

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, Aug. 3

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, 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. Vacation Bible School starts today and runs through August 7th, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., for ages 4 year through sixth grade.

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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



Monday, Aug. 4

Senior Menu: Meatballs, Normandy blend, grapes, whole wheat bread.

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

Tuesday, Aug. 5

Senior Menu: Chicken alfredo, broccoli, pears, breadstick.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Storybook Land Theater, Groton Area High School Gym, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 6

Senior Menu: Breaded pork cutlet, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, apple sauce, whole wheat bread.

Groton Chamber Meeting, Noon, City Hall.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Sara Circle, 5 p.m.

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We the People

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



By David Adler

For Whom Do the Justices Write? Searching for Transparency

Calls for greater transparency in the work of the U.S. Supreme Court—from scholars, media, and the Justices themselves—reflect declining public confidence in the Court, particularly considering the High Bench's increasing use of the emergency docket. Justice Elena Kagan recently told a judicial conference: "Courts are supposed to explain things, to litigants, to the public generally. As we have done more and more on the emergency docket, there becomes a real responsibility to explain things better."

Since the Court is a secretive institution, what little Americans know, and understand, about the Court and the Constitution is gleaned, primarily, from its rulings and opinions. In 1968, in a rare television interview, Justice Hugo Black answered Martin Agronsky's question: "Do you think Americans understand the Constitution?" Black replied: "No, I think most of them do not." Explaining more is something that the justices should do in their role as constitutional educators. They occupy a unique perch, a natural pulpit, in the world of American Constitutionalism, and should, in their opinions, more fully elaborate on the meaning of the Constitution—what Thomas Jefferson called "the text of civil instruction."

In the short term, confidence in the Supreme Court is often a function of its decisions, since citizens are likely, at least initially, to judge rulings based on outcomes and whether they align with their politics and ideology. In the long term, however, confidence in the Court as an institution turns on the persuasiveness of its opinions and whether its reasoning is tethered to the text of the Constitution and precedent. The "long term" trust in the Court is what we aspire to in our constitutional democracy, a belief that the Court, regardless of the Justices' own biases—political, ideological, and religious—is chiefly concerned with its duty to police constitutional boundaries, uphold the Bill of Rights, and defend the rule of law.

The Court is its own worst enemy when it renders decisions that provide little in the way of its reasoning, as it often does in cases on the emergency docket. When the Court fails to explain its reasoning or writes in a way that is inaccessible to a general readership, then the public is confused and less likely to trust the Court. These concerns reflect an enduring question: For whom does the Court write? In 1819, Chief Justice John Marshall explained that opinions should be written to be understood by the public. Marshall sought clarity and simplicity. While cases sometimes reflect complex issues, justices should strive to make their reasoning clear. If they write solely for the immediate litigants and employ centuries-old, arcane Latin phrases without explanation of their meaning in plain English, they are ignoring the audience for whom the Constitution was written: We the People. Indeed, Justice Black was fond of reminding listeners that the Constitution was written not for the president, Congress, or the courts, but for the people, whose ratification authority, exercised in the state conventions, to borrow from James Madison, "breathed life into the Constitution."

Supreme Court rulings without adequate explanations of the justices' reasoning serve little purpose in a constitutional democracy in which reasoned persuasion should be our governing currency. Inadequate expressions of the reasoning undergirding conclusions resemble pronouncements from imperious leaders who are indifferent to public understanding, leaving readers to guess at the motives behind a decision, which inspires not trust and confidence, but rather confusion and cynicism.

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Thomas Jefferson, an eloquent idealist, but also a savvy realist, could, for effect, make the case for a cynical view of the Court's work and why the remedy is transparency. The justices, he said, "consider themselves secure for life; they skulk from responsibility to public opinion. An opinion is huddled up in conclave, perhaps by a majority of one, delivered as if unanimous, and with the silent acquiescence of lazy or timid associates, by a crafty chief judge, who sophisticates the law to his mind, by the turn of his own reasoning."

In 1913, Justice Louis Brandeis, who will forever be remembered for his elegant writing and painstakingly thorough opinions that opened a window to the reasoning of the Court, wrote that "sunlight was the best of disinfectants" for a democracy that seeks public understanding of the process of governance, which certainly includes the courts. America is better served, not by judicial mystery, but by judicial transparency.

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Celebration in the Park Held Saturday



Jeff Howard presents the first place award (for the second consecutive year) to Wilbur's Last Stand team of Brett Anderson, Jon Cutler and Blaine Snyder.



Jeff Howard presented the second place award to Grant Rix and Tony Garcia.



Jeff Howard (who donated all of the ribs for the event), presented the third place award to Cody Keller.



Jeff Howard presented the The People's Choice Award went to the Wilbur's Last Stand team of Jon Cutler, Blaine Snyder and Brett Anderson.



Celebration in the Park
Photos by
Paul Kosel



Susie Easthouse was busy calculating the results of the judging of the ribs.

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Garry's Kettle Corn of Wilmot was one of the vendors in the park. They have been doing Kettle Corn for 26 years.



Becky Gordon started off the Karaoke event by singing, "Hallelujah."



Bennett Iverson is getting his food from Kathyne Reh fuss. Dishing up the food is Lyndsey Keller.



Groton Police Officer Tommy Strickland and Justin Cleveland were on hand for the event.

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There was a very long line for people buying tickets. There were 200 racks of ribs cooked and at the end, there were only eight left.



These judges were reviewing and tasting the eight teams of ribs. They judged the ribs on tenderness, taste and appearance. They are Chad Johnson, Spencer Locke, Michelle Johnson, Greg Bonn, Steve Diegel and Tyler Sperry.

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Susie Easthouse spearheaded the Celebration in the Park. As a Groton Lions Club member she also talked about the club which is aging out. She said that in a few years, the Groton Lions Club may cease to exist as its members will be aging out. Any one interested in joining should contact a Lions Club Member or message through the Groton Lions Club facebook page. The Lions Club helps and sponsors events in the community including the Celebration in the Park and the Summer Fest which was held recently.



Steve Jonas was a lone member of his ribs. He is from Aberdeen and originally from Pierre.



Mike Ewalt was putting sauce on the ribs that Cody Keller (left) was smoking. Also helping is Lyndsey Keller (right).



There was a bean bag tournament with four teams signed up.

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Andi Iverson and Zoe Olson were "dressing up" the lemonade stand sign sponsored by the Groton Girls Soccer team.



Girls Soccer Coach Matt Baumgartner was pouring lemonade for a customer.



There were bounce houses in the south end of the park.

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Nick Juenger (left) and Becky Juenger (sitting on the right) were in charge of the Gellyball game that was enjoyed by the kids.



Dane Kampa was one of the kids playing Gellyball.



Players were hiding behind barrels during Gellyball.



There were train rides for the younger children.



Shaela McGannon, Lisa Adler and Todd McGannon were busy getting the ribs ready.



Lots of smokers were on hand for the 200 racks of ribs that were prepared.

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Ashley Smith and Brenna Johnson were under the big Dacotah Bank tent, selling beverages for the Groton American Legion.



There were lots of people on hand to put up the Dacotah Bank tent in the park.



Blaine Snyder. Jon Cutler and Brett Anderson were busy getting their ribs primed for smoking.



Ryan Olson gets dunked in the dunk tank.



Zane Ashmore was putting ribs on the smoker.



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C/WL Legion Unable To Overcome Groton Legion Post 39's Late-Game Surge

By GameChanger Media

Groton Legion Post 39 defeated Clark/Willow Lake, 4-3, on Saturday after taking the lead late in the game. Groton Legion Post 39 was down 3-2 in the top of the fifth inning when Gavin Englund singled, scoring two runs.

Groton Legion Post 39 opened the scoring in the second after Nick Morris doubled, scoring one run.

C/WL Legion took the lead, 3-1, in the bottom of the second thanks to singles by Collin Gaikowski, and Cooper Pommer.

Jarrett Erdmann started the game for Groton Legion Post 39. The left-handed pitcher gave up three hits and three runs over six innings, striking out eight and walking six. Charlie Luvaas stepped on the hill first for C/WL Legion. The starter surrendered five hits and four runs over four and one-third innings, striking out four and walking three. Brevin Fliehs pitched one inning of shutout ball for Groton Legion Post 39 in relief. The pitcher surrendered one hit, striking out none and walking none.

Englund drove the middle of the lineup, leading Groton Legion Post 39 with two runs batted in. Englund went 1-for-4 on the day. Carter Simon went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton Legion Post 39 in hits. Groton Legion Post 39 turned two double plays in the game.

Cooper Pommer went 1-for-3 at the plate and led the team with two runs batted in. Watson Grantham went 2-for-4 at the plate to lead C/WL Legion in hits. Josh Kannegieter led C/WL Legion with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, piling up six walks for the game. C/WL Legion didn't commit a single error in the field. Watson Grantham had the most chances in the field with six.

Clark/Willow Lake was eliminated from the State B Tournament in Milbank. Groton advances, playing 30 minutes after the noon game on Sunday. Dakota Valley eliminated Milbank, 9-1. In the championship semifinals, Dell Rapids defeated Winner/Colome, 1-0, and Parkson defeated Scotland/Menno/Freeman Canistota Post 152, 5-2.

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Brule County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: I-90 at mile marker 268, 3 miles east of Chamberlain, South Dakota

When: 2:18 p.m., Friday, August 1, 2025

Driver 1: 71-year-old male from Chicago, Illinois, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2014 Harley Davidson FLHTCU

Brule County, S.D.- A Chicago, Illinois man died in a single-vehicle crash Friday afternoon near Chamberlain, South Dakota.

The man's name has not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2014 Harley Davidson FLHTCU was traveling west on I-90 near mile marker 268. The motorcycle began wobbling and then went down separating the driver from the motorcycle which entered the ditch. The driver was transported to Chamberlain Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

All information released is preliminary.

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



Walking Taco and a drink
Free Will Donation
Proceeds go to Groton's Angel Tree
15 N Main, St. #103
Groton Daily Independent
Suggested Donation: \$5

Family Fun Fest -Thursday, Aug. 7 ~ 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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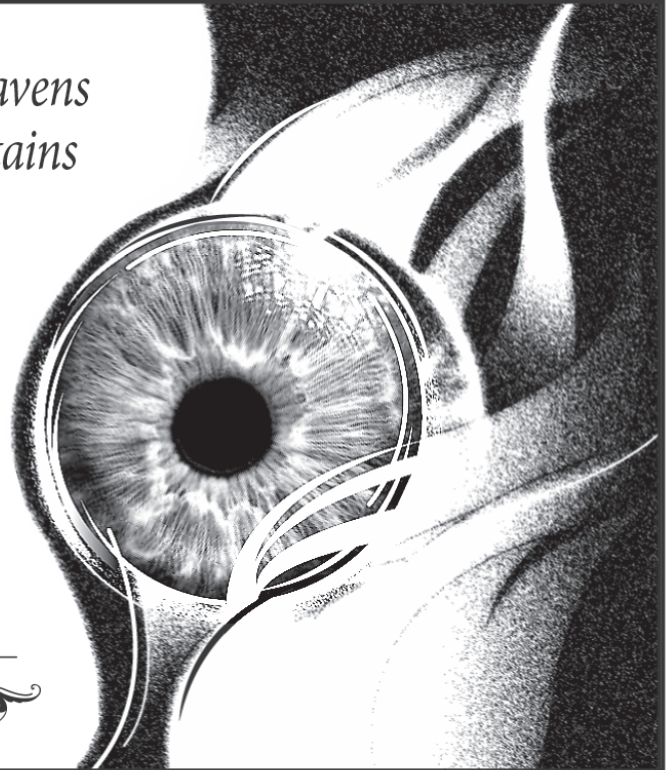
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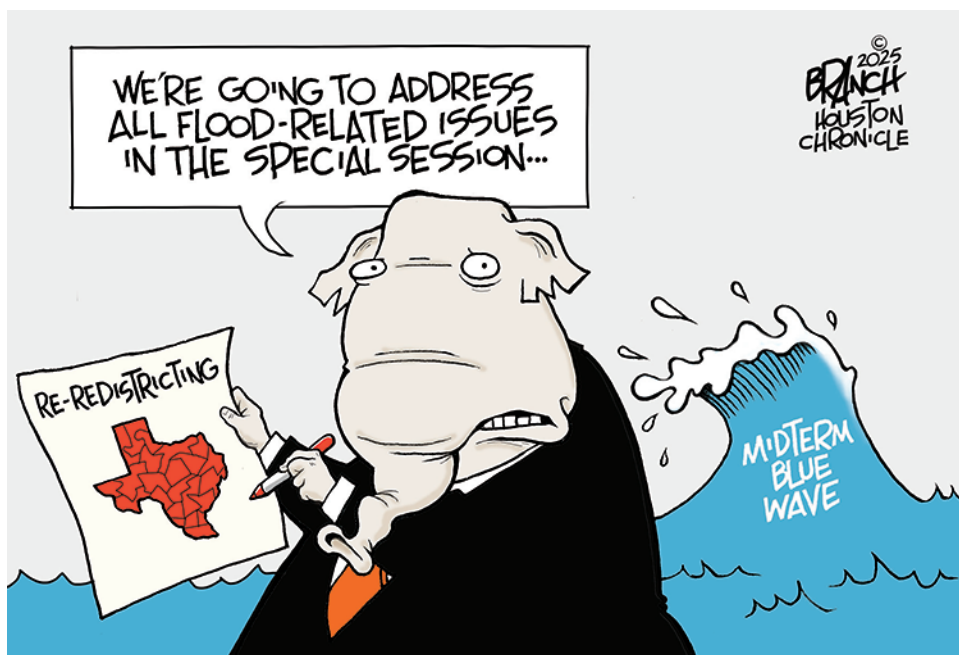
THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Oh, that you would rend the heavens
and come down, that the mountains
would tremble before you!
As when fire sets twigs ablaze
and causes water to boil,
come down to make your
name known to your enemies
and cause the nations
to quake before you!*

ISAIAH 64:1,2



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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Luke 17, when Jesus healed 10 lepers, how many came back to thank Him? *1, 2, 5, All 10*

3. Who had seven sons who always celebrated their birthdays with a feast? *Eli, Job, John, David*

4. From Genesis 32, whose thigh went out of joint while wrestling with an angel? *Adam, Moses, Jacob, Lot*

5. The pool of Bethesda is/was near which gate to the city of Jerusalem? *Sheep, Camel, Horse, People*

6. Who was Caiaphas' father-in-law? *Ananias, Annas, Pilate, Nicodemus*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) 1, 3) Job, 4) Jacob, 5) Sheep, 6) Annas

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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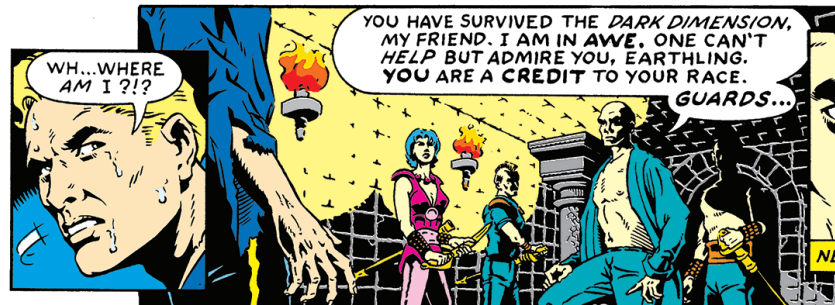
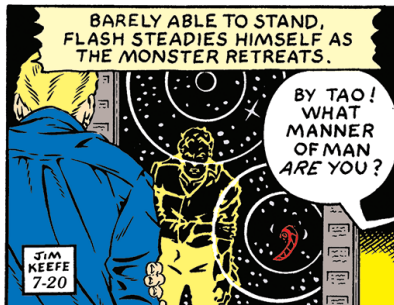
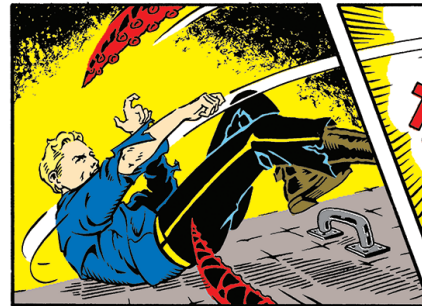
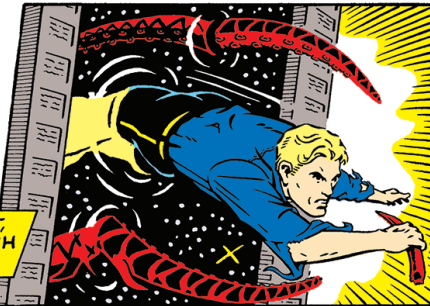
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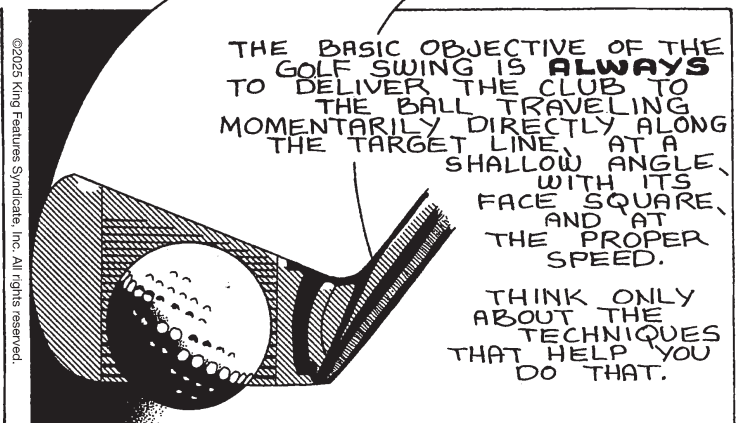
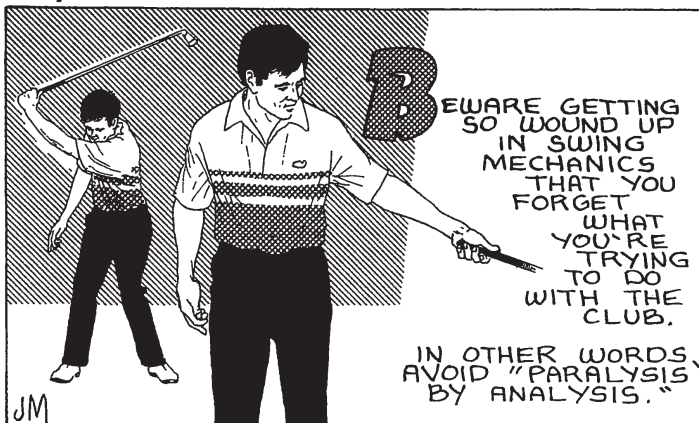
FLASH GORDON

WITH A HERCULEAN EFFORT, FLASH BURSTS BACK THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS!

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Examining the Common and Available Treatments for Gallstones

DEAR DR. ROACH: What advice do you have for the treatment of gallstones? -- N.W.

ANSWER: Gallstones are common (6% of men and 9% of women will get one over a lifetime) and are mostly composed of bile salts and cholesterol. The goal of treatment is to reduce symptoms and the risk of complications. Depending on the size and composition of a person's gallstones, there are different therapies available.

The most common treatment for symptomatic gallstones is surgery. Surgery is highly effective, although there are complications such as bleeding, infection and leaks. About 10% of people will develop diarrhea after surgery,

which tends to get better over weeks to months but sometimes requires treatment with a bile-acid-binding drug like cholestyramine. Surgery is performed laparoscopically, which means faster healing times.

For people who are not good candidates for surgery (such as those with significant medical illnesses) or people who do not want surgery, there are other options. Medications given by mouth, such as ursodiol (Actigall), can dissolve gallstones, but this can take a long time, usually several years. People with smaller stones that are mostly made of cholesterol can be good candidates for this treatment. However, it is not 100% effective.

Another option is a tube placed into the gallbladder through the abdominal wall to drain bile, which is also sometimes done to remove stones, but I have seldom seen it done. Similarly, shock-wave treatment, which is commonly used for kidney stones, is rarely used but can be a reasonable option in people with only one or two stones.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a soon-to-be 84-year-old woman with a question about excessive hair shedding. I've always had very thick, good hair, and in fact, I get a lot of compliments on my beautiful hair. I get my hair cut every four to five weeks, and my hairdresser always thins my hair at each visit.

On my last visit, she asked me if I had been ill. While my hair was not coming out in clumps, she said it was shedding more than she has ever seen before with my hair. I, too, have noticed during the past month that there is more hair on my brush, shower drain and clothes. With my hair being so thick, I've always had some shedding that appears on my clothes, but nothing to this extent.

I'm not on any new medicines. What could be causing my hair to shed so much? This is the last thing I thought I would be a problem for me. Is it something serious? Can it be treated and reversed? I hate to think that I am about to lose the only good asset I have. -- J.M.W.

ANSWER: The most common cause of hair loss I see in older women is female pattern hair loss, but your story sounds more like acute telogen effluvium, which means the loss of hair during the resting phase. This condition is sometimes but not always associated with a stressful event. There are other medical causes, but in a third of cases, no underlying cause can be identified.

The good news about telogen effluvium is that the hair usually comes back, often around 6-12 months. However, I know how important hair can be to both men and women, so I always recommend a visit with a dermatologist, especially one who has expertise in hair disorders as they have additional tools to evaluate patients for other causes.

