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Sunday, July 13

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 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 Clark, 4 p.m.

VFW Class B U12 State Baseball Tourney n Groton Summer Fest/Car Show, 9 a.m., City Park



Monday, July 14

School Board Meeting 7 p.m.

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, blushing pears, whole wheat bread.

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

Jr. Teeners hosts Brittion, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Softball: U8B at Britton, 6 p.m.; U8G at Brittion, 6 p.m.; U10B&G at Aberdeen (NSU), 5:30 p.m.; U12 vs. Aberdeen at NSU, 6:45 p.m.; U14 vs. Aberdeen (NSU), 8 p.m.

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

Tuesday, July 15

Senior Menu: Lemon baked cod, parsley. buttered potato, broccoli, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.

Amateurs host Aberdeen, 6 p.m.

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

Softball: U14U18 hosts Claremont, 6 p.m. (DH); U14 at Warner, 6 p.m. (DH)

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent
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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

The Supreme Court's Deference to Presidency is Rewriting the Constitution

The Supreme Court's pattern of deference to the executive has rocked our constitutional foundations and invited presidential disregard of fundamental legal constraints and duties. James Madison's assurance in Federalist No. 51 that in a republic, "the legislature necessarily predominates," no longer holds, the over-arching principle of the rule of law—that the president is, indeed, subordinate to the law—lies prostrate, the president's solemn Article II responsibility to "faithfully execute the laws" seems discretionary, and the judiciary's duty, as charged by Chief Justice John Marshall, to superintend obedience to the Constitution, has been stripped, ironically, by the Court itself.

In baffling ways, the Constitution seems to have been turned on its head by a Court eager to expand executive power, at the expense of both the legislative and judicial branches. The Court's ill-conceived ruling in 2024, in *Trump v. United States*, which will be regarded by history as perhaps the most pernicious decision ever rendered by the High Bench, bathed the president in sweeping immunity from prosecution, essentially a get-out-of-jail card, which President Donald Trump views as having confirmed his own theory that the president enjoys "absolute" power under Article II of the Constitution. The ruling, coupled with Trump's understanding of it, leaves us to wonder about the standing in American law of the epochal principle of executive subordination to the rule of law.

The Court's stunning deference to the executive branch in *Trump v. CASA*—the so-called "birthright citizenship" case-- which closed this latest Term, held that federal district judges may not stop a presidential order from going into effect nationwide. While use of nationwide injunctions—the practice by which federal courts block the application of laws and executive orders for the entire nation as a way of issuing temporary relief pending further appeal--has spawned controversy over the years, the Supreme Court was not bothered by the injunctions issued by conservative judges to halt President Joe Biden's executive orders and passed on opportunities to declare them "inappropriate means" of relief. But in *CASA*, a 6-3 majority, in an opinion written by Justice Amy Coney Barrett, did precisely that, when the Court held that the injunctions against President Trump's executive order—the very first of his second term in office-- to overturn birthright citizenship, a right clearly established in Section 1 of the 14th Amendment, may not stop a presidential order from going into effect nationwide.

The Court said that a judge may stop an order from affecting a particular plaintiff or state, but where there is no lawsuit, say in a neighboring state, the president's order must be followed. What is the reality of this decision? In a nutshell, a federal court cannot stop an illegal presidential order from going into effect nationwide. To deny federal judges the capacity to halt illegal acts, including those such as Trump's executive order banning birthright citizenship, that blatantly subvert the Constitution, begs the obvious question: What's the point of establishing courts?

While Justice Barrett said that nationwide injunctions are not an appropriate means of relief, she did write for the Court that those affected by an executive order may file suits themselves or join a class action lawsuit. Here's the rub: most affected by Trump's executive order lack the wherewithal to file a lawsuit. Class action litigation—the effort to seek justice collectively—faces significant challenges, including matters of complexity and scope, and certification of class, in addition to the lengthy process that may well deny plaintiffs the relief that they are seeking.

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The Trump Administration knew full well that it could not win on the merits of the case; after all, three federal judges, supported by three courts of appeals, have ruled that it is illegal to end to birthright citizenship, a right that is textually guaranteed by the 14th Amendment. In fact, the administration did not even ask the Court to reach the merits. Instead, it played and won, with the assistance of a quiescent Court, the cynical game of seeking a win on nationwide injunctions so that it could ban birthright citizenship (and proceed with executive orders thwarted by such injunctions) in those states where lawsuits—by individuals or class action—have not been filed.

The Court's expansion of executive power ignores the rule of law, equal protection and, indeed, its own institutional responsibilities. This is not commendable jurisprudence.

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

Jr. Legion Baseball Region Tournament

Locke/Karst Field, Groton

Monday, July 28 starting at Noon

Sisseton vs. Redfield

Groton vs. Redfield

Clark vs. Groton

Tuesday, July 29 starting at 2 p.m.

Sisseton vs. Groton

Sisseton vs. Clark

Redfield vs. Clark

If no one is undefeated, or there is no clear winner, a formula is used to determine who will advance to state tournament August 8-10 in Milbank.

RUMMAGE SALE

3 FAMILY RUMMAGE SALE, Sunday, July 13, 8 am-2:30 pm, At OLDE BANK, 101 N. Main, Groton, (Summer Fest/Car Show/Vendors/Church at Groton City Park 9-3).

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State VFW 12B Tournament in Groton and Columbia

Groton Trounces Salem Cubs

By GameChanger Media

Groton won big over Salem Cubs 11-2 on Friday at Groton Baseball Nelson Field.

Salem Cubs were the first to get on the board in the first when F singled, scoring one run.

Groton took the lead in the bottom of the first inning after Owen Tewksbury grounded into a fielder's choice, and Knox Mulder singled down the right field line, each scoring one run.

Groton scored five runs on two hits in the bottom of the second inning. An error scored one run, an error scored one run, Mason Locke singled, scoring two runs, and Knox singled, scoring one run.

Easton Larson pitched three innings in relief for Groton. The reliever allowed one hit and one run while, striking out two and walking none. Bentley Ehresmann opened the game for Groton. The hurler surrendered three hits and one run over one inning, striking out two and walking none. K led things off on the mound for Salem Cubs. The starting pitcher allowed one hit and five runs (zero earned) over one and one-third innings, striking out two and walking two.

Mason Locke, Knox Mulder, Owen Tewksbury, and Easton Larson each drove in two runs for Groton. Mulder went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton in hits. Groton turned one double play in the game. Groton didn't commit a single error in the field. Mulder had the most chances in the field with five.

H, F, K, and B each collected one hit for Salem Cubs. F and #17 each drove in one run for Salem Cubs. Salem Cubs turned one double play in the game.

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Groton Storms Back To Defeat Wagner

By GameChanger Media

Groton rallied to best Wagner 6-4 on Friday at Groton Baseball Falk Field. Groton trailed by as many as four runs during the game.

Wagner got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Ron K doubled down the right field line, and Cartyr G singled down the right field line, each scoring two runs.

Groton flipped the game on its head in the top of the third, scoring six runs on five hits to take the lead, 6-4. The biggest blow in the inning was a single by Bentley Ehresmann that drove in two.

Owen Tewksbury earned the win for Groton. The hurler allowed zero hits and zero runs over one-third of an inning, striking out one and walking two. Mason Locke pitched three innings in relief for Groton. The pitcher surrendered two hits and zero runs while, striking out four and walking none. Dax L took the loss for Wagner. The hurler went two and one-third innings, giving up five runs (three earned) on seven hits, striking out one and walking none. Carter Boerger stepped on the hill first for Groton. The hurler gave up three hits and four runs over one and two-thirds innings, striking out three and walking two. Ron started on the mound for Wagner. The pitcher surrendered zero hits and one run over two innings, striking out three and walking three.

Hank Hill, Mason Locke, Carter Boerger, Bentley Ehresmann, Owen Tewksbury, Easton Larson, Brody Zimmerman, and Rylan Blackwood each collected one hit for Groton. Ehresmann led Groton with two runs batted in. The infielder went 1-for-3 on the day.

Cartyr and Ron were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in two runs for Wagner.

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Tewksbury's Clutch Hitting Propels Groton To Victory Over Parkston Leischner By GameChanger Media

Owen Tewksbury drove in five runs on three hits to lead Groton past Parkston Leischner 13-1 on Saturday at Groton Baseball Falk Field. Owen singled in the first scoring two, singled in the second scoring two, and singled in the third scoring one.

A single by Owen put Groton on the board in the top of the first.

Groton extended their early lead with four runs in the top of the second thanks to RBI singles by Tewksbury and Carter Boerger.

Groton scored six runs on four hits in the top of the third inning. An error scored one run, Easton Larson singled, scoring two runs, Tewksbury singled, scoring one run, Mason Locke grounded out, scoring one run, and Knox Mulder singled, scoring one run.

Graham Rose earned the win for Groton. The pitcher surrendered three hits and one run over four innings, striking out five and walking one. Liam H took the loss for Parkston Leischner. The starting pitcher went three and two-thirds innings, surrendering 13 runs (six earned) on 11 hits, striking out three and walking five.

Groton collected 12 hits in the game. Tewksbury and Brody Zimmerman each collected three hits for Groton. Boerger and Mulder each collected multiple hits for Groton.

Layton H, Miles S, and Walker G each collected one hit for Parkston Leischner.

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Groton Victorious Over Hamlin/Lake Norden By GameChanger Media

Groton outsted Hamlin/Lake Norden 10-5 on Saturday at Wahl Field in Columbia.

Groton jumped out to the lead in the bottom of the first inning after Easton Larson doubled, scoring one run, Owen Tewksbury doubled, scoring two runs, Rylan Blackwood grounded out, scoring one run, and Hank Hill grounded out, scoring one run.

Groton added one run in the second after Brody Zimmerman singled to the right side of the infield.

Groton added to their early lead in the bottom of the third inning after Hill grounded out, and Carter Boerger singled to center field, each scoring one run.

Hayden Harder led things off on the hill for Groton. The hurler gave up 10 hits and five runs over five innings, striking out two and walking two.

Greyson C opened the game for Hamlin/LN. The starting pitcher allowed 13 hits and eight runs over two and one-third innings, striking out none and walking one.

Groton accumulated 17 hits in the game. Groton's Boerger, the number nine hitter, led Groton with three hits in three at bats. Hill, Boerger, and Tewksbury each drove in two runs for Groton. Knox Mulder, Bentley Ehresmann, Zimmerman, and Graham Rose each collected multiple hits for Groton. Groton turned one double play in the game. Groton didn't commit a single error in the field. Larson had the most chances in the field with six.

Hamlin/LN amassed 10 hits in the game. Broden K led Hamlin/LN with two runs batted in. The right fielder went 1-for-2 on the day. Jack V went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Hamlin/LN in hits. Hamlin/LN were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Jack had the most chances in the field with five.

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Groton's Easton Larson and Hank Fliehs celebrate the end of the game against Lake Norden on Saturday's evening in Columbia.

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



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In Saturday's games

Webster 16, Kimball/White Lake WiLdcats 5
Clark Area 12, Winner Rattlers 0
Salem Cubs 11, Hamlin/Lake Norden 9
Emery 11, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket Hawks 1
Clark Area 14, Canova Gang 0
Corsica/Stickney Jaguars 7, Britton Jr. Jacks 2
Groton 13, Parkston Leischner 1
Wagner 32, Salem Cubs 0
Baltic Bulldogs 4, Kimball/White Lake WiLdcats 3
Canova Gang 6 Britton Jr. Jacks 3
Webster 11, Emery 4
Parkston Leischner 10, Wagner 8
Corsica/Stickney Jaguars 4, Winner Rattlers 1
Baltic Bulldogs 8, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket Hawks 5
Groton 10, Hamlin/Lake Norden 5

Standings

State Tournament Bracket Set for 12B

The VFW State 12B Tournament pairings are set after two days for pool play.

On Nelson Field, Groton vs. Wagner at 8 a.m. followed by Webster and Emery at 11 a.m.

On Falk Field, Clark plays Winner at 8 a.m. followed by Baltic and Corsica/Stickney at 11 a.m.

The losers will all fall into the fifth place bracket and will be considered tied, so they will be done playing. There is no fifth or seventh place game.

The championship semifinal games will be played at 1 p.m. The third place game will be played at 3 p.m. on Nelson Field and the championship game will be played at 3 p.m. on Falk Field.

Meanwhile at Wahl Field in Columbia, the ninth place game between Parkston and Salem will be played at 11 a.m. and the 11th place game between Canova and Kimball/White Lake will be played at 1 p.m.

UNIFORM					
Team	W	L	T	RD	RA
Clark Area 12U	4	0	0	40	6
Corsica/Stickney Jaguars 12U	3	1	0	8	14
Winner Rattlers 12U	2	2	0	-2	18
Canova Gang 12U	1	3	0	-18	36
Britton Jr Jacks 12U	0	4	0	-28	54
YANKEE					
Team	W	L	T	RD	RA
Groton 12U	4	0	0	26	12
Wagner 12U	2	2	0	13	18
Parkston 12U Leischner	2	2	0	-14	46
Salem Cubs 12U	2	2	0	-10	56
Hamlin/LN 12U	0	4	0	-15	45
ZULU					
Team	W	L	T	RD	RA
Webster 12U	3	1	0	21	10
Baltic Bulldogs 12U	3	1	0	1	14
Emery 12U	3	1	0	8	17
KWL WiLdKats 12U	0	3	1	-12	32
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket Hawks 12U	0	3	1	-18	32

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Knox Mulder gets a hit during the fourth inning against Parkston. Groton won 13-1 in their third game of the 12U South Dakota VFW State Tournament on Saturday afternoon. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton's Owen Tewksbury waits for the ball while Lake Norden's Ryker Kasten runs toward first base during a game Saturday in Columbia. Groton won 10-5. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Graham Rose throws a strike during the bottom of the fourth inning during Groton's game against Parkston in the 12U South Dakota VFW State Tournament on Saturday afternoon. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



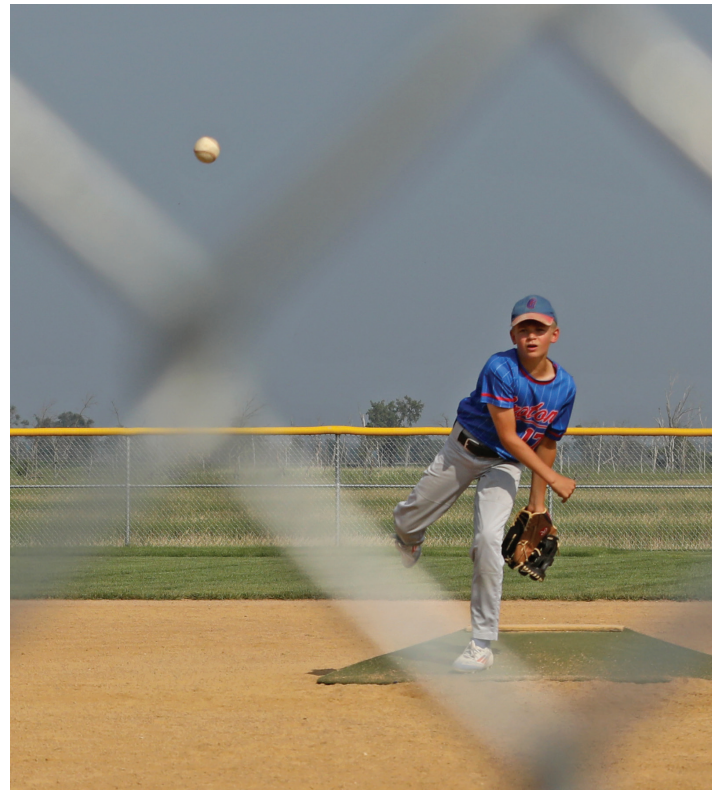
Groton's Carter Boerger gets a hit during Saturday's game against Lake Norden in Columbia. Groton won 10-5. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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Groton's Graham Rose swings during the game against Lake Norden in Columbia as part of the 12U South Dakota VFW State Tournament. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton's Haden Harder pitches during Saturday's game against Lake Norden in Columbia. Groton won 10-5. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton's Hayden Hubbart runs toward first base during Saturday's game against Lake Norden in Columbia. Groton won 10-5. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton's Owen Tewksbury reaches for a catch while Lake Norden's Will Stormo races to the base during Saturday's game in Columbia. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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Groton's Mason Locke jumps to catch a throw while protecting home plate during Saturday's game in Columbia. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton's Haden Harder pitches against Lake Norden during Saturday's game in Columbia.

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton's Mason Locke protects home plate during Saturday's game in Columbia. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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Groton pitcher Haden Harder dives towards a ground ball hit by Lake Norden's Lane Madsen during Saturday's game in Columbia. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton's Easton Larson prepares to hit the ball in front of a large crowd at the ball field in Columbia during Saturday's game against Lake Norden, part of the 12U VFW tournament. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton's Mason Locke prepares to hit during Saturday's game in Columbia. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton's Easton Larson runs over home plate at the baseball field in Columbia during Saturday's game against Lake Norden, part of the 12U VFW tournament. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton's Knox Mulder throws toward first baseman Hank Fliehs during Saturday's game in Columbia. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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Groton pitcher Haden Harder pitches during Saturday's game in Columbia. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton's Hank Hill grabs a ground ball during Saturday's game in Columbia. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton's Haden Harder pitches against Lake Norden during Saturday's game in Columbia.

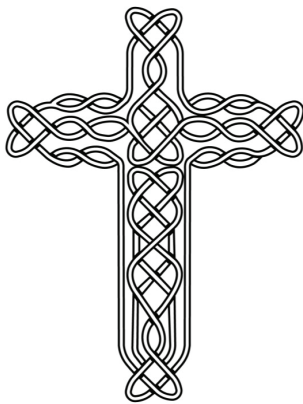


Groton's Knox Mulder reaches for the ball during Saturday's game in Columbia. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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





SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Congress, state lawmakers move to juice aviation biofuel production

BY: ALLISON PRANG - JULY 12, 2025 9:40 AM

Congress' passage of President Donald Trump's spending and tax cuts bill this month could help grow the market for sustainable aviation fuel, a nascent industry that could be a boon for corn-producing states as airline operators are betting on it to decarbonize the sector.

