

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, July 6

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.

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

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.

Amateurs at Faulkton, 4 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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

Stay on your P's.
Prayer, Priorities, Peace,
Positivity, Patience.



Monday, July 7

Senior Menu: Goulash, corn, baked apples, breadstick.

Legion at Webster 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Jr. Teeners hosts Lake Norden, 5 p.m. (DH)

U10 B&W at Clark, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Softball: U12 hosts Milbank, 6 p.m. (DH); U8B at Mellette, 6 p.m. (DH)

T-Ball: Gold practice, 6 p.m.

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

Tuesday, July 8

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes with gravy, normandy blend, oranges, whole wheat bread.

Jr. Legion hosts Sisseton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U10 W&R at Claremont, 6:30 p.m.

U8 W&R at Claremont, 6 p.m.

Softball: U14 hosts Redfield, 5 p.m. (DH)

T-Ball: Gold at Claremont, 5 p.m.; Black hosts Andover, 6 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 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

Lincoln and the Declaration of Independence: Courage, Ideals, Liberty, and Fragility

In remarks at Independence Hall in 1861, President Abraham Lincoln shared the roots of his political philosophy while reflecting on the cornerstone of the republic. "I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence." He added, admiringly, "I have often pondered over the dangers which were incurred by the men who assembled here. It was not the mere matter of the separation of the colonies from the mother land; but something in that Declaration giving liberty, not alone to the people of this country, but hope to the world for all future time." That hope, the American political creed, declared to the world on July 4, 1776, that "All men are created equal."

It was with good reason that Lincoln, as devoted a student of the Declaration of Independence as any American president—with the possible exception of its author, Thomas Jefferson—pointed to the courage of those who signed the Declaration. The Declaration was an act of treason against the Crown, which prompted Benjamin Franklin to say, at the signing, "We must all hang together, or most assuredly, we shall all hang separately." The unity of the signers was reflected in the closing sentence: "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

The pledge of life, fortune, and honor—essentially, all that a person has to offer—to support the Declaration, the premise and promise of which was a new republic and a vision of liberty and governance that would light the way for the rest of the world—what Lincoln, like Jefferson, called the "best hope for mankind"—represented a defining moment in Lincoln's political education, a point of light that informed his worldview and shaped his goals and pursuits until his death. "The principles of Jefferson are the definitions and axioms of free society," Lincoln observed, particularly that all men are created equal. Lincoln's admiration for Jefferson was unabashed. "All honor to Jefferson," a man Lincoln applauded for introducing into a revolutionary document "an abstract truth, applicable to all men and all times, and so to embalm it there, day-to-day, and in all coming days, it shall be a rebuke and a stumbling-block to the very harbingers of re-appearing tyranny and oppression."

Lincoln's exposure of the fragility of the republic, a characteristic with which he was painfully familiar as president engaged in an epochal battle to save the Union, reminded him then, as it reminds us now, that the Declaration of Independence, which emphasizes at its core the sanctity and centrality of the individual and the corresponding right to self-governance, is not universally shared. Jefferson's elegant prose stirs most readers, from its majestic opening—"When, in the course of human events"—to its inspiring, yet sobering close—"with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge our lives"—but some in high office are not persuaded by its appeal to the unalienable right of equality and its sequential expression in the Constitution of "the equal protection of the law," which is critical to America's progress and liberty.

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In 1838, in his prescient address to the Young Men's Lyceum in Springfield, Lincoln addressed the threats to the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. He focused on the danger to America from within America, which he perceived to be the real threat, not dangers from abroad. That internal threat reflected not only the citizenry's retreat from duty to honor and exalt constitutional principles and the rule of law, but also the failure of governmental officials to perform their institutional responsibilities, the duties of their office, including obedience to the rule of law. The result, predictably, would be constitutional failure.

As we approach the year-long celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we hear, but do we heed, Lincoln's voice? We are witness to a long train of executive abuses and usurpations, many of which have been catalogued in this space, as well as the collapse of Congress as a meaningful cog in the system of checks and balances. The Supreme Court, moreover, has embarked on a path of empowering the president beyond the terms of the Constitution.

Train detrails at Storybook Land

The train at Storybook Land in Aberdeen derailed with people on it. This occurred between 2:30 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. on Saturday. There were no injuries reported.

Groton Locke Electric Pitchers To Be Tested By Hitmen Amateurs

Groton Locke Electric's pitching staff will be put to the test on Sunday, 4 p.m., at Faulkton when they take on Hitmen Amateurs. Groton Locke Electric allow 12.33 runs per game, while Hitmen Amateurs score four. Bj Richter leads the way for Groton Locke Electric on the hill with a 0.00 ERA. Tyler Cunningham has a 1.000 OPS to pace Hitmen Amateurs this season.

Player Highlight:

Aaron Severson has played seven innings at left field. Severson has an on-base percentage of 0.500 this season thanks in part to one walk.

About Groton Locke Electric:

Groton Locke Electric has zero wins against three losses this season. Spencer Locke's 1.333 OPS leads Groton Locke Electric. The third baseman has a 0.667 OBP and a 0.667 slugging percentage this season. Ryan Groeblichhoff leads Groton Locke Electric with seven and two-thirds innings pitched. Cade Larson leads Groton Locke Electric with 12 total fielding chances this season. Larson's primary position is catcher.

About Hitmen Amateurs:

Hitmen Amateurs has a 0-3 record this season. Cunningham's 1.000 OPS leads Hitmen Amateurs. The second baseman has a 1.000 OBP and a 0.000 slugging percentage this season. Carson Stephenson leads Hitmen Amateurs with 11 and one-third innings pitched. Ryan Soler leads Hitmen Amateurs with 14 total fielding chances this season. Soler's primary position is shortstop.



South Dakota Department of Transportation · Follow

18h · 🌐



On Saturday, July 5, 2025, a rockslide occurred on U.S. Highway 14A near Savoy, S.D. (in Spearfish Canyon). The road will be closed until crews are able to remove the debris, it is anticipated the road will re-open the morning of Sunday, July 6, 2025.

For the latest on road conditions, please visit <https://sd511.org>, download the SD511 mobile app, or dial 511.

Photos by: Rob Ragatz and SDDOT.

#SDDOT#SD511

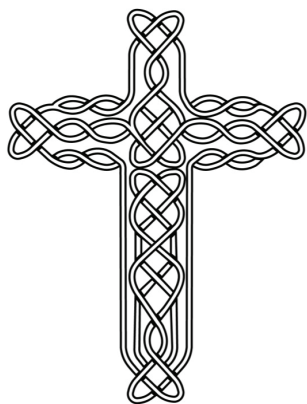
Spearfish Canyon Road Closure



Golden Threads

“Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than jewels.

Proverbs 8:10-11



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Ladies Luncheon

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Bristol

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

By Bethesda Women of the ELCA

Silent Auction opens at 10:30

Guest Speaker: Melinda Eikamp,
“Weaving Threads of our Heritage”

Luncheon at Noon

Tickets: \$15.00

Deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, July 11

Kay Espeland 605-492-3507

Jane Goehring 605-290-1420

Or contact any WELCA member





COMMENTARY

State government has no business helping gun makers increase their profits

by Mary Garrigan

There's only one reason gun manufacturers are donating about \$2 million to a state-owned shooting range that will open this fall 10 miles north of Rapid City. It's good business for them.

And that's exactly why the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks, which will manage the facility, is wrong to welcome gun-industry donations.

I don't know if spending \$20 million to build one of the biggest publicly funded shooting ranges in the nation makes sense as an economic development tool or not. But I'm pretty sure the four gun-industry manufacturers that have pledged \$1.9 million in donations to the project — Smith & Wesson, Glock, Aim-Point and Luth-AR — think it will mean bigger profits.

They will sell more of their product because their names are affiliated with this complex. That's good news for them, but bad news for most everyone else. It's bad because, despite the gun industry's message that the more guns we own, the safer we will be, the truth is just the opposite. America is a country awash in guns, and all the research on gun violence shows that easy, largely uncontrolled access to guns puts all of us in greater danger of being a victim of gun violence.

In April, there were 1.2 million guns sold in the U.S. in just one month, according to the federal agency that tracks gun sales. Imagine the profit in those numbers, and the lengths gun companies will go to protect it. More than half of all the guns in private ownership in the world are in the U.S., yet Americans make up only 4% of the world's population. Ever since 2020, the rate of gun ownership in the U.S. has been on the rise.

It should come as no surprise that we have experienced a corresponding rise in the rates of gun violence, especially in suicide rates, in that same time period, according to a new report on 2023 gun deaths by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Nearly 80% of gun deaths in South Dakota are suicides, and recent laws passed by the South Dakota Legislature — such as those allowing concealed pistols on college campuses and in bars — may add to those numbers.

The majority of guns are purchased for reasons that have nothing to do with hunting or shooting sports, and everything to do with the marketing myths created by gun makers. Gun importers looking to sell huge stockpiles of cheap, surplus firearms left over in Europe after World War II found a wide-open market for them in America, and the rest is gun industry history.

I don't doubt that the Meade County shooting sports complex will bring economic benefits to local tourism and hospitality sectors, as well as gun and sporting goods stores. Certainly the gun safety training it provides for youth is a good thing. Maybe the range will boost the state's economy and justify the \$13.5 million investment in taxpayer funds it received from the governor-controlled Future Fund. Or maybe it won't. All that remains to be seen. The only gun owner at our house prefers to take a walk on public lands and shoot at real pheasants, not paper targets, so we won't utilize the facility. The projected annual cost of running the facility — estimated at \$355,000 — might become a burden to the state's budget that we can ill afford.

I sympathize with Meade County ranchers and residents who oppose the shooting range. No doubt the sound of firearms discharging — from handguns to .50-caliber machine guns — in what is now quiet

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grasslands will degrade the quality of life on the surrounding ranches and small rural acreages. It raises concerns about the safety of their livestock and livelihoods, too. Plenty of state lawmakers seemed to agree with the ranchers, given the difficulty the shooting range had in securing state funding before former Gov. Kristi Noem circumvented the Legislature's will.

Some state legislators say taking donations from the gun industry is bad politics. The critics are right, of course. The optics are bad. Legislators will appear beholden to gun industry interests in the future, given they helped fund a significant portion of a state-run enterprise. But here in South Dakota, the horse is already out of that particular barn.

The gun lobby hardly needs to purchase more influence with the South Dakota Legislature. Virtually any legislation supported by the gun industry, and the numerous organizations created to promote it, is guaranteed passage in this state. The gun culture is so entrenched here that few legislators dare to question it or support common-sense gun violence prevention legislation such as Red Flag and Secure Storage laws, policies designed to keep guns out of the hands of people who are too young, too untrained, or too emotionally or mentally unstable to buy them. Instead, they vote to welcome guns in bars and on college campuses.

As a South Dakota taxpayer, I'm opposed to taking funds from the gun industry simply because I don't want to help them advertise and sell more of their lethal product. The 27 words that comprise the entirety of the Second Amendment speak about the right of citizens to "bear" and to "keep" arms, not any right of corporations to "sell" or "manufacture" or "market" them.

It's clear our government has a responsibility to protect the constitutional rights of people to own firearms. But as a country, we have absolutely no responsibility to help the gun industry increase its profits, and we shouldn't make deals that will do so.

Mary Garrigan is a retired newspaper reporter and current member of the South Dakota chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. She lives in Rapid City, where she served on the Rapid City Public Library's board of directors from 2019 through 2024.

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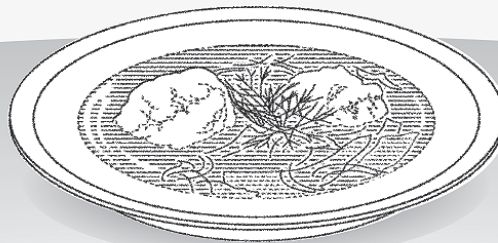
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Better is a dinner of vegetables where love is,
than a fatted calf with hatred.*

PROVERBS 15:17



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REMEMBER WHEN MAGA-TYPES TOOK A PAGE
FROM TESLA PROTESTERS BY BURNING DOWN
THEATRES, ASSAULTING FAMILIES, AND KEYING
THEIR MINIVANS TO PROTEST DISNEY'S POLITICS?



NEITHER
DO I...

"BECAUSE
IT NEVER
HAPPEND."

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email: kirk@kingfeatures.com

BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Luke 6, who, with companions, went through cornfields and picked ears of corn on a Sabbath?
Jesus, Mark, Luke, Samson

3. Which book's first verse is, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God"? *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*

4. Which "Mount" provided a contest scene between Elijah and the prophets of Baal? *Calvary, Sinai, Bethel, Carmel*

5. Which city is often referred to as "Zion"? *Bethlehem, Jericho, Jerusalem, Nazareth*

6. Who was the first born son of Jacob? *Aaron, Joseph, Reuben, Simeon*

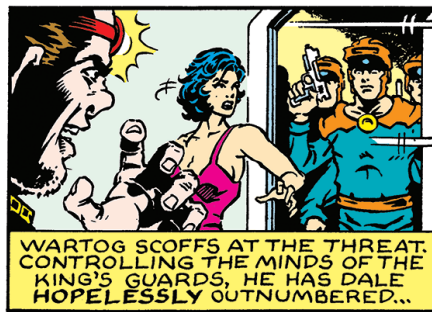
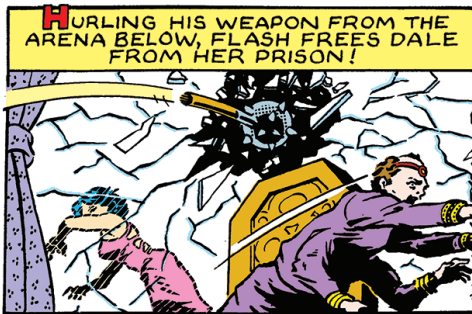
ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Jesus, 3) Mark, 4) Carmel, 5) Jerusalem, 6) Reuben

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscribersite at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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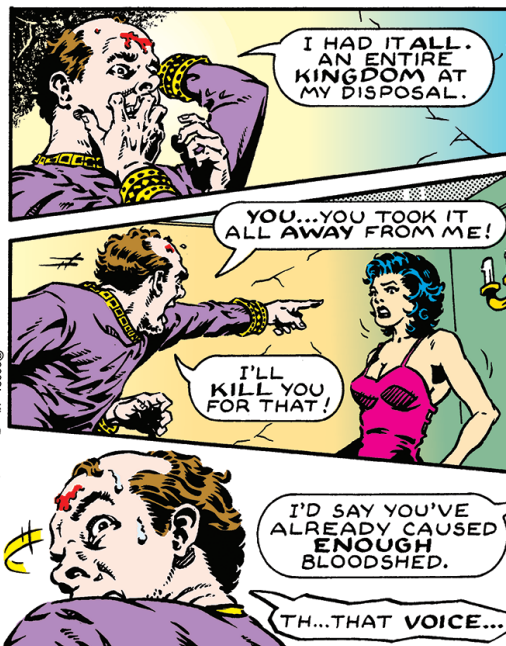
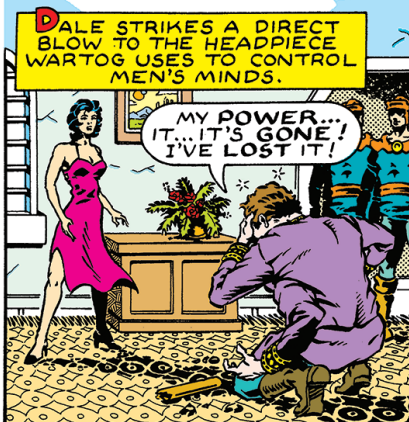
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OUR
STORY
SO
FAR...

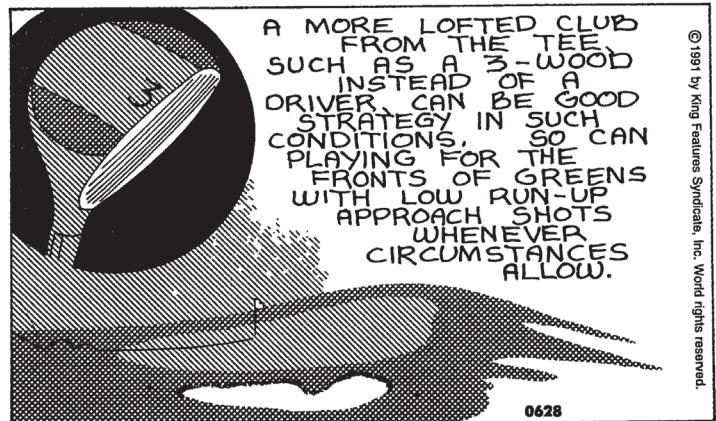
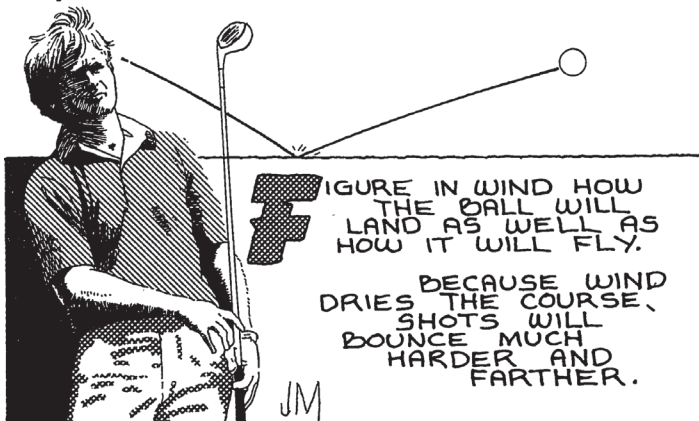


FLASH GORDON

BY JIM KEEFE 6/22



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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Woman's T-Score Continues To Worsen Amid Treatment

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am an 80-year-old Asian woman. Each day, I walk 4 miles and do 30 minutes of stretching, as well as 1 hour of cardio, strength or balance exercises by following videos provided by my health insurance. Also, my brother and sister who are in their 60s and 70s have weak bones and muscles. It seems to run in my family.

In 2000, with a T-score of -1.9, I was diagnosed with osteopenia and commenced three episodes of treatment. For the first treatment, I took Fosamax in 2001, then started Actonel in 2002 for a total of six years. My T-score was -1.7. Three years later, my T-score was back to -1.9, so in 2009, for the second treatment, I restarted Actonel but switched to Boniva in

February 2010 for a total of four years. My T-score was -1.4.

Then, after four more years, my T-score was -2.2. For my third treatment, I restarted Boniva and took it from 2018-2025. My T-score is now -1.4. My primary care doctor has me on a "pill vacation" for one year, and I'm awaiting further treatment until a bone density test at the end of 2025. But I fear that without treatment, my aging bones are only getting worse.

I try to eat right, stay active, and have started doing yoga pose videos that claim to strengthen my bones. Will they? Which shots or other treatments might help me avoid further deterioration of my bones? -- R.M.H.

ANSWER: Osteoporosis is a condition of bones that predisposes someone to getting a fracture. Anyone can get osteoporosis, but white and Asian women are at the highest risk.

Treatment of osteoporosis includes lifestyle adjustments such as quitting smoking, reducing alcohol intake (if appropriate), and regular exercise. Both muscle-building and weight-bearing exercise are important. Yoga and stretching probably do have some additional benefit on top of your stamina-building ("cardio") and strength exercises. Even though the evidence isn't very strong, most people with osteoporosis are treated with calcium and vitamin D.