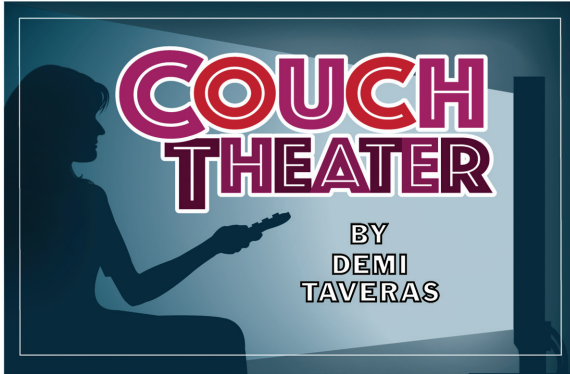
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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Theo James plays a dual role of twin brothers in "The Monkey." (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

"The Hunting Wives" (TV-MA) -- This eight-episode drama series recently premiered in July, and it rocked the socks off its viewers, who quickly binge-watched the entire season and reported

back with juicy details! Without giving too much away, the series is led by Brittany Snow ("Pitch Perfect") and Malin Akerman ("Rock of Ages") and follows Massachusettsan Sophie (Snow) as she moves to East Texas for her husband's job. Once there, Sophie befriends Margo (Akerman), the leader of a socialite group called the Hunting Wives. Sophie enjoys bonding with them through hunting trips and nights out on the town, but after a teenage girl dies and leaves the Wives as the primary suspects, Sophie realizes that she's simultaneously fallen into a trap. (Netflix)

"Borderline" (R) -- Ray Nicholson is on a mission to be an even creepier actor than his father, Jack! In this new comedy-thriller taking place in 1990s Los Angeles, Nicholson transforms into stalker/fan (stan, if you will) Paul Duerson, who is obsessed with actress Sofia Minor (Samara Weaving). Paul's delusion inevitably spurs him into taking action and finding his way into Sofia's own home, and after successfully kidnapping her, he plans to force marriage on her. The only person who can possibly stop Paul is Sofia's bodyguard Bell (Eric Dane), but it won't be easy to pull off. Alba Baptista co-stars in the film, which was produced by Margot Robbie and Tom Ackerley's production company LuckyChap. (Peacock)

"The Monkey" (R) -- Theo James ("The Gentlemen") plays a dual role in this dark comedy-horror film that definitely rivals the sinister energy of the previous film mentioned. Twin brothers Bill and Hal (both played by James) have a curse in their family in the form of a toy monkey. When the monkey's key gets wound up, a gruesome death usually follows. After sealing the toy away for 25 years, Hal receives news from his brother that the monkey has somehow returned and killed their aunt. Now, the monkey must be stopped once again, drawing the brothers back into a cycle of trauma and death that they can never seem to escape. Premieres Aug. 7. (Hulu)

In Case You Missed It

"Natalie Wood: What Remains Behind" (TV-14) -- After watching Mariska Hargitay's documentary about her mother Jayne Mansfield, I was inspired to go back and watch a similar documentary about actress Natalie Wood, told through Wood's own daughter's eyes. In the doc, which was made in 2020, Natasha Gregson Wagner walks viewers through her mother's start in Hollywood as a child star and how her mother evolved to become an exceptional lead actress in films like "Love with the Proper Stranger" and "Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice." Unfortunately, Wood's story was cut short when she drowned at the age of 43 after a night of debauchery with her husband at the time, Robert Wagner, and actor Christopher Walken. The circumstances surrounding her death are still a topic of controversy today. (Max)

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1. Which group released "Red Rubber Ball"?
2. Who had a hit with "A Rose and a Baby Ruth"?
3. Name the original group that released "Please Mr. Postman."
4. Which group did David Coverdale start in 1978?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "You tell me your best friend's world seems beautiful, but don't be fooled."

Answers

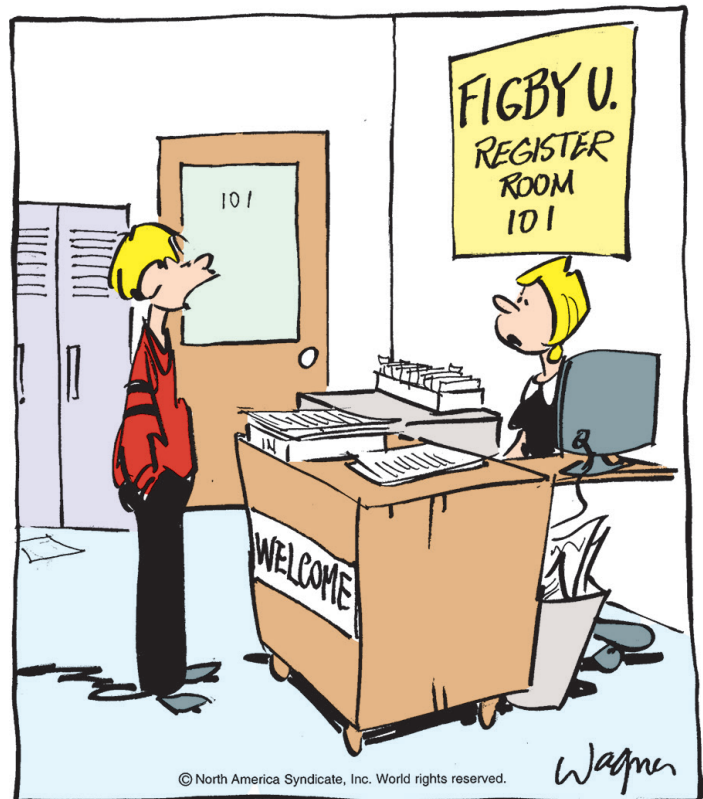
1. The Cyrkle, in 1966. It had been written by Paul Simon, of Simon & Garfunkel, surprising many because he was at the same time writing more serious songs with Art Garfunkel.

Years later Simon said he'd written "Red Rubber Ball" for the cash advance he would get.

2. George Hamilton IV, in 1956. The song spent 20 weeks on the charts. (And yes, that's the Baby Ruth candy bar in the song.)
3. The Marvelettes, in 1961. It was not only the debut single for the group, but was the first Motown song to top the Hot 100 chart.
4. Whitesnake. Their big hit was "Here I Go Again."
5. "Everything Your Heart Desires" by Hall & Oates, in 1988. The song became the duo's last Top 10 hit. They were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2003.

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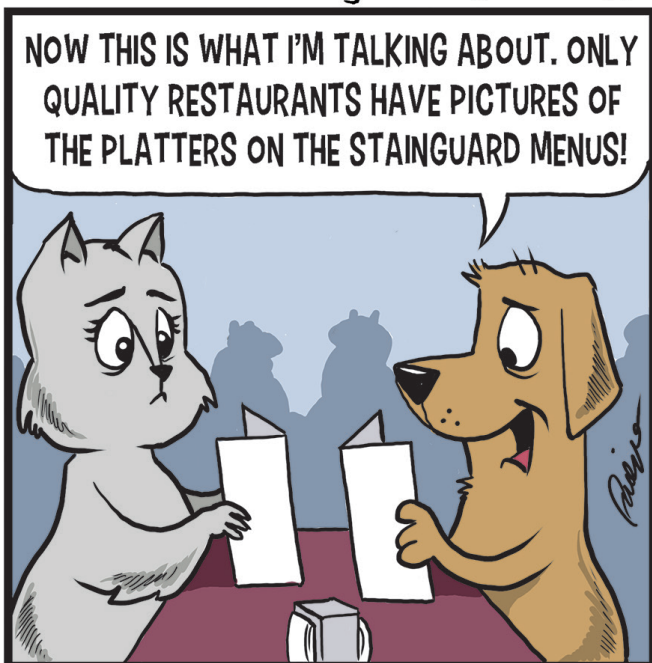
GRIN and BEAR IT[®] *Wagner*



“Do you have any classes for someone who already knows everything?”

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. Arm is raised. 2. Stripe is added to sleeve. 3. Light is moved. 4. Lid on ice cream cart is moved. 5. Tire is thicker. 6. Cart handle is shorter.

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* Stuck zippers can be loosened with graphite powder or simply by tracing a pencil lead over the zipper.

* Got memorabilia? Use a reasonably sized plastic storage bin for each child. Include folders noting each school grade for art and important academic papers. It can be a very special collection that you can give to your child when he is an adult.

* According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "each 12-ounce soft drink contains approximately 10 teaspoons of sugar and 150 calories. Drinking just one can of soda a day increases a child's risk of obesity by 60%." Talk to your children about making smart choices both in the lunch line and at the vending machines.

* Got a child going off to college? Before you leave campus, go together to the health center, and make sure your kid knows who to call/where to go for emergency or urgent care, both on campus and off. Not knowing can sometimes cause a delay in getting care, turning a bad situation worse.

* Returning to school can mean returning to sports after a summer hiatus. Be smart, and follow these guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics: Give yourself at least one recovery day off each week; be sure you are wearing the proper gear and that it's properly fitted; don't forget to cross-train (general exercises to strengthen your muscles and keep you flexible); take breaks and hydrate to avoid overheating; and have your coach reinforce the proper technique and safety rules.

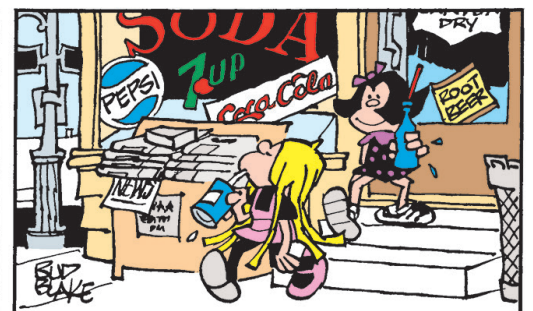
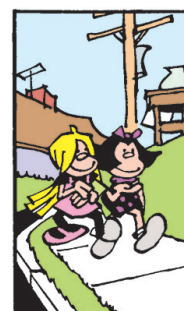
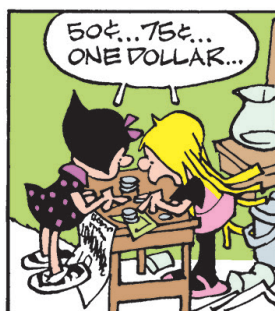
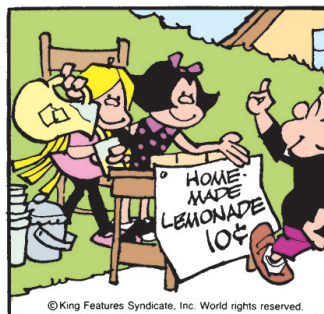
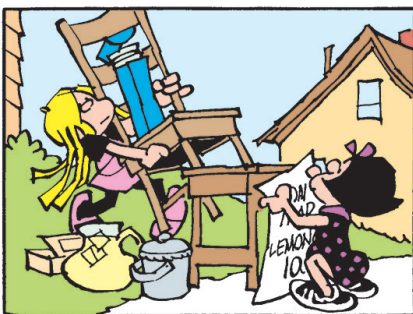
* Keep cut veggies crunchy by lining a plastic or glass storage dish with coffee filters and then adding your cut vegetables, like carrot sticks and celery.

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

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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Pygmalion"
writer
5 Grocery
9 Blue
12 Actress Skye
13 From the U.S.
14 Swiss canton
15 Provisional
17 Erin Burnett's
channel
18 Morsels
19 French
school
21 Speed read-
er?
24 Swiss artist
Paul
25 Borodin's
"Prince —"
26 Remorseful
30 Hardly any
31 Loses color
32 Conk out
33 Octopus arm
35 Hair goops
36 Comic Jay
37 Ranch visi-
tors
38 Salesperson's
goal
40 Tiny amounts
42 Italian article
43 Able
48 Toss in
49 Historic times
50 Acknowledge
51 Coifs
52 First-rate

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

53 Actress
Farmiga

DOWN

- 1 Perch
2 Garden tool
3 Raggedy doll
4 Luxury hotel
amenity
5 Actor Dillon
6 "Lucky Jim"
author
7 Speed (up)
8 Vine-
supporting
frame
9 Came after

10 "Rule,
Britannia!"
composer

- 11 Eat in style
16 Vacuum's lack
20 Even so
21 Falling-out
22 Pulitzer win-
ner James
23 File transfers
24 Elbow coun-
terpart
26 Designer
Rabanne
27 Right angle
28 Cleopatra's
river

- 29 Hardy heroine
31 Cure-all
34 Hanoi holiday
35 Composer
Mahler
37 HST follower
38 Campus area
39 Nullify
40 IRS enforcer
41 Church sec-
tion
44 Acapulco
gold
45 Cain's mom
46 Neither mate
47 Former Delta
rival

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— King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

Olive

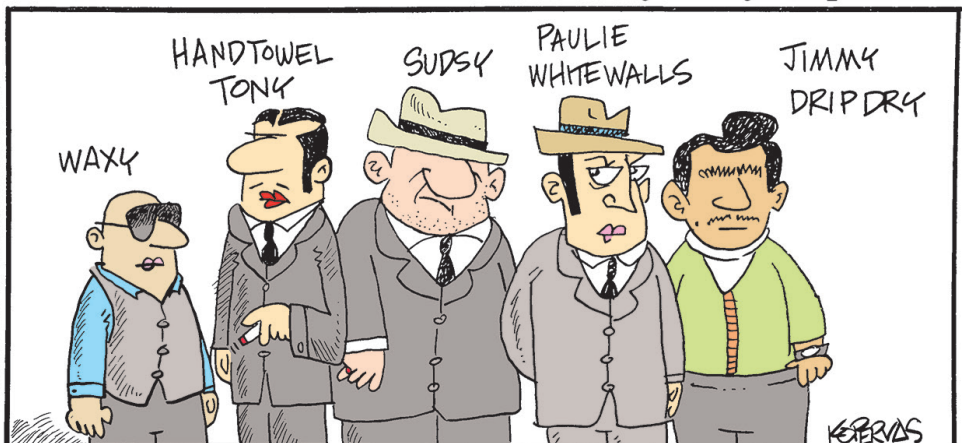


Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

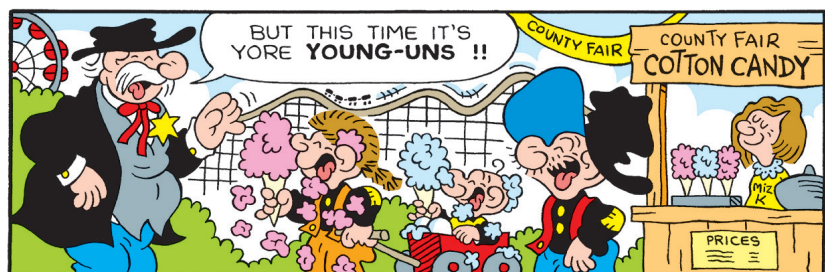
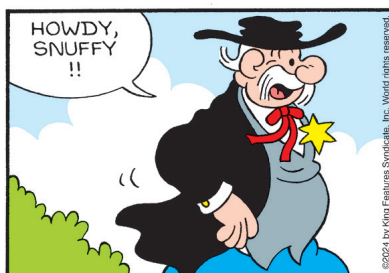
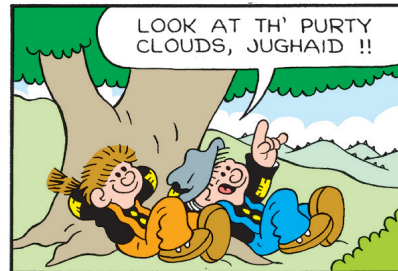
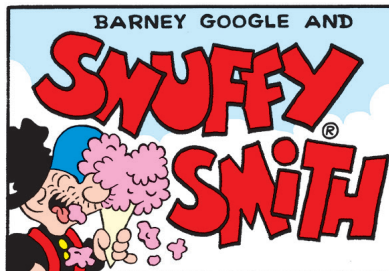
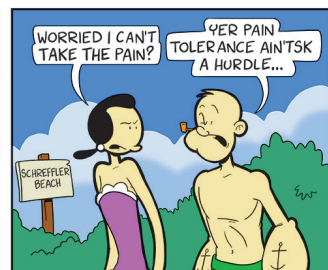
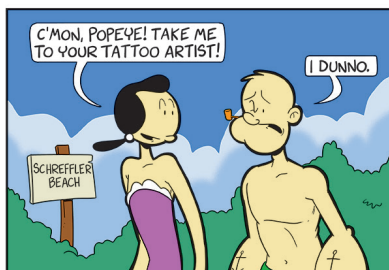
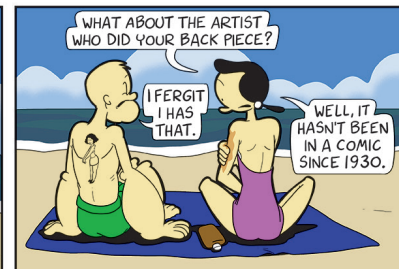
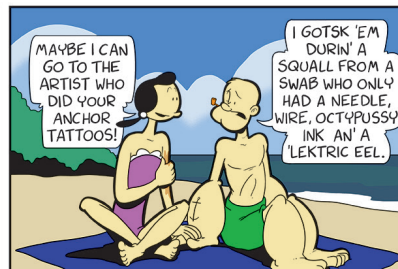
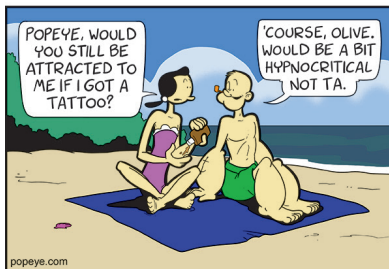
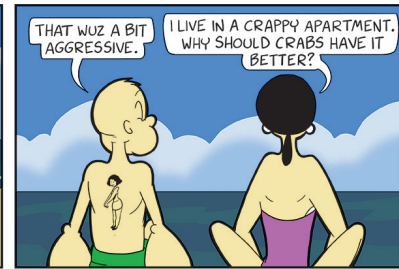
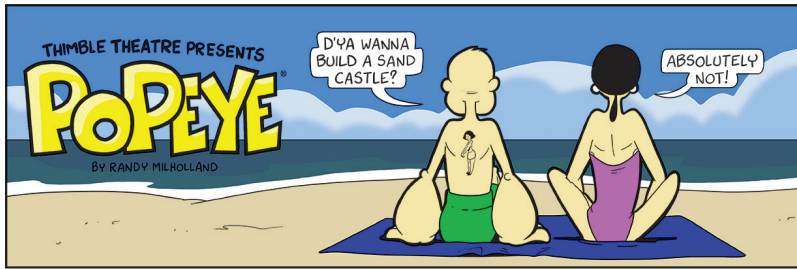
MOBSTER NICKNAMES
INSPIRED BY A
CARWASH

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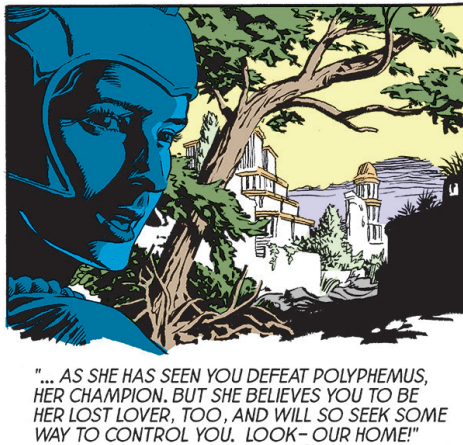
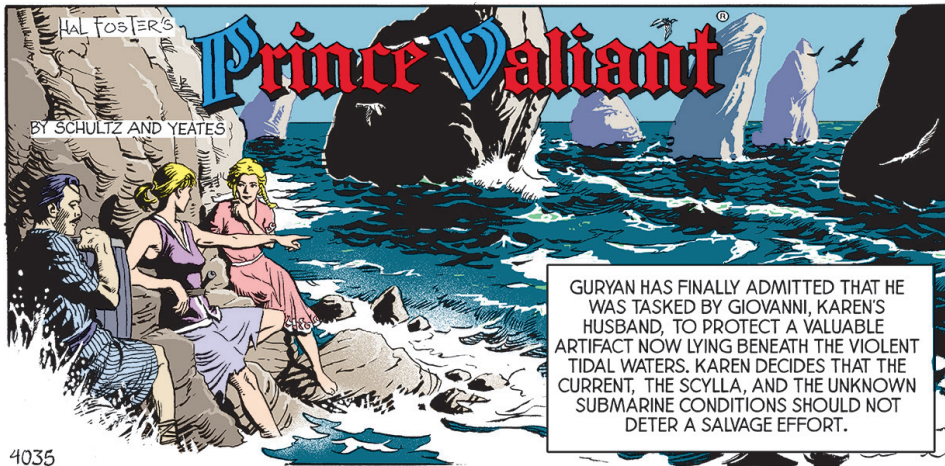
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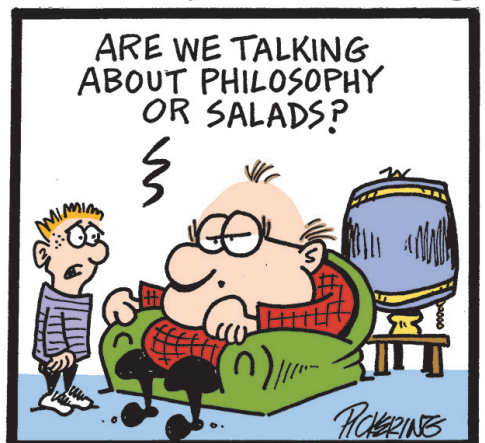
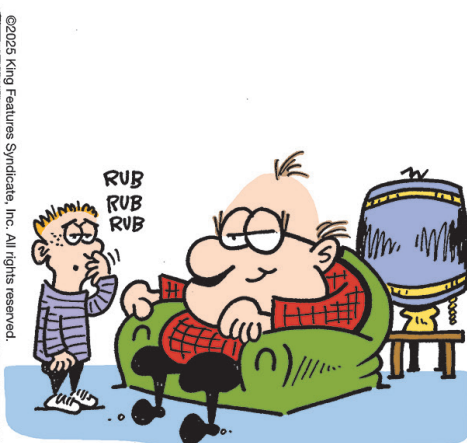
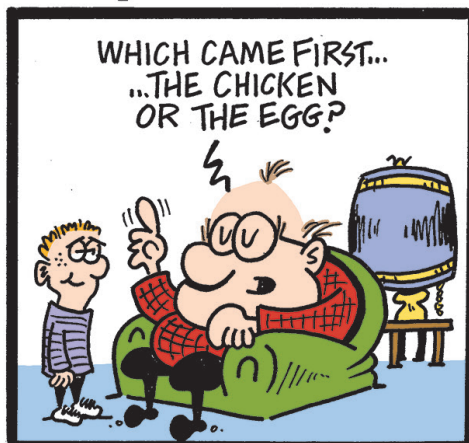
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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Reasons to smile

With all the negative, questionable and just plain bad news out there lately, I'll take good news anywhere I can find it.