The Republican budget reconciliation law that Trump signed July 4 pared back some of the credits for sustainable energy in the law that congressional Democrats passed and President Joe Biden signed in 2022 — the Inflation Reduction Act.

But the recent law extended one energy tax credit for producing clean fuels, such as sustainable aviation fuel, an alternative to the typical jet fuel planes use. The credit initially went through 2027, but the GOP law extends it through 2029.

Advocates for sustainable aviation fuel had been pushing Congress to extend the tax credit to support production as states across the U.S. have passed or proposed their own tax credits to grow the sector and lure production within their borders. Lawmakers in Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan and New York have introduced bills enacting tax credits for sustainable aviation fuel.

For airlines, increasing availability of the fuel is essential for the sector to meet its net-zero goal for 2050, with the International Air Transport Association estimating the cleaner fuel could get the industry 65% of the way toward its target.

"We're not yet at commercial-scale production and you need that longer lead time for these types of projects so I think the extension is really key," said Chris Bliley, senior vice president of regulatory affairs at Growth Energy, a biofuel industry group.

While the credit's lifetime was extended, others say the environment for sustainable aviation fuel isn't as favorable as it was just a few years ago. The new budget reconciliation law also included provisions to lower the credit amount for sustainable aviation fuel specifically and clawed back unobligated grant funding to support the sector.

The amount of sustainable aviation fuel that producers make today is far from how much the airline industry needs to be able to use the alternative fuel regularly. U.S. production capacity over the last couple of years, however, has grown, jumping from less than 5,000 barrels per day at the start of 2024 to more than 30,000 by February of this year, according to a May report from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Badger State bill

Wisconsin state Rep. David Steffen, a Republican who sponsored a bill to incentivize sustainable aviation fuel, said he learned about a sustainable aviation fuel production company based in Madison called Virent Inc., now a subsidiary of Marathon Petroleum Corp. Virent's fuel helped power the first domestic flight powered by 100% sustainable aviation fuel in one of its engines.

"I was intrigued that we had this company in our state and I want them and other companies of similar interest to find Wisconsin as their new home," Steffen said. "It's a great opportunity for not only the environmental benefits that come with it but for our farmers, dairies and timber producers to access a brand-new market for their product."

Steffen's bill also requires that to receive the tax credit, source materials for the fuel must be domestically sourced.

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Wisconsin's legislative session doesn't end until next March and Steffen said he's "very comfortable in saying (the bill) will have a clear path to the finish line." Should it pass in its current state, the tax credit would go into effect in 2028.

Other states

Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska and Washington state all already have enacted laws to provide tax credits for sustainable aviation fuel.

Lawmakers in New York and Michigan have also proposed legislation to create their own tax credits. The New York bill barely moved in the most recent session, while legislation in Michigan has made it out of one committee and been referred to a second.

New York state Sen. Rachel May, a Democrat, plans to re-introduce the legislation next year. She said she wants to amend her bill to offer a larger tax credit for companies making sustainable aviation fuel specifically by mimicking photosynthesis so it doesn't incentivize diverting feedstock like corn from being used for food, she said.

Her concern is moving the agriculture industry "away from both food production and maybe what might be the best uses of the land," she added.

Corn ethanol, a common ingredient in automotive fuel, can be used to make sustainable aviation fuel.

Federal extension

While the extension of the federal clean fuels tax credit could be beneficial to the sustainable aviation fuel industry, the new law also lowers the amount of the tax credit for the fuel. It's now the equivalent to what other biofuel producers qualify for, giving sustainable aviation fuel production less of a competitive advantage.

One version of the budget reconciliation bill also called for extending the tax credit by four years instead of two, but that got scaled back in the version of the bill ultimately signed into law.

The new law also took away any funding not yet obligated as part of a grant program for sustainable aviation fuel and makes fuels derived from feedstocks that come from outside the U.S., Canada or Mexico ineligible for the tax credit.

Despite any limitations, some analysts expect the law will still boost sustainable aviation fuel.

"The Trump administration has yet to outline its approach to SAF, but we expect the fuel to benefit from the administration's focus on supporting biofuel-producing states," analysts for Capstone DC, a firm that advises business clients on policy issues, said in a note in late June.

But changes to the federal tax credit could also make states more interested in adopting their own credit to support sustainable aviation fuel, Capstone added.

'Not nearly as strong'

Tariffs, meanwhile, could also make U.S. feedstocks for producing the fuel more competitive, Paul Greenough, a vice president on Capstone's energy team.

But Greenough cautioned that sentiment around sustainable aviation fuel still isn't as rosy as it used to be. "Momentum still exists for SAF but it's not nearly as strong as it was under the Biden administration," he said.

Some climate groups have also expressed concern over changing the clean fuels tax credit at the federal level. The Clean Air Task Force, ahead of the bill becoming law, said extending the credit will largely service other fuels that aren't sustainable aviation fuel, which will in turn be costlier for the government.

"This purported attempt to incentivize 'clean fuels' is little more than a giveaway to the conventional biofuels industry," the organization said in a post on its website.

Allison Prang is a freelance journalist based in Washington, D.C., who covers climate, policy and business issues, among other things. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, POLITICO and a range of other news outlets.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done marvelous things! Do not be afraid, you beasts of the field; for the open pastures are springing up, and the tree bears its fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their strength.

JOEL 2:21,22



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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. Which Moabit woman became ancestress of King David through her marriage to Boaz? *Sarah, Jezebel, Ruth, Leah*

3. From Daniel 6, which king called to David in a lamentable voice? *Pilate, Darius, Herod, Solomon*

4. What's a binding agreement made between God and a person or group? *Daric, Crown, Covenant, Commandment*

5. From 2 Samuel 12, who said "Thou art the man"? *Boaz, Samson, Isaac, Nathan*

6. Who said, "My soul doth magnify the Lord"? *Ruth, Sarah, Miriam, Mary*

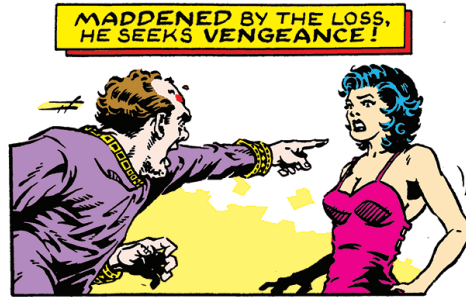
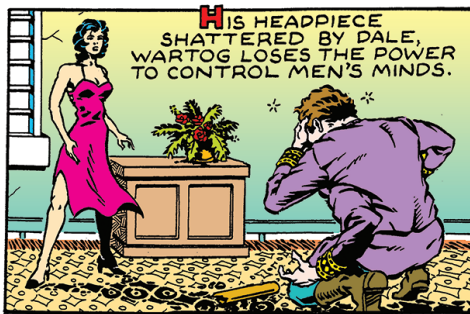
ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Ruth, 3) Darius, 4) Covenant, 5) Nathan, 6) Mary

Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!

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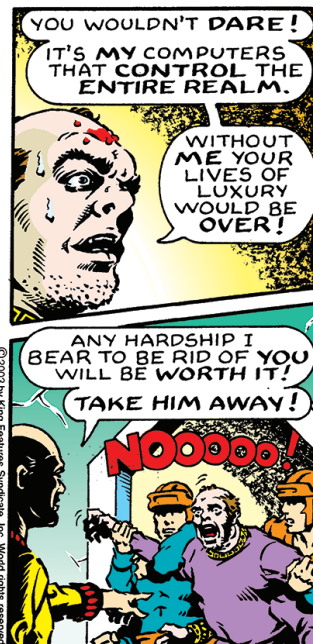
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OUR
STORY
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FAR...

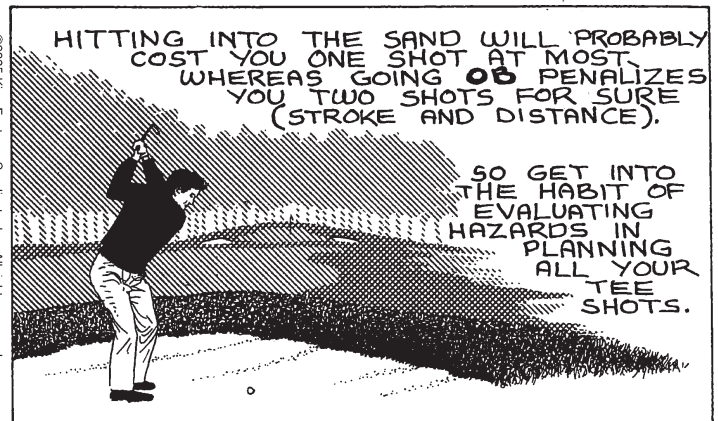
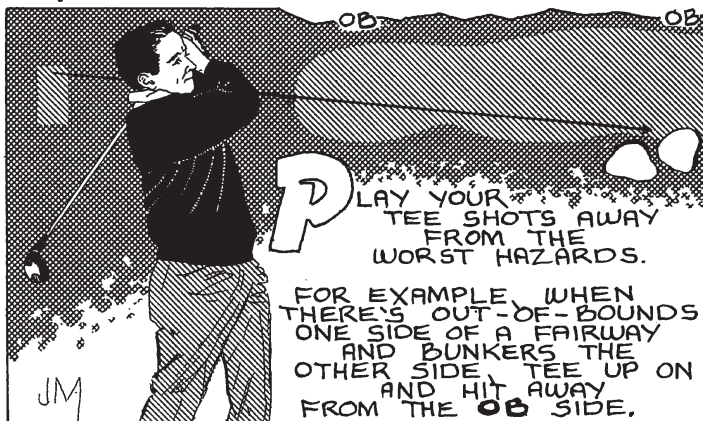


FLASH GORDON

BY JIM KEEFE 6-29



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Man Attempts To Slow Progression Toward Kidney Failure

DEAR DR. ROACH: Recently I almost experienced kidney failure from a probable infection. I am a male, age 68. My glomerular filtration rate (GFR) ranges from 44-50, and my weight is 132 pounds. My blood pressure is 110/60 mm Hg, and I enjoy various endurance sports.

Besides limiting my protein, salt and saturated fat intake, as well as getting adequate hydration, do you have additional recommendations on how to help my kidneys recover or get the rest they need to slow their progress toward kidney failure? -- D.

ANSWER: You've done most of my work for me, but I do want to say that I have seen people overly restrict their protein intake. The expert recommendation is to stay between 0.8-1 gram of protein per kilogram of body mass. So, for you, it would be 48-60 grams or about 2 ounces of protein a day.

You want as much polyunsaturated fat (mostly vegetable and seed oils) and saturated fat (mostly meat and tropical oils like coconut and palm) as possible. Your blood pressure is close to perfect, and a sodium intake of less than 2 grams will help keep it there.

Depending on more exact details of your kidney function (especially whether you are losing protein in your urine), medications such as ACE inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers, and SGLT2 inhibitors may have a role in slowing down your progression -- if your nephrologist agrees.

The other issue I caution you on is over-the-counter medicines and their dosing. You should avoid anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen, naproxen, or their prescription counterparts.

Finally, many people who participate in endurance sports do get their volumes depleted during exercise, so you need to be meticulous about replacing fluid, which needs to be the right kind at the right amount.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 94-year-old man. I am on a well-balanced diet and take daily walks. I am on glipizide, atorvastatin, finasteride, terazosin, ergocalciferol and timolol. So far, I have resisted taking Prolia injections. The multiple prescriptions I have are based on lab tests, but could the meds act negatively against each other? -- C.H.

ANSWER: I have access to a robust drug-interaction calculator, and when I put all of these in, the only identified interaction was between glipizide and timolol. (Glipizide is used to make the pancreas increase its secretion of insulin and is most often used in people with Type 2 diabetes.)

The interaction the calculator identified is that timolol, a beta blocker, has two negative actions in people with diabetes. It slightly suppresses the amount of insulin your body can make, and more importantly, it can prevent the symptoms that make people realize their blood sugar is going down.

Nervousness, tremor, dry mouth, and a fast heart rate are all symptoms that most people with diabetes recognize when they have low blood sugar. This prompts them to check their sugar levels and rush some food in if necessary. Without these early warning signs, a person can get dangerously low blood sugar, causing confusion. However, if you are taking timolol eye drops as I suspect, the danger of these adverse effects is exceedingly small as the amount absorbed in the blood is low, if not zero.

Let me mention that osteoporosis in men is not uncommon when they reach their 90s. I don't have enough information to say what the best treatment is, but I would carefully consider treatment if your doctor recommends it. Fracturing a bone in the spine can lead to years of back pain, and fracturing a hip is a life-changing event.

If you are concerned about Prolia in particular, ask your doctor why they chose it and perhaps ask them to consider other options.

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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"How to Train Your Dragon" (PG) -- The live-action remake of DreamWorks' animated film from 2010 will be available to rent starting July 15! With a budget of \$150 million, the fantasy film pulled in \$519 million at the box office worldwide -- an incredible feat for a film with a cast that only includes one big Hollywood name (Gerard Butler). Mason Thames ("The Black Phone") took on the role of the main character, Hiccup, who mysteriously wanders upon a Night Fury dragon and ends up building a precious bond with the creature. The catch is: His father (Butler), the chieftain of Berk, spearheads a no-mercy pursuit of all the dragons that attack his village and will need some serious convincing to stop his fight against them. (Apple TV+)



Photo Caption: From left, Ayo Edebiri, Juliette Lewis and Murray Bartlett star in "Opus." (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

"Opus" (R) -- This thriller film starring "The Bear's" Ayo Edebiri only grossed \$2.2 million at the box office with a \$10 million budget. (Yikes!) However, amid its meager grosses and mixed reviews, there might still be something worth watching in "Opus." In the film, 1990s pop star Alfred Moretti comes out of retirement and announces a new album, inviting six guests who work in media to a listening party at his Utah compound. One of them is journalist Ariel (Edebiri), who is immediately creeped out by the compound and its occupants. This odd feeling causes her to start investigating Moretti's compound, which is built on a very sinister foundation indeed. If you're a fan of celebrity/celebrity cults, this one is definitely for you! (Max)

"The Phoenician Scheme" (PG-13) -- Director Wes Anderson's ("Asteroid City") 13th feature film is out now to rent! If you know Anderson's movies, you know that a huge cast is signed on for the picture, and this time around, it includes Benicio del Toro, Michael Cera, Riz Ahmed, Tom Hanks, Bryan Cranston, Scarlett Johansson, Benedict Cumberbatch, Jeffrey Wright and more. Del Toro leads the film as Zsa-Zsa Korda, an unethical businessman whose close brushes with death drive him to change his ways. Watching in the background is his daughter Sister Liesl (Mia Threapleton), a practicing nun whose only desire is that her father owns up to his mistakes. However, an opportunity to scheme in Phoenicia appears for Korda, which will undoubtedly force him to either retire his old life or have his work end his life. (Amazon Prime Video)

"The Amateur" (PG-13) -- Premiering on July 17, this action-thriller film puts Rami Malek ("Oppenheimer") back into a dramatic leading role. He plays CIA cryptographer Charlie, opposite Rachel Brosnahan, who plays his wife, Sarah. After Sarah leaves for a business trip in London, he's devastated to learn through his CIA director that Sarah fell victim to a terrorist attack and was killed. Left with nothing but a powerful motive, Charlie decides to give up his behind-the-scenes desk job to avenge his wife in the field. So, he's sent to train under Colonel Robert Henderson (Laurence Fishburne) and learn the ways of a cold-blooded killer. But will this amateur succeed with his first mission? You'll have to watch to find out! (Hulu)

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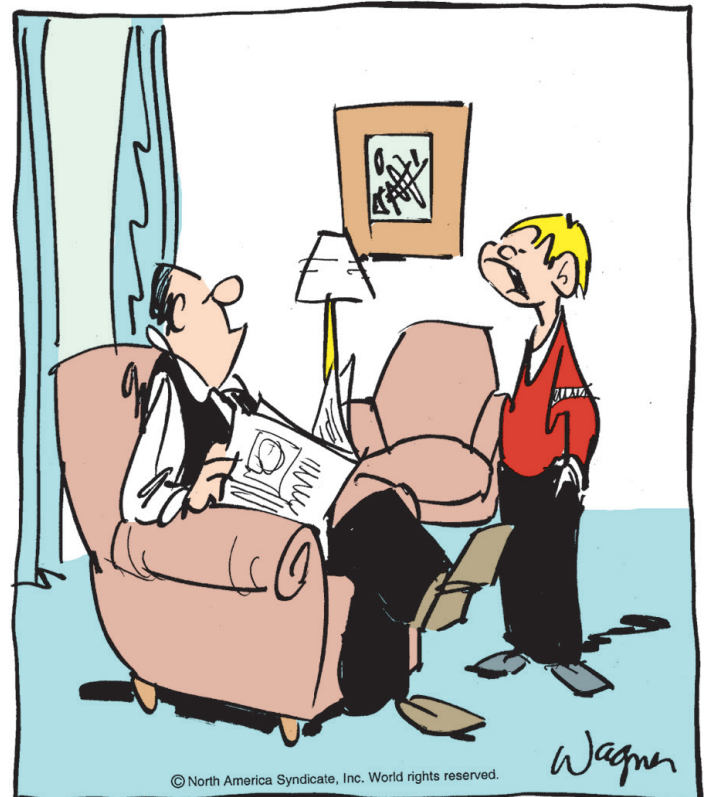
1. Which group released "Sugar Magnolia"?
2. Leroy Brown, "the baddest man in the whole damn town," came from what big city?
3. Which duo had their first hit with "Yesterday's Gone"?
4. Name the group that released "The Game of Love."
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "You and I must make a pact, we must bring salvation back."

Answers

1. The Grateful Dead, in 1970. The song first came out on their "American Beauty" album and was one of their best-known songs.
2. He lived on the south side of Chicago in Jim Croce's 1973 hit "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown."
3. Chad & Jeremy, in 1963. The song was the first that Chad Stuart had ever written. It was also translated into French and was titled "Pas Aujourd'hui."
4. Wayne Fontana and the Mindbenders, in 1965. The song topped the charts in the U.S. but missed the top spot in the English group's U.K. home.
5. "I'll Be There," by the Jackson 5, in 1970. The song was the group's most successful single ever and stayed at the top of the chart for five weeks. Michael Jackson was only 12 when it was released.

