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Sunday, June 22

Emmanuel Lutheran worship 9 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship 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.

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

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

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

Legion at Milbank Tourney

Good Morning

Sunday Blessings

to you and yours.
May worship refresh
your soul and His
Word refill your spirit.

Isaiah 40:31



GSWM

Monday, June 23

Senior Menu: Parmesan chicken breast, rice pilaf, Italian blend, blushing pears, whole wheat bread.

Jr. Legion hosts Aberdeen Smitty's 16U, 6 p.m.

U12 B&W hosts Britton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Cancelled: U10 R&B hosts Milbank, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

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

Softball: U12 at Milbank, 6 p.m. (DH)

Olive Grove: Women's 2-Person Scramble

Community Blood Drive, Noon to 6 p.m., Groton Community Center

Senior Citizens meet at Groton Community Center with potluck at noon.

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

Commander in Chief Clause: Its Modest Origins Under a Microscope

By David Adler

The confluence of the 250th anniversary of the creation of the U.S. Army, President Donald Trump's deployment of the California National Guard and the Marines to Los Angeles, and the possibility that he might plunge our nation headlong into the war between Israel and Iran, without the constitutionally required congressional authorization, compel a reconsideration of the Commander in Chief Clause, as conceived by the Framers, particularly when, in the words of Justice Robert H. Jackson, the provision has been invoked for the "power to do anything, anywhere, that can be done, with an army or navy."

On June 15, 1775, the Continental Congress unanimously chose George Washington as "general" of the army that it had created. His commission, approved on June 17, appointed him "General and Commander in Chief, of the army of the United Colonies." The instructions of the Congress drafted by John Adams, Richard Henry Lee, and Edward Rutledge kept Washington on a short leash. He was ordered "punctually to observe and follow such orders and directions, from time to time, as you shall receive from this, or a future Congress of these United Colonies, or Committee of Congress."

Congress did not hesitate to instruct the commander in chief on military and policy matters, large and small. On June 20, Congress ordered General Washington to repair to Massachusetts Bay and take command of the army of the United Colonies. On October 5, the commander in chief was ordered to intercept two British vessels. On November 10, he was directed to send a force into Nova Scotia. On June 17, 1776, he was directed to send General Gates to command in Canada. Numerous orders followed, and Washington duly complied with them.

In its historical usage, harkening to its creation in English law by King Charles I, in 1639, the title of commander in chief had been a generic term referring to the highest officer in a particular chain of command. Thus, it was applied to officers in various theaters of battle. The practice of entitling the office at the apex of the military hierarchy as commander in chief and of subordinating the office to a political superior, whether a king, parliament or congress, was thus firmly established for a century and a half and thoroughly familiar to the Framers when they met in Philadelphia. This settled understanding and the consequent absence of concerns about the nature of the post accounts for the fact that there was no debate on the commander in chief clause at the Constitutional Convention. Generals and Admirals, even when they are first, do not determine the political purposes for which troops are to be used. They command them in the execution of the policy made by others, which, obviously, was the intention of the Framers.

At the time of the Convention, the office of commander in chief had never carried the power of war and peace. The Framers did not alter this historical understanding. The War Clause of the Constitution (Article I, Section 8) provides: "Congress shall have power To declare War" and "grant Letters of Marque

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and Reprisal.” This clause, as Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and others—without challenge or opposition—explained, grants to Congress alone the exclusive authority to move the United States from a state of peace to state of war, and to authorize military hostilities short of war. The rationale for vesting the War Power in Congress, rather than the president, was drawn from historical lessons that taught the danger of entrusting control of the military establishment to a single man who could commit the nation to war. James Wilson, widely viewed as the most learned and profound legal scholar of his generation, and second only to Madison as an architect of the Constitution, told the Pennsylvania Ratifying Convention that the power to declare war had been vested in Congress as a guard against being “hurried” into war so that no “single man can involve us in such distress.” It was for that reason that Congress, not the president, is the repository of the lion’s share of constitutionally authorized foreign and national security powers.

The severely limited role of the president was a studied response to what Madison called an axiom: the executive is distinguished by its propensity to use military force. The current climate should be considered in light of the climate that influenced the Framers.

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

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Name Released in Hutchinson County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: SD Highway 44, mile marker 361, 11 miles east of Parkston, SD

When: 12:22 p.m., Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Driver 1: Michael Donald Gunvordahl, 81-year-old male from Burke, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2011 Ford Econoline 350

Seat belt Used: Yes

Hutchinson County, S.D.- A Burke, SD man died in a single vehicle crash Wednesday afternoon, 11 miles east of Parkston, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Michael Donald Gunvordahl, the driver of a 2011 Ford Econoline 350 was traveling westbound on SD Highway 44 when the vehicle left the roadway, vaulted over a field approach and rolled. Gunvordahl was pronounced deceased at the scene.

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

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

Names Released in Minnehaha County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: Interstate 29, mile marker 79, Sioux Falls, SD

When: 11:34 p.m., Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Driver 1: Tracey Scott Nuss, 59-year-old male from Sioux Falls, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2008 Lexus IS250

Seat belt Used: Yes

Driver 2: James Allen Crofutt, 57-year-old male from Council Bluffs, IA, no injuries

Vehicle 2: 2024 Freightliner Cascadia

Seat belt Used: Yes

Minnehaha County, S.D.- A Sioux Falls man died in a collision with a semi Tuesday evening in Sioux Falls, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Tracey Scott Nuss, the driver of a 2008 Lexus IS250 was traveling northbound on Interstate 29 in a construction zone near mile marker 79. At the same time, a 2024 Freightliner Cascadia with double trailers driven by James Allen Crofutt was traveling the same direction in the next lane. The trailer wheels struck a concrete barrier, sending the second trailer airborne which then tipped over, landing on the Lexus. Both vehicles came to rest in the east ditch.

Nuss was pronounced deceased at the scene. Crofutt was not injured.

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

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



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Gun-industry companies and groups give \$2 million to help build state-owned shooting range

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR AND SETH TUPPER - JUNE 21, 2025 10:30 AM

A list of donors to a state-owned shooting range under construction north of Rapid City includes \$2 million from gun-industry companies or organizations.

The \$20 million, 400-acre complex will be one of the largest public shooting ranges in the nation when it opens this fall, according to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks. The complex will host recreational shooters, safety programs, marksmanship competitions and law enforcement training. It will include rifle, pistol, shotgun and archery ranges.

About \$6 million of the project's funding has been given or pledged by donors. The rest is from the state's Future Fund for economic development.

The department announced last month in a news release that the range will be named the Pete Lien & Sons Shooting Sports Complex, but the release did not disclose the amount of the company's donation, or include a full list of donations.

"We are extremely pleased with all of the support and excitement for the shooting sports complex and our Second Amendment rights in South Dakota," Department Secretary Kevin Robling said in the press release.

List initially withheld

South Dakota Searchlight requested a list of donors with names and amounts. The department's initial response said only that donors gave more than \$6 million, including \$2 million for naming rights from Pete Lien & Sons, a mining, concrete and construction aggregate company based in Rapid City.

When Searchlight asked again for a full list of donors, a spokesman for the department directed the request to the state's online records request portal. Searchlight submitted a letter including a legal argument that the donation list is a public record. A lawyer for the department provided the list 15 days later.

Three donors on the list who gave or pledged a combined \$6,100 are referenced only as "private donation"; Searchlight asked for those names or a justification for withholding them. The department's lawyer replied that the names are covered by exceptions in the state open records law to protect personal privacy and to prevent the "unreasonable release of personal information."

The project has been controversial with state legislators, who refused to fund it. Some were angered last year when they learned that then-Gov. Kristi Noem gave the project \$13.5 million from the governor-controlled Future Fund for economic development.

The donations from the gun industry are another concern for Rep. Erik Muckey, D-Sioux Falls. He said that as a gun owner and hunter himself, he wants to ensure South Dakota's sporting and hunting traditions continue. But he is uneasy about the Legislature being successfully lobbied for fewer restrictions on firearms while some of the entities connected to those lobbyists — including the National Rifle Association — are helping to fund a state-owned shooting range.

"Private funding for state-owned facilities is not a new concept; in fact, several examples of public-private partnerships make this state better each day, like the combination of public and private funds to support the Build Dakota scholarship," Muckey said, referencing a full-tuition program for technical college students. "But this case should give South Dakotans pause."

The Republican-dominated Legislature routinely considers and passes pro-gun legislation. Last winter,

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lawmakers and Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden lifted concealed-handgun bans on college campuses and in bars.

The shooting-range donor list includes \$6.3 million from 43 sources, with nearly half of the money in hand and the rest pledged. Donations from the gun industry account for nearly one-third of the total:

Smith & Wesson, a Tennessee-based gun manufacturer, donated \$150,000 and pledged \$600,000, for a total of \$750,000.

Glock, an Austrian gun manufacturer, donated \$150,000 and pledged \$600,000, for a total of \$750,000.

Aimpoint, a Swedish gun optics manufacturer that bills itself as the inventor of the red dot sight, donated \$50,000 and pledged \$200,000, for a total of \$250,000.

Luth-AR, a Minnesota company that sells custom stocks and other components for AR-15 rifles, donated \$25,000 and pledged \$100,000, for a total of \$125,000.

The National Rifle Association donated \$50,000.

Federal Ammunition, a Minnesota ammo manufacturer, donated \$25,000.

H-S Precision, a Rapid City weapons parts manufacturer, donated \$5,000 and pledged \$20,000, for a total of \$25,000.

Mack Bros, a Sturgis company that manufactures suppressors (silencers) and other gun components, donated \$3,000.

First Stop Gun Shop in Rapid City donated \$3,000.

Lane Silencers, a Rapid City manufacturer, donated \$3,000.

Sturgis Guns, a seller of firearms and accessories, donated \$3,000.

Some other donations came from companies that sell shooting-related accessories, but not guns or gun parts. Donations also came from various other individuals, businesses and hunting and conservation groups.

Bitter feelings among lawmakers

Some legislators on both sides of the political aisle remain upset about Noem's unilateral decision to provide state funding for the project.

"Unfortunately, her actions have severely damaged trust in otherwise effective institutions, which may cost much-needed projects funding and support in the future," said Muckey.

In response, the Legislature passed and new Gov. Larry Rhoden signed into law a bill from Senate President Pro Tempore Chris Karr, R-Sioux Falls, that says Game, Fish and Parks projects over \$2.5 million must receive legislative approval.

"The shooting complex is the reason I brought that bill," Karr said. "The appropriations process was circumvented."

House Assistant Majority Leader Marty Overweg, R-New Holland, said lawmakers feel their will was ignored.

"Now, the government has to be the one that ensures this shooting range continues to run," he said. "We voted no, but now we have to run it. Without any choice."

Robling, the head of GF&P, said in November that the complex will require three full-time employees who will be reallocated internally, as well as seasonal staff and volunteers. Robling said the range will not be profitable and will require help from federal firearm tax revenue allocated to the department.

Department spokesperson Nick Harrington told South Dakota Searchlight recently that the shooting range will cost an estimated \$355,000 annually to operate and maintain, including the three full-time employees.

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

Seth is editor-in-chief of South Dakota Searchlight. He was previously a supervising senior producer for South Dakota Public Broadcasting and a newspaper journalist in Rapid City and Mitchell.

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Trump: Iran nuclear facilities 'completely and totally obliterated' in U.S. strike on 3 sites

South Dakota delegation commend president's action

BY: JACOB FISCHLER AND JANE NORMAN - JUNE 21, 2025 8:37 PM

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Saturday night that the United States has attacked three nuclear sites in Iran, and all U.S. planes were outside Iran and on their way back to the United States.

"A short time ago the U.S. military carried out massive precision strikes on the three key nuclear facilities in the Iranian regime: Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan," Trump said in brief televised remarks from the White House just after 10 p.m. Eastern.

"Our objective was the destruction of Iran's nuclear enrichment capacity and a stop to the nuclear threat posed by the world's No. 1 state sponsor of terror," he said. "Tonight, I can report to the world that the strikes were a spectacular military success. Iran's key nuclear enrichment facilities have been completely and totally obliterated."

Flanked by Vice President J.D. Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Trump said he hoped the strikes would be the extent of the U.S. offensive in Iran, but he warned he would authorize attacks on other targets if Iran did not end the war.

"Iran, the bully of the Middle East, must now make peace," he said. "If they do not, future attacks will be far greater and a lot easier."

Trump had first announced the strikes roughly two hours earlier on social media.

"All planes are now outside of Iran air space. A full payload of BOMBS was dropped on the primary site, Fordow. All planes are safely on their way home. Congratulations to our great American Warriors. There is not another military in the World that could have done this. NOW IS THE TIME FOR PEACE! Thank you for your attention to this matter," he wrote.

Several U.S. House Democrats questioned the legality of the bombing.

"President Trump has no constitutional authority to take us to war with Iran without authorization from Congress, and Congress has not authorized it," Don Beyer, a House Democrat from Virginia, wrote on X.

Earlier Saturday, there had been numerous reports that B-2 bombers had been sent from Whiteman Air Force Base in Johnson County, Missouri, and were flying across the Pacific Ocean.

Trump returned to the White House at about 6 p.m. Eastern on Saturday from his golf club in Bedminster, N.J., to attend a national security meeting at the White House.

The attack on the Iran sites supports a key U.S. ally, Israel, while distancing another foreign policy priority for the Trump administration, a deal to limit Iran's nuclear development.

"I want to thank and congratulate Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu," Trump said at the White House, referring to the Israeli prime minister.

Trump has repeatedly said Iran must not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons.

GOP backs Trump

Republican lawmakers in national security roles quickly weighed in on social media and in statements Saturday to support Trump's decision.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said in a statement: "The regime in Iran, which has committed itself to bringing 'death to America' and wiping Israel off the map, has rejected all diplomatic pathways to peace. The mullahs' misguided pursuit of nuclear weapons must be stopped. As we take action tonight to ensure a nuclear weapon remains out of reach for Iran, I stand with President Trump and pray for the American troops and personnel in harm's way."

"Our commander-in-chief has made a deliberate—and correct—decision to eliminate the existential threat posed by the Iranian regime," U.S. Senate Armed Services Chairman Roger Wicker, R-Miss., wrote on X. "We now have very serious choices ahead to provide security for our citizens and our allies and stability for the middle-east. Well-done to our military personnel. You're the best!"

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House Intelligence Chairman Rick Crawford, an Arkansas Republican, blamed Iran for the conflict.

"As I have said multiple times recently, I regret that Iran has brought the world to this point," he wrote on X. "That said, I am thankful President Trump understood that the red line—articulated by Presidents of both parties for decades—was real. The United States and our allies, including Israel, are making it clear that the world would never accept Iran's development of a nuclear weapon."

Sen. Todd Young, an Indiana Republican and member of the Senate Intelligence Committee who is not always aligned with Trump, also praised the move.

"Thank you to our brave service members who executed this mission," he said. "The world will be safer if Iran's nuclear capability is destroyed. I look forward to briefings in the coming days."

Kentucky Republican Rep. Thomas Massie, a libertarian who is often at odds with his party leadership, expressed his opposition in a Saturday night social media post.

"This is not Constitutional," he wrote.

Democrats react

Immediate reaction from Democrats was mixed.

Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman called the move "the correct decision," adding that "Iran is the world's leading sponsor of terrorism and cannot have nuclear capabilities."

But members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus raised the issue of congressional authorization and called for a vote on a privileged resolution sponsored by California Democrat Ro Khanna and Massie that would block military force against Iran.

"Donald Trump illegally took military action against Iran—without congressional authorization—risking dragging us into another endless war," Arizona Democrat Yassamin Ansari wrote. "I am calling for an immediate emergency session of Congress to vote on the War Powers Resolution."

"Instead of listening to the American people, Trump is listening to War Criminal Netanyahu, who lied about Iraq and is lying once again about Iran," Michigan Democrat Rashida Tlaib wrote. "Congress must act immediately to exert its war powers and stop this unconstitutional act of war."

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, a New York Democrat, was sharply critical.

"Donald Trump promised to bring peace to the Middle East. He has failed to deliver on that promise. The risk of war has now dramatically increased, and I pray for the safety of our troops in the region who have been put in harm's way," Jeffries said in a statement.

"President Trump misled the country about his intentions, failed to seek congressional authorization for the use of military force and risks American entanglement in a potentially disastrous war in the Middle East."

He said Congress must immediately be briefed in a classified setting.

Warning from Iran

Israel began bombing what it said were Iranian nuclear facilities last week, scuttling U.S. negotiations with Iran, which Trump repeated again Wednesday had been close.

In a statement issued through a spokesman on state-run TV Wednesday, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned the U.S. not to get involved.

"Any form of U.S. military intervention will undoubtedly be met with irreparable harm," the statement said, according to a BBC translation.

Prior to the announcement, congressional Republicans were generally supportive of an aggressive posture toward Iran.

Sen. Ted Cruz, a Texas Republican, told reporters at the Capitol that Iran's nuclear program was meant to threaten the United States.

"When the Ayatollah chants 'Death to America,' I believe him," Cruz said, referring to Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "So does President Trump, and that's why, as commander-in chief, he is acting decisively to keep America safe."

The potential of a nuclear Iran has animated U.S. policy debates about the region for more than a decade.

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In his first term, Trump withdrew from a deal negotiated by former President Barack Obama's administration that lifted sanctions on Iran in exchange for limiting its nuclear development.

Iran and Hamas

Iran and Israel have not had diplomatic relations since the Iranian Revolution in 1979 and each has been a primary antagonist in the other's foreign policy.

Israel has long prioritized denying Iran a nuclear weapon. Iran has funded Hamas, the militant group that launched the October 2023 attack on Israel that sparked the ongoing war in Gaza, and Hezbollah, a militant group in Lebanon.

U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst raised Iran's support for Hamas at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing last week, using it as a rationale for U.S. involvement in the region.

"Who is the primary funder of Hamas?" the Iowa Republican asked Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

Hegseth answered Iran.

"Forty-three Americans lost their lives on Oct. 7 at the hands of Hamas," Ernst continued. "So when there is a question about whether it's appropriate for America to be engaged in the Middle East, in defending Americans that live and work abroad, I think there's our answer."

South Dakota reaction

FROM SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

Sen. John Thune

"The regime in Iran, which has committed itself to bringing 'death to America' and wiping Israel off the map, has rejected all diplomatic pathways to peace. The mullahs' misguided pursuit of nuclear weapons must be stopped. As we take action tonight to ensure a nuclear weapon remains out of reach for Iran, I stand with President Trump and pray for the American troops and personnel in harm's way."

Sen. Mike Rounds

"As I've said, Iran's only purpose in obtaining nuclear weapons was to threaten the United States and Israel. President Trump made the right move in eliminating this threat. Congratulations to our brave men and women in uniform who made this mission a success."

Rep. Dusty Johnson

"President Trump's decisive action sends a strong message that America is back to leading by peace through strength. I commend our military's precise strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities to ensure Iran will not obtain nuclear weapons. I am thankful for our service members' commitment to bravery and security."

Gov. Larry Rhoden

"President Trump is the leader we need for such a time as this. His emphatic attack achieved the goal of eliminating Iran's nuclear threat. I was in Israel just over a week ago, and I am glad that their people are safer tonight from the threat of a nuclear Iran."

Jacob covers federal policy and helps direct national coverage as deputy Washington bureau chief for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

As the Washington Bureau Chief of States Newsroom, Jane directs national coverage, managing staff and freelance reporters in the nation's capital and assigning and editing state-specific daily and enterprise stories. Jane is a veteran of more than three decades in journalism.

Judge halts Trump order tying state transportation grants to immigration actions

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA AND ASHLEY MURRAY - JUNE 21, 2025 3:14 PM

A Rhode Island federal judge blocked an order that would have yanked billions of federal dollars for roads, bridges and airport projects in states that don't aid in the Trump administration's immigration crackdown.

U.S. District Judge John James McConnell Jr. granted a preliminary injunction late Thursday to the 20 Democratic-led states that brought the case against the U.S. Department of Transportation as well as DOT Secretary Sean Duffy.

McConnell's order only applies to the 20 plaintiff states, which he wrote are likely to succeed in the case because Duffy acted outside his authority when he placed new eligibility requirements on funds already allocated by Congress for a specific purpose.

"The (Immigration Enforcement Condition) backed by the Duffy Directive, is arbitrary and capricious in its scope and lacks specificity in how the States are to cooperate on immigration enforcement in exchange for Congressionally appropriated transportation dollars — grant money that the States rely on to keep their residents safely and efficiently on the road, in the sky, and on the rails," McConnell wrote in his 10-page order.

McConnell delivered the ruling ahead of a Friday deadline for infrastructure grant funding applications.

The states that brought the suit are California, Illinois, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Maryland, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.

"These unlawful attempts to weaken states' rights and put Americans in harm's way are being recognized as such, and I'm grateful to the Court for recognizing that we are on the right side of the law," Rhode Island Attorney General Peter F. Neronha said in a statement.

Appropriations power

McConnell seemed likely during a Wednesday hearing to block the Transportation Department's move to withdraw billions in congressional funding.

McConnell, who was appointed by former President Barack Obama in 2011, pressed acting U.S. Attorney Sara Miron Bloom on how the Transportation Department could have power over funding that was approved by Congress, saying federal agencies "only have appropriations power given by Congress."

"That's how the Constitution works," he said. "Where does the secretary get the power and authority to impose immigration conditions on transportation funding?"

The suit brought by 20 Democratic state attorneys general challenges an April directive from Duffy, a former House member from Wisconsin, that requires states to cooperate in federal immigration enforcement in order to receive federal grants already approved by Congress.

"Defendants seek to hold hostage tens of billions of dollars of critical transportation funding in order to force the plaintiff states to become mere arms of the federal government's immigration enforcement policies," Delbert Tran of the California Department of Justice, who argued on behalf of the states, said.

Arguing on behalf of the Trump administration, Bloom said that Duffy's letter simply directs the states to follow federal immigration law.

McConnell said that while the states could interpret it that way, the Trump administration has gone after so-called sanctuary cities and targeted them for not taking the same aggressive immigration enforcement as the administration.

The judge said Bloom's argument expressed a "very different" interpretation of the directive than how the administration has described it publicly. He also noted President Donald Trump and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem have "railed on ... the issues that arise from sanctuary cities."

Trump on June 15 directed U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to target Chicago, Los Angeles and New York — three major Democrat-led cities that have policies to not aid in immigration

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enforcement.

Undermines Congress

Tran said the Department of Transportation's directive is not only arbitrary and capricious, but undermines congressional authority because Congress appropriated more than \$100 billion for transportation projects to the states.

Cutting off funding would have disastrous consequences, the states have argued.

"More cars, planes, and trains will crash, and more people will die as a result, if Defendants cut off federal funding to Plaintiff States," according to the brief from the states.

Bloom defended Duffy's letter, saying it listed actions that would impede federal law enforcement and justified withholding of funds because "such actions compromise the safety and security of the transportation systems supported by DOT financial assistance."

McConnell said that didn't answer his question about the secretary's authority to withhold congressionally appropriated funding.

"It seems to me that the secretary is saying that a failure to comply with immigration conditions is relevant to the safety and security of the transportation system," Bloom said.

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.