And one place is the website Good News Network (www.goodnewsnetwork.org). GNN, started in 1997, currently has 21,000 good news stories from around the world. Categories range from life, to gardening, to health, business and more.

There's a free app for the phone, and if you don't like to see ads, you can pay a yearly fee of \$15 to get rid of them. Or click the "Subscribe" button to get a free bit of good news in your email each day.

There's even a GNN book: "And Now, The Good News: 20 Years of Inspiring News Stories," by Geri Weis-Corbley, available on Amazon in paperback. The reviews for the book are great, saying that the short stories are real mood-lifters. I'll be ordering it. Here's an example: The bank that lost 66 of its employees on 9/11 have paid to put all those employees' kids through college. How great is that?!

Here's another one from the book: A piece of a family farm was being sold at auction and a very young family member wanted to bid and hopefully win back the property. By common agreement, all the other 200 farmers at the auction stayed silent while the young family member was bidding. He won back the family's farm land.

The Good News Network isn't the only bright spot. Positive News (www.positive.news) will send a good news email once a week. The categories range from society to science to economics and more. It's British, which makes it even more interesting.

If you'd rather look around on your own, do an online search for good news, positive world news or even good news for seniors. You're sure to find something to smile about!

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1. Name the owner of the Boston Red Sox who infamously sold Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees in 1920.

2. In motorsports, what does the acronym HANS stand for?

3. In June 2025, autonomous humanoid robots from Tsinghua University's THU Robotics team defeated China Agricultural University's Mountain Sea Team's robots in what sport?

4. Who did the Charlotte Hornets select 11th overall in the 2018 NBA Draft and then immediately trade to the Los Angeles Clippers?

5. Unicycling acrobat Rong "Krystal" Niu, a fixture at pro basketball halftime shows, is better known by what stage name?

6. In 2024, Amit Patel pleaded guilty to stealing \$22 million from what NFL franchise while employed with the team?

7. What 1978 National League MVP died 29 days before being inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2025?



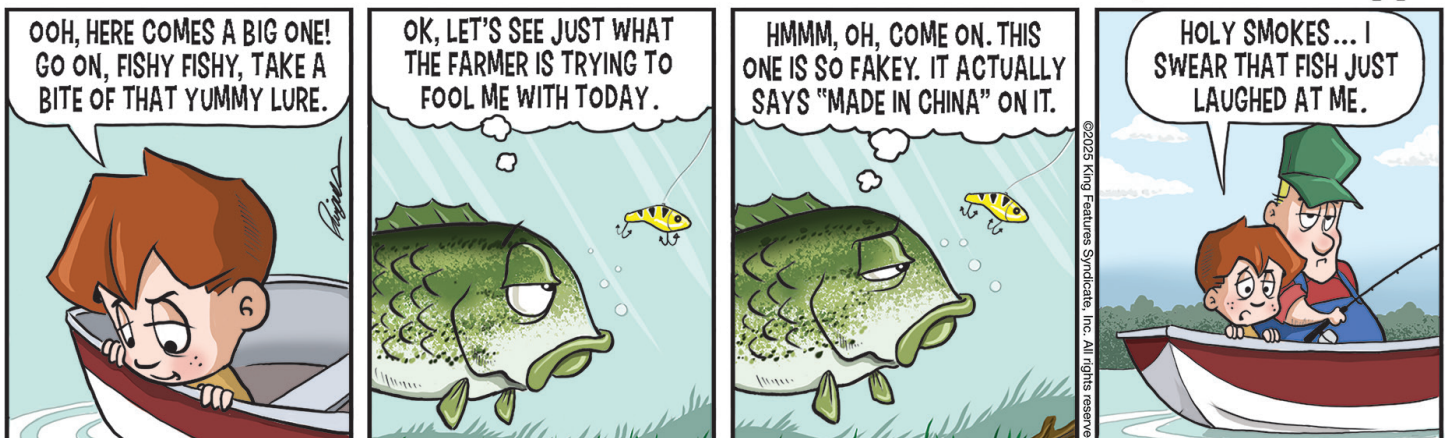
Answers

1. Harry Frazee.
2. Head and Neck Support.
3. Soccer.
4. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander.
5. Red Panda.
6. The Jacksonville Jaguars.
7. Dave Parker.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Dog Makes Odd Breathing Noise

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Recently, I had my 9-year-old, part-poodle/Maltese dog's teeth cleaned. The vet had to pull two teeth as well. Since this was done, "Scoobie" seems to make an odd noise as he is breathing. I feel like this is due to the tube they put down his throat as they cleaned his teeth. When I got him home, he had a hacking cough, which subsided about three days later. But the noise he makes when breathing continues. He doesn't seem to be in pain, though. I like our vet a lot and hate to question him, so hopefully you can help me out or let me know what I could ask the vet. -- Valeeta R., Montgomery, Alabama

DEAR VALEETA: A good veterinarian will not mind extra questions from a pet owner, so I encourage you

to contact your vet and describe Scoobie's breathing noise.

In fact, you should go ahead and bring Scoobie in to have the vet check out the noise in person so he can rule out any serious issues. Pets that are put under general anesthesia for certain procedures (such as the tooth scaling Scoobie had) can develop complications afterward, ranging from stress reactions to major health emergencies. Don't be worried about bothering your vet -- your dog's health is the most important thing here.

Ask lots of questions, and insist on straightforward answers from the vet -- not answers designed just to make you feel better. If afterward you feel that you didn't receive satisfactory answers, or if Scoobie doesn't improve, take your dog to another vet for a second opinion.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

- * A whale shark's spot pattern is as unique as a fingerprint.
- * While working as a weatherman in Indianapolis, late-night talk show host David Letterman once congratulated a tropical storm for being upgraded to a hurricane.
- * The estimated temperature at the sun's core is 27 million degrees Fahrenheit.
- * The cash register, invented in 1870 by James Ritty, was originally dubbed "Ritty's Incorruptible Cashier" and was designed to keep the employees of his saloon from stealing

from him.

- * Kids and adults with autism are immune to the effect of observing someone else yawn.
- * Since a Krispy Kreme donut contains 350 calories, and a 150-pound man can burn around 380 calories in 30 minutes, said fellow could burn off that quickie breakfast with a quarter-acre lawn mow -- unless he simply preferred going to the gym.
- * Target will let customers breastfeed anywhere in the store.
- * Besides being the final resting place for many Hollywood celebrities, Forest Lawn in Southern California features a museum with rotating exhibits and special art, music and educational events.
- * It is possible to make actual cheese with bacteria from foot sweat.
- * And speaking of cheese, it's the most stolen food in the world.
- * The previous record for the world's longest train was broken by the BHP Iron Ore in 2001. Measuring 4.5 miles in length, it was made up of 682 wagons and required eight engines to run.
- * Research has shown that throughout a sofa's life, it will host roughly 782 visitors.
- * Actress Megan Mullally was fired from her role in "Finding Nemo" for refusing to reprise her high-pitched Karen Walker voice from the TV series "Will and Grace."
- * Seventy percent of the dirt on your clothes is invisible.

Thought for the Day: "If you don't have wrinkles, you haven't laughed enough." -- Phyllis Diller
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The Garden Bug



- Removing the fading blooms will prompt the marigold to produce more flowers rather than go into making seeds. Pinch or cut off the wilted flowers every few days.
- Sprinkle bone meal, which is rich in phosphorus, amongst your marigolds. Avoid fertilizers rich in nitrogen, as they promote more leaf growth.
- Getting the leaves and blooms wet can cause mildew or leaf spot, so water marigolds at the base and not from overhead. The best times to water marigolds in the summer are early morning or evening. -- Brenda Weaver

Source: www.thespruce.com



by Freddy Groves

The Dole Act: Benefits and improvements

Have you wondered what exactly is included in the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act? There's one way to find out: Scroll through it. There's more to the Act than you might imagine, and all of it is to benefit you.

Sec. 301 calls for burial benefits for veterans who were under hospice care at the time of their death. It concerns those veterans who pass away between July 1, 2025, and Oct. 1, 2026 and who are receiving VA medical or nursing care before receiving hospice care -- they will receive full VA burial allowance. That was not the case before, if a veteran went from VA medical care to home. To read all the details about VA burial benefits, see www.va.gov/burials-memorials. Should you also wish to apply for pre-need eligibility to make it easier for family when the time comes, there is info on that page as well.

Sec. 143 addresses the reimbursement of ambulance cost for veterans in rural areas. This might be by ambulance or air ambulance, to the nearest hospital that can meet the needs of the veteran. Be sure of the details on this one if you might use this service. Read the definitions in the text because coverage varies by disability rating, distance to hospital and so on. This benefit is likely to change after September 30, 2026, and is worth paying attention to because the total accumulative benefit is \$46,000 of coverage.

Sec. 208 concerns the payment of full monthly housing stipend for those who are in their final semester of education assistance under the Post-911/Educational Assistance Program. Read the details if this applies to you.

And in a topic that's near and dear to the hearts of many of us, Sec. 304 ensures that only licensed health care professionals do the medical disability exams.

To get the most out of the 97 pages of the Act, start at the top and scroll through the Table of Contents (www.congress.gov/118/plaws/publ210/PLAW-118publ210.pdf).

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Wishing Well®

2	7	4	7	8	6	4	2	8	4	8	3	6
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A	I	D	V	E	I	E	A	U	G	N	E	P

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. U.S. STATES: Which is the only state named after a president?
2. MYTHOLOGY: Which goddess is queen of the Roman gods?
3. LITERATURE: Who wrote the poem "Paradise Lost"?
4. HISTORY: Which monarch was known as the Sun King?
5. MOVIES: How many movies did Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers make together?
6. GEOGRAPHY: The country of Malta is on which continent?
7. CHEMISTRY: What is a substance that speeds up a chemical reaction?
8. FOOD & DRINK: What is tzatzi-ki?
9. TELEVISION: What is the name of the family in the sitcom "Arrested Development"?
10. ANATOMY: What part of the brain converts short-term memory into long-term memory?

Answers

1. Washington.
2. Juno.
3. John Milton.
4. Louis XIV of France.
5. 10.
6. Europe.
7. Catalyst.
8. A cold condiment of yogurt, cucumbers, garlic and seasonings.
9. The Bluths.
10. The hippocampus.

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South Dakota Governor

Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Operation:

Prairie Thunder

Strong, Safe, and Free. Our state is all three of those things, and it's my mission as your Governor to keep it that

way. When it comes to safety, one of our biggest opportunities to move the needle is in Sioux Falls – and that's what my administration will accomplish with Operation: Prairie Thunder.

Sioux Falls has seen impressive growth, especially in the last few years. Our strong economy and focus on freedom opened the door for that opportunity, and the city has managed that growth well. But there are challenges associated with that growth, and any growing city is going to have to work harder to keep crime under control.

Operation: Prairie Thunder has two main initiatives:

Enhanced anti-crime and drug enforcement operations in the Sioux Falls metro area; and

Support for ICE in their deportation efforts across several state agencies statewide.

The targeted anti-crime initiative will focus on drug interdiction, investigating gang activity, holding parole absconders accountable, and deterring lawlessness like the street racing issue in our biggest metro area.

This will be accomplished through saturation patrols over the next five months. Twice a month, we will dedicate 10 to 15 additional Highway Patrol troopers to the Sioux Falls metro and leverage aerial assets like the Highway Patrol plane and our National Guard's Lakota helicopters, which specialize in drug interdiction. I recently had the opportunity to take a ride in one of those Lakotas, and I was blown away!

These efforts will be coordinated with existing local crime task forces. We won't be reinventing the wheel. The law enforcement folks in Sioux Falls are doing great work – Operation: Prairie Thunder just gives them some extra juice to get the job done. If this initiative is successful, it'll give us a good model to apply to other communities, as well. I've already had discussions along those lines with the Mayor of Rapid City.

The second initiative of Operation: Prairie Thunder is support for ICE across my administration. The South Dakota Highway Patrol is already working alongside ICE to arrest criminal illegal aliens and hand them over to custody. Shortly after I made that announcement, I had a conversation with Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, and we came up with a couple ideas to go further.

I am deploying six South Dakota National Guard soldiers to support ICE – three in Sioux Falls and three in Rapid City. They will provide administrative support in both ICE offices for the next six months.

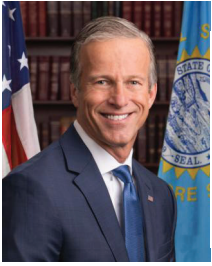
The South Dakota Department of Corrections (DOC) will also support ICE with transport needs to and from immigration court in the Twin Cities, as well as identifying potential criminal illegal aliens in our prisons. We're already working to parole several criminal illegal aliens to ICE custody to be deported out of our country.

There's a lot of moving parts, but it's very simple: Highway Patrol will support ICE with arrests; the National Guard will support ICE with processing and administrative functions; and DOC will support ICE with transportation, identifying illegal immigrants in our prisons, and getting them paroled to ICE custody.

Over the last six months, I've had the distinct honor leading the greatest, freest state in America. As long as I am your Governor, we will keep it that way. And Operation: Prairie Thunder will be a crucial part of keeping our state safe for the future.

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JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Good News for Farmers and Ranchers

Agriculture is a challenging way of life, but the last few years have been some of the most challenging in recent memory. Higher input costs, higher interest rates, disease, and natural disasters have all made it more difficult. I promised that Senate Republicans would make farmers and ranchers a priority, and I'm proud to report that we've addressed some of the challenges facing agriculture in the One Big Beautiful Bill that President Trump signed into law on July 4.

The One Big Beautiful Bill strengthens the farm safety net. It reauthorizes commodity programs through 2031 and raises reference prices for every covered commodity. In recent years, reference prices haven't even covered increases in input costs, but, thanks to this bill, reference prices will now more closely reflect the market conditions farmers are dealing with. It also bolsters crop insurance, and I'm proud that it includes my bill to extend crop insurance support for beginning farmers for their first 10 years of operation.

There's also good news in this bill for livestock producers. It improves the Livestock Indemnity Program, covering 100 percent of losses for animals lost to predation and 75 percent for those lost due to weather or disease, plus a supplemental payment for loss of unborn livestock. It also includes a provision I authored to reduce the number of weeks of drought necessary to trigger payments from the Livestock Forage Disaster Program from eight to four weeks. And it makes critical investments in disease prevention and preparedness efforts – all the more important as things like the bird flu, the New World screwworm, and African Swine Fever threaten livestock.

Farmers and ranchers will also benefit from the tax relief in the One Big Beautiful Bill. It makes the lower tax rates Republicans secured in 2017 permanent. Agriculture operations will be able to continue using the 199A deduction, which this bill makes permanent. And full expensing is also now a permanent feature of the tax code, meaning farmers and ranchers can deduct the full cost of new equipment the year they start using it.

Farming and ranching is an important way of life, and I know most farmers and ranchers dream of passing their operation down to the next generation. That's why I've long worked to eliminate the fundamentally flawed death tax. I'm proud that, thanks to this bill, a lot more farms and ranches are going to be protected from this tax. We raised the death tax exemption threshold permanently, meaning more farmers and ranchers won't have to worry about the death tax eating up what they spent their lives building, which will help keep our proud heritage of family farming strong.

The last few years have been difficult, but I'm proud to report that relief is on the way. We've updated programs to ensure they support farmers and ranchers through the realities they face today. And you can be assured that I'll continue working to support South Dakota's hardworking farmers and ranchers.

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It Takes a Team

BIG Update

I've recognized over 60 Vietnam-era veterans so far this year, including eight veterans in Hot Springs this week. These men and women answered the call to serve, and we owe them the gratitude they didn't receive when they returned home after the Vietnam War.

It has been an honor to hear the stories of over 1,100 veterans since 2019, and I know there are more stories to be shared. I will be holding more Vietnam Veteran Commemorative Ceremonies across the state this year. If you or someone you know is a Vietnam-era veteran, nominate them to be honored at <https://dustyjohnson.house.gov/services/vietnam-veteran-commemoration> or by calling my office at 605-646-6454..

BIG Idea

Mental and behavioral health are some of the biggest challenges in our schools and communities. South Dakota is unfortunately experiencing mental health diagnoses and suicide rates above the national average, especially in those under 20 years old. Community mental health centers are working to mitigate the crisis and bring care and intervention that our communities need.

This week, I gathered a group of experts to discuss how we can better address the challenges of behavioral health needs in South Dakota. Our families, health care systems, schools, and communities must work together to tackle this issue. I look forward to continuing conversations on how we can improve the lives of our neighbors and loved ones..

BIG News

It's been the talk of the country for weeks – the Epstein files. The crimes Jeffrey Epstein was accused of are abhorrent and the public deserves to have answers.

I am a cosponsor of H.Res. 589 that would provide for the public release of certain documents, records, and communications related to the investigation of Jeffrey Epstein. I believe all the Epstein documents that can be legally released should be released, with appropriate protections for the innocent..

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JULY 21-27, 2025

Welcome back to another Weekly Round[s] Up. Here in DC, we continue to work on confirming President Trump's nominees. Despite facing a historic level of obstruction from the other side of the aisle, the Senate is continuing to confirm nominees at a record pace. As of this past week, the Senate has confirmed 105 of President Trump's nominees

to positions in the executive and judicial branches. This is almost double the number of nominees that had been confirmed this far into President Trump's first term. In addition, we've taken 435 roll call votes, which is more votes than the Senate has taken during some entire years. All this to say that we're moving at a fast pace to get nominees in place and implement the agenda voted on by the American people. More on the rest of my week in my Weekly Round[s] Up:

South Dakota groups I met with: Melissa Magstadt, South Dakota's Secretary of Health; South Dakota representatives from the Oncology Nurse Society; Ryman LeBeau, Chairman of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe; Jim Speirs, Executive Director of Arts South Dakota; Janet Alkire, Chairwoman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; Brian Cooper with Maguire Iron; two South Dakota school psychologists in town for a national training; South Dakota's class of Tomorrow's Ag Leaders; Rabbi Mendel Alperowitz, founder of the Chabad Jewish Center of South Dakota; Ron Heiser with Pivotal Health Solutions; South Dakota representatives of 340B Health; and students representing South Dakota and Boys and Girls Nation.

South Dakota towns represented: Aberdeen, Andover, Brandon, Castlewood, Corsica, Eagle Butte, Groton, Hecla, Irene, Lake Preston, Madison, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Wallace, Watertown and Yankton.

Other meetings: Representatives from Canada's parliament; Jason Droege, CEO of Scale AI; Eric Jensen, CEO of ICEYE US; Dr. Greg Sorensen with RadNet; leaders from the Coalition for Health AI; and Will Lansing, CEO of FICO. I also attended our Senate Bible Study, where our verse of the week was Proverbs 13:24, and our Senate Prayer Breakfast, where I was our speaker this past week!

Hearings: I attended two hearings in the Senate Armed Services Committee. You can watch a clip of one of these hearings here.

Briefings and markups: I attended one classified briefing as part of my work on the Intelligence committee. I also attended a markup in the Appropriations committee to discuss our bills funding Interior and Environment, as well as Transportation, Housing and Urban Development.

Legislation introduced: I introduced two pieces of legislation to address the critical shortage of housing across the country and create more affordable paths to owning a home for more Americans. Together the Unlocking Housing Supply Through Streamlined and Modernized Reviews Act and the Better Use of Intergovernmental & Local Development (BUILD) Housing Act would streamline the federal housing environmental review process to responsibly increase housing production and boost overall supply and lower cost. Read more here.

In addition, I introduced the Intelligence Community Property Security Act of 2025, legislation to establish a specific provision prohibiting unauthorized access to U.S. Intelligence Community property and strengthening the penalty for trespassing on property that is under jurisdiction of the United States intelligence community. Read more about this bill here.

Votes taken: 20 – we confirmed nine additional nominees this past week.

My staff in South Dakota visited: Aberdeen, Pierre, Redfield, Wall and Winner.

Steps taken: 46,792 steps or 21.14 miles.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

I Had A Thought But I Can't Remember It

I just celebrated another birthday. I never imagined I would get this old, but here I am, old and still breathing.

Reflecting on my birthday celebration, I looked back on my life and realized I've been so busy that I've haven't had much chance to think. I know most people believe thinking is an essential part of life. I guess it is, but it has never been an essential part of my life.

Instead of thinking, I have just responded to life issues spontaneously. I'm a rather spontaneous type of person, just ask The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Life gets so busy for me that I cannot take a day off to have a thought.

In high school, I wasn't a very good thinker. I cannot remember one test I passed with an A, even though I studied for those tests. While I was taking them, I couldn't turn on my Thinking Machine.

The fact that I graduated from high school is as close to a miracle as I've ever seen. And the truth is, I didn't do so by thinking at all.

I'm sure back then I had some kind of a thought, but I just can't remember any now.

It wasn't until I met The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that I began to understand what thinking was all about. If I've ever known anybody to think, it certainly was her. She could think about everything.

There are times when together she would look at me and say, "So, what are you thinking?"

When she first asked me that, I didn't quite understand what the question was; therefore, I did not know how to respond. I eventually figured it out and would respond by saying, "I was just thinking about how nice you look today."

That always got a giggle from her and saved me from trying to figure out what I was really thinking.

I suppose most people would believe that thinking is a major part of their lives. I'm not sure why, because it has never been a major part of my life. Once I got out of high school, thinking was never part of my agenda.

Life has its ups and downs, and looking back, I'm not sure which were up and which were down. The only thing important is that I survived, and here I am today, no thought about it.

