bind us as Americans."

Minnesota's slain Democratic leader lived the political divisions in the US every day

By STEVE KARNOWSKI and JOHN HANNA Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Americans talk constantly about how their country is split down the middle politically. Melissa Hortman lived that every day as a Minnesota House member.

Her unique perspective on politics came from her job as the House's top Democrat and its unusual challenge. She had to defend liberal priorities in a chamber divided 67-67 between Democrats and Republicans while working to see that the even split didn't keep the Legislature from funding state government.

She and her husband were shot to death early Saturday in their Minneapolis-area home in what authorities are calling an act of political violence. Another prominent area lawmaker, state Sen. John Hoffman, was shot and wounded, along with his wife, in their home about 15 minutes away.

Hortman had served as House speaker for six years when the 2024 elections cost Democrats their slim majority. She led fellow Democrats in boycotting House sessions for almost a month, starting in mid-January, to prevent the GOP from using a temporary vacancy in a Democratic seat to cement control over the chamber, forcing Republicans into sharing power.

She wanted to protect state health coverage for adult immigrants living in the U.S. illegally, a liberal policy enacted on her watch as speaker in 2023. But when the only budget deal that she could broker

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included a GOP bill to cut that coverage, she provided the single Democratic vote in the House, securing its passage so that state government would remain funded for the next two years.

"She battled fiercely, but never let it impact the personal bond that we developed serving as caucus leaders," GOP House Speaker Lisa Demuth said in a statement. "I am beyond heartbroken by her loss."

The Legislature is sharply divided in politics but united in mourning

The shootings shocked a state that prides its politics as being "Minnesota nice," even despite higher partisan tensions in recent years.

To outsiders, Minnesota looks blue. The state hasn't voted for a Republican presidential candidate since 1972, and all of its statewide elected officials are Democrats.

Yet the Legislature is now almost evenly split, with Democrats clinging to a 34-33 majority in the Senate. Republicans are still frustrated with how Democrats used their slim majorities in both chambers in 2023 and 2024 to roll over them and enact a sweeping liberal agenda.

In 2023, Democrats had an ambitious wish list and passed practically everything on it, with Hortman a key player. The measures included expanded abortion and trans rights, paid family and medical leave, universal free school lunches, child care credits and other aid for families.

But on Saturday, the mourning for Hortman, Hoffman and their families was bipartisan.

The wounded senator chairs a key committee

Hoffman, 60, is chair of the Senate Human Services Committee, which oversees one of the biggest parts of the state budget. He lives in Champlin, in the northwest part of the Minneapolis area, and owns a consulting firm, and he and his wife, Yvette, had one daughter.

He previously was marketing and public relations director for a nonprofit provider of employment services for people with mental illnesses and intellectual and developmental disabilities and supervised a juvenile detention center in Iowa. He was first elected to the Senate in 2012.

In 2023, Hoffman supported budget legislation that extended the state MinnesotaCare health program to immigrants living in the U.S. illegally, starting this year. On Monday, he voted against a bill to end that coverage for adults on Jan. 1 — a GOP goal that was a key part of the budget agreement that Hortman helped broker.

Last year, Hoffman sponsored a bill designed to prevent courts from blocking people with disabilities from adopting children, and in 2023, he proposed an amendment to the state constitution to create a fund to pay for long-term care by taxing the Social Security benefits of the state's wealthiest residents.

Hortman had served nine years as Democratic leader

Hortman had served as the House Democrats' leader since 2017, and six years as speaker, starting in 2019. Under a power-sharing deal, her title became speaker emerita.

She and her husband, Mark, lived in Brooklyn Park, another suburb in the northwest part of the Minneapolis area. They had two adult children.

A lawyer, she twice lost races for the House before first winning her seat in 2004. U.S. Sen. and Minnesota Democrat Amy Klobuchar recalled campaigning door to door that year with Hortman, when Klobuchar was the elected chief prosecutor for Hennepin County, which includes Minneapolis.

Klobuchar praised Hortman's support for free school lunches, women's rights and clean energy, calling her "a true public servant to the core."

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon, who attended the University of Minnesota's law school with Hortman, said: "She was smart, savvy, strategic, kind, funny, brave, and determined."

Hortman's skills as a legislator are being praised

Hortman became part of the Democrats' legislative leadership team in 2007, then House minority leader in 2017, before Democrats recaptured a House majority in 2019.

Her proposals included state emission standards like ones imposed in California and a ban on the sale of products containing mercury.

She also proposed studying the feasibility of ending state investments in fossil fuel companies. Demuth, the current Republican House speaker, said Hortman was a nationally recognized expert on energy policy.