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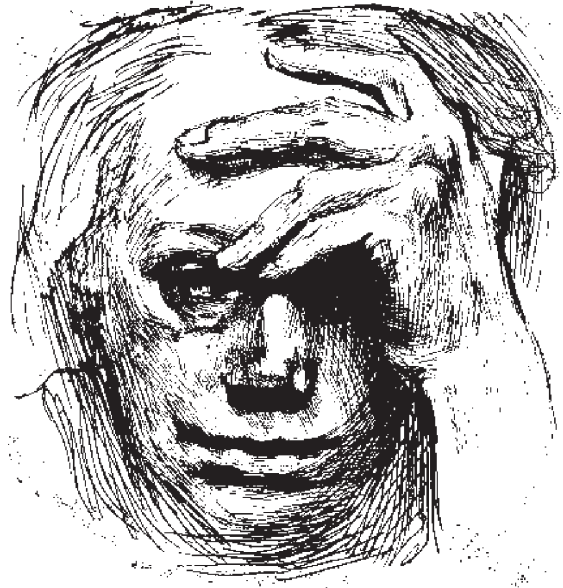
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Therefore do not worry
about tomorrow,
for tomorrow will worry
about its own things.
Sufficient for the day
is its own trouble.*

MATTHEW 6:34



Self-Portrait With Hand On Brow
by Kathe Kollwiz (1910)

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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. In Genesis 15, who was told to “look now toward Heaven and tell the stars”? *Noah, Adam, Abram, Moses*

3. Who succeeded Belshazzar as King of the Chaldeans? *David, Darius, Daniel, Saul*

4. Who sold his brother, Joseph, to a camel caravan? *Cain, Judah, Silas, Joshua*

5. Where did Jacob and his family settle in Egypt? *Goshen, Damascus, Bethlehem, Beersheba*

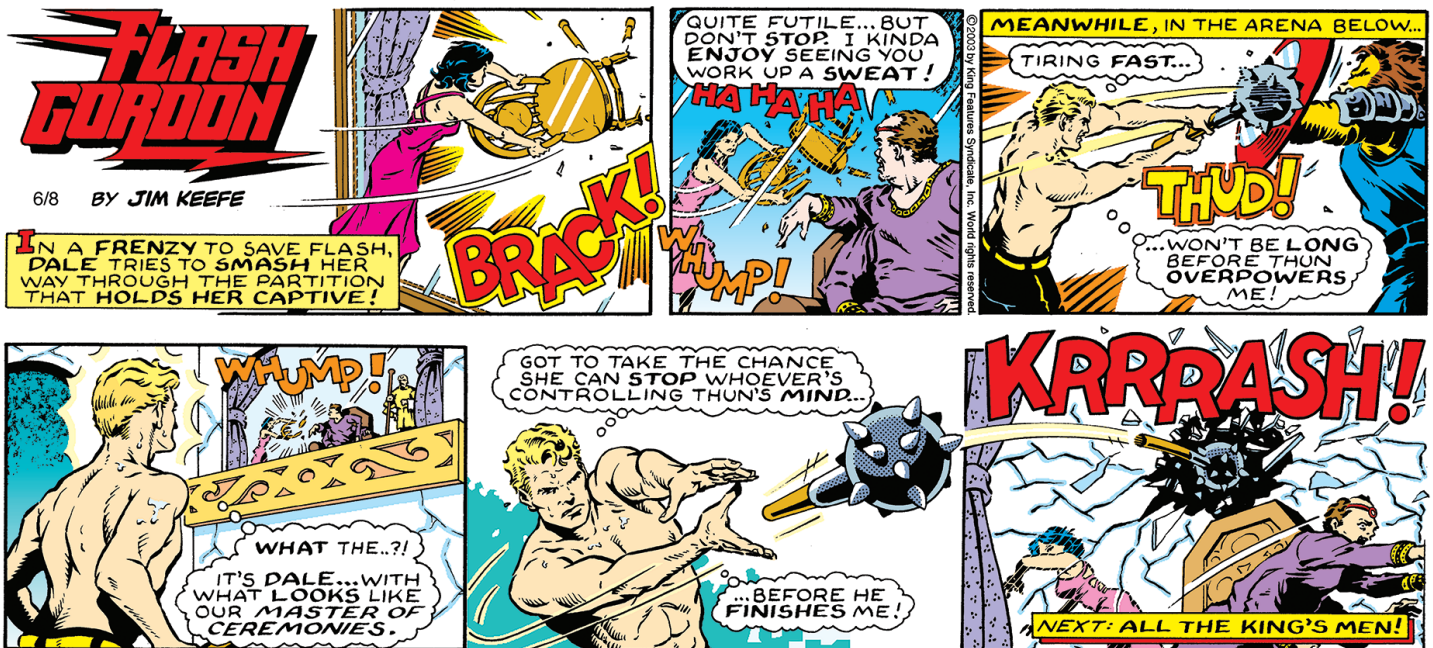
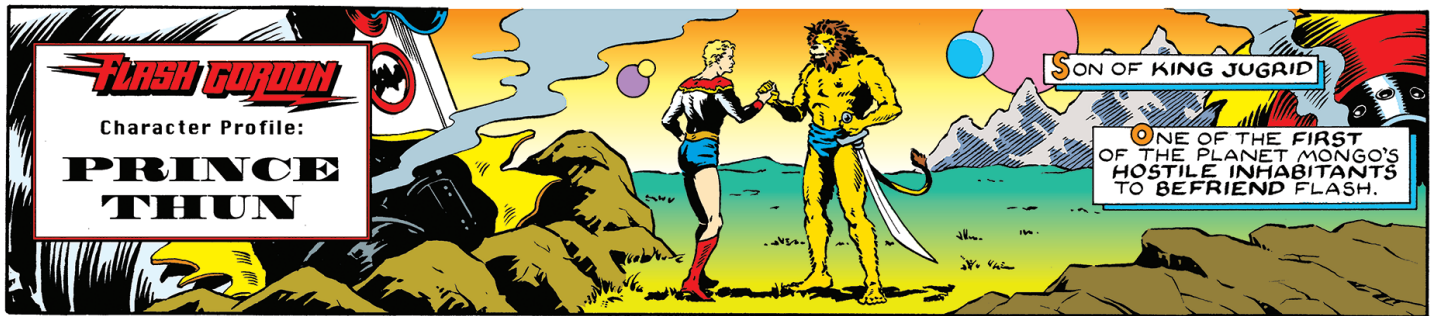
6. What was the name of Naomi’s husband? *Ephriam, Elijah, Elimelech, Elisha*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Abram, 3) Darius, 4) Judah (with his brothers), 5) Goshen, 6) Elimelech

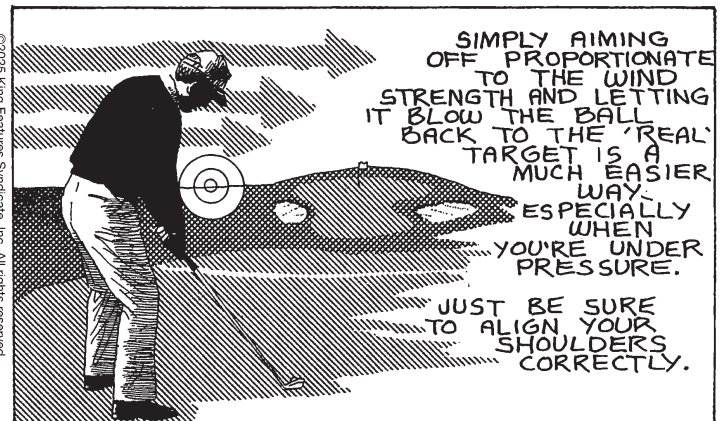
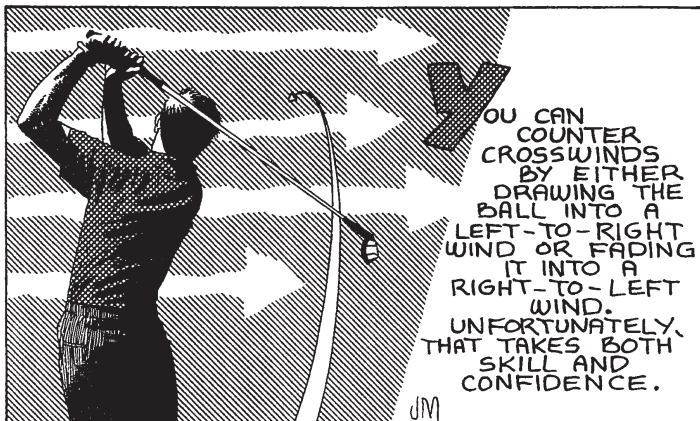
Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey’s latest book, “Test Your Bible Knowledge,” available in bookstores and online.

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Learn the Available Options for Dealing With Kidney Stones

DEAR DR. ROACH: I just found out that I have a kidney stone. I'm 77 years old, and I don't want to deal with it. I've heard of potassium citrate and pulverizing it with sound waves. Are these options? -- J.M.

ANSWER: When a person gets a kidney stone, the goals are to manage any symptoms, determine if a person's health is at risk (especially from infection or kidney damage), and decide which treatment might be necessary to prevent any new stones.

Extracorporeal sound wave lithotripsy is one way of removing symptomatic stones, as is ureteroscopy with laser lithotripsy. The decision of whether intervention needs to be done is made by a urologist with expertise in stone

management, and treatment depends on the size, type and location of your stone(s).

Prevention of a recurrent stone depends on the specific stone type and any metabolic issue the person has. Nearly everyone with stones is recommended to increase their water intake (to a level that is adequate enough to make at least 2 liters of urine a day -- and yes, we measure it) and decrease their salt intake (to less than 2,300 mg of sodium a day).

My former professor at the University of Chicago, Dr. Fred Coe, told me that he has seen people with sodium levels in their urine exceeding 25,000 mg a day. A high sodium level strongly favors stone formation.

Potassium citrate is a good choice for people who have calcium oxalate stones (60% to 80% of stones) and low measured citrate in their 24-hour urine tests. A low-oxalate diet may also be appropriate, but you can't make an informed decision without knowing which kind of stone you have and what your metabolism is like.

If you do pass a stone, save it; it will be useful for your doctor. There are several different types of less-common stones, so management can't be tailored for you without this information.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I read that fluoride might no longer be put into drinking water. Is fluoride dangerous? -- V.A.M.

ANSWER: As with all substances (even a naturally occurring mineral like fluoride), the dose is what makes fluoride either a useful way of reducing tooth decay or a risk for side effects. This especially includes fluorosis, which is tooth damage due to excess fluoride during tooth development (up to age 4).

At extremely high levels, far above what is put into the water supply, there is the potential for adverse effects on brain development, which were generally found in geographic areas where naturally occurring fluoride levels are very high. This risk can be avoided by carefully regulating the amount of fluoride in the water supply -- as most communities in North America have been doing for decades.

At the low levels used for supplementation of water, there does not seem to be any increased risk of brain injury, but the risk of tooth decay is substantially less. Communities that stopped water fluoridation found worsening of people's dental health community-wide. They also noted a large increase in dental visits for cavities, a greater incidence of anesthesia used for dental treatments, and an increased need for antibiotics due to tooth infections.

My review indicates that the benefit in the prevention of dental problems greatly outweighs the potential harms, which can be avoided by careful attention to community fluoride water levels. For people in communities that have stopped the fluoridation of water, alternatives include daily fluoride supplements, fluoridated toothpastes, and fluoride varnish that gets provided by dentists at regular dental visits.

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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"Squid Game: Season 3" (TV-MA) -- After two unbelievably entertaining and heartbreaking seasons, the South Korean survival-thriller series "Squid Game" is coming to an end with its third season. Viewers were dragged along for Gi-hun's insane ride through the first round of the deadly games, then another time for a second round of even deadlier games. We've seen how close Jun-ho has gotten to finding his brother and the island, and we've seen the Front Man become even more sinister than we could have imagined. Season three kicks off with the remaining players from season two and the Front Man back in his position of power, and you can bet that this final round of games will be unforgettable. Premieres June 27. (Netflix)

"The Actor" (R) -- This crime-mystery film led by Andre Holland ("Moonlight") and Gemma Chan ("Crazy Rich Asians") tells the story of a New York actor in the 1950s named Paul Cole (Holland). After being beaten and left for dead in Ohio, Paul wakes up with a bout of amnesia and tries to piece together information about his life. Stranded in an unknown town with a scrambled brain and without enough money to buy a train ticket home, Paul is forced to claw his way back to the status he once had. But the catch is ... when he makes it back to his city living and socialite ways, will he want that same life back? Premieres June 30. (Hulu)

"Frozen: The Hit Broadway Musical" (TV-PG) -- For die-hard fans of the 2013 smash hit "Frozen" (as well as those who like to catch the Frozen Sing-Along Celebration at Hollywood Studios in Disney World), now is the chance to catch the hit Broadway musical from the comfort of your own couch. Samantha Barks ("Les Miserables") and Stephanie McKeon ("Fair City") respectively star as Princess Elsa and Princess Anna, who face the hardest challenge of their lives when Elsa accidentally freezes their kingdom in an eternal winter. The musical includes 12 original songs that weren't featured in the film in addition to songs like "Let It Go" and "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" The West End production featured in this special ran more than 1,000 performances over three years! Check it out now. (Disney+)

In Case You Missed It

"The Watchers" (PG-13) -- Not only does director M. Night Shyamalan have exceptional creative talent, but his daughter Ishana Night Shyamalan also exudes the same kind of directorial artistry. In her directorial debut, she cast Dakota Fanning ("The Perfect Couple") as her first "final girl" -- Mina, a 28-year-old burdened by the trauma of losing her mother in a car accident. While working at a pet shop in Galway, Ireland, Mina is asked by her boss to transport a parrot to a zoo in Belfast, but her car breaks down midway near a forest. Now stuck in the middle of a woods that is haunted by mysterious creatures, Mina's only saving grace is a woman named Madeline, who hesitantly allows Mina into her bunker to escape the inevitable death that the night brings. Out now. (Max)

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Dakota Fanning, left, and Olwen Fouere star in "The Watchers." (Courtesy of MoviesStillsDB)

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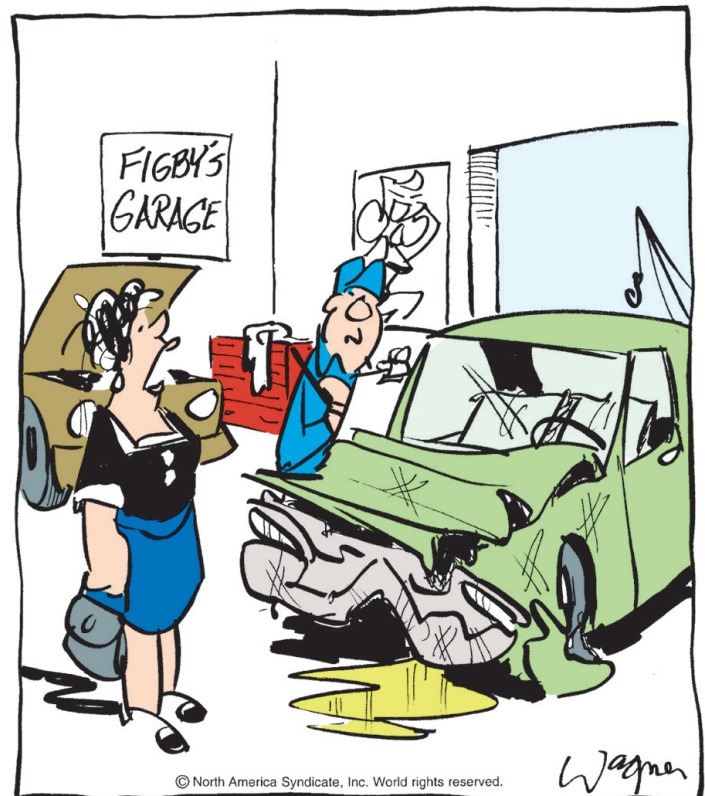
1. Name the group that released "Up Around the Bend."
2. Which band released "I Don't Want to Live Without You"?
3. Name the female artist who released "The Sweetest Thing (I've Ever Known)."
4. Who released "Every Woman in the World"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Beneath this snowy mantle cold and clean, The unborn grass lies waiting for its coat to turn to green."

Answers

1. Creedence Clearwater Revival, in 1970. In the U.S. the song climbed as high as No. 4 on the charts but other countries -- such as Netherlands, Canada and Australia -- pushed it all the way to No. 1.
2. Foreigner, in 1987. Written by the group's guitar player, Mick Jones, the song topped the Adult Contemporary chart. Jones also penned the widely popular "I Want to Know What Love Is."
3. Juice Newton, in 1981. The song climbed the Adult Contemporary, Hot Country and Hot 100 charts all at the same time.
4. Air Supply, in 1980.
5. "Snowbird," by Anne Murray in 1969. The song went gold in the U.S., a first for any Canadian female artist. The song's writer, Gene MacLellan, wrote the song in 20 minutes while walking along the beach.

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GRIN and BEAR IT *Wagner*



"I thought it was one of those cars that parks itself."

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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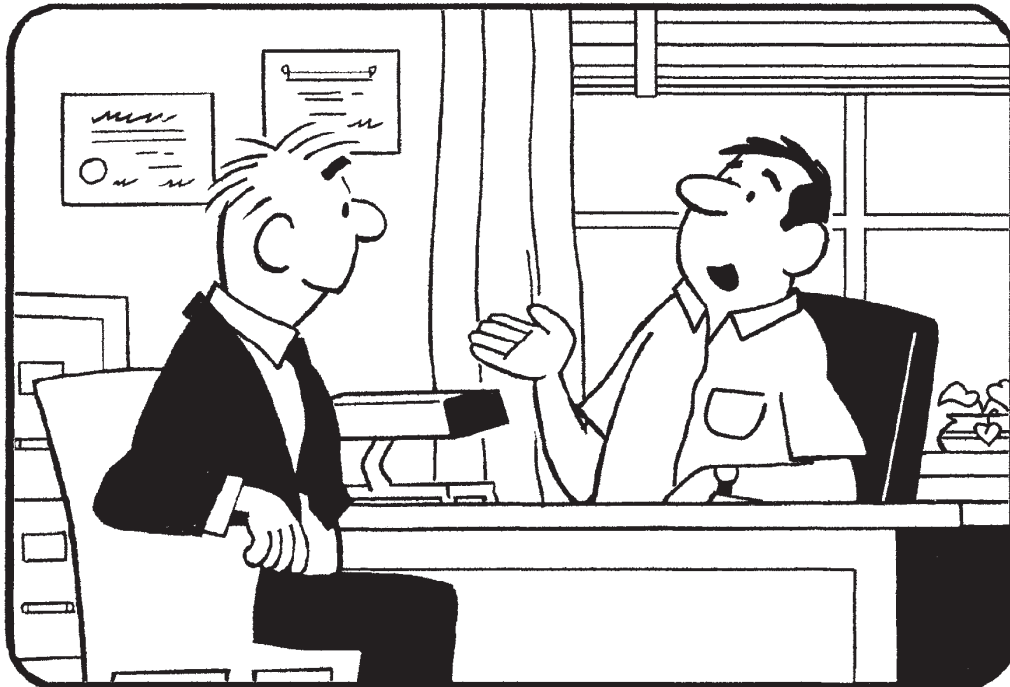
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Desk is wider. 2. Nose is smaller. 3. Blinds are higher. 4. Pocket is moved. 5. File cabinet is taller. 6. Desk lamp is different.

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* The best way to get a bloodstain out of clothing is by dousing the stain with hydrogen peroxide and washing as usual. For clay stains, you absolutely must have a Fels-Naptha bar. It looks like a bar of soap, and you wet the material and rub in the soap. It's magical. This, coming from a softball mom whose daughter loves to slide. -- A.A. in Florida

* Add these to the list of items to eliminate the odor of cooking cabbage: a heel of bread, a whole walnut, or a pinch of baking soda.

* It's easy to make your own spreadable butter. Simply whip 1 pound of softened butter and 1/2 teaspoon of salt. Slowly add 1 cup of olive oil. Beat up to 5 minutes to add air and increase volume. Pour into two 1-pint containers and refrigerate. It's eco-

nomical, spreads like soft margarine, tastes great and you get the benefits of olive oil in a natural product.

* "Before I go to the beach, I freeze an ice-cube tray full of lemonade. Then, we use the cubes in our travel cups. It keeps the lemonade cool, and as it melts (which tends to be quickly), it doesn't water down the drink." -- K.H. in South Carolina

* To save money on electricity costs, hang jeans and other heavy clothing to dry first. White or light towels and garments especially love the sun. When it is mostly dry, pop it in the dryer to fluff.