I got into a little bit of trouble the other day. We were sitting in the living room, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "You know, I've been thinking..."

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Being the advanced knucklehead that I am, I responded before she could finish her sentence by saying, "... with what?"

I don't have to explain that I was in trouble. That's just the way my life tumbles down the cowboy trail. Believe me, I try not to respond like that anymore. At least I try.

Now that I'm retired, I do not have to think. Thinking is just a waste of time because I know what I want to do every day. My pleasure is not based on my ability to think through something. I have discovered that thinking causes a great deal of trouble and pain. So, I leave the thinking to those who aren't too bright.

Years ago, I was informed that I need to think about my retirement. What's there to think? It comes automatically whether you keep track of your age or not. Just let life flow as God intended it to.

I have some family members, who shall remain anonymous, who spend a lot of time thinking. As I watched them over the years, I noticed that their thinking has not produced anything worth thinking about. But still, they think, and think, and think until they are completely worn out.

Maybe that's why I'm not "wore out." I just live every day as it should be lived.

Someone once asked me, "If you could change anything in your past what would it be?"

That's a rather silly question if you ask me. To do that, I would have to spend quality time thinking which I don't have the time to do these days. I don't want to change yesterday; I just want to live today.

Of course, if I could change anything in the past, it might be the year of my birth. I've never forgiven my parents for the year I was born. They could've waited another 20 years, but they didn't. I guess they weren't thinking.

I suppose if I were to give it any thought, and I'm not going to, I could make a list of all the things I would change. But what good would that do? I don't want to change my past; I just want to live for today.

I remembered what the Apostle Paul said along this line.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

Thinking is good, but only if thinking on the right things. That is the challenge set before me. If I think on the wrong things it will effect my life as Christian. The world would have me think on the wrong things which in effect, pulls me away from God.

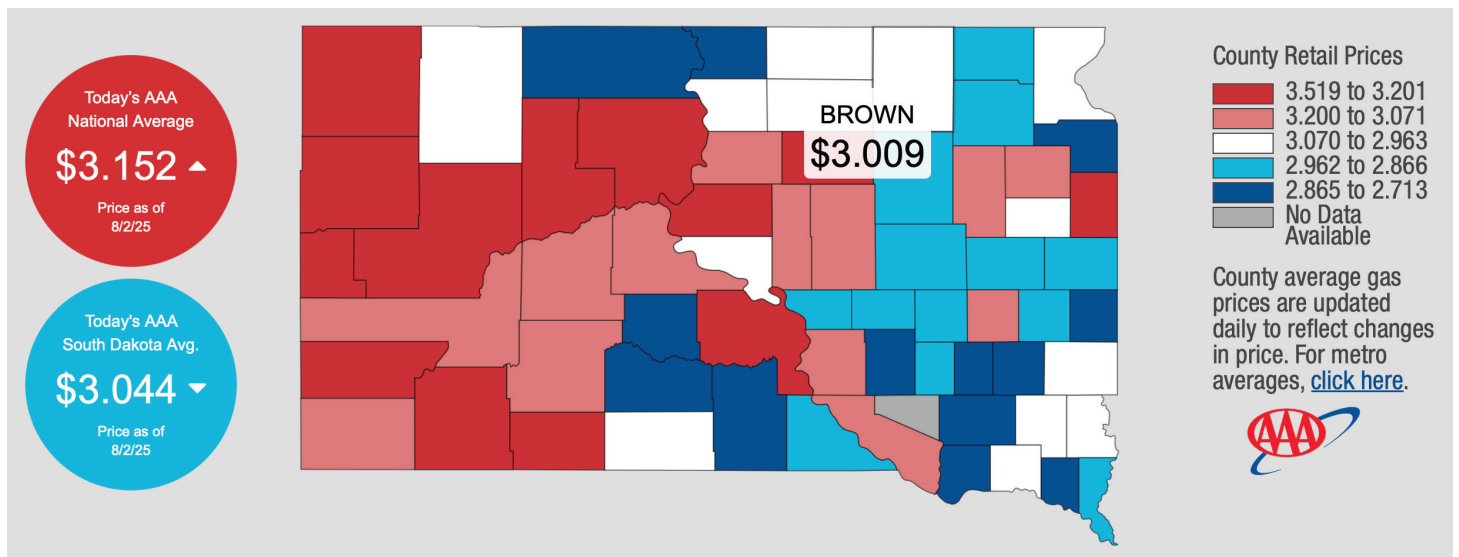
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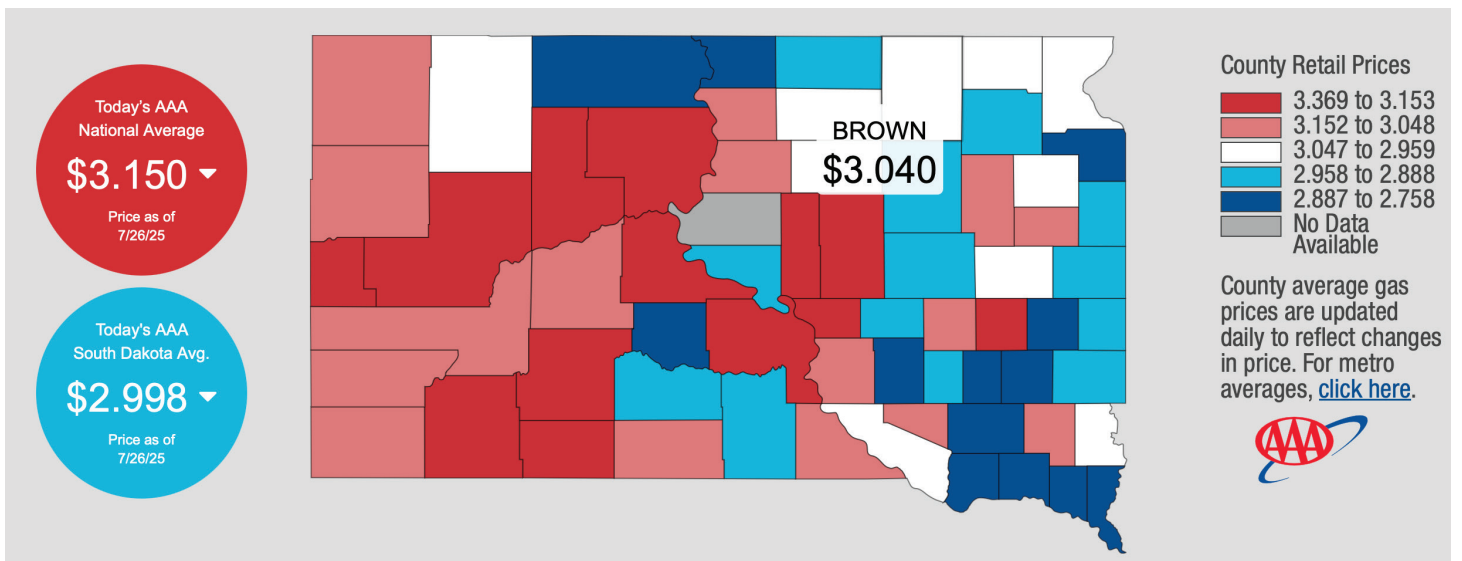
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.044	\$3.223	\$3.715	\$3.406
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.053	\$3.222	\$3.709	\$3.393
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.998	\$3.162	\$3.650	\$3.388
Month Ago Avg.	\$2.995	\$3.173	\$3.645	\$3.348
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.320	\$3.511	\$3.955	\$3.457

This Week



Last Week



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Drought Classification

None

D0 (Abnormally Dry)

D1 (Moderate Drought)

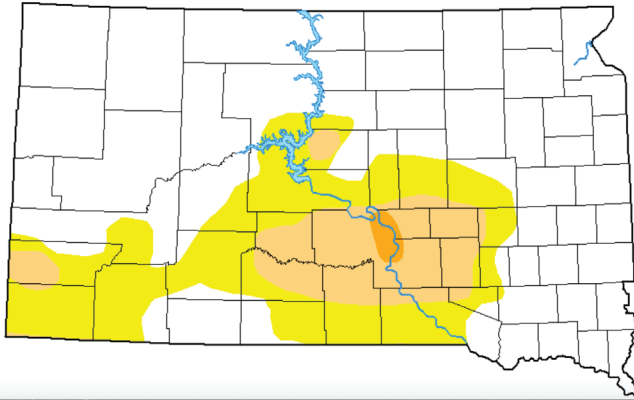
D2 (Severe Drought)

D3 (Extreme Drought)

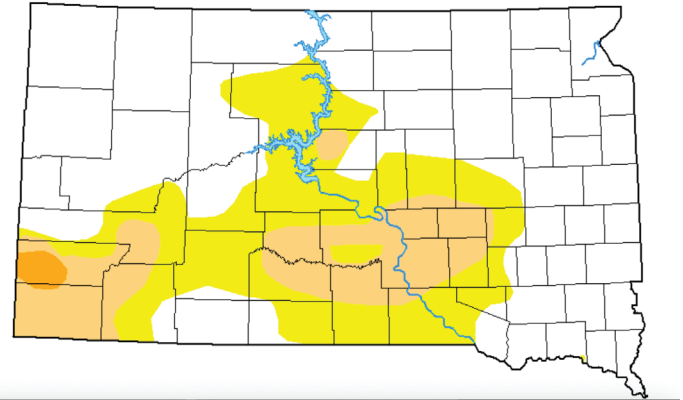
D4 (Exceptional Drought)

No Data

Drought Monitor



July 29



July 22

On this week's map, improvements continued from Kansas to North Dakota after another week of scattered shower activity with light-to-moderate accumulations. During the past 30 days, drought-related conditions have improved significantly in northern Kansas, eastern Nebraska, southeastern and southwestern South Dakota, and southwestern North Dakota as evidenced in a variety of drought monitoring products including streamflows, soil moisture, and vegetation health indicators. However, conditions have degraded in other parts of the region, including central South Dakota and northern North Dakota. For the week, average temperatures were generally above-normal average (1 to 6 degrees F) across the region, with eastern portions experiencing the largest departure, while far western portions of the Dakotas observed temperatures 1 to 4 degrees F below normal.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: What can we do to make our neighborhoods more walkable? – D.F., New York, NY

Walkability is essential for healthy communities. A pedestrian-friendly community lets residents access vital services without cars. This improves public health by encouraging physical activity, reducing pollution and easing traffic congestion. Neighborhoods designed for pedestrians also foster stronger community ties and local economies. However, many urban and suburban areas still depend on vehicles.

A significant ecological benefit of walkable communities is a reduced carbon footprint. Transportation accounts for nearly 30 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. By designing communities that promote walking or biking for daily activities, cities can lower emissions and improve air quality. Locations that are pedestrian-friendly also encourage public transit usage. And residents are more likely to walk to the nearest bus or train stop. This reduces total traffic, enhancing safety and lowering fuel use. Moreover, cities that emphasize walkability typically allocate resources for green infrastructure, like tree-lined roads and permeable surfaces. Urban planner Jeff Speck notes, "The pedestrian is an indicator species. If you can build a successful place where people want to walk, you've done something right."

A genuinely walkable area incorporates several essential characteristics. Mixed-use development, featuring residences, retail spaces, workplaces and educational institutions within strolling distance lessens the necessity for lengthy travels. Secure and inviting pedestrian features ensure that walking remains a practical choice. Measures to calm traffic, such as narrower roads and intersections designed for pedestrians, enhance street safety.

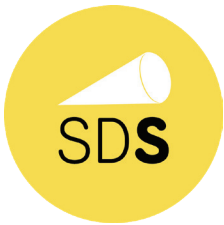
Making a neighborhood more walkable requires efforts at both personal and policy levels. Residents can encourage local authorities to allocate funds for safer sidewalks, crosswalks and areas exclusive to pedestrians. Zoning regulations can likewise be enhanced. Many suburban regions are designated for single-use development, thus separating residences from commercial activities and requiring car travel. Mixed-use zoning promotes walking—and businesses can help by setting up bike racks, offering outdoor seating, and designing shop fronts that are welcoming to pedestrians to improve the look of their areas.

A valuable resource for evaluating neighborhood walkability is Walk Score, which evaluates locations based on closeness to stores, public transit and walking facilities. Residents can use it to assess their locality or examine the walkability of prospective living locations.

Walkability extends beyond convenience; it's an essential aspect of sustainability, public health and urban design. By enhancing pedestrian facilities, supporting smart zoning and leveraging tools like Walk Score, people can help create more pedestrian-friendly communities.



Walkability is a huge plus for engendering a pleasant neighborhood experience and the development of community bonds. Credit: Pexels.com



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Rapid City policing agencies target 'diet weed' with compliance checks

BY: JOHN HULT - AUGUST 2, 2025 10:31 AM

Rapid City has conducted what sources in law enforcement and government say could be one of the first compliance checks for hemp-based intoxicants since a South Dakota law banning their sale took effect a little over a year ago.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office, Rapid City Police Department and Pennington County State's Attorney's Office partnered on the operation.

Officers and deputies visited eight area smoke shops and convenience stores on Thursday, purchasing products like gummies, suckers, vape cartridges and beverages containing hemp-derived ingredients.

The products will be tested to see if they contain any of the prohibited high-inducing chemicals lawmakers voted to restrict in 2024.

The compounds occur in tiny amounts in hemp plants, but are synthesized to infuse into consumable goods at levels significant enough to induce marijuana-like euphoric feelings in those who use them. The law is targeted at the synthetic versions of the compounds, sold under names like Delta-8 and THC-O, sometimes called "diet weed."

The bill restricting the sale of those products did not bar the possession of them. Their sale is a low-level misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

A press release on the operation said businesses were sent letters on June 10 warning them to pull offending products from their shelves.

"We want to better understand what's being sold in our community and ensure that both consumers and retailers are informed," Pennington County State's Attorney Lara Roetzel said in the press release.

Katy Urban, spokeswoman for Roetzel's office, told South Dakota Searchlight that the products collected in the end-of-July sweep will be tested at local law enforcement laboratories, and by the State Health Lab in Pierre.

There is no specific timeline for results.

Since the law banning the products took effect on July 1, 2024, 100 charges have been filed, according to the State Unified Judicial System. Spokeswoman Alisa Bousa said the figure includes pending and completed cases, and that each case could involve multiple charges.

Rep. Brian Mulder, R-Sioux Falls, prime sponsor of the bill creating the law in 2024, said via text message he hasn't heard of any other counties or agencies doing similar compliance checks.

Representatives from local law enforcement agencies in Mulder's city did not immediately respond to a question on whether they intend to conduct similar compliance checks.

John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.



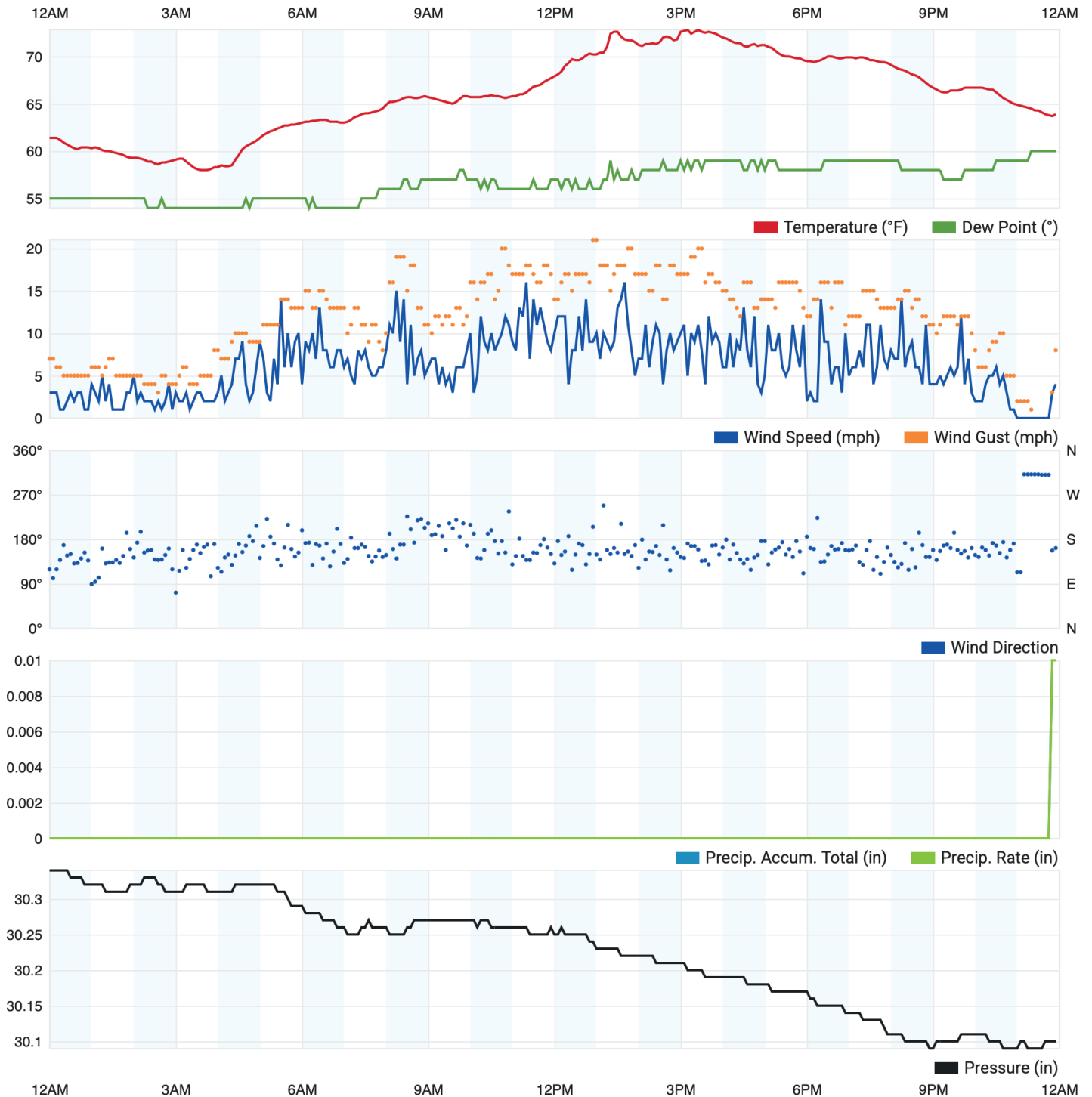
A neon sign advertises delta-8 products at a store in Sioux Falls. (John Hult/South Dakota Searchlight)

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

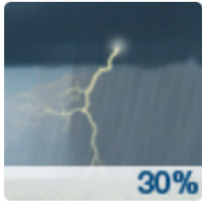
August 2, 2025



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Today



High: 74 °F

Chance
T-storms

Tonight



Low: 60 °F

Chance
T-storms and
Patchy Fog

Monday



High: 81 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms and
Patchy Fog

Monday Night



Low: 64 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms

Tuesday



High: 83 °F

Mostly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

Today's Forecast



Highs: 70-85°

★ Warmest across Central SD

Showers & Storms East
Through Midday With
Additional Sct. Storms
Developing Mid-Late
Afternoon & Evening



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
weather.gov/abr



Scattered showers and thunderstorm chances will continue to persist today. No organized severe weather is anticipated until later this afternoon and evening when a few strong to severe storms will be possible across south central SD. Temperatures will be coolest in the east with afternoon readings in the upper 60s to mid 70s. Some areas in central SD could see some peeks of sunshine which will help to boost temps into the mid 70s to mid 80s.

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Thunderstorm Chances Next Few Days

August 3, 2025

5:10 AM

Severe Weather Risk Today (1 out of 5) = Isolated/Marginal Risk for Severe Weather

Today

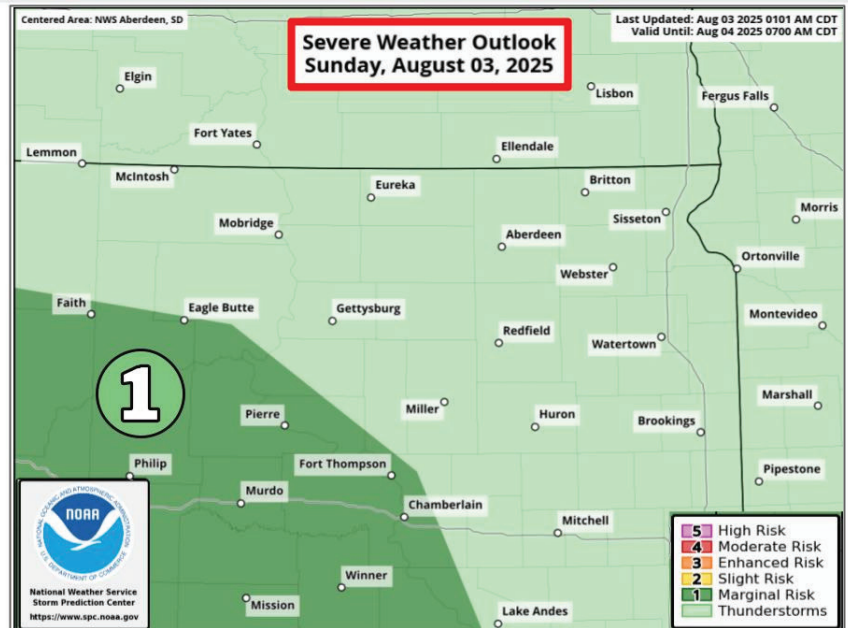
- Storms developing across western SD shift east into south central SD late this afternoon/evening.
- Primary threats will be isolated damaging wind gusts and occasional hail along with locally heavy rainfall.

Monday

- Another round of storms Monday afternoon and evening mainly along and west of the James Valley where a Marginal Risk for severe weather has been issued.

Tuesday

- Late afternoon/evening storms possible mainly west of the James Valley where a Marginal Risk for severe weather has been issued.