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GRIN and BEAR IT *by Wagner*



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"You had it easy growing up, Pop. ...
You never had to stand in line all night
to pay \$900 for an iPhone!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

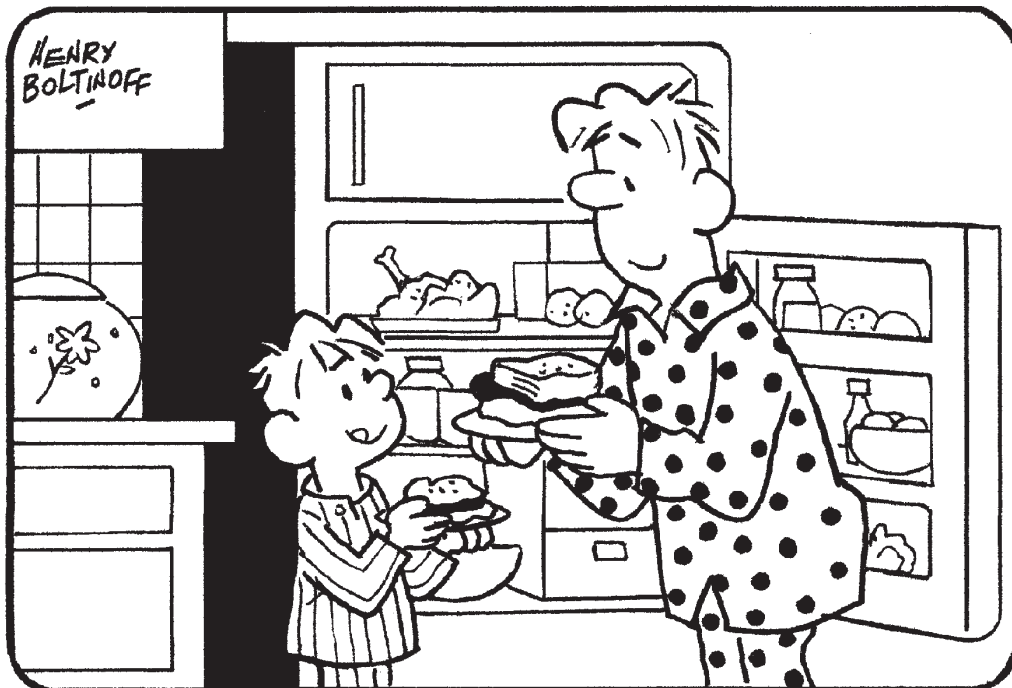
by Dave T. Phipps



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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Freezer handle is wider. 2. Upper cabinet is wider. 3. Sandwich is larger. 4. Cookie jar is smaller. 5. Fridge door is not as wide. 6. Countertop is thicker.

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* Potato salad will have more flavor if you whisk together all the dressing ingredients and add it to the potatoes when they are warm. The potatoes absorb the ingredients better and the flavor will develop even more during refrigeration.

* Dill planted near tomatoes will draw caterpillars away from the fruits. And it's delicious.

* "I love to grill, and when it's nice out, we grill every weekend. I always put on extra and use the leftovers through the week. Chicken in salad, a nice flank steak for fajitas, etc. And it means less cooking for me!" -- Y.L. in Maryland

* Here's a great recipe for an icy treat. Freeze orange juice or apple juice in ice trays. Throw a handful in the blender for a fruit slush that can't be beat on a hot day.

* "Our patio doors were wide open and a lot of smoke was coming off our grill. Short story: It swamped the living room with smoke smell. It was a little overwhelming. After we closed the door, my neighbor doused a kitchen towel with white vinegar, wrung it out and waved it around the room. It cleared out the smoke smell right away, and the vinegar smell went away just as quickly. What a miracle." -- F.F. in South Carolina

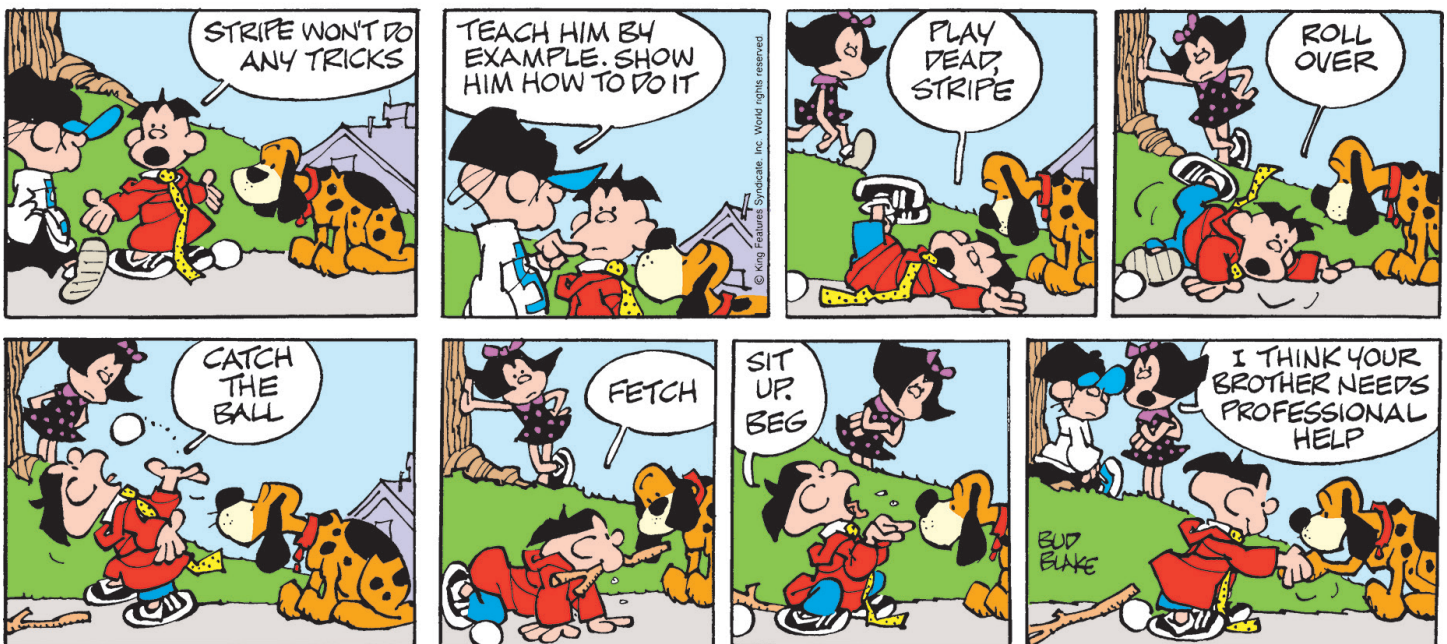
* Rubbing alcohol can be used to remove ball point pen from most upholstery.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Verily
4 Swiss artist
Paul
8 Harvest
12 Outback bird
13 Teeny bit
14 Ticklish
Muppet
15 Spelling test
study guide
17 Old stringed
instrument
18 Eternities
19 "Old
MacDonald"
refrain
20 Rescues
22 Ocular woe
24 Med. plan
options
25 Preface
29 Paris pal
30 Surrenders
31 Guided
32 Puns and
such
34 Verdi opera
35 Feedbag filler
36 Delegate
37 Treaties
40 Duel tool
41 Work on
proofs
42 Bleeped term
46 New York's
— Field
47 Regarding
48 Hosp. area

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- 49 Patella site
50 Consider
51 Science room
- 9 "Night" author
Wiesel
10 Mine, in
Marseille
11 Casual shirt
16 Accomplishes
19 Peepers
20 "Candida"
playwright
21 Bullets
22 Fizzy drinks
23 Deuce topper
25 Fedora fabric
26 Extra virgin
product
27 Make over
28 Crucial time
- 30 Bookkeepers
(Abbr.)
33 Country star
West
34 From the top
36 English race-
track site
37 Quick kiss
38 Tennis score
39 Refer to
40 Town near
Padua
42 Scoundrel
43 Work with
44 TV pioneer
45 Name

DOWN

- 1 Evergreen
tree
2 Moody rock
genre
3 French fare-
well
4 Pottery ovens
5 Clark's love
6 UFO crew
7 Have brunch
8 Critic's cri-
tique

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King Crossword

Answers

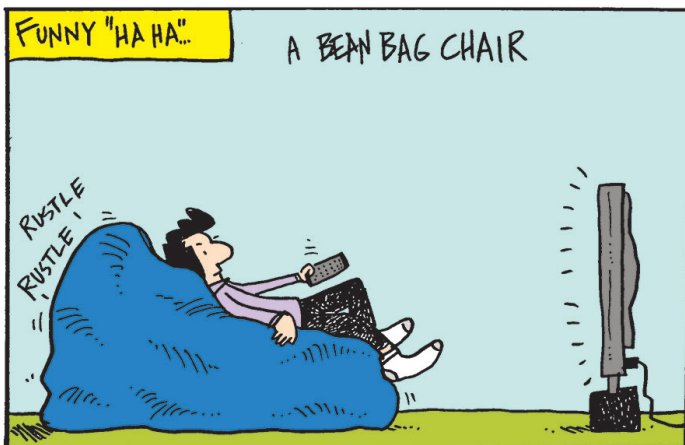
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S	A	V	E	S		S	T	Y	E			
H	M	O	S		F	O	R	E	W	O	R	D
A	M	I		C	E	D	E	S		L	E	D
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E	D	I	T		C	U	S	S	W	O	R	D
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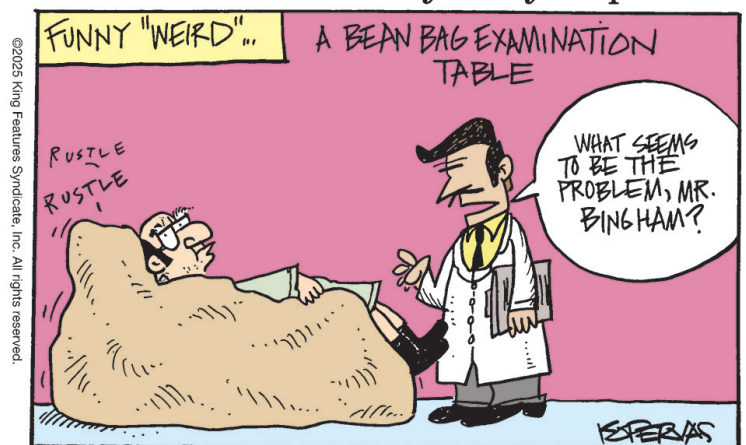
Olive



Out on a Limb

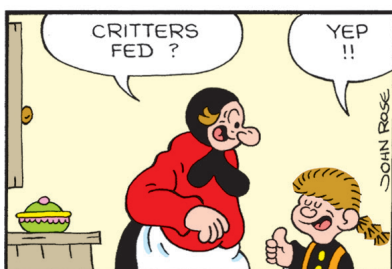
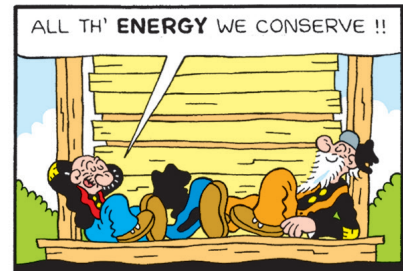
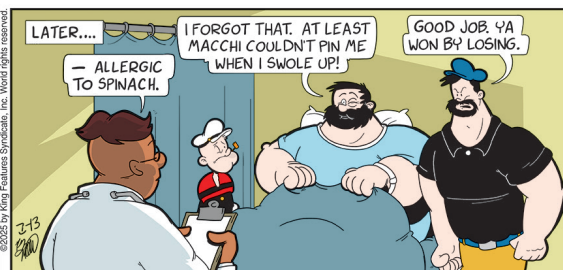
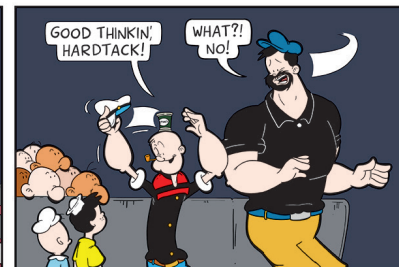
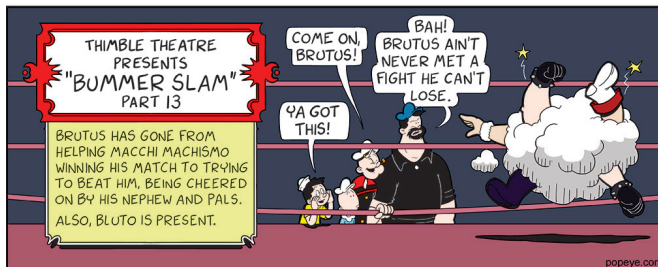
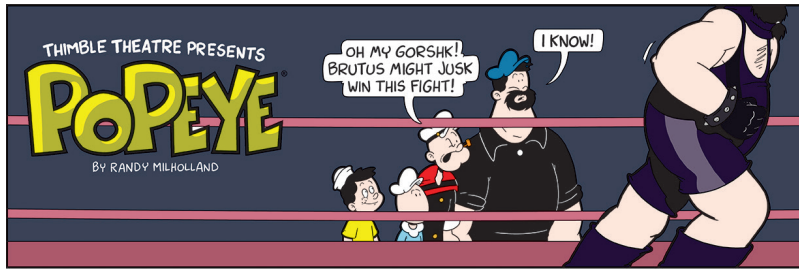


by Gary Kopervas



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ZULFA'S WORDS, WHILE FANTASTIC, SEEM SINCERE - BUT ALETA IS FROM THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND NEEDS CONFIRMATION: "WHO WAS THE VANDAL LORD WHO KEPT YOU, AND WHO WAS THIS PIRATE WHO STOLE YOU?"



"THE VANDAL WAS RASAMUND OF SIRTA," ANSWERS ZULFA WITHOUT PAUSE, "AND THE MONSTER WHO BETRAYED HIM WAS CALLED TRYPHONUS." ALETA NODS TO VAL: "THESE TWO ARE WELL KNOWN TO ME - I BELIEVE SHE SPEAKS THE TRUTH."



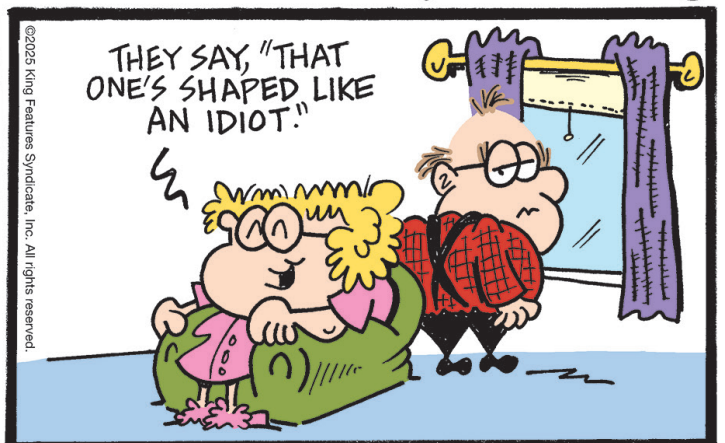
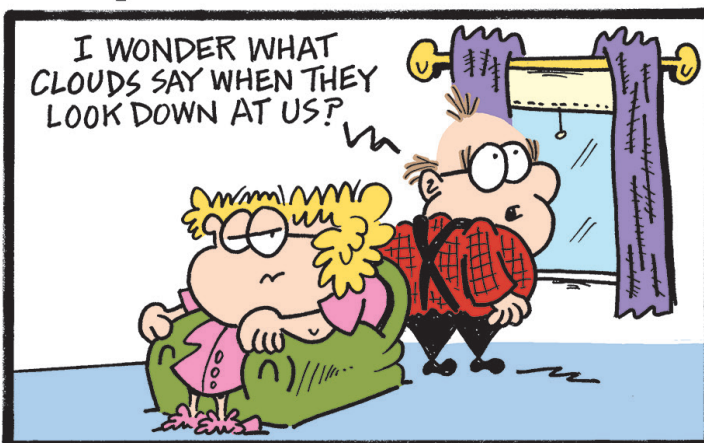
"NONSENSE, GIRL!" INTERRUPTS ALETA. "YOU WILL COME WITH US TO THE MISTY ISLES, AND BE GRANTED SAFE HAVEN AND FREEDOM." "ON WHAT BOAT?" THINKS VAL.

NEXT:
Mysterious
Guryan



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

The latest recalls

With the increasing number of food recalls lately, it's very tempting to buy a few rural acres and grow our own food, isn't it? A dozen chickens, a milk cow, a veggie garden ... what else would we need? Unfortunately for the majority of us, that's not a possibility.

However, we can keep up with the increasing numbers of food recalls and stay safe. Here are a few of the new ones: We have undeclared pecans in mocha truffles, milk in mousse desserts, listeria in cheddar curls, illness-producing microbes in cough syrup for little kids, salmonella in cucumbers, peanuts in vitamin B12 gummies. And that's only in the past two weeks.

In the previous two weeks we find salmonella in organic eggs, listeria in mushrooms, listeria in peeled shrimp, undeclared sesame in crackers and more.

But food isn't the only thing on the recent recall lists.

Going to www.recalls.gov is eye-opening because they document recalls for several categories, including cosmetics, medicine, boats, vehicles and consumer products such as electronics, appliances, clothing, sports gear and much more. There's the gas heater that is a gas/fire hazard, the pool drain cover that can cause serious injury, the 2,000-watt power station that can cause shock and the party supply toys for little kids that can cause serious injury if a child swallows the battery.

If you want to check recalls for your vehicles or the tires, you'll need the VIN (look in the corner of the windshield). At www.recalls.gov/nhtsa.html you can sign up for email notifications. (Note: One manufacturer recently had to recall nearly a half million vehicles because bearing failure can cause the engine to fail while it's being driven.)

You can sign up for a variety of email alerts at www.recalls.gov, www.foodsafety.gov and www.fda.gov. Stay aware; stay safe.

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1. What placekicker from Cyprus won two Super Bowls with the Miami Dolphins and was the last NFL player to play without a facemask?

2. If you're watching runners compete in the Bow-erman Mile, where are you?

3. Name the American golfer who was the first to play in two Presidents Cup tournaments (1994, 1998) without playing in a Ryder Cup. (Hint: He shares a name with a legendary filmmaker.)

4. Swimmer Trischa Zorn won a record 55 medals in the Paralympic Games from 1980 to 2004, competing with what disability?