I use the FRAX score to decide whether medication therapy is indicated for a patient. In men and women who are at a high risk of fracture, medicines in the bisphosphonate class -- such as alendronate (Fosamax), risedronate (Actonel) and ibandronate (Boniva) -- are the most commonly used first-line treatments.

Bisphosphonates last for a long time in the body's tissues. We don't want to use them for too long since they suppress the normal amount of bone breakdown that is key to maintaining healthy bone. Treatment for too long can lead to atypical femur fractures. A "drug holiday" is a common strategy, and given how long you have taken various bisphosphonates, I wouldn't worry too much about the year off.

You have had less of a response than most of my patients have had to bisphosphonates, and many experts would change the class of drugs if you remain at a high risk via your FRAX score. Should you need further treatment, a different type of medicine like teriparatide (Forteo) or romosozumab (Evenity) might be considered. At this point, you should be seeing an expert such as an endocrinologist who specializes in the treatment of osteoporosis.

Finally, although celiac disease has been thought to be less common in Asians, it often leads to poor absorption and osteoporosis, so it's worth considering a test. Symptoms of celiac disease can be very subtle.

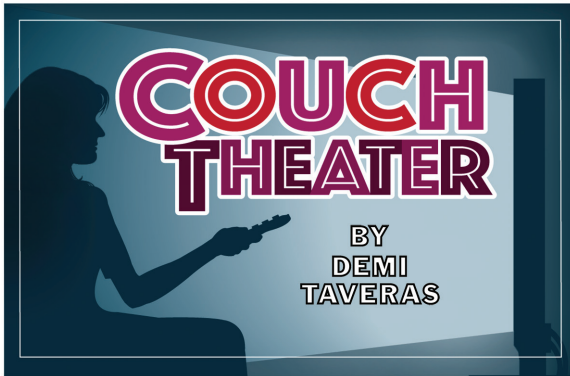
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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Ana de Armas stars in "Ballerina."

(Courtesy of

MovieStillsDB)

"Ballerina" (R) -- From the world of "John Wick" comes this action/thriller led by Ana de Armas ("Ghosted"). Although this is the fifth installment in the franchise, the film takes place between "John Wick: Chapter 3" (2019) and "John Wick: Chapter 4" (2023). De Armas plays Eve Macarro, the daughter of two assassins from two respective groups -- the Cult and the Ruska Roma. After having watched her father die at the hands of the Cult, Eve is fueled by insatiable revenge to become an assassin/bodyguard at the Ruska Roma. Twelve years of training later, she's a stone-cold killer who won't stop at anything until she exacts her revenge. Of course, Keanu Reeves reprises his role as John Wick, while Lance Reddick reprises his role as Charon -- his final film role following his death in 2023. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Tyler Perry's Madea's Destination Wedding" (PG-13) -- The 13th film in the "Madea cinematic universe" (watch out, Marvel, this is the real MCU!) is set to premiere on July 11, with a story meant for the summertime! This time around, we join Madea (Tyler Perry) and her family as they celebrate her grandniece's wedding in the Bahamas. But even a sunny paradise such as the Bahamas can't keep the drama from getting stirred, especially as doubts begin to arise regarding the marriage's legitimacy. Get ready for those quick quips, hilarious mispronunciations, and the outright chaos that makes Madea the woman we've come to know and love! (Netflix)

"Marked Men" (R) -- "Outer Banks"' Chase Stokes has all the makings of a Hollywood movie star on paper, but the projects he's been cast in, such as this new romantic drama from director Nick Cassavetes ("The Notebook"), seem to fall short of reaching box-office or critical success. Stokes portrays Rule, a misunderstood and mysterious tattoo artist who despises the idea of being tied down to one woman. His family friend, Shaw (Sydney Taylor), is his opposite as a wealthy pre-med student, but she can no longer contain her crush on him. So, she decides to make her move, accepting the fact that nothing might come of it ... or that she'll finally get to have the man of her dreams. The film premieres July 8 and co-stars Alexander Ludwig ("Bad Boys: Ride or Die") and Ella Balinska ("Resident Evil"). (Hulu)

"The Wild Ones" (TV-PG) -- In this six-part docuseries releasing July 11, a team of three -- including cameraman Vianet, expedition leader Aldo, and camera trap expert Declan -- attempt to save six endangered species from becoming extinct. Their job is to find these creatures in the wild and gather information on how to help conserve their species. The trio first heads to Malaysian rainforests to find tigers, then to the Mongolian desert to find Gobi bears. Next, they travel to jungles in Gabon for gorillas and Armenian mountains for Caucasian leopards. Finally, they end their series in the North Atlantic, where they encounter some beautiful big whales! (Apple TV+)

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1. Who performed the duet "The Last Time I Felt Like This" as the theme song for "Same Time, Next Year"?
2. Which artist released "Sea of Love"?
3. Which former Beatle released "It Don't Come Easy"?
4. Who wrote and released "Sundown"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "They asked me how I knew my true love was true, I of course replied something here inside cannot be denied."

Answers

1. Johnny Mathis and Jane Olivor. The song received a nomination for Best Original Song. The 1978 film starred

Alan Alda and Ellen Burstyn.

2. Phil Phillips, in 1959. Even though the song shot to the top of the charts, Phillips never recorded another song.

3. Ringo Starr, in 1971. The song was supposed to be titled "You Gotta Pay Your Dues" and was written over several years before and after the breakup of the Beatles.

4. Gordon Lightfoot, in 1974.

5. "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," by the Platters, in 1958. The song has been widely covered over the years since first being written in 1933 for the musical comedy "Roberta," but it was the Platters' version that topped the charts and put the song in the Grammy Hall of Fame.

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GRIN and BEAR IT *Wagner*

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"And we were worried they'd feel their privacy was being violated."

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



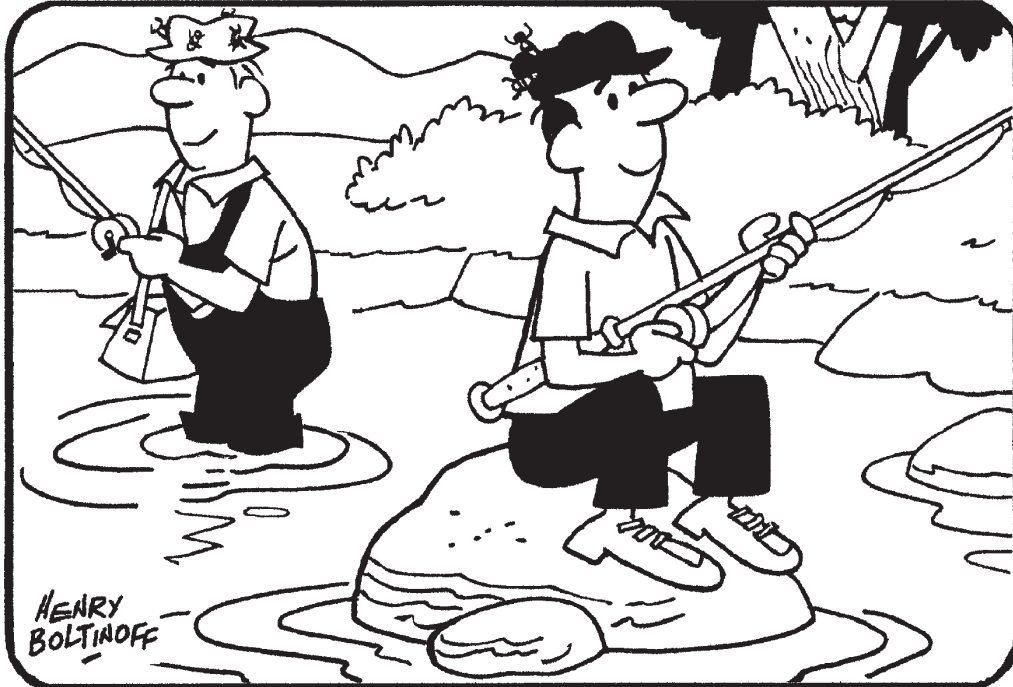
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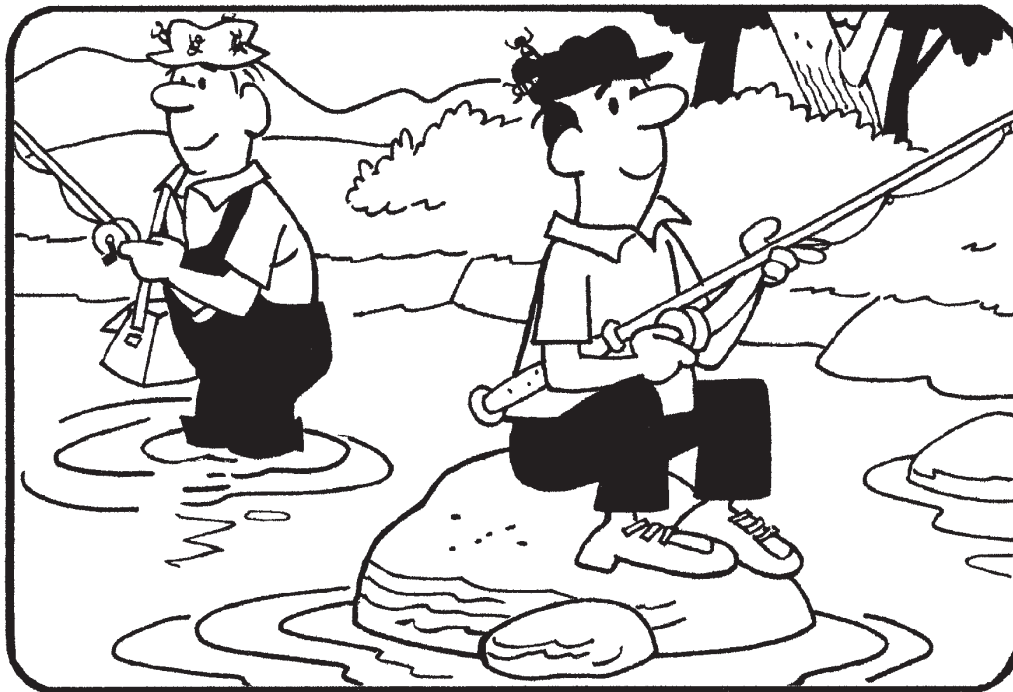
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Tree is moved. 3. Rock is moved. 4. Mountain is different. 5. Ear is larger. 6. Fingers are different.

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* Honey has amazing properties, and one of them is its anti-septic powers. You can use it on pimples, even. Just a tiny dab will help keep bacteria responsible for breakouts from taking over.

* Here's a workout tip: Rotate among a few pairs of running shoes to get the best life out of them. Rotating gives them a chance to dry out between wearings, and runners who practice this have a 39% lower chance of injury, according to a Luxembourg research firm.

* Got poison ivy? The maddening itch might find relief from coffee grounds or a cooled cuppa. It contains anti-inflammatories.

* "Lemon juice can bring out the flavor of mushrooms. I keep a little spray bottle that I found in the travel section of the drugstore to keep lemon juice accessible in the kitchen. I find it's good for all kinds of things, like avocados and apples. I spray the cut side to keep them from browning. It's also great for salad greens." -- T.T. in New Jersey

* "The liners from cereal boxes work really well to store pies in the freezer. They can be stapled shut." -- Y.L. in Indiana

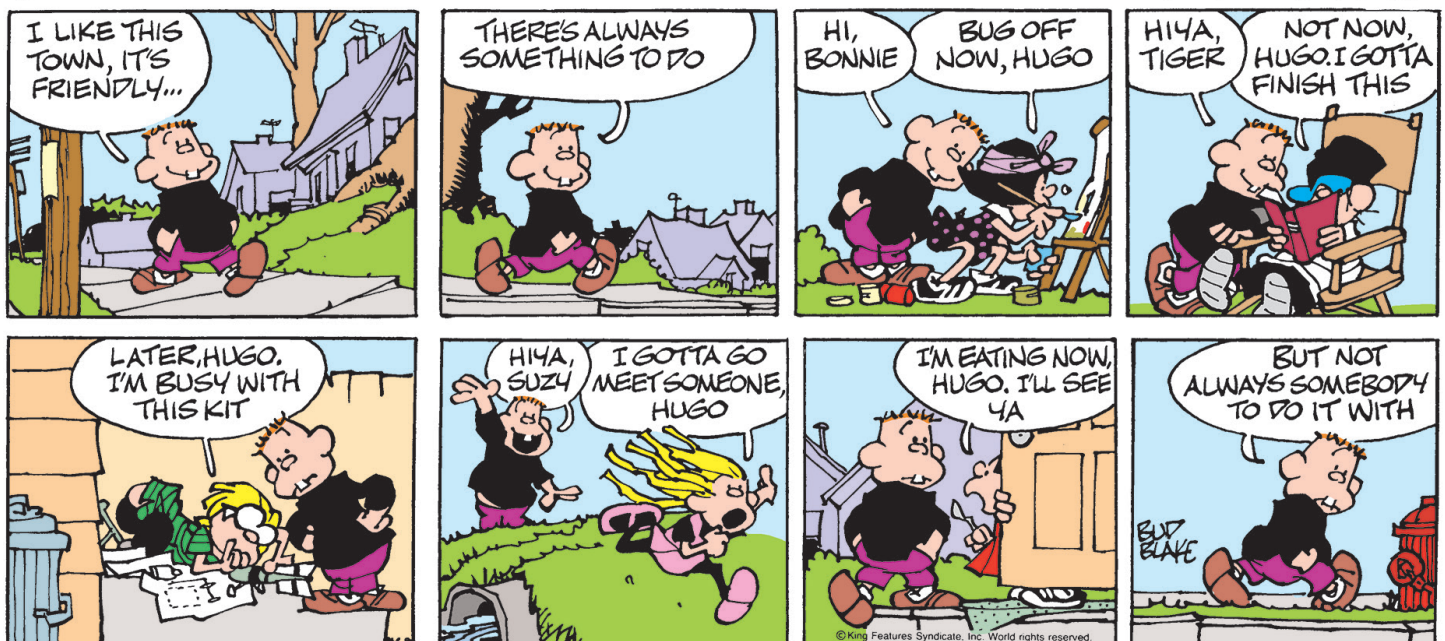
* "Polish wall tiles in the bathroom using car wax. They will repel water really well. Just be sure that you cover the floor before you apply any wax. You do not want to polish your tub, as that is a safety hazard for sure!" -- M.W. in Missouri

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 Bump into
5 Small batteries
8 Gush
12 Jai —
13 Wall St. deal
14 Abhor
15 Fish story
16 X, at times
17 "— the picture!"
18 Chevy model
20 Rhine feeder
22 Kindergarten follower
26 Defy authority
29 Make lace
30 PBS funder
31 Grand Ole —
32 Doubtfire or Miniver
33 Dele undoer
34 Corp. boss
35 "Give — break!"
36 Main ideas
37 Renewed energy
40 "Trust Exercise" author Susan
41 Verdi works
45 Tactic
47 Coffee vessel
49 Crimson Tide, briefly
50 Anger
51 French pronoun
52 Mellowed

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54 Briny expanse
55 Scarce
8 Bake eggs
9 Christmas shows
10 Arles summer
11 Drenched
19 Like Abner
21 Literary rep
23 Milkshake insert
24 Bug spray ingredient
25 Diner grub
26 Mythical birds
27 Duel tool
28 Veggie with florets
32 T-shirt sizes
33 Courtroom huddle
35 6 on a phone
36 Econ. measure
38 "But of course!"
39 Ancient Greek region
42 Sitarist's music
43 From the U.S.
44 "Maureen" singer
45 Expert
46 Ad- — (improvise)
48 Shad product

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2 Biblical kingdom
3 Lawman Wyatt
4 "30 Rock" creator
5 Wedding setting
6 Prez on a penny
7 Piano compositions

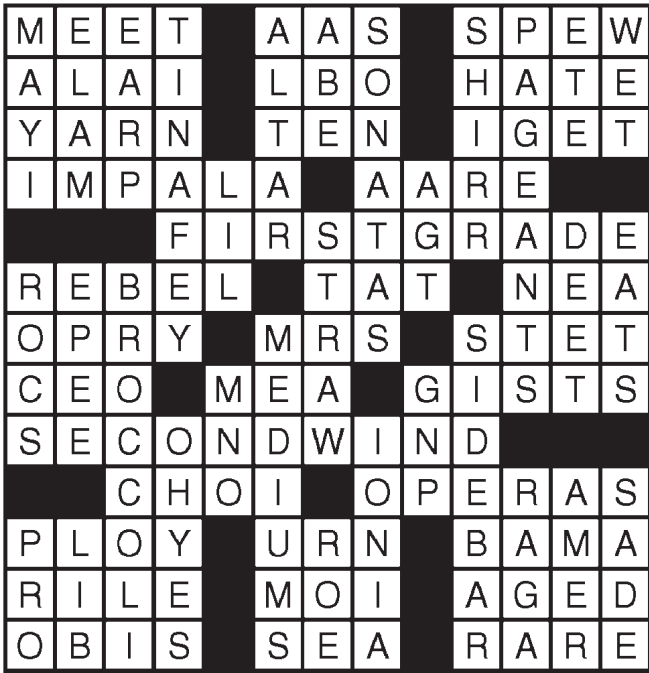
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King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.