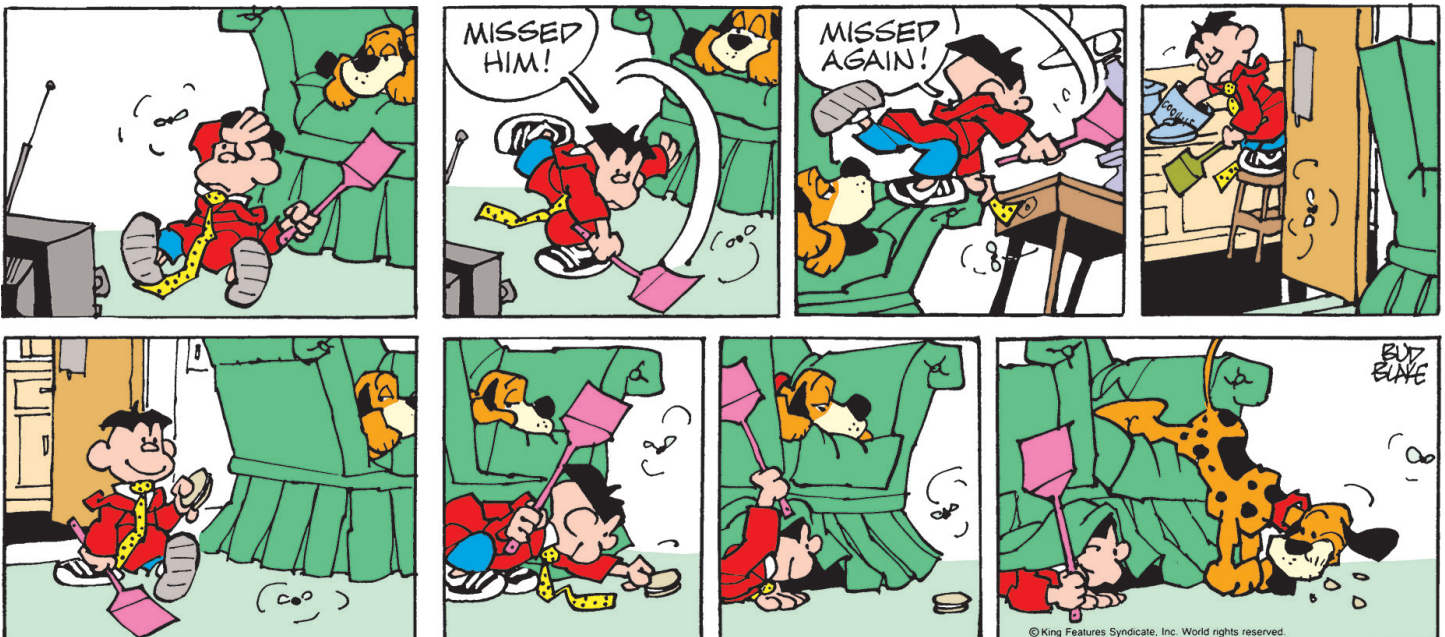
* When sales are running on children's clothing, it might be a good idea to buy a size up. Sometimes, I buy up to a year in advance for my kids if the deals are really good. Just be sure that the clothing is the right season when your child will be able to wear it. --M. from New Mexico

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 Wax-coated cheese
5 Jug handle
8 Thinker
Descartes
12 The Big Easy acronym
13 "No seats" sign
14 Squad
15 French perfume brand
16 Western top-pers
18 Treeless plains
20 Thoreau piece
21 Remiss
22 Boxing legend

- 23 Stupefies
26 Spy's asset
30 Compass dir.
31 Actress Tyler
32 Tic-tac-toe win
33 Sound systems
36 Ridicule
38 Last (Abbr.)
39 Airline to Sweden
40 Ballroom dance
43 First-rate
47 Big name in pianos
49 Architect
Saarinen

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16			17				
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23	24	25				26				27	28	29
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40	41	42				43				44	45	46
47					48				49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

- 50 Memo
51 100%
52 Work on proofs
53 Hot tubs
54 Hwy.
55 Cushions

DOWN

- 1 Goals
2 "Act now!"
3 Lotion additive
4 Christie sleuth Jane
5 English county
6 — and crafts
7 Shad product
- 8 Moscow's land
9 Son of Seth
10 Pinta's companion
11 Online crafts site
17 Far (Pref.)
19 — de deux
22 Off-roader (Abbr.)
23 — Moines
24 Busy insect
25 Wye follower
26 Bro's sib
27 Singer Rawls
28 Heavy weight
29 Sizzling
31 Parking place

- 34 July birthstones
35 Panache
36 Menlo Park monogram
37 In dreamland
39 Fashion
40 Taxpayer IDs
41 Perched on
42 Self-referential
43 Popcorn seasoning
44 Castor's mother
45 Desertlike
46 Decays
48 Series of battles

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— King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

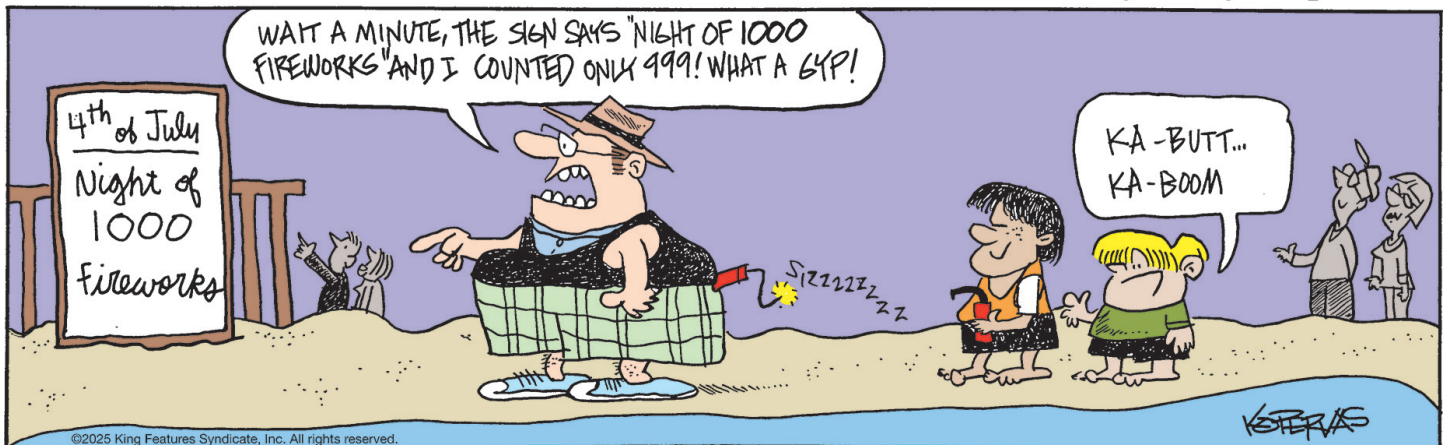
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Olive



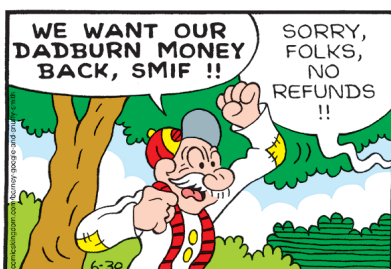
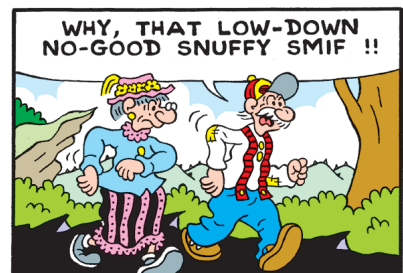
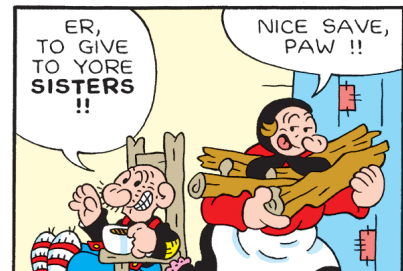
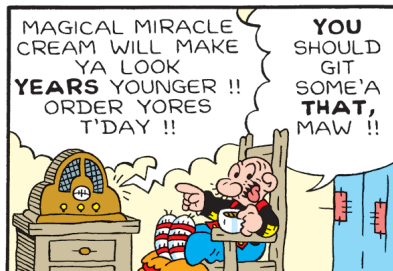
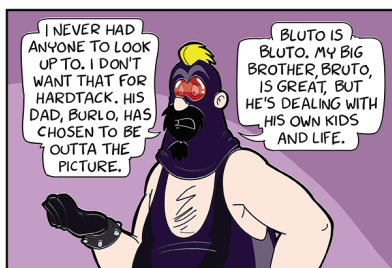
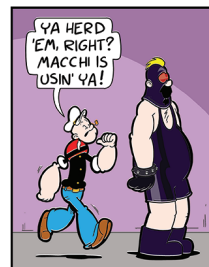
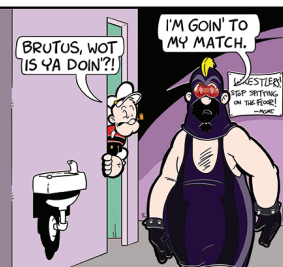
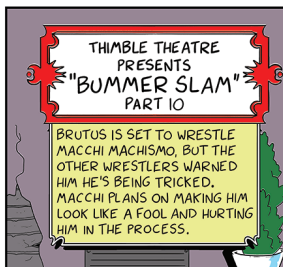
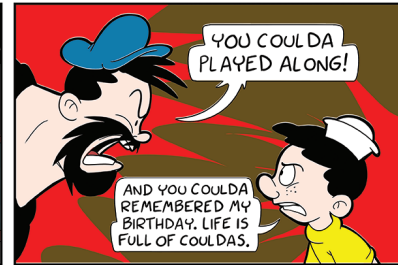
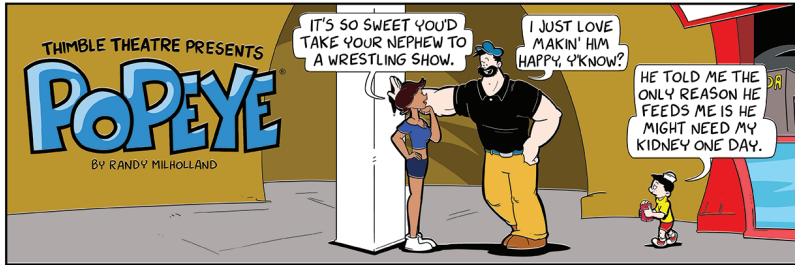
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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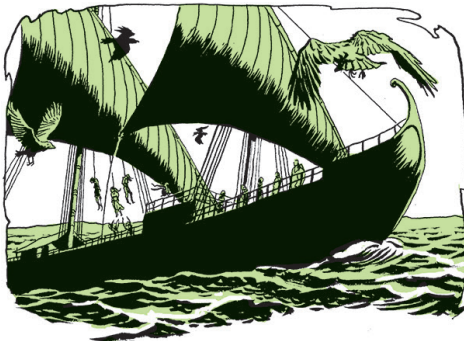


ZULFA CONTINUES HER TALE OF SLAVERY AT THE HANDS OF A PIRATICAL SEA CAPTAIN: "WE WERE WHIPPED AT A WHIM, MUCH TO THE CREW'S AMUSEMENT."

"AT LAST JOGTHURA, OUR GUARDIAN, COULD TAKE NO MORE. ALTHOUGH HE WAS SWORN TO OBEY OUR NEW MASTERS, HE COULD NOT REMAIN STILL ...



"... AND WATCH US TORTURED. HE MAIMED MANY BEFORE HE WAS FINALLY OVERWHELMED AND BEATEN TO A SENSELESS PULP. THEN, TO IMPRESS ON US THE FUTILITY OF ANYTHING LESS THAN OUR COMPLETE SUBSERVENCE ...



"... THEY HANGED THREE OF US AND LEFT THE BODIES TWISTING FOR THREE FULL DAYS. THAT IS WHEN THANAA, THE LEARNED ONE AMONG US, BROKE HER ACCUSTOMED SILENCE AND BEGAN A WILD PROCLAIMING!

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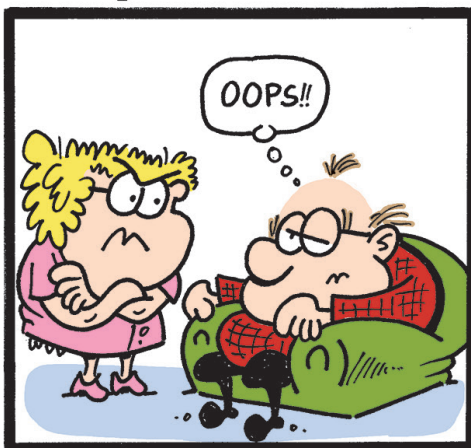
"SHE RAILED AGAINST THE EVILS VISITED ON US! SHE CALLED ON A STRANGE GOD NAMED POSEIDON TO SMITE HER ENEMIES, TO STRIKE THIS TERRIBLE SHIP! AND, AS IF SHE KNEW, THE SKY DARKENED BEHIND HER, THE SEA ROSE - AND THE SAILORS BEGAN TREMBLING!"

NEXT: A grim deliverance

10/16

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

The peace of avoiding the daily news

One month ago I wrote here about having avoided the television news for seven days. During that time, I didn't have the stress from constant bombardment and media hysteria about all the problems and chronic chaos in the world. I felt better for it, both physically and mentally, but I knew I couldn't keep it up forever.

At some point I figured I would have to rejoin the aware population and get up-to-date on what was going on.

Except I haven't done that yet. Here at the one-month mark I'm still not watching the news.

That one hour block of time that used to be spent in front of the television getting "educated" about what was going on in the world has been used for other things.

Here are a few things I accomplished:

I shopped for, purchased and planted colorful flowers for the porch.

A few times each week I feed and play with a neighbor's cat while the neighbor works extra hours. This saves him the cost of a pet sitter and gives me a nice break with a sweet kitty.

I restarted my free online language lessons and have made considerable progress.

That's not to say I have no clue about what's been going on in the world. I set my phone to silently send me a few short alerts on selected topics. I can scan those at my leisure and not even click the link to read the articles. Five seconds of looking at the alert summaries tells me all I need to know. With one finger tap, they're gone, deleted.

If you want to take a news break, give it a few days or a week to try out. Don't be surprised if you stick with it for much longer. It can be rather peaceful.

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1. What ice sport, popular in Russia and Scandinavia, is played with a ball instead of a puck and has rules similar to soccer?

2. Name the sisters who played basketball for the Stanford Cardinal and were the No. 1 overall picks in the WNBA Draft in 2012 and 2014.

3. On the TV sitcom "Seinfeld," what member of the New York Mets did Newman (Wayne Knight) heckle outside Shea Stadium after a June 14, 1987, loss to the Philadelphia Phillies?

4. American athlete Valarie Allman won gold medals at the 2020 Tokyo and 2024 Paris Summer Olympics competing in what track and field event?

5. What NASCAR driver, winner of 20 Cup Series races from 1950-71, died after suffering a seizure and crashing during an Easter 1972 late model race at North Carolina's Metrolina Fairgrounds?

6. Name the Dallas Cowboys defensive end who took the 1979 NFL season off to pursue a pro boxing career before returning to the Cowboys in 1980.

7. They purchased the Buffalo Bills NFL franchise in 2014. Their daughter Jessica reached the finals at the 2024 U.S. Open tennis tournament. Who are they?

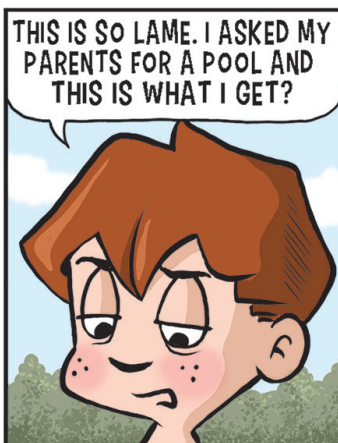
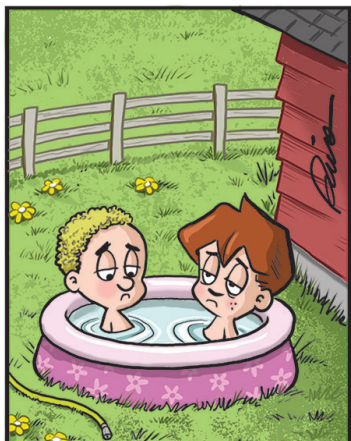


Answers

1. Bandy.
2. Nneka (2012) and Chiney (2014) Ogwumike.
3. Keith Hernandez.
4. Discus throw.
5. Speedy Thompson.
6. Ed "Too Tall" Jones.
7. Terry and Kim Pegula.

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Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps





Phantom pregnancy in dogs

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I'll bet you've never heard of this one before! My cousin has a female dog who has never been spayed. So she routinely will go into heat. Well, a few months ago, she started behaving funny. She didn't want to eat, she started pacing the house and then would flop down and not want to go outside, for walks or anything. Even though she wasn't eating much, she put on weight and her mammaries started to swell. She also started "guarding" her toys and acting aggressive if anyone tried to reach for them. I told my cousin, maybe she's pregnant, but he insisted that she had never been around a male dog or gone unsupervised outside.

He took her to the vet because he thought she was ill. Would you believe, the vet diagnosed her with a "phantom" pregnancy? She had all the signs of being pregnant but there were no puppies. The vet gave her medication for a few weeks, and eventually she got back to her old self. What do you think about that? -- Terry P. in Albany, New York

DEAR TERRY: I have heard of this before! In unspayed females, pseudo-pregnancy, or "phantom pregnancy," can happen after a heat cycle. It's uncomfortable for the dog and concerning for the owner.

Treatment includes confirming the absence of a pregnancy, followed by medication to reduce anxiety and stop milk production. Hormone therapy is sometimes needed.

The best way to stop phantom pregnancy from happening again is to spay the dog after all symptoms have subsided, and it's highly recommended. Spaying will help your cousin's dog be far more comfortable -- she won't go through heat cycles any longer -- and have a healthier, longer lifespan, too.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* The Japanese juice maker Kagome invented a device called the “Tomachan,” a robot that would allow marathon runners to eat tomatoes during a race. Sadly, it was created solely for promotional purposes and isn’t available for purchase.

* Ancient Egyptians sometimes added onions to a mummy to act as false eyes.

* In the video game Halo 3, every bullet shot by the Chief has his name on it. This detail isn’t visible during regular

play, as the bullets go by too quickly, but was discovered when someone noticed it in replay mode.

* The unibrow was considered to be a symbol of purity and intelligence in ancient Greece. Women who didn’t naturally boast this feature used dyed goat hair to close the gap.

* A male giraffe will determine a female’s fertility by tasting her urine. If the pee passes muster, the courtship continues.

* At one time, Monaco had more people in its orchestra than in its army, with 85 musicians but only 82 soldiers.

* One in 18 people have a third nipple.

* All the world’s bacteria stacked on top of each other would stretch for 10 billion light-years.

* Some female sharks store sperm after mating, potentially holding on to it for years before they’re finally ready to reproduce.

* Robert Smalls escaped slavery by stealing a Confederate ship, for which heist he was paid enough to buy his former enslaver’s house, and later served in the House of Representatives for South Carolina.


* African buffalo herds use a form of voting to make their travel decisions.

* The term “dumpster” comes from the name of the company that designed the first large, portable trash bin.

Thought for the Day: “If you can’t get rid of the skeleton in your closet, you’d best teach it to dance.”

-- George Bernard Shaw

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The Garden Bug

Prairie Sunflower

Found throughout North America, this plant has had many uses in native American culture. Parts of it have been used as a food source, to make medicine for skin ailments and insect bites, and to make face-paint for ceremonies.

The vigor of these plants in an area was seen as an indicator of whether the area sustained enough rainfall and could support crops.

- Brenda Weaver
Source: herb.umd.umich.edu

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by Freddy Groves

Keep your cash in your wallet

Besides the occasional "Thank you for your service," there are any number of ways people and companies express gratitude for you having served your country, for having made that commitment and for the sacrifices you made.

One of the biggest acknowledgments are the veteran discounts given by companies. Your mission: Find those discounts and ask for them.

For example:

If you're old enough for AARP, join for a reduced price of just \$11 per year with a five-year membership.

Look for big discounts on cellphone lines at T-Mobile, where you can get unlimited text, talk and data on four lines for only \$25 per line per month.

Carhartt apparel offers a 15% discount either at their stores or online. Duluth Trading Company offers a 5% discount on their Duluth gear.

For vacations, there is a wide variety of discounts available. Hilton hotels offers a family discount, and Disney Resorts hotels offers discounts during selected blocks through the end of the year. You can find discounts on car rentals, theme parks, airfare and much more.

Many states offer free or reduced-cost hunting and fishing licenses. Once you have that, load up on your gear at Bass Pro Shop or Cabela's.

To find discounts that apply to you, search online for veteran discounts and the category you're interested in. Get as detailed as you like in your search. Yes, you can get veteran discounts on televisions and appliances. Check Dish for their Stars & Stripes Pack. Check AutoZone or Advance Auto Parts for car parts. See Home Depot or Lowe's for power tools. Stock up at Costco, Sam's Club and BJ's Wholesale Club.

Veteran discounts can be found in more places than you might imagine. Whenever you're about to buy something, order something or go somewhere, ask if a veteran discount is available. While an individual discount might not seem like much, if you do this consistently, it will add up to significant cash that stays in your wallet.

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Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. TELEVISION: "The Simpsons" first appeared as a short on which TV show?

2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the distance between mainland Russia (Siberia) and mainland United States (Alaska)?

3. GAMES: What is the highest score you can achieve in one frame of bowling?

4. MYTHOLOGY: What is the Roman god of the sea called?

5. SCIENCE: What are the only letters that don't currently appear in the Periodic Table?

6. MOVIES: Which animated movie's tagline is "Escape or die frying"?

7. LITERATURE: The Republic of Gilead appears in which 1980s novel?

8. FOOD & DRINK: Which spice is often praised for its anti-inflammatory properties?

9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: In which country did Cirque du Soleil originate?

10. LANGUAGE: What is glossolalia?

Answers

1. "The Tracey Ullman Show."

2. About 55 miles.

3. 30.

4. Neptune.

5. J and Q.

6. "Chicken Run."

7. "The Handmaid's Tale."

8. Turmeric.

9. Canada.

10. The ability to speak in a previously unknown language, also known as speaking in tongues.

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Opportunities for Ag

Ag is king in South Dakota, plain and simple. This past week, we hosted the annual Governor's Ag Summit in historic Deadwood. In my first year as Governor, it was pretty special to have the summit in my back yard!

Even if attendees at the Summit come from different parts of the state, they were all attending for the same reason: to advance South Dakota agriculture. We spent time building relationships and sharing ideas. And we walked away reinvigorated to chase down opportunities in agriculture.

Agriculture means everything to me and my family. We've ranched the land near Union Center for five generations, and I've spent my entire life ranching cattle. A big part of the Ag Summit was focused on helping family farms succeed so they can pass their land and legacy down to their kids and grandkids.

Earlier this year, the Noem-Rhoden Administration announced the restructuring of the Keep Farmers Farming program. We worked with the South Dakota Ag Foundation and First Dakota National Bank to be able to offer this program to help more family farms. Keep Farmers Farming advises farmers on estate planning so that they can pass their experience, work ethic, morals, and history down to those who come after them. By supporting family farms, we help keep South Dakota ag strong for generations to come.

The Summit also focused on new opportunities for ag that are possible because of the Trump Administration's actions. I've gotten to know our US Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins very well over the last few months. She's been a game changer for us here in South Dakota!

Secretary Rollins helped us get our timber industry on more solid footing, which will really benefit both our safety and prosperity in the Black Hills. She's worked with EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin to unleash our ethanol industry, which helps our farmers. And she's addressing the bird flu issue in a way that doesn't cause the price of eggs to go through the roof for South Dakota families. And she worked with me to drop the charges on the Maude family and get a resolution to their case. Like us here in South Dakota, she is focused on opportunities.

We emphasized opportunities for South Dakota ag, rather than challenges, at the Ag Summit. I believe that the difference between challenges and opportunities is largely one of perspective, so we are keeping an optimistic perspective for the future of agriculture.

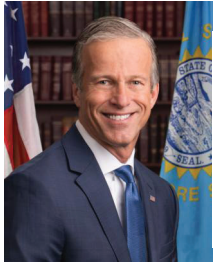
Over the past couple months, I've seen many ag operations and businesses on my Open for Opportunity tour across South Dakota. I've been blown away by everything that's possible in South Dakota, including developments in precision ag, grain processing, and advancements in the dairy industry.

South Dakota is a pretty special place. We're the freest state in a nation built on the principle of freedom. 100 to 150 years ago, homesteaders came west and settled the wild untamed prairie, and my family was among them. Many homesteaders failed, but the toughest succeeded. They built a life for their families; they built a state for their kids and grandkids. And they created a culture of hard work, determination, personal responsibility, and respect for freedom.

That culture continues to keep our state strong today, and that same South Dakota spirit will keep agriculture strong for many years to come!

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JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Delivering for South Dakota

Republicans are moving closer to finishing work on a bill that fulfills our promise to make America stronger and more prosperous. My biggest priority in that bill is making sure South Dakota families, farmers and ranchers, and small businesses are all stronger and more prosperous. And I'm proud to report that this bill has a lot of good news for South Dakotans.

Most notably, our bill makes permanent the lower taxes for working families Republicans secured in 2017. Without action, those 2017 tax cuts would expire at the end of this year and South Dakotans would see an average tax hike of \$2,500 next year. I'm determined not to let that happen. Our bill not only makes those lower tax rates permanent, it improves upon the 2017 reforms. It provides a larger child tax credit and standard deduction and makes them permanent too. It reduces seniors' tax burdens with a further boost in the standard deduction. It suspends taxes on tips and on overtime pay for hourly workers.

The 2017 tax reform was also great news for South Dakota small businesses. They benefited from lower tax rates, investment incentives, and the small business deduction. Small business owners will now have the certainty they need to invest in new workers and in growing their businesses with those tax policies being made permanent. By one estimate, the small business deduction will help create 40,000 new jobs in our state in the next 10 years, and that's just one of the pro-growth policies in this bill.

This bill is also good news for farmers and ranchers. By making the tax cuts permanent, we're protecting farms from an average \$5,000 tax hike next year. I'm proud that this bill will also raise the death tax exemption to \$15 million, as well as peg the exemption to inflation and make it permanent. These reforms will protect countless family farms and ranches from this fundamentally flawed tax and the headaches of planning that come with it.

After a challenging few years for farmers and ranchers, this bill also makes critical improvements to the programs they depend on. It increases reference prices for all covered commodities, improves crop insurance coverage and affordability, and it supports risk management, disaster assistance, and conservation programs. We can't have a stronger and more prosperous America without strong farms and ranches, and I'm proud these reforms are part of our bill.

Making America stronger is also about making it more secure. This bill does that with critical investments in building up our military, including investing in the B-21 bomber that will soon be stationed at our own Ellsworth Air Force Base. It funds the Trump administration's border security and deportation efforts for the long term, including finishing the border wall. And it will help law enforcement combat illegal drug trafficking at the border and in our communities.