5. In 2024, what wide receiver became the University of Miami Hurricanes' all-time leader in receiving yards (2,844), receptions (200) and touchdown receptions (21)?

6. Kenneth Harkness and Arpad Elo are known for developing player ratings systems for what game?

7. Name the Hungarian-born American swimmer who won five Olympic gold medals and went on to star as Tarzan in the 1930s and 1940s and played Jungle Jim in a series of films in the 1950s.



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Garo Yepremian.

2. At the Prefontaine Classic at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

3. John Huston.

4. Blindness.

5. Xavier Restrepo.

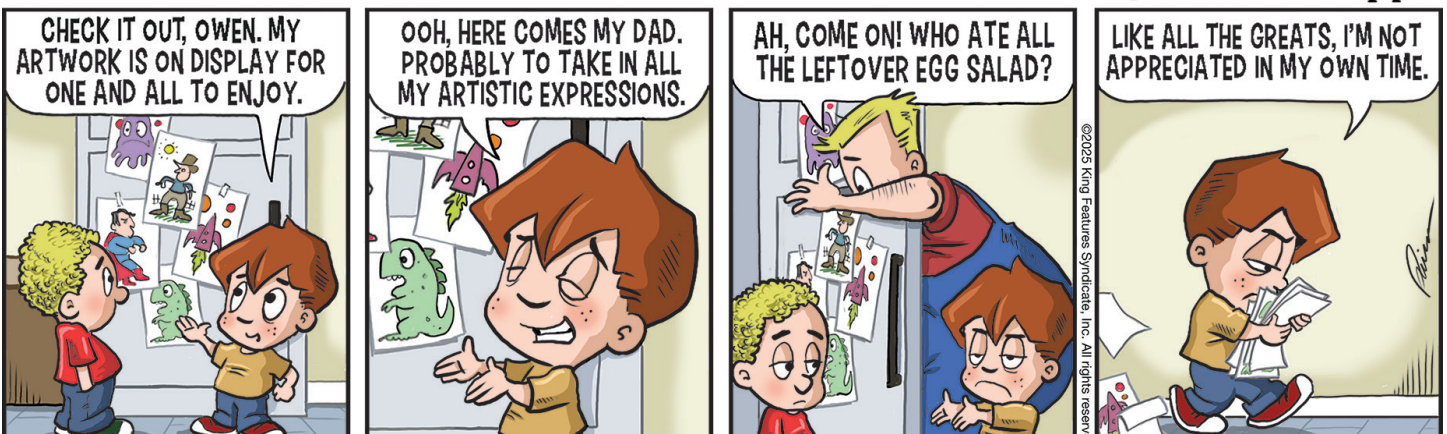
6. Chess.

7. Johnny Weissmuller.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Choosing a pet daycare

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My boss is making remote workers come to the office three days a week. That means my dog "Dally" will be left alone for most of the day. I'm leery of doggy daycares, but I don't see another option. How do I find the best daycare for my dog? -- Jennifer K., via email

DEAR JENNIFER: Fortunately, most pet daycares with problems are the exception. But you're absolutely right to want the best daycare option for Dally. Here are key things to do as you choose the perfect daycare.

-- Make a list: Look online for all of the pet daycare facilities within reasonable reach. You shouldn't go too far out of your way to drop off your dog. Ideally, it is

on your route to work.

- Take a tour: Make an appointment to visit each daycare (without Dally).
- Bring a notepad: Write down your observations. Is the facility clean? Does it seem well-organized and reasonably calm? Is each area fenced securely? Is the facility free of hazards like broken toys or electrical cords?
- Ask safety questions: How many staff are in place to monitor the dogs? Are they trained to spot aggression or illness? Do they have first aid training? What is their procedure for emergencies or incidents?
- Learn what Dally's day is like: What activities are offered? How often and for how long? Are the dogs ever crated, or do they have quiet rest areas?

After your tour, a good facility will schedule a time to meet Dally, check his vaccination record and test his temperament and socialization skills. That's important to ensure all the dogs in their care stay safe and have fun.

Get more details on picking the best daycare option at the AKC's website: <https://tinyurl.com/4ntpfj3m>.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* The word “cereal” comes from “Ceres,” the Roman goddess of harvest and agriculture.

* A UC Berkeley study found that people who drove luxury cars, in particular BMWs and Mercedes, were much more likely to cut off other drivers at intersections than folks driving non-luxury cars.

* Popes can't be organ donors, since their bodies belong to the Vatican when they die.

* Ranch dressing, America's best-selling salad dressing since

1992, was created by an Alaskan plumber in the 1950s.

* It would take 19 minutes to fall to the center of the earth.

* Kim Kardashian has a “glam clause” in her will stipulating that if she's ever in a position where she can't get herself ready, is unable to communicate or is unconscious, someone will ensure that her hair, makeup and nails are still perfect.

* Venus is the only planet to spin clockwise.

* Bamboo is the fastest-growing woody plant in the world, with an ability to sprout up to 35 inches in a single day.

* The world's largest bowling alley is in Japan, with a whopping 116 lanes.

* A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.

* Need a natural remedy for a blocked nose? Try an onion. Its sulfur content is thought to draw mucus from the body.

* A dog that is a cross between a Chihuahua and a miniature dachshund is known as a chiweenie.

* The word “mortgage” comes from a French word meaning “death contract.”

* According to the Guinness World Records, the world's hottest chili pepper is the Pepper X, rating at an average of 2,693,000 Scoville Heat Units.

* Panda bears have been known to eat for 12 hours straight.

Thought for the Day: “One cannot and must not try to erase the past merely because it does not fit the present.” -- Golda Meir

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Herbs and new moms

Many herbs can aid mothers during the postpartum period; they can enhance physical and emotional well-being and support breast-milk production and quality. Consult your doctor if you would like to try some from this list:

- Ashwaganda
- Gotu kola
- Hawthorn berries, leaves and flowers
- Milky oats
- Red raspberry leaf
- Nettle
- Catnip
- Chamomile
- Lavender
- Lemon balm
- Skullcap

- Brenda Weaver

Source: www.motherearthliving.com



by Freddy Groves

Beware the pension poachers!

The VA's Office of Inspector General recently put out a fraud alert about a series of schemes known as "pension poaching." Veterans, heads up. You have a lot to lose if you fall for one of these scams.

The Department of Veterans Affairs pension is for wartime veterans or their surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children with certain income limits. The benefits are therefore

very valuable. And it's what the scammers want: your money.

Veterans, these scammers can come at you in a number of ways. It might be through a dishonest attorney, a fake financial planner, by phone or email, or at an assisted living facility. In short, they're everywhere.

Beware anybody who approaches you with any of the following:

If you have direct bank deposit of your benefit money, they might try to divert that money elsewhere. (The money should always only go to the veteran.)

You might be pushed to hand over personal financial information, like a credit card number.

Scammers might try to guarantee you'll get a certain benefit. (But no one can make that guarantee; only the VA can decide.)

Scammers might try to con you into lying about your expenses and income when you apply for benefits, effectively hiding your money from the VA. (What they won't tell you is that the VA does a three-year lookback at your finances. If you're caught lying, you'll have to pay back any money the VA gives you.)

Scammers likely charge you an upfront fee or have you sign over a percentage of your benefits to them in exchange for helping you apply for benefits. But the VA never charges you for applying for benefits and even gives you free help if you need it. Start by calling the VA at 800-827-1000.

To learn about eligibility for the veterans pension, go to www.va.gov/pension/eligibility. For the survivors pension, see www.va.gov/pension/survivors-pension.

Download the Veterans' Pension pamphlet at <https://tinyurl.com/mtsvrft> for information on how to avoid pension poaching scams.

Beware! Those pension poachers are everywhere!

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Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. TELEVISION: In the show "Ted Lasso," what does the sign over the locker room doorway say?

2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many words are dogs believed to understand, on average?

3. U.S. STATES: Which two states don't observe Daylight Savings Time?

4. LITERATURE: In the "Harry Potter" book series, how many balls are used in a Quidditch match?

5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which company owns car makers Porsche and Audi?

6. GEOGRAPHY: Which country is home to Lake Como?

7. MOVIES: What are the names of Cinderella's stepsisters?

8. ACRONYMS: What does the computer acronym DOS stand for?

9. MEDICAL: What is the condition called solar erythema?

10. PSYCHOLOGY: Someone suffering from alektorophobia is terrified by what?

Answers

1. "Believe."

2. Dogs generally know an average of 89 words and phrases, but the number can range from 15 to 215.

3. Hawaii and Arizona.

4. Four balls of three different types (the Quaffle, two Bludgers and the Golden Snitch).

5. Volkswagen AG.

6. Italy.

7. Anastasia and Drizella.

8. Disk Operating System.

9. Sunburn.

10. Chickens.

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Leading on 2nd Amendment Rights

South Dakota is the freest state in America, and that holds extra true for our 2nd Amendment rights. We have a long history of recognizing the 2nd Amendment dating all the way back to our early homesteaders – in fact, I just saw a mock shootout in 1880 Town! Early homesteaders used their personal firearms to protect themselves from Wild West outlaws, and South Dakotans deserve the same ability to defend their families today.

South Dakota provides stronger 2nd Amendment protections than any other state. Several recent changes to both state and federal law have extended new protections for the right to keep and bear arms – and I am honored to have been part of making those changes happen.

On my very first stop on my Open for Opportunity tour, I visited a South Dakota company that is the largest silencer retailer in North America. They told me about federal regulations that were placing an arbitrary seven-day waiting period on their ability to ship products, so I immediately reached out the Trump Administration to fix that issue. Not long after, we received word that the issue had been addressed!

With the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill, the \$200 tax stamp on suppressors and certain types of firearms has also been eliminated. By taxing silencers, the federal government was trying to stop law-abiding gun owners from buying them. That's not the government's job, and I'm glad that provision went away. The federal government should continue to take steps to deregulate the firearms industry.

We're taking action here at home, as well. On July 1, several new protections for the 2nd Amendment became law in South Dakota. I was very proud to sign those into law. These bills advanced on changes that began under the Noem-Rhoden Administration.

The first bill that Former Governor Noem signed into law was Constitutional Carry. At the time, there was some consternation about her decision to sign that bill, but I was confident that we were making the right move. Six years later, that's proven to be true! So when I signed several pro-2nd Amendment bills into law this legislative session, I didn't pay much mind to the critics. After all, our communities are safer when law-abiding gun owners have the right to defend themselves.

I signed SB 100, which provided greater freedom to exercise the 2nd Amendment on college campuses. I actually carried this bill in the legislature years ago when I served as a state legislator. Our college students are adults, and they should have just as much freedom to keep and bear arms as any other South Dakotan.

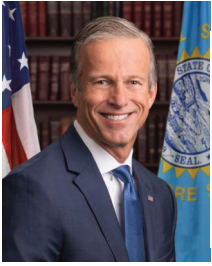
I also signed legislation clarifying the rules for guns on school property. If parents come on school property and still have a gun on them, they can lawfully leave it in their car with an enhanced concealed carry permit. And now, city and county employees are free to exercise their 2nd Amendment rights on the job, as well.

The bad guys don't follow the law, much less our gun laws. So when the government restricts the right to keep and bear arms, all that does is take away the ability of law-abiding Americans to defend themselves. That's not how we do things in South Dakota.

Freedom will continue to be our calling card as long as I am governor, and I will continue to do everything in my power to protect our Second Amendment rights. After all, it's the right that allows us to defend all of our other rights.

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JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

A Safer, Stronger America

On the Fourth of July, President Trump signed historic legislation into law that delivers on Republicans' promises to the American people. One of Republicans' promises was to make America safer and stronger. This legislation makes generational investments in our border security and in our national defense to make that promise a reality.

From day one, President Trump has worked to restore order to the southern border and deport criminal illegal aliens who have taken up residence in our country. This bill provides the resources to solidify those gains for the long term and finally end the era of open borders. Republicans have made a generational investment in our border security that includes funding to finally finish the border wall. We're hiring more agents at the border and providing them with the tools and technology they need to stop illegal aliens and illegal drugs from entering our country. And it invests in additional ICE officers and detention capacity to support the Trump administration's deportation efforts.

With this bill, Republicans are also making a \$150 billion investment in a stronger military. In recent years, we've seen serious declines in military readiness while, at the same time, the world has grown more dangerous and China began to outpace us in key capabilities. This bill helps rebuild our military so our men and women in uniform have everything they need to deter and defeat today's threats and tomorrow's.

In the coming years, we'll be building more ships to grow our Navy fleet, and we'll be expanding our Air Force fighter fleet – all thanks to this new law. We'll modernize our nuclear capabilities and expand and expedite defense production at home, so we have more Made-in-America weapons and munitions. We're also funding drone and counter-drone technologies, expediting delivery of the B-21 that will soon be housed at Ellsworth Air Force Base, and investing in missile defense for the homeland. All of this means a stronger America, and it puts our adversaries on notice.

This bill not only invests in equipment and capabilities, it also supports the brave men and women who work every day to keep America safe and secure. It provides billions of dollars for servicemembers' quality of life, including child care, education, and housing. It funds bonuses for border and immigration officers. And it provides additional funding for local law enforcement, as well as tax relief on the overtime pay that law enforcement officers earn when spending long hours away from their families to keep us safe.

President Trump and Republicans have made a generational investment in American security, and a safer and stronger America is right around the corner. I can't wait for these resources to be in the hands of the men and women who keep us safe – from our local police to the Border Patrol to the men and women serving our country in uniform around the world. To all of these brave Americans, thank you for serving – we have your back.

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Securing Our Homeland

BIG Update

House Republicans demonstrated our commitment to our men and women in uniform by ensuring the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (VA) funding bill was the first annual funding bill we considered and passed in the House.

This bill fully funds veterans' health care, benefits, and VA programs while supporting military families by improving their housing and investing in childcare. The House bill also strengthens our base posture and military readiness by ending funding for DEI, gender affirming care, and abortions.

Robust funding for our military is necessary to ensure the United States remains a leader in national defense and security, projecting strength on the world stage.

BIG Idea

The Trump Administration is taking action to ban purchases of U.S. farmland by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The CCP and affiliated groups own 265,000 acres of U.S. farmland and increased their holdings of land outside of China by 1,000% in just ten years. China has also increased their purchases of U.S. food processing plants, which could give them unprecedented control of our food supply. This move from the Trump Administration will protect American agriculture and our food supply chain.

In addition to food security concerns, China's land purchases are near many of our military bases, raising concerns about national security threats. I've been sounding the alarm for years, and I am glad this Administration is taking action..

BIG News

In just a few months, President Trump has secured the southern border. Since he took office, the U.S. has seen the lowest number of border encounters in years and reported two straight months of zero illegal immigrant crossings into the U.S. In Congress, we've further bolstered our border security through the One Big Beautiful Bill which provides additional funding to finish the border wall, hire an additional 16,000 ICE and Customs and Border Protection personnel, and improve border security technology.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

This is your Last and Final Warning

As a child, I remember my parents saying to me, "I'm not going to tell you this again." The only problem with that was they did tell me again. And again. And again.

It was hard for me to trust my parents along this line. They always gave me warnings, and then when I would do it again, they would give me another warning. I began to realize that they weren't taking these warnings seriously.

The only thing I can think of is that they may not have remembered telling me that in the first place. I can understand that.

Now that I'm an adult, I'm the one giving this last and final warning. And, of course, my children responded to it the same way I responded to my parents. I think it might be an inherited attitude.

However, I'm now in a different situation. I receive letters at least once a week, warning me that this is their last and final notice about my car or home warranty. If I had all the postage that accumulated over the years from these letters, I could retire in style.

Usually, I ignore these letters, except when they contain a prepaid postage envelope. I usually take those envelopes, put a track in them, seal the envelope, and then put it in the mailbox.

I never know if these tracks work because I never hear back from them.

Over the last several years, a new level of inquiry has emerged. It is a wonderful invention by Alexander Graham Bell called the telephone. Every day, I receive a phone call warning me that this is their last and final warning concerning my expiring car warranty.

If only that were true.

The trouble with these "stupid" phone calls is that there's no real person on the other end. I don't mean me; I mean their end. It's all recorded, and how they do that is above my pay scale.

I can't do anything with these recorded messages, so I hang up. After all, what else can I do? Indeed, I would like the opportunity to give them a piece of my mind and tell them to stop calling me. But that is not on the agenda.

Then, beginning in December with the annual Medicare renewal time, I have some actual people call me.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage refuses to answer these calls, and often, will take the phone off the hook for the whole day.

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But I have a different perspective. After all, I am retired and do have some free time to mess around. When I get one of these calls from a live person, I dive into it with all the nonsense I have, which is quite a lot.

After all, they called me, I did not call them.

The calls I like are those in which I'm asked personal questions.

"Do you have diabetes?"

I always respond to them, 'No, I don't have diabetes, but I am a very sweet guy.' Usually, when I say that on the other end of the phone, there's an amazing "click."

There are times when I answer using the voice of Daffy Duck. I've done this so often that I'm becoming quite skilled at it. Several times, when I respond to them on my end of the phone, they respond with a long list of vulgarities. And they asked me to do things to myself that are physically not possible.

One question I enjoy is when people ask me how old I am. I usually respond, "I don't know how old I am because my age changes every year and I don't know what it's going to change to this year."

I can't tell how many were so confused by my answer that they said nothing and just hung up on me.

If someone calls me on the phone and offers me a product they think I would want, I wouldn't take it from them. I will never trust anybody who randomly calls me with a product that I would really want.

Recently, I've been winning money from a PCH contest. I don't recall signing up for this contest, but I was grateful to have won it. The one prize was \$8.5 million and a brand-new Porsche. I couldn't tell you how excited I was to win all of this. It certainly was my lucky day.

In processing this, all I had to do was send them \$14,000 for the processing fee, and then I would receive all that money, along with the brand-new car.

I'm a Pennsylvania Dutchman, and we are rather frugal with our money. You touch my money, and I may say something nice at your funeral.

These phone calls are not going to stop. But no matter how many call me, they're not getting one dime from me. I only wish it were true when they say, "This is your last and final warning."

It's amazing how many people lie for a living. Thinking on this I was reminded what Solomon said, and he was spark on. "Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight" (Proverbs 12:22).