"She wasn't only a leader — she was a damn good legislator, and Minnesotans everywhere will suffer because of this loss," said Democratic National Committee Chair Ken Martin, a former Minnesota state party chair and a friend of Hortman's.

In White Sox stadium broadcast, Pope Leo XIV sends message of hope to Chicago and the US

By HOLLY MEYER Associated Press

In his first words directed specifically to Americans, Pope Leo XIV told young people on Saturday how to find hope and meaning in their lives through God and in service to others.

"So many people who suffer from different experiences of depression or sadness — they can discover that the love of God is truly healing, that it brings hope," the first American pope said in a video broadcast on the jumbotron at the White Sox baseball stadium in Chicago.

The event — set in Leo's hometown and at the home stadium of his favorite major league team — was organized by the Archdiocese of Chicago in honor of his recent election as pope. Leo seized the opportunity to speak directly to young people, tying his message to the Catholic Church's ongoing Jubilee year of hope that was declared by Pope Francis.

In Saturday's message, Leo urged those listening in the stadium and online to be beacons of hope capable of inspiring others.

"To share that message of hope with one another — in outreach, in service, in looking for ways to make our world a better place — gives true life to all of us, and is a sign of hope for the whole world."

The afternoon program, emceed by Chicago Bulls announcer Chuck Swirsky, highlighted Leo's roots, including music by the city's Leo Catholic High School Choir and a musician from Peru, according to the event's program. There was also a discussion featuring a former teacher of the pope as well as a high school classmate and fellow Augustinian.

The event also celebrated the mixing of Catholicism and baseball, including a special invitation from the team for Leo to throw out a ceremonial first pitch at a future White Sox game.

Leo, formerly Robert Prevost, was elected May 8, becoming the first American pope in the 2,000-year history of the church.

Leo, 69, spent his career serving as an Augustinian missionary and ministering in Peru before taking over the Vatican's powerful office of bishops. He succeeded Pope Francis, who died April 21.

"When I see each and every one of you, when I see how people gather together to celebrate their faith, I discover myself how much hope there is in the world," Leo said in the video message.

The program was followed by a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Blase Cupich, the archbishop of Chicago who was part of the conclave that elected Leo.

Trump administration gives personal data of immigrant Medicaid enrollees to deportation officials

By KIMBERLY KINDY and AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's administration this week provided deportation officials with personal data -- including the immigration status -- on millions of Medicaid enrollees, a move that could make it easier to locate people as part of his sweeping immigration crackdown.

An internal memo and emails obtained by The Associated Press show that Medicaid officials unsuccessfully sought to block the data transfer, citing legal and ethical concerns.

Nevertheless, two top advisers to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. ordered the dataset handed over to the Department of Homeland Security, the emails show. Officials at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services were given just 54 minutes on Tuesday to comply with the directive.

The dataset includes the information of people living in California, Illinois, Washington state and Washington, D.C., all of which allow non-U. S. citizens to enroll in Medicaid programs that pay for their expenses

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using only state taxpayer dollars. CMS transferred the information just as the Trump administration was ramping up its enforcement efforts in Southern California.

Besides helping authorities locate migrants, experts said, the government could also use the information to scuttle the hopes of migrants seeking green cards, permanent residency or citizenship if they had ever obtained Medicaid benefits funded by the federal government.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom's office said in a statement that it was concerned about how deportation officials might utilize the data, especially as federal authorities conduct immigration raids with the assistance of National Guard troops and Marines in Los Angeles.

"We deeply value the privacy of all Californians," the statement said. "This potential data transfer brought to our attention by the AP is extremely concerning, and if true, potentially unlawful, particularly given numerous headlines highlighting potential improper federal use of personal information and federal actions to target the personal information of Americans."

Some California lawmakers on Friday also expressed alarm. U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman, a Democrat, wrote on X that "we should never use a person's need to go to the doctor against them. This will only lead to more chaos and pain in our communities."

U.S. Health and Human Services spokesperson Andrew Nixon said the data sharing was legal. He declined to answer questions about why the data was shared with DHS and how it would be used.

"With respect to the recent data sharing between CMS and DHS, HHS acted entirely within its legal authority — and in full compliance with all applicable laws — to ensure that Medicaid benefits are reserved for individuals who are lawfully entitled to receive them," Nixon said.

An official with DHS, Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin, said in a statement that Trump "promised to protect Medicaid for eligible beneficiaries. To keep that promise after Joe Biden flooded our country with tens of millions of illegal aliens CMS and DHS are exploring an initiative to ensure that illegal aliens are not receiving Medicaid benefits that are meant for law-abiding Americans."