Olive



Out on a Limb

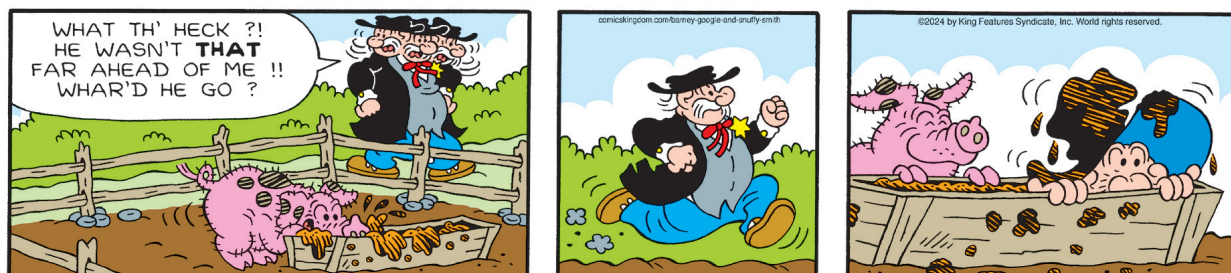
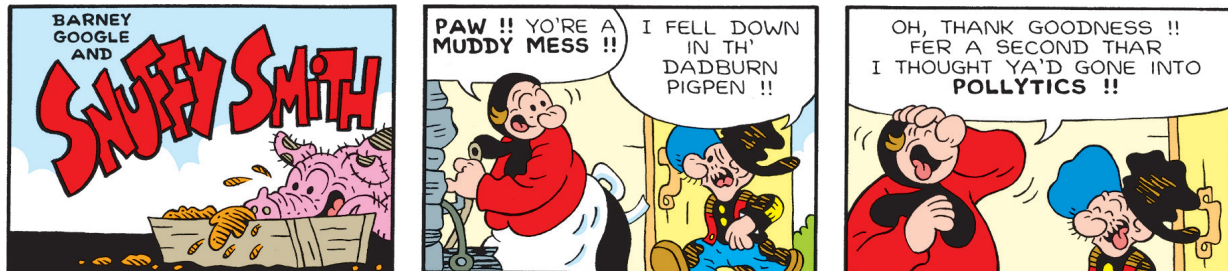
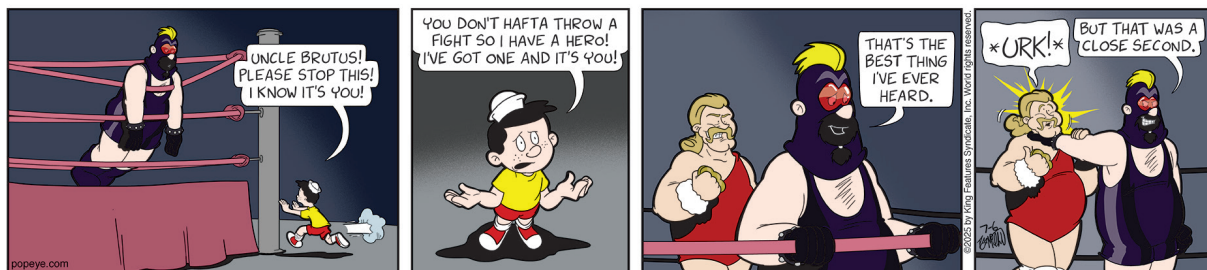
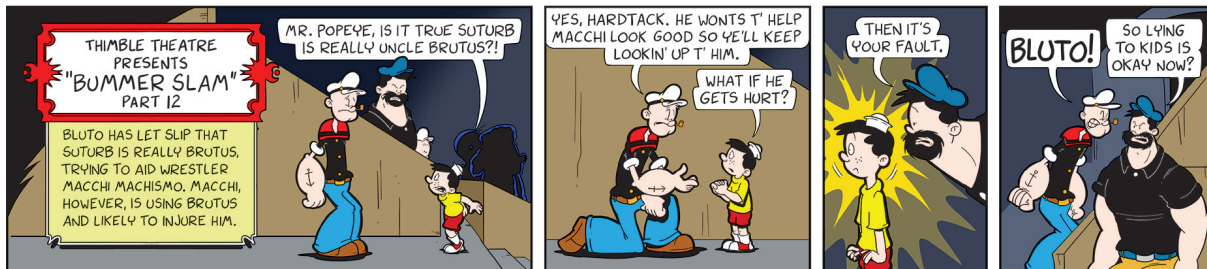
by Gary Kopervas



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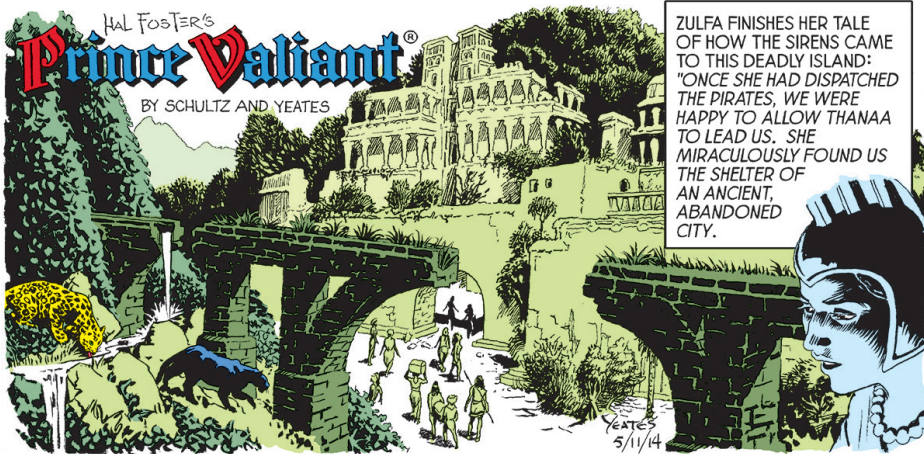


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Hal Foster's Prince Valiant®

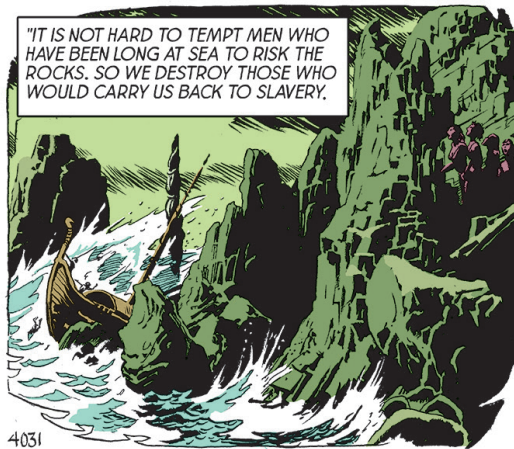
BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES



"THANAA IS A LEARNED WOMAN- SHE TAUGHT US TO LIVE OFF THIS HARSH LAND. AND HER KNOWLEDGE OF SEAFARERS' MYTHS AND SUPERSTITIONS GAVE HER A PLAN FOR PROTECTING OURSELVES. WE WOULD BECOME CREATURES OF LEGEND: SHE, THE DEMIGOD CALYPSO- JOGTHURA, THE GIANT POLYPHEMUS...



"... AND TOGETHER, WE ALL BECAME SIRENS - USING OUR NATIVE SKILLS WITH SONG, STRANGELY AMPLIFIED BY THESE SEA CLIFFS, TO LURE SAILORS WHO COME TOO CLOSE TO OUR SHORES.



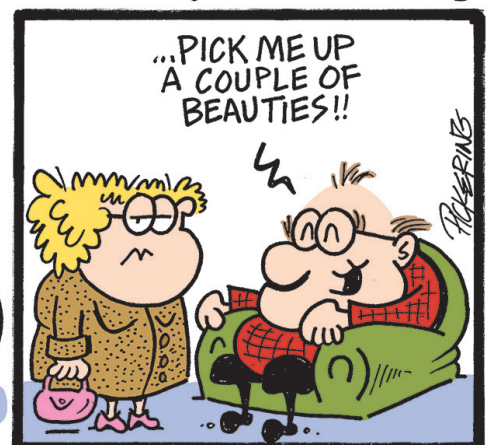
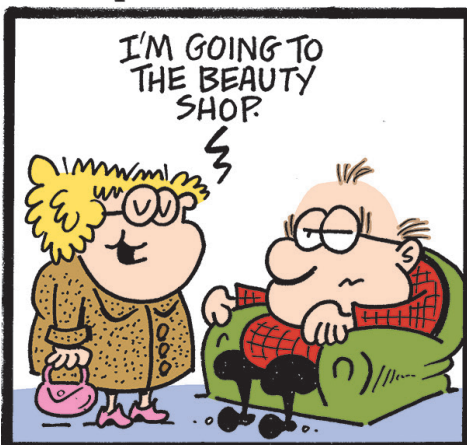
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NEXT: The lie detector

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Planning for aging in place

Are you in your last home and plan to age in place where you are? Or is there at least one more abode in your future?

A recent study concluded that 84% of seniors plan to stay in their home for the rest of their lives. Planning (and hoping) doesn't make it definite, of course. Of those who plan to stay, only a quarter have moved to a place that's actually age-friendly, and a third of respondents have made age-related modifications to their home. Over a third say they'll need to make modifications and that cost would be a barrier to making it happen.

And what is it people are doing to turn their homes into places where they can stay as they age? First-floor bedrooms are high on the list, allowing seniors to avoid stairs. Ramps at the outside door are another way to avoid stairs. Grab bars in showers, as well as walk-in showers, are also high on the list, as well as improved lighting, non-slip flooring and doorways wide enough for wheelchairs.

Those who don't have those things in their homes want them, of course.

The physical home and any needed modifications are not the only considerations about whether seniors can age in place where they are. The community itself is important, with opportunities for new connections and maintaining the ones they already have, resources for support services they might need in the future, transportation to stores and doctors and easy access to family and friends.

If you want to start planning for your own aging in place, there are many resources for assistance, such as AARP's checklist (www.aarp.org/home-living/aging-in-place-checklist). The key is to begin early in making your home safe and comfortable for the future, especially if finances are going to be a consideration for large remodeling projects.

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1. Name the running back from South Carolina who rushed for 5,785 yards in his NFL career with the Philadelphia Eagles (1997-2003) and Pittsburgh Steelers (2004-2006).

2. In January 1975, what member of the Boston Bruins was prosecuted for aggravated assault after striking the Minnesota North Stars' Henry Boucha in the head with a hockey stick?

3. Name the brothers who were heirs to the Revlon cosmetics company and were both killed in separate auto-racing crashes in 1967 and 1974.

4. What jockey rode Real Quiet (1998), Fusaichi Pegasus (2000) and Big Brown (2008) to Kentucky Derby wins?

5. What three players were dubbed the “Triple-Edged Sword” of the U.S. Women’s National Soccer team that won the 1991 FIFA Women’s World Cup?

6. According to World Athletics rules, track and field athletes cannot achieve records in certain events if the tailwind ("wind assistance") exceeds what speed?

7. What racecar driver from Colombia started the 1992 Indianapolis 500 from the pole position, then spun out and crashed on the parade lap before the race even began?



by Ryan A. Berenz

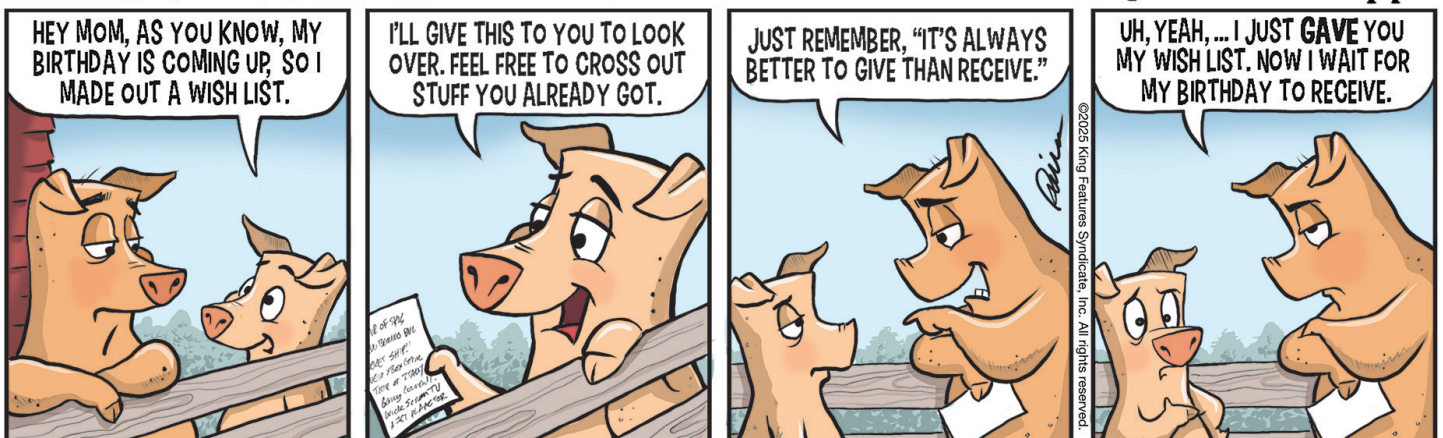
Answers

1. Duce Staley.
2. Dave Forbes.
3. Doug and Peter Revson.
4. Kent Desormeaux.
5. Michelle Akers, Carin Jennings and April Heinrichs.
6. 2 meters per second.
7. Roberto Guerrero.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





On road trips, pet safety, comfort are premiums

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My girlfriend and I are traveling across the country to a relative's wedding in about six weeks. We decided to make it a road trip so that we can bring along our two small dogs, "Jeannie" and "Peppy." Jeannie loves traveling by car, but Peppy gets anxious even on short trips. What's your advice for keeping him calm? Will hotels allow the dogs in? -- Carol and Ginny in Philadelphia

DEAR CAROL & GINNY: A road trip with a dog can be one of the most rewarding experiences you'll ever have. But planning ahead of time for your dog's comfort and safety is really important.

Collaborate with the veterinarian as you prepare -- they can recommend specific training, calm-down techniques and prescribe antianxiety medication as well.

Desensitization and counterconditioning may help. It takes consistent daily training, and could take longer than you have before the upcoming trip. Start outside the car with Peppy on a leash. The moment he shows stressed behaviors (yawning, lip licking, barking, pulling away) pause or back away until he relaxes again. Then, using lots of praise, move toward the car. Ideally, you'll get closer each session until you finally climb into the back seat with Peppy and sit together for a short period. Here's a link with more details on this training method: www.preventivevet.com/dogs/preventing-travel-anxiety-and-carsickness-in-dogs

Meantime, plan your driving route. The major booking apps now have a "pet-friendly" filter setting so you can locate accommodating hotels and reserve rooms. You'll also want to mark rest stops along the highways and set a timer (every two hours or so) to stop and stretch.

Lastly, make sure to include the dogs' medications, food, toys, leashes and medical records in your packing list, and have them wear their collars with vaccination tag and ID tag in case you're separated.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

mental illness.

* The tradition of playing loud music at an Irish wake originated with the belief that it would ward off evil spirits. Wakes also provided the opportunity to watch over the deceased to see if they would awaken.

* The Firefox logo isn't a fox, but a red panda.

* If your hat falls off during a tennis match, your opponent has the option to declare it a "hindrance" and redo the stroke.

* The temperature of a shooting star is around 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

* In 2019, a British woman married her dog. Her motive? After four failed engagements, 220 dates and a general range of unsatisfying experiences in the search for Mr. Right, she had given up on men but felt she and her dog had saved each other.

* "Crab mentality" refers to the "If I can't have it, neither can you" line of thinking, due to the fact that when a crab in a bucket attempts to escape, its fellow crabs pull it down.

* Trypophobia is the fear of closely packed holes.

* A flute is technically any open tube that one blows into to produce sound -- even, for example, an empty Coke bottle!

Thought for the Day: "I don't believe you have to be better than everybody else. I believe you have to be better than you ever thought you could be." -- Ken Venturi

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* The first staplers were invented in the 18th century for King Louis XV of France, though the word "stapler" wasn't commonly used until 1901. These early devices were cumbersome and often required force to operate, with some even needing a hammer or mallet.

* Animals with smaller bodies and faster metabolism see in slow motion.

* Occupational therapy techniques date to 100 B.C., when a Greek physician named Asclepiades used them to treat

The Garden Bug



- Remove dead flowers from your plants to encourage more blooming. Add both dead and green trimmings to your compost pile.

- Fertilize container gardens regularly with all-purpose plant food as needed. Keep them adequately watered, as they may dry out more quickly than your in-ground plantings.

- Pull weeds before they mature.
- As you add organic matter to your compost pile, "turn" it to aerate it.
- Support tall-growing plants and climbing vines. -- Brenda Weaver

Sources: horticultureguy.com, thegardenhelper.com, canadiangardening.com



by Freddy Groves

Disability benefits scammers

You know it's a scam when they want you to pay for their help in filing Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits claims. Then when you receive the benefits, they make you give them a percentage of the money.

Ten thieves were recently nailed for defrauding the VA. The grand jury came back with 49 counts of conspiracy and fraud, including wire and mail fraud. Unfortunately, the ringleader was a VA employee in charge of claims clerks. He was able to give certain claims to certain clerks who could follow his instructions to assign false medical conditions to specific veterans to help get fraudulent disability benefits. Those ratings clerks were able to grant or deny disability claims -- per the orders of their boss.

One of the thieves, while not working for the VA, was in a position to be able to find veterans who were not 100% disability rated.

Then, unfortunately, some of the thieves involved were veterans who were pulled into the scam. There was a veteran who was a police officer. There was a veteran who was an airline pilot. There was a veteran who was with the Department of Homeland Security, and several more. They even dragged a wife, mother and sister into the fraud.

In exchange for cash upfront, the veterans were all able to receive high disability ratings after being told what to put on their paperwork and what to say during medical exams.

Of course they're all going to pay. Some of them, if convicted, could get up to five years in prison, and some could receive up to 20 years if convicted of the crimes that included mail and wire fraud.

Remember: You never have to pay for help in filing for benefits. You never have to give someone a percentage of what you get. Free help is available from various Veterans Service Organizations such as the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and even the VA itself. Don't let yourself be used in a scam against the VA.

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Wishing Well®

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

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1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a female goat called?
2. TELEVISION: What is the name of the town in "Gilmore Girls"?
3. GEOGRAPHY: How many states does the Appalachian Trail cross?
4. MOVIES: Which actress voices the character Jessie in "Toy Story 2"?
5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What is believed to have caused President Zachary Taylor's death?
6. ANATOMY: What is the most abundant protein in the human body?
7. GEOMETRY: How many sides does a hexagon have?
8. LITERATURE: Serial killer Hannibal Lecter first appears in which novel?
9. ASTRONOMY: What are planets outside our solar system called?
10. MUSIC: Who was the first woman inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame?

Answers

1. A doe or nanny.
2. Stars Hollow.
3. 14.
4. Joan Cusack.
5. Acute gastroenteritis.
6. Collagen.
7. Six.
8. "Red Dragon" by Thomas Harris.
9. Exoplanets.
10. Aretha Franklin.

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Rooted in Freedom

Independence Day marks a pivotal moment in American History. On a summer day 249 years ago, inside Independence Hall, our Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence and declared liberty from tyranny. Their Declaration confirms that liberty is not a privilege, but a right given by our Creator. This day is a powerful reminder of the resilience of the American spirit – and of American freedom.

The words of the Declaration of Independence remain true to this day: “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Here in South Dakota, those freedoms are especially evident. South Dakota is the freest state in a nation founded on the principle of freedom – our Founding Fathers would be proud.

In one short year, our country will celebrate its 250th birthday. South Dakota will lead this celebration with fireworks at Mount Rushmore. I remember when South Dakota used to hold Independence Day fireworks at Mount Rushmore every year. There is a very tall hill near my ranch, and I used to drive up to the top of that hill, get my binoculars, and watch the fireworks go off at Mount Rushmore!

We are working closely with Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum to bring back that tradition and throw the biggest party ever for America’s 250th birthday! I have invited President Trump to commemorate with us. It will be a celebration of not only our nation’s rich history, but who we are becoming.

As we take part in festivities this Independence Day, we remember what makes the United States and South Dakota strong, safe, and free. America was built on a vision, and South Dakota is the epitome of just that.

We’re thriving – and we’re leading. Our economy is strong, our communities are safe, and our future is definitely Open for Opportunity. Our state proves day in and day out that the principles of freedom and liberty are alive and well. And we never take that for granted. We will continue to work hard to maintain and celebrate it. Because we know that freedom isn’t just a word, but a way of life.

As our communities celebrate America’s birthday, the spirit of freedom will be on full display across South Dakota. While we enjoy these celebrations, I hope we all take a moment to appreciate the freedom and opportunity that God has given us – and the sacrifices made by so many to keep it.

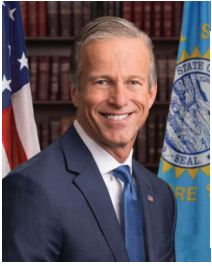
The birth of America was brought about by brave men and women who had the courage to fight for their freedom. They stood up for what they believed in. They ensured that their kids and grandkids could live in a country full of freedom and opportunity. Thanks to their courage and bravery, we are able to live our lives in the same way. And as Governor, I work hard every day to make sure the citizens of South Dakota can experience freedom and opportunity for generations to come.