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Another round of afternoon storms are expected to develop across portions of western SD. By late afternoon and evening, some of this activity will shift east into south central sections of the state. A couple of storms could be strong to severe with the main concern being locally damaging wind gusts, occasional hail and locally heavy rain. A marginal risk (level 1 of 5) has been issued for those areas.

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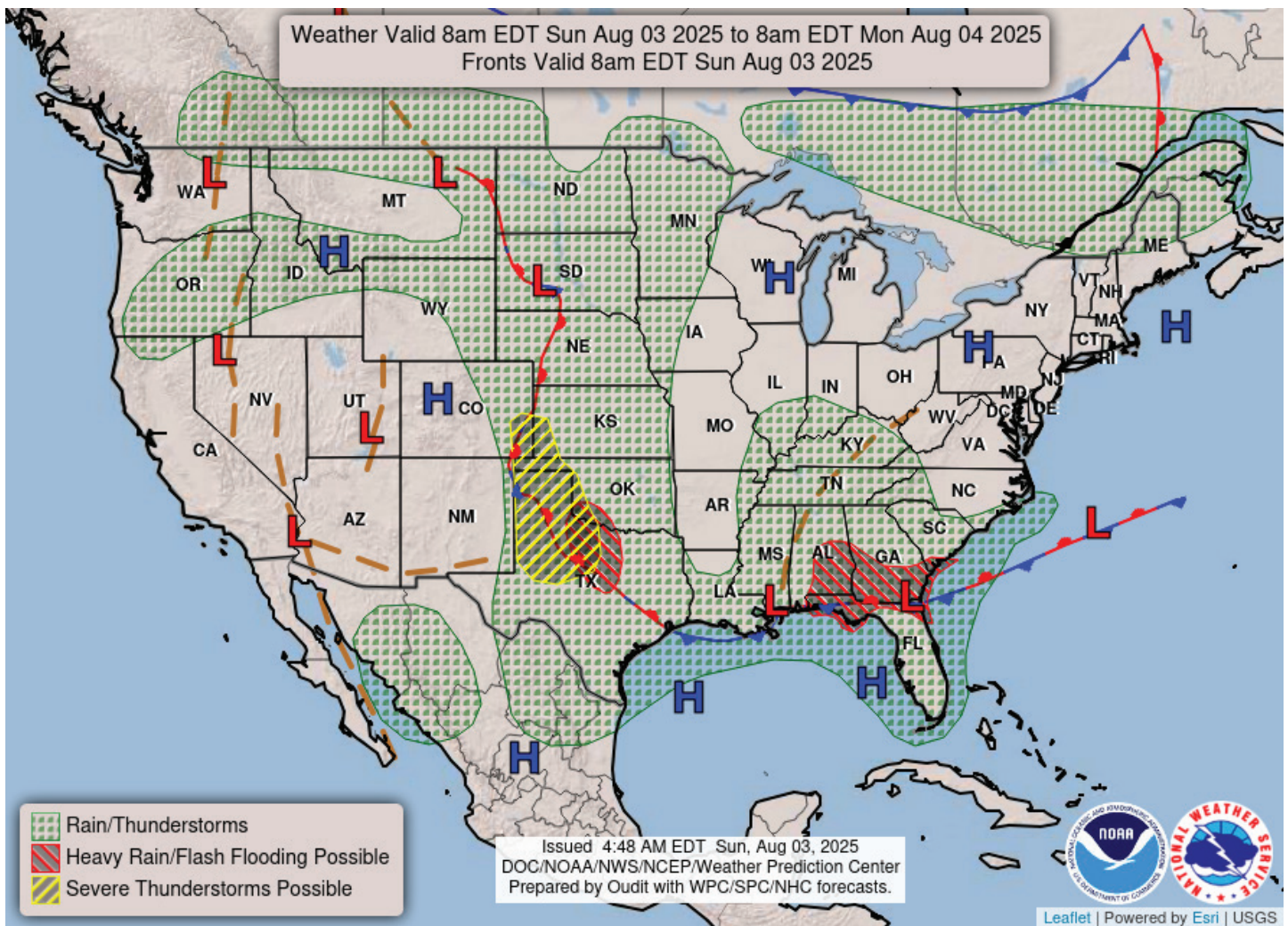
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 73 °F at 3:02 PM
Heat Index: 73 °F at 1:30 PM
Low Temp: 58 °F at 3:37 AM
Wind: 22 mph at 12:51 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 41 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 107 in 1947
Record Low: 39 in 1971
Average High: 85
Average Low: 59
Average Precip in August.: 0.22
Precip to date in August: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 14.32
Precip Year to Date: 15.07
Sunset Tonight: 8:59:10 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:19:07 am



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Today in Weather History

August 3, 1984: During the morning hours, estimated four to six inches of rain fell from west of Garden City in Clark County to north of Henry in Codington County. Low lying areas were flooded, and a potato field west of Garden City was washed out.

August 3, 1989: Strong thunderstorm winds gusted to 70 mph, driving golf ball size hail through most the windows on the west side of buildings in Amherst, Marshall County. Corn crops were stripped off their leaves with an estimated 1800 acres being severely damaged.

August 3, 1996: High winds up to 90 mph uprooted and damaged many trees in Mobridge. The roofs of two buildings were blown off while other roofs received some damage. Windows were broken out in eight vehicles at the South Dakota Winds up to 90 mph also caused damage in Herreid where doors on a concrete elevator were blown out.

August 3, 2008: Severe thunderstorms moved across north-central South Dakota during the early morning hours bringing large hail and damaging thunderstorm winds to the area. Isabel, Timber Lake, and Selby were among the hardest hit locations. Isabel in Dewey County saw eighty mph winds which damaged or downed several trees, damaged carnival equipment, destroyed some sheds, and rolled some large hay bales. High winds up to 80 mph severely damaged a barn, downed some power poles along with many trees and branches in and around Timber Lake. Also, several vehicles and many acres of crops were damaged by the hail and high winds. The Little Moreau Elk Lodge roof was destroyed, and some windows were broken. One-hundred mph winds downed six power poles and caused considerable damage to sunflowers, corn, wheat, and beans in and around Selby in Walworth County. Also, an empty grain bin was blown over and damaged. Numerous trees were snapped off. The coop seed building in Selby sustained considerable damage with many trees uprooted or damaged throughout town.

August 3, 2009: A cold front moving southeast across the area brought many severe thunderstorms to parts of central and northeast South Dakota. Large hail up to golf ball size along with wind gusts nearing 80 mph occurred across the area. Brown, Hyde, Lyman, and Gregory Counties were among the hardest hit locations. Hail and sixty mph winds significantly damaged many acres of soybeans and corn near Putney in Brown County. Seventy to 80 mph winds brought down several large trees along with many large tree branches in and around Highmore in Hyde County. The high winds also tipped over a semi, a gravity wagon, and a grain auger along with damaging several fences. There were also power outages in Highmore. Golf ball size hail combined with strong winds broke many windows in the house and dented several vehicles south of Kennebec in Lyman County. The house pet was also injured. Large hail, up to two inches in diameter, fell in a swath a few miles wide from northwestern to south-central Gregory County. The hail broke numerous windows, severely damaged siding and roofs of homes and other buildings, and severely damaged vehicles, while covering the ground in several places. Property damage has been particularly severe in the town of Gregory. Crop damage was also severe along the swath, with corn crops in some areas destroyed to the point of only small stubble left.

1885 - A tornado hit Philadelphia and Camden along its eight mile path. (David Ludlum)

1970 - Hurricane Celia struck the coast of Texas producing wind gusts to 161 mph at Corpus Christi, and estimated wind gusts of 180 mph at Arkansas Pass. The hurricane was the most destructive of record along the Texas coast causing 454 million dollars damage, and also claimed eleven lives. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a slow moving cold front produced severe weather from the Central High Plains to the Upper Great Lakes Region. Thunderstorms around Fort Collins, CO, produced wind gusts to 74 mph along with marble size hail. Sixteen persons were injured in the storm, most of whom were accidentally locked out of their office building, having evacuated it when the fire alarm went off, apparently triggered by lightning. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms representing what remained of Hurricane Chantal drenched Wichita, KS, with 2.20 inches of rain in four hours during the early morning. Thunderstorms developing in Minnesota produced wind gusts to 85 mph at Baudette during the afternoon, and softball size hail at Lake Kabetogama, during the evening. Jamestown, ND, reported a record hot afternoon high of 103 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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"WE'RE IN TERRIBLE SHAPE!"

It was the first day of geography class after spring break. The teacher was trying to get her class involved in a lively discussion. "What is the shape of the world?" she asked.

Immediately, James held up his hand and said, "My Dad says it's in terrible shape!" And, it seems that most people would agree with his dad.

Years ago a Psalmist gave us a reason for the condition of the world: "The kings and rulers of the earth," he said, "take their stand together against the Lord...and His Anointed One."

This Psalm points to "the One" who was to come – the Messiah. In it we find a description of Jesus – His life, death, resurrection, and future reign. This Psalm also described the rebellion of the nations of the world and their refusal to be obedient to the Word of God. The author wanted his readers to know and understand that God would fulfill His promises of peace and hope, grace and mercy, love and salvation. God, speaking to us through this Psalm, gave us His assurance that He is "the One" who is in control of all things – past, present and future. He wants us to know that through His Word we can become free from the worries and cares of this world and be certain of being with Him in eternity.

"Serve the Lord with reverent fear," said the Psalmist, and "submit to God's royal Son...and there will be joy for all who find protection in Him."

Prayer: Lord, we lift our hearts to You in worship and thanksgiving, knowing that Your peace will calm our fears, quiet our hearts, and bless our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Submit to God's royal son, or he will become angry, and you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities - for his anger flares up in an instant. But what joy for all who take refuge in him! Psalm 2:12

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.01.25

18 27 29 33 70 22

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$150,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.02.25

7 16 22 31 39 6

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$3,840,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.02.25

8 10 16 18 36 8

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 10 Mins 53 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.02.25

10 14 15 16 21

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$79,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.02.25

10 20 36 58 59 5

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.02.25

6 18 34 35 36 2

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$426,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

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Upcoming Groton Events

007/25/2025 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

Ex-Trump prosecutor Jack Smith faces investigation by independent political watchdog

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — An independent watchdog agency responsible for enforcing a law against partisan political activity by federal employees has opened an investigation into Jack Smith, the Justice Department special counsel who brought two criminal cases against then-candidate Donald Trump before his election to the White House last year.

The Office of Special Counsel confirmed Saturday that it was investigating Smith on allegations he engaged in political activity through his inquiries into Trump. Smith was named special counsel by then-Attorney General Merrick Garland in November 2022 and his special counsel title is entirely distinct from the agency now investigating him. The office has no criminal enforcement power but does have the authority to impose fines and other sanctions for violations.

It was not clear what basis exists to contend that Smith's investigations were political in nature or that he violated the Hatch Act, a federal law that bans certain public officials from engaging in political activity. Sen. Tom Cotton, an Arkansas Republican, had earlier this week encouraged the office to scrutinize Smith's activities and had alleged that his conduct was designed to help then-President Joe Biden and his vice president Kamala Harris, both Democrats.

Smith brought two cases against Trump, one accusing him of conspiring to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and the other of hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. Both were brought in 2023, well over a year before the 2024 presidential election, and indictments in the two cases cited what Smith and his team described as clear violations of well-established federal law. Garland has repeatedly said politics played no part in the handling of the cases.

Both cases were abandoned by Smith after Trump's November win, with the prosecutor citing longstanding Justice Department policy prohibiting the indictment of a sitting president.

There was no immediate indication that the same office investigating Smith had opened investigations into the Justice Department special counsels who were appointed by Garland to investigate Biden and his son Hunter.

The White House had no immediate comment on the investigation into Smith, which was first reported by The New York Post.

The office has been riven by leadership tumult over the last year. An earlier chief, Hampton Dellinger, was abruptly fired by the Trump administration and initially sued to get his job back before abandoning the court fight.

Trump selected as his replacement Paul Ingrassia, a former right-wing podcast host who has praised criminally charged influencer Andrew Tate as a "extraordinary human being" and promoted the false claim that the 2020 election was rigged. A Senate panel was set to consider his nomination at a hearing last month, but it was pulled from the agenda.

Trump's trade representative, Jamieson Greer, is serving as acting head of the office.

Ukrainian anti-corruption agencies uncover drone procurement graft scheme

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's anti-corruption agencies said they had uncovered a major graft scheme involving inflated military procurement contracts, just two days after Ukraine's parliament voted to restore the agencies' independence.

In a joint statement published Saturday on social media, the National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) and the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO) said the suspects had taken bribes in a scheme that used state funds to buy drones and other military equipment at inflated prices.

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"The essence of the scheme was to conclude state contracts with supplier companies at deliberately inflated prices," the statement said, adding that offenders had received kickbacks of up to 30% of the contracts' value.

The anti-corruption bodies did not identify the detainees, but said a Ukrainian lawmaker, local district and city officials, and National Guard servicemen were involved. Four people have been arrested so far, they said. The Interior Ministry said the National Guard personnel implicated in the case were removed from their positions.

Drones have become a crucial asset in modern warfare for both Ukraine and Russia, enhancing military reconnaissance, precision strikes, and strategic flexibility on the battlefield. The majority of Russian military assets destroyed by Ukrainian forces, including manpower and heavy weaponry, have been targeted by drones. Drone production is also a key aspect of Kyiv's hopes to expand domestic military production and export markets.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the development in his nightly address on Saturday, calling the graft scheme "absolutely immoral" and thanking the anti-corruption agencies for their work.

"Unfortunately, these corruption schemes involved the procurement of electronic warfare systems and FPV drones ... There must be full and fair accountability for this," he said in his address, posted to X.

In an earlier post, which also included photos of him meeting with the agency heads, Zelenskyy said it is "important that anti-corruption institutions operate independently," adding that "the law passed on Thursday guarantees them all the tools necessary for a real fight against corruption."

The exposure of the graft scheme by NABU and SAPO came just two days after Ukraine's parliament voted to restore their independence.

Ukraine's Parliament on Thursday overwhelmingly approved the bill presented by Zelenskyy, reversing his earlier contentious move that curbed their power and sparked a backlash, including street protests, a rarity in wartime.

Last week's measure to place the watchdogs under the oversight of the prosecutor-general prompted rebukes from Ukrainians, the European Union and international rights groups. It raised fears that the government could meddle in investigations and potentially shield its supporters from scrutiny.

Fighting entrenched corruption is crucial for Ukraine's aspirations to join the European Union and maintain access to billions of dollars of vital Western aid in the all-out war, now in its fourth year. It's also an effort that enjoys broad public support.

Pope Leo XIV tells 1 million Catholic youths that they are 'the sign a different world is possible'

ROME (AP) — Pope Leo XIV on Sunday told more than a million Catholic youths at a closing Mass for a weeklong encounter with the next generation of faithful that they are "the sign that a different world is possible" where conflicts can be resolved with dialogue, not weapons.

In his closing blessing for the Jubilee of Youth, Leo remembered the young people of Gaza and Ukraine and other countries "bloodied by war" who could not join their celebration.

"We are closer than ever to young people who suffer the most serious evils, which are caused by other human beings," Leo said. "We are with the young people of Gaza. We are with the young people of Ukraine, with those of every land bloodied by war."

"My young brothers and sisters, you are the sign that a different world is possible. A world of fraternity and friendship, where conflicts are not resolved with weapons, but with dialogue."

The young people camped out in sprawling fields southeast of Rome overnight after attending a vigil service on Saturday, also presided by Leo who has been ferried from Vatican City by helicopter. The special Jubilee celebration is part of the Holy Year that is expected to draw 32 million people to the Vatican for the centuries-old pilgrimage to the seat of Catholicism.

The Vatican said more than 1 million young people were present, along with 7,000 priests and 450 bishops. During the Sunday homily, Leo urged the participants to "spread your enthusiasm and the witness of

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your faith" when they return home to some 150 countries.

"Aspire to great things, to holiness, wherever you are," Leo urged the young faithful. "Do not settle for less. You will then see the light of the Gospel growing every day, in you and around you."

Leo reminded the crowd that their next encounter will be for World Youth Day, set for Aug. 3-8, 2027, in Seoul, South Korea.

The week has been a joyous gathering marked by bands of youths singing hymns as they move down cobblestoned streets, praying rosaries in piazzas and standing for hours at the Circus Maximus to confess their sins to priests offering the sacrament in a dozen languages.

Leo also shared some tragic news on Saturday: two young people who had made the pilgrimage to Rome had died, one reportedly of cardiac arrest, while a third was hospitalized.

Rain overnight awakened the faithful but didn't dampen their spirits.

"At least we were a little covered, but we still got a bit wet. We lost our voices a little. It was cold, but we woke up to a beautiful sun and view," said Soemil Rios, 20, from Puerto Rico. "Despite the difficulties, it was very nice and very special to have been part of this historic moment."

Sister Giulia De Luca, from Rome, acknowledged that "waking up was a bit tough," but that she was looking forward to seeing the pope again.

"It will be very nice to conclude a very intense week together. Definitely a lot of fun, but also very challenging in many ways," she said.

Ukrainian drone attack sparks massive fire at Russian oil depot near Sochi

An overnight Ukrainian drone attack on an oil depot near Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi sparked a major fire, Russian officials said Sunday, as the two countries traded strikes.

More than 120 firefighters attempted to extinguish the blaze, sparked after debris from a downed drone struck a fuel tank, Krasnodar regional Gov. Veniamin Kondratyev said on Telegram. Videos on social media appeared to show huge pillars of smoke billowing above the oil depot.

Russia's civil aviation authority, Rosaviatsia, temporarily stopped flights at Sochi's airport.

Further north, authorities in the Voronezh region reported that four people were wounded in another Ukrainian drone strike.

Russia's Defense Ministry said its air defenses shot down 93 Ukrainian drones over Russia and the Black Sea overnight into Sunday.

Meanwhile, in southern Ukraine, a Russian missile strike hit a residential area in the city of Mykolaiv, according to the State Emergency Services, wounding seven people.

The Ukrainian air force said Sunday Russia launched 76 drones and seven missiles against Ukraine. It said 60 drones and one missile were intercepted, but 16 others and six missiles hit targets across eight locations.

The reciprocal attacks came at the end of one of the deadliest weeks in Ukraine in recent months, after a Russian drone and missile attack on Thursday killed 31 people, including five children, and wounded over 150.

The continued attacks come after U.S. President Donald Trump gave on Tuesday Russian President Vladimir Putin a shorter deadline — Aug. 8 — for peace efforts to make progress.

Trump said Thursday that special envoy Steve Witkoff is heading to Russia to push Moscow to agree to a ceasefire in its war with Ukraine and has threatened new economic sanctions if progress is not made.

'God understands us': Inside a Nigerian church where deaf people find faith and community

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — It is like any other church in Nigeria's megacity of Lagos. A lectern faces rows of plastic chairs. A biblical quote is written on a beam above. There is a music section, with a set of drums. Sash-wearing church wardens move around to enforce order.

But it is also different. For hours, the only sounds are exclamations and thunderous bursts of drums, with their vibrations the cues for when to pray, kneel or respond to the preacher's calls for "Hallelujah."

This is a church for deaf people in Somolu, a mixed-income suburb, where about 50 to 60 people worship weekly.

Imoh Udoka, a father of two children, has attended the church for 36 years. He was 9 years old when he contracted meningitis, losing his hearing as well as access to his faith. Most churches in Nigeria do not have accommodation for deaf people.

Then Udoka, now a teacher of sign language, discovered the church via community outreach. "Here in this church, we have access to worship God in our sign language," he told The Associated Press.

'God also understands us'

Remi Akinrenmi is one of the pastors. Every Sunday, he mounts the pulpit with charismatic energy to preach in sign language. His big frame makes for a commanding presence.

On one Sunday, he preached about the sinister consequences of jealousy. On another, he preached the importance of faith. Attendees waved their hands above their heads in response to "Praise the Lord."

Most important for Akinrenmi is that members see the church as a community.

"There was no community for us before the deaf church started," he said. "Now, we see each other and say, 'Oh, you are deaf, too. I am also deaf.' And we are now together and have formed a community."

God understands every language, he said: "With sign language, God also understands us."

Disability advocates say that in the absence of inclusive churches and institutions, churches like this and a handful of affiliates in southern Nigeria are crucial, especially in African societies where the perception of people with disabilities is influenced by traditional beliefs. Some see a disability as a divine punishment.

"An exclusive space like this church offers them an opportunity for a safe space to be able to connect and relate," said Treasures Uchegbu, founder of Speaking Fingers, a sign language advocacy group in Lagos. "They can say, 'I am not a deaf person just standing alone, I have other deaf people around.'"

How the church came to be

The church organizes evangelism outreach programs to other deaf communities in Lagos. It also runs a teaching unit for sign language, a vital tool for understanding the world better, according to Akinrenmi. Hearing children of church members also attend the classes to better relate to their parents and others, and some hearing students attend church services for immersion learning.

The church started in 1956 in colonial Nigeria as the Christian Mission for Deaf Africans. In today's Nigeria, an estimated 10 million people out of the population of 220 million are deaf or have difficulty hearing.

There is limited infrastructure in Nigeria for people with disabilities, and laws to improve their welfare and prevent discrimination are barely enforced. Efforts by advocates to push for more inclusive legislation have not materialized. They blame a lack of political will.

Oluwakemi Oluwatoke-Ogunjirin, a 49-year-old worker with the Lagos state government, was born deaf. She attended hearing churches with her family but always felt lost.

Depending solely on public infrastructure in other parts of life, she struggles to get by. But at the church, she said, she has found a community where she can feel safe and understood.

"The church goes beyond faith; we have people like ourselves that we can talk to as friends," Oluwatoke-Ogunjirin said.

With the church's help, she has improved her sign language and can communicate widely, breaking the isolation she grew up with.

"The sign language makes life very easy for us," she said. "It helps us communicate beyond the church."