The initiative appears to be part of a broader effort by the Trump administration to provide DHS with more data on migrants. In May, for example, a federal judge refused to block the Internal Revenue Service from sharing immigrants' tax data with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to help agents locate and detain people living without legal status in the U.S.

A targeted review of millions of immigrant Medicaid enrollees

CMS announced late last month that it was reviewing some state's Medicaid enrollees to ensure federal funds have not been used to pay for coverage for people with "unsatisfactory immigration status." In a letter sent to state Medicaid officials, CMS said that the effort was part of Trump's Feb. 19 executive order titled "Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders."

As part of the review, California, Washington and Illinois shared details about non-U. S. citizens who have enrolled in their state's Medicaid program, according to a June 6 memo signed by Medicaid Deputy Director Sara Vitolo that was obtained by the AP. The memo was written by several CMS officials under Vitolo's supervision, according to sources familiar with the process.

The data includes addresses, names, social security numbers and claims data for enrollees in those states, according to the memo and two people familiar with what the states sent to CMS and what was shared with DHS. Both individuals spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to share details about the data exchange.

CMS officials attempted to fight the data sharing request from Homeland Security, saying that to do so would violate federal laws, including the Social Security Act and the Privacy Act of 1974, according to Vitolo's memo.

"Multiple federal statutory and regulatory authorities do not permit CMS to share this information with entities outside of CMS," Vitolo wrote, further explaining that the sharing of such personal data is only allowed for directly administering the Medicaid program.

Sharing information about Medicaid applicants or enrollees with DHS officials would violate a "long-standing policy," wrote Vitolo, a career employee, to Trump appointee Kim Brandt, deputy administrator and chief operating officer of CMS.

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Vitolo and Brandt could not be reached for comment.

The legal arguments outlined in the memo were not persuasive to Trump appointees at HHS, which oversees the Medicaid agency.

Four days after the memo was sent, on June 10, HHS officials directed the transfer of “the data to DHS by 5:30 ET today,” according to email exchanges obtained by AP.

Former government officials said the move was unusual because CMS, which has access to personal health data for nearly half the country, does not typically share such sensitive information with other departments.

“DHS has no role in anything related to Medicaid,” said Jeffrey Grant, a former career employee at CMS.

Beyond her legal arguments, Vitolo said sharing the information with DHS could have a chilling effect on states, perhaps prompting them to withhold information. States, she added, needed to guard against the “legal risk” they were taking by giving federal officials data that could be shared with deportation officials.

A ‘concerning’ development

All states must legally provide emergency Medicaid services to non-U. S. citizens, including to those who are lawfully present but have not yet met a five-year wait to apply for Medicaid.

Seven states, along with the District, allow immigrants who are not living legally in the country to enroll — with full benefits — in their state’s Medicaid program. The states launched these programs during the Biden administration and said they would not bill the federal government to cover those immigrants’ health care costs.

The Trump administration has raised doubts about that pledge.

Nixon, the HHS spokesperson, said that the state’s Medicaid programs for immigrants “opened the floodgates for illegal immigrants to exploit Medicaid — and forced hardworking Americans to foot the bill.”

All of the states — California, New York, Washington, Oregon, Illinois, Minnesota and Colorado — have Democratic governors. Due to his state’s budget woes, Newsom announced earlier this year he would freeze enrollment into the program; Illinois will also shut down its program for roughly 30,000 non-U. S. citizens in July.

The remaining states — New York, Oregon, Minnesota and Colorado — have not yet submitted the identifiable data to CMS as part of the review, according to a public health official who has reviewed CMS’ requests to the states.

Illinois health officials also said they were “deeply concerned” by the AP’s findings that revealed their state’s Medicaid customer information was shared with federal agencies outside of CMS, given that their “understanding (is) that the data is protected under the federal Privacy Act of 1974 and other federal regulations — which protects the rights of Americans’ sensitive health and personal data.”

In a statement issued after publication of AP’s story, California’s Newsom said the decision to share the data “will jeopardize the safety, health, and security of those who will undoubtedly be targeted by this abuse.”

State health officials from the District and Washington did not respond to requests for comment.

Zelenskyy warns oil price surge could help Russia’s war effort

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A sharp rise in global oil prices following Israeli strikes on Iran will benefit Russia and bolster its military capabilities in the war in Ukraine, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday in comments that were under embargo until Saturday afternoon.

Speaking to journalists in Kyiv, Zelenskyy said the surge in oil prices threatens Ukraine’s position on the battlefield, especially because Western allies have not enforced effective price caps on Russian oil exports.

“The strikes led to a sharp increase in the price of oil, which is negative for us,” Zelenskyy said. “The Russians are getting stronger due to greater income from oil exports.”