Our bill makes America stronger by supporting the people who make America great. It ensures working families can keep more of their hard-earned money, helps small businesses create jobs, strengthens our agriculture sector, and provides critical resources to the men and women on the front lines whether they serve in the military, at the border, or in our communities. I'm proud of the work we've done on this bill so far, and I can't wait to get it passed and get these policies working for the American people.

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Resilience, Discipline, and Strength on Display

At the start of fall, many high school graduates embark on a new journey at vocational schools, community colleges, or four-year universities. But a unique group of exceptional individuals begin their college experience in June at our military service academies. After receiving nominations from my office, eight strong young men and women accepted appointments to attend all five U.S. service academies.

Our backgrounds often inform our decisions in life. These appointees have been shaped by leaders and ambitions, even from a young age. Lexi Brandt from Custer has been dreaming of attending the Air Force Academy since seventh grade, and in just a few days, that dream will become a reality. Dylan Frank of Custer is the son of an Army helicopter pilot and is taking steps of his own to serve like his dad. Dylan is aiming to be a fixed-wing Navy aviator at the Naval Academy. Kevin Jung was born in South Korea and just completed his two years of compulsory service in the Republic of Korea Army. But as a Sioux Falls resident and United States citizen, he is restarting his military career as a plebe at West Point. Aubrey Fraasch of Milbank is the fourth generation in her family to serve, and she wants to become a pilot. She attended a military preparatory school last year and will study engineering at the Naval Academy this year. No matter what their background, their ambition is the same: serving their country.

Personal values and interests also lead us to choosing a specific path for our life. Gabriel Reeve of Piedmont has internalized the value of holding ideals above self-interest and will soon begin at the Naval Academy. Brody Weinmeister of Aberdeen has embodied high personal standards, integrity, and responsibility, the core principles of the Air Force Academy, which he will attend. Paige Willnerd of Summerset has volunteered with her local Disabled American Veterans chapter, which has shown her the sacrifices our servicemembers have made and has inspired her. She applied to all four academies and accepted her top choice, the Merchant Marine Academy, and is excited to serve her country in this way. Rowdy Baldwin of Pierre has spent years giving back to his community and attend the U.S. Military Academy in hopes of becoming a mechanical or combat engineer in the Army.

Additionally, Maverick Sutton, currently serving active duty at Ellsworth Air Force Base, will attend the Air Force Academy preparatory school in hopes to join the Air Force Chaplain Corps. Also attending the Air Force preparatory school will be Max Cook of Gregory. Both of his parents served in the military and now he feels it is his time to become a leader. Lincoln Mansfield of Hurley accepted a United States Naval Foundation scholarship, which provides a year of education and training before the Academy.

Just like any other university or college, these individuals will undertake rigorous coursework. But unlike other academic programs, their non-traditional college adventure begins with several weeks of basic military training. These programs demand resilience, discipline, and strength—qualities each of these students have already demonstrated in abundance. Their dedication and character are inspiring.

These young men and women will represent South Dakota with honor and distinction. Join me, their families, and communities in congratulating them on their appointments and thanking them for their willingness to serve our nation. Their commitment to our country is unwavering and South Dakota stands proudly behind them.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

Bump, Bump, Bump, Where's the Scratch

Life can get crazy because there are so many crazy people in the world. I know, I'm one.

Through the years, I have come to appreciate crazy people. They make life interesting and make me look less crazy than I really am.

The interesting thing is that a crazy person shows up in your life when you least expect it. There's no way you can prepare for these crazy episodes. If only I could wear a camera on my glasses, I could make a fortune.

The other day I drove through the McDonald's drive-through to order my morning cup of coffee to take to my office. Of course, I do that every morning as a routine.

This morning was rather a stressful kind of a morning, and I had a schedule I wanted to complete for the day. So I was thinking about what I was going to do as I was driving through the drive-through. In front of me was a blue car and a lady driving it.

She finished her order and then began driving forward, I started driving forward and happened to look left at the ordering place, and unbeknownst to me, she stopped and I bumped into her bumper.

Isn't that what bumpers are for?

That was the beginning of one of the craziest episodes I've had in a long time. Oh, that my camera was in place.

As a young person, I enjoyed watching "Smile, You're on Candid Camera." I thought this was happening to me.

The lady jumped out of her car screaming at me and shaking her fist, and I thought it was a joke. You know how people like to prank other people, so I thought this was what was happening.

I looked at her and started laughing, thinking that this was part of a joke.

The more I laughed, the more she yelled and screamed at me. She used language that even sailors would not use in public. She asked me to do things to myself that are physically impossible to do. Enough said on that.

Then she went to her car, got her cell phone, came back, and took pictures of my truck's license plate. I hope I don't see it on Facebook. Then she took pictures of what my truck had done to her bumper.

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I got out to look, and I had to look very hard to find it, and finally, there it was. A little scratch about the size of a fingernail. I looked at the front of my truck, and I couldn't find any scratches at all comparable to her scratch.

She began yelling, "Don't you dare touch me!"

I don't do a lot of things and not touching her was at the top of that list.

Then she took her cell phone and showed it to me and said, "I'm calling the police."

We were in the middle of the drive-through, and the customers behind us couldn't get through because she would not move until the police got there.

The manager of McDonald's came out and calmed her down and finally got her to move out of the line and wait for the police. I followed and parked next to her.

As we were waiting for the police to come, she was taking pictures of the tiny scratch. I did not talk to her; I just let her go and do her thing.

Finally, the police arrived. I was a little concerned because we would be wasting his time when there are more serious issues for him to deal with. But, crazy will be crazy.

He talked to us and took our information, and then he looked toward her car. He didn't go over and look at it because he said it is not worth a police investigation. I agreed with him. So did the manager of McDonald's. A scratch isn't really that much damage. It probably could be fixed with fingernail polish.

The manager said that there were cameras and that incident would have been recorded.

She finally drove off, and I had a short chat with the police officer, and then we parted ways.

That was not the end of the story.

Have you ever faced a temptation so strong that it was all you could do not to yield to it?

One of my favorite hymns has this phrase, "Yield not to temptation for yielding is sin."

I wasn't able to place my order before this incident, so I drove around McDonald's to get into the drive-through. You will not guess who was in front of me in the left lane of that drive-through?

Oh yeah, it was the lady with the scratch on her car.

My temptation was to pull in behind her and make sure she noticed I was behind her. I wrestled with that thought for a moment or two.

After some thoughtful consideration, I pulled over to the right lane and, in fact, got ahead of her in ordering my coffee. In the McDonald's store, that was the talk of the employees.

It's not often that I get involved in such a crazy situation.

As I was driving away from McDonald's a verse of Scripture came to my mind. "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak" (Mark 14:38).

Temptations will come every day, but I have the strength in Christ to resist every temptation for the glory of God.

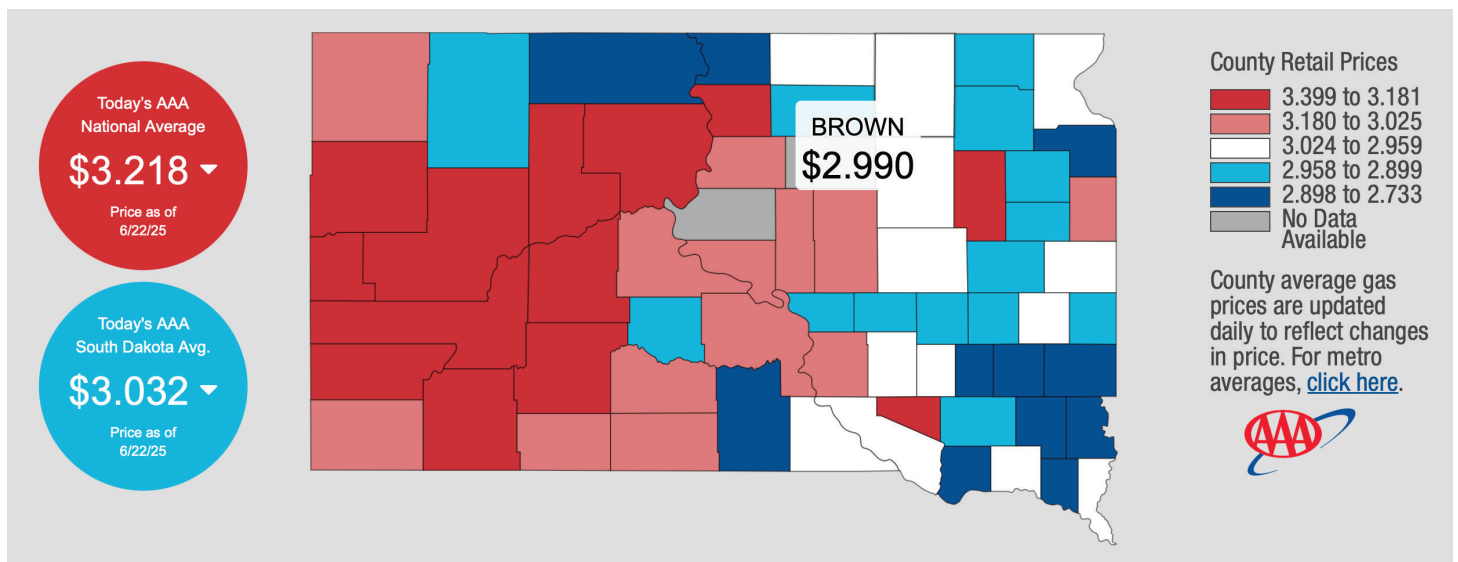
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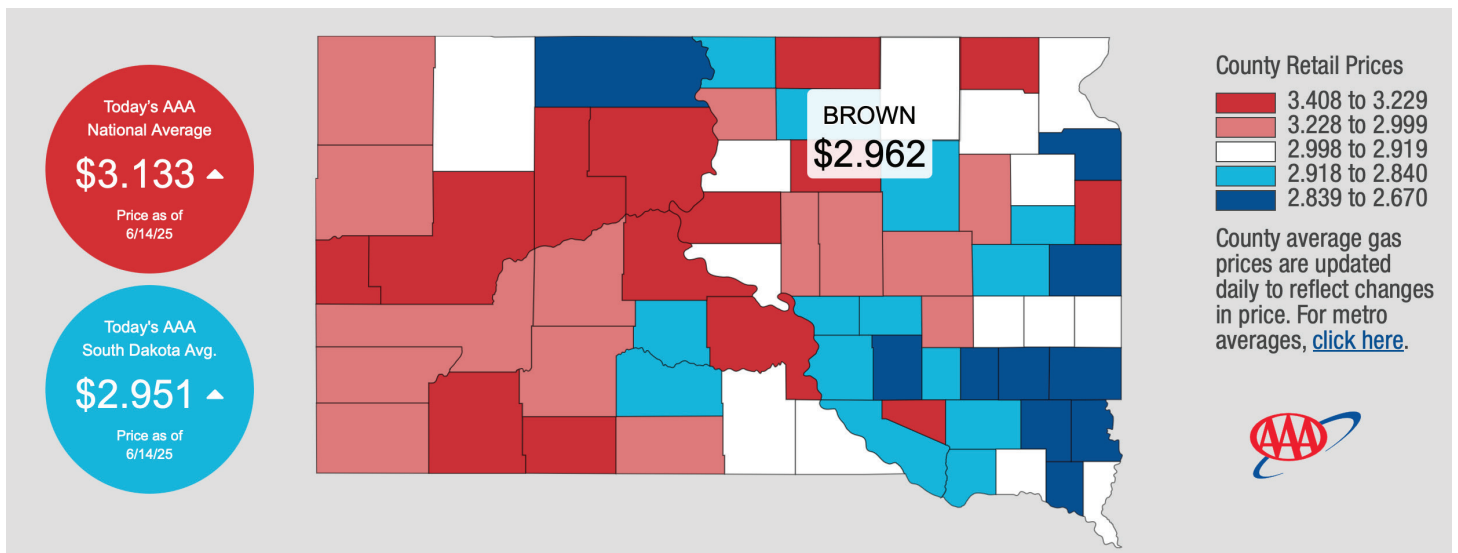
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.032	\$3.199	\$3.694	\$3.382
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.034	\$3.205	\$3.688	\$3.361
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.947	\$3.131	\$3.613	\$3.195
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.019	\$3.214	\$3.664	\$3.237
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.247	\$3.443	\$3.872	\$3.416

This Week



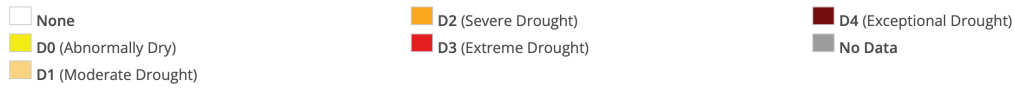
Last Week



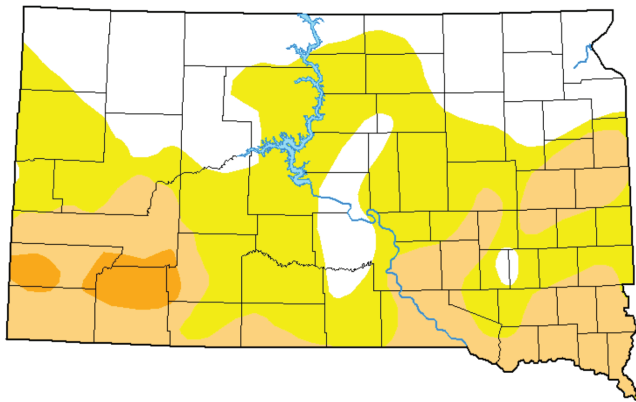
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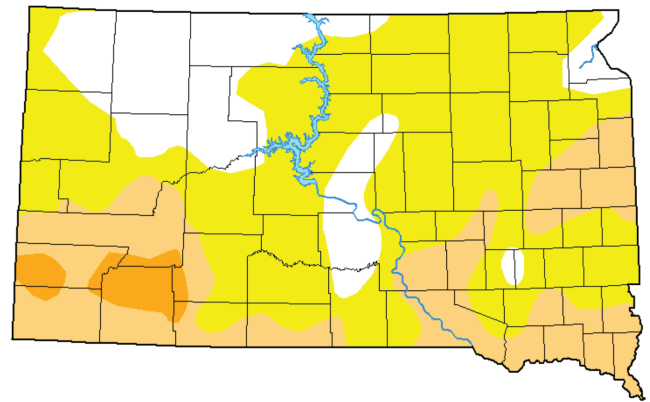
Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



June 17



June 10

Rain-related drought improvement dominated the High Plains, although some significant drought-related agricultural problems persisted. By June 15, statewide topsoil moisture ratings on the High Plains ranged from 19% very short to short in Kansas to 50% in Wyoming, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Wyoming led the region on that date with 36% of its rangeland and pastures rated in very poor to poor condition, followed by Nebraska at 30%. Elsewhere, significant rain bypassed a few areas, including northeastern North Dakota, where moderate drought (D1) expanded.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: I'm a renter and can't put solar panels on my building's roof even though I would like to. Someone suggested I look into "community solar" but I don't get how that works let alone where to find such a program near me.

-- Peggy B., Austin, TX

For many Americans, solar energy is still a luxury rather than the energy of the future. In fact, only around 25 percent of Americans can install a rooftop solar system. However, community solar is a work-around for renters because it's a subscription-based solar energy model, and subscribers pay a monthly fee to a local provider in return for a portion of the electricity produced. In this case, the local utility company purchases the generated power from a nearby solar farm, and a credit reflects this on the electricity bill, which helps to reduce overall costs. Most important, subscribers still pay for solar power and can join the green transition movement, but don't need to own or maintain solar panels.

According to Laurel Passers from the Coalition for Community Solar Access, "It's like subscribing to Netflix" because it's an extremely straightforward process that only requires a verification that you live within the service area and a basic credit check. Additionally, subscribers receive solar credits on their utility bill, amounting to annual savings up to 15 percent. However, the accessibility of community solar depends on location. For example, many Southern states have monopolistic solar farms that can charge higher subscription fees and raise the cost barrier. To quote Jill Kysor from the Southern Environmental Law Center, "The way that they price those products, it's been more of a premium product".

Community solar is subject to massive changes following President Trump's recent pausing of federal funding for the \$7 billion Solar for All initiative, which helped 900,000 low-income households subscribe to community solar and provided grants to 60 solar farms. Moreover, Trump has halted energy grants under the Inflation Reduction Act, causing states like Nevada to lose access to \$156 million in community solar funding. While the effects on subscription pricing are still uncertain, the massive cuts towards community solar can mean that all involvement with solar energy will become indefinitely more expensive, as Trump seems unwilling to relent. After all, one of his primary messages in his campaign was "not wasting American taxpayer dollars on expensive, unreliable green energy projects."

In light of the unforeseeable future of community solar, all prospective subscribers should reach out to providers to inquire about how recent events can influence community solar availability or fees before subscribing. Many community solar projects have helpful customer services, and resources are linked below in the contacts section to help prospective subscribers make an informed decision. Lastly, it's most important to spread the word about community solar. Buildings in the United States account for 40 percent of the country's total energy consumption, and empowering renters to go solar is essential to accelerating the green transition.



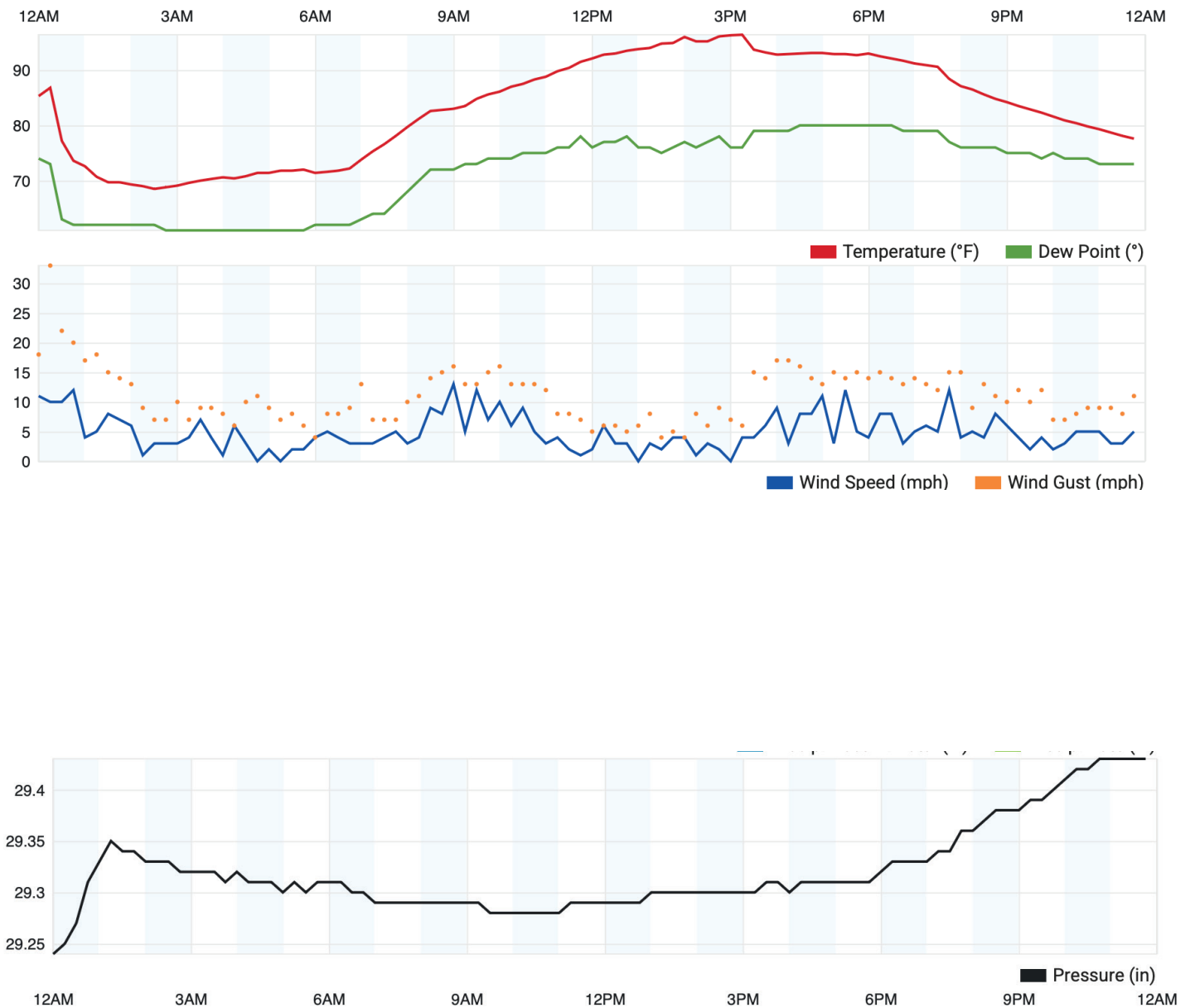
Community solar programs allow renters and homeowners alike to "subscribe" to solar and other forms of renewable energy through their local utilities. Credit:

Pexels.com.