Whenever a person lies it has a way of coming back to them. I remember my father use to say that if I didn't lie I wouldn't need a good memory. I have lived long enough to understand what he meant.

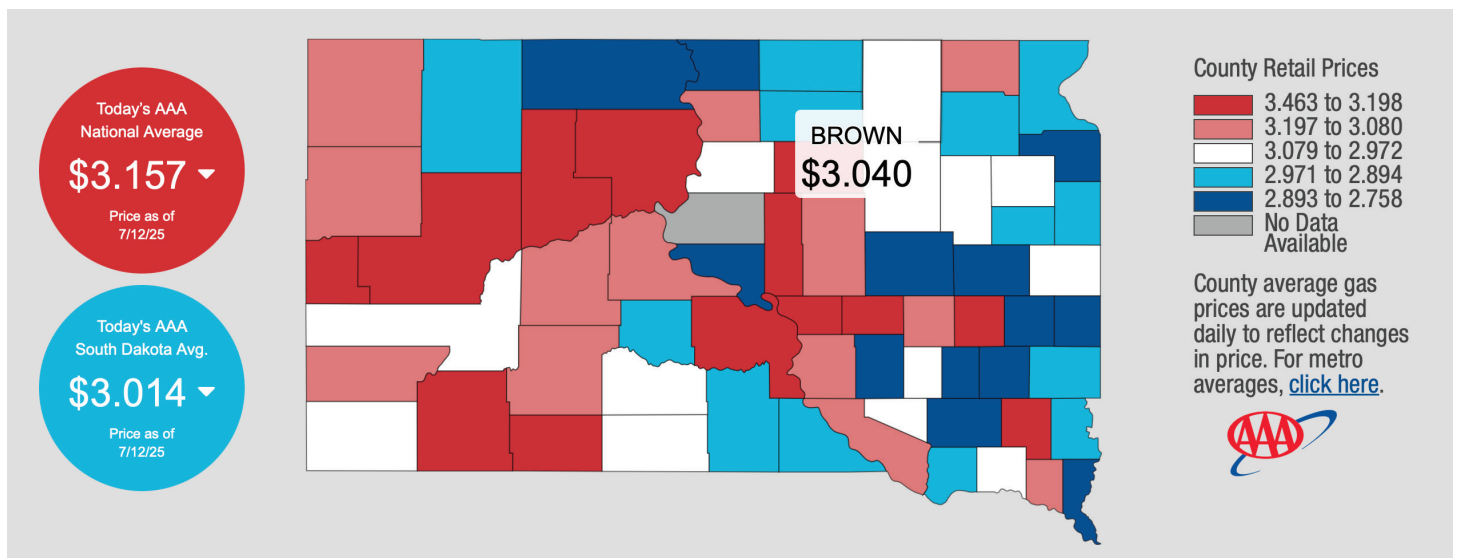
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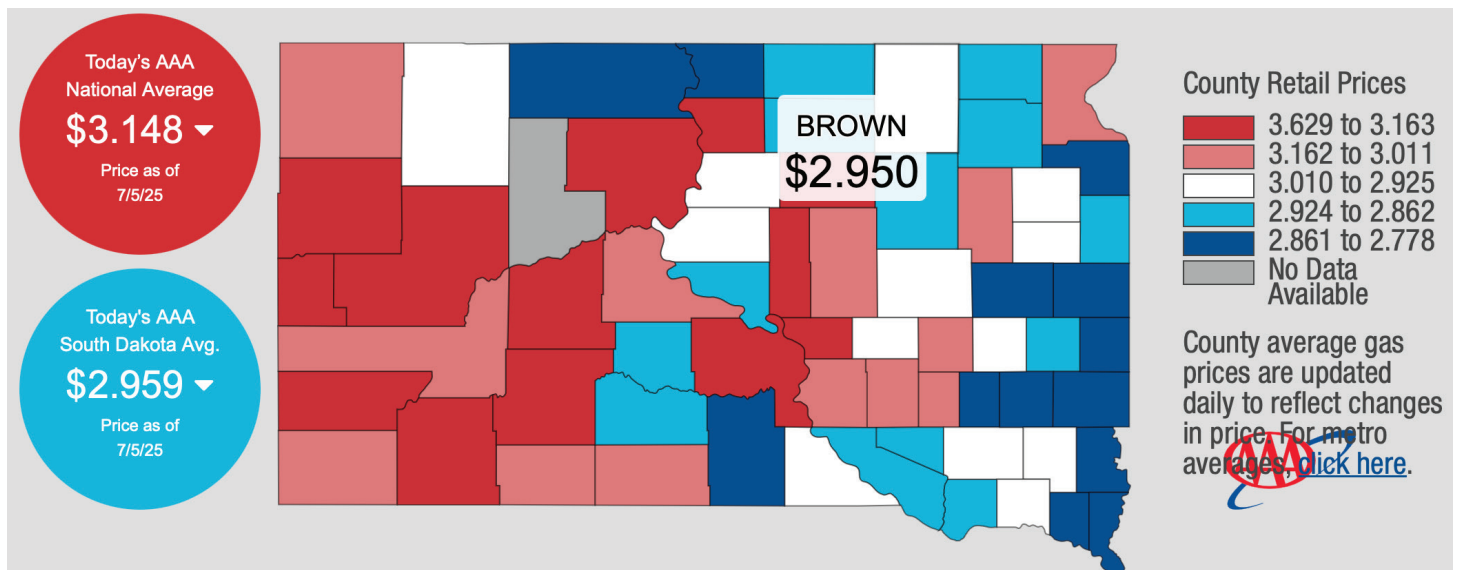
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.014	\$3.186	\$3.638	\$3.369
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.016	\$3.180	\$3.642	\$3.376
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.959	\$3.165	\$3.626	\$3.334
Month Ago Avg.	\$2.942	\$3.149	\$3.600	\$3.191
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.263	\$3.456	\$3.871	\$3.480

This Week



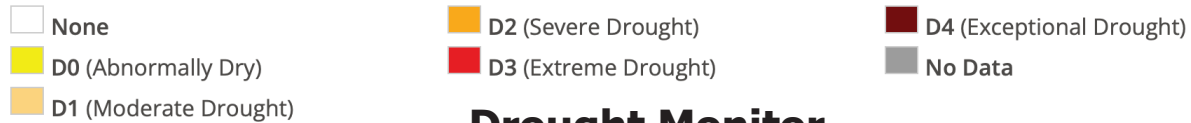
Last Week



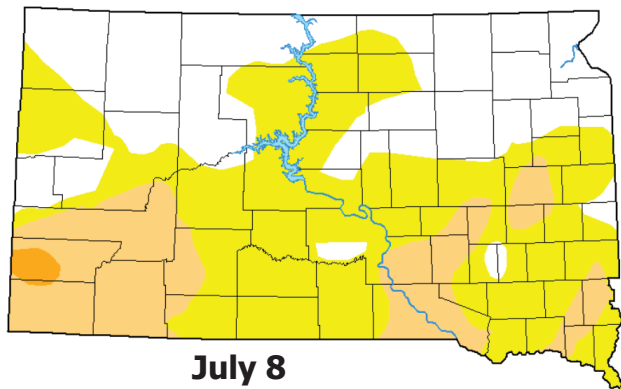
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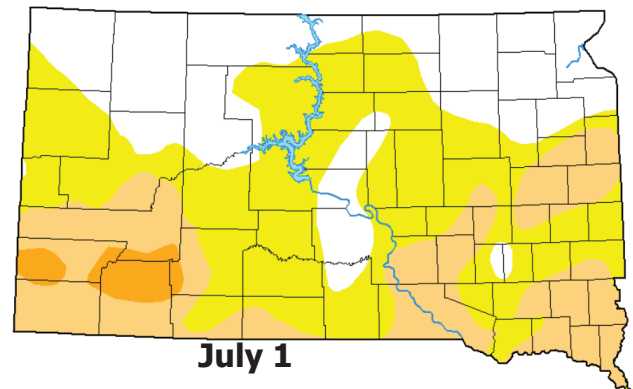
Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



July 8



July 1

Another round of heavy rainfall (1 to 2 inches, locally more) supported a 1-category improvement to parts of the Northern and Central Great Plains. April through early July is a wet time of year and 90-day precipitation, valid April 9-July 7, averaged more than 150 percent of normal for much of the Dakotas, Nebraska, eastern Colorado, and eastern Wyoming. Conversely, moderate drought (D1) across northeastern North Dakota was expanded westward due to another dry week and above-normal temperatures. The D1 is supported by the 30 to 60-day SPIs along with soil moisture indicators. Eastern Kansas has missed out on the heavy rainfall recently and abnormal dryness (D0) was added to that part of the state. Although precipitation was not that heavy across southwestern Colorado, enough precipitation along with support from SPIs at multiple time scales and the NDMC drought blends warranted small 1-category improvements.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Why are environmental advocates incensed about the content of Trump's recently passed "Big Beautiful Bill?"

-- A.J., Newtown, PA

The recently passed Republican-driven legislative and economic package has sparked intense backlash among environmentalists, who argue that its contents represent a step backward for environmental protection and climate action. Despite its sunny name, critics have quickly rebranded it the "Big Betrayal Bill," pointing to provisions that overwhelmingly benefit fossil fuel and resource extraction industries at the expense of the environment.

One of the bill's most contentious features is its fast-tracking of fossil fuel infrastructure projects. By severely weakening the permitting process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the bill makes it much easier for oil pipelines, natural gas export terminals and refineries to be approved with minimal environmental review. These safeguards were originally designed to ensure projects wouldn't pose unacceptable risks to ecosystems, air quality or nearby communities. Environmentalists warn that sidelining NEPA could lead to a flood of high-impact projects that move forward without proper assessment or public input.

The bill also opens vast new areas of public lands to logging, mining and drilling, all in the name of boosting domestic resource extraction and so-called "energy independence." Conservationists argue this approach endangers fragile ecosystems, accelerates deforestation and puts many wildlife species at further risk—particularly because the bill also weakens key parts of the Endangered Species Act. Developers can now move forward in critical habitats without having to prove that endangered species won't be harmed, effectively shifting the burden of protection onto overstretched regulatory agencies and the public.

Adding insult to injury, the bill takes direct aim at clean energy incentives, particularly electric vehicle (EV) credits. It eliminates or significantly reduces federal tax breaks for EV purchases, which have been a cornerstone of U.S. efforts to speed the transition away from gas-powered cars. By stripping away these incentives, the bill could slow consumer adoption of EVs and extend the dominance of internal combustion engines, which continue to be a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Supporters of the bill, largely from fossil fuel, construction and resource industries, tout it as a pro-growth, pro-energy solution that cuts through bureaucratic red tape and positions the U.S. as a global energy leader. But for environmentalists, the Big Beautiful Bill is anything but beautiful. "It is not an overstatement to say this is the most anti-environment bill in history," said Patrick Drupp, director of climate policy for the Sierra Club. Indeed, most environmentalists agree that the bill trades long-term environmental health for short-term industrial gain, leaving future generations to deal with the consequences.



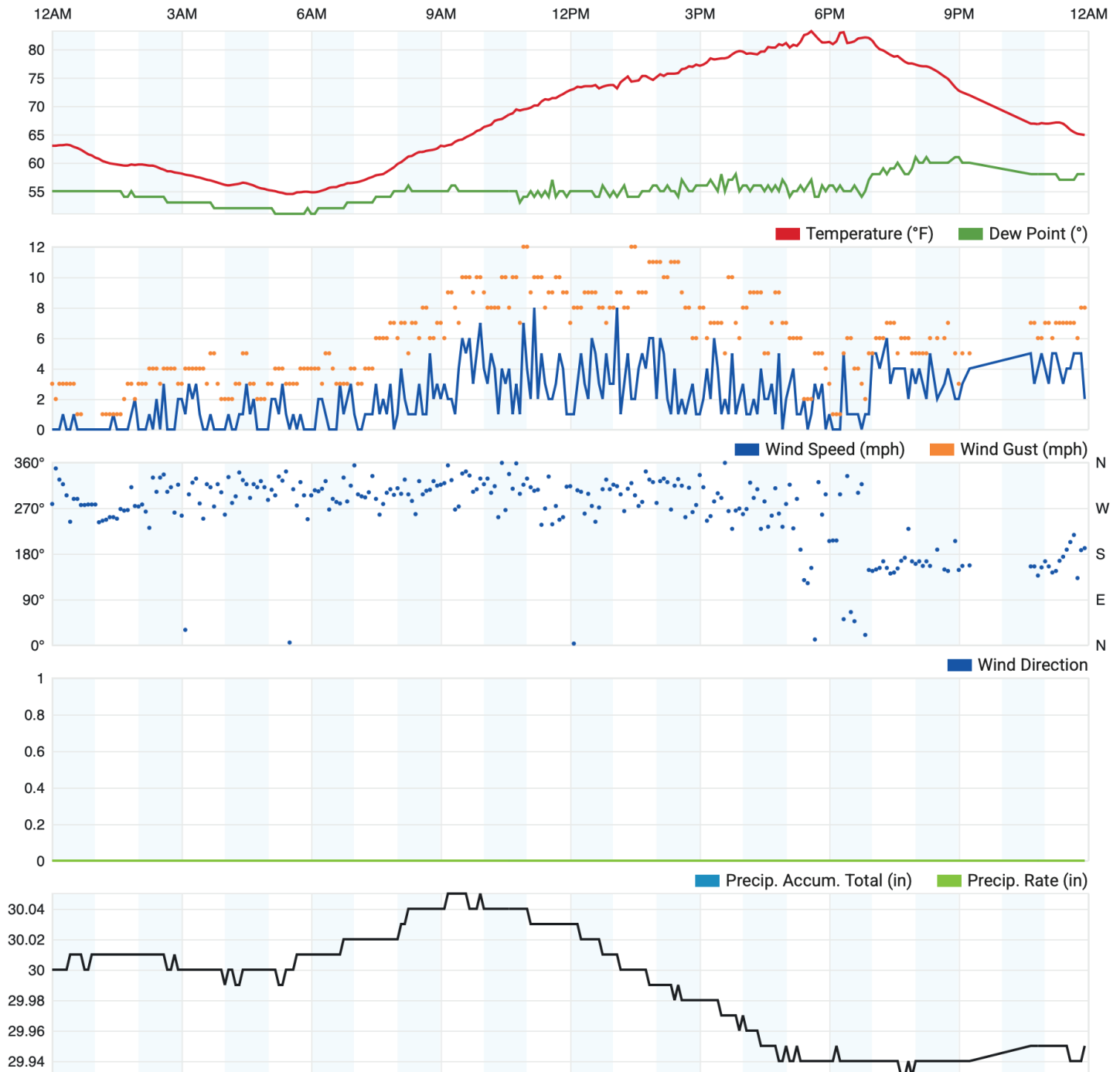
Environmentalists argue that the "Big Beautiful Bill" represents a step backward for environmental protection and climate action. Credit: Pexels.com.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

July 12, 2025



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Today



High: 88 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 61 °F

Mostly Clear

Monday



High: 93 °F

Hot

Monday Night



Low: 67 °F

Chance
T-storms

Tuesday



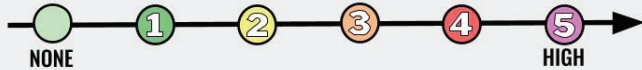
High: 81 °F

Chance
T-storms then
Showers
Likely

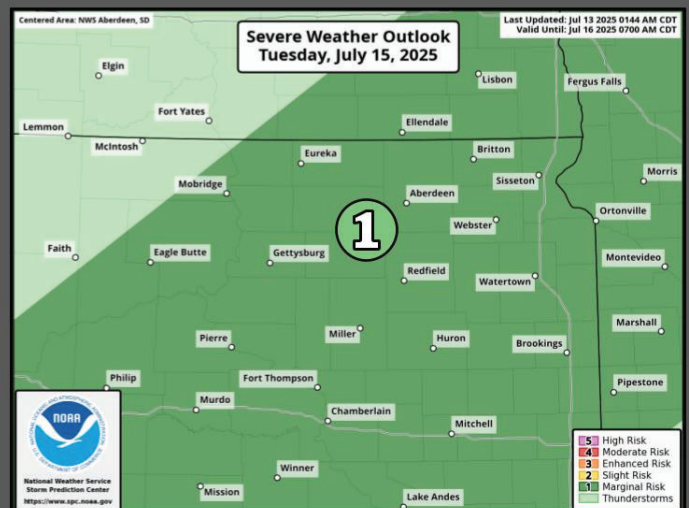
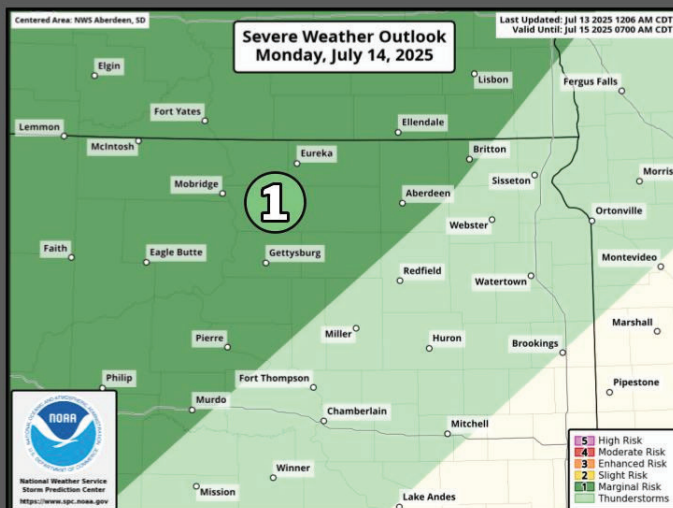


Strong to Severe Storms Possible Early Next Week

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM RISK



- Marginal Risk (level 1 out of 5) for isolated strong to severe storms during the afternoon and evening hours Monday and Tuesday
- Main threats: 60 mph winds gusts, up to quarter size hail, and heavy rain



weather.gov/abr

A system will be tracking over the region early next week bringing the threat of isolated severe weather. A marginal risk (level 1 out of 5) is in place along and west of a line from Aberdeen to Murdo Monday afternoon and evening and for most of the area Tuesday afternoon and evening. Threats include hail, up to the size of quarters, 60 mph wind gusts, and the potential for heavy rain.