Léon Marchand, Summer McIntosh and 12-year-old Yu Zidi hope to shine on the final day of the worlds

SINGAPORE (AP) — French star Léon Marchand has broken one world record already in the 200-meter individual medley.

He'll try for a second on Sunday in the 400 IM on the closing day of the swimming world championships in Singapore, a record he set two years ago in the worlds in Fukuoka, Japan. That mark is 4 minutes, 02.50 seconds.

It would be Marchand's second gold in Singapore, where he's swimming a reduced schedule after winning four individual golds a year ago at the Paris Olympics.

He will swim from Lane 1, entering with a relatively slow qualifying time.

Summer McIntosh of Canada will be in the women's 400 IM, trying for her fourth gold. Her hope of winning five individual golds in the worlds — only Michael Phelps has done that — was crushed Saturday night when she was beaten by American Katie Ledecky in the 800free. McIntosh finished third.

Chinese 12-year-old Yu Zidi has the No. 3 qualifying time as she shoots for a medal. She picked up a bronze medal in a relay — she swam in a prelim but not the final — but an individual medal would be astounding.

As a reminder, she is the same age as most sixth- or seventh-grade students, depending on the school system.

The Americans, frustrated throughout the meet with a case of "acute gastroenteritis" picked up in a training camp in Thailand, surged on Saturday with three golds to bring their gold-medal leading total to eight. Australia has seven.

The Americans have several gold-medal chances in Sunday's eight finals. Among them: world-record holder Bobby Finke in the 1,500 free, and the men's and women's 4x100 medley relays.

The Americans have the fastest qualifying times in both relays.

China, the Paris Olympic champions a year ago in the men's 4x100 medley, failed to qualify. China finished ninth, out of the top eight in a time of 3:32.69 seconds. They swam 3:27.46 to win in Paris.

Qin Haiyang and Pan Zhanle — two world-record holders — were on the team that missed out. They were both on the Paris team.

Brutal arrest of Black student in Florida shows benefits of recording police from new vantage point

A video that captured the brutal arrest of a Black college student pulled from his car and beaten by officers in Florida has led to an investigation and calls for motorists to consider protecting themselves by placing a camera inside their vehicles.

William McNeil Jr. captured his February traffic stop on his cellphone camera, which was mounted above his dashboard. It offered a unique view, providing the only clear footage of the violence by officers, including punches to his head that can't clearly be seen in officer body camera footage released by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

Since McNeil had the foresight to record the encounter from inside the vehicle, "we got to see firsthand and hear firsthand and put it all in context what driving while Black is in America," said civil rights attorney Ben Crump, one of several lawyers advising McNeil.

"All the young people should be recording these interactions with law enforcement," Crump said. Because what it tells us, just like with George Floyd, if we don't record the video, we can see what they put in the police report with George Floyd before they realized the video existed."

McNeil was pulled over that day because officers said his headlights should have been on due to bad weather, his lawyers said. His camera shows him asking the officers what he did wrong. Seconds later, an officer smashes his window, strikes him as he sat in the driver's seat and then pulls him from the car and punches him in the head. After being knocked to the ground, McNeil was punched six more times in his

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right thigh, a police report states.

The incident reports don't describe the officer punching McNeil in the head. The officer, who pulled McNeil over and then struck him, described the force this way in his report: "Physical force was applied to the suspect and he was taken to the ground."

But after McNeil posted his video online last month and it went viral, the sheriff's office launched an internal investigation, which is ongoing. A sheriff's office spokesperson declined to comment about the case this week, citing pending litigation, though no lawsuit has been filed over the arrest.

McNeil said the ordeal left him traumatized, with a brain injury, a broken tooth and several stitches in his lip. His attorneys accused the sheriff's office of trying to cover up what really happened.

"On Feb. 19, 2025, Americans saw what America is," said another of McNeil's lawyers, Harry Daniels. "We saw injustice. You saw abuse of police power. But most importantly we saw a young man that had a temperament to control himself in the face of brutality."

The traffic stop, he said, was not only racially motivated but "it was unlawful, and everything that stemmed from that stop was unlawful."

McNeil is hardly the first Black motorist to record video during a traffic stop that turned violent — Philando Castile's girlfriend livestreamed the bloody aftermath of his death during a 2016 traffic stop near Minneapolis. But McNeil's arrest serves as a reminder of how cellphone video can show a different version of events than what is described in police reports, his lawyers said.

Christopher Mercado, who retired as a lieutenant from the New York Police Department, agreed with McNeil's legal team's suggestion that drivers should record their police interactions and that a camera mounted inside a driver's car could offer a unique point of view.

"Use technology to your advantage," said Mercado, an adjunct assistant professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. "There's nothing nefarious about it. It's actually a smart thing in my opinion."

Rod Brunson, chairman of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland, said he thinks it's a good idea for citizens to film encounters with police — as long as doing so doesn't make the situation worse.

"I think that's a form of protection — it's safeguarding them against false claims of criminal behavior or interfering with officers, etc.," Brunson said.

Although the sheriff's office declined to speak to The Associated Press this week, Sheriff T.K. Waters has spoken publicly about McNeil's arrest since video of the encounter went viral. He pushed back against some of the allegations made by McNeil's lawyers, noting that McNeil was told more than a half-dozen times to exit the vehicle.

At a news conference last month, Waters also highlighted images of a knife in McNeil's car. The officer who punched him claimed in his police report that McNeil reached toward the floor of the car, where deputies later found the knife.

Crump, though, said McNeil's video shows that he "never reaches for anything," and a second officer wrote in his report that McNeil kept his hands up as the other officer smashed the car window.

A camera inside a motorist's vehicle could make up for some shortcomings of police bodycams, which can have a narrow field of view that becomes more limited the closer an officer gets to the person being filmed, Mercado said.

However, after the police murder of Floyd, some states and cities debated how and when citizens should be able to capture video of police. The Constitution guarantees the right to record police in public, but a point of contention in some states has been whether a civilian's recording might interfere with the ability of officers to do their job. In Louisiana, for example, a new law makes it a crime to approach within 25 feet (7.6 meters) of a police officer in certain situations.

Waters acknowledged those limitations at a news conference last year, as he narrated video of a wild brawl between officers and a fan in the stands at EverBank Stadium during a football game last year between the universities of Georgia and Florida.

The sheriff showed the officers' bodycam videos during the start of the confrontation near the top of the stadium. But when the officers subdued the suspect and were pressing against him, the bodycam footage

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didn't capture much, so the sheriff switched to stadium security video shot from a longer distance away. In McNeil's case, the bodycam video didn't clearly capture the punches thrown. If it had, the case would have been investigated right away, the sheriff said.

For the past 20 years, Brunson has been interviewing young Black men in several U.S. cities about their encounters with law enforcement. When he first began submitting research papers for academic review, many readers didn't believe the men's stories of being brutalized by officers.

"People who live in a civil society don't expect to be treated this way by the police. For them, their police interactions are mostly pleasant, mostly cordial," Brunson said.

"So it's hard for people who don't have a tenuous relationship with the police to fathom that something like this happens," he said. "And that's where video does play a big part because people can't deny what they see."

At this summer camp run by grandmas, kids learn cooking skills and life advice

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The smell of frying garlic and ginger is inescapable as it wafts through the room, while a row of fidgety kids watches an older woman in a blue plaid apron cooking in front of them.

"When I was growing up my mom used to make this a lot," she says, showing a chicken stir fry recipe.

At this "Intergenerational Summer Camp" in a Southern California suburb, the grandmas are in charge. Every week, they taught a group of 8-to-14-year-olds how to cook a new dish and do a handicraft such as sewing, embroidering, clay jewelry and card marking.

"Isolation and loneliness is something that seniors are challenged with, and they love having younger people around them," said Zainab Hussain, a program manager at Olive Community Services, a nonprofit aimed at bringing older adults together that hosted the camp.

The camp was held at a community center in Fullerton, a city in Orange County that's home to a large Arab population, and many of the campers and grandmas come from those communities. In between activities, the small room bustled with energy as the girls chatted and munched on snacks. Some of the volunteer grandmas milled around and watched, content to just be around the youngsters.

In July, during the final week of camp, Janna Moten and her friends were learning how to use a sewing machine and make pouches.

"Slowly, slowly," one grandma chided as Moten stomped on the machine's pedal, causing the needle to rapidly jerk up and down.

She pressed her foot down again, gingerly, and managed to sew a straight line.

"Honestly, I'm just here for the food," the 9 year old quipped. Still, she beamed as she showed the two pieces of fabric she sewed together and turned inside out, forming a rectangular pocket.

Moten said she's been practicing hand-stitching at home after learning embroidery a previous week.

"Sewing's pretty easy, it's just hard keeping the lines straight," she said. She added that her own grandma was stricter than the ones at summer camp.

Haqiqah Abdul Rahim, the instructor for sewing, said many kids don't learn these skills at school anymore through home economics classes, so they're "filling in a gap."

She stood in front of the room at the start of the activity, holding up various tools and explaining what they were: seam roller, thread snipper, rotary fabric cutter.

Rahim also doesn't get to spend a lot of time with her grandchildren because they don't live close.

"It is heartwarming to be able to interact with those who love being around you," Rahim said.

The kids have learned about kitchen safety and how to cook with a grandma's touch — such as mixing spices with water before adding them to a dish so they don't burn, or using fresh turmeric.

The summer camp was held in partnership with the Golden Connections Club, started by high school student Leena Albinali last year to foster interactions between teens and elders.

The 14-year-old lives with her grandma but realized other students didn't have the same opportunity to spend as much time with their grandparents. She also learned about ageism and other challenges faced

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by senior adults in one of her classes.

At monthly lunches, they invite seniors to the school and discuss topics where both groups can learn from each other, Albinali said.

"They treat us like we're their grandchildren," she said. The teens share what they know about artificial intelligence and its impact on their lives, and the elders share life stories and advice.

One of the most important things they've shared with her is to live in the moment, something that's taken on new meaning for her.

"The people we have right now, they're not going to be with us forever," she said.

History delayed by rain! The MLB Speedway Classic at Bristol suspended for Braves and Reds

BRISTOL, Tenn. (AP) — It was a red flag for Major League Baseball at Bristol Motor Speedway on Saturday night.

The Speedway Classic between the Atlanta Braves and Cincinnati Reds was suspended in the first inning because of rain, soaking a record-breaking crowd for the first regular-season game in Tennessee. The plan is to resume the game on Sunday afternoon.

The first delay at the historic bullring of a racetrack came after the ceremonial first pitch featuring a pair of Hall of Famers in Johnny Bench and Chipper Jones, joined by NASCAR drivers Kyle Busch and Chase Elliott. The second with one out in the bottom of the first led to the game being pushed back a day, much like a red flag in motorsports.

Fans who stuck out the first delay of 2 hours, 17 minutes started heading toward the exits before the game was postponed with the Reds holding a 1-0 lead.

It was an unwelcome detour for the long-planned event mixing baseball and NASCAR.

"We're going to suspend tonight's game. ... We are optimistic for a better weather forecast for tomorrow," Michael Hill, MLB's senior vice president of on-field operations, told Fox.

The rain made life difficult on the players before the suspension. A bat flew out of TJ Friedl's hands as he led off for the Reds. A pitcher seemed to catch his footing going to cover first base.

The MLB Speedway Classic was first announced nearly a year ago as part of Commissioner Rob Manfred's push to take MLB to places where baseball isn't played every day live. MLB played a game at the "Field of Dreams" movie site in Iowa in both 2021 and 2022. Alabama and North Carolina, too.

Reds pitcher Andrew Abbott showed up Saturday afternoon at Bristol wearing a cut-off version of a NASCAR race suit. Born in Lynchburg, Virginia, Abbott said he wanted something to wear in for a special game.

"I grew up around NASCAR," Abbott said. "Just went on eBay and found a couple options, and luckily that was the one that arrived in time. I had a couple of backups. I know who Rusty Wallace is too, so I actually do know the backstory behind it."

Long before the fans departed in the rain, they were entertained by a 110-foot Ferris wheel, to go along with food trucks, live music, pitching tunnels and batting cages. Fans also had a chance for photos with the Commissioner's Trophy, and Clydesdales outside the historic racetrack.

Inside, star Tim McGraw performed and was joined by Pitbull.

Before the weather moved over the area, players stood in the back of pickup trucks with their numbers emblazoned on the side and rode around the half-mile racetrack. Some used their phones to document the moment. For introductions, the Braves and Reds walked between a pair of cars decked out in Atlanta and Cincinnati colors.

Then the tarp came out as rain that had been falling around Bristol much of Saturday turned heavy and delayed the start.

The first delay led to the Braves switching starting pitchers. Spencer Strider, who grew up in nearby Knoxville, got a bigger ovation than Reds starter Chase Burns, who is from Hendersonville and played at the University of Tennessee. The Reds stuck with Burns despite the delay.

Strider warmed up. The Braves chose not to risk his third start in this situation coming off a second

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elbow surgery.

The rain stopped long enough to take off the tarp and start the game.

Michael Waltrip, who raced plenty at Bristol, restarted the festivities by quoting his brother Darrell: "Boogity, boogity, boogity. Let's play baseball boys!"

Atlanta went down in order in the top of the first inning. But there was another rain delay after Austin Hays hit an RBI single for Cincinnati in the bottom half.

MLB didn't try to sell every ticket inside the speedway that drew 156,990 for the Battle of Bristol college football game in 2016. The track with a racing capacity of 146,000 could host 90,000 or more even with sections blocked off.

Officials announced Monday more than 85,000 tickets had been sold — topping the previous paid attendance of 84,587 set Sept. 12, 1954, when Cleveland Stadium hosted the New York Yankees.

A batter has to clear 400 feet to hit anything out of center field, 375 in the alleys and 330 down each base line. Pulling a ball down the line raises the prospect of a ball bouncing off the racetrack beyond the outfield wall.

"Honestly, my first thought I can't believe they did all this for one game," Braves first baseman Matt Olson said of his first visit to Bristol. "To be able to set all this up, get a playing surface ready, set the stands up in order to have the proper viewing, it's pretty incredible."

Senate heads home with no deal to speed confirmations as irate Trump tells Schumer to 'go to hell'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate left Washington Saturday night for its monthlong August recess without a deal to advance dozens of President Donald Trump's nominees, calling it quits after days of contentious bipartisan negotiations and Trump posting on social media that Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer can "GO TO HELL!"

Without a deal in hand, Republicans say they may try to change Senate rules when they return in September to speed up the pace of confirmations. Trump has been pressuring senators to move quickly as Democrats blocked more nominees than usual this year, denying any fast unanimous consent votes and forcing roll calls on each one, a lengthy process that can take several days per nominee.

"I think they're desperately in need of change," Senate Majority Leader John Thune said of Senate rules Saturday after negotiations with Schumer and Trump broke down. "I think that the last six months have demonstrated that this process, nominations is broken. And so I expect there will be some good robust conversations about that."

Schumer said a rules change would be a "huge mistake," especially as Senate Republicans will need Democratic votes to pass spending bills and other legislation moving forward.

"Donald Trump tried to bully us, go around us, threaten us, call us names, but he got nothing," Schumer said.

The latest standoff comes as Democrats and Republicans have gradually escalated their obstruction of the other party's executive branch and judicial nominees over the last two decades, and as Senate leaders have incrementally changed Senate rules to speed up confirmations — and make them less bipartisan.

In 2013, Democrats changed Senate rules for lower court judicial nominees to remove the 60-vote threshold for confirmations as Republicans blocked President Barack Obama's judicial picks. In 2017, Republicans did the same for Supreme Court nominees as Democrats tried to block Trump's nomination of Justice Neil Gorsuch.

Trump has been pressuring Senate Republicans for weeks to cancel the August recess and grind through dozens of his nominations as Democrats have slowed the process. But Republicans hoped to make a deal with Democrats instead, and came close several times over the last few days as the two parties and the White House negotiated over moving a large tranche of nominees in exchange for reversing some of the Trump administration's spending cuts on foreign aid, among other issues.

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The Senate held a rare weekend session on Saturday as Republicans held votes on nominee after nominee and as the two parties tried to work out the final details of a deal. But it was clear that there would be no agreement when Trump attacked Schumer on social media Saturday evening and told Republicans to pack it up and go home.

"Tell Schumer, who is under tremendous political pressure from within his own party, the Radical Left Lunatics, to GO TO HELL!" Trump posted on Truth Social. "Do not accept the offer, go home and explain to your constituents what bad people the Democrats are, and what a great job the Republicans are doing, and have done, for our Country."

Thune said afterward that there were "several different times" when the two sides thought they had a deal, but in the end "we didn't close it out."

It's the first time in recent history that the minority party hasn't allowed at least some quick confirmations. Thune has already kept the Senate in session for more days, and with longer hours, this year to try and confirm as many of Trump's nominees as possible.

But Democrats had little desire to give in without the spending cut reversals or some other incentive, even though they too were eager to skip town after several long months of work and bitter partisan fights over legislation.

"We have never seen nominees as flawed, as compromised, as unqualified as we have right now," Schumer said.

Jeffrey Epstein's former girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell, is transferred to a prison camp in Texas

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jeffrey Epstein's former girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell, has been moved from a federal prison in Florida to a prison camp in Texas as her criminal case generates renewed public attention.

The federal Bureau of Prisons said Friday that Maxwell had been transferred to Bryan, Texas, but did not explain the circumstances. Her attorney, David Oscar Markus, also confirmed the move but declined to discuss the reasons for it.

Maxwell was convicted in 2021 of luring teenage girls to be sexually abused by the disgraced financier, and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. She had been held at a low-security prison in Tallahassee, Florida, until her transfer to the prison camp in Texas, where other inmates include Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes and Jen Shah of "The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City."

Minimum-security federal prison camps house inmates the Bureau of Prisons considers to be the lowest security risk. Some don't even have fences.

The prison camps were originally designed with low security to make operations easier and to allow inmates tasked with performing work at the prison, like landscaping and maintenance, to avoid repeatedly checking in and out of a main prison facility.

Prosecutors have said Epstein's sex crimes could not have been done without Maxwell, but her lawyers have maintained that she was wrongly prosecuted and denied a fair trial, and have floated the idea of a pardon from President Donald Trump. They have also asked the U.S. Supreme Court to take up her case.

Trump said Friday night that no one has asked him about a clemency for Maxwell.

"I'm allowed to do it but nobody's asked me to do it," he told Newsmax in an interview broadcast Friday night. "I know nothing about it. I don't know anything about the case, but I know I have the right to do it. I have the right to give pardons, I've given pardons to people before, but nobody's even asked me to do it."

Maxwell's case has been the subject of heightened public focus since an outcry over the Justice Department's statement last month saying that it would not be releasing any additional documents from the Epstein sex trafficking investigation. The decision infuriated online sleuths, conspiracy theorists and elements of Trump's base who had hoped to see proof of a government cover-up.

Since then, administration officials have tried to cast themselves as promoting transparency in the case, including by requesting from courts the unsealing of grand jury transcripts.

Maxwell, meanwhile, was interviewed at a Florida courthouse over two days last week by Deputy At-

torney General Todd Blanche and the House Oversight Committee had also said that it wanted to speak with Maxwell. Her lawyers said this week that they would be open to an interview but only if the panel were to ensure immunity from prosecution.

In the Newsmax interview, Trump said he did not know when Blanche would disclose to the public what he and Maxwell discussed during the interviews.

"I think he just wants to make sure that innocent people aren't hurt, but you'd have to speak to him about it," Trump said.

In a letter Friday to Maxwell's lawyers, Rep. James Comer, the committee chair, wrote that the committee was willing to delay the deposition until after the resolution of Maxwell's appeal to the Supreme Court. That appeal is expected to be resolved in late September.

Comer wrote that while Maxwell's testimony was "vital" to the Republican-led investigation into Epstein, the committee would not provide immunity or any questions in advance of her testimony, as was requested by her team.

Officers scour mountainous area of Montana for ex-soldier suspected of killing 4 in bar

Deputies spent Saturday traversing a rugged mountainous area of Montana with helicopters overhead as a manhunt for a military veteran suspected of fatally shooting four people at a bar stretched into a second day with no capture.

Michael Paul Brown, 45, fled The Owl Bar in the small town of Anaconda in a white pickup before ditching it at some point, according to Lee Johnson, administrator of the Montana Division of Criminal Investigation, which is overseeing the case. He urged residents late Friday to stay at home and remain on high alert.

Authorities released a photo of the suspect said to be taken as he fled after the shooting: Gaunt, barefoot and wearing nothing but black shorts, he is seen walking down what appears to be a flight of outdoor concrete steps.

"While law enforcement has not received reports of Brown harming any other individuals, he is believed to be armed, and he is extremely dangerous," Johnson said.

The search was still focused on an area off Stumptown Road west of Anaconda, both on the ground and by air, and included multiple local, state, and federal agencies.

Anaconda-Deer Lodge Police Chief Bill Sather said Saturday that businesses in the area could open, but he urged caution.

Authorities said they would release the names of the victims once all of their families have been notified.

"This is a small, tight-knit community that has been harmed by the heinous actions of one individual who does not represent what this community or Montanans stand for," Johnson said.

Anaconda, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) northwest of Butte, is home to roughly 9,000 people. Hemmed in by mountains, it was founded by copper barons who profited from nearby mines in the late 1800s. A smelter stack that is no longer operational looms over the valley.

Brown lived next door to The Owl Bar, according to owner David Gwerder, who was not there when the shooting happened Friday morning. Gwerder told The Associated Press that the bartender and three patrons were killed, and he did not think anyone else was inside. He was not aware of any conflicts between Brown and the victims.

"He knew everybody that was in that bar. I guarantee you that," Gwerder said. "He didn't have any running dispute with any of them. I just think he snapped."

Brown served in the Army as an armor crewman from 2001 to 2005 and deployed to Iraq from early 2004 until March 2005, according to Lt. Col. Ruth Castro, an Army spokesperson. Brown was in the Montana National Guard from 2006 to March 2009, Castro said, and left military service at the rank of sergeant.