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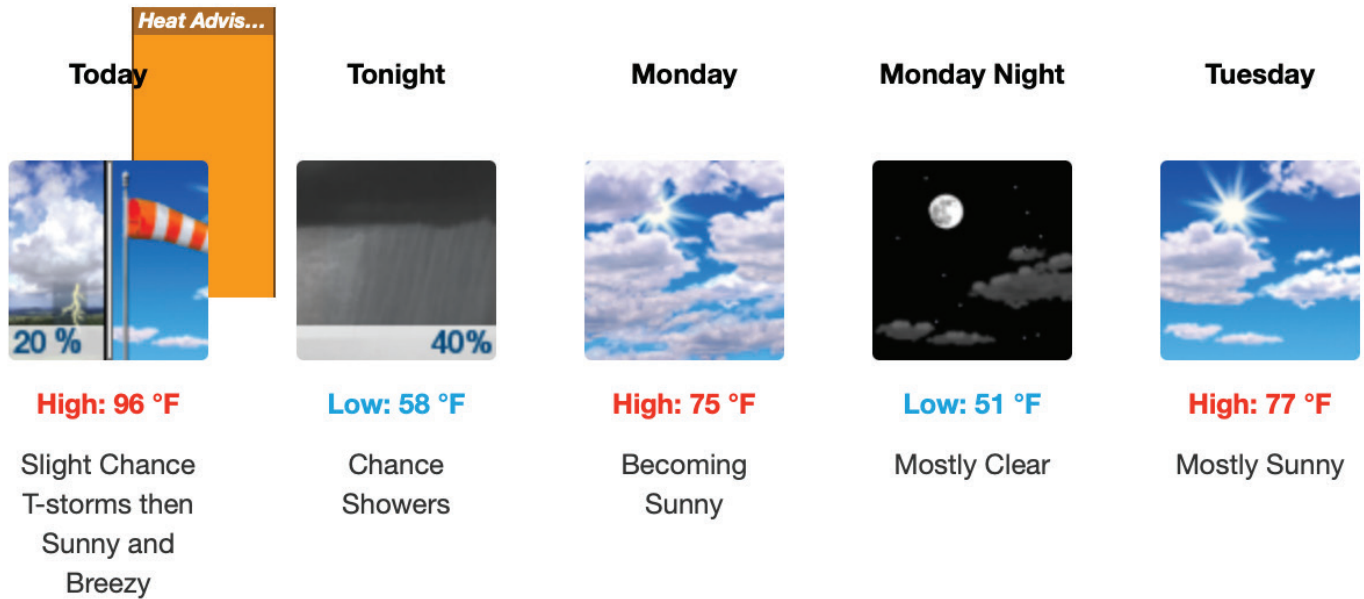
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Heat Advisories/Warnings For Today

June 22, 2025
4:25 AM

Severe Storms Threat Exists For Later This Evening & Overnight

Key Messages

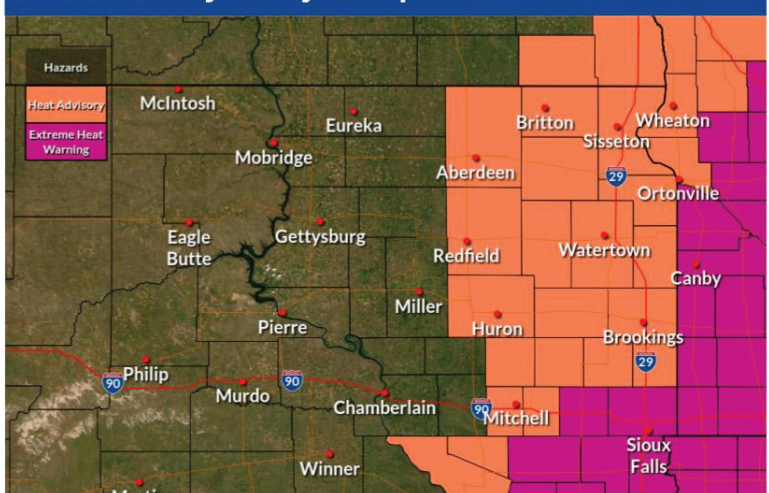
- **Heat Advisory** remains in effect for northeastern South Dakota into west central Minnesota
- **Storm Threat For This Evening & Overnight**
 - CAP weakens this evening/overnight
 - Cold Front provides focus
 - Severe threats:
 - 2" Hail or greater
 - Winds in excess of 70mph
 - Can't rule out an isolated tornado or two

NEW

What Has Changed

- No significant changes to the forecast at this time

Counties in northeast South Dakota plus Big Stone/Traverse MN Heat Advisory Today 1 - 7 pm



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Heat and humidity will persist for one more day, with advisories and warnings across portions of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. Additionally, later this evening and overnight we could see severe storms

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THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Scattered Severe Storms
possible

TIMING

This Evening Through The
Overnight Hours

PRIMARY THREATS



DAMAGING
WIND



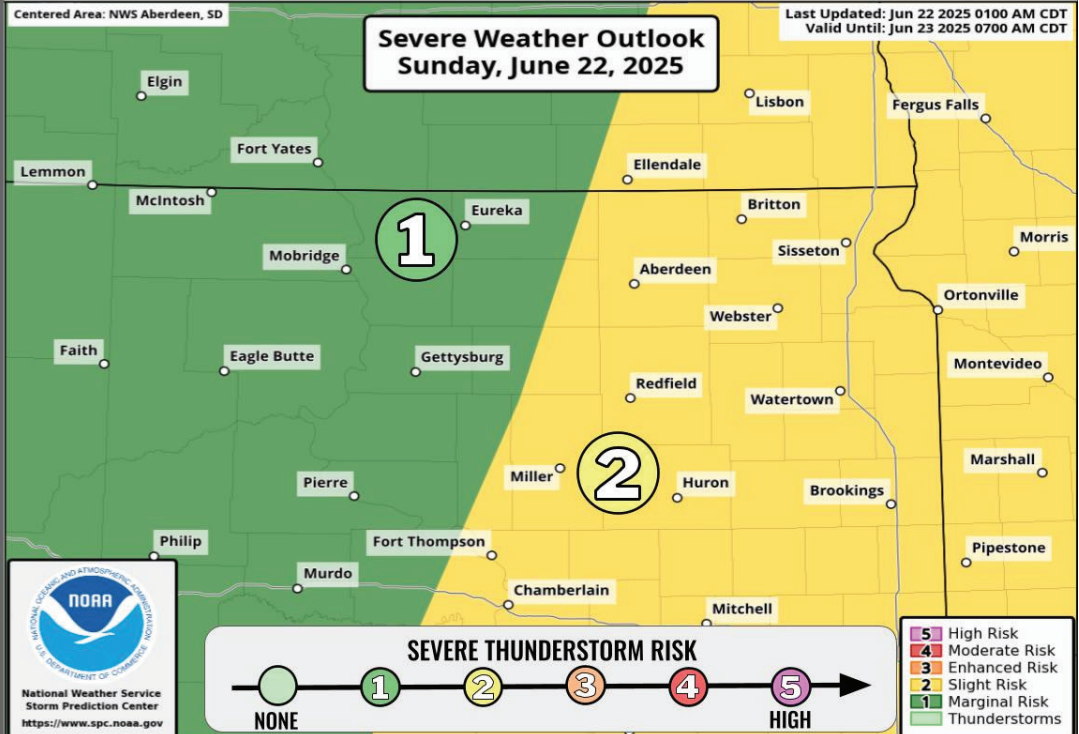
LARGE HAIL

SECONDARY THREATS



ISOLATED TORNADO(ES)
POSSIBLE

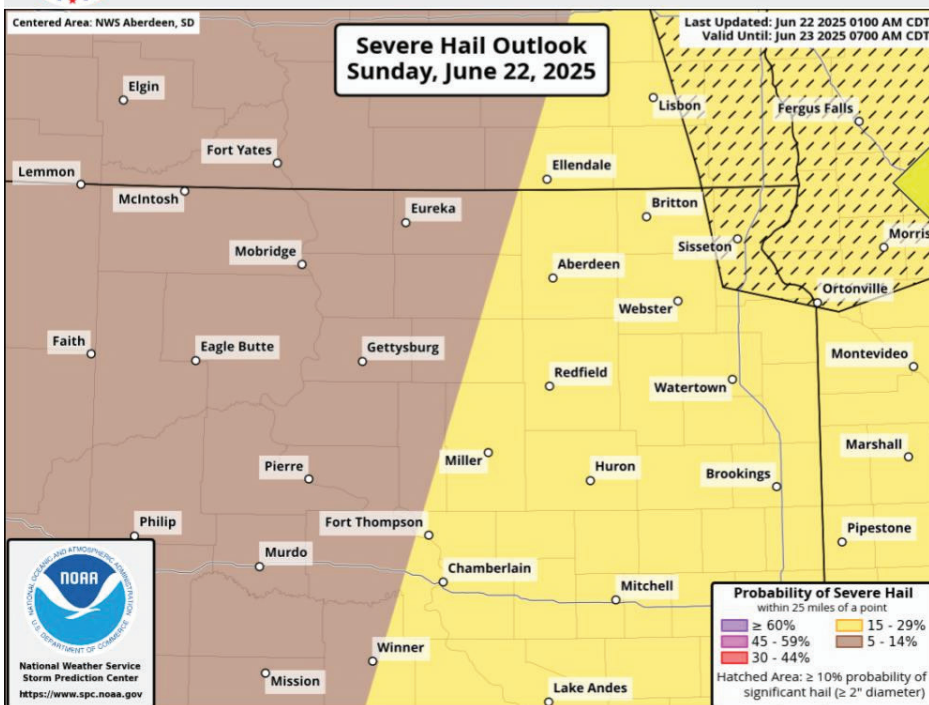
SEVERE STORMS Possible This Evening & Overnight



Hail Threats For This Evening & Overnight

June 22, 2025

4:15 AM



* Focus Area For Hail In
Excess of 2" (hatched)

Hail Key Points

- Potential for large hail with storms, mainly along & east of the James valley into western Minnesota

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

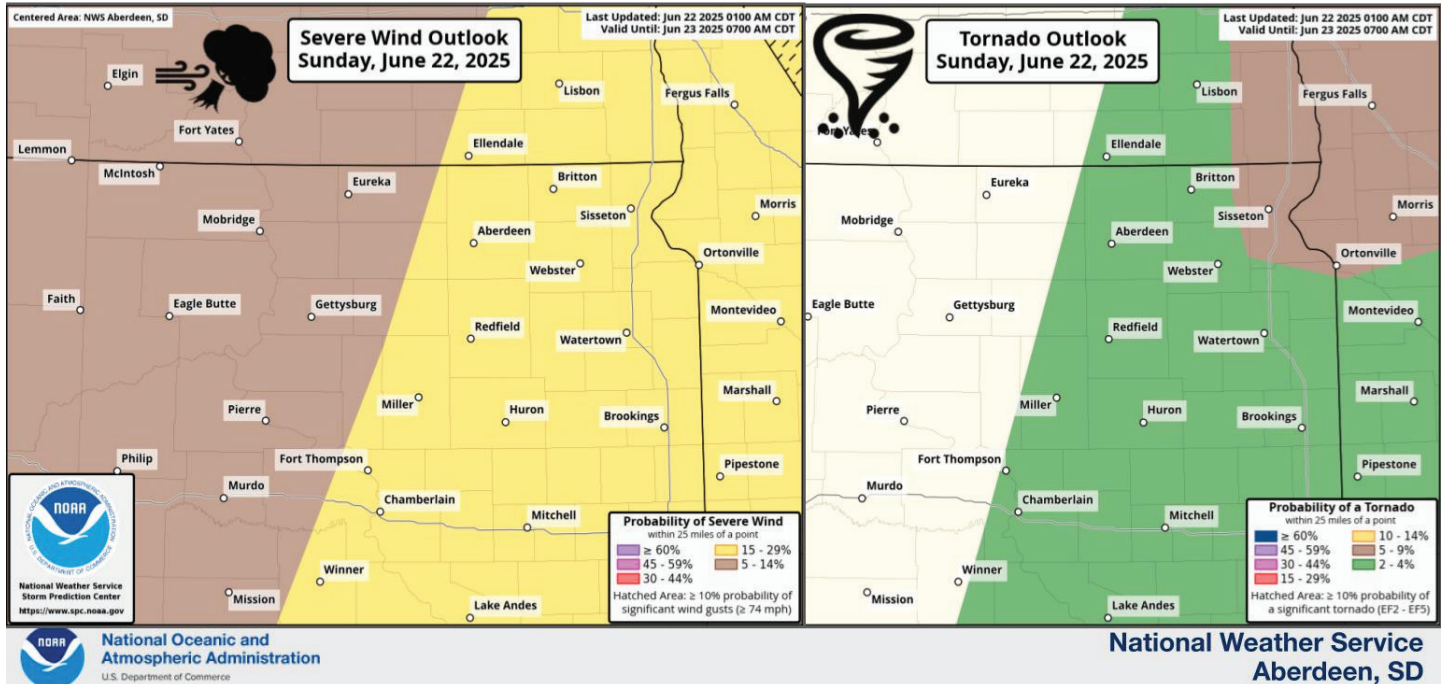
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Wind & Tornado Threat Areas

June 22, 2025
4:19 AM



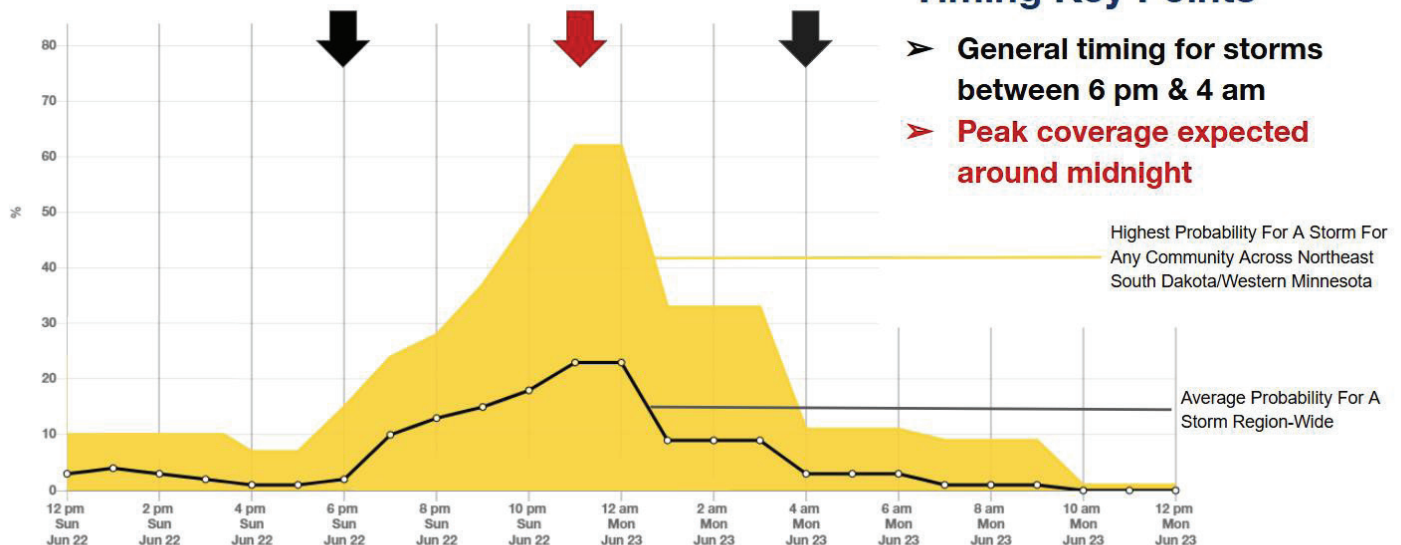
Thunderstorm Timing

June 22, 2025
4:32 AM

Probability of Thunderstorms

Timing Key Points

- General timing for storms between 6 pm & 4 am
- Peak coverage expected around midnight



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 97 °F at 3:02 PM

Low Temp: 68 °F at 2:24 AM

Wind: 33 mph at 12:10 AM

Precip: : 0.00 (0.18 this morning)

Day length: 15 hours, 44 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 102 in 1922

Record Low: 39 in 1905

Average High: 82

Average Low: 57

Average Precip in June.: 2.69

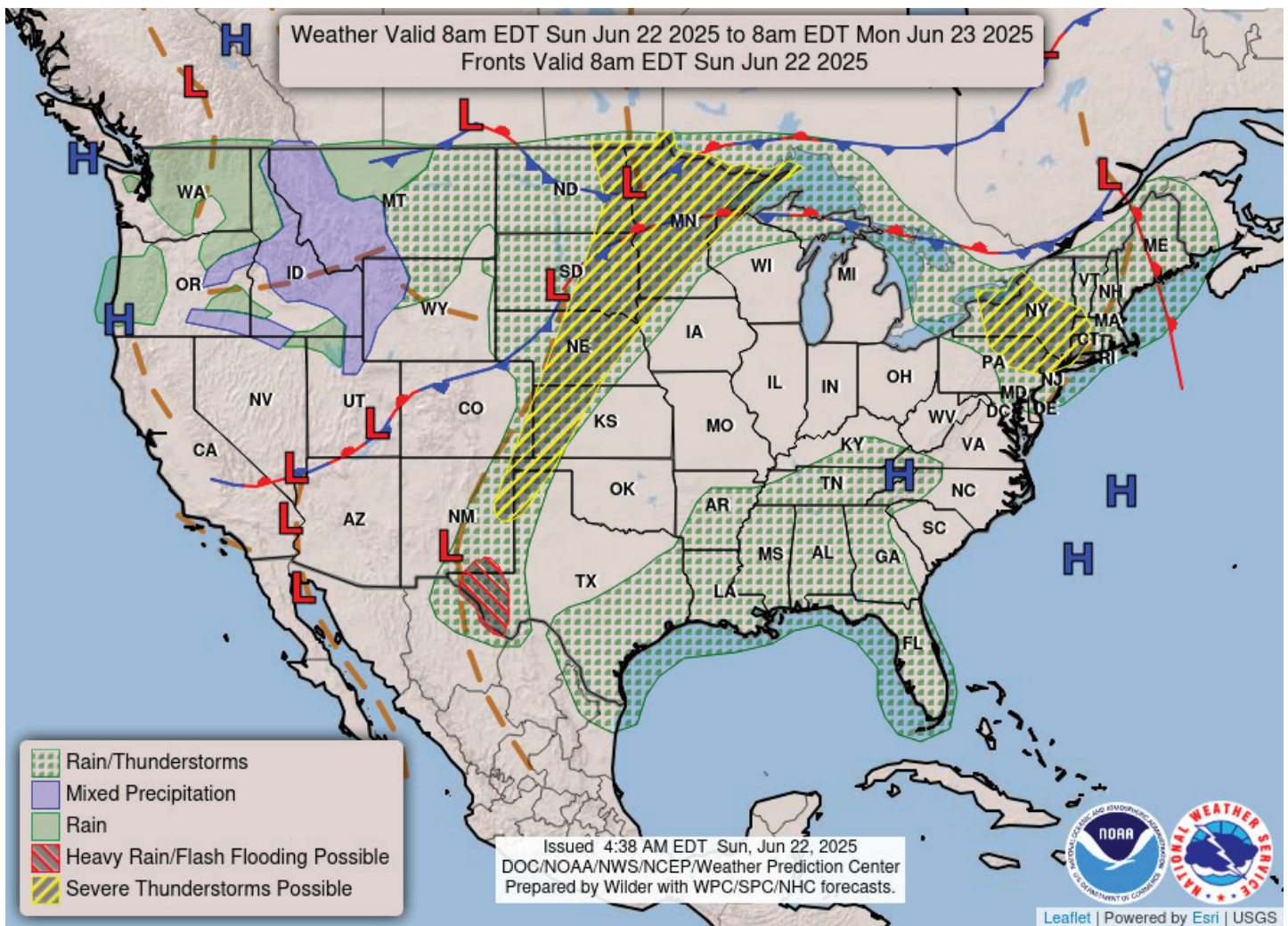
Precip to date in June: 2.54

Average Precip to date: 9.94

Precip Year to Date: 8.59

Sunset Tonight: 9:26:38 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:42:45 am



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Today in Weather History

June 22nd, 1916: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast from 4 miles east of Willow Lakes to east of Vienna, in Clark County. A farmhouse was picked up and thrown into a granary. A boy was smothered to death by grains as a barn collapsed on him one mile south of Vienna.

June 22nd, 1919: The second deadliest tornado in Minnesota's history occurred on this day, as an estimated F5 killed 59 in Fergus Falls. The storm damaged 400 buildings. The tornado sent a blank check 60 miles away. Four hundred buildings were destroyed. Of the 59 victims, 35 were guests of the Grand Hotel.

June 22nd, 1996: From the morning through the late afternoon hours, several supercell thunderstorms moved southeast along a strong, warm front from eastern Corson County to southwest Deuel County. These storms produced tornados, large hail, heavy rains, and damaging winds. Hail up to the size of baseballs and winds gusting to 70 mph damaged and destroyed thousands of acres of crops and broke windows in homes, buildings, and vehicles. Many roofs were damaged, and trees were downed near Mobridge, Redfield, and Toronto. The most extensive crop, building, and tree damage occurred around Redfield, Vienna, Naples, Hazel, Bryant, Henry, Lake Norden, Castlewood, Estelline, and Toronto, all south of Highway 212. The hail swaths of destruction were as much as 10 miles wide. Some farmers said you could not tell what was planted because the crops were destroyed. Hail piles of one to two feet were reported in some areas. Also, most of the area from Redfield to Toronto received one to three inches of rain, which caused flooding problems.

1947 - Twelve inches of rain fell in forty-two minutes at Holt, MO, establishing a world rainfall record. That record was tied on January 24-25, 1956, at the Kilauea Sugar Plantation in Hawaii, as their state record was established with 38 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The Weather Channel)

1972 - Hurricane Agnes deluged Pennsylvania and New York State with torrential rains resulting in the most costly flood in U.S. history. In the Middle Susquehanna Valley of Pennsylvania, 24 hour rainfall amounts were generally 8 to 12 inches, with up to 19 inches in extreme southwestern Schuylkill County. At Wilkes-Barre, PA, the dike was breached destroying much of the town. Flooding resulted in 117 deaths and 3.1 billion dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1981 - A young woman from Lubbock, TX, was struck by lightning. The bolt of lightning struck just above her right shoulder near her neck, and passed right to left through her body, tearing her warm-ups, causing her tennis shoes to explode, and lifting her two feet into the air. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in southern Texas produced wind gusts to 116 mph near Quemado. Thunderstorms in New York State produced 5.01 inches of rain in 24 hours at Buffalo, an all-time record for that location, and produced an inch of rain at Bath, PA. The temperature at Fairbanks AK soared to 92 degrees, establishing a record for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Sixty-five cities in twenty-four states reported record high temperatures for the date. Tucson AZ reported an all-time record high of 114 degrees, surpassing the previous record of 112 degrees established a day earlier. Highs of 98 degrees at Pittsburgh, PA, and 100 degrees at Baltimore, MD, tied records for the month of June. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Record cold temperatures were reported in the High Plains Region. Rapid City, SD, reported a record low of 39 degrees, in sharp contrast to their record high of 102 degrees two days earlier, on the 20th. (The National Weather Summary)

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It's true! God has favorites!

It's also true that He offers all of us the opportunity to become one of His favorites. And, it's not that difficult, either.

"Good people," wrote Solomon, "obtain favor from the Lord." It's clear that those who want "His favor," as well as those who receive "His favor," are those who are "good people."

Since most of us have our own definition of "good," it is important to understand God's definition of "good." If we know His definition of "good," we then have a choice: we can either meet His requirements and receive "His favor" or decide that "His favor" is not worth the effort.

Throughout the Old Testament, "good people" are those motivated by a Godly-love to do Godly-things. They willingly set their own needs and desires aside while serving the needs of others. Doing "God-things" is the driving force in their lives.

The "good" are those who, when they see someone in need, are able and willing to do something about it — even if it means they willingly sacrifice something. They work with God to bring honor to His name when one of His children is treated unfairly, unjustly, is in need, or is suffering.

The "good" follow the example of Jesus: His life was about doing "good." The "good" have God's "seal of approval" on their lives.

"Those who devise wicked schemes" are the opposite of the "good people." Their lives are about self, not sacrifice; their "schemes" are unfair, unjust, unholy; they lack decency, honesty, integrity, or kindness. God's wrath awaits them.

Live well, and receive God's favor!

Prayer: Lord, convict me, challenge me, discipline me, and burden me through Your Holy Spirit, until I become one of Your "good people." And receive Your favor!

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "Good people obtain favor from the Lord, but he condemns those who devise wicked schemes." Proverbs 12:2

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.20.25

26 49 58 61 63 9

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$326,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.21.25

4 6 14 37 43 2

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,300,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.21.25

8 10 22 26 28 4

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 9 Mins 43 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.21.25

9 13 15 29 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$36,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.21.25

1 26 29 44 52 26

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.21.25

3 16 32 52 62 24

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$128,000,000

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

US strikes 3 Iranian nuclear sites, inserting itself into Israel's war with Iran

By DAVID RISING, JON GAMBRELL and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United States attacked three sites in Iran early Sunday, inserting itself into Israel's war aimed at destroying the Iranian nuclear program in a risky gambit to weaken a longtime foe that prompted fears of a wider regional conflict as Tehran accused Washington of launching "a dangerous war."

U.S. President Donald Trump asserted that Iran's key nuclear sites were "completely and fully obliterated" in an address to the nation from the White House.

Hours later, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the time for diplomacy had passed and that his country had the right to defend itself, saying the U.S. had "crossed a very big red line."

"The warmongering, a lawless administration in Washington is solely and fully responsible for the dangerous consequences and far reaching implications of its act of aggression," he told reporters in Turkey in the first comments by a high-ranking Iranian official since the strikes.

Iran is a close ally of Russia, and has actively supported it in its war on Ukraine, supplying it with attack drones. Araghchi said he would be flying immediately to Moscow to meet with President Vladimir Putin "and coordinate our positions."

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran confirmed that attacks took place on its Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz sites, but it insisted that its nuclear program will not be stopped. Both Iran and the U.N. nuclear watchdog said there were no immediate signs of radioactive contamination around the three locations following the strikes.