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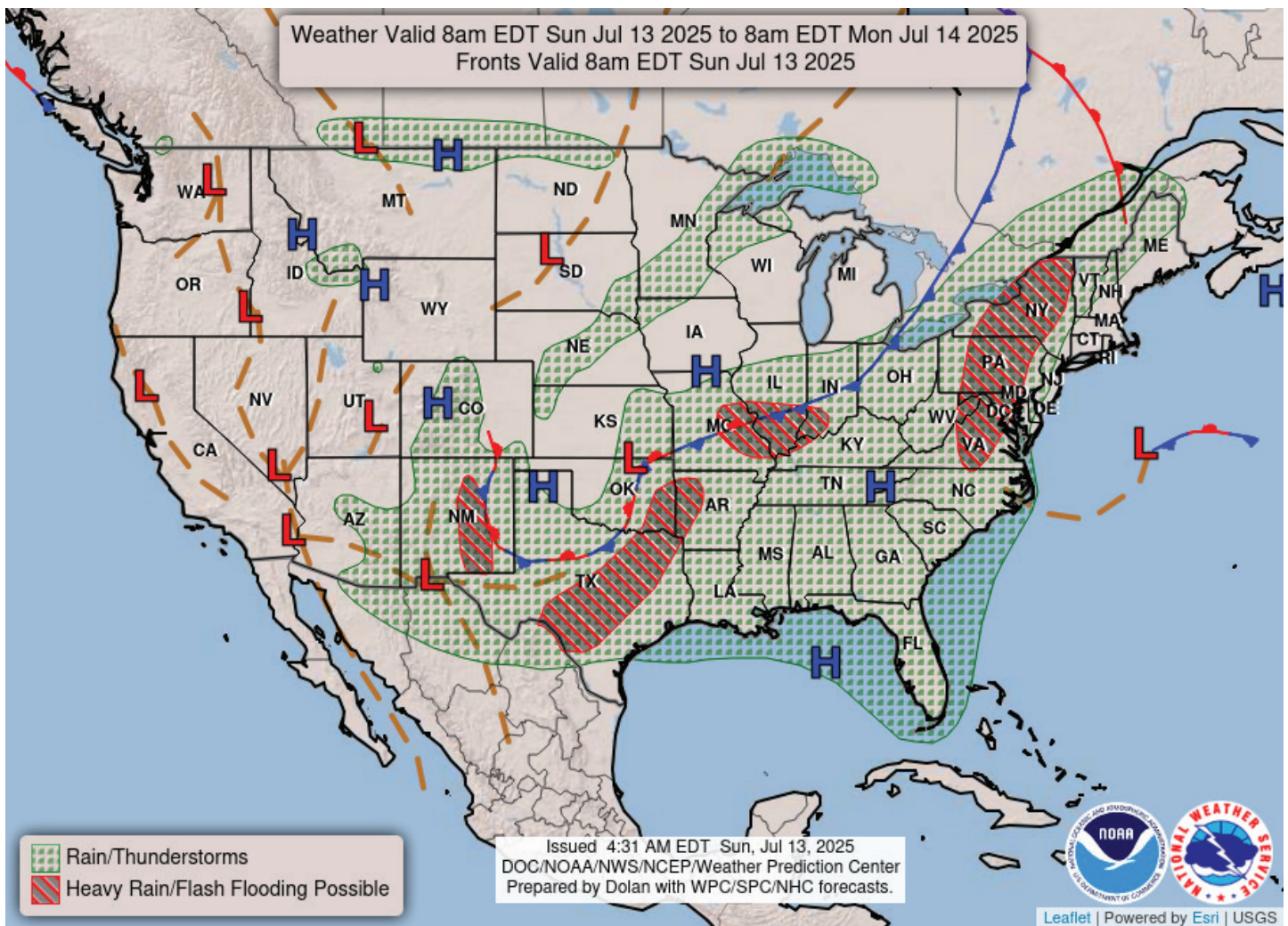
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 83 °F at 5:35 PM
Heat Index: 80 °F at 10:00 AM
Low Temp: 54 °F at 5:27 AM
Wind: 13 mph at 10:53 AM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 25 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 106 in 1936
Record Low: 44 in 1987
Average High: 85
Average Low: 60
Average Precip in July.: 1.48
Precip to date in July: 1.87
Average Precip to date: 12.49
Precip Year to Date: 11.99
Sunset Tonight: 9:21:01 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:56:23 am



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Today in Weather History

July 13, 1964: Early morning low temperatures dropped into the lower to mid-30s across the northern half of the state. Some low temperatures include 32 degrees at Castlewood, 33 in Andover and 4 miles NW of Onida.

1895 - A tornado struck Cherry Hill in New Jersey causing fifty thousand dollars damage. It also descended into the Harlem and Woodhaven areas of New York City killing one person, and finally ended as a waterspout in Jamaica Bay. (David Ludlum)

1951: Rivers across eastern Kansas crest well above flood stage, causing the most significant destruction from flooding in the Midwestern United States at that time. Five-hundred-thousand people were left homeless, and 24 people died in the disaster.

1975 - Dover, DE, was deluged with 8.50 inches of rain to establish a 24 hour record for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1977 - Lightning struck a key electrical transmission line in Westchester County of southeastern New York State plunging New York City into darkness. (David Ludlum)

1980 - Afternoon highs of 108 degrees at Memphis, TN, 108 degrees at Macon, GA, and 105 degrees at Atlanta, GA, established all-time records for those three cities. The high of 110 degrees at Newington, GA, was just two degrees shy of the state record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed across the Midwest. Ten cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Casper, WY, with a reading of 39 degrees. By way of contrast, record heat was reported in the eastern U.S., with highs of 93 degrees at Burlington, VT, and 101 degrees around Miami, FL. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - There were just three reports of severe weather across the country, and just one record high temperature reported. Thunderstorms brought much needed rains to the Tennessee Valley area, producing nine inches at Senatobia, MS. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A thunderstorm at Albany, GA, produced 1.40 inches of rain in forty minutes, along with wind gusts to 82 mph. Afternoon highs of 98 degrees at Corpus Christi, TX, 110 degrees at Tucson, AZ, and 114 degrees at Phoenix, AZ, equalled records for the date. Greenwood, MS, reported 55.65 inches of precipitation for the year, twice the amount normally received by mid July. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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One of my mother's most quoted sayings was, "Birds of a feather flock together." When I first heard her say it, I had no idea what she was talking about. However, she did. She realized that one of her most important obligations, as a parent, was to guard me from friends who might lead me away from God. She knew each of my playmates, and as I grew older, my friends, personally.

When I became a parent, that quotation grew in its importance. I came to realize that my choice of friends always flows from the values I hold dearest and live before others.

People who enjoy softball or golf, cooking or gardening, worshipping God and studying His Word, form relationships with others because they hold things in common— their values.

Solomon said, was to guard me from friends who might lead me away from God

The advice contained in this proverb is significant because it focuses our attention on the informal learning process — not what is taught in classrooms or churches.

Much of our learning is absorbed through watching others, being with others, and having a desire to imitate or be like others, especially those whom we admire or hold up as heroes.

Someone once asked John Rockefeller what he did to become so successful. "I only associate with people who are successful," he replied.

While that might sound trite and an oversimplified way of becoming successful, it is profoundly true. The most "life-shaping and longest-lasting" lessons of our lives come from those that have had the greatest impact on us — lessons that have been caught rather than taught.

Beware of your associates!

Today's Prayer: Help us, Lord, to choose friends who honor and worship You, love Your Word and walk with You daily. May we seek to be with friends who honor You.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "He who walks with the wise will become wise, but the companion of fools will suffer." Proverbs 13:20

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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Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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Password _____

Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

paypal.me/paperpaul

Pay with Venmo: @paperpaul Phone Number to Confirm: 7460

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.11.25

12 23 24 31 56 1

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$90,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.12.25

2 10 12 21 45 3

All Star Bonus: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,750,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.12.25

3 6 17 42 46 4

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 29 Mins 0 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.12.25

5 14 15 19 20

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$55,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.12.25

5 8 35 62 63 8

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.12.25

8 16 24 33 54 18

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$248,000,000

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

59 Palestinians in Gaza are killed by Israeli airstrikes or shot dead while seeking aid

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — At least 31 Palestinians were fatally shot on their way to an aid distribution site in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, while Israeli airstrikes killed at least 28 Palestinians including four children, Palestinian hospital officials and witnesses said.

There were no signs of a breakthrough in ceasefire talks following two days of meetings between U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Trump had said he was nearing an agreement between Israel and Hamas that would potentially wind down the war.

The 31 Palestinians shot dead were on their way to a distribution site run by the Israeli-backed American organization Gaza Humanitarian Foundation near Rafah in southern Gaza, hospital officials and witnesses said.

The Red Cross said its field hospital saw its largest influx of dead in more than a year of operation after the shootings, and that the overwhelming majority of the more than 100 people hurt had gunshot wounds.

Airstrikes in central Gaza's Deir al-Balah killed 13 including the four children, officials at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital said. Fifteen others were killed in Khan Younis in the south, according to Nasser Hospital. Israel's military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Intense airstrikes continued Saturday evening in the area of Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza.

Israelis rallied yet again for a ceasefire deal. "Arrogance is what brought the disaster upon us," former hostage Eli Sharabi said of Israeli leaders.

Teen's first attempt to pick up food ends in death

The 21-month war has left much of Gaza's population of over 2 million reliant on outside aid while food security experts warn of famine. Israel blocked and then restricted aid entry after ending the latest ceasefire in March.

"All responsive individuals reported they were attempting to access food distribution sites," the Red Cross said after the shootings near Rafah, noting the "alarming frequency and scale" of such mass casualty incidents.

Israel's military said it fired warning shots toward people it said were behaving suspiciously to prevent them from approaching. It said it was not aware of any casualties. The GHF said no incident occurred near its sites.

Abdullah al-Haddad said he was 200 meters (655 feet) from the aid distribution site run by the GHF close to the Shakoush area when an Israeli tank started firing at crowds of Palestinians.

"We were together, and they shot us at once," he said, writhing in pain from a leg wound at Nasser Hospital.

Mohammed Jamal al-Sahloo, another witness, said Israel's military had ordered them to proceed to the site when the shooting started.

Sumaya al-Sha'er's 17-year-old son, Nasir, was killed, hospital officials said.

"He said to me, 'Mom, you don't have flour and today I'll go and bring you flour, even if I die, I'll go and get it,'" she said. "But he never came back home."

Until then, she said, she had prevented the teenager from going to GHF sites because she thought it was too dangerous.

Witnesses, health officials and U.N. officials say hundreds have been killed by Israeli fire while heading toward GHF distribution points through military zones off limits to independent media. The military has acknowledged firing warning shots at Palestinians who it says approached its forces in a suspicious manner.

The GHF denies there has been violence in or around its sites. But two of its contractors told The Associated Press that their colleagues have fired live ammunition and stun grenades as Palestinians scramble

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for food, allegations the foundation denied.

In a separate effort, the U.N. and aid groups say they struggle to distribute humanitarian aid because of Israeli military restrictions and a breakdown of law and order that has led to widespread looting.

The first fuel — 150,000 liters — entered Gaza this week after 130 days, a joint statement by U.N. aid bodies said, calling it a small amount for the “the backbone of survival in Gaza.” Fuel runs hospitals, water systems, transport and more, the statement said.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people in their Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel that sparked the war and abducted 251. Hamas still holds some 50 hostages, with at least 20 believed to remain alive.

Israel’s retaliatory offensive has killed over 57,800 Palestinians, more than half of them women and children, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry. The ministry, under Gaza’s Hamas-run government, doesn’t differentiate between civilians and combatants in its count. The U.N. and other international organizations see its figures as the most reliable statistics on war casualties.

A Palestinian-American killed in the West Bank

Friends and relatives paid their respects a day after Palestinian-American Seifeddin Musalat and local friend Mohammed al-Shalabi were killed in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry.

Musalat was beaten to death by Israeli settlers on his family’s land, his cousin Diana Halum told reporters. The settlers then blocked paramedics from reaching him, she said.

Musalat, born in Florida, was visiting his family home. His family wants the U.S. State Department to investigate his death and hold the settlers accountable. The State Department said it was aware of the reports of his death but had no comment out of respect for the family.

A witness, speaking on condition of anonymity to avoid Israeli retaliation, said the settlers descended on Palestinian lands and “started shooting at us, beating by sticks and throwing rocks.”

Israel’s military has said Palestinians hurled rocks at Israelis in the area earlier on Friday, lightly wounding two people and setting off a larger confrontation.

Palestinians and rights groups have long accused the military of ignoring settler violence, which has spiked — along with Palestinian attacks and Israeli military raids — since the war in Gaza began.

Lawmakers visit ‘Alligator Alcatraz’ after being blocked

By JENNIFER PELTZ and ALEXANDRIA RODRIGUEZ Associated Press

OCHOPEE, Fla. (AP) — Democratic lawmakers condemned Florida’s new Everglades immigration detention center after visiting Saturday, describing it as crowded, unsanitary and bug-infested. Republicans on the same tour said they saw nothing of the sort at the remote facility that officials have dubbed “Alligator Alcatraz.”

The state-arranged tour came after some Democrats were blocked earlier from viewing the 3,000-bed detention center that the state rapidly built on an isolated airstrip surrounded by swampland. So many state legislators and members of Congress turned up Saturday that they were split into multiple groups.

“There are really disturbing, vile conditions and this place needs to be shut the hell down,” U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a Democrat, told reporters after visiting the agglomeration of tents, trailers and temporary buildings. “This place is a stunt, and they’re abusing human beings here.”

Cage-style units of 32 men share three combination toilet-sink devices, the visitors measured the temperature at 83 degrees (28 degrees Celsius) in a housing area entranceway and 85 (29 Celsius) in a medical intake area, and grasshoppers and other insects abound, she and her fellow Florida Democrats said.

Although the visitors said they were not able to speak with the detainees, Rep. Maxwell Alejandro Frost, also a Democrat, said one called out “I’m an American citizen!” and others chanted “Libertad!” Spanish for “freedom.”

State Sen. Blaise Ingoglia, a Republican from Florida, countered that he had seen a well-run, safe facility where the living quarters were clean and the air conditioning worked well.

“The rhetoric coming out of the Democrats does not match the reality,” said Ingoglia, who said he toured

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in the same group as Wasserman Schultz. Ingoglia said a handful of detainees became “a little raucous” when the visitors appeared, but he did not make out what they were saying.

State Sen. Jay Collins was in another group and said he also found the detention center to be clean and functioning well: “No squalor.”

Collins, a Republican, said he saw backup generators, a tracking system for dietary restrictions and military-style bunks with good mattresses. The sanitation devices struck him as appropriate, if basic.

“Would I want that toilet-and-sink combination at my bathroom at the house? Probably not, but this is a transitional holding facility,” Collins said by phone.

Journalists were not allowed on the tour, and lawmakers were instructed not to bring phones or cameras inside.

Messages seeking comment were sent to the state Division of Emergency Management, which built the facility, and to representatives for Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican. DeSantis spokesperson Molly Best highlighted one of Ingoglia’s upbeat readouts on social media.

Across the state in Tampa, federal Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said that of the Everglades detention center that “any issues that were there have been addressed.” She added that she has talked with five unnamed Republican governors about modeling other facilities on it.

DeSantis and fellow Republicans have touted the makeshift detention center, constructed in days as an efficient and get-tough response to President Donald Trump’s call for mass deportations. The first detainees arrived July 3, after Trump toured and praised the facility.

Described as temporary, it is meant to help the Republican president’s administration reach its goal of boosting migrant detention capacity from 41,000 people to at least 100,000. The Florida facility’s remote location and its name — a nod to the notorious Alcatraz prison that once housed federal inmates in California — are meant to underscore a message of deterring illegal immigration.

Ahead of the facility’s opening, state officials said detainees would have access to medical care, consistent air conditioning, a recreation yard, attorneys and clergy members.

But detainees and their relatives and advocates have told The Associated Press that conditions are awful, with worm-infested food, toilets overflowing onto floors, mosquitoes buzzing around the fenced bunks, and air conditioners that sometimes shut off in the oppressive South Florida summer heat. One man told his wife that detainees go days without getting showers.

Division of Emergency Management spokesperson Stephanie Hartman called those descriptions “completely false,” saying detainees always get three meals a day, unlimited drinking water, showers and other necessities.

“The facility meets all required standards and is in good working order,” she said.

Five Democratic state lawmakers tried to visit the site July 3 but said they were denied access. The state subsequently arranged Saturday’s tour.

The lawmakers have sued over the earlier denial, accusing the DeSantis administration of impeding their oversight authority. A DeSantis spokesperson has called the lawsuit “dumb.”

Russia warns US, South Korea and Japan against forming security alliance targeting North Korea

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Russia’s foreign minister warned the U.S., South Korea and Japan against forming a security partnership targeting North Korea as he visited his country’s ally for talks on further solidifying their booming military and other cooperation.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov spoke Saturday at North Korea’s eastern Wonsan city, where he met the country’s leader, Kim Jong Un, and conveyed greetings from President Vladimir Putin.

Kim during the meeting reaffirmed his government’s commitment to “unconditionally support and encourage all measures” taken by Russia in its conflict with Ukraine.

He said Pyongyang and Moscow share identical views on “all strategic issues in conformity with the level

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of alliance," according to North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency.

Lavrov called for the two countries to further strengthen their "strategic and tactical cooperation and intensify concerted action" in international affairs, KCNA reported.

Relations between Russia and North Korea have been flourishing in recent years, with North Korea supplying troops and ammunition to support Russia's war against Ukraine in return for military and economic assistance.

That has raised concerns among South Korea, the U.S. and others that Russia might also transfer sensitive technologies to North Korea that can increase the danger of its nuclear and missile programs.

Speaking with reporters after a meeting with his North Korean counterpart Choe Son Hui, Lavrov accused the U.S., South Korea and Japan of what he called military buildups around North Korea.

"We warn against exploiting these ties to build alliances directed against anyone, including North Korea and, of course, Russia," he said, according to Russia's state Tass news agency.

The U.S., South Korea and Japan have expanded or restored their trilateral military exercises in response to North Korea's advancing nuclear program. The three countries held a joint air drill Friday involving U.S. nuclear-capable bombers near the Korean Peninsula as their top military officers met in Seoul and urged North Korea to cease all unlawful activities threatening regional security.