Brown's niece, Clare Boyle, told AP her uncle has struggled with mental illness for years and she and other family members repeatedly sought help.

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"This isn't just a drunk/high man going wild," she said in a Facebook message. "It's a sick man who doesn't know who he is sometimes and frequently doesn't know where or when he is either."

A lockdown of the Stumptown Road area was lifted on Saturday.

A helicopter hovered over a nearby mountainside as officers moved among the trees, said Randy Clark, a retired police officer who lives there.

Word of the shooting spread through the town after it took place, and business owners locked their doors and sheltered inside with customers.

After a reference to Trump's impeachments is removed from a history museum, complex questions echo

NEW YORK (AP) — It would seem the most straightforward of notions: A thing takes place, and it goes into the history books or is added to museum exhibits. But whether something even gets remembered and how — particularly when it comes to the history of a country and its leader — is often the furthest thing from simple.

The latest example of that came Friday, when the Smithsonian Institution said it had removed a reference to the 2019 and 2021 impeachments of President Donald Trump from a panel in an exhibition about the American presidency. Trump has pressed institutions and agencies under federal oversight, often through the pressure of funding, to focus on the country's achievements and progress and away from things he terms "divisive."

The Smithsonian on Saturday denied getting pressure from the Trump administration to remove the reference, which had been installed as part of a temporary addition in 2021. The exhibit "will be updated in the coming weeks to reflect all impeachment proceedings in our nation's history," the museum said in a statement.

In a statement that did not directly address the impeachment references, White House spokesperson Davis Ingle said: "We are fully supportive of updating displays to highlight American greatness."

But is history intended to highlight or to document — to report what happened, or to serve a desired narrative? The answer, as with most things about the past, can be intensely complex.

It's part of a larger effort around American stories

The Smithsonian's move comes in the wake of Trump administration actions like removing the name of a gay rights activist from a Navy ship, pushing for Republican supporters in Congress to defund the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and getting rid of the leadership at the Kennedy Center.

"Based on what we have been seeing, this is part of a broader effort by the president to influence and shape how history is depicted at museums, national parks, and schools," said Julian E. Zelizer, a professor of history and public affairs at Princeton University. "Not only is he pushing a specific narrative of the United States but, in this case, trying to influence how Americans learn about his own role in history."

It's not a new struggle, in the world generally and the political world particularly. There is power in being able to shape how things are remembered, if they are remembered at all — who was there, who took part, who was responsible, what happened to lead up to that point in history. And the human beings who run things have often extended their authority to the stories told about them.

In China, for example, references to the June 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square are forbidden and meticulously regulated by the ruling Communist Party government. In Soviet-era Russia, officials who ran afoul of leaders like Josef Stalin disappeared not only from the government itself but from photographs and history books where they once appeared.

Jason Stanley, an expert on authoritarianism, said controlling what and how people learn of their past has long been used as a vital tool to maintain power. Stanley has made his views about the Trump administration clear; he recently left Yale University to join the University of Toronto, citing concerns over the U.S. political situation.

"If they don't control the historical narrative," he said, "then they can't create the kind of fake history that props up their politics."

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It shows how the presentation of history matters

In the United States, presidents and their families have always used their power to shape history and calibrate their own images. Jackie Kennedy insisted on cuts in William Manchester's book on her husband's 1963 assassination, "The Death of a President." Ronald Reagan and his wife got a cable TV channel to release a carefully calibrated documentary about him. Those around Franklin D. Roosevelt, including journalists of the era, took pains to mask the impact that paralysis had on his body and his mobility.

Trump, though, has taken it to a more intense level — a sitting president encouraging an atmosphere where institutions can feel compelled to choose between him and the truth — whether he calls for it directly or not.

"We are constantly trying to position ourselves in history as citizens, as citizens of the country, citizens of the world," said Robin Wagner-Pacifici, professor emerita of sociology at the New School for Social Research. "So part of these exhibits and monuments are also about situating us in time. And without it, it's very hard for us to situate ourselves in history because it seems like we just kind of burst forth from the Earth."

Timothy Naftali, director of the Richard M. Nixon Presidential Library and Museum from 2007 to 2011, presided over its overhaul to offer a more objective presentation of Watergate — one not beholden to the president's loyalists. In an interview Friday, he said he was "concerned and disappointed" about the Smithsonian decision. Naftali, now a senior researcher at Columbia University, said museum directors "should have red lines" and that he considered removing the Trump panel to be one of them.

While it might seem inconsequential for someone in power to care about a museum's offerings, Wagner-Pacifici says Trump's outlook on history and his role in it — earlier this year, he said the Smithsonian had "come under the influence of a divisive, race-centered ideology" — shows how important those matters are to people in authority.

"You might say about that person, whoever that person is, their power is so immense and their legitimacy is so stable and so sort of monumental that why would they bother with things like this ... why would they bother to waste their energy and effort on that?" Wagner-Pacifici said. Her conclusion: "The legitimacy of those in power has to be reconstituted constantly. They can never rest on their laurels."

Smoke from Canadian wildfires brings unhealthy air to large swaths of the Midwest

Smoke from Canadian wildfires hovered over several Midwestern states Saturday, bringing warnings of unhealthy air for at least the third day.

Air quality alerts were in effect in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, as well as eastern Nebraska and parts of Indiana and Illinois. Forecasters said the smoky skies would remain for much of the day.

Canadian environmental officials said smoke from the forest fires would persist into Sunday for some areas.

The Switzerland-based air quality monitoring database IQAir, which assesses air quality in real time, listed the city of Minneapolis as having some of the worst air pollution in the world since Friday. The Air Quality Index (AQI) was expected to reach the red or unhealthy category in a large swath of Minnesota.

AQI is a system used to communicate how much air pollution is in the air. It breaks pollution down into six categories and colors, along with advice on what is and is not safe to do. They range from "good" (the color green) to "hazardous" (maroon).

People with lung disease, heart disease, children, older adults and pregnant women are most susceptible to the poor breathing conditions.

"What's been unique in this go-around is that we've had this prolonged stretch of smoke particulates towards the surface, so that's where we've really had the air quality in the red here for the past few days," said Joe Strus, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in the Minneapolis–Saint Paul area in Minnesota.

"We've sort of been dealing with this, day in and day out, where you walk outside and you can taste the

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smoke, you can smell it," Strus said. "Sometimes we've been in higher concentrations than others. Other times it's just looked a little hazy out there."

The air was improving Saturday, he said, specifically across the Twin Cities and southwestern Minnesota, but state health officials warned that conditions could remain unhealthy for sensitive groups through Monday.

Officials said the smoke could spread as far south as Tennessee and Missouri.

The EPA's Air Quality Index converts all pollutant levels into a single number. The lower the number, the better. Anything below 50 is classified as "healthy." Fifty to 100 is "moderate" while 100-150 is unhealthy for "sensitive groups." Anything above 150 is bad for everyone. Parts of Minnesota exceeded that number on Saturday.

Health officials advise people with asthma and other lung disease, heart disease, children and older adults to avoid prolonged exposure to smoke and limit strenuous activities. They said to avoid burning things that could make the air pollution worse and to keep windows and doors closed.

"This is something that's become part of our summer here the last few years," Strus said, "and I think a lot of us are just looking forward to seeing a little more movement in the atmospheric winds and we'll be able to hopefully disperse some of the smoke out of here in the next few days."

Israeli fire again kills Gaza aid-seekers as US envoy meets with hostages' families

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli forces opened fire near two aid distribution sites run by the Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation as crowds of hungry Palestinians again sought food, killing at least 10 people, witnesses and health workers said Saturday. The violence came a day after U.S. officials visited a GHF site and the U.S. ambassador called the troubled system "an incredible feat."

Another 19 people were shot dead as they crowded near the Zikim crossing from Israel in the hope of obtaining aid, said Fares Awad, head of the Gaza health ministry's ambulance and emergency service.

Nearly a week has passed since Israel, under international pressure amid growing scenes of starving children, announced limited humanitarian pauses and airdrops meant to get more food to Gaza's over 2 million people. They now largely rely on aid after almost 22 months of war.

But the United Nations, partners and Palestinians say far too little aid is coming in, with months of supplies piled up outside Gaza waiting for Israeli approval. Trucks that enter are mostly stripped of supplies by desperate people and criminal groups before reaching warehouses for distribution.

Experts this week said a "worst-case scenario of famine" was occurring. On Saturday, Gaza's health ministry said seven Palestinians had died of malnutrition-related causes over the past 24 hours, including a child.

Aid is "far from sufficient," Germany's government said via spokesman Stefan Kornelius. The U.N. has said 500 to 600 trucks of aid are needed daily.

Families of the 50 hostages still in Gaza fear they are going hungry too, and blame Hamas, after the militants released images of an emaciated hostage, Evyatar David.

"The humanitarian aid flowing into Gaza, meant to alleviate suffering, must reach Evyatar, Guy and all the other hostages too," David's brother Illay told a large rally in Tel Aviv.

More deaths near U.S.-supported GHF sites

Near the northernmost GHF distribution site near the Netzarim corridor, Yahia Youssef, who had come to seek aid, described a grimly familiar scene. After helping carry three people wounded by gunshots, he said he saw others on the ground, bleeding.

"It's the same daily episode," Youssef said. Health workers said at least eight people were killed. Israel's military said it fired warning shots at a gathering approaching its forces.

At least two people were killed in the Shakoush area hundreds of meters (yards) from where the GHF operates in the southernmost city of Rafah, witnesses said. Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis received two

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bodies and many injured.

Witness Mohamed Abu Taha said Israeli troops opened fire toward the crowds. He saw three people — two men and a woman — shot as he fled.

Israel's military said it was not aware of any fire by its forces in the area. The GHF said nothing happened near its sites.

GHF says its armed contractors have only used pepper spray or fired warning shots to prevent deadly crowding. Israel's military on Friday said it was working to make the routes under its control safer.

The GHF — backed by millions of dollars in U.S. support — launched in May as Israel sought an alternative to the U.N.-run system, which had safely delivered aid for much of the war but was accused by Israel of allowing Hamas to siphon off supplies. Israel has not offered evidence for that claim and the U.N. has denied it.

From May 27 to July 31, 859 people were killed near GHF sites, according to a U.N. report Thursday. Hundreds more have been killed along the routes of U.N.-led food convoys. Hamas-led police once guarded those convoys, but Israeli fire targeted the officers.

Israel and GHF have claimed the toll has been exaggerated.

Airdrops by a Jordan-led coalition — which is made up of Israel, the UAE, Egypt, France, and Germany — are another approach, though experts say the strategy remains deeply inadequate and even dangerous for people on the ground.

"Let's go back to what works & let us do our job," Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, wrote on social media, calling for more and safer truck deliveries.

Hostage families push Israel to cut deal

U.S. President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, met with hostages' families Saturday, a week after quitting ceasefire talks, blaming Hamas' intransigence.

"I didn't hear anything new from him. I heard that there was pressure from the Americans to end this operation, but we didn't hear anything practical," said Michel Illouz, father of Israeli hostage Guy Illouz.

He said he asked Witkoff to set a time frame but got "no answers."

Protesters called on Israel's government to make a deal to end the war, imploring them to "stop this nightmare and bring them out of the tunnels."

Airstrikes continue

Nasser Hospital said it received five bodies after two Israeli strikes on tents sheltering displaced people in Gaza's south.

The health ministry's ambulance and emergency service said a strike hit a house between the towns of Zawaida and Deir al-Balah, killing two parents and their three children. Another strike hit a tent in Khan Younis, killing a mother and her daughter.

Israel's top general Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir warned that "combat will continue without rest" if hostages aren't freed.

Coming home to ruins

Most Palestinians are crowded into ever-shrinking areas considered safe.

"I don't know what to do. Destruction, destruction," said Mohamed Qeiga, who returned home to Gaza City and stood amid the neighborhood's collapsed concrete slabs. "Where will people settle?"

The war began when Hamas attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 60,400 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between militants and civilians but says women and children make up over half the dead. The ministry operates under the Hamas government. The U.N. and other international organizations see it as the most reliable source of data on casualties.

The ministry says 93 children have died from malnutrition-related causes in Gaza since the war began. It said 76 adults have died of malnutrition-related causes since late June, when it started counting adult deaths.

Pope thrills hundreds of thousands of young Catholics at Holy Year youth festival

ROME (AP) — Pope Leo XIV urged hundreds of thousands of young people on Saturday to have the courage to make radical choices to do good, as he presided over his first big encounter with the next generation of Catholics during the highlight of the Vatican's 2025 Holy Year.

Leo encountered a sea of people as he arrived by helicopter at the Tor Vergata field on Rome's outskirts for a vigil service of the Jubilee of Youth. Hailing from early 150 countries, the pilgrims had set up campsites on the field for the night, as misting trucks and water cannons spritzed them to cool them down from the 30C (85F) temperatures.

Leo displayed his fluency in speaking to the kids in Spanish, Italian and English about the dangers of social media, the value of true friendship and the need to have courage to make radical choices like marriage or religious vows.

"Friendship can really change the world. Friendship is a path to peace," he said. "How much the world needs missionaries of the Gospel who are witnesses of justice and peace!"

But history's first American pope also alerted them to some tragic news: Two young people who had made the pilgrimage to Rome had died, one reportedly of cardiac arrest, while a third was hospitalized, Leo told the crowd during the vigil service.

Leo was to return to the field for an early morning Mass on Sunday morning to close out the celebration. Rome welcomes the throngs

For the past week, these bands of young Catholics from around the world have poured into Rome for their special Jubilee celebration, in a Holy Year in which 32 million people are expected to descend on the Vatican to participate in a centuries-old pilgrimage to the seat of Catholicism.

The young people have been traipsing down cobblestoned streets in color-coordinated T-shirts, praying the Rosary and singing hymns with guitars, bongo drums and tambourines shimmying alongside. Using their flags as tarps to shield them from the sun, they have taken over entire piazzas for Christian rock concerts and inspirational talks, and stood for hours at the Circus Maximus to confess their sins to 1,000 priests offering the sacrament in a dozen different languages.

"It is something spiritual, that you can experience only every 25 years," said Francisco Michel, a pilgrim from Mexico. "As a young person, having the chance to live this meeting with the pope I feel it is a spiritual growth."

A mini World Youth Day, 25 years later

It all has the vibe of a World Youth Day, the Catholic Woodstock festival that St. John Paul II inaugurated and made famous in Rome in 2000 at the very same Tor Vergata field. Then, before an estimated 2 million people, John Paul told the young pilgrims they were the "sentinels of the morning" at the dawn of the third millennium.

Officials had initially expected 500,000 youngsters this weekend, but Leo and organizers from the stage said the number could reach 1 million. The Vatican didn't immediately provide a final estimate.

"It's a bit messed up, but this is what is nice about the Jubilee," said Chloe Jobbour, a 19-year-old Lebanese Catholic who was in Rome with a group of more than 200 young members of the Community of the Beatitudes, a France-based charismatic group.

She said, for example, that it had taken two hours to get dinner at a KFC overwhelmed by orders Friday night. The Salesian school that offered her group housing is an hour away by bus. But Jobbour, like many in Rome this week, didn't mind the discomfort: It's all part of the experience.

"I don't expect it to be better than that. I expected it this way," she said, as members of her group gathered on church steps near the Vatican to sing and pray Saturday morning before heading out to Tor Vergata.

Romans inconvenienced, but tolerant

Those Romans who didn't flee the onslaught have been inconvenienced by the additional strain on the city's notoriously insufficient public transport system. Residents are sharing social media posts of outbursts

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by Romans at kids flooding subway platforms and crowding bus stops that have delayed and complicated their commutes to work.

But other Romans have welcomed the enthusiasm the youngsters have brought. Premier Giorgia Meloni offered a video welcome, marveling at the "extraordinary festival of faith, joy and hope" that the young people had created.

"I think it's marvelous," said Rome hairdresser Rina Verdone, who lives near the Tor Vergata field and woke up Saturday to find a gaggle of police outside her home as part of the massive, 4,000-strong operation mounted to keep the peace. "You think the faith, the religion is in difficulty, but this is proof that it's not so."

Verdone had already made plans to take an alternate route home Saturday afternoon, that would require an extra kilometer (half-mile) walk, because she feared the "invasion" of kids in her neighborhood would disrupt her usual bus route. But she said she was more than happy to make the sacrifice.

"You think of invasion as something negative. But this is a positive invasion," she said.

It's Trump's economy now. The latest financial numbers offer some warning signs

WASHINGTON (AP) — For all of President Donald Trump's promises of an economic "golden age," a spate of weak indicators this week told a potentially worrisome story as the impacts of his policies are coming into focus.

Job gains are dwindling. Inflation is ticking upward. Growth has slowed compared with last year.

More than six months into his term, Trump's blitz of tariff hikes and his new tax and spending bill have remodeled America's trading, manufacturing, energy and tax systems to his own liking. He's eager to take credit for any wins that might occur and is hunting for someone else to blame if the financial situation starts to totter.

But as of now, this is not the boom the Republican president promised, and his ability to blame his Democratic predecessor, Joe Biden, for any economic challenges has faded as the world economy hangs on his every word and social media post.

When Friday's jobs report turned out to be decidedly bleak, Trump ignored the warnings in the data and fired the head of the agency that produces the monthly jobs figures.

"Important numbers like this must be fair and accurate, they can't be manipulated for political purposes," Trump said on Truth Social, without offering evidence for his claim. "The Economy is BOOMING."

It's possible that the disappointing numbers are growing pains from the rapid transformation caused by Trump and that stronger growth will return — or they may be a preview of even more disruption to come.

Trump's economic plans are a political gamble

Trump's aggressive use of tariffs, executive actions, spending cuts and tax code changes carries significant political risk if he is unable to deliver middle-class prosperity. The effects of his new tariffs are still several months away from rippling through the economy, right as many Trump allies in Congress will be campaigning in the midterm elections.

"Considering how early we are in his term, Trump's had an unusually big impact on the economy already," said Alex Conant, a Republican strategist at Firehouse Strategies. "The full inflationary impact of the tariffs won't be felt until 2026. Unfortunately for Republicans, that's also an election year."

The White House portrayed the blitz of trade frameworks leading up to Thursday's tariff announcement as proof of his negotiating prowess. The European Union, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia and other nations that the White House declined to name agreed that the U.S. could increase its tariffs on their goods without doing the same to American products. Trump simply set rates on other countries that lacked settlements.

The costs of those tariffs — taxes paid on imports to the U.S. — will be most felt by many Americans in the form of higher prices, but to what extent remains uncertain.

"For the White House and their allies, a key part of managing the expectations and politics of the Trump

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economy is maintaining vigilance when it comes to public perceptions," said Kevin Madden, a Republican strategist.

Just 38% of adults approve of Trump's handling of the economy, according to a July poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs. That's down from the end of Trump's first term when half of adults approved of his economic leadership.

The White House paints a rosier image, seeing the economy emerging from a period of uncertainty after Trump's restructuring and repeating the economic gains seen in his first term before the pandemic struck.

"President Trump is implementing the very same policy mix of deregulation, fairer trade, and pro-growth tax cuts at an even bigger scale – as these policies take effect, the best is yet to come," White House spokesman Kush Desai said.

Recent economic reports suggest trouble ahead

The economic numbers over the past week show the difficulties that Trump might face if the numbers continue on their current path:

— Friday's jobs report showed that U.S. employers have shed 37,000 manufacturing jobs since Trump's tariff launch in April, undermining prior White House claims of a factory revival.

— Net hiring has plummeted over the past three months with job gains of just 73,000 in July, 14,000 in June and 19,000 in May — a combined 258,000 jobs lower than previously indicated. On average last year, the economy added 168,000 jobs a month.

— A Thursday inflation report showed that prices have risen 2.6% over the year that ended in June, an increase in the personal consumption expenditures price index from 2.2% in April. Prices of heavily imported items, such as appliances, furniture, and toys and games, jumped from May to June.

— On Wednesday, a report on gross domestic product — the broadest measure of the U.S. economy — showed that it grew at an annual rate of less than 1.3% during the first half of the year, down sharply from 2.8% growth last year.

"The economy's just kind of slogging forward," said Guy Berger, senior fellow at the Burning Glass Institute, which studies employment trends. "Yes, the unemployment rate's not going up, but we're adding very few jobs. The economy's been growing very slowly. It just looks like a 'meh' economy is continuing."

Trump's Fed attacks could unleash more inflation

Trump has sought to pin the blame for any economic troubles on Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, saying the Fed should cut its benchmark interest rates even though doing so could generate more inflation.

Trump has publicly backed two Fed governors, Christopher Waller and Michelle Bowman, for voting for rate cuts at Wednesday's meeting. But their logic is not what the president wants to hear: They were worried, in part, about a slowing job market.

But this is a major economic gamble being undertaken by Trump and those pushing for lower rates under the belief that mortgages will also become more affordable as a result and boost homebuying activity.

His tariff policy has changed repeatedly over the last six months, with the latest import tax numbers serving as a substitute for what the president announced in April, which provoked a stock market sell-off. It might not be a simple one-time adjustment as some Fed board members and Trump administration officials argue.

Trump didn't listen to the warnings on 'universal' tariffs

Of course, Trump can't say no one warned him about the possible consequences of his economic policies.

Biden, then the outgoing president, did just that in a speech last December at the Brookings Institution, saying the cost of the tariffs would eventually hit American workers and businesses.

"He seems determined to impose steep, universal tariffs on all imported goods brought into this country on the mistaken belief that foreign countries will bear the cost of those tariffs rather than the American consumer," Biden said. "I believe this approach is a major mistake."

Limited options for Democrats to retaliate if Texas Republicans redraw congressional map

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Republicans move to redraw legislative maps in red states to pad their narrow House majority in Washington, some Democrats are rethinking their embrace of a nonpartisan approach to line-drawing that now complicates their party's ability to hit back before next year's midterm elections.