In South Dakota, we don’t shy away from hard work. We don’t wait for others to lead. We live by our faith and stand on the principles that have made our country great for the past two hundred and forty-nine years. Families helping families, and neighbors helping neighbors, is something South Dakota excels at. I ask everyone to keep extending that helping hand when our communities face hardship. It’s what holds our great state together during tough times.

Sandy and I hope you celebrate this Fourth of July with family, fireworks, apple pie, and lots of red, white, and blue! Happy Independence Day, and may God bless the United States of America.

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JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Promises Made, Promises Kept

Last year, President Trump and Republicans promised the American people that we would turn the page on the failures of the last four years. We promised to make America more prosperous and to make it stronger and more secure. We got right to work on executing our agenda this year, and I'm proud to report that we've delivered with a bill that fulfills these promises.

The centerpiece of this bill is permanent tax relief for the American people. Without action by Congress, the 2017 Republican tax cuts would expire at the end of this year, raising South Dakotans' tax bills by an average \$2,500. But Republicans' bill prevents that tax hike – next year and forever – with permanent tax relief. That means lower tax rates for every income level, a \$2,200 child tax credit, and an increased standard deduction. But this bill goes further. It also suspends tax on tips and overtime pay, meaning bigger paychecks for hardworking Americans, and it offers seniors a higher standard deduction to reduce their tax bills even further.

The other legacy of Republicans' tax reform is its impact on our economy. Before the pandemic, our economy was firing on all cylinders. The bill we've just passed will set us up to get our economy moving again. It keeps taxes low for small and medium-sized businesses – again permanently, so farms, ranches, and small businesses have certainty for the future. It maintains investment incentives that free up cash for businesses to invest in their operations and their employees. Not to mention making the job-creating 199A small business deduction permanent, alongside other pro-growth tax policies.

Strengthening America's farms and ranches is another key component of this bill. It's been a challenging few years in the agriculture sector, and this bill addresses those challenges head-on. It increases reference prices for all covered commodities. It enhances crop insurance coverage and affordability. And it supports risk management, disaster assistance, and conservation programs that producers depend on. And a permanently higher threshold for the death tax that's linked to inflation will save family farms and ranches from this unfair tax and the cost of planning for it.

In addition to a stronger economy, this bill strengthens American security from every angle. It makes a generational investment in our border security, including finishing the wall, bolstering border enforcement, and supporting the Trump administration's deportation efforts. It makes a significant investment in our military capabilities, ensuring our men and women in uniform have everything they need to deter and defeat today's threats and tomorrow's. And it fulfills Republicans' promise to unleash American energy dominance, which will help secure a reliable and affordable energy supply for the future.

This legislation also delivers on our promise to rein in the size of government. It delivers savings to the American people by tackling waste, fraud, and abuse in federal programs. It includes the largest spending cut in American history alongside commonsense reforms that haven't been attempted in Washington, D.C., in decades. And it will help reduce the deficit with greater tax revenue generated by a growing economy – not by higher taxes.

The American people gave Republicans a mandate last year. Since taking control in Washington in January, we have worked tirelessly to execute on an agenda that is about a stronger, safer, and more prosperous America. I'm proud to say that we have delivered on those promises, and I can't wait to see these policies help usher in a new era for our great country.

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Celebrating American Strength

BIG Update

Our founding fathers made history by declaring independence from Britain. On Friday—Independence Day—we proudly celebrate 249 years since the famous declaration that established a nation of freedom and strength.

In the heart of America, Mount Rushmore represents these core principles. I'm glad fireworks will return next year, lighting up the sky above the monument in celebration of 250 years of our great country.

As you spend time with family and friends this weekend, I wish you a safe and enjoyable 4th of July.

BIG Idea

I introduced the Protection of Women in Sports at Military Academies Act to prohibit biological men from competing in women's sports at our nation's military service academies. Riley Gaines agrees with me—the United States military service academies should set the example for fairness and integrity. Service academies should remain focused on military readiness—not radical gender policies.

BIG News

House and Senate Republicans worked hard to deliver real wins for the American people by getting the One Big Beautiful Bill to President Trump's desk. Our bill prevents the largest tax increase for American families in U.S. history, secures our southern border, and is a meaningful step in getting government spending under control.

House Republicans strengthened welfare programs like SNAP and Medicaid to ensure the most needy can receive these benefits for generations to come. One of the ways to preserve the integrity of the programs is by enforcing work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents.

There are many parts of the One Big Beautiful Bill that haven't been making headlines. For example, it makes historic investments in our air traffic control system, boosts agricultural trade, supports American farmers, and unleashes domestic production of energy and critical minerals.

The One Big Beautiful Bill isn't perfect, but it helps everyday Americans by putting in place no tax on tips, no tax on overtime, and tax cuts for seniors, all while ensuring individuals and businesses don't see a near 25% tax hike at the end of the year.

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JUNE 23 – JULY 1, 2025



Welcome back to another Weekly Round[s] Up. The Senate worked through the weekend and Monday to pass our reconciliation bill which delivers on President Trump's agenda. This bill contains many important provisions such as securing the border, lowering taxes and providing

for our national security that will benefit American families. The most important piece for hard-working South Dakota families is the permanent extension of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Without this extension, the average South Dakota household would have seen their taxes raise by around \$2,400. After 24+ hours of nonstop voting on amendments, I'm pleased that this bill is across the finish line in the Senate to create a stronger America. It now goes back to the U.S. House where they will have the final vote before it becomes law. Read more about my week in my Weekly Round[s] Up:

Invitation to President Trump: This past week, I joined Rod Woodruff of the Sturgis Buffalo Chip to extend a formal invitation to President Trump to attend the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally this August. South Dakota is Trump Country and the Buffalo Chip is the gathering place for thousands of patriots each year during the Rally. I know he'd get a warm welcome from this crowd and enjoy all of the America First pride on display at the Sturgis Rally. Read more about this and the full letter here.

South Dakota groups I met with: South Dakota representatives from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; South Dakota members of Clean Fuels Alliance America; South Dakota members of the American Academy of Family Physicians; Sheila Gestring, President of the University of South Dakota; Shane and Kelli Penfield of Lemmon and Gary Chytka of Belle Fourche who were visiting DC this past week; South Dakota AARP; students from McCook Central FFA; and Sonja Seivert of Sioux Falls, National Youth Delegate at the Washington Youth Summit on Environment.

South Dakota towns represented: Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Lemmon, Rapid City, Salem, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Vermillion and Watertown.

Other meetings: Sean Plankey, nominee for the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency; members of the Embassy of Rwanda in the United States; Prineha Narang, a quantum physicist who does work with the Department of Energy; Admiral Stephen "Web" Koehler, Commander of the United States Pacific Fleet; Robin Vince, CEO of BNY; Kirsten Davies, nominee to be Chief Information Officer at the Department of Defense; Cho Hyun-dong, South Korea's Ambassador to the United States; John Byrnes, Director of Strategy at Concerned Veterans for America; and Phill Swagel, Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

I attended the signing ceremony for the peace agreement between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These countries have been at war for decades and I want to congratulate President Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and leadership from both nations on getting this deal done to establish lasting peace in the area. I spoke to a group of interns from across Capitol Hill about my work in the Senate. I also attended our weekly Senate Bible Study, where our verse of the week was 1 John 3:17, and our Senate Prayer Breakfast, where Senator Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire was our speaker.

Hearings: I attended six hearings this past week. In one hearing of the Appropriations committee, we discussed the President's rescissions package with Director of the Office of Management and Budget Russ

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Vought. I asked Mr. Vought about protections for tribal radio funding, watch the clip [here](#).

In addition, we had Chairman of the Federal Reserve Jerome Powell in front of the Senate Banking Committee this past week, which you can watch [here](#). We had two hearings in the Senate Armed Services Committee to question nominees for the Department of Defense, which you can watch [here](#) and [here](#). I also attended two hearings in the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Classified briefings: I attended one classified briefing on the United States' strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities.

PASS Act provision: This past week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1713, the Agricultural Risk Review Act of 2025. This legislation included provisions of legislation I introduced titled the Promoting Agriculture Safeguards and Security (PASS) Act. The House legislation would require the Secretary of Agriculture to review all agriculture transactions reviewed by the Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States (CFIUS). It would also give the U.S. Department of Agriculture the ability to refer cases to CFIUS for review if there is reason to believe an agriculture land transaction may raise a national security concern. This will make it easier to flag any unusual activity by our foreign adversaries that could threaten the United States. Read more [here](#).

Intern with us: Our office is currently accepting applications from college students to serve as interns during the fall 2025 semester. Positions are available in the Washington, D.C. office and the state offices in Pierre, Rapid City and Sioux Falls. Fall internships typically run from September to December, but dates can be tailored to specific schedules. Learn more about our internship program [here](#).

Votes taken: 50 – Most were on procedural votes and amendments for the reconciliation package, with a few votes being for confirmations of administrators in the Defense, Commerce and Treasury Departments.

My staff in South Dakota visited: Fort Pierre, Hartford, Madison and Pierre.

Steps taken: 54,182 steps or 24.52 miles.

Passed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act: The reconciliation package that I voted for includes several important provisions for South Dakotans, see [here](#) for a comprehensive list of South Dakota priorities that passed. Toplines include:

\$3.3 billion for Border Security to fund Department of Defense personnel and logistics support to Department of Homeland Security to help carry border, immigration, and counterdrug enforcement.

\$25 billion for Golden Dome for America, a layered missile defense shield, to develop the space-based assets needed to support the system.

Permanent continuation of the current tax rate for the average South Dakota household, avoiding a \$2,400 increase per year.

Permanent increased and enhanced child tax of \$2,200 per child beginning in 2025.

Lower taxes for seniors by providing a \$6,000 bonus income exemption.

No tax on tips for millions of tipped workers by creating a deduction of up to \$25,000 for qualified tips.

No tax on overtime for overtime premium payments of up to \$12,500 for hourly workers.

Establishes savings accounts for newborns and children up to age 18, building financial security for the next generation.

Makes the 20 percent small business deduction permanent.

Prevents Medicaid payments for beneficiaries who have died, are enrolled in multiple states or do not qualify for the program.

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Ends Medicaid financing gimmicks that increased federal spending.

Supports rural hospitals in South Dakota by providing \$50 billion for the Rural Hospital Relief Fund.

Supports nursing homes by eliminating burdensome Biden-era staffing mandates that threatened to close facilities.

Invests in USDA's premier animal health programs that defend against livestock disease outbreaks and mitigates threats like New World Screwworm, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and African Swine Fever.

\$4.5 billion for expansion of production capacity of B-21 long-range bomber aircraft, including tooling and expansion of supplier base and purchase of aircraft only available through the expansion of production capacity.

\$100 million for Impact Aid to local educational agencies.

\$100 million for Defense Community Infrastructure Program to support infrastructure needs like Douglas School District.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

The Older I Get, The Younger I Feel

I like celebrating anything and everything. After all, who doesn't like party time?

Thinking along this line it occurred to me this month I will be celebrating my birthday. I pondered this for a while and was trying to figure out which birthday I should celebrate.

After all, if it's my birthday, I should be the one to choose which birthday to celebrate. I'm thinking, for example, that this year I'll celebrate my 16th birthday.

On my 16th birthday, I was not in a state to really celebrate it to its fullest. My only concern at that time was I'm old enough to get my driver's license. That's the only thing I was even thinking about. Looking back on that day, I lost a lot of celebration.

So, this year, I might just celebrate my 16th birthday.

Then I think of my 21st birthday. I didn't do very much to celebrate that birthday then. I was just so excited to become an official adult that nothing else really mattered. I didn't have to get my parents' permission to do anything. Oh boy, that was a great day in my life.

I didn't celebrate it to the fullest extent. I was too excited to become an adult, so I didn't do much celebrating.

I'm still in a quandary as to which birthday I should be celebrating this year.

The other morning, I was shaving in the bathroom. As I looked in the mirror, I gasped. Is that my grandfather in the mirror? Or, have I become my grandfather?

Up to this time, I didn't realize how old I really was.

The other day I was in the shopping mall with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. When we were there, she would usually go one way, and I would go to the coffee shop to get coffee.

As I was walking to the coffee shop, a bunch of young boys looked at me and started laughing. Finally, one of them said, "Hey, grandpa. Where's your cane?" And then, in hysterical laughter, they ran away from me.

They can be very thankful I didn't have a cane at that time or I would have put it to good use, if you get my drift.

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Being a little agitated, I walked, got my coffee and then sat down to drink it. As I was drinking it, I began to realize that at one time in my life, I was like those kids who were making fun of me. I thought my grandfather was just an old geezer. I never knew how he had become so old, but at the time, I wasn't asking him any questions.

A few years ago, I retired, which sent me off on a new direction in life. Certainly I continue much of my ministries but I don't have a schedule to follow. I can do whatever I want, whenever I want, for as long as I want.

The only catch to that was The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

She never lets me get away with anything that's rather stupid or crazy. The fact that I'm not that crazy today is a tribute to her oversight. If it wasn't for her I would be the craziest person in town.

Thinking about that, what would be wrong with that?

Several years ago we celebrated our birthdays at a restaurant. Our birthdays are two days apart and also two years apart. I won't go any further than that.

When the waitress approached our table, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage mentioned we were celebrating our birthdays.

The waitress, trying to be funny, looked at me and said, "So, what does it feel like to be older?"

I smiled at her. Then, I reached across the table and gently squeezed my wife's arm. I looked at the waitress and said, "It feels rather good.""

Both the waitress and I were laughing, but the other person at the table was not laughing at all. It concerned me a little because I wouldn't know what was going to happen until we got home.

Being old has many advantages. I may stumble around and get confused, and people will say, "That's okay. He's just old."

Maybe this year for my birthday I should celebrate the fact that I've lived this long. Both of my grandfathers died when they were 70. This month I will turn 74. So, I've outlived my grandparents. My father, however, lived to be 78. So, I've got four years ahead of me to catch up with my father.

The only thing that really concerns me about getting old is on top of my head. Every year a significant number of hairs retire and go on vacation never to be seen again. I have more hair today than I did when I was born, if that means anything.

Another thing is, the older I get the more my brown hair has been replaced with grey hair. Where do these grey hairs come from?

I then read a verse that gave me some comfort. "The hoary (grey) head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness" (Proverbs 16:31).

If this is true, and it is, my grey hair is my "crown of glory" I never thought of that way, but now I'm going to. The older I get the bigger my "crown of glory." I'm going to use it to the best of my personal advantage.

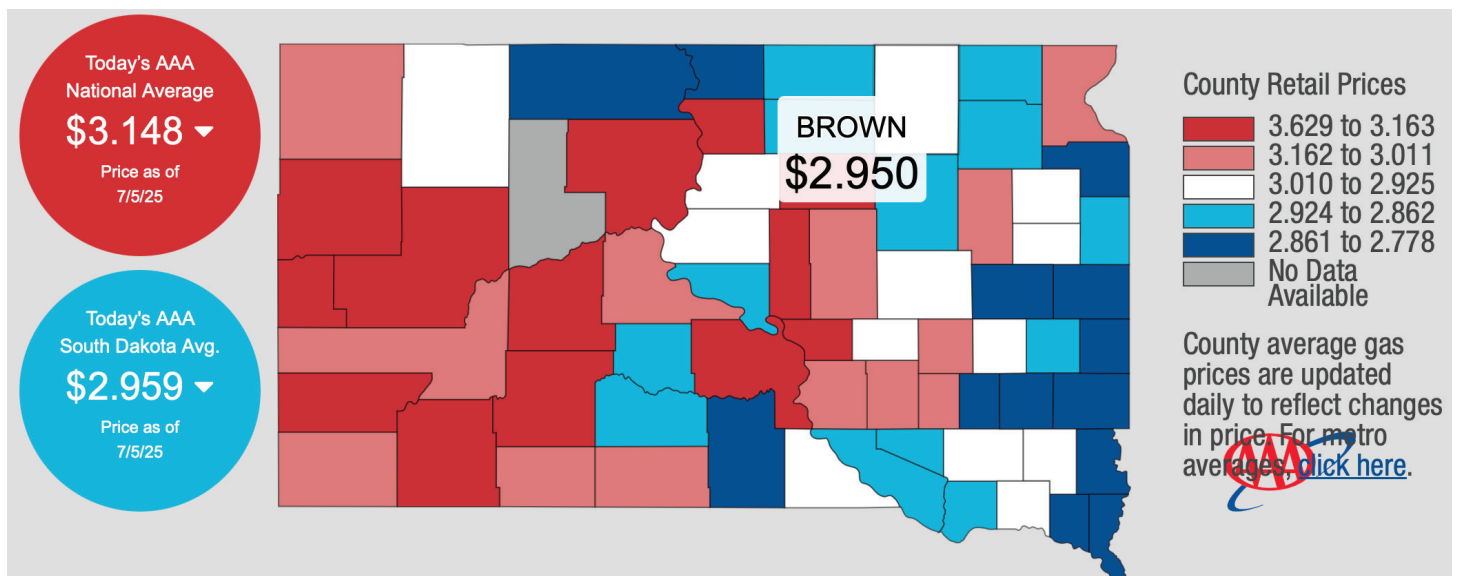
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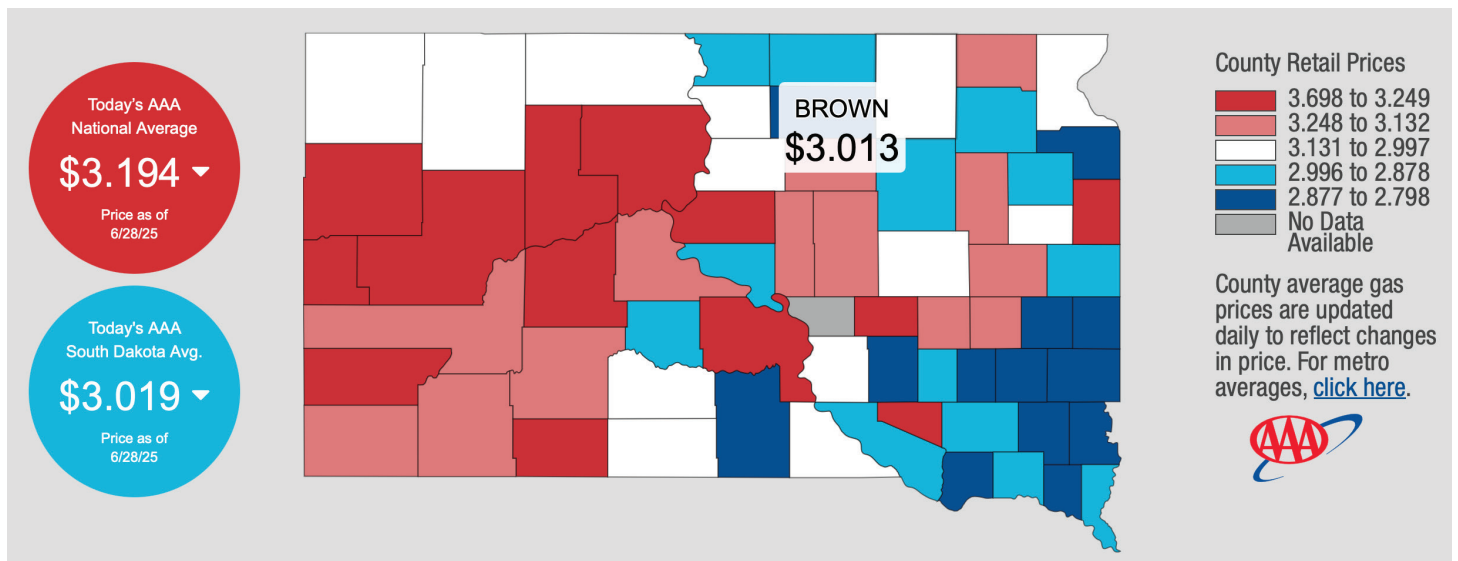
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

| | Regular | Mid-Grade | Premium | Diesel |
|----------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Current Avg. | \$2.959 | \$3.165 | \$3.626 | \$3.334 |
| Yesterday Avg. | \$2.974 | \$3.164 | \$3.617 | \$3.330 |
| Week Ago Avg. | \$3.019 | \$3.210 | \$3.660 | \$3.376 |
| Month Ago Avg. | \$2.959 | \$3.160 | \$3.630 | \$3.176 |
| Year Ago Avg. | \$3.227 | \$3.443 | \$3.875 | \$3.465 |