Satellite images by Planet Labs PBC taken after the American strikes, analyzed by The Associated Press, show damage to the Fordo facility, which is dug deep into a mountain, while light gray smoke lingered in the air.

It was not clear whether the U.S. would continue attacking Iran alongside its ally Israel, which has been engaged in a war with Iran for nine days. Countries around the globe are calling for diplomacy and no further escalation. Trump acted without congressional authorization, and he also warned there would be additional strikes if Tehran retaliated against U.S. forces.

"There will either be peace or there will be tragedy for Iran," he said.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said Washington had "betrayed diplomacy" with the military strikes in support of Israel, and said that "the U.S. has itself launched a dangerous war against Iran."

Hours after the U.S. strikes, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said it launched a barrage of 40 missiles at Israel, including its Khorramshahr-4, which can carry multiple warheads. Israeli authorities reported that more than 80 people suffered mostly minor injuries, though one multi-story building in Tel Aviv was significantly damaged, with its entire façade torn away to expose the apartments inside. Houses across the street were almost completely destroyed.

Following the Iranian barrage, Israel's military said it had "swiftly neutralized" the Iranian missile launchers that had fired, and that it had begun a series of strikes toward military targets in western Iran.

The US helped Israel strike Iran's toughest nuclear site

Iran has maintained that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only, and U.S. intelligence agencies have assessed that Tehran is not actively pursuing a bomb. However, Trump and Israeli leaders have argued that Iran could quickly assemble a nuclear weapon, making it an imminent threat.

The decision to directly involve the U.S. in the war comes after more than a week of strikes by Israel that significantly degraded Iran's air defenses and offensive missile capabilities, and damaged its nuclear enrichment facilities.

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But U.S. and Israeli officials have said American B-2 stealth bombers and the 30,000-pound (13,500-kilogram) bunker-buster bomb that only they have been configured to carry offered the best chance of destroying heavily fortified sites connected to the Iranian nuclear program buried deep underground.

The attack on Fordo did employ bunker-buster bombs, a U.S. official said.

In addition, U.S. submarines launched about 30 Tomahawk missiles, according to another U.S. official. The two spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military operations.

Trump appears to have made the calculation — at the prodding of Israeli officials and many Republican lawmakers — that Israel's operation had softened the ground and presented a perhaps unparalleled opportunity to set back Iran's nuclear program, perhaps permanently.

"We have completed our very successful attack on the three Nuclear sites in Iran, including Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan," Trump said in a post on social media, using common alternate spellings for two of the sites. "All planes are now outside of Iran air space. A full payload of BOMBS was dropped on the primary site, Fordow. All planes are safely on their way home."

Trump added in a later post: "This is an HISTORIC MOMENT FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ISRAEL, AND THE WORLD. IRAN MUST NOW AGREE TO END THIS WAR. THANK YOU!"

The White House and Pentagon did not immediately elaborate on the operation. U.S. military leaders are scheduled to provide a briefing at 8 a.m. Eastern.

The International Atomic Energy Agency wrote on X that there has been "no increase in off-site radiation levels" after the strikes but that it would continue to monitor the situation.

Trump's turn to strikes departs from some previous statements

The decision to attack was a risky one for Trump, who won the White House partially on the promise of keeping America out of costly foreign conflicts and scoffed at the value of American interventionism.

But Trump also vowed that he would not allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon, and he had initially hoped that the threat of force would bring the country's leaders to give up its nuclear program peacefully.

For months, Trump said he was dedicated to a diplomatic push to persuade Iran to give up its nuclear ambitions. And he twice — in April and again in late May — persuaded Netanyahu to hold off on military action against Iran and give diplomacy more time.

After Israel began striking Iran, Trump went from publicly expressing hope that the moment could be a "second chance" for Iran to make a deal to delivering explicit threats on Khamenei and making calls for Tehran's unconditional surrender.

He has bristled at criticism from some supporters who have suggested that further U.S. involvement would be a betrayal to those who were drawn to his promise to end U.S. involvement in expensive and endless wars.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised Trump's decision to attack in a video message directed at the American president.

"Your bold decision to target Iran's nuclear facilities, with the awesome and righteous might of the United States, will change history," he said. Netanyahu said the U.S. "has done what no other country on earth could do."

Fears of a broader war

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the strikes a "dangerous escalation," as world leaders began chiming in with calls for diplomacy.

"There is a growing risk that this conflict could rapidly get out of control — with catastrophic consequences for civilians, the region and the world," he said in a statement.

Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, who had threatened to resume attacks on U.S. vessels in the Red Sea if the Trump administration joined Israel's military campaign, called on other Muslim nations to form "one front against the Zionist-American arrogance."

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had warned the United States on Wednesday that strikes targeting the Islamic Republic will "result in irreparable damage for them." And Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei declared "any American intervention would be a recipe for an all-out war in the region."

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The Israeli military said Saturday it was preparing for the possibility of a lengthy war, while Iran's foreign minister warned before the U.S. attack that American military involvement "would be very, very dangerous for everyone."

Israeli strikes on Iran have killed at least 865 people and wounded 3,396 others, according to the Washington-based group Human Rights Activists. The group said of those dead, it identified 363 civilians and 215 security force personnel.

Trump's decision for direct U.S. military intervention comes after his administration made an unsuccessful two-month push — including with high-level, direct negotiations with the Iranians — aimed at persuading Tehran to curb its nuclear program.

During his previous administration, Trump pulled the U.S. unilaterally out of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, prompting Tehran to begin enriching uranium to higher levels and restrict the access of IAEA inspectors to its facilities.

Nations react to US strikes on Iran with many calling for diplomacy

By The Associated Press undefined

Several close U.S. allies urged a return to the negotiating table in the wake of American strikes on Iran that fueled fears of a wider conflict, while noting the threat posed by Tehran's nuclear program. Some countries and groups in the region, including those that support Iran, condemned the move while also urging de-escalation.

U.S. President Donald Trump had said Thursday that he would decide within two weeks whether to get involved in Israel's war with Tehran. In the end, it took just days. Washington hit three Iranian nuclear sites early Sunday.

It remained unclear how much damage had been inflicted, and Iran said it reserved the right to "resist with full force."

Some have questioned whether a weakened Iran would capitulate or remain defiant and begin striking with allies at U.S. targets scattered across the Gulf region.

Here is a look at reactions from governments and officials around the world.

United Nations

U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres said he was "gravely alarmed" by the use of force by the United States.

"There is a growing risk that this conflict could rapidly get out of control — with catastrophic consequences for civilians, the region, and the world," he said in a statement on the social media platform X. "I call on Member States to de-escalate."

"There is no military solution. The only path forward is diplomacy."

United Kingdom

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer called for Iran to return to the negotiating table to diplomatically end the crisis, saying stability was the priority in the volatile region.

The U.K., along with the European Union, France and Germany, tried unsuccessfully to broker a diplomatic solution in Geneva last week with Iran.

Starmer said Iran's nuclear program posed a grave threat to global security.

"Iran can never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon and the U.S. has taken action to alleviate that threat," Starmer said.

Iraq

The Iraqi government condemned the U.S. strikes, saying the military escalation created a grave threat to peace and security in the Middle East. It said it poses serious risks to regional stability and called for diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the crisis.

"The continuation of such attacks risks dangerous escalation with consequences that extend beyond the borders of any single state, threatening the security of the entire region and the world," government spokesman Bassem al-Awadi said in the statement.

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Iraq has close relations with both Washington and Tehran, and it has attempted to balance those over the years. The country also has a network of powerful Iranian-backed militias, which so far have not entered the fray.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia expressed “deep concern” about the U.S. airstrikes, but stopped short of condemning them. “The Kingdom underscores the need to exert all possible efforts to exercise restraint, de-escalate tensions, and avoid further escalation,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Saudi Arabia had earlier condemned Israel’s strikes on Iran’s nuclear facilities and military leaders.

Qatar

Qatar, which is home to the largest U.S. military base in the Middle East, said it “regrets” escalating tensions in the Israel-Iran war.

Its Foreign Ministry in a statement urged all parties to show restraint and “avoid escalation, which the peoples of the region, burdened by conflicts and their tragic humanitarian repercussions, cannot tolerate.”

Qatar has served as a key mediator in the Israel-Hamas war.

Oman

Oman, which served as mediator in the nuclear talks between Iran and the U.S., condemned the airstrikes, saying they escalated tensions in the region.

The U.S. airstrikes threaten “to expand the scope of the conflict and constitute a serious violation of international law,” a spokesperson for Oman’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Hamas and the Houthis

Both the Houthi rebels in Yemen and Hamas have condemned the U.S. strikes.

In a statement on Sunday, the Houthi political bureau called on Muslim nations to join “the Jihad and resistance option as one front against the Zionist-American arrogance.”

Hamas and the Houthis are part of Iran’s so-called Axis of Resistance, a collection of pro-Iranian proxies stretching from Yemen to Lebanon that for years gave the Islamic Republic considerable power across the region.

Lebanon

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said the U.S. bombing could lead to a regional conflict that no country could bear and called for negotiations.

“Lebanon, its leadership, parties, and people, are aware today, more than ever before, that it has paid a heavy price for the wars that erupted on its land and in the region,” Aoun said in a statement on X. “It is unwilling to pay more.”

Lebanon’s new leadership — which came to power after a devastating war between Israel and the Hezbollah militant group — has urged the country to avoid being dragged into more conflict as it tries to rebuild itself and pull itself from a yearslong economic crisis. Hezbollah has not taken military action against Israel in solidarity with its key ally Iran, and has not yet commented on Washington’s overnight strikes.

China

A commentary from China’s government-run media asked whether the U.S. is “repeating its Iraq mistake in Iran.”

The online piece by CGTN, the foreign-language arm of the state broadcaster, said the U.S. strikes mark a dangerous turning point.

“History has repeatedly shown that military interventions in the Middle East often produce unintended consequences, including prolonged conflicts and regional destabilization,” it said, citing the American invasion of Iraq in 2003.

It said a measured, diplomatic approach offers the best hope for stability in the Middle East.

European Union

The European Union’s top diplomat said Iran must not be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon, but she urged those involved in the conflict to show restraint.

“I urge all sides to step back, return to the negotiating table and prevent further escalation,” EU foreign

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policy chief Kaja Kallas said in a post on social media.

Italy

Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said Iran's nuclear facilities "represented a danger for the entire area" but hoped the action could lead to de-escalation in the conflict and negotiations.

New Zealand

New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters urged "all parties to return to talks." He wouldn't tell reporters Sunday whether New Zealand supported Trump's actions, saying they had only just happened.

"Diplomacy will deliver a more enduring resolution than further military action," he said.

Japan

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba told reporters Sunday that it was crucial to calm the situation as soon as possible, adding that the Iranian nuclear weapons development also must be prevented. Ishiba, asked if he supports the U.S. attacks on Iran, declined to comment.

Australia

Australia, which shuttered its embassy in Tehran and evacuated staff Friday, pushed for a diplomatic end to the conflict.

"We have been clear that Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile program has been a threat to international peace and security," a government official said in a written statement. "We note the U.S. President's statement that now is the time for peace."

"We continue to call for de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy."

Israel recovers the remains of 3 more hostages from Gaza

By TIA GOLDENBERG and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — The Israeli military said Sunday that it has recovered the remains of three hostages held in the Gaza Strip. At least four Palestinians were killed in an Israeli airstrike and 22 wounded while waiting for humanitarian aid, according to a local hospital.

The military identified the remains as those of Yonatan Samerano, 21; Ofra Keidar, 70; and Shay Levinson, 19. All three were killed during Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack into Israel that ignited the ongoing war. The militant group is still holding 50 hostages, less than half of them believed to be alive.

The military did not provide any details about the recovery operation, and it was unclear if the airstrike was related to it.

"The campaign to return the hostages continues consistently and is happening alongside the campaign against Iran," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement.

Kobi Samerano said in a Facebook post that his son's remains were returned on what would have been Yonatan's 23rd birthday.

War in Gaza rages on as new front opens with Iran

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251 people in the Oct. 7 attack. More than half the hostages have been returned in ceasefire agreements or other deals, eight have been rescued alive and Israeli forces have recovered dozens of bodies.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 55,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which has said that women and children make up more than half of the dead. It does not distinguish between civilians and combatants.

Four people were killed on Sunday in an airstrike in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, according to Al-Awda Hospital, where the bodies were brought. It said another 22 people were wounded while waiting for aid trucks.

Palestinian witnesses and health officials say Israeli forces have repeatedly opened fire on crowds seeking desperately needed food, killing hundreds of people in recent weeks. The military says it has fired warning shots at people it said approached its forces in a suspicious manner.

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Separately, World Central Kitchen, the charity run by celebrity chef José Andrés said it had resumed the distribution of hot meals in Gaza for the first time in six weeks after shutting down because of Israel's blockade, which was loosened last month amid fears of famine.

Hostage families call for their release

The Oct. 7 attack and Israel's offensive ignited a chain of events leading to Israel's surprise attack on Iran last week. The United States entered the war overnight with attacks on three Iranian nuclear sites.

The Hostages Families Forum, the main organization representing families of the hostages, has repeatedly called for a deal to release the remaining captives.

"Particularly against the backdrop of current military developments and the significant achievements in Iran, we want to emphasize that bringing back the remaining 50 hostages is the key to achieving any sort of victory," it said in a statement Sunday.

Hamas has said it will only release the remaining hostages in return for more Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

Netanyahu has rejected those terms, saying Israel will continue the war until all the hostages are returned and Hamas is defeated or disarmed and sent into exile. Even then, he has said Israel will maintain lasting control over Gaza and facilitate what he refers to as the voluntary emigration of much of its population, plans the Palestinians and others view as forcible expulsion.

The United States, Qatar and Egypt have been trying to broker a new ceasefire and hostage release after Israel ended a truce in March with a surprise wave of airstrikes. Those talks appear to have made little progress as Israel has expanded its air and ground offensive.

What to know about the conflict between Israel and Iran, and the US intervention

By ELENA BECATOROS Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The United States inserted itself into Israel's war against Iran, bombing three of the Islamic Republic's key nuclear sites overnight. U.S. President Donald Trump asserted that the sites were "completely and fully obliterated," and warned there would be additional strikes if Iran retaliates.

The U.S. attacks came after a week of open conflict between Israel and Iran, sparked by Israel's sudden barrage of attacks against Iran's nuclear and military structure.

Israeli strikes began on June 13. Targeting Iranian military and nuclear sites, they killed several top military officials and nuclear scientists. Iran retaliated by firing hundreds of missiles and drones at Israel, some of which penetrated the country's vaunted multi-tiered air defense system. The war so far has killed hundreds of people and wounded more than 1,000 in Iran and killed two dozen and wounded hundreds in Israel.

Iran insists its nuclear program is only for peaceful purposes. But Israel views Iran's nuclear program as an existential threat and has said its military campaign is necessary to prevent Iran from building an atomic weapon.

Although U.S. intelligence agencies have assessed that Tehran is not actively pursuing a bomb, Trump and Israeli leaders have argued it could quickly assemble a nuclear weapon, making it an imminent threat.

The region has been on edge for the past two years as Israel seeks to annihilate the Hamas militant group, an Iranian ally, in the Gaza Strip, where war still rages after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel.

Here's what to know about the conflict between Israel and Iran, and the United States' intervention:

U.S. bombs Iran

President Donald Trump announced the overnight "massive precision strikes" on Iran's Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz nuclear sites in a televised address to the nation from the White House. Describing them as "a spectacular military success," he said they had "completely and fully obliterated" the nuclear sites. Iran, he said, would now have to make peace.

Iran's Atomic Energy Organization confirmed the attacks, but insisted its nuclear program will not be stopped. Iran and the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency said there were no immediate signs of radioactive

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contamination at the three locations following the strikes.

The nuclear fuel enrichment site at Fordo is buried deep beneath a mountain, and the attack against it used bunker-buster bombs designed to penetrate the ground before exploding, a U.S. official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss military operations. Only the United States has the 30,000-pound (13,600-kilogram) munition and the stealth bombers used to deliver them.

Trump warned there would be additional strikes if Tehran retaliated against U.S. forces, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised Trump's decision to attack.

Iran's response

Iran launched a barrage of missiles against Israel overnight and into Sunday, with Israeli authorities reporting that more than 80 people were wounded, the vast majority of them lightly.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned in a post on X Sunday that the U.S. attacks "will have everlasting consequences."

In a separate post, he said the overnight strikes had scuttled any chance of diplomacy with the U.S. or the European Union.

"Last week, we were in negotiations with the U.S. when Israel decided to blow up that diplomacy. This week, we held talks with the E3/EU when the U.S. decided to blow up that diplomacy," Araghchi wrote on X. "What conclusion would you draw?"

In a lengthy statement posted Sunday morning, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said that the "U.S. has itself launched a dangerous war against Iran." It said Iran "reserves its right to resist with full force against U.S. military aggression and the crimes committed by this rogue regime, and to defend Iran's security and national interests."

'A dangerous escalation'

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "gravely alarmed" by the United States' use of force, and called the strikes a "dangerous escalation." World leaders issued calls for diplomacy.

"There is a growing risk that this conflict could rapidly get out of control — with catastrophic consequences for civilians, the region and the world," Guterres said in a statement on X. "I call on Member States to de-escalate."

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, said Iran must not be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon, but urged restraint.

"I urge all sides to step back, return to the negotiating table and prevent further escalation," she said in a social media post. Kallas will chair a meeting of the 27-nation bloc's foreign ministers in Brussels on Monday, with the Israel-Iran war high on the agenda.

Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, who had threatened to resume attacks on U.S. vessels in the Red Sea if the Trump administration joined Israel's military campaign, called on other Muslim nations to form "one front against the Zionist-American arrogance."

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had warned the U.S. on Wednesday that strikes against Iran would "result in irreparable damage for them."

The Israeli military said Saturday it was preparing for the possibility of a lengthy war, while Iran's foreign minister warned before the U.S. attack that American military involvement "would be very, very dangerous for everyone."

Wartime NATO summits have focused on Ukraine. With Trump, this one will be different

By LORNE COOK Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — At its first summits after Russia began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, NATO gave President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pride of place at its table. It won't be the same this time.

Europe's biggest land conflict since World War II is now in its fourth year and still poses an existential threat to the continent. Ukraine continues to fight a war so that Europeans don't have to. Just last week,

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Russia launched one of the biggest drone attacks of the invasion on Kyiv.

But things have changed. The Trump administration insists that it must preserve maneuvering space to entice Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiating table, so Ukraine must not be allowed steal the limelight.

In Washington last year, the military alliance's weighty summit communique included a vow to supply long-term security assistance to Ukraine, and a commitment to back the country "on its irreversible path" to NATO membership. The year before, a statement more than twice as long was published in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius. A new NATO-Ukraine Council was set up, and Kyiv's membership path fast-tracked. Zelenskyy received a hero's welcome at a concert downtown.

It will be very different at a two-day summit in the Netherlands that starts Tuesday. NATO's most powerful member, the United States, is vetoing Ukraine's membership. It's unclear how long for.

Zelenskyy is invited again, but will not be seated at NATO's table. The summit statement is likely to run to around five paragraphs, on a single page, NATO diplomats and experts say. Ukraine will only get a passing mention.

If the G7 summit is anything to go by ...

Recent developments do not augur well for Ukraine.

Earlier this month, frustrated by the lack of a ceasefire agreement, U.S. President Donald Trump said it might be best to let Ukraine and Russia "fight for a while" before pulling them apart and pursuing peace.

Last weekend, he and Putin spoke by phone, mostly about Israel and Iran, but a little about Ukraine, too, Trump said. America has warned its allies that it has other security priorities, including in the Indo-Pacific and on its own borders.

Then at the Group of Seven summit in Canada, Trump called for Russia to be allowed back into the group; a move that would rehabilitate Putin on the global stage.

The next day, Russia launched its mass drone attack on Kyiv. Putin "is doing this simply because he can afford to continue the war. He wants the war to go on. It is troubling when the powerful of this world turn a blind eye to it," Zelenskyy said.

Trump left the G7 gathering early to focus on the conflict between Israel and Iran. Zelenskyy had traveled to Canada to meet with him. No meeting happened, and no statement on Russia or the war was agreed.

Lacking unanimity, other leaders met with Zelenskyy to reassure him of their support.

Questions about US support for Ukraine

Trump wants to broker a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine. He said he could do it within 100 days, but that target has come and gone. Things are not going well, as a very public bust up with Zelenskyy at the White House demonstrated.

Trump froze military aid and intelligence sharing with Ukraine's armed forces for a week. The U.S. has stepped back from the Ukraine Defense Contact Group that was set up under the Biden administration and helped to drum up weapons and ammunition.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth skipped its last meeting; the first time a Pentagon chief has been absent since Russian forces invaded in February 2022.

Addressing Congress on June 10, Hegseth also acknowledged that funding for Ukraine military assistance, which has been robust for the past two years, will be reduced in the upcoming defense budget.

It means Kyiv will receive fewer of the weapons systems that have been key to countering Russia's attack. Indeed, no new aid packages have been approved for Ukraine since Trump took office again in January.

"The message from the administration is clear: Far from guaranteed, future U.S. support for Ukraine may be in jeopardy," said Riley McCabe, Associate Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a U.S.-based policy research organization.

Cutting aid, McCabe warned, could make the Kremlin believe "that U.S. resolve is fleeting, and that time is on Russia's side."

"Putin has less incentive to negotiate if he believes that U.S. disengagement is inevitable and that Russia will soon gain an advantage on the battlefield," he said.

What the summit might mean for Kyiv

Trump wants the summit to focus on defense spending. The 32 allies are expected to agree on an investment pledge that should meet his demands.

Still, the Europeans and Canada are determined to keep a spotlight on the war, wary that Russia could set its sights on one of them next. They back Trump's ceasefire efforts with Putin but also worry that the two men are cozying up.

Also, some governments may struggle to convince their citizens of the need to boost defense spending at the expense of other budget demands without a strong show of support for Ukraine — and acknowledgement that Russia remains NATO's biggest security threat.

The summit is highly symbolic for Ukraine in other ways. Zelenskyy wants to prevent his country from being sidelined from international diplomacy, but both he and his allies rely on Trump for U.S. military backup against Russia.

Concretely, Trump and his counterparts will dine with the Dutch King on Tuesday evening. Zelenskyy could take part. Elsewhere, foreign ministers will hold a NATO-Ukraine Council, the forum where Kyiv sits among the 32 allies as an equal to discuss its security concerns and needs.

What is clear is that the summit will be short. One working session on Wednesday. It was set up that way to prevent the meeting from derailing. If the G7 is anything to go by, Trump's focus on his new security priorities — right now, the conflict between Israel and Iran — might make it even shorter.

US inserts itself into Israel's war with Iran, striking 3 Iranian nuclear sites

By SAM MEDNICK, AAMER MADHANI and DAVID RISING Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — The United States struck three sites in Iran early Sunday, inserting itself into Israel's war aimed at destroying the country's nuclear program in a risky gambit to weaken a longtime foe despite fears of a wider regional conflict.

Addressing the nation from the White House, President Donald Trump asserted that Iran's key nuclear were "completely and fully obliterated." There was no independent damage assessment.

It was not clear whether the U.S. would continue attacking Iran alongside its ally Israel, which has been engaged in a nine-day war with Iran. Trump acted without congressional authorization, and he warned that there would be additional strikes if Tehran retaliated against U.S. forces.

"There will either be peace or there will be tragedy for Iran," he said.

Iran's top diplomat, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, warned in a post on X that the U.S. attacks "will have everlasting consequences" and that Tehran "reserves all options" to retaliate.

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations called for an emergency Security Council meeting to discuss what he described as the U.S.'s "heinous attacks and illegal use of force" against Iran.