Global oil prices rose as much as 7% after Israel and Iran exchanged attacks over the past 48 hours, raising concerns that further escalation in the region could disrupt oil exports from the Middle East.

‘We will raise this issue’

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Zelenskyy said he planned to raise the issue in an upcoming conversation with U.S. President Donald Trump.

"In the near future, I will be in contact with the American side, I think with the president, and we will raise this issue," he said.

Zelenskyy also expressed concern that U.S. military aid could be diverted away from Ukraine toward Israel during renewed tensions in the Middle East.

"We would like aid to Ukraine not to decrease because of this," he said. "Last time, this was a factor that slowed down aid to Ukraine."

Ukraine's military needs have been sidelined by the United States in favor of supporting Israel, Zelenskyy said, citing a shipment of 20,000 interceptor missiles, designed to counter Iran-made Shahed drones, that had been intended for Ukraine but were redirected to Israel.

"And for us it was a blow," he said. "When you face 300 to 400 drones a day, most are shot down or go off course, but some get through. We were counting on those missiles."

An air defense system, Barak-8, promised to Ukraine by Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu was sent to the U.S. for repairs but never delivered to Ukraine, Zelenskyy said.

The Ukrainian president conceded that momentum for the Coalition of the Willing, a group of 31 countries which have pledged to strengthen support for Ukraine against Russian aggression, has slowed because of U.S. ambivalence over providing a backstop.

"This situation has shown that Europe has not yet decided for itself that it will be with Ukraine completely if America is not there," he said.

Coalition offer under consideration

The offer of a foreign troop "reassurance force" pledged by the Coalition of the Willing was still on the table "but they need a backstop, as they say, from America," Zelenskyy said. "This means that suddenly, if something happens, America will be with them and with Ukraine."

The Ukrainian president also said the presence of foreign contingents in Ukraine would act as a security guarantee and allow Kyiv to make territorial compromises, which is the first time he has articulated a link between the reassurance force and concessions Kyiv is willing to make in negotiations with Russia.

"It is simply that their presence gives us the opportunity to compromise, when we can say that today our state does not have the strength to take our territories within the borders of 1991," he said.

But Europe and Ukraine are still waiting on strong signals from Trump.

Without crushing U.S. sanctions against Russia, "I will tell you frankly, it will be very difficult for us," Zelenskyy said, adding that it would then fall on Europe to step up military aid to Ukraine.

Body and prisoner returns follow Istanbul talks

In other developments, Russia repatriated more bodies of fallen soldiers in line with an agreement reached during peace talks in Istanbul between Russian and Ukrainian delegations, Russian officials said Saturday, cited by Russian state media. The officials said Ukraine did not return any bodies to Russia on Saturday.

Ukraine's Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War confirmed in a statement that Russia returned 1,200 bodies.

Ukraine and Russia also exchanged another group of ill and severely wounded servicemen on Saturday, officials from both countries said, although the sides did not report the numbers.

Zelenskyy said in a post on X that the Ukrainian servicemen who returned were members of the Armed Forces, the National Guard, the State Border Guard Service, and the State Transport Special Service.

The first round of the staggered exchanges took place on Monday. The agreement to exchange prisoners of war and the bodies of fallen soldiers was the only tangible outcome of the June 2 Istanbul talks.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Trump held a 50-minute phone call Saturday to discuss both the escalating situation in the Middle East and Ukraine peace talks, Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov said.

According to Ushakov, Putin told Trump about the implementation of the agreements during peace talks in Istanbul between Russian and Ukrainian delegations, including the exchange of prisoners of war.

"Our president noted that an exchange of prisoners of war is taking place, including seriously wounded

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and prisoners of war under 25 years of age," Ushakov said, along with expressing readiness to continue negotiations with the Ukrainians.

Trump, he said, "noted his interest in a speedy end to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict."

Russia says push continues

Continuing a renewed battlefield push along eastern and northeastern parts of the more than 1,000-kilometer (over 600-mile) front line, the Russian Defense Ministry claimed Saturday that its troops captured another village in the Donetsk region, Zelenyi Kut. The Ukrainian military had no immediate comment on the Russian claim.

Russia launched 58 drones and decoys at Ukraine overnight into Saturday, according to the Ukrainian air force, which said its air defenses destroyed 23 drones while another 20 were jammed. A 45-year-old man was killed when a Russian drone dropped explosives in the Kherson region on Saturday, Ukraine's Prosecutor General's Office said.

Russia's defense ministry said it shot down 66 Ukrainian drones overnight.

Attacks have continued despite discussions of a potential ceasefire in the war. During the June 2 talks in Istanbul, Russian and Ukrainian negotiators traded memorandums containing sharply divergent conditions that both sides see as nonstarters, making a quick deal unlikely.