This Week



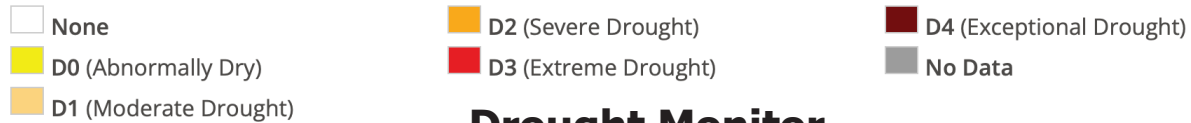
Last Week



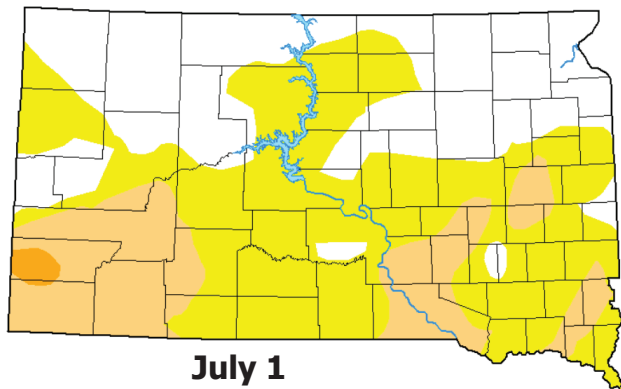
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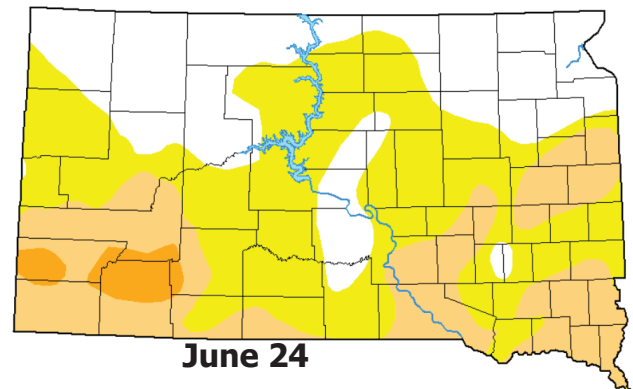
Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



July 1



June 24

Very heavy rain fell across parts of southwest and central Nebraska, which extended into portions of northern Kansas (north of Interstate 70) and portions of west-central and eastern South Dakota. Significant flash flooding occurred from rain amounts locally exceeding 8 inches in Grand Island, Nebraska, while very heavy rain, locally in excess of 5 inches, fell in parts of eastern South Dakota, where significant tornadoes also occurred on June 28. Heavier rain amounts fell in parts of south-central and northeast Colorado as well, though most of the heavier totals were in the 1-3 inch range. Primarily dry weather occurred west of the Continental Divide in Colorado and Wyoming. Temperatures across the region were mostly near normal to 2-4 degrees above normal, though parts of the eastern Dakotas were a few degrees cooler than normal. In areas that received heavy rain, soil moisture and precipitation deficits were alleviated and widespread improvements to ongoing drought or abnormal dryness occurred, including a two-category improvement in central Nebraska where some of the week's heaviest rains fell. Meanwhile, degradations occurred in northwest Colorado and western Wyoming, where soil moisture and streamflow deficits mounted amid growing precipitation deficits.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Is the prevalence of processed foods an environmental threat? – Lori P., via email

Warm supermarket bread. Mouth-watering hot dogs. Fizzy, sweet soda. Processed and ultra-processed foods (UPFs) are pervasive in American diets. In fact, the U.S. leads the world in UPF consumption, with over 60 percent of our daily caloric intake coming from these manufactured products. Despite their popularity, many people remain unaware of the environmental consequences of these convenient foods.

What exactly sets these processed variants apart from wholesome foods? According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), processed foods are altered from their natural state through processes like canning, dehydrating and heating. Ultra-processed foods are more extreme, consisting mostly of substances and additives extracted from foods, such as fats, starches and preservatives. These products usually bear little resemblance to their original ingredients and are what most people imagine when they think of “processed foods.”

Marco Springmann, Senior researcher at the University of Oxford’s Environmental Change Institute, explains, “If you processed some food at home, the chances are you expend more energy doing that, as the process isn’t as streamlined as a big factory.” In other words, preparing minimally processed foods at home may require more energy than industrial production, which relies on highly efficient systems. However, the long-term environmental impact of UPFs expands beyond just energy consumption.

The abrupt rise in UPFs threatens agrobiodiversity, or the variety in animals and plants used in the farming and food sectors. UPF production increases the demand for a narrow selection of high-yield crops—mainly rice, wheat, and corn—despite the existence of over 7,000 edible plants. This issue is further exacerbated by the widespread use of these limited crop species to feed livestock raised for processed meat production. Reducing agrobiodiversity diminishes the variety of consumable foods; during periods of underproduction or climate unpredictability, this could lead to issues in food security.

UPFs also contribute to environmental degradation through waste production: These products are often packaged in single-use plastics such as wrappers, bottles and containers. Each year, about nine million metric tons of plastic enter the oceans, where they can persist for centuries, breaking down into harmful microplastics that contaminate ecosystems.

In addition, UPFs carry a large water footprint, especially soft drinks, which require hundreds of liters of water for production, processing and packaging. They also require vast amounts of land, release greenhouse gases, and lead to eutrophication (the overflow of nutrients in marine settings).

Our eating habits do make a difference: the food supply chain leads to 26 percent of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions globally. But together, whether researching planet-healthy food alternatives or reducing reliance on single-use plastics, being environmentally conscious is a powerful step in deciding our planet’s future.



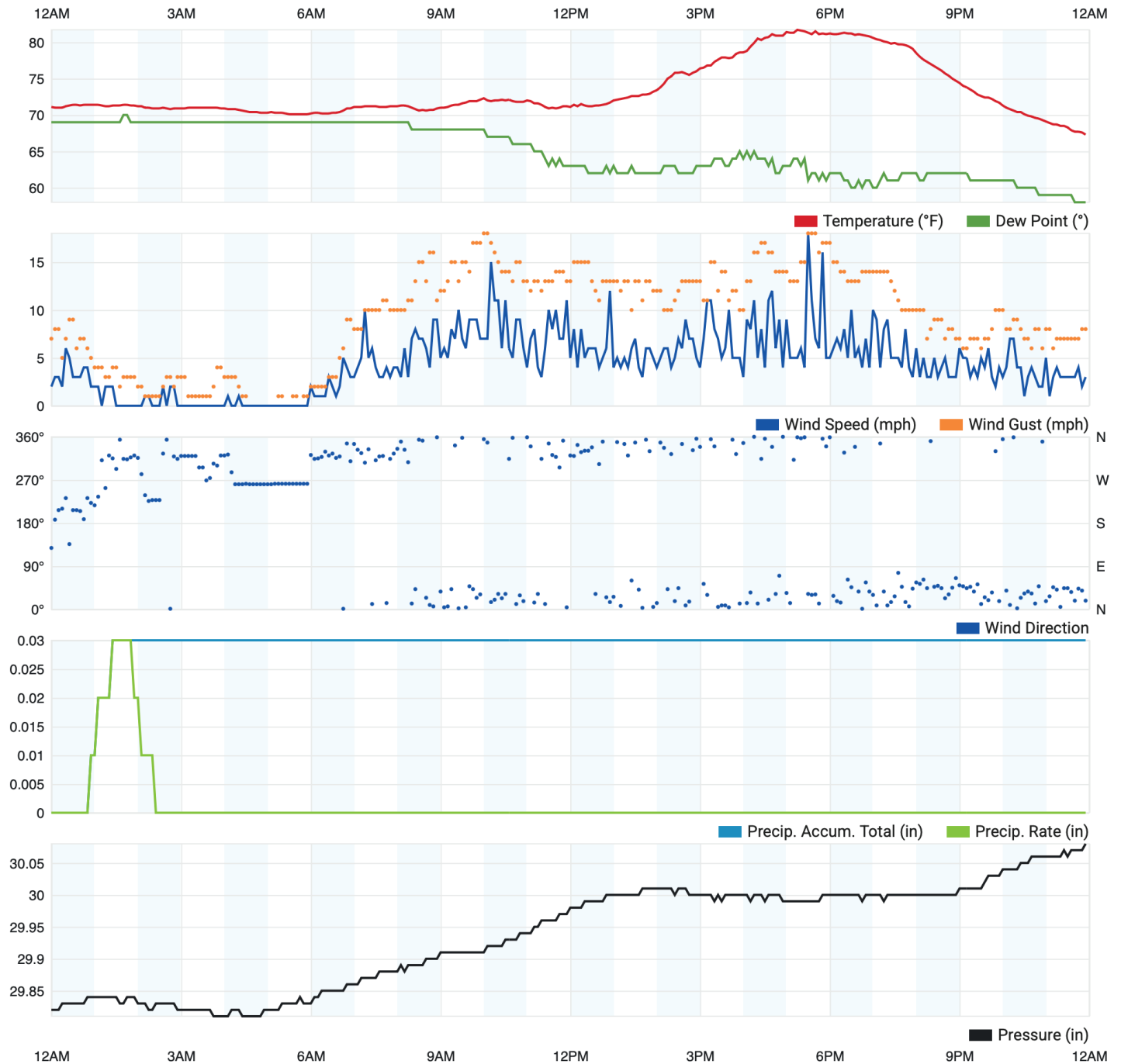
The ubiquity of processed foods in the U.S. and elsewhere is not just a problem for human health but also for the environment. Credit: Pexels.com.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

July 5, 2025



Broton Daily Independent

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Today



High: 77 °F

Decreasing
Clouds

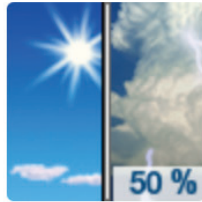
Tonight



Low: 58 °F

Partly Cloudy

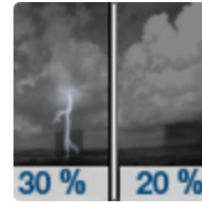
Monday



High: 83 °F

Sunny then
Chance
T-storms

Monday Night



Low: 58 °F

Chance
T-storms then
Slight Chance
Showers

Tuesday



High: 84 °F

Sunny

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Scattered Severe Storms
possible

TIMING

Monday into Monday
evening

PRIMARY THREATS



DAMAGING
WIND



LARGE HAIL

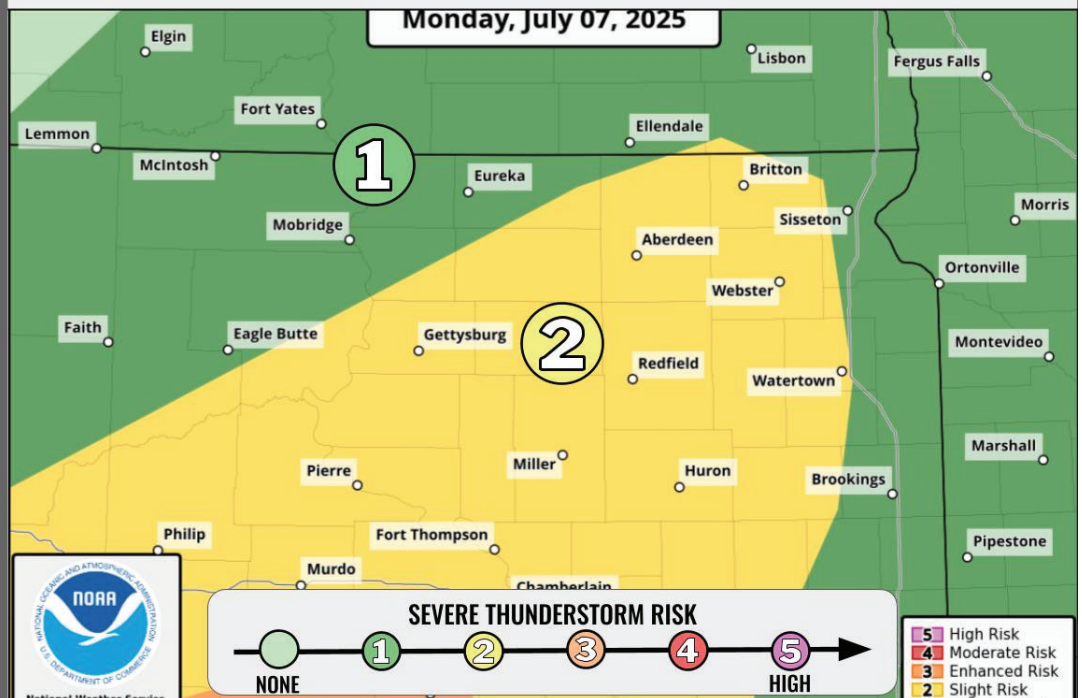
SECONDARY THREATS



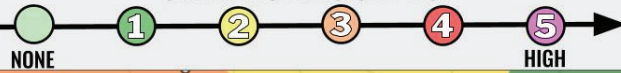
HEAVY RAIN

SEVERE STORMS Possible Monday

Monday, July 07, 2025



SEVERE THUNDERSTORM RISK



5 High Risk
4 Moderate Risk
3 Enhanced Risk
2 Slight Risk
1 None

Isolated to scattered strong to severe storms are possible by early Monday afternoon across portions of north central and northeast South Dakota. Threats include wind gusts of 60 mph or greater, one inch hail and heavy rain.

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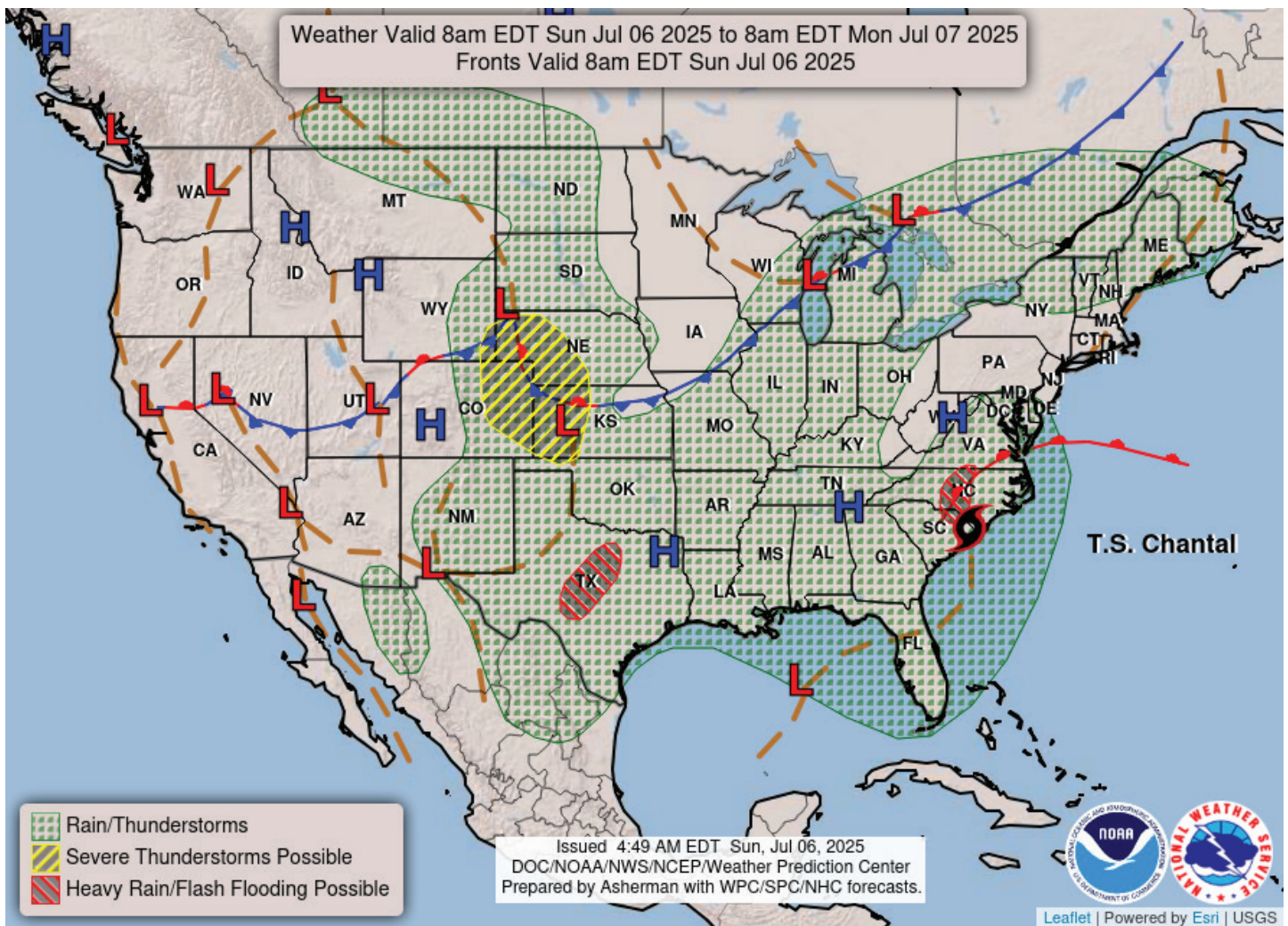
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 82 °F at 5:18 PM
Heat Index: 96 °F at 6:00 PM
Low Temp: 68 °F at 11:27 PM
Wind: 18 mph at 9:59 AM
Precip: : 0.03

Day length: 15 hours, 35 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 115 in 1936
Record Low: 42 in 1942
Average High: 84
Average Low: 59
Average Precip in July.: 0.70
Precip to date in July: 1.71
Average Precip to date: 11.71
Precip Year to Date: 11.07
Sunset Tonight: 9:24:51 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:50:28 am



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Today in Weather History

July 6, 1963: A farmer died near Waubay, in Day County, when the barn was destroyed while he was inside. Winds of 110 mph were recorded at FAA in Watertown before the roof and wind instruments were blown away.