In a letter obtained by The Associated Press, Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani said that the U.N.'s most powerful body must "take all necessary measures" to hold the U.S. accountable under international law and the U.N. charter.

The U.N. nuclear watchdog said later that there has been "no increase in off-site radiation levels" at the locations that the U.S. hit. The International Atomic Energy Agency sent the message via the social platform X.

Early Sunday morning Israel alerted the public of an Iranian missile launch and urged people to take shelter. Sirens sounded in Jerusalem a short while later and a series of booms were heard.

Iranian has been firing missile barrages at Israel since the war began but they have decreased in size as Israel targets Tehran's missile launchers. The Islamic Republic may also be keeping some arms in reserve.

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran confirmed that attacks took place on its Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz sites, but it insisted that its work will not be stopped. Iran said there were no signs of radioactive contamination at the three locations and no danger to nearby residents.

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Iran has maintained that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only, and U.S. intelligence agencies have assessed that Tehran is not actively pursuing a bomb. However, Trump and Israeli leaders have claimed that Iran could quickly assemble a nuclear weapon, making it an imminent threat.

The decision to directly involve the U.S. in the war comes after more than a week of strikes by Israel on Iran that aimed to systematically eradicate the country's air defenses and offensive missile capabilities, while damaging its nuclear enrichment facilities. But U.S. and Israeli officials have said American stealth bombers and the 30,000-pound (13,500-kilogram) bunker-buster bomb they alone can carry offered the best chance of destroying heavily fortified sites connected to the Iranian nuclear program buried deep underground.

"We have completed our very successful attack on the three Nuclear sites in Iran, including Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan," Trump said in a post on social media. "All planes are now outside of Iran air space. A full payload of BOMBS was dropped on the primary site, Fordow. All planes are safely on their way home."

Trump added in a later post: "This is an HISTORIC MOMENT FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ISRAEL, AND THE WORLD. IRAN MUST NOW AGREE TO END THIS WAR. THANK YOU!"

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised Trump's decision to attack in a video message directed at the American president.

"Your bold decision to target Iran's nuclear facilities, with the awesome and righteous might of the United States, will change history," he said. Netanyahu said the U.S. "has done what no other country on earth could do."

Israel announced Sunday that it would close the country's airspace to both inbound and outbound flights in the wake of the U.S. attacks. The war has disrupted air travel throughout the Middle East.

The White House and Pentagon did not immediately elaborate on the operation. U.S. military leaders are scheduled to provide a briefing at 8 a.m. Eastern.

The attack used bunker-buster bombs on Iran's Fordo nuclear fuel enrichment plant that is built deep into a mountain, a U.S. official said. The weapons are designed to penetrate the ground before exploding. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military operations.

In addition, U.S. submarines launched about 30 Tomahawk missiles, according to another U.S. official who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

The strikes are a perilous decision, as Iran has pledged to retaliate if the U.S. joined the Israeli assault, and for Trump personally. He won the White House on the promise of keeping America out of costly foreign conflicts and scoffed at the value of American interventionism.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "gravely alarmed" by the "dangerous escalation" of American strikes.

"There is a growing risk that this conflict could rapidly get out of control — with catastrophic consequences for civilians, the region, and the world," he said in a statement.

Trump told reporters Friday that he was not interested in sending ground forces into Iran, saying it's "the last thing you want to do." He had previously indicated that he would make a final choice over the course of two weeks.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned the United States on Wednesday that strikes targeting the Islamic Republic will "result in irreparable damage for them." And Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei declared "any American intervention would be a recipe for an all-out war in the region."

Trump has vowed that he would not allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon, and he had initially hoped that the threat of force would bring the country's leaders to give up its nuclear program peacefully.

The Israeli military said Saturday it was preparing for the possibility of a lengthy war, while Iran's foreign minister warned before the U.S. attack that American military involvement "would be very, very dangerous for everyone."

The prospect of a wider war loomed. Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen said they would resume attacks on U.S. vessels in the Red Sea if the Trump administration joined Israel's military campaign. The Houthis paused such attacks in May under a deal with the U.S.

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White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Thursday that Trump planned to make his decision on the strikes within two weeks. Instead, he struck just two days later.

Trump appears to have made the calculation — at the prodding of Israeli officials and many Republican lawmakers — that Israel's operation had softened the ground and presented a perhaps unparalleled opportunity to set back Iran's nuclear program, perhaps permanently.

The Israelis say their offensive has already crippled Iran's air defenses, allowing them to significantly degrade multiple Iranian nuclear sites.

But to destroy the Fordo nuclear fuel enrichment plant, Israel appealed to Trump for the bunker-busting American bomb known as the GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator, which uses its weight and sheer kinetic force to reach deeply buried targets and then explode. The bomb is currently delivered only by the B-2 stealth bomber, which is only found in the American arsenal.

It was the first combat use of the weapon.

The bomb carries a conventional warhead, and is believed to be able to penetrate about 200 feet (61 meters) below the surface before exploding, and the bombs can be dropped one after another, effectively drilling deeper and deeper with each successive blast.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has confirmed that Iran is producing highly enriched uranium at Fordo, raising the possibility that nuclear material could be released into the area if the GBU-57 A/B were used to hit the facility.

Previous Israeli strikes at another Iranian nuclear site, Natanz, on a centrifuge site have caused contamination only at the site itself, not the surrounding area, the IAEA has said.

Israeli strikes on Iran have killed at least 865 people and wounded 3,396 others, according to the Washington-based group Human Rights Activists. The group said of those dead, it identified 363 civilians and 215 security force personnel.

Trump's decision for direct U.S. military intervention comes after his administration made an unsuccessful two-month push — including with high-level, direct negotiations with the Iranians — aimed at persuading Tehran to curb its nuclear program.

For months, Trump said he was dedicated to a diplomatic push to persuade Iran to give up its nuclear ambitions. And he twice — in April and again in late May — persuaded Netanyahu to hold off on military action against Iran and give diplomacy more time.

All the while, Trump has gone from publicly expressing hope that the moment could be a "second chance" for Iran to make a deal to delivering explicit threats on Khamenei and making calls for Tehran's unconditional surrender.

The military showdown with Iran comes seven years after Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Obama-administration brokered agreement in 2018, calling it the "worst deal ever."

The 2015 deal, signed by Iran, U.S. and other world powers, created a long-term, comprehensive nuclear agreement that limited Tehran's enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Trump decried the Obama-era deal for giving Iran too much in return for too little, because the agreement did not cover Iran's non-nuclear malign behavior.

Trump has bristled at criticism from some of his MAGA faithful who have suggested that further U.S. involvement would be a betrayal to supporters who were drawn to his promise to end U.S. involvement in expensive and endless wars.

Trump's big gamble in Iran is a risky moment after his pledges to keep US out of 'stupid wars'

By AAMER MADHANI and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump expressed certainty his big gamble to directly assist the Israelis delivered a knockout blow to Iran's nuclear program — even as many supporters and detractors alike were warning that U.S. military action could draw the United States into an expansive regional conflict.

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Trump, in brief remarks to the nation on Saturday evening from the White House, said the U.S. strikes "obliterated" three critical Iranian enrichment facilities and "the bully of the Middle East must now make peace."

But it's a risky moment for Trump, who has belittled his predecessors for tying up America in "stupid wars" and has repeatedly said he was determined to keep the U.S. and the Middle East from another expansive conflict.

"There will either be peace or there will be tragedy for Iran," Trump said. He added, "If peace does not come quickly, we will go after those other targets with precision, speed and skill."

The U.S. has struggled for decades to deal with the threat posed by Iran and its proxies.

Iran-backed groups carried out the 1983 U.S. Embassy bombing in Beirut, the Beirut barracks bombing that same year and the 1996 Khobar Towers bombing. And Iranian-backed militias were responsible for hundreds of Americans killed during the U.S. war in Iraq.

Trump took note of the long history of animus, and took credit for taking action.

"For 40 years, Iran has been saying death to America. Death to Israel. They have been killing our people, blowing off their arms, blowing off their legs with roadside bombs. That was their specialty," Trump said. "I decided a long time ago that I would not let this happen. It will not continue."

The possibility of U.S. involvement had been building for days. Still, the strikes, which were carried out early Sunday morning in Iran, carried an element of surprise.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt on Thursday had said that Trump would decide whether to move forward with U.S. strikes on Iran within two weeks.

But on Saturday afternoon, commercial flight trackers identified multiple U.S. aerial refueling tankers on a path suggesting that they were accompanying aircraft from the Midwest to the Pacific, raising speculation that something was afoot. Those aircraft may have been a decoy — they were not part of the mission.

Trump returned from his New Jersey golf club just after 6 p.m., and had a previously scheduled evening meeting with his national security team. Less than two hours later, the president announced the strikes had been completed.

The White House posted photos of Trump in the White House Situation Room with top advisers as he monitored the strikes, wearing a red "Make America Great Again" hat.

The action by Trump immediately raised some concerns among U.S. lawmakers that the president had exceeded his authority.

Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., quickly posted on the social media site X: "This is not Constitutional."

Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., said on social media that Trump hit Iran without congressional authorization and lawmakers should pass a resolution he's sponsoring with Massie "to prevent America from being dragged into another endless Middle East war."

The decision to directly involve the U.S. comes after more than a week of strikes by Israel on Iran that have moved to systematically eradicate the country's air defenses and offensive missile capabilities, while damaging its nuclear enrichment facilities.

The U.S. military used 30,000-pound bunker busters on Fordo, while U.S. submarines also participated in the attacks, launching about 30 Tomahawk land attack missiles, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned the United States in advance that strikes targeting the Islamic Republic would "result in irreparable damage for them." And Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei declared "any American intervention would be a recipe for an all-out war in the region."

Trump had initially hoped that the threat of force would motivate the country's leaders to give up their nuclear program peacefully.

Ultimately, Trump made the calculation — at the prodding of Israeli officials and many Republican lawmakers — that Israel's operation had softened the ground and presented a perhaps unparalleled opportunity to set back Iran's nuclear program, perhaps permanently.

The Israelis have said their offensive had already crippled Iran's air defenses, allowing them already significantly to degrade multiple Iranian nuclear sites.

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Trump went forward with the strikes even as there is some murkiness about the U.S. intelligence community's assessment on how close Iran was to building a nuclear weapon.

In March, Tulsi Gabbard, the national intelligence director, told lawmakers that it was not building a nuclear weapon and its supreme leader had not reauthorized the dormant program even though it had enriched uranium to higher levels.

Trump earlier this week dismissed the assessment, saying Gabbard was "wrong." "I don't care what she said," Trump told reporters.

It's unclear if the U.S. has developed fresh intelligence since Gabbard's March testimony, but she insisted following the public pushback from Trump that the two of them were on the same page about Iran.

Trump's decision for direct U.S. military intervention comes after his administration made an unsuccessful two-month push — including with high-level, direct negotiations with the Iranians — aimed at persuading Tehran to curb its nuclear program.

For months, Trump said he was dedicated to a diplomatic push to persuade Iran to give up its nuclear ambitions. And he twice — in April and again in late May — persuaded Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to hold off on military action against Iran and give diplomacy more time.

The U.S. in recent days has been shifting military aircraft and warships into and around the Middle East to protect Israel and U.S. bases from Iranian attacks.

All the while, Trump has gone from publicly expressing hope that the moment could be a "second chance" for Iran to make a deal to delivering explicit threats on Khamenei and making calls for Tehran's unconditional surrender.

"We know exactly where the so-called 'Supreme Leader' is hiding," Trump said in a social media posting. "He is an easy target, but is safe there - We are not going to take him out (kill!), at least not for now."

The military showdown comes seven years after Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Obama administration-brokered agreement with Iran, calling it the "worst deal ever."

The 2015 deal, signed by Iran, the U.S. and other world powers, created a long-term, comprehensive nuclear agreement that limited Tehran's enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Trump decried the deal as giving Iran too much in return for too little, because the agreement did not cover Iran's non-nuclear malign behavior.

A tornado that swept through a rural town in North Dakota left at least 3 people dead

ENDERLIN, N.D. (AP) — Powerful winds — including a tornado — that swept across parts of the upper Midwest left three people dead and a regional airport heavily damaged, while nearly 150 million Americans were under a heat advisory or warning as the weekend warmed up in much of the U.S.

A complex storm system wreaked havoc in parts of North Dakota, northern Minnesota and northern Wisconsin, with tornadoes, large hail and strong wind gusts, according to Brian Hurley, meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center.

Cass County Sheriff Jesse Jahner said at a news conference Saturday that two men and a woman were killed late Friday at two locations around the town of Enderlin, about 40 miles (60 kilometers) southwest of Fargo. Thousands of households lost power.

Hours earlier the National Weather Service in Grand Forks said on the social platform X that two deaths were attributed to a tornado that hit a home.

Tornado confirmed

Timothy Lynch, lead forecaster with the NWS office in Grand Forks, said the storm was confirmed as a tornado but crews were still working to determine its strength and highest wind speeds. He said the storm impacted the neighboring counties of Cass and Ransom.

"We still have people out investigating and gathering information on what happened. It was a pretty

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major event," Lynch told The Associated Press.

Gov. Kelly Armstrong said in a statement that the NWS confirmed a second tornado touched down near Spiritwood, which is about 80 miles (130 kilometers) west of Fargo. Armstrong issued a statewide disaster declaration to respond to the damage.

Heavy winds also swept across localized areas of Minnesota, and the NWS reported wind gusts of up to 106 mph (171 kph) at Bemidji Regional Airport overnight.

"I cannot ever recall hearing a rushing wind like that!" Bemidji Mayor Jorge Prince posted on Facebook in the early hours Saturday. "Emerging from our basement to find our neighborhood with lots of trees down and several homes with severe damage."

Prince also said officials were responding to many knocked down power lines and several gas line leaks. Localized torrential rain flooded the city's downtown and stalled vehicles, Beltrami County Emergency Management Director Christopher Muller said.

Many Bemidji-area businesses posted on social media to say they were without power and closed for the day. Muller warned people to prepare for "long-term power outages" because of damage to infrastructure.

Hurley said that same storm moved on in a weakened state to parts of Michigan. It was expected to cross over lower Ontario, Canada, and back into the United States to hit upstate New York on Saturday night into Sunday.

"Still wind and hail threat," Hurley said of the enhanced risk to upstate New York. "It doesn't look like it's going to be as robust perhaps as we saw last night."

Millions face extreme heat

Almost 59 million Americans were under an extreme heat warning Saturday, Hurley said, as the high temperatures combined with humidity pushed an above-average heat index for the Northern Plains and the Midwest.

Parts of Nebraska, the Dakotas, Minnesota and Iowa were set to face temperatures "easily 20 degrees above normal," according to Hurley, with some areas reaching the triple digits. That kind of heat may be expected in July, he said, but it's rare to see in June.

"A lot of these areas have been pretty cool with rain over the last month or so, so it's going to be a little bit of a shock," Hurley said.

Cooling centers were open in cities including Omaha and Minneapolis.

An additional 84 million people were under a heat advisory with the extreme weather expected to migrate east toward the Great Lakes, the Mid-Atlantic and the Northeast, where the "heat risk category is a 4 of 4" into early next week, Hurley said.

Two Major League Baseball players, Cincinnati Reds shortstop Elly De La Cruz, playing against the Cardinals in St. Louis, and Seattle Mariners reliever Trent Thornton, facing the Cubs in Chicago, got sick Saturday while playing in the extreme heat. De La Cruz stayed in the game and hit a two-run homer in the seventh, while Thornton pitched 2 1/3 scoreless innings before departing in the eighth.

Alaska fires prompt evacuations

Warm and dry conditions coupled with frequent thunderstorms and lightning have resulted in more than 100 fires in the state since Wednesday.

"A lot of those fires are in vast wilderness areas of Alaska where fire is allowed to take its natural course," said Sam Harrel, an information officer with the state's Division of Forestry and Fire Protection.

But some fires were threatening populated areas, prompting evacuations in the Interior region. Among them was a go order issued Friday for areas near Fairbanks, according to Harrel.

A fire burning about 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of the entrance to Denali National Park and Preserve also prompted an evacuation "due to escalating fire conditions," the Denali Borough said via Facebook.

"Numerous structures are now imminently threatened so aircraft including Air Tankers and helicopters are supporting the fire with retardant and water drops," the borough added.

Harrel said the fire was not affecting the status of the park but the smoke could worsen air quality for visitors.

Mahmoud Khalil vows to continue protesting Israel and the war in Gaza after release from detention

By HOLLY RAMER and ARON RANEN Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — A Palestinian activist who was detained for more than three months pushed his infant son's stroller with one hand and cheered as he was welcomed home Saturday by supporters including U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

Mahmoud Khalil greeted friends and spoke briefly to reporters at New Jersey's Newark International Airport a day after leaving a federal immigration facility in Louisiana. A former Columbia University graduate student and symbol of President Donald Trump's clampdown on campus protests, he vowed to continue protesting Israel and the war in Gaza.

"The U.S. government is funding this genocide, and Columbia University is investing in this genocide," he said. "This is why I will continue to protest with every one of you. Not only if they threaten me with detention. Even if they would kill me, I would still speak up for Palestine."

Joining Khalil at the airport, Ocasio-Cortez said his detention violated the First Amendment and was "an affront to every American."

"He has been accused, baselessly, of horrific allegations simply because the Trump administration and our overall establishment disagrees with his political speech," she said.

"The Trump administration knows that they are waging a losing legal battle," Ocasio-Cortez added. "They are violating the law, and they know that they are violating the law."

Khalil, a 30-year-old legal resident whose wife gave birth during his 104 days of detention, said he also will speak up for the immigrants he left behind in the detention center.

"Whether you are a citizen, an immigrant, anyone in this land, you're not illegal. That doesn't make you less of a human," he said.

Khalil was not accused of breaking any laws during the protests at Columbia. However the administration has said noncitizens who participate in such demonstrations should be expelled from the country for expressing views it considers to be antisemitic and "pro-Hamas," referring to the Palestinian militant group that attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

Khalil was released after U.S. District Judge Michael Farbiarz said it would be "highly, highly unusual" for the government to continue detaining a legal resident who was unlikely to flee and had not been accused of any violence. The government filed notice Friday evening that it was appealing Khalil's release.

Hot-air balloon in Brazil catches fire and falls from the sky, killing 8 and injuring 13

By ELÉONORE HUGHES Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A hot-air balloon caught fire and tumbled from the sky on Saturday in Brazil's southern state of Santa Catarina, killing eight people, firefighters said.

Footage shared by local news outlet G1 showed billows of smoke coming from the balloon, which was in flames as it hurtled toward the ground in the municipality of Praia Grande.

On a video on social media, two people can be seen falling through the air as the fire spread onboard the aircraft.

Thirteen people survived and were taken to hospitals, Santa Catarina's military fire brigade said, adding that 21 people were on board including the pilot.

The crash happened at around 8 a.m. local time, said Lt. Col. Zevir Cipriano Jr., a military firefighter. A fire started in the basket, prompting the pilot to try to land the balloon.

Thirteen people, including the pilot, managed to jump out but eight were unable to. Without the weight of the others, the balloon began rising again.

"These people ended up dying — four charred and another four jumped out of the balloon when it was falling," Cipriano Jr. said.

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Three people died hugging each other, said Ulisses Gabriel, chief of Santa Catarina's civil police force, on X. "It hurts the soul."

"We are in mourning. A tragedy has happened. We will see how it unfolds, what happened, why it happened. But the important thing now is for the state structure to do what it can," Gov. Jorginho Mello said in a video on X.

Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva expressed his solidarity with victims' families and said he was placing the federal government at the disposal of victims and local authorities.

Authorities have opened an investigation and the results will be made public within 30 days, Santa Catarina's public safety secretary Col. Flávio Graff told journalists. According to the civil police, the pilot has given testimony and they will also gather statements from survivors, Graff added.

G1 reported that the balloon's expected flight time was 45 minutes, with the balloon reaching 1,000 meters (3,280 feet), and cost 550 reais (around \$100) per passenger.

Sobrevoar, the company responsible for the multicolored balloon, said it complied with all regulations and had a clean accident record prior to Saturday.

"Despite all necessary precautions and the efforts of our pilot — who has extensive experience and followed all recommended procedures in an attempt to save everyone on board the balloon — we are suffering from the pain caused by this tragedy," it said in a statement.

Sobrevoar added that it was suspending all operations for an indefinite period.

Praia Grande is a common destination for hot-air ballooning, a popular activity in parts of southern Brazil. The area is famous for its dramatic canyon landscapes and is known as the "Brazilian Cappadocia," a reference to a region in central Turkey famed worldwide for stunning hot-air balloon rides.

Last Sunday, a balloon came down in Sao Paulo state, killing a 27-year-old woman and injuring 11 other people, G1 reported.

Belarus frees dissident Siarhei Tsikhanouski and 13 others after a rare visit from top US envoy

By YURAS KARMANAU and JOANNA KOZLOWSKA Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — Belarus has freed Siarhei Tsikhanouski, a key dissident figure and the husband of exiled opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, and 13 others following a rare visit by a senior U.S. official, Tsikhanouskaya's team announced on Saturday.

Tsikhanouski, a popular blogger and activist who was imprisoned in 2020, arrived in Vilnius, Lithuania, alongside 13 other political prisoners, his wife's team said. The release came just hours after Belarusian authorities announced that authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko met with U.S. President Donald Trump's envoy for Ukraine in Minsk. Keith Kellogg became the highest-ranking U.S. official in years to visit Belarus, Moscow's close and dependent ally.

A video published on Tsikhanouskaya's official Telegram account showed Tsikhanouski disembarking from a white minibus, smiling broadly despite his shaved head and emaciated frame. He pulled his wife into a long embrace as their supporters applauded.

"My husband is free. It's difficult to describe the joy in my heart," Tsikhanouskaya told reporters. But she added her team's work is "not finished" while over 1,100 political prisoners remain behind bars in Belarus.

Tsikhanouski, known for his anti-Lukashenko slogan "stop the cockroach," was jailed after announcing plans to challenge the strongman in the 2020 election. Following his arrest, his wife ran in his stead, rallying large crowds across the country. Official results of the election handed Lukashenko his sixth term in office but were denounced by the opposition and the West as a sham.

A crackdown snuffed out protests after 2020 election

Tens of thousands of people poured into the streets in the aftermath of the August 2020 vote, in the largest protests in the country's history. In the ensuing crackdown, more than 35,000 people were detained, with many beaten by police. Prominent opposition figures either fled the country or were imprisoned. Tsikhanouski was sentenced to 19 1/2 years in prison on charges of organizing mass riots.

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Lukashenko has since extended his rule for a seventh term following a January 2025 election that the opposition called a farce. Since July 2024, he has pardoned nearly 300 people, including imprisoned U.S. citizens, seeking to mend ties with the West.

At the meeting in Minsk, Lukashenko hugged and warmly welcomed Kellogg and the American delegation to his residence.

"I really hope that our conversation will be very sincere and open. Otherwise, what is the point of meeting? If we are clever and cunning in front of each other, we will not achieve results," Lukashenko said. "You have made a lot of noise in the world with your arrival."

Lukashenko's press secretary, Natalya Eismont, told Russian state media hours later that he freed the 14 prisoners following a request from U.S. President Donald Trump. Eismont said among those released were two Japanese nationals, three Polish nationals and two Latvians, as well as citizens of Estonia, Sweden and the United States.

It was not immediately clear whether Kellogg's visit might pave the way for the lifting of some U.S. sanctions against Minsk, imposed over the brutal crackdown against the 2020 protests and Lukashenko's support of Russia's all-out invasion of Ukraine.

"Lukashenko is clearly trying to get out of international isolation, and the release of such a large group of political prisoners signals a desire to start a dialogue with the U.S. in order to soften international sanctions," Belarusian political analyst Valery Karbalevich told The Associated Press.