North Korea views major U.S.-led military drills as invasion rehearsals and has long argued it is forced to develop nuclear weapons to defend itself from U.S. military threats.

Russia understands North Korea's decision to seek nuclear weapons, Lavrov said.

"The technologies used by North Korea are the result of the work of its own scientists. We respect North Korea's aspirations and understand the reasons why it is pursuing nuclear development," Lavrov said, according to Tass.

During their meeting, Choe reiterated North Korea "unconditionally" supports Russia's fight against Ukraine, as Lavrov repeated Russia's gratitude for the contribution North Korean troops made in efforts to repel a Ukrainian incursion into Russia's Kursk border region.

North Korea recently opened a mammoth beach resort in Wonsan city, the meeting venue, that it says can accommodate nearly 20,000 people.

In his comments at the start of his meeting with Choe, Lavrov said, "I am sure that Russian tourists will be increasingly eager to come here. We will do everything we can to facilitate this, creating conditions for this, including air travel," according to the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The Wonsan-Kalma tourist zone is at the center of Kim's push to boost tourism to improve his country's troubled economy. However, prospects for the tourist complex aren't clear as North Korea appears unlikely to fully reopen its borders and embrace Western tourists anytime soon.

Trump says he's considering 'taking away' Rosie O'Donnell's US citizenship

Associated Press undefined

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says he is considering "taking away" the U.S. citizenship of a longtime rival, actress and comedian Rosie O'Donnell, despite a decades-old Supreme Court ruling that expressly prohibits such an action by the government.

"Because of the fact that Rosie O'Donnell is not in the best interests of our Great Country, I am giving serious consideration to taking away her Citizenship," Trump wrote in a social media post on Saturday. He added that O'Donnell, who moved to Ireland in January, should stay in Ireland "if they want her."

The two have criticized each other publicly for years, an often bitter back-and-forth that predates Trump's involvement in politics. In recent days, O'Donnell on social media denounced Trump and recent moves by his administration, including the signing of a massive GOP-backed tax breaks and spending cuts plan.

It's just the latest threat by Trump to revoke the citizenship of people with whom he has publicly disagreed, most recently his former adviser and one-time ally, Elon Musk.

But O'Donnell's situation is notably different from Musk, who was born in South Africa. O'Donnell was

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born in the United States and has a constitutional right to U.S. citizenship. The U.S. State Department notes on its website that U.S. citizens by birth or naturalization may relinquish U.S. nationality by taking certain steps – but only if the act is performed voluntary and with the intention of relinquishing U.S. citizenship.

Amanda Frost, a law professor at the University of Virginia School of Law, noted the Supreme Court ruled in a 1967 case that the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution prevents the government from taking away citizenship.

"The president has no authority to take away the citizenship of a native-born U.S. citizen," Frost said in an email Saturday. "In short, we are a nation founded on the principle that the people choose the government; the government cannot choose the people."

O'Donnell moved to Ireland after Trump defeated Vice President Kamala Harris to win his second term. She has said she's in the process of obtaining Irish citizenship based on family lineage.

Responding to Trump Saturday, O'Donnell wrote on social media that she had upset the president and "add me to the list of people who oppose him at every turn."

Trump announces 30% tariffs against EU, Mexico to begin Aug. 1, rattling major US trading partners

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Saturday announced he's levying tariffs of 30% against the European Union and Mexico starting Aug. 1, a move that could cause massive upheaval between the United States and two of its biggest trade partners.

Trump detailed the planned tariffs in letters posted to his social media account. They are part of an announcement blitz by Trump of new tariffs aimed at allies and foes alike, a bedrock of his 2024 campaign that he said would set the foundation for reviving a U.S. economy that he claims has been ripped off by other nations for decades.

In his letter to Mexico's leader, President Claudia Sheinbaum, Trump acknowledged that the country has been helpful in stemming the flow of undocumented migrants and fentanyl into the United States. But he said the country has not done enough to stop North America from turning into a "Narco-Trafficking Playground."

"Mexico has been helping me secure the border, BUT, what Mexico has done, is not enough," Trump added.

Trump in his letter to the European Union said the U.S. trade deficit was a national security threat.

"We have had years to discuss our Trading Relationship with The European Union, and we have concluded we must move away from these long-term, large, and persistent, Trade Deficits, engendered by your Tariff, and Non-Tariff, Policies, and Trade Barriers," Trump wrote in the letter to the EU. "Our relationship has been, unfortunately, far from Reciprocal."

The letters come in the midst of an on-and-off Trump threat to impose tariffs on countries and right an imbalance in trade. Trump in April imposed tariffs on dozens of countries, before pausing them for 90 days to negotiate individual deals. As the three-month grace period ended this week, Trump began sending his tariff letters to leaders but again has pushed back the implementation day for what he says will be just a few more weeks.

If he moves forward with the tariffs, it could have ramifications for nearly every aspect of the global economy.

EU members and Mexico respond

European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen responded by noting the bloc's "commitment to dialogue, stability, and a constructive transatlantic partnership."

"At the same time, we will take all necessary steps to safeguard EU interests, including the adoption of proportionate countermeasures if required," von der Leyen said in a statement.

Von der Leyen added that the EU remains committed to continuing negotiations with the U.S. and com-

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ing to an agreement before Aug. 1. Trade ministers from EU countries are scheduled to meet Monday to discuss trade relations with the U.S., as well as with China.

European leaders joined von der Leyen in urging Trump to give negotiations more time and warnings of possible new tariffs on Washington.

"With European unity, it is more than ever up to the Commission to assert the Union's determination to resolutely defend European interests," French President Emmanuel Macron said in a statement posted on X.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni's office said "it would make no sense to trigger a trade war between the two sides of the Atlantic."

Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen told broadcaster DR that Trump was taking a "pointless and a very shortsighted approach." Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson warned in an interview with SVT that "everyone loses out from an escalated trade conflict, and it will be U.S. consumers who pay the highest price."

Trump, as he has in previous letters, warned that his administration would further raise tariffs if the EU attempts to hike its own tariffs on the United States.

The Mexican government said it was informed during high-level talks with U.S. State Department officials Friday that the Trump letter was coming. The delegation told Trump officials at the meeting it disagreed with the decision and considered it "unfair treatment," according to a Mexican government statement.

Sheinbaum, who has sought to avoid directly criticizing Trump in the early going of her presidency, expressed a measure of confidence during a public appearance on Saturday that the U.S. and Mexico will reach "better terms."

"I've always said that in these cases, you need a cool head to face any problem," Sheinbaum said.

With the reciprocal tariffs, Trump is effectively blowing up the rules governing world trade. For decades, the United States and most other countries abided by tariff rates set through a series of complex negotiations known as the Uruguay round. Countries could set their own tariffs, but under the "most favored nation" approach, they couldn't charge one country more than they charged another.

The Mexico tariff, if it goes into effect, could replace the 25% tariffs on Mexican goods that do not comply with the existing U.S.-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement.

Trump's letter did not address if USMCA-compliant goods would still be exempt from the Mexico tariffs after Aug. 1, as the White House said would be the case with Canada. Trump sent a letter to Canada earlier this week threatening a 35% tariff hike.

Higher tariffs had been suspended

With Saturday's letters, Trump has now issued tariff conditions on 24 countries and the 27-member European Union.

So far, the tally of trade deals struck by Trump stands at two — one with the United Kingdom and one with Vietnam. Trump has also announced the framework for a deal with China, the details of which remain fuzzy.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Saturday said the U.K. "smartly" acted early.

"Let this be a lesson to other countries - earnest, good faith negotiations can produce powerful results that benefit both sides of the table, while correcting the imbalances that plague global trade," Bessent said in a posting on X.

Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former Congressional Budget Office director and president of the center-right American Action Forum, said the letters were evidence that serious trade talks were not taking place over the past three months. He stressed that nations were instead talking amongst themselves about how to minimize their own exposure to the U.S. economy and Trump.

"They're spending time talking to each other about what the future is going to look like, and we're left out," Holtz-Eakin said.

Potential impact is vast

If the tariffs do indeed take effect, the potential impact on Europe could be vast.

The value of EU-U.S. trade in goods and services amounted to 1.7 trillion euros (\$2 trillion) in 2024, or an average of 4.6 billion euros a day, according to EU statistics agency Eurostat.

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Europe's biggest exports to the U.S. were pharmaceuticals, cars, aircraft, chemicals, medical instruments and wine and spirits.

Lamberto Frescobaldi, president of the Union of Italian Wines trade association, said Trump's move could lead to "a virtual embargo" of his country's wine.

"A single letter was enough to write the darkest chapter in relations between two historic Western allies," Frescobaldi said.

Trump has complained about the EU's 198 billion-euro trade surplus in goods, which shows Americans buy more goods from European businesses than the other way around.

However, American companies fill some of the gap by outselling the EU when it comes to services such as cloud computing, travel bookings, and legal and financial services.

The U.S. services surplus took the nation's trade deficit with the EU down to 50 billion euros (\$59 billion), which represents less than 3% of overall U.S.-EU trade.

A court called off a key 9/11 suspect's plea deal.

Here's where the case stands

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The United States' long legal case against accused Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed remains in limbo after an appeals court this week scrapped a plea deal that the government had negotiated but had later withdrawn.

Essentially, the ruling leaves the case on track for trial before a military commission. It is unclear when that might happen.

Here's what to know about the case and how it got here:

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed is accused mastermind of 9/11

Mohammed is accused of developing and directing al-Qaida's plot to crash hijacked airliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. Another of the hijacked planes flew into a field in Pennsylvania. In all, nearly 3,000 people were killed in one of the deadliest attacks ever on the United States.

Mohammed was arrested in 2003 in Pakistan and eventually taken to the U.S. military base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. At the time, it was where the U.S. held hundreds of men captured in President George W. Bush's "war on terror."

Military prosecutors filed charges in 2008 against Mohammed and some co-defendants. After an Obama-era plan to try them in a civilian court in New York collapsed, the case remained with the military commission.

The case dragged on through years of legal and logistical challenges. A major point of contention has been how much the evidence and case have been tainted by the men's torture while in CIA custody during the first years after their capture. Mohammed was waterboarded 183 times.

The plea deal called for life in prison

Military prosecutors and defense lawyers began plea talks several years ago. Last year, Mohammed and two others agreed to plead guilty, under an agreement that would have led to life in prison instead of a potential death penalty. The deal also would have required the men to answer questions posed by Sept. 11 victims' relatives.

Military prosecutors called the arrangement "the best path to finality and justice." Some 9/11 families also saw the deal as the best hope for bringing the painful case to a conclusion and getting some answers from the defendants.

But other victims' relatives said a trial was the right way to get justice and information, and some saw the plea deal as capitulation. Republican lawmakers also criticized the agreement, negotiated during Democratic President Joe Biden's administration.

Defense secretary withdrew the plea deal

Then-Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin soon rescinded the deal, saying that victims' relatives, U.S. troops and the American public "deserve the opportunity" to see military commission trials play out.

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Defense attorneys and the government wrangled in various courts over whether Austin was legally able to scrap the deal. It was on-again, off-again for months. A panel of appeals judges put it on hold in January and then, on Friday, issued 2-1 ruling saying that Austin had the authority to rescind the agreement. The order bars the military judge from taking any guilty pleas under the now-undone deal.

The case could be headed to pretrial stage

It is not clear whether defense lawyers plan to appeal. A message seeking comment was sent Saturday to Mohammed's attorneys.

Without a plea deal, the case would once again be back in the pretrial stage within the military commission system, with the legal and logistical complications that it has faced. Questions about whether the men's torture would prevent the use of evidence, including statements they made, are yet to be resolved.

Trump administration has floated deporting third-country nationals to Africa. Here's what we know

By MONIKA PRONCZUK Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — South Sudan has accepted eight third-country deportees from the U.S. and Rwanda says it's in talk with the administration of President Donald Trump on a similar deal, while Nigeria says it's rejecting pressure to do the same.

Although few details are known, these initiatives in Africa mark an expansion in U.S. efforts to deport people to countries other than their own. The United States has sent hundreds of Venezuelans and others to Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama but has yet to announce any major deals with governments in Africa, Asia or Europe.

While proponents see such programs as a way of deterring what they describe as unmanageable levels of migration, human rights advocates have raised concerns over sending migrants to countries where they have no ties or that may have a history of rights violations.

Last year, U.K. Supreme Court ruled that a similar plan to deport rejected asylum-seekers to Rwanda was illegal.

Trump meets with West African leaders

Earlier this week, Trump held a summit with five West African leaders in the White House, which highlighted the new transactional U.S. policy towards the continent.

Trump discussed migration with the leaders of Liberia, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Gabon, including the need for countries to accept the return of their nationals who do not have the right to stay in the U.S., as well as the possibility of accepting deported nationals of third countries.

U.S. border tsar Tom Homan told the media Friday that the Trump administration hopes to forge deals with "many countries" to accept deported migrants.

"If there is a significant public threat or national security threat — there's one thing for sure — they're not walking the streets of this country. We'll find a third, safe nation to send them to, and we're doing it," he said.

What African leaders are saying

Liberian President Joseph Boakai told media in Liberia on Friday that third-country nationals were discussed but that Trump had not directly asked Liberia to accept such deportees.

"They're not forcing anybody, but they want us to know that this is the concern they have, and they are asking how can we contribute, how can we help?" he said.

President Umaro Sissoco Embaló of Guinea Bissau said Trump discussed the topic during the summit, but did not specifically ask for the African nations to agree to accept deportees. Other West African governments did not reply to a request for comment.

Nigeria's Foreign Minister Yussuf Tuggar, meanwhile, said such conversations were being held between U.S. representatives and several African countries, though he declined provide details.

He said late Thursday that Nigeria would not bow to what he described as pressure to accept third-country deportees, saying the country had enough problems of its own.

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What's in it for African countries

Experts say some African countries may seek to facilitate U.S. deportation programs in order to earn good will in negotiations over tariffs, cuts in U.S. aid or visa restrictions that have hit several African countries in recent months.

Beverly Ochieng, an analyst at the security consulting firm Control Risks, said countries may want to reach a migrant deal to avoid a situation "where they lose access to the U.S. economy or economic initiatives and bilateral relations."

Those factors are especially important, "in light of the withdrawal of developmental aid," Ochieng told The Associated Press.

What has been done so far

So far, the only African country to accept third-country deportees from the U.S. has been South Sudan, which accepted eight deportees with criminal convictions, only one of whom was from South Sudan.

It is unclear what deal may have been struck between the two countries. The South Sudanese Foreign Ministry has declined to answer questions.

Alan Boswell, the Horn of Africa program director at the International Crisis Group think tank, said the South Sudan would have "a number of reasons to want to placate a Trump administration, be that avoiding visa bans, warding off more sanctions against its elite, or generally trying to curry favor."

The decision has drawn criticism from South Sudanese civil society and some members of government. "South Sudan is not a dumping ground for criminals," said Edmund Yakani, a prominent civil society leader in the country.

Homan, the U.S. border tsar, said Friday he was unsure of the situation of the eight men, saying they were no longer in U.S. custody.

Lawyers and advocates are concerned about that kind of uncertainty over the legal status and safety of such migrants, said Michelle Mittelstadt, a spokesperson for Migration Policy Institute.

"There's a lot of confusion and lack of clarity over who actually has control of these individuals when they're deported to a third country," Mittelstadt said.

Rwanda's foreign minister told the AP last month that talks were under way with the U.S. about a potential agreement to host deported migrants, without providing details. The U.S. State Department declined to comment on a potential deal. Rights groups have long criticized Rwanda for their human rights record, especially the deaths in Rwandan custody of some perceived government critics.

The U.K. struck a deal with Rwanda in 2022 to send migrants who arrive in the U.K. as stowaways or in boats to the East African country, where their asylum claims would be processed and, if successful, they would stay. But the plan was stalled by legal challenges and criticized by human rights groups.

Iga Swiatek's 6-0, 6-0 win over Amanda Anisimova delivers her her first Wimbledon title, 6th major

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — For years, Iga Swiatek never quite felt comfortable on Wimbledon's grass courts, never thought she could add a trophy there to her other Grand Slam triumphs. Oh, did that turn out to be wrong. And how.

Not only is Swiatek now the champion of the All England Club, she did it with a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Amanda Anisimova on Saturday in the first women's final at the tournament in 114 years in which one player failed to claim a single game.

"It seems," said Swiatek, a 24-year-old from Poland who is now 6-0 in major title matches, "super surreal."

That's also a good way to describe the way things unfolded at a sunny, breezy Centre Court against the 13th-seeded Anisimova, a 23-year-old American in her first Slam final.

"I was a bit frozen there, with my nerves. Maybe the last two weeks I got a bit tired or something," said Anisimova, who skipped practice on Friday because of fatigue and felt pain in her right shoulder while

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warming up before the match.

"It was a bit tough to digest, obviously, especially during and right after," Anisimova said. "I was a little bit in shock."

With Kate, the Princess of Wales, sitting in the Royal Box and on hand to present the trophies, the whole thing took just 57 minutes. The previous 6-0, 6-0 Wimbledon women's final was all the way back in 1911.

"Honestly, I didn't even dream (of this), because for me, it was just, like, way too far, you know?" Swiatek said.

Maybe, Swiatek said, the lower expectations she and plenty of other people held for her at Wimbledon helped. For once, she wasn't the top seed. Her name was not listed by many among the title contenders.

"I could really focus on getting better and developing as a player," Swiatek said, "rather than everybody just asking me to win, win, and nothing is good besides winning."

She won 55 of Saturday's 79 points despite needing to produce merely 10 winners. Anisimova was shaky from the start, put only 33% of her first serves in during the first set and finished with 28 unforced errors.

Certainly the pressure she was under from Swiatek's near-perfect play was a factor. Swiatek delivered serves at up to 121 mph, got 78% of her first serves in, and used deep groundstrokes to grab 16 of the 20 points that lasted five shots or more.

"She definitely made it difficult for me," Anisimova said.

Swiatek already owned four titles from the French Open's red clay and one from the U.S. Open's hard courts, but this is first one of her professional career at any grass-court tournament. And it ended a long-for-her drought: Swiatek last won a trophy at Roland-Garros in June 2024.

She is the eighth consecutive first-time women's champion at Wimbledon, but this stands out because of just how stunningly dominant it was.

