

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Sunday, Aug. 10

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.

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

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

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

## Monday August 11

Senior Menu: Spanish Rice with hamburger, carrots, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.

Community Blood Drive, 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., Groton Community Center

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study

**Groton Daily Independent**

**PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445**

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

## It's Sunday

May your heart be light, your spirit refreshed, and your day overflow with God's abundant peace and joy.

*Good Morning*

Scripture  
(NKJV)

"This is the day  
the Lord has  
made; We will  
rejoice and be  
glad in it."

Psalm 118:24



Senior Citizens Meet at Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

## Tuesday, August 12

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, Italian blend, au gratin, peaches, biscuit.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship Committee Meeting, 5:15 p.m.; Church Council, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

## Wednesday, August 13

Senior Menu: Taco salad, Mexican rice with black beans, Mandarin oranges, whole wheat bread.

Groton Area Staff Development Day

Emmanuel Lutheran: Sunday School Teachers Meeting, 6 p.m.

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

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

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## We the People

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



By David Adler

### The Court as Handmaiden to Executive Power

The Supreme Court as handmaiden to unchecked presidential power shatters the picture of a nation founded on ideals that included the rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, a constitutionally constrained executive, legislative dominance, and the power of judicial review. The Court, the founders believed, would exercise its authority to superintend the Constitution that the American people ratified, one that sharply curtailed executive powers. It possessed no discretionary authority to expand them.

Justice Joseph Story, the most scholarly of justices, declared in 1820 that the Court was "not at liberty to add one jot of power to the national government, beyond what the people have granted by the Constitution." The justices, it bears reminder, are not exempt from the principle of the rule of law. Indeed, they take an oath under Article VI, section 3 "to support this Constitution."

What makes this sordid behavior of the Court even more galling, beyond the fact that it is an exercise in judicial fiat, is the fact that it represents an affront to the fundamental principles and purposes for which it was created—and expected to serve—and rests on an insupportable historical thesis entirely devoid of evidence. It also reflects a glaring hypocrisy that removes the mask from the philosophical doctrine of constitutional interpretation that it purports to advance.

Six of the current justices—Thomas, Alito, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, Barrett, and Chief Justice Roberts—have rendered decisions that reflect a demonstrable commitment to the theory of a unitary executive which has been erroneously characterized by its defenders and some commentators as "conservative." In truth, there is nothing "conservative" about this theory, which represents a radical departure from the structure of the presidency created by the framers of the Constitution. A genuinely conservative model would preserve and protect the founding principles and traditions, not destroy them, in service of autocracy. This notion of a unitary executive, cut from whole cloth, ignores the discussions, values, and principles that shaped the presidency in the Constitutional Convention.

James Madison spoke for the Convention when he declared that the executive powers are "confined and defined," part of the carefully crafted design that enumerated powers, not merely to the legislature and the judiciary, but also to presidency. The unitary theory of the presidency does not remotely resemble the framers' creation, but, indeed, represents contempt for every word and every syllable that they uttered when discussing the newly minted executive.

The unitary theory would clothe the president with all power conceivably executive in nature and ignores the textual power of Congress regarding appointments, the Necessary and Proper Clause, and the admixture of powers central to checks and balances. It asserts that the president—a singular person—is the embodiment of the executive branch. In this capacity, he is everywhere, all at once, and his power is inviolate, impervious to congressional regulation grounded in the Constitution and not fully subject to review by the courts.

Beginning with its indefensible and pernicious ruling in *Trump v. United States* (2024), which conferred on the presidency sweeping immunity from prosecution, to its recent rulings that break from 90 years of

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precedents to hold that the president possesses unenumerated powers to fire government officials without congressional approval and to bring prosecutions on behalf of the United States, the Court has facilitated President Trump's agenda and his unprecedented use of executive orders to revise the character, content, and shape of America's legal and governmental structure.

The irony is that these six justices, firmly in control of the Court, profess to embrace the doctrine of original intention jurisprudence, which claims to interpret the Constitution in accord with the framers' aims and purposes. But their assertions of the unitary executive theory cannot be squared with what was said and done in the Convention.

There was, in the Convention, no challenge to the definition of "executive power" advanced by James Madison, James Wilson, and Roger Sherman. No delegate advanced an alternative understanding. Nor was there any argument about the scope of executive power. As Wilson explained, "executive power" was limited "to executing the laws and appointing officers." Madison's reminder that in a republic "the legislature necessarily predominates" is lost on this Court, eager to feed presidential power, oblivious to its hypocrisy. The justices cannot be both originalists and advocates of the unitary executive, a theory at war with the framers and the Constitution.

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# 1440

**Why 1440? The printing press was invented around the year 1440, spreading knowledge to the masses and changing the course of history. More facts: In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. We're here to make each one count.**

Good morning! It's Sunday, Aug. 10. Japan surrendered to the Allies on Aug. 15, 1945, concluding the world's deadliest conflict.

## World War II, explained

World War II was a global conflict from 1939 to 1945, involving over 50 countries and 100 million mobilized military personnel. The war became the largest conflict in human history in terms of geographic scale and human cost, with an estimated 70 million to 85 million fatalities—including over 50 million civilians.

The roots of World War II lie in the punitive 1919 Treaty of Versailles, which disarmed Germany, imposed steep reparations, and forced it to accept sole blame for World War I. As the Great Depression challenged the liberal democratic order, militant nationalist movements looking to expand their territories emerged: Benito Mussolini's fascism in Italy, Adolf Hitler's National Socialism (or Nazism) in Germany, and Imperial Japan.

World War II's end launched the Cold War, pitting the United States against the Soviet Union and reshaping global geopolitics into competing ideological blocs. The war's unprecedented destruction and the horror of Axis war crimes—most notably the Holocaust—sparked a moral imperative to prevent future atrocities.

## What are tariffs?

A tariff—a word derived from the Arabic "arafa," meaning "to make known"—is a tax imposed by a government on goods that are imported or exported.

Economically, tariffs aim to protect domestic industries, generate government revenue, and influence trade policy. Tariffs can be specific (a fixed fee per unit) or ad valorem (a percentage of the item's value).

Historically, tariffs have served as a primary source of revenue and a means to protect domestic industries, as they make foreign products more expensive—encouraging consumers to purchase locally produced goods. The tools have a checkered history, famously bolstering US textiles, German steel, Japanese cars, South Korean technology, and more, while arguably contributing to major economic downturns like the Great Depression.

## Ice Cream, 101

Whether it's in a sundae, a cone, or blended into a shake, ice cream is one of the United States' favorite indulgences—97% of Americans say they like or love the chilly treat. US ice cream production hit 1.31 billion gallons in 2024, with the average American eating a whopping 19 pounds.

Ice cream is the final result of a complex process that blends several ingredients. As it's being made, the ingredients change significantly throughout the production process, ultimately giving the