July 6, 1982: A severe thunderstorm produced a series of five microbursts over Sioux Falls. The microbursts caused extensive damage. Winds were estimated to have reached 125 mph, and the Airport recorded a peak gust of 82 mph. Damage, which was heaviest in the south-central and northeast sections of the city, included thousands of trees uprooted or damaged. Several semi-trailers were blown over, critically injuring one man and slightly injuring two others. Several other minor injuries occurred mainly from flying glass. Five cars were rolled over by the high winds, and several others damaged flying debris. Damage at the airport included a portion of a hangar roof blown off and three light aircraft flipped over.

July 6, 1994: Widespread rainfall of over 6 inches fell in Dewey, Potter, and Faulk Counties, causing damage to roads and flooded basements and fields. A teenage girl escaped injury when her car was washed away by the waters of a swollen creek about 5 miles east of Gettysburg. Some total storm amounts include; 6.80 inches in Orient; 6.70 at Faulkton; 5.80 in Milbank; 5.48 in Big Stone City; 5.02 in Ipswich; 4.50 in Gettysburg; 4.17 in Webster; 4.12 near Onaka; 4.02 in Leola; and 3.97 in Britton.

1893: A violent tornado killed 71 persons on its forty-mile track across northwestern Iowa. Forty-nine persons were killed around Pomeroy, where eighty percent of the buildings were destroyed, with most leveled to the ground.

1928: A seven-inch hailstone weighing 1.5 pounds fell in Potter Nebraska. With a circumference of 17 inches, this appeared to be the largest hailstone in the world at that time.

1985 - Lightning struck a large transformer in Salt Lake County sending a 200 foot fireball into the air and blacking out almost the entire state for up to five hours. (The Weather Channel)

1986: Thunderstorms during the mid-morning hours, and again during the evening, produced significant flash flooding at Leavenworth, Kansas. The official rainfall total was 10.37 inches, but unofficial totals exceeded twelve inches. At nearby Kansas City, the rainfall total of 5.08 inches was a daily record for July.

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in twenty-one states east of the Rockies, with severe weather reported in Kentucky and Indiana for the second day in a row. A thunderstorm produced more than five inches of rain in one hour near Reynolds, IL. Rochester, NY, was soaked with 3.25 inches, a record 24 hour total for the month of July. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thirty-six cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 98 degrees at International Falls, MN, and 101 degrees at Flint, MI, equalled all-time records. Highs of 96 degrees at Muskegon, MI, and 97 degrees at Buffalo, NY, were records for July. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the southwestern U.S. Ten cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Las Vegas, NV, with a reading of 115 degrees. Hanksville, UT, reached 112 degrees, Bullhead City, AZ, hit 120 degrees, and Death Valley, CA, soared to 126 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

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That's the problem. It may make sense to the person making the decision, but no one else. So, Solomon warns, "The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice." And, that's not always easy!

Taking advice from others is a statement, to some, of being inadequate or incomplete. It is a public admission that "You, of all people, could actually keep me from being wrong? You, keep me, from making a mistake? How dare you think I don't know everything!"

It is sometimes difficult to admit our limitations. No, perhaps most of the time it is difficult to admit we cannot handle things by ourselves and have limited information about choices that confront us. We think and reason, talk and ask questions, but if what we hear does not agree with what we already have in mind, we readily dismiss it, whether it could keep us from disaster.

Closed minded, stubborn, insecure and threatened individuals who refuse advice, or counsel, are usually very defensive. They are quick to argue and anger, usually impatient and insecure, closed and lonely people. They are self-destructive, and in the process usually destroy others because every decision impacts the lives of others.

Looking to others for insight and understanding, for knowledge and information requires humility. And that may be the real problem. To be humble is to admit that "I don't have all the answers! Only God does."

If after searching His Word and praying, we do not have His peace, He'll send the right advisor if we ask.

Today's Prayer: Help us, Father, to be strong enough to become weak, wise enough to seek advice, and then trust You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice." Proverbs 12:15

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.04.25

17 20 24 41 42 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$70,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.05.25

8 10 36 43 45 9

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,600,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.05.25

9 17 26 27 41 1

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 55 Mins 51 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.05.25

1 2 14 19 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$48,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.05.25

15 20 61 63 69 1

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.05.25

1 28 34 50 58 8

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$203,000,000

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

Texas floods leave at least 51 dead, 27 girls missing as rescuers search devastated landscape

By JIM VERTUNO, JULIO CORTEZ and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

KERRVILLE, Texas (AP) — Rescuers scoured a devastated central Texas landscape of mangled trees, overturned cars and muck-filled debris Saturday in an increasingly bleak mission to locate survivors, including 27 girls who have not been seen since their camp was slammed with a wall of water in a historic flash flood.

The flooding in Kerr County killed at least 43 people, including 15 children, and at least eight people died in nearby counties.

Authorities still have not said how many people were missing beyond the children from Camp Mystic, a Christian summer camp along a river in Kerr County where most of the dead were recovered.

The destructive, fast-moving waters rose 26 feet (8 meters) on the Guadalupe River in just 45 minutes before daybreak Friday, washing away homes and vehicles. The danger was not over as rains continued pounding communities outside San Antonio on Saturday and flash flood warnings and watches remained in effect.

Searchers used helicopters, boats and drones to look for victims and to rescue people stranded in trees and from camps isolated by washed-out roads.

Gov. Greg Abbott vowed that authorities will work around the clock and said new areas were being searched as the water receded. He declared Sunday a day of prayer for the state.

"I urge every Texan to join me in prayer this Sunday — for the lives lost, for those still missing, for the recovery of our communities, and for the safety of those on the front lines," he said in a statement.

Authorities were coming under scrutiny over whether the camps and residents in places long vulnerable to flooding received proper warning and whether enough preparations were made.

The hills along the Guadalupe River in central Texas are dotted with century-old youth camps and campgrounds where generations of families have come to swim and enjoy the outdoors. The area is especially popular around the July Fourth holiday, making it more difficult to know how many are missing.

"We don't even want to begin to estimate at this time," Kerrville City Manager Dalton Rice said earlier.

Raging storm hit camp in middle of the night

"The camp was completely destroyed," said Elinor Lester, 13, one of hundreds of campers. "A helicopter landed and started taking people away. It was really scary."

The raging storm, fueled by incredible amounts of moisture, woke up her cabin just after midnight Friday. When rescuers arrived, they tied a rope for the girls to hold as they walked across a bridge with water whipping around their legs, she said.

Frantic parents and families posted photos of missing loved ones and pleas for information.

Among those confirmed dead were an 8-year-old girl from Mountain Brook, Alabama, who was at Camp Mystic, and the director of another camp just up the road.

The flooding in the middle of the night caught many residents, campers and officials by surprise.

AccuWeather said the private forecasting company and the National Weather Service sent warnings about potential flash flooding hours beforehand.

"These warnings should have provided officials with ample time to evacuate camps such as Camp Mystic and get people to safety," AccuWeather said in a statement. It called the Hill Country one of the most flash-flood-prone areas of the U.S. because of its terrain and many water crossings.

At the Mo-Ranch Camp in the community of Hunt, officials had been monitoring the weather and opted to move several hundred campers and attendees at a church youth conference to higher ground. At nearby Camps Rio Vista and Sierra Vista, organizers also had mentioned on social media that they were watching

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the weather the day before wrapping up their second summer session Thursday.

Authorities and elected officials have said they did not expect such an intense downpour, the equivalent of months' worth of rain for the area.

U.S. Rep. Chip Roy, whose district includes the ravaged area, called it a once-in-a-century flood and acknowledged that there would be second-guessing and finger-pointing as people look for someone to blame.

Helicopters and drones used in frantic search

Search crews were facing harsh conditions while "looking in every possible location," Rice said.

Officials said more than 850 people had been rescued in the last 36 hours and there were heroic efforts at the camps to save children.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem arrived and pledged that the Trump administration would use all available resources. Coast Guard helicopters and planes were assisting to ensure operations can continue even in darkness.

One reunification center at an elementary school was mostly quiet after taking in hundreds of evacuees the day before.

"We still have people coming here looking for their loved ones. We've had a little success, but not much," said Bobby Templeton, superintendent of Ingram Independent School District.

People clung to trees and fled to attics

In Ingram, Erin Burgess woke to thunder and rain in the middle of the night. Just 20 minutes later, water was pouring into her home, she said. She described an agonizing hour clinging to a tree with her teen son.

"My son and I floated to a tree where we hung onto it, and my boyfriend and my dog floated away. He was lost for a while, but we found them," she said.

Barry Adelman said water pushed everyone in his three-story house into the attic, including his 94-year-old grandmother and 9-year-old grandson.

"I was having to look at my grandson in the face and tell him everything was going to be OK, but inside I was scared to death," he said.

Locals know the place as "flash flood alley."

"When it rains, water doesn't soak into the soil," said Austin Dickson, CEO of the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country, which was collecting donations. "It rushes down the hill."

'Nobody saw this coming'

The weekend forecast had called for rain, with a flood watch upgraded to a warning overnight Friday for at least 30,000 people.

"We know we get rains. We know the river rises. But nobody saw this coming," said Kerr County Judge Rob Kelly, the county's chief elected official.

The county had considered a flood warning system on the river similar to a tornado warning siren about six or seven years ago, but Kelly said the idea never got off the ground and the cost would have been an issue.

Kelly said he was heartbroken seeing body bags at the funeral home and the devastation on the ground during a helicopter tour.

"The rescue has gone as well as can be expected. It's getting time now for the recovery," he said. "And that's going to be a long, toilsome task for us."

Texas officials face scrutiny over response to catastrophic and deadly flooding

By SEAN MURPHY and JIM VERTUNO Associated Press

KERRVILLE, Texas (AP) — Before heading to bed before the Fourth of July holiday, Christopher Flowers checked the weather while staying at a friend's house along the Guadalupe River. Nothing in the forecast alarmed him.

Hours later, he was rushing to safety: He woke up in darkness to electrical sockets popping and ankle-

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deep water. Quickly, his family scrambled nine people into the attic. Phones buzzed with alerts, Flowers recalled Saturday, but he did not remember when in the chaos they started.

"What they need is some kind of external system, like a tornado warning that tells people to get out now," Flowers, 44, said.

The destructive fast-moving waters that began before sunrise Friday in the Texas Hill Country killed at least 43 people in Kerr County, authorities said Saturday, and an unknown number of people remained missing. Those still unaccounted for included 27 girls from Camp Mystic, a Christian summer camp along a river in Kerr County where most of the dead were recovered.

But as authorities launch one of the largest search-and-rescue efforts in recent Texas history, they have come under intensifying scrutiny over preparations and why residents and youth summer camps that are dotted along the river were not alerted sooner or told to evacuate.

The National Weather Service sent out a series of flash flood warnings in the early hours Friday before issuing flash flood emergencies — a rare alert notifying of imminent danger.

Local officials have insisted that no one saw the flood potential coming and have defended their actions.

"There's going to be a lot of finger-pointing, a lot of second-guessing and Monday morning quarterbacking," said Republican U.S. Rep. Chip Roy, whose district includes Kerr County. "There's a lot of people saying 'why' and 'how,' and I understand that."

When the warnings began

An initial flood watch — which generally urges residents to be weather-aware — was issued by the local National Weather Service office at 1:18 p.m. Thursday.

It predicted between 5 to 7 inches (12.7 to 17.8 centimeters) of rain. Weather messaging from the office, including automated alerts delivered to mobile phones to people in threatened areas, grew increasingly ominous in the early morning hours of Friday, urging people to move to higher ground and evacuate flood-prone areas, said Jason Runyen, a meteorologist in the National Weather Service office.

At 4:03 a.m., the office issued an urgent warning that raised the potential of catastrophic damage and a severe threat to human life.

Jonathan Porter, the chief meteorologist at AccuWeather, a private weather forecasting company that uses National Weather Service data, said it appeared evacuations and other proactive measures could have been undertaken to reduce the risk of fatalities.

"People, businesses, and governments should take action based on Flash Flood Warnings that are issued, regardless of the rainfall amounts that have occurred or are forecast," Porter said in a statement.

Officials say they didn't expect this

Local officials have said they had not expected such an intense downpour that was the equivalent of months' worth of rain for the area.

"We know we get rains. We know the river rises," said Kerr County Judge Rob Kelly, the county's top elected official. "But nobody saw this coming."

Kerrville City Manager Dalton Rice said he was jogging along the river early in the morning and didn't notice any problems at 4 a.m. A little over an hour later, at 5:20 a.m., the water level had risen dramatically and "we almost weren't able to get out of the park," he said.

Rice also noted that the public can become desensitized to too many weather warnings.

No county flood warning system

Kelly said the county considered a flood warning system along the river that would have functioned like a tornado warning siren about six or seven years ago, before he was elected, but that the idea never got off the ground because of the expense.

"We've looked into it before ... The public reeled at the cost," Kelly said.

He said he didn't know what kind of safety and evacuation plans the camps may have had.

"What I do know is the flood hit the camp first, and it came in the middle of the night. I don't know where the kids were," he said. "I don't know what kind of alarm systems they had. That will come out in time."

U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem said Saturday it was difficult for forecasters to predict

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just how much rain would fall. She said the Trump administration would make it a priority to upgrade National Weather Service technology used to deliver warnings.

"We know that everyone wants more warning time, and that's why we're working to upgrade the technology that's been neglected for far too long to make sure families have as much advance notice as possible," Noem said during a press conference with state and federal leaders.

Weather service had extra staffers

The National Weather Service office in New Braunfels, which delivers forecasts for Austin, San Antonio and the surrounding areas, had extra staff on duty during the storms, Runyen said.

Where the office would typically have two forecasters on duty during clear weather, they had up to five on staff.

"There were extra people in here that night, and that's typical in every weather service office — you staff up for an event and bring people in on overtime and hold people over," Runyen said.

Floods turned beloved Texas camp into a nightmare. At least 27 girls remain missing

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM and JIM VERTUNO Associated Press

KERRVILLE, Texas (AP) — As the floodwaters began to recede from Camp Mystic, a torrent of grief remained as the identities of some of the campers who died in the flash floods began to emerge on Saturday.

At least 43 people, including 15 children, died in Kerr County after a storm unleashed nearly a foot (0.3 meters) of rain on Friday and sent floodwaters gushing out of the Guadalupe River through the hilly region known for its century-old summer camps. Another eight people died in nearby counties.

State officials said 27 girls from Camp Mystic, a riverside Christian camp for girls in Hunt, Texas, still were unaccounted for about 36 hours after the flood. An 8-year-old girl from Mountain Brook, Alabama, who was at Camp Mystic, and the director of another camp just up the road were among those confirmed dead Saturday.

Gov. Greg Abbott, who toured the camp Saturday with rescue crews, vowed that authorities will work around the clock to find the missing girls and others swept away in the storm that caught many residents, campers and officials by surprise. Many more are still missing, and authorities said about 850 people had been rescued so far.

The National Weather Service said a flood watch would remain in effect for the Hill Country region through late Saturday night.

Pope Leo XIV, history's first American pope, spoke in English at the end of his Sunday noon blessing, offering special prayers and expressing "sincere condolences to all the families who have lost loved ones, in particular their daughters who were in summer camp."

Flood turns storied Camp Mystic into a nightmare

The camp was established in 1926. It grew so popular over the following decades that families are now encouraged to put prospective campers on the waitlist years in advance.

Photos and videos taken before the flood are idyllic, showing large cabins with green-shingled roofs and names like "Wiggle Inn," tucked among sturdy oak and cypress trees that grow on the banks of the Guadalupe River. In some social media posts, girls are fishing, riding horses, playing kickball or performing choreographed dance routines in matching T-shirts. Girls ranging in age from 8 to 17 years old pose for the camera with big smiles, arms draped across the shoulders of their fellow campers.

But the floodwaters left behind a starkly different landscape: A pickup truck is balanced precariously on two wheels, its side lodged halfway up a tree. A wall is torn entirely off one building, the interior empty except for a Texas flag and paintings hung high along one side. A twisted bit of metal — perhaps a bed-frame — is stacked next to colorful steamer trunks and broken tree limbs.

First responders are scouring the riverbanks in hopes of finding survivors. Social media posts are now focused on the faces of the missing.

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Happy camp memories are now tinged with grief

Chloe Crane, a teacher and former Camp Mystic counselor, said her heart broke when a fellow teacher shared an email from the camp about the missing girls.

"To be quite honest, I cried because Mystic is such a special place, and I just couldn't imagine the terror that I would feel as a counselor to experience that for myself and for 15 little girls that I'm taking care of," she said. "And it's also just sadness, like the camp has been there forever and cabins literally got washed away."

Crane said the camp is a haven for young girls looking to gain confidence and independence. She recalled happy memories teaching her campers about journalism, making crafts and competing in a camp-wide canoe race at the end of each summer. Now for many campers and counselors, their happy place has turned into a horror story, she said.

Camps' emergency plans unclear

State and county officials defended their actions Saturday amid scrutiny over whether the camps and residents in towns long vulnerable to flooding received proper alerts.

The National Weather Service issued a flood warning for the region on Thursday, and it sent out a series of flash-flood warnings in the early hours Friday. The federal agency had predicted 3 to 6 inches (7.6 to 15.2 centimeters) of rain in the region northwest of San Antonio, but 10 inches (25.4 cm) fell.

The Guadalupe River rose to 26 feet (7.9 meters) within about 45 minutes in the early morning hours, submerging its flood gauge.

It was not immediately clear what kind of evacuation plans Camp Mystic might have had.

The county itself does not have a warning system, Kerr County Judge Rob Kelly said. He maintained that no one knew a flood of this magnitude was coming.

Rescuers evacuate some campers by helicopter

By Friday afternoon, Texas Game Wardens had arrived at Camp Mystic and were evacuating campers. A rope was tied so girls could hang on as they walked across a bridge, the floodwaters rushing around their knees.

Elinor Lester, 13, said she was evacuated with her cabinmates by helicopter after wading through floodwaters. She recalled startling awake around 1:30 a.m. as thunder crackled and water pelted the cabin windows.

Lester was among the older girls housed on elevated ground known as Senior Hill. Cabins housing the younger campers, who can start attending at age 8, are situated along the riverbanks and were the first to flood, she said.

"The camp was completely destroyed," she said. "It was really scary."

Her mother, Elizabeth Lester, said her son was nearby at Camp La Junta and also escaped. A counselor there woke up to find water rising in the cabin, opened a window and helped the boys swim out. Camp La Junta and nearby Camp Waldemar said in Instagram posts that all campers and staff were safe.

Elizabeth Lester sobbed when she saw her daughter, who was clutching a small teddy bear and a book. "My kids are safe, but knowing others are still missing is just eating me alive," she said.

Families of missing campers worry

Dozens of families shared in local Facebook groups that they received devastating phone calls from safety officials informing them that their daughters had not yet been located among the washed-away camp cabins and downed trees. Camp Mystic said in an email to parents of the roughly 750 campers that if they have not been contacted directly, their child is accounted for.

Decades prior, floodwaters engulfed a bus of teenage campers from another Christian camp along the Guadalupe River during devastating summer storms in 1987. A total of 10 campers from Pot O' Gold Christian camp drowned after their bus was unable to evacuate in time from a site near Comfort, 33 miles (53 kilometers) east of Hunt.

Iran's supreme leader makes first public appearance since Iran-Israel war started

By The Associated Press undefined

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday made his first public appearance since the 12-day war between Israel and Iran began, attending a mourning ceremony on the eve of Ashoura.

Khamenei's absence during the war suggested the Iranian leader, who has final say on all state matters, had been in seclusion in a bunker — something not acknowledged by state media. State TV in Iran showed him waving and nodding to the chanting crowd, which rose to its feet as he entered and sat at a mosque next to his office and residence in the capital, Tehran.

There was no immediate report on any public statement made. Iranian officials such as the parliament speaker were present. Such events are always held under heavy security.

After the U.S. inserted itself into the war by bombing three key nuclear sites in Iran, U.S. President Donald Trump sent warnings via social media to the 86-year-old Khamenei that the U.S. knew where he was but had no plans to kill him, "at least for now."

On June 26, shortly after a ceasefire began, Khamenei made his first public statement in days, saying in a prerecorded statement that Tehran had delivered a "slap to America's face" by striking a U.S. air base in Qatar, and warning against further attacks by the U.S. or Israel on Iran.

Trump replied, in remarks to reporters and on social media: "Look, you're a man of great faith. A man who's highly respected in his country. You have to tell the truth. You got beat to hell."

Iran has acknowledged the deaths of more than 900 people in the war, as well as thousands of injured. It also has confirmed serious damage to its nuclear facilities, and has denied access to them for inspectors with the U.N. nuclear watchdog.

Iran's president on Wednesday ordered the country to suspend its cooperation with the watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, further limiting inspectors' ability to track a program that had been enriching uranium to near weapons-grade levels. Israel launched the war fearing that Iran was trying to develop atomic weapons.

It remains unclear just how badly damaged the nuclear facilities are, whether any enriched uranium or centrifuges had been moved before the attacks, and whether Tehran still would be willing to continue negotiations with the United States over its nuclear program.

Israel also targeted defense systems, high-ranking military officials and atomic scientists. In retaliation, Iran fired more than 550 ballistic missiles at Israel, most of them intercepted, killing 28 people and causing damage in many areas.

Ceremony commemorates a death that caused rift in Islam

The ceremony that Khamenei hosted Saturday was a remembrance of the 7th century martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussein.

Shiites represent over 10% of the world's 1.8 billion Muslims, and they view Hussein as the rightful successor to the Prophet Muhammad. Hussein's death in battle at the hands of Sunnis at Karbala, south of Baghdad, created a rift in Islam and continues to play a key role in shaping Shiite identity.

In predominantly Shiite Iran, red flags represented Hussein's blood and black funeral tents and clothes represented mourning. Processions of chest-beating and self-flagellating men demonstrated fervor. Some sprayed water over the mourners in the intense heat.

Reports of problems accessing the internet

NetBlocks, a global internet monitor, reported late Saturday on X that there was a "major disruption to internet connectivity" in Iran. It said the disruption corroborated widespread user reports of problems accessing the internet. The development comes just weeks after authorities shut down telecoms during the war. NetBlocks later said internet access had been restored after some two hours.

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Tropical Storm Chantal forecast to bring heavy rain to the Carolinas

MIAMI (AP) — Tropical Storm Chantal formed off the southeast U.S. coast and was forecast to bring heavy rains to parts of the Carolinas on Saturday. Tropical storm warnings were issued for portions of the two states, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

The storm's center was located about 65 miles (105 kilometers) east of Charleston, South Carolina, on Saturday night, and 120 miles (190 kilometers) south-southwest of Wilmington, North Carolina. Its maximum sustained winds were clocked at 50 mph (85 kph), and it was moving north at 8 mph (13 kph).

Rain bands from Chantal were moving over the coast, the hurricane center said, and the storm's center was expected to move over South Carolina overnight or early Sunday with flash floods an increasing concern. The storm was expected to weaken rapidly after landfall.

Heavy rain was forecast for the coastal plain of the Carolinas through Monday — total rainfall of 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 centimeters), with local amounts up to 6 inches — threatening flash flooding.

A look at some of the deadliest floods in the US in the last 25 years

By ADRIAN SAINZ Associated Press

Flooding has caused an average of more than 125 deaths per year in the United States over the past few decades, according to the National Weather Service, and flash floods are the nation's top storm-related killer.

Here's a look at some of the most deadly flooding nationwide in the past 25 years.

Texas, July 2025

Authorities are still assessing the deadly effects of heavy rains that caused devastating flash floods in Texas Hill Country, leaving at least 32 people dead and many others missing as frantic parents sought word about their daughters unaccounted for at a girls camp near the Guadalupe River.

Searchers used helicopters, boats and drones to look for victims and to rescue stranded people in trees and from camps isolated by washed-out roads.

Hurricane Helene, 2024

Hurricane Helene struck Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee and Virginia in September 2024. The storm caused about 250 deaths, according to the National Weather Service.

Many of those who died in Helene fell victim to massive inland flooding, rather than high winds. Helene was the deadliest hurricane to hit the mainland U.S. since Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The storm decimated remote towns throughout the Appalachians and left millions without power, cellular service and supplies. In North Carolina alone, Helene was responsible for 108 deaths, according to the state's Department of Health and Human Services.

Kentucky, 2022

Raging floodwaters in eastern Kentucky in late July of 2022 led to 45 deaths, AccuWeather senior meteorologist Tyler Roys said Saturday.

The floods destroyed homes and businesses and caused significant damage to schools, roads, bridges and water systems. The disaster robbed thousands of families of all their possessions.

Tennessee, 2021

Twenty people were killed when creeks near the small Middle Tennessee town of Waverly overflowed after more than 17 inches (43 centimeters) of rain fell in the area in less than 24 hours in August 2021.

Homes were washed off their foundations, cars were wrecked and businesses were demolished. The dead included twin babies who were swept from their father's arms.

Hurricane Harvey, 2017

Hurricane Harvey barreled into Texas in August 2017 as a powerful Category 4 storm. Harvey hovered for days as it trudged inland, dumping several feet of rain on many Gulf Coast communities and the Houston area.

Harvey killed at least 68 people, according to a National Hurricane Center report. All but three of the

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Harvey deaths were directly attributed to freshwater flooding, which damaged more than 300,000 structures and caused an estimated \$125 billion in damage.

West Virginia, June 2016

A rainstorm that initially seemed like no big deal turned into a catastrophe in West Virginia, trapping dozens of people during the night and eventually leaving 23 people dead around the state.

Superstorm Sandy, 2012

Superstorm Sandy was a late fall freak combination of a hurricane and other storms that struck New York and surrounding areas in October 2012.

Sandy killed 147 people, 72 in the eastern U.S., according to the National Hurricane Center. More than 110 deaths were attributed to drowning, Roys said.

Mississippi River, 2011

Heavy rainfall in several states, plus a larger-than-normal snow melt, led rivers in the Mississippi River Basin to swell and flood in 2011.

Flash floods associated with these storms caused 24 deaths across Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee in April and May, according to the National Weather Service.

Hurricane Ike, 2008

Hurricane Ike struck the southeast Texas Gulf Coast in September 2008, creating a storm surge as high as 20 feet (6 meters) in the island city of Galveston.

Ike then poured more than 4 feet (1.2 meters) of rain on Houston, destroying thousands of cars and leaving hundreds of thousands of families with flood-damaged homes.

In all, Ike was responsible for more than 100 deaths, many caused by flooding.

Hurricane Katrina, 2005

Hurricane Katrina is the deadliest flood event in the U.S. in the past 25 years.

The storm crashed into the Gulf Coast and caused devastating flooding when levees failed in New Orleans, where people had to be rescued by boat and helicopter from rooftops.

The costliest storm in U.S. history, Katrina caused nearly 1,400 deaths and an estimated \$200 billion in damages.

Tropical Storm Allison, 2001

Tropical Storm Allison caused 41 deaths, mostly attributed to flooding caused by 40 inches (101 centimeters) of rain that fell in Texas and Louisiana, Roys said.

Allison remained a threat for days as its remnants lingered after making landfall in June 2001, causing major flooding in Houston.

In Sinaloa's capital, news of a boxing scion's arrest and allegations of cartel ties cause unease

By AARÓN IBARRA Associated Press

CULIACAN, Mexico (AP) — Inside a sports arena in Sinaloa state's capital, the crowd was sparse early on the card as young amateur boxers in puffy headgear threw punches and danced about the ring. Outside stood a bronze statue of Julio César Chávez in boxing trunks, one glove raised.

The event Friday was organized by one of Chávez's brothers and "The Legend" himself was advertised as a specially invited guest. But Chávez didn't appear. It had been a difficult week for the family.

Chávez's eldest son, Julio César Chávez Jr., was arrested by U.S. immigration agents outside his home in Los Angeles on Wednesday, accused of overstaying his visa and lying on a green card application.

But more significant here in Culiacan was that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security also noted that there was an active warrant for his arrest in Mexico for alleged arms and drug trafficking and suggested ties to the Sinaloa Cartel. The agency said he would be processed for expedited removal.

The Legend

The name Julio César Chávez in Culiacan is like saying Diego Maradona in Argentina. People stop and

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conversations begin.

Chávez is the city's idol and source of pride, known simply as "The Legend." He went from a working class neighborhood along train tracks to the highest echelons of boxing fame and became a national hero.

But when the questions turn to Chávez's eldest son and the Sinaloa Cartel, conversation ends and eyes avert.

There was a time when many in Culiacan would speak of the cartel that carries their state's name, perhaps with euphemisms, but openly all the same, because its control was complete and for that they largely lived in peace.

But since a bloody feud erupted between factions of the cartel last year, following the abduction of Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada to the United States by one of the sons of former leader Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, it's safer to avoid any mention at all.

Alleged cartel ties

In the stands Friday night, the arrest of The Legend's son, was on the minds of many, but discussed only in hushed voices.

Oscar Arrieta, a sports reporter in Culiacan, covers boxing and said Chávez Jr.'s arrest had had a big impact in Culiacan, largely because the "harsh" way U.S. authorities linked him to organized crime.

U.S. authorities did not detail the alleged ties between Chávez Jr. and the cartel other than to mention that he married a U.S. citizen who is the mother of a granddaughter of Guzmán.

He mused at why if there had been a Mexican arrest warrant since 2023, hadn't there been any effort to capture him. He was a very public figure, active on social media and for the past six months or more, training for a highly promoted fight in California.

On Friday, Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum said that he had mostly been in the U.S. since the arrest warrant was issued.

"I think it was also a way for the United States to expose the Mexican government in a way, but without a doubt much more impactful, because normally sports doesn't mix with anything else, much less with organized crime," Arrieta said.

'An excellent person'

Culiacan's boxing gyms had mostly been quiet since Thursday's announcement of Chávez Jr.'s arrest, in preparation for Friday's event.

There had already been weigh-in for Friday's fights and most fighters weren't around.

At one that was mostly covered outdoor spaces, teenagers tightly wrapped their wrists, bounced and shuffled, shadow boxing in a circle.

Jorge Romero is a former professional boxer who trained under another Chávez brother. Now he's a trainer at Sinaloa Autonomous University.

Romero said he knows Chávez Jr., regards him "an excellent person, a great human being" who had really focused on his training ahead of his bout in California just a week ago. He expressed full support for him.

Questions of ties between Chávez Jr. and organized crime, Romero said, were "too delicate" to touch. But in general, he said boxing and the cartel walked separate paths in Culiacan.

"We don't have anything to do with organized crime," he said. "On the contrary, it's a clean sport, very healthy from my point of view."

Israel will send ceasefire negotiating team to Qatar a day before Trump and Netanyahu meet

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — U.S.-led ceasefire efforts in Gaza appeared to gain momentum Saturday after nearly 21 months of war, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israel on Sunday will send a negotiating team to talks in Qatar.

The statement also asserted that Hamas was seeking "unacceptable" changes to the proposal. U.S.

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President Donald Trump has pushed for an agreement and will host Netanyahu at the White House on Monday to discuss a deal.

Inside Gaza, Israeli airstrikes killed 14 Palestinians and another 10 were killed while seeking food aid, hospital officials in the embattled enclave told The Associated Press. And two American aid workers with the Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation were injured in an attack at a food distribution site, which the organization blamed on Hamas, without providing evidence.

Weary Palestinians expressed cautious hope after Hamas gave a "positive" response late Friday to the latest U.S. proposal for a 60-day truce but said further talks were needed on implementation.

"We are tired. Enough starvation, enough closure of crossing points. We want to sleep in calm where we don't hear warplanes or drones or shelling," said Jamalata Wadi, one of Gaza's hundreds of thousands of displaced people, speaking in Deir al-Balah. She squinted in the sun during a summer heat wave of over 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit).

Hamas has sought guarantees that the initial truce would lead to a total end to the war and withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza. Previous negotiations have stalled over Hamas demands of guarantees that further negotiations would lead to the war's end, while Netanyahu has insisted Israel would resume fighting to ensure the militant group's destruction.

"Send a delegation with a full mandate to bring a comprehensive agreement to end the war and bring everyone back. No one must be left behind," Einav Zangauker, mother of hostage Matan Zangauker, told the weekly rally by relatives and supporters in Tel Aviv.

A Palestinian doctor and his 3 children killed

Israeli airstrikes struck tents in the crowded Muwasi area on Gaza's Mediterranean coast, killing seven people including a Palestinian doctor and his three children, according to Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis.

Four others were killed in the town of Bani Suheila in southern Gaza. Three people were killed in three strikes in Khan Younis. Israel's army did not immediately comment.

Separately, eight Palestinians were killed near a GHF aid distribution site in the southern city of Rafah, the hospital said. One Palestinian was killed near another GHF point in Rafah. It was not clear how far the Palestinians were from the sites.

GHF denied the killings happened near their sites. The organization has said no one has been shot at its sites, which are guarded by private contractors and can be accessed only by passing Israeli military positions hundreds of meters (yards) away.

The army had no immediate comment but has said it fires warning shots as a crowd-control measure and only aims at people when its troops are threatened.

Another Palestinian was killed waiting in crowds for aid trucks in eastern Khan Younis, officials at Nasser Hospital said. The United Nations and other international organizations have been bringing in their own supplies of aid since the war began. The incident did not appear to be connected to GHF operations.

Much of Gaza's population of over 2 million now relies on international aid after the war has largely devastated agriculture and other food sources and left many people near famine. Crowds of Palestinians often wait for trucks and unload or loot their contents before they reach their destinations. The trucks must pass through areas under Israeli military control. Israel's military did not immediately comment.

American aid workers injured

The GHF said the two American aid workers were injured on Saturday morning when assailants threw grenades at a distribution site in Khan Younis. The foundation said the injuries were not life-threatening. Israel's military said it evacuated the workers for medical treatment.

The GHF — a U.S.- and Israeli-backed initiative meant to bypass the U.N. — distributes aid from four sites that are surrounded by Israeli troops. Three sites are in Gaza's far south.

The U.N. and other humanitarian groups have rejected the GHF system, saying it allows Israel to use food as a weapon, violates humanitarian principles and is not effective. Israel says Hamas has siphoned off aid delivered by the U.N., a claim the U.N. denies. Hamas has urged Palestinians not to cooperate with the GHF.

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GHF, registered in Delaware, began distributing food in May to Palestinians, who say Israeli troops open fire almost every day toward crowds on roads heading to the distribution points.

Several hundred people have been killed and hundreds more wounded, according to Gaza's Health Ministry and witnesses. The U.N. human rights office says it has recorded 613 Palestinians killed within a month in Gaza while trying to obtain aid, most of them while trying to reach GHF sites.

The war began when Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 others hostage.

Israel responded with an offensive that has killed over 57,000 Palestinians, more than half of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which is led by medical professionals employed by the Hamas government. It does not differentiate between civilians and combatants, but the U.N. and other international organizations see its figures as the most reliable statistics on war casualties.

Flash floods like the one that swept through Texas are the nation's top storm-related killer

By JOHN O'CONNOR Associated Press

The monstrous, swift-moving flood that swept through the Hill Country of Texas on Friday, killing at least 32 people and leaving many more missing, was a flash flood, the nation's top storm-related killer. Among those missing are girls attending a summer camp.

Authorities said about 850 people had been rescued, including some by helicopter.

Flash floods form rapidly

According to the National Weather Service, a flash flood is flooding that begins within six hours, and often in as little as three hours, of heavy rainfall.

Waters rise so quickly that people are caught off guard, according to the weather service. Many people run into trouble while traveling. If at home or work, the water can rise so quickly that people are trapped before they have time to think about escape.

That is just what happened to residents along the Guadalupe River in Kerr County and the surrounding area after at least 10 inches (25 centimeters) poured from the sky early Friday morning.

Fast-moving waters along the river rose 26 feet (8 meters) in just 45 minutes before dawn Friday, washing away homes and vehicles. The danger was not over as more heavy rains were expected Saturday, and flash flood warnings and flood watches remained in effect for parts of central Texas.

There was some advance notice in Texas

On Thursday afternoon, the National Weather Service issued a flood watch, estimating rising water of up to 7 inches (17 centimeters) in spots. A "watch" means conditions are favorable for a flood and people should be prepared, but hazardous conditions might not develop.

But the watch was upgraded to a flood warning overnight, a notice that impacted 30,000 people. A warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring, the weather service says.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said the potential for heavy rain and flooding covered a large area, and "everything was done to give them a heads-up that you could have heavy rain."

However, when asked about how people were notified in Kerr County so that they could get to safety, Judge Rob Kelly, the county's chief elected official, said: "We do not have a warning system."

When reporters pushed on why more precautions weren't taken, Kelly responded: "Rest assured, no one knew this kind of flood was coming."

Flash floods can be deadly

Last year, 145 people died in flash floods, according to the weather service. On average over the past 30 years, floods have claimed 127 lives annually.

Floods trap people in vehicles

Nearly half of all flood-related fatalities involve vehicles. Flood deaths affect all age groups.

Many people don't realize that a car becomes difficult to control in just 6 inches (15 centimeters) of water

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and can be swept away in as little as 18 inches (46 centimeters). So instead of finding a detour, too often people try to drive through water at underpasses or other low-lying areas.

Flash floods can happen anywhere

It can happen anywhere, according to the weather service, which says that "the normally tranquil streams and creeks in your neighborhood can become raging torrents if heavy rain falls overhead."

An area can be flooded even without rain — if it's downstream of a torrential rainstorm and a swollen stream heads its way.

Hurricanes, tropical storms, non-cyclonic weather systems carrying heavy rain and dam failures are some weather events that can cause flash flooding. They can happen in rural areas or in large cities.

US completes deportation of 8 men to South Sudan after weeks of legal wrangling

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eight men deported from the United States in May and held under guard for weeks at an American military base in the African nation of Djibouti while their legal challenges played out in court have now reached the Trump administration's intended destination, war-torn South Sudan, a country the State Department advises against travel to due to "crime, kidnapping, and armed conflict."

The immigrants from Cuba, Laos, Mexico, Myanmar, Vietnam and South Sudan arrived in South Sudan on Friday after a federal judge cleared the way for the Trump administration to relocate them in a case that had gone to the Supreme Court, which had permitted their removal from the U.S. Administration officials said the men had been convicted of violent crimes in the U.S.

"This was a win for the rule of law, safety and security of the American people," said Homeland Security spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin in a statement Saturday announcing the men's arrival in South Sudan, a chaotic country in danger once more of collapsing into civil war.

The Supreme Court on Thursday cleared the way for the transfer of the men who had been put on a flight in May bound for South Sudan. That meant that the South Sudan transfer could be completed after the flight was detoured to a base in Djibouti, where they men were held in a converted shipping container. The flight was detoured after a federal judge found the administration had violated his order by failing to allow the men a chance to challenge the removal.

The court's conservative majority had ruled in June that immigration officials could quickly deport people to third countries. The majority halted an order that had allowed immigrants to challenge any removals to countries outside their homeland where they could be in danger.

A flurry of court hearings on Independence Day resulted a temporary hold on the deportations while a judge evaluated a last-ditch appeal by the men's before the judge decided he was powerless to halt their removals and that the person best positioned to rule on the request was a Boston judge whose rulings led to the initial halt of the administration's effort to begin deportations to South Sudan.

By Friday evening, that judge had issued a brief ruling concluding the Supreme Court had tied his hands.

The men had final orders of removal, Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have said. Authorities have reached agreements with other countries to house immigrants if authorities cannot quickly send them back to their homelands.

July Fourth holiday marked by shootings in several cities and a fireworks-related death

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (AP) — This year's Fourth of July holiday was marked by multiple shootings across the U.S., including one in Indianapolis that left at least two dead and a police chief voicing public frustration over the latest acts of violence in his city.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Chief Chris Bailey told reporters early Saturday morning that the mayhem was "completely unacceptable and unnecessary" and that parents and guardians needed to better control their children.

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"Hundreds of unsupervised kids down here," he said, while speaking in the city's downtown. "I don't know how many times I had to say it: We are not your children's keepers. You are! And parents and guardians have got to step up. A kid is dead tonight."

Mass shootings were reported in other cities, including Philadelphia and Chicago and Brockton, Massachusetts, where six people were hospitalized following an early morning fight on Saturday.

Violence and shootings often surge in the summer months, especially around the Fourth of July, historically one of the deadliest days of the year in the U.S.

The shooting in Chicago, which left seven people in serious or critical condition, came on the heels of another mass shooting that happened late Wednesday in a busy neighborhood known for its restaurants and nightlife. Four people were killed and 14 others injured.

In the New York City borough of Queens, police said one person was dead and three injured following a post-fireworks triple stabbing.

Meanwhile, a Wareham, Massachusetts, man is dead after being hit by a firework. Police said they found 70-year-old Robert Spagnuolo with a "facial injury." He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Officials in Georgia reported two boat explosions on lakes on Friday.

Seven people ranging in age from 5 to 45 suffered second- and third-degree burns when a boat exploded on Lake Lanier, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Seven more people suffered burns when a boat exploded and then sank on Lake Nottely, the department said.

Trump branded, browbeat and prevailed. But his big bill may come at a political cost

By SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barack Obama had the Affordable Care Act. Joe Biden had the Inflation Reduction Act. President Donald Trump will have the tax cuts.

All were hailed in the moment and became ripe political targets in campaigns that followed. In Trump's case, the tax cuts may almost become lost in the debates over other parts of the multitrillion-dollar bill that Democrats say will force poor Americans off their health care and overturn a decade or more of energy policy.

Through persuasion and browbeating, Trump forced nearly all congressional Republicans to line up behind his marquee legislation despite some of its unpalatable pieces.

He followed the playbook that had marked his life in business before politics. He focused on branding — labeling the legislation the "One Big, Beautiful Bill" — then relentlessly pushed to strong-arm it through Congress, solely on the votes of Republicans.

But Trump's victory will soon be tested during the 2026 midterm elections where Democrats plan to run on a durable theme: that the Republican president favors the rich on tax cuts over poorer people who will lose their health care.

Trump and Republicans argue that those who deserve coverage will retain it. Nonpartisan analysts, however, project significant increases to the number of uninsured. Meanwhile, the GOP's promise that the bill will turbocharge the economy will be tested at a time of uncertainty and trade turmoil.

Trump has tried to counter the notion of favoring the rich with provisions that would reduce the taxes for people paid in tips and receiving overtime pay, two kinds of earners who represent a small share of the workforce.

Extending the tax cuts from Trump's first term that were set to expire if Congress failed to act meant he could also argue that millions of people would avoid a tax increase. To enact that and other expensive priorities, Republicans made steep cuts to Medicaid that ultimately belied Trump's promise that those on government entitlement programs "won't be affected."

"The biggest thing is, he's answering the call of the forgotten people. That's why his No. 1 request was

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the no tax on tips, the no tax on overtime, tax relief for seniors," said Rep. Jason Smith, R-Mo., chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee. "I think that's going to be the big impact."

Hard to reap the rewards

Presidents have seen their signature legislative accomplishments unraveled by their successors or become a significant political liability for their party in subsequent elections.

A central case for Biden's reelection was that the public would reward the Democrat for his legislative accomplishments. That never bore fruit as he struggled to improve his poll numbers driven down by concerns about his age and stubborn inflation.

Since taking office in January, Trump has acted to gut tax breaks meant to boost clean energy initiatives that were part of Biden's landmark health care-and-climate bill.

Obama's health overhaul, which the Democrat signed into law in March 2010, led to a political bloodbath in the midterms that fall. Its popularity only became potent when Republicans tried to repeal it in 2017.

Whatever political boost Trump may have gotten from his first-term tax cuts in 2017 did not help him in the 2018 midterms, when Democrats regained control of the House, or in 2020 when he lost to Biden.

"I don't think there's much if any evidence from recent or even not-so-recent history of the president's party passing a big one-party bill and getting rewarded for it," said Kyle Kondik, an elections analyst with the nonpartisan University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

Social net setbacks

Democrats hope they can translate their policy losses into political gains.

During an Oval Office appearance in January, Trump pledged he would "love and cherish Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid."

"We're not going to do anything with that, other than if we can find some abuse or waste, we'll do something," Trump said. "But the people won't be affected. It will only be more effective and better."

That promise is far removed from what Trump and the Republican Party ultimately chose to do, paring back not only Medicaid but also food assistance for the poor to make the math work on their sweeping bill. It would force 11.8 million more people to become uninsured by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office, whose estimates the GOP has dismissed.

"In Trump's first term, Democrats in Congress prevented bad outcomes. They didn't repeal the (Affordable Care Act), and we did COVID relief together. This time is different," said Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii. "Hospitals will close, people will die, the cost of electricity will go up, and people will go without food."

Some unhappy Republicans

Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., repeatedly argued the legislation would lead to drastic coverage losses in his home state and others, leaving them vulnerable to political attacks similar to what Democrats faced after they enacted "Obamacare." With his warnings unheeded, Tillis announced he would not run for reelection, after he opposed advancing the bill and enduring Trump's criticism.

"If there is a political dimension to this, it is the extraordinary impact that you're going to have in states like California, blue states with red districts," Tillis said. "The narrative is going to be overwhelmingly negative in states like California, New York, Illinois, and New Jersey."

Even Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, who eventually became the decisive vote in the Senate that ensured the bill's passage, said the legislation needed more work and she urged the House to revise it. Lawmakers there did not.

Early polling suggests that Trump's bill is deeply unpopular, including among independents and a healthy share of Republicans. White House officials said their own research does not reflect that.

So far, it's only Republicans celebrating the victory. That seems OK with the president.

In a speech in Iowa after the bill passed, he said Democrats only opposed it because they "hated Trump." That didn't bother him, he said, "because I hate them, too."

Pope Leo XIV resumes the tradition of taking a summer vacation. But he's got plenty of homework

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — In his very first sermon as pontiff, Pope Leo XIV told the cardinals who elected him that anyone who exercises authority in the Catholic Church must “make oneself small,” so that only Christ remains.

In word and deed since, Leo has seemed intent on almost disappearing into the role. The shy 69-year-old Augustinian missionary has eschewed the headline-grabbing protagonism of past pontiffs in favor of a quieter, less showy and more reserved way of being pope.

Leo will disappear further this weekend when he begins a six-week vacation in his first break since his historic election May 8. Leo is resuming the papal tradition of escaping the Roman heat for the relatively cooler climes of Castel Gandolfo, the papal summer retreat on Lake Alban, south of Rome.

People who know and work with Leo expect he will use these weeks away from the public eye and the daily grind of Vatican audiences to get his head around the most pressing problems facing the church. He's a methodical, hard-working and well-prepared manager, they say, who wants to read entire reports, not just the executive summaries, before making decisions.

Here is a look at Leo's summer homework, the outstanding dossiers he may be studying from now until Aug. 17 in between dips in the pool, walks in the gardens and occasional Masses, prayers and visits in town.

Big nominations

After his election, Leo reappointed all Vatican prefects until further notice, so the Holy See machinery is still working with the old guard in place. But a few major appointments await, most importantly to fill Leo's old job as prefect of the office that vets bishop nominations.

Leo also has to decide who will be his No. 2. The Vatican secretary of state, the equivalent of a prime minister, is still Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Pope Francis' pick who was himself an unsuccessful contender in the conclave that elected Leo pope.

Even before he gets his people in place, Leo has to get a handle on one of the most pressing problems facing the Holy See: Its troubled finances. The Vatican is running a structural deficit of around 50 million to 60 million euros (\$59-71 million) and has a 1 billion euro (\$1.18 billion) shortfall in its pension fund.

The Rupnik problem

There are plenty of high-profile clergy sex cases that festered during Francis' pontificate that are now on Leo's desk. History's first American pope will be watched closely to see how he handles them, since he cannot claim ignorance about abuse or its dynamics, given the devastation the scandals have wrought in the United States.

On the eve of his vacation, he made an important appointment, naming French Bishop Thibault Verny head of the Vatican's child protection advisory board, replacing the retiring American Cardinal Sean O'Malley.

Leo has already said it's “urgent” to create a culture of prevention in the church that shows no tolerance for any form of abuse, be it abuse of authority or spiritual or sexual abuse.

On that score, there is no case more pressing than that of the Rev. Marko Rupnik, a famous mosaic artist who was belatedly thrown out of the Jesuits after its superiors determined he sexually, psychologically and spiritually abused two dozen adult women and nuns. Even though the case didn't involve minors, it became a toxic problem for Francis because of suggestions Rupnik received favorable treatment at the Vatican under the Jesuit pope.

Nearly two years after Francis caved into pressure to reopen the Rupnik file, the Vatican has finally found external canon lawyers to hear the case, the head of the Vatican's doctrine office, Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernández, told reporters last week. As recently as March, Fernandez had said he was having trouble finding any willing candidates. Now that Francis is dead, the case may be less politically delicate, even as the priest's supporters maintain his innocence.

Leo has already sent a signal, with Vatican News removing Rupnik's artwork from its website.

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The Becciu case

Another legal headache facing Leo is what to do about Cardinal Angelo Becciu and the Vatican's "trial of the century," which is heading into the appeals phase in September. The city-state's criminal tribunal in 2023 convicted Becciu and eight other people of a variety of financial crimes stemming from the Holy See's bungled 350 million euro (\$412 million) investment in a London property.

But the trial was itself problematic, with defense claims that basic defense rights weren't respected since Francis intervened on several occasions in favor of prosecutors. In the months since the verdicts were handed down, there have been new revelations that Vatican gendarmes and prosecutors were apparently in regular touch with a woman who was coaching the star witness into testifying against Becciu. The once-powerful cardinal has denounced the contacts as evidence that his conviction was orchestrated from the start, from the top.

Leo, a canon lawyer, may want to steer clear of the whole thing to try to give the tribunal the impression of being independent. But Leo will ultimately have to decide what to do with Becciu, who recused himself from the conclave but remains a cardinal with a very unclear status.

The Latin Mass issue

Leo has said his priority as pope is unity and reconciliation in the church. Many conservatives and traditionalists hope that means he will work to heal the liturgical divisions that spread during Francis' 12-year papacy, especially in the U.S., over the old Latin Mass.

Francis in 2021 restricted access for ordinary Catholics to the ancient liturgy, arguing that its spread was creating divisions in the church. In doing so, Francis reversed his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, who in 2007 had relaxed restrictions on its celebration.

Cardinal Raymond Burke, a figurehead of the conservative and traditionalist camp, told a recent conference on the Latin Mass that he had spoken to Leo about the need to "put an end to the present persecution of the faithful" who want to worship according to the old rite.

"It is my hope that he will as soon as it is possible take up the study of this question and try to restore the situation as it was" under Benedict's reform, Burke said.

AI and travel priorities

Leo has also identified artificial intelligence as a pressing issue facing humanity, suggesting a document of some sort might be in the works.

Also under study is when he will start traveling, and where.

Leo has a standing invitation to undertake Francis' last, unfulfilled foreign commitment: Marking the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, Christianity's first ecumenical council, with a visit to Turkey. Leo has already said a visit is in the works, possibly in late November.

Beyond that, Leo has received plenty of invitations: Vice President JD Vance extended a Trump invitation to visit the U.S., but Leo demurred and offered a noncommittal "at some point." Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy invited him to visit Kyiv, but the Vatican under Francis had refused a papal visit there unless one could also be arranged to Moscow.

Leo's old diocese of Chiclayo, Peru, meanwhile, is waiting for their bishop to come home, and then there's Argentina, which never got a papal visit from the first-ever Argentine pope.

A town awaits

The residents of Castel Gandolfo, meanwhile, are aching for a pope to return. Francis had decided not to use the retreat and instead spent his 12 papal summers at home, in the Vatican. The town has recovered from the economic hit of pope-free summers, after Francis instead opened the papal palace and gardens to the public as a museum year-round.

But townsfolk cannot wait for Leo to take up residence and enjoy the town's gorgeous lake views and quiet starry nights. It's the perfect place for a pope to rest, read, write and think in private, they say.

"Remember, many encyclicals were written here," noted the Rev. Tadeusz Rozmus, the town's parish priest.

Ukraine says it struck a Russian air base as Russia sent hundreds of drones into Ukraine

By ELISE MORTON Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Ukraine said it struck a Russian air base on Saturday, while Russia continued to pound Ukraine with hundreds of drones overnight as part of a stepped-up bombing campaign that has dashed hopes for a breakthrough in efforts to end the more than 3-year-old war.

Ukraine's military General Staff said that Ukrainian forces had struck the Borisoglebsk air base in Russia's Voronezh region, describing it as the home base of Russia's Su-34, Su-35S and Su-30SM fighter jets.

Writing on Facebook, the General Staff said it hit a depot containing glide bombs, a training aircraft and "possibly other aircraft."

Russian officials did not immediately comment on the attack.

Such attacks on Russian air bases aim to dent Russia's military capability and demonstrate Ukraine's capability to hit high-value targets in Russia. Last month, Ukraine said it destroyed more than 40 Russian planes stationed at several airfields deep in Russia's territory in a surprise drone attack.

Russia fired 322 drones and decoys into Ukraine overnight into Saturday, Ukraine's air force said. Of these, 157 were shot down and 135 were lost, likely having been electronically jammed.

According to the air force, Ukraine's western Khmelnytskyi region was the main target of the attack. Regional Gov. Serhii Tyurin said Saturday that no damage, injuries or deaths had been reported.

Russia has been stepping up its long-range attacks on Ukraine. Waves of drones and missiles targeted Kyiv overnight into Friday in the largest aerial assault since Russia's invasion of Ukraine began. On Saturday, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said the number of people killed in the assault had increased to two. A further 31 people were wounded.

The fresh wave of attacks came after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday that he had a "very important and productive" phone call with U.S. President Donald Trump.

The two leaders discussed how Ukrainian air defenses might be strengthened, possible joint weapons production between the U.S. and Ukraine, and broader U.S.-led efforts to end the war with Russia, according to a statement by Zelenskyy.

Asked Friday night by reporters about the call, Trump said, "We had a very good call, I think."

When asked about finding a way to end the fighting, Trump said: "I don't know. I can't tell you whether or not that's going to happen."

The U.S. has paused some shipments of military aid to Ukraine, including crucial air defense missiles. Ukraine's main European backers are considering how they can help pick up the slack. Zelenskyy says plans are afoot to build up Ukraine's domestic arms industry, but scaling up will take time.

Russia's Defense Ministry said it shot down 94 Ukrainian drones overnight into Saturday, along with 45 further drones Saturday morning and early afternoon. No casualties were reported, but local officials in the Saratov region said 25 apartments were damaged by Ukrainian drones in the city of Engels.

Four Ukrainian drones were shot down while approaching Moscow on Saturday, according to Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin. Air traffic was briefly halted as a precaution at one of Moscow's airports, Sheremetyevo, Russia's aviation authority Rosaviatsiya said. ____

Follow AP's coverage of the war in Ukraine at <https://apnews.com/hub/russia-ukraine>.

Today in History: July 6, Althea Gibson wins Wimbledon

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 6, the 187th day of 2025. There are 178 days left in the year.

Today in History:

On July 6, 1957, Althea Gibson became the first Black tennis player to win a Wimbledon singles title as she defeated fellow American Darlene Hard 6-3, 6-2.

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Also on this date:

In 1483, England's King Richard III was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1777, during the American Revolution, British forces captured Fort Ticonderoga (ty-kahn-dur-OH'-gah).

In 1885, French scientist Louis Pasteur tested an anti-rabies vaccine on 9-year-old Joseph Meister, who had been bitten by an infected dog; the boy did not develop rabies.

In 1933, the first All-Star baseball game was played at Chicago's Comiskey Park; the American League defeated the National League 4-2 behind winning pitcher Lefty Gomez of the New York Yankees.

In 1942, Anne Frank, her parents and sister entered a "secret annex" in an Amsterdam building where they were later joined by four other people; they hid from Nazi occupiers for two years before being discovered and arrested.

In 1944, an estimated 168 people died in a fire that broke out during a performance in the main tent of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman signed an executive order establishing the Medal of Freedom.

In 1967, Nigerian forces invade the Republic of Biafra, sparking the Nigerian Civil War.

In 1988, 167 North Sea oil workers were killed when explosions and fires destroyed a drilling platform.

In 2013, an Asiana Airlines Boeing 777 from Seoul, South Korea, crashed while landing at San Francisco International Airport, killing three passengers and injuring 181.

In 2016, Philando Castile, a Black elementary school cafeteria worker, was killed during a traffic stop in a suburb of St. Paul, Minnesota, by Officer Jeronimo Yanez. (Yanez was later acquitted on a charge of second-degree manslaughter.)

In 2018, six followers of the Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult were hanged along with its leader, Shoko Asahara; they had been convicted of crimes including a 1995 sarin gas attack that killed 13 people and made thousands of others sick on the Tokyo subway system.

In 2020, the Trump administration formally notified the United Nations of its withdrawal from the World Health Organization; President Donald Trump had criticized the WHO's response to the coronavirus pandemic. (The pullout was later halted by President Joseph Biden's administration.)

Today's Birthdays: The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is 90. Singer Gene Chandler ("Duke of Earl") is 88. Country singer Jeannie Seely is 85. Actor Burt Ward (TV: "Batman") is 80. Former President George W. Bush is 79. Actor-director Sylvester Stallone is 79. Actor Geoffrey Rush is 74. Retired MLB All-Star Willie Randolph is 71. Former first daughter Susan Ford Bales is 68. Actor-writer Jennifer Saunders ("Absolutely Fabulous") is 67. Actor Brian Posehn is 59. Political reporter/moderator John Dickerson is 57. Rapper Inspectah Deck (Wu-Tang Clan) is 55. Rapper 50 Cent is 50. Actors Tia and Tamera Mowry (MOHR'-ee) are 47. Comedian-actor Kevin Hart is 46. Actor Eva Green is 45. San Diego Padres infielder Manny Machado is 33. NBA power forward Zion Williamson is 25.