In many Democratic-controlled states, independent commissions rather than the state legislature handle redistricting, the normally-once-a-decade task of adjusting congressional and legislative districts so their populations are equal. Parties in the majority can exploit that process to shape their lawmakers' districts so they are almost guaranteed reelection.

The commission model limits parties' ability to game the system, leading to more competitive districts. Not all redistricting commissions were created at Democrats' insistence. And, like Republicans, the party has exploited line-drawing for its own gain in the handful of states where it controls the process. But unlike Republicans, many Democratic Party leaders have embraced the nonpartisan model.

That means Democrats have fewer options to match Republicans, who are redrawing the U.S. House map in Texas at President Donald Trump's urging to carve out as many as five new winnable seats for the GOP. That could be enough to prevent Democrats from winning back the majority next year.

The GOP plan cleared a state House committee Saturday.

Democrats have threatened payback. During a gathering Friday in Wisconsin of Democratic governors, several of them said they wanted to retaliate because the stakes are so high.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, who has pushed for a nonpartisan redistricting commission in his state, said Democrats must "do whatever we can" to counter the Republican efforts to redraw congressional maps.

"When you have a gun against your head, you've got to do something," he said.

Despite the ambitious talk, Democrats largely have their hands tied.

Democratic states have limited ability to redistrict for political edge

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has said he and the Democratic-controlled Legislature will try to redraw his state's congressional map. But they would need to repeal or defy the 2008 ballot measure creating an independent redistricting commission. Voters extended its authority to congressional districts two years later.

Newsom supported the constitutional amendment at the time, when he was mayor of San Francisco. The Texas redistricting, which is expected to pass the Legislature next week, led him to modify that position.

"We can act holier than thou, we can sit on the sidelines, talk about the way the world should be, or we can recognize the existential nature that is this moment," Newsom said earlier this month.

In New York, which also has a commission, the state constitution bars another map this decade. Democrats have moved for a change, but that could not happen until 2027 at the earliest, and then only with voter approval.

In other states where Democrats control the governor's office and legislature, including Colorado and Washington, the party has backed independent commissions that cannot redraw, let alone rig, maps in the middle of the decade.

Democrats say 'foundations of our democracy' at stake

When the redistricting cycle kicked off in 2021, after the last census, independent commissions were in charge of drawing 95 House seats that otherwise would have been drawn by Democrats, but only 13 that would have been created by Republicans.

In a marker of the shift among Democrats, former Attorney General Eric Holder, who heads the party's redistricting effort and has called repeatedly for a more nonpartisan approach, seemed to bless his party's long shot efforts to overrule their commissions.

"We do not oppose – on a temporary basis – responsible, responsive actions to ensure that the foundations of our democracy are not permanently eroded," Holder said in a statement last week.

In states where they weren't checked by commissions, Democrats have redistricted just as ruthlessly as Republicans. In Illinois, they drew a map that gave them a 14-3 advantage in the congressional delegation. In New Mexico, they tweaked the map so they control all three House seats. In Nevada, they held three

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of its four seats in November despite Trump winning the state.

Even in states where they have a lopsided advantage, Democrats are exploring ways to maximize it.

On Friday, Maryland's House Majority Leader, Democratic Del. David Moon, said he would introduce legislation to trigger redrawing of the congressional lines if Texas moves forward. Democrats hold seven of the state's eight congressional seats.

"We can't have one state, especially a very large state, constantly trying to one-up and alter the course of congressional control while the other states sit idly by," he said.

Commissions promote 'fair representation,' advocates say

Advocates of a nonpartisan model are alarmed by the shift among Democrats. They say the party would redistrict just as aggressively as the GOP if not held in check, depriving voters of a voice in districts whose winners would essentially be selected in advance by political leaders.

"We're very desperate — we're looking for any port in a storm," said Emily Eby French, Common Cause's Texas director. "This Democratic tit for tat redistricting seems like a port but it's not a port. It's a jagged rock with a bunch of sirens on them."

The group's director of redistricting, Dan Vicuña, said using redistricting for partisan advantage — known as gerrymandering — is highly unpopular with the public: "This is about fair representation for communities."

Politicians used to shy away from discussing it openly, but that has changed in today's polarized environment. Trump earlier this month told reporters about his hopes of netting five additional GOP seats in Texas and more out of other Republican-controlled states.

He has urged new maps in GOP-controlled states such as Indiana and Missouri, while Ohio Republicans are poised to reshape political lines after neutralizing a push to create an independent redistricting commission.

Democrats are divided over how to respond to Texas

In a sign of the party's divide, Democrats have continued to push for a national redistricting panel that would remove partisanship from the process, even as some call for retaliation against Republicans in defiance of state limitations.

"No unilateral disarmament till both sides are following the law," said Arizona Sen. Ruben Gallego, like Newsom a possible 2028 presidential contender, wrote on X. Gallego's post came a day before his Democratic colleagues gathered to announce they were reintroducing a bill to create the national commission.

An identical bill died in 2022 when it couldn't overcome Republican objections despite Democrats controlling Congress and the presidency. It has no chance now that the GOP is in charge of both branches.

Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy, another potential 2028 contender, did not express regret over past changes that have put in place independent redistricting boards in Democratic states, saying the party "should never apologize for being for the right thing."

He added that Republicans "are operating outside of the box right now and we can't stay inside the box."

"If they're changing districts in the middle of the 10-year cycle, we have to do the same thing," he said.

That approach, however, has not caught on across the party.

"We shouldn't stoop to their tactics," Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn. "It's an ideal that we have accurate and fair representation. We can't abandon it just because Republicans try to manipulate and distort it."

From Laos to Brazil, Trump's tariffs leave a lot of losers. But even the winners will pay a price

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's tariff onslaught this week left a lot of losers — from small, poor countries like Laos and Algeria to wealthy U.S. trading partners like Canada and Switzerland. They're now facing especially hefty taxes — tariffs — on the products they export to the United States starting Aug. 7.

The closest thing to winners may be the countries that caved to Trump's demands — and avoided even more pain. But it's unclear whether anyone will be able to claim victory in the long run — even the United

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States, the intended beneficiary of Trump's protectionist policies.

"In many respects, everybody's a loser here," said Barry Appleton, co-director of the Center for International Law at the New York Law School.

Barely six months after he returned to the White House, Trump has demolished the old global economic order. Gone is one built on agreed-upon rules. In its place is a system in which Trump himself sets the rules, using America's enormous economic power to punish countries that won't agree to one-sided trade deals and extracting huge concessions from the ones that do.

"The biggest winner is Trump," said Alan Wolff, a former U.S. trade official and deputy director-general at the World Trade Organization. "He bet that he could get other countries to the table on the basis of threats, and he succeeded — dramatically."

Everything goes back to what Trump calls "Liberation Day" — April 2 — when the president announced "reciprocal" taxes of up to 50% on imports from countries with which the United States ran trade deficits and 10% "baseline" taxes on almost everyone else.

He invoked a 1977 law to declare the trade deficit a national emergency that justified his sweeping import taxes. That allowed him to bypass Congress, which traditionally has had authority over taxes, including tariffs — all of which is now being challenged in court.

Winners will still pay higher tariffs than before Trump took office

Trump retreated temporarily after his Liberation Day announcement triggered a rout in financial markets and suspended the reciprocal tariffs for 90 days to give countries a chance to negotiate.

Eventually, some of them did, caving to Trump's demands to pay what four months ago would have seemed unthinkable high tariffs for the privilege of continuing to sell into the vast American market.

The United Kingdom agreed to 10% tariffs on its exports to the United States — up from 1.3% before Trump amped up his trade war with the world. The U.S. demanded concessions even though it had run a trade surplus, not a deficit, with the UK for 19 straight years.

The European Union and Japan accepted U.S. tariffs of 15%. Those are much higher than the low single-digit rates they paid last year — but lower than the tariffs he was threatening (30% on the EU and 25% on Japan).

Also cutting deals with Trump and agreeing to hefty tariffs were Pakistan, South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Even countries that saw their tariffs lowered from April without reaching a deal are still paying much higher tariffs than before Trump took office. Angola's tariff, for instance, dropped to 15% from 32% in April, but in 2022 it was less than 1.5%. And while Trump administration cut Taiwan's tariff to 20% from 32% in April, the pain will still be felt.

"20% from the beginning has not been our goal, we hope that in further negotiations we will get a more beneficial and more reasonable tax rate," Taiwan's president Lai Ching-te told reporters in Taipei Friday.

Trump also agreed to reduce the tariff on the tiny southern African kingdom of Lesotho to 15% from the 50% he'd announced in April, but the damage may already have been done there.

Bashing Brazil, clobbering Canada, shellacking the Swiss

Countries that didn't knuckle under — and those that found other ways to incur Trump's wrath — got hit harder.

Even some poorer countries were not spared. Laos' annual economic output comes to \$2,100 per person and Algeria's \$5,600 — versus America's \$75,000. Nonetheless, Laos got rocked with a 40% tariff and Algeria with a 30% levy.

Trump slammed Brazil with a 50% import tax largely because he didn't like the way it was treating former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who is facing trial for trying to lose his electoral defeat in 2022. Never mind that the U.S. has exported more to Brazil than it's imported every year since 2007.

Trump's decision to plaster a 35% tariff on longstanding U.S. ally Canada was partly designed to threaten Ottawa for saying it would recognize a Palestinian state. Trump is a staunch supporter of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

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Switzerland was clobbered with a 39% import tax — even higher than the 31% Trump originally announced on April 2.

"The Swiss probably wish that they had camped in Washington" to make a deal, said Wolff, now senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "They're clearly not at all happy."

Fortunes may change if Trump's tariffs are upended in court. Five American businesses and 12 states are suing the president, arguing that his Liberation Day tariffs exceeded his authority under the 1977 law.

In May, the U.S. Court of International Trade, a specialized court in New York, agreed and blocked the tariffs, although the government was allowed to continue collecting them while its appeal wend its way through the legal system, and may likely end up at the U.S. Supreme Court. In a hearing Thursday, the judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit sounded skeptical about Trump's justifications for the tariffs.

"If (the tariffs) get struck down, then maybe Brazil's a winner and not a loser," Appleton said.

Paying more for knapsacks and video games

Trump portrays his tariffs as a tax on foreign countries. But they are actually paid by import companies in the U.S. who try to pass along the cost to their customers via higher prices. True, tariffs can hurt other countries by forcing their exporters to cut prices and sacrifice profits — or risk losing market share in the United States.

But economists at Goldman Sachs estimate that overseas exporters have absorbed just one-fifth of the rising costs from tariffs, while Americans and U.S. businesses have picked up the most of the tab.

Walmart, Procter & Gamble, Ford, Best Buy, Adidas, Nike, Mattel and Stanley Black & Decker, have all hiked prices due to U.S. tariffs

"This is a consumption tax, so it disproportionately affects those who have lower incomes," Appleton said. "Sneakers, knapsacks ... your appliances are going to go up. Your TV and electronics are going to go up. Your video game devices, consoles are going to up because none of those are made in America."

Trump's trade war has pushed the average U.S. tariff from 2.5% at the start of 2025 to 18.3% now, the highest since 1934, according to the Budget Lab at Yale University. And that will impose a \$2,400 cost on the average household, the lab estimates.

"The U.S. consumer's a big loser," Wolff said.

What to know if you're at risk of having your wages garnished over student loan debt

NEW YORK (AP) — Millions of student borrowers could begin having their wages garnished as soon as this summer, according to estimates from credit bureau TransUnion.

The company predicts that by August roughly 3 million borrowers could move into default, meaning they're 270 days past due on payments. At that point, loan holders are at risk of having 15% of their pay docked by the government, with the money going toward the outstanding debt. There has been no clear indication of when wage garnishment will start.

After the pandemic-era pause on student loan payments ended in May, borrowers have had to reassess the state of their loans and budgets. According to TransUnion, another 2 million borrowers are on course to default in September.

A Biden-administration grace period, during which late or missed payments were not counted against credit scores, ended in the fall.

Since then, millions of borrowers have seen hits to their credit ratings.

Here's what to know:

What you can do to prepare

"The most important thing borrowers can do before administrative wage garnishment restarts is to log into studentaid.gov to check whether their federal student loans are in default and take steps now to remove them from default," said Kyra Taylor, staff attorney at the National Consumer Law Center.

Taylor said it's not uncommon for borrowers to be unaware that their loans are in default. If borrowers

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attended college or graduate school during different periods of time, or if they have different federal loan types, they may also have multiple student loan servicers.

If that's the case, you should act now to get your loans out of default and back into good standing by either entering a rehabilitation agreement, where you must make nine consecutive payments based on their income, or by consolidating your loans into a new federal Direct Loan.

"Because this hasn't happened for so long, there are many people who have no idea they're at risk," said Aissa Canchola Bañez, policy director at the Student Borrower Protection Center.

Wait times for student borrowers attempting to contact their loan servicers have been long, with many dropped calls, in part due to layoffs at the Education Department. Bañez recommends contacting your congressperson, using a casework tool that can guide youth through submitting a constituent request.

"These offices have entire teams dedicated to constituent casework for when you have an issue with a federal agency, such as the Department of Education," she said. "So you can request assistance from your member of congress — your representative or senator."

What happens if you remain in default

Until past due payments are paid or the loan's default status is resolved, borrowers are at risk of having up to 15% of their wages deducted directly from their paychecks.

The Department of Education has sent notices to borrowers warning that tax refunds and wages could be withheld starting this summer if borrowers don't take steps to restart payments. The department hasn't yet provided additional information on timing.

Richelle Brooks, 37, an education administrator based in Los Angeles, said she's received warnings and notices about the resumption of collection of her loans. For several degrees, she still has \$239,000 in outstanding debt, and she was informed her monthly payments on those loans will be roughly \$3,000.

"I can't afford it," she said. "We just came out of the moratorium — not paying for five years. People getting these notices — they're terrified. I'm uneasy, too."

Brooks said she's an informed borrower who stays up to date on each development and who knows her options. She plans to enroll in coding classes, at least half-time, which could place her loans in deferment, so she wouldn't be required to make monthly payments, while she makes a financial plan.

Some options if you fear your wages will be garnished

There's still time to take action.

According to Taylor, the Department of Education must provide 30 days notice before it sends a garnishment order to your employer. During that time, you can request a hearing to object by telling the department that the garnishment would cause you financial hardship. You can also request that the department reduce the amount being garnished and submit documentation about your income and expenses.

To do this, you must make your hearing request in writing, postmarked no later than 30 days after the garnishment order. Your loan holder will then arrange the hearing. If you're unsure who your loan holder is, you can contact the Education Department's Default Resolution Group.

If you were laid off from your last job, you can also object to garnishment if you have not been in your current job for 12 consecutive months. You can further request a hearing and object if you submitted an application for certain kinds of statutory discharges and those have not yet been decided. Some common reasons for statutory discharge of student loans include: if the school you attended closed before you could complete your degree, if your school owes you a refund but fails to pay it, if you're experiencing total disability, or if you're experiencing bankruptcy.

"If the borrower requests a hearing within 30 days after receiving the garnishment notice, the department cannot start garnishment until it issues a decision on the borrower's objections and financial hardship request," Taylor said.

You can request a hearing after the 30 day period is up, but in those cases the department will generally not stop garnishing your wages while the hearing request is pending.

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Got the sniffles? Here's what to know about summer colds, COVID-19 and more

Summer heat, outdoor fun ... and cold and flu symptoms?

The three may not go together in many people's minds: partly owing to common myths about germs and partly because many viruses really do have lower activity levels in the summer.

But it is possible to get the sniffles — or worse — in the summer. Federal data released Friday, for example, shows COVID-19 is trending up in many parts of the country, with emergency department visits up among people of all ages.

Here's what to know about summer viruses.

How much are colds and flu circulating right now?

The number of people seeking medical care for three key illnesses — COVID-19, flu and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV — is currently low, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Flu is trending down and RSV was steady this week. But COVID-19 is trending up in many mid-Atlantic, southeast, Southern and West Coast states.

The expectation is that COVID-19 will eventually settle into a winter seasonal pattern like other coronaviruses, but the past few years have brought a late summer surge, said Dr. Dean Blumberg, chief of pediatric infectious diseases at University of California Davis Children's Hospital.

Other viruses circulating this time of year include the one that causes "hand, foot and mouth" disease — which has symptoms similar to a cold, plus sores and rashes — and norovirus, sometimes called the stomach flu.

Do viruses spread less in the summer?

Many viruses circulate seasonally, picking up as the weather cools in the fall and winter. So it's true that fewer people get stuffy noses and coughs in the summer — but cold weather itself does not cause colds.

It's not just about seasonality. The other factor is our behavior, experts say. Nice weather means people are opening windows and gathering outside where it's harder for germs to spread.

But respiratory viruses are still around. When the weather gets too hot and everyone heads inside for the air conditioning, doctors say they start seeing more sickness. In places where it gets really hot for a long time, summer can be cold season in its own right.

"I grew up on the East Coast and everybody gets sick in the winter," said Dr. Frank LoVecchio, an emergency room doctor and Arizona State University researcher. "A lot of people get sick in the summer here. Why is that? Because you spend more time indoors."

Should you get another COVID-19 booster now?

For people who are otherwise healthy, timing is a key consideration to getting any vaccine. You want to get it a few weeks before that big trip or wedding, if that's the reason for getting boosted, doctors say. But, for most people, it may be worth waiting until the fall in anticipation of winter cases of COVID-19 really tick up.

"You want to be fully protected at the time that it's most important for you," said Dr. Costi Sifri, of the University of Virginia Health System.

People at higher risk of complications should always talk with their doctor about what is best for them, Sifri added. Older adults and those with weak immune systems may need more boosters than others, he said.

Are more younger kids getting sick with COVID-19?

Last week, the CDC noted emergency room visits among children younger than 4 were rising. That makes sense, Blumberg said, because many young kids are getting it for the first time or are unvaccinated.

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said in May that the shots would no longer be recommended for healthy kids, a decision that health experts have said lacks scientific basis. The American Academy of Pediatrics still endorses COVID-19 shots for children older than 6 months.

How else can I lower my risk?

The same things that help prevent colds, flu and COVID any other time of the year work in the summer,

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doctors say.

Spend time outside when you can, wash your hands, wear a mask. And if you're sick, stay home.

SpaceX delivers four astronauts to the International Space Station just 15 hours after launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — SpaceX delivered a fresh crew to the International Space Station on Saturday, making the trip in a quick 15 hours.

The four U.S., Russian and Japanese astronauts pulled up in their SpaceX capsule after launching from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. They will spend at least six months at the orbiting lab, swapping places with colleagues up there since March. SpaceX will bring those four back as early as Wednesday.

Moving in are NASA's Zena Cardman and Mike Fincke, Japan's Kimiya Yui and Russia's Oleg Platonov — each of whom had been originally assigned to other missions. "Hello, space station!" Fincke radioed as soon as the capsule docked high above the South Pacific.

Cardman and another astronaut were pulled from a SpaceX flight last year to make room for NASA's two stuck astronauts, Boeing Starliner test pilots Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, whose space station stay went from one week to more than nine months. Fincke and Yui had been training for the next Starliner mission. But with Starliner grounded by thruster and other problems until 2026, the two switched to SpaceX.

Platonov was bumped from the Soyuz launch lineup a couple of years ago because of an undisclosed illness.

Their arrival temporarily puts the space station population at 11.

"It was such an unbelievably beautiful sight to see the space station come into our view for the first time," Cardman said once on board.

While their taxi flight was speedy by U.S. standards, the Russians hold the record for the fastest trip to the space station — a lightning-fast three hours.

Today in History: August 3, deadly Walmart shooting in El Paso

Today is Sunday, Aug. 3, the 215th day of 2025. There are 150 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On August 3, 2019, a gunman opened fire at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, resulting in the deaths of 23 people; after surrendering, the gunman told detectives he targeted "Mexicans" and had outlined the plot in a screed published online shortly before the attack.

Also on this date:

In 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, on his first voyage that took him to the present-day Americas.

In 1852, in America's first intercollegiate sporting event, Harvard rowed past Yale to win the first Harvard-Yale Regatta.

In 1916, Irish-born British diplomat Roger Casement, a strong advocate of independence for Ireland, was hanged for treason.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the first of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he took the 100-meter sprint.

In 1972, the U.S. Senate ratified the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union.

In 1977, the Tandy Corporation introduced the TRS-80, one of the first widely-available home computers.

In 1981, U.S. air traffic controllers went on strike, seeking pay and workplace improvements (two days later, President Ronald Reagan fired the 11,345 striking union members and barred them from federal employment).

In 2004, the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty opened to visitors for the first time since the 9/11 attacks.

In 2018, Las Vegas police said they were closing their investigation into the Oct. 1, 2017, shooting that

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left 58 people dead at a country music festival without a definitive answer for why Stephen Paddock unleashed gunfire from a hotel suite onto the concert crowd.

In 2021, New York's state attorney general said an investigation into Gov. Andrew Cuomo found that he had sexually harassed multiple current and former state government employees; the report brought increased pressure on Cuomo to resign, including pressure from President Joe Biden and other Democrats. (Cuomo resigned a week later.)

Today's Birthdays: Football Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy is 100. Actor Martin Sheen is 85. Football Hall of Famer Lance Alworth is 85. Lifestyle guru Martha Stewart is 84. Film director John Landis is 75. Actor JoMarie Payton (TV: "Family Matters") is 75. Hockey Hall of Famer Marcel Dionne is 74. Actor John C. McGinley is 66. Rock singer/guitarist James Hetfield (Metallica) is 62. Actor Lisa Ann Walter (TV: "Abbott Elementary") is 62. Rock musician Stephen Carpenter (Deftones) is 55. Former NFL quarterback Tom Brady is 48. Actor Evangeline Lilly is 46. Olympic swimming gold medalist Ryan Lochte is 41. Model Karlie Kloss is 33.