"After five years, Lukashenko is trying to loosen the knot with which the Kremlin tied him, using him for the war against Ukraine," Karbalevich said.

Belarus has allowed the Kremlin to use its territory to send troops and weapons into Ukraine, and also to station its forces and nuclear weapons there.

A journalist walks free, but many more languish

Released alongside Tsikhanouski was longtime Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty correspondent Ihar Karnei, the U.S. government-funded broadcaster confirmed. Karnei, who had also worked with prominent Belarusian and Russian newspapers, had been serving a three-year service on extremism charges he rejected as a sham.

"The release was a big surprise for me," Karnei told AP in a phone interview Saturday. "I didn't believe it until the very end, but now I understand that other political prisoners deserve the same."

He said that he spent about six months in solitary confinement.

"Most people suffer simply for their beliefs and do not deserve these terrible conditions and terms," Karnei said.

RFE/RL's Belarusian service had been designated extremist in the country, a common label handed to anyone who criticizes Lukashenko's government. As a result, working for it or spreading its content has become a criminal offense.

"We are deeply grateful to President Trump for securing the release of this brave journalist, who suffered at the hands of the Belarusian authorities," the broadcaster's CEO Stephen Capus said Saturday in a press release.

Karnei was detained several times while covering the 2020 protests. Unlike many of his colleagues, he chose to stay in Belarus despite the ensuing repression. He was arrested again in July 2023, as police raided his apartment seizing phones and computers.

The group Reporters Without Borders says Belarus is Europe's leading jailer of journalists. At least 40 are serving long prison sentences, according to the independent Belarusian Association of Journalists. Many face beatings, poor medical care and the inability to contact lawyers or relatives, according to activists and former inmates.

Belarus also freed an Estonian national who had set up an NGO to raise funds for Belarusian refugees. According to the Estonian Foreign Ministry, Allan Roio was detained last January, and sentenced to 6 1/2 years in prison on charges of establishing an extremist organization.

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Others remain behind bars

Many other prominent dissidents still languish in Belarusian jails, among them Nobel Peace Prize winner Ales Bialiatski, a human rights advocate serving a 10-year prison sentence on charges widely denounced as politically motivated.

Bialiatski, founder of Viasna, Belarus' oldest and most prominent rights group, was arrested in 2021 during raids by the country's main security agency that still goes by its Soviet-era name, the KGB.

In March 2023, he was convicted on charges of smuggling and financing actions that "grossly violated public order," and sentenced to 10 years. Authorities labeled him especially dangerous because of alleged "extremist" tendencies.

He, his family and supporters say the charges against him are politically motivated, and a U.N. panel of human rights experts called on Belarus to release him. In 2022, when Bialiatski was behind bars, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize along with the prominent Russian rights group Memorial and Ukraine's Center for Civil Liberties.

Bialiatski has been serving his sentence at a penal colony for repeat offenders in the city of Gorki. The facility is notorious for beatings and hard labor. Bialiatski's wife warned last year about his deteriorating health, saying the 62-year-old battles multiple chronic illnesses.

Also behind bars is Viktor Babaryka, a former banker who was widely seen in 2020 as Lukashenko's main electoral rival, and Maria Kolesnikova, a close ally of Tsikhanouskaya and charismatic leader of that year's mass protests. With her close-cropped hair and trademark gesture of forming her hands into the shape of a heart, Kolesnikova became an even greater symbol of resistance when Belarusian authorities tried to deport her. She responded by tearing up her passport at the border and walking back into Belarus.

Man arrested after Utah 'No Kings' rally shooting is released as investigation continues

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

A man who brought a rifle to a "No Kings" rally in Utah — prompting an armed safety volunteer to open fire and accidentally kill a protester — has been released from jail while the investigation continues.

Salt Lake District Attorney Sim Gill's office said Friday that it was unable to make a decision on charges against Arturo Gamboa, 24, who had been jailed on suspicion of murder following the June 14 shooting.

Salt Lake City police had said Gamboa brought an assault-style rifle to the rally and was allegedly moving toward the crowd with the weapon raised when a safety volunteer for the event fired three shots, wounding Gamboa and killing a nearby demonstrator, Arthur Folasah Ah Loo.

Gamboa did not fire his rifle and it is unclear what he intended to do with it. His lawyer, Greg Skordas, said Gamboa was lawfully in possession of the rifle at the rally and was walking with it unloaded pointed at the ground before he was shot in the back by the volunteer. Skordas said he does not believe that Gamboa heard anyone tell him to drop the weapon.

"There was never any raising of the gun, any brandishing of the gun, any pointing it toward anyone at all," Skordas said.

Gamboa had been attending the rally as a supporter, Skordas said, adding that he was not entirely sure why Gamboa brought the rifle.

Skordas said his client, who works at a grocery store and is a part-time musician, had brought a gun at least once in the past to a demonstration, during the Black Lives Matter protests several years ago.

Skordas said the volunteer who shot Gamboa and the demonstrator should face criminal charges, not Gamboa.

His father Albert Gamboa, told The Associated Press earlier this week that his son was "an innocent guy" who was "in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Utah is an open-carry state, meaning people who can legally own a firearm are generally allowed to carry it on a public street. The volunteer has not been publicly identified as investigators have worked to determine who was at fault.

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Judge James Blanch said in the release order that Gamboa must live with his father and is forbidden from possessing firearms. The conditions terminate after two months or if criminal charges against him are pursued, Blanch wrote.

Police said the day after the shooting that witnesses reported seeing Gamboa lift the rifle when he was ordered to drop it and that instead he began running toward the crowd. He fled but was arrested nearby, accused of creating the dangerous situation that led to Ah Loo's death.

Salt Lake City police said in a statement the next day that Gamboa "knowingly engaged in conduct ... that ultimately caused the death of an innocent community member."

But three days after Gamboa was booked into jail, with no formal charges filed, police acknowledged that the circumstances surrounding the shooting remained uncertain. They issued a public appeal for any video footage related to the shooting or Gamboa, and said detectives were still trying "to piece together exactly what happened."

The volunteer who confronted Gamboa was described by event organizers as a military veteran whose role as a safety volunteer was to maintain order.

Experts say it's extremely rare for such individuals, often called safety marshals, to be armed. They typically rely on calm demeanor, communication and relationships with police and protesters to help keep order, said Edward Maguire, an Arizona State University criminology and criminal justice professor.

Police said the permit for the protest did not specify that there would be armed security.

Protest organizers have not said whether or how the safety volunteer who shot Ah Loo was trained or explained why he was armed. All attendees, including those in safety roles, were asked not to bring weapons, according to Sarah Parker, a national coordinator for the 50501 Movement.

The demonstration involving some 18,000 people was otherwise peaceful. It was one of hundreds nationwide against President Donald Trump's military parade in Washington, which marked the Army's 250th anniversary and coincided with Trump's birthday.

Sunken Bayesian superyacht lifted from waters off Sicily as salvage operation completed

By SALVATORE CAVALLI and GIADA ZAMPANO Associated Press

PORTICELLO, Italy (AP) — A British-flagged luxury superyacht that sank off Sicily last year, killing U.K. tech magnate Mike Lynch and six others, was lifted from the water Saturday as salvage recovery crews completed the complex operation to bring it ashore for further investigation.

The white top and blue hull of the 56-meter (184-foot) Bayesian, covered with algae and mud, was visibly clear of the sea in a holding area of a yellow floating crane barge off the Sicilian port of Porticello.

"The hull of the superyacht Bayesian has today been successfully and safely recovered from the sea off the coast of northern Sicily," said TMC Maritime, the company conducting the recovery. "This follows a delicate lifting procedure that began early today."

TMC added that the hull will continue to be held "in an elevated position to allow expert salvage personnel to complete checks and preparations" ahead of its transportation into the Sicilian port of Termini Imerese on Sunday.

The floating crane platform will move the Bayesian to the port, where a special steel cradle is waiting for it. The vessel will be then made available for investigators to help determine the cause of the sinking.

The Bayesian sank Aug. 19 off Porticello, near Palermo, during a violent storm as Lynch was treating friends to a cruise to celebrate his acquittal two months earlier in the U.S. on fraud charges. Lynch, his daughter and five others died. Fifteen people survived, including the captain and all crew members except the chef.

Italian authorities are conducting a full criminal investigation.

The vessel has been slowly raised from the seabed, 50 meters (165-feet) down, over the past three days to allow the steel lifting straps, slings and harnesses to be secured under the keel.

Eight steel lifting straps were used to put the hull upright and to form part of a steel wire lifting system

that began raising the vessel out of the water Saturday. As the superyacht was raised, seawater was pumped out of the hull.

The Bayesian is missing its 72-meter (236-foot) mast, which was cut off and left on the seabed for future removal. The mast had to be detached to allow the hull to be brought to a nearly upright position that would allow the craft to be raised.

British investigators said in an interim report issued last month that the yacht was knocked over by "extreme wind" and couldn't recover.

The report said the crew of the Bayesian had chosen the site where it sank as shelter from forecast thunderstorms. Wind speeds exceeded 70 knots (81 mph) at the time of the sinking and "violently" knocked the vessel over to a 90-degree angle in under 15 seconds.

Lynch, who sold Autonomy, a software maker he founded in 1996, to Hewlett-Packard for \$11 billion in 2011, had been acquitted of fraud charges in June 2024 by a federal court jury in San Francisco.

Sunrise at Stonehenge draws druids, pagans and revelers to celebrate the summer solstice

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — As the sun rose Saturday on the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, a crowd erupted in cheers at Stonehenge where the ancient monument in southern England has clocked the summer solstice over thousands of years.

The orange ball crested the northeast horizon behind the Heel Stone, the entrance to the stone circle, and shone its beam of light into the center of one of the world's most famous prehistoric monuments. The solstice is one of the few occasions each year when visitors are allowed to walk among the stones, which are otherwise fenced off.

The crowd gathered before dawn at the World Heritage Site to mark the start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere, beating the heat during the U.K.'s first amber heat-health alert issued since September 2023. Temperatures later topped 33 degrees Celsius (91.4 degrees Fahrenheit) in Surrey, 80 miles (128 kilometers) east of Stonehenge, the hottest temperature recorded in the U.K. so far this year.

About 25,000 sun devotees and other revelers, including druids, pagans, hippies, locals and tourists, showed up, according to English Heritage which operates the site. More than 400,000 others around the world watched a livestream.

"This morning was a joyous and peaceful occasion with the most beautiful sunrise," said Richard Dewdney, head of operations at Stonehenge. "It is fantastic to see Stonehenge continuing to enchant and connect people."

Stonehenge was built in stages 5,000 years ago on the flat lands of Salisbury Plain approximately 75 miles (120 kilometers) southwest of London. The unique stone circle was erected in the late Neolithic period about 2,500 B.C.

Some of the so-called bluestones are known to have come from the Preseli Hills in southwest Wales, nearly 150 miles (240 kilometers) away, and the altar stone was recently discovered to have come from northern Scotland, some 460 miles (740 kilometers) away.

The site's meaning has been vigorously debated. Theories range from it being a coronation place for Danish kings, a druid temple, a cult center for healing, or an astronomical computer for predicting eclipses and solar events.

The most generally accepted interpretation is that it was a temple aligned with movements of the sun — lining up perfectly with the summer and winter solstices.

Pope Leo XIV says there should be no tolerance for abuse of any kind in Catholic Church

By FRANKLIN BRICEÑO Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Pope Leo XIV has said there should be no tolerance in the Catholic Church for any type of abuse – sexual, spiritual or abuse of authority -- and called for “transparent processes” to create a culture of prevention across the church.

Leo made his first public comments about the clergy sex abuse scandal in a written message to a Peruvian journalist who documented a particularly egregious case of abuse and financial corruption in a Peruvian-based Catholic movement, the Sodalitium Christianae Vitae.

The message was read out loud on Friday night in Lima during a performance of a play based on the Sodalitium scandal and the work of the journalist, Paola Ugaz.

“It is urgent to root in the whole church a culture of prevention that does not tolerate any form of abuse - neither of power or authority, nor abuse of conscience, spiritual or sexual abuse,” Leo said in the message. “This culture will only be authentic if it is born of active vigilance, of transparent processes and sincere listening to those who have been hurt. For this, we need journalists.”

Leo is well aware of the Sodalitium scandal, since he spent two decades as a missionary priest and bishop in Peru, where the group was founded in 1971. The then-Bishop Robert Prevost was responsible for listening to the Sodalitium’s victims as the Peruvian bishops’ point-person for abuse victims and helped some reach financial settlements with the organization.

After Pope Francis brought him to the Vatican in 2023, Prevost helped dismantle the group entirely by overseeing the resignation of a powerful Sodalitium bishop. The Sodalitium was officially suppressed earlier this year, right before Francis died.

Now as pope, Leo has to oversee the dismantling of the Sodalitium and its sizeable assets. The Vatican envoy on the ground handling the job, Monsignor Jordi Bertomeu, read out Leo’s message on Friday night, appearing alongside Ugaz on stage.

In the message, Leo also praised journalists for their courage in holding the powerful to account, demanded public authorities protect them and said a free press is an “common good that cannot be renounced.”

Ugaz and a Sodalitium victim, Pedro Salinas, have faced years of criminal and civil litigation from Sodalitium and its supporters for their investigative reporting into the group’s twisted practices and financial misconduct, and they have praised Leo for his handling of the case.

The abuse scandal is one of the thorniest dossiers facing Leo, especially given demands from survivors that he go even farther than Francis in applying a zero-tolerance for abuse across the church, including for abusers whose victims were adults.

What to know about activist Mahmoud Khalil and his release from immigration detention

By BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI Associated Press

A Palestinian activist who participated in protests against Israel has been freed from federal immigration detention after 104 days.

Mahmoud Khalil, who became a symbol of President Donald Trump’s clampdown on campus protests, left a federal facility in Louisiana on Friday. The former Columbia University graduate student is expected to head to New York to reunite with his U.S. citizen wife and infant son, born while Khalil was detained.

Here’s a look at what has happened so far in Khalil’s legal battle:

The arrest

Federal immigration agents detained Khalil on March 8, the first arrest under Trump’s crackdown on students who joined campus protests against Israel’s devastating war in Gaza.

Khalil, a legal U.S. resident, was then taken to an immigration detention center in Jena, a remote part of Louisiana thousands of miles from his attorneys and his wife.

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The 30-year-old international affairs student had served as a negotiator and spokesperson for student activists at Columbia University who took over a campus lawn to protest the war.

The university brought police in to dismantle the encampment after a small group of protesters seized an administration building. Khalil was not accused of participating in the building occupation and wasn't among those arrested in connection with the demonstrations.

But images of his maskless face at protests, along with his willingness to share his name with reporters, made him an object of scorn among those who saw the protesters and their demands as antisemitic.

The legal fight

Khalil wasn't accused of breaking any laws during the protests at Columbia.

However, the government has said noncitizens who participate in such demonstrations should be expelled from the U.S. for expressing views the administration considers to be antisemitic and "pro-Hamas," referring to the Palestinian militant group that attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

Khalil's lawyers challenged the legality of his detention, arguing that the Trump administration was trying to deport him for an activity protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio justified Khalil's deportation by citing a rarely used statute that gives him power to deport those who pose "potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States."

The initial ruling

Immigration Judge Jamee E. Comans ruled in April that the government's contention was enough to satisfy requirements for Khalil's deportation.

Comans said the government had "established by clear and convincing evidence that he is removable."

Federal judges in New York and New Jersey had previously ordered the U.S. government not to deport Khalil while his case played out in court.

Khalil remained detained for several weeks, with his lawyers arguing that he was being prevented from exercising his free speech and due process rights despite no obvious reason for his continued detention.

Release granted

Khalil was released after U.S. District Judge Michael Farbiarz said it would be "highly, highly unusual" for the government to continue detaining a legal U.S. resident who was unlikely to flee and hadn't been accused of any violence.

"Petitioner is not a flight risk, and the evidence presented is that he is not a danger to the community," he said. "Period, full stop."

During an hourlong hearing conducted by phone, the New Jersey-based judge said the government had "clearly not met" the standards for detention.

Speaking Friday outside the detention facility, Khalil said, "Justice prevailed, but it's very long overdue. This shouldn't have taken three months."

Legal fight continues

The government filed notice Friday evening that it's appealing Khalil's release.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a post on the social platform X that the same day Farbiarz ordered Khalil's release, an immigration judge in Louisiana denied Khalil bond and "ordered him removed." That decision was made by Comans, who is in a court in the same detention facility from which Khalil was released.

"An immigration judge, not a district judge, has the authority to decide if Mr. Khalil should be released or detained," the post said.

Farbiarz ruled that the government can't deport Khalil based on its claims that his presence could undermine foreign policy. But he gave the administration leeway to pursue a potential deportation based on allegations that Khalil lied on his green card application, an accusation Khalil disputes.

Khalil had to surrender his passport and can't travel internationally, but he will get his green card back and be given official documents permitting limited travel within the U.S., including New York and Michigan to visit family, New Jersey and Louisiana for court appearances and Washington to lobby Congress.

Khalil said Friday that no one should be detained for protesting Israel's war in Gaza. He said his time in the Jena, Louisiana, detention facility had shown him "a different reality about this country that supposedly champions human rights and liberty and justice." In a statement after the judge's ruling, Khalil's wife, Dr. Noor Abdalla, said she could finally "breathe a sigh of relief" after her husband's three months in detention.

The judge's decision came after several other scholars targeted for their activism have been released from custody, including another former Palestinian student at Columbia, Mohsen Mahdawi; a Tufts University student, Rumeysa Ozturk; and a Georgetown University scholar, Badar Khan Suri.

Ukraine received at least 20 bodies of Russian soldiers in recent exchanges, Zelenskyy says

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's president said that Russia repatriated at least 20 of its own dead soldiers in recent exchanges with Ukraine, describing it as a result of Moscow's disorganization in carrying out large swaps of wounded POWs and remains of troops.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that an Israeli citizen was among the dead Ukraine had received in recent exchanges. He spoke to journalists on Friday but his comments were embargoed until Saturday. Officials did not disclose the identities of the bodies.

"They threw the corpses of their citizens at us. This is their attitude toward war, toward their soldiers. And this is already documented. Sometimes these bodies even have Russian passports," he said.

He said the Russian side insisted the dead were all Ukrainians.

Journalists were shown a Russian passport and ID belonging to one of the 20 dead Russians. According to the document, the man came from the Moscow region.

Zelenskyy doubts Putin wants peace

The exchanges of the dead and wounded soldiers are the only tangible result of direct peace talks in Istanbul. In June, Ukraine and Russia agreed to exchange the bodies of fallen soldiers in a 6,000-for-6,000 format during the second round of negotiations. Ukraine was concerned that the number was too high and that the sides did not have enough time for forensic examinations and checking the identities of the dead.

Zelenskyy said he suspected Russia's plan was to play along with peace talks to appease the U.S. and stave off more sanctions but without ending the war that Russian President Vladimir Putin believes he is winning.

He said that because of this, Ukraine would be "in a really difficult situation" of deciding whether to continue the talks in Istanbul.

Impact of Iran-Israel war on Ukraine

Zelenskyy said Ukraine was against Iran acquiring nuclear weapons, because of its military partnership with Russia, but stopped short of expressing explicit support for Israel's strikes. He repeated that the new war in the Middle East will affect Ukraine indirectly.

"Iran gave the Russians everything to kill us. They gave them martyrs, they gave them missiles, and they gave them licenses. The fact that their production capacities have now become weaker is (a) positive for us. But at certain points it may already be too late," he said, also citing Russia's military cooperation with North Korea.

Russia has modified Iran-made Shahed drones and has used them, often hundreds at a time, in barrages targeting Ukraine.

Zelenskyy said 39 Russian companies were involved in the production of Oreshnik, an intermediate-range ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. He said 21 of them are not under sanctions. "And therefore it is absolutely incomprehensible why sanctions should not be imposed urgently," he said.

Russia attacked Ukraine with the missile in November, marking a serious escalation in the war and Russia's capabilities.

Ukraine looks to Europe to boost domestic weapons

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Zelenskyy dispelled reports that Patriots air defense systems were destroyed in recent Russian drone and missile barrages. He also said Ukraine has started using domestically produced interceptors to shoot down Shahed drones and is seeking financing from Germany to ramp up the weapon's production.

He added he sent signals to Western partners asking them to give up 0.25% of their GDP to support Ukraine's local defense industry.

Zelenskyy said it's likely he would attend a NATO summit later this week, but that he would make a final decision on Monday.

Though Zelenskyy did not meet Trump who had left early the Group of Seven summit in Canada last week, Ukraine's Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko and the head of the president's office, Andriy Yermak, gave U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent a list of weapons Ukraine is hoping to purchase. "We will wait feedback," Zelenskyy said, adding the package of weapons included Patriot systems.

The weapons package would be among the topics Zelenskyy plans to discuss with Trump in their next meeting, he added, as well as the issue of sanctions.

"Frankly, it seems to me that we need to talk about a new breath in the diplomatic track," he said. "We need greater certainty and greater pressure from the world on Putin."

Today in History: June 22, Joe Louis knocks out Max Schmeling

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, June 22, the 173rd day of 2025. There are 192 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On June 22, 1938, in a rematch that bore the weight of both geopolitical symbolism and African American representation, American Joe Louis knocked out German Max Schmeling in just two minutes and four seconds to retain his heavyweight boxing title in front of 70,000 spectators at New York's Yankee Stadium.

Also on this date:

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte abdicated for a second time as Emperor of the French.

1941, Nazi Germany launched Operation Barbarossa, a massive and ultimately ill-fated invasion of the Soviet Union that would prove pivotal to the Allied victory over the Axis Powers.

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, more popularly known as the "GI Bill of Rights," which provided tuition coverage, unemployment support and low-interest home and business loans to returning veterans.

In 1945, the World War II Battle of Okinawa ended with an Allied victory.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon signed an extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that lowered the minimum voting age to 18.

In 1977, John N. Mitchell became the first former U.S. Attorney General to go to prison as he began serving a sentence for his role in the Watergate cover-up.

In 1981, Mark David Chapman pleaded guilty to killing rock star and former Beatle John Lennon.

In 1986, Argentine soccer player Diego Maradona scored the infamous "Hand of God" goal in the quarterfinals of the FIFA World Cup against England, giving Argentina a 1-0 lead. (Maradona would follow minutes later with a remarkable individual effort that become known as the "Goal of the Century," and Argentina won 2-1.)

In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul*, unanimously ruled that "hate crime" laws that banned cross burning and similar expressions of racial bias violated free-speech rights.

In 2011, after evading arrest for 16 years, mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger was captured in Santa Monica, California.

In 2012, former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky was convicted by a jury in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, on 45 counts of sexually assaulting 10 boys over 15 years. (Sandusky would later be sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Prunella Scales is 93. Actor Klaus Maria Brandauer is 82. Fox News analyst Brit Hume is 82. Musician-producer Peter Asher (Peter and Gordon) is 81. Musician-producer Todd Rundgren

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is 77. Actor Meryl Streep is 76. Actor Lindsay Wagner is 76. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., is 76. Actor Graham Greene is 73. Singer-songwriter Cyndi Lauper is 72. Actor Bruce Campbell is 67. Environmental activist Erin Brockovich is 65. Sen. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., is 65. Basketball Hall of Famer Clyde Drexler is 63. Actor Amy Brenneman is 61. Author Dan Brown is 61. Actor Mary Lynn Rajsak is 54. Football Hall of Famer Kurt Warner is 54. TV personality Carson Daly is 52. Actor Donald Faison is 51. Football Hall of Famer Champ Bailey is 47. Golfer Dustin Johnson is 41.