Anisimova won her first-round match less than two weeks ago by a 6-0, 6-0 score and eliminated No. 1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka in the semifinals, but she never looked like the same player this time. Not at all.

When it was over, Anisimova sat on the sideline crying, while Swiatek climbed into the stands to celebrate with her team — and actress Courteney Cox, of "Friends" fame.

Swiatek was the Wimbledon junior champion as a teen in 2018 but never had been past the quarterfinals on the All England Club's grass as a pro. Her only other final on the slick surface came when she was the runner-up at a tuneup event in Germany right before Wimbledon began.

Swiatek spent most of 2022, 2023 and 2024 at No. 1 in the WTA rankings but was seeded No. 8 at Wimbledon. She served a one-month doping ban last year after failing an out-of-competition drug test; an investigation determined she was inadvertently exposed to a contaminated medical product used for trouble sleeping and jet lag.

Anisimova was a semifinalist at age 17 at the 2019 French Open; her father died shortly after. On Saturday, Anisimova's mother arrived in England for a rare chance to be at one of her daughter's matches.

"My mom is the most selfless person I know, and she's done everything to get me to this point in my life," Anisimova said through tears, then spoke to her mother directly, saying: "Thank you for being here and breaking the superstition of flying in."

And then, with a chuckle, Anisimova added: "It's definitely not why I lost today."

She took time away from the tour a little more than two years ago because of burnout. A year ago, she tried to qualify for Wimbledon, because her ranking of 189th was too low to get into the field automatically, but lost in the preliminary event.

On Monday, she'll be ranked in the top 10.

"I wish," Anisimova told the crowd, "that I could put on a better performance for all of you."

Fuel to Air India plane was cut off moments before crash, investigation report says

By SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Fuel control switches for the engines of an Air India flight that crashed last month were moved from the “run” to the “cutoff” position moments before impact, starving both engines of fuel, a preliminary investigation report said early Saturday.

The report, issued by India’s Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, also indicated that both pilots were confused over the change to the switch setting, which caused a loss of engine thrust shortly after takeoff.

The Air India flight — a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner — crashed on June 12 and killed at least 260 people, including 19 on the ground, in the northwestern city of Ahmedabad. Only one passenger survived the crash, which is one of India’s worst aviation disasters.

The plane was carrying 230 passengers — 169 Indians, 53 British, seven Portuguese and a Canadian — along with 12 crew members.

According to the report, the flight lasted around 30 seconds between takeoff and crash. It said that once the aircraft achieved its top recorded speed, “the Engine 1 and Engine 2 fuel cutoff switches transitioned from RUN to CUTOFF position one after another” within a second. The report did not say how the switches could have flipped to the cutoff position during the flight.

The movement of the fuel control switches allows and cuts fuel flow to the plane’s engines.

The switches were flipped back into the run position, the report said, but the plane could not gain power quickly enough to stop its descent after the aircraft had begun to lose altitude.

The report stated: “One of the pilots transmitted ‘MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY.’”

Aviation expert and former airline pilot Terry Tozer said the engine cutoff switches being switched to off only seconds after takeoff was “absolutely bizarre.”

“Unfortunately, the altitude was so low that the engines were only beginning to recover and they didn’t have enough time,” Tozer told Sky News.

The report also indicated confusion in the cockpit moments before the crash.

In the flight’s final moment, one pilot was heard on the cockpit voice recorder asking the other why he cut off the fuel. “The other pilot responded that he did not do so,” the report said.

The preliminary report did not recommend any actions for Boeing, which said in a statement that it “stands ready to support the investigation led by India’s Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau.”

“Our deepest condolences go out to the loved ones of the passengers and crew on board Air India Flight 171, as well as everyone affected in Ahmedabad,” the statement added.

India’s civil aviation minister, Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, said the report’s findings were preliminary and one should not “jump into any conclusions on this.”

“Let us wait for the final report,” Naidu told reporters.

Air India, in a statement, said it is fully cooperating with authorities investigating the crash.

“Air India is working closely with stakeholders, including regulators. We continue to fully cooperate with the AAIB and other authorities as their investigation progresses,” it said.

The plane’s black boxes — combined cockpit voice recorders and flight data recorders — were recovered in the days following the crash and later downloaded in India.

Indian authorities had also ordered deeper checks of Air India’s entire Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet to prevent future incidents. Air India has 33 Dreamliners in its fleet.

Russian drone, cruise missile and bomb attacks kill at least 6 in Ukraine

By The Associated Press undefined

Russia pounded Ukraine with hundreds of drones and missiles overnight and Saturday as part of a stepped-up bombing campaign that killed at least six people and wounded dozens, officials said.

Two people died and 26 were wounded when Russian forces overnight attacked the Bukovina area in the Chernivtsi region of southwestern Ukraine with four drones and a missile, regional Gov. Ruslan Zaporaniuk said Saturday. He said that the two died from falling drone debris.

Another drone attack in Ukraine's western Lviv region wounded 12 people, regional Gov. Maksym Kozytskyi said. Poland's air force scrambled fighter jets in areas bordering Ukraine in response to the overnight attacks, which targeted again a region that is a crucial hub for receiving foreign military aid.

Three people also were wounded in Kharkiv in northeastern Ukraine when the city was hit by eight drones and two missiles, Mayor Ihor Terekhov said.

Russia fired 597 drones and decoys, along with 26 cruise missiles, into Ukraine overnight into Saturday, Ukraine's air force said. Of these, 319 drones and 25 cruise missiles were shot down and 258 decoy drones were lost, likely having been electronically jammed.

Two people were killed Saturday morning in a missile strike in the Dnipropetrovsk region, according to regional Gov. Serhii Lysak. Two other people were killed Saturday in the Sumy region by a Russian guided bomb, local officials said.

Russia has been stepping up its long-range attacks on Ukrainian cities. Earlier this week, Russia fired more than 700 attack and decoy drones, topping previous nightly barrages and targeting Lutsk near the border with Poland in western Ukraine.

Russia's intensifying long-range attacks have coincided with a concerted effort to break through parts of the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line, where Ukrainian troops are under severe pressure.

Russia's Defense Ministry said it shot down 33 Ukrainian drones overnight into Saturday.

One person was wounded Saturday in a Ukrainian drone strike on Russia's Belgorod region and another in the Kursk region, both of which border Ukraine, local officials said.

US sanctions Cuban President Díaz-Canel and other officials for human rights violations

By ANDREA RODRÍGUEZ Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The United States government announced Friday it was sanctioning Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel and other top officials for human rights violations and restricting access to visas on the anniversary of the biggest protests on the island in recent decades.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on social media platform X that the State Department also would impose visa restrictions on Cuban judicial and prison officials "responsible for, or complicit in, the unjust detention and torture of the July 2021 protesters."

The protests, which were not led by an opposition group, developed July 11 and 12, 2021, drawing attention to the depths of Cuba's economic crisis.

"The U.S. will continue to stand for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Cuba, and make clear no illegitimate, dictatorial regimes are welcome in our hemisphere," Rubio said in the statement.

The Trump administration has taken a harder line against Cuba's government than the Biden administration.

In addition to Díaz-Canel, the U.S. sanctioned Cuban Defense Minister Álvaro López Miera and Interior Minister Lázaro Álvarez Casas.

Shortly after the announcement, Johana Tablada, deputy director of the U.S. department in the Cuban Foreign Ministry, lashed out at Rubio, calling him a "defender of genocide, prisons and mass deportations."

The rare protests in 2021 came about after repeated blackouts in Havana and other cities. One man died and some marches ended in vandalism.

Groups supporting the government responded along with authorities to repress the protests. Human rights groups estimated there were more than 1,000 arrests but the government gave no official figures.

At the time, the Cuban government said it was the result of a U.S. media campaign and decades of U.S. sanctions.

In 2022, Cuban prosecutors said some 790 people were investigated for acts related to the protests ranging from disorder to sabotage and vandalism.

The advocacy group 11J, whose name alludes to the protests, said late last year there were 554 people serving sentences related to the protests, but some were given conditional release in January after an appeal from Pope Francis.

FEMA removed dozens of Camp Mystic buildings from 100-year flood map before expansion, records show

By RYAN J. FOLEY, CHRISTOPHER L. KELLER, and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

Federal regulators repeatedly granted appeals to remove Camp Mystic's buildings from their 100-year flood map, loosening oversight as the camp operated and expanded in a dangerous flood plain in the years before rushing waters swept away children and counselors, a review by The Associated Press found.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency included the prestigious girls' summer camp in a "Special Flood Hazard Area" in its National Flood Insurance map for Kerr County in 2011, which means it was required to have flood insurance and faced tighter regulation on any future construction projects.

That designation means an area is likely to be inundated during a 100-year flood — one severe enough that it only has a 1% chance of happening in any given year.

Located in a low-lying area along the Guadalupe River in a region known as flash flood alley, Camp Mystic lost at least 27 campers and counselors and longtime owner Dick Eastland when historic floodwaters tore through its property before dawn on July 4.

The flood was far more severe than the 100-year event envisioned by FEMA, experts said, and moved so quickly in the middle of the night that it caught many off guard in a county that lacked a warning system.

But Syracuse University associate professor Sarah Pralle, who has extensively studied FEMA's flood map determinations, said it was "particularly disturbing" that a camp in charge of the safety of so many young people would receive exemptions from basic flood regulation.

"It's a mystery to me why they weren't taking proactive steps to move structures away from the risk, let alone challenging what seems like a very reasonable map that shows these structures were in the 100-year flood zone," she said.

Camp Mystic didn't respond to emails seeking comment and calls to it rang unanswered. The camp has called the flood an "unimaginable tragedy" and added in a statement Thursday that it had restored power for the purpose of communicating with its supporters.

FEMA exempted buildings at old and new sites

In response to an appeal, FEMA in 2013 amended the county's flood map to remove 15 of the camp's buildings from the hazard area. Records show that those buildings were part of the 99-year-old Camp Mystic Guadalupe, which was devastated by last week's flood.

After further appeals, FEMA removed 15 more Camp Mystic structures in 2019 and 2020 from the designation. Those buildings were located on nearby Camp Mystic Cypress Lake, a sister site that opened to campers in 2020 as part of a major expansion and suffered less damage in the flood.

Campers have said the cabins at Cypress Lake withstood significant damage, but those nicknamed "the flats" at the Guadalupe River camp were inundated.

Experts say Camp Mystic's requests to amend the FEMA map could have been an attempt to avoid the requirement to carry flood insurance, to lower the camp's insurance premiums or to pave the way for

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renovating or adding new structures under less costly regulations.

Pralle said the appeals were not surprising because communities and property owners have used them successfully to shield specific properties from regulation.

Analysis shows flood risks at both camp sites

Regardless of FEMA's determinations, the risk was obvious.

At least 12 structures at Camp Mystic Guadalupe were fully within FEMA's 100-year flood plain, and a few more were partially in that zone, according to an AP analysis of data provided by First Street, a data science company that specializes in modeling climate risk.

Jeremy Porter, the head of climate implications at First Street, said FEMA's flood insurance map underestimates flood risks. That's because it fails to take into account the effects of heavy precipitation on smaller waterways such as streams and creeks. First Street's model puts nearly all of Camp Mystic Guadalupe at risk during a 100-year flood.

The buildings at the newer Cypress Lake site are farther from the south fork of the flood-prone river but adjacent to Cypress Creek. FEMA's flood plain doesn't consider the small waterway a risk.

However, First Street's model, which takes into account heavy rain and runoff reaching the creek, shows that the majority of the Cypress Lake site lies within an area that is at risk during a 100-year flood.

In a statement, FEMA downplayed the significance of the flood map amendments.

"Flood maps are snapshots in time designed to show minimum standards for floodplain management and the highest risk areas for flood insurance," the agency wrote. "They are not predictions of where it will flood, and they don't show where it has flooded before."

An 'arduous' appeal process can help property owners

Property owners challenging FEMA's map designations hire engineers to conduct detailed studies to show where they believe the 100-year flood plain should actually be drawn. That is a "pretty arduous process" that can lead to more accurate maps while making it easier for future construction, said Chris Steubing, executive director of the Texas Floodplain Management Association, an industry group that represents floodplain managers.

Pralle, who reviewed the amendments for AP, noted that some of the exempted properties were within 2 feet (0.6 meters) of FEMA's flood plain by the camp's revised calculations, which she said left almost no margin for error. She said her research shows that FEMA approves about 90% of map amendment requests, and the process may favor the wealthy and well-connected.

A study she published in 2021 with researcher Devin Lea analyzed more than 20,000 buildings that had been removed from FEMA flood maps. It found that the amendments occurred more often in places where property values were higher, more white people lived and buildings were newer.

Camp expanded after 'tremendous success'

FEMA had cautioned in its amendments that other parts of Camp Mystic remained on the flood map, and that "any future construction or substantial improvement" would be subject to flood plain management regulations.

County officials not only allowed the camp to keep operating, but to dramatically expand.

Considered Texas royalty after decades of taking care of the daughters of elite families, Camp Mystic owners Dick and Tweety Eastland cited the "tremendous success" of their original camp in explaining the need for a second site nearby.

The expansion included new cabins and a dining hall, chapel, archery range and more. The camp had 557 campers and more than 100 staffers between its two locations when a state licensing agency conducted an inspection on July 2, two days before the tragedy, records show.

FEMA referred questions about the expansion to local officials, who didn't reply to messages seeking comment.

Steubing, a longtime municipal engineer in Texas, said the rain and flooding that hit Kerr County in a matter of hours were so much more intense than anything in its history that it's hard to call the flood plain management a failure.

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Local officials likely believed they were following existing regulations when they allowed the camp to keep growing, but “then Mother Nature set a new standard,” he said.

“You could have built things 2 feet (0.6 meters) higher, 3 feet (0.9 meters) higher, and they still might have gotten taken down,” he said.

Turkish president hails the start of disarmament by militant Kurdish separatists

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday hailed start of a disarmament process by militant Kurdish separatists as the end of a “painful chapter” in Turkey’s troubled history.

Erdogan told a meeting of his ruling AKP party in Ankara that the more than 40-year-old “scourge of terrorism” for which the Kurdistan Workers’ Party - or PKK - was responsible is on its way to ending.

Erdogan’s remarks came a day after male and female members of the PKK in northern Iraq cast rifles and machine guns into a large cauldron where they were set on fire. The symbolic move was seen as the first step toward a promised disarmament as part of a peace process aimed at ending four decades of hostilities.

The move came after PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, who has been imprisoned on an island near Istanbul since 1999, urged his group in February to convene a congress and formally disband and disarm. In May the PKK announced that it would do so.

The PKK had waged an armed insurgency against Turkey since 1984, initially with the aim of establishing a Kurdish state in the southeast of the country. Over time, the objective evolved into a campaign for autonomy and rights for Kurds within Turkey.

The conflict, which spread beyond Turkey’s borders into Iraq and Syria, killed tens of thousands of people. The PKK is considered to be a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

Previous peace efforts between Turkey and the PKK have ended in failure — most recently in 2015.

“Today the doors of a great Turkey, a strong Turkey, a Turkish century have been opened wide,” Erdogan said.

In a statement issued on Friday, the PKK said the fighters who were laying down their weapons, saying that they had disarmed “as a gesture of goodwill and a commitment to the practical success” of the peace process.

“We will henceforth continue our struggle for freedom, democracy, and socialism through democratic politics and legal means,” the statement said.

But Erdogan insisted that there had been no bargaining with the PKK. “The terror-free Turkey project is not the result of negotiations, bargaining or transactions.” Turkish officials have not disclosed if any concessions have been given to the PKK in exchange for laying down their arms.

The Turkish president also said that a parliamentary commission would be established to oversee the peace process.

Today in History: July 13, Live Aid concerts

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 13, the 194th day of 2025. There are 171 days left in the year.

Today in History:

On July 13, 1985, the “Live Aid” benefit rock concerts were held simultaneously in London and Philadelphia, raising millions for famine relief in Ethiopia.

Also on this date:

In 1793, French politician, physician and journalist Jean-Paul Marat was assassinated by Charlotte Corday, who stabbed him to death in his bath.

In 1863, deadly rioting against the Civil War military draft erupted in New York City. (The insurrection

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was put down three days later.)

In 1923, a sign consisting of 50-foot-tall letters spelling out "HOLLYWOODLAND" was dedicated in the Hollywood Hills to promote a subdivision (the last four letters were removed in 1949).

In 1930, the first FIFA World Cup began in Uruguay.

In 1960, John F. Kennedy won the Democratic presidential nomination on the first ballot at his party's convention in Los Angeles.

In 1973, former presidential aide Alexander P. Butterfield revealed to Senate Watergate Committee staff members the existence of President Richard Nixon's secret White House taping system.

In 1999, Angel Maturino Resendiz, suspected of being the "Railroad Killer," surrendered in El Paso, Texas.

In 2013, a jury in Florida cleared neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman of all charges in the shooting of Trayvon Martin, the unarmed black teenager whose killing unleashed furious debate over racial profiling, self-defense and equal justice.

In 2018, a grand jury indictment, sought by special counsel Robert Mueller, alleged that the Russian government was behind a sweeping conspiracy to interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

In 2020, Washington's NFL franchise dropped the "Redskins" name and logo amid pressure from sponsors; the move followed decades of criticism that the name and logo were offensive to Native Americans. (The team was eventually renamed the Commanders.)

Today's Birthdays: Game show announcer Johnny Gilbert (TV: "Jeopardy!") is 97. Author and Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka is 91. Actor Patrick Stewart is 85. Actor Harrison Ford is 83. Singer-guitarist Roger McGuinn (The Byrds) is 83. Rubik's Cube inventor Erno Rubik is 81. Actor-comedian Cheech Marin is 79. Actor Daphne Maxwell Reid is 77. Actor Didi Conn is 74. Actor Gil Birmingham is 72. Singer Louise Mandrell is 71. Former boxing champion Michael Spinks is 69. Actor-director Cameron Crowe is 68. Comedian Tom Kenny is 63. Actor Ken Jeong is 56. Singer Deborah Cox is 51. Actor Aya Cash is 43. Former St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina is 43. Actor Colton Haynes is 37. Actor Steven R. McQueen is 37. Soul singer Leon Bridges is 36. Actor Hayley Erin (TV: "General Hospital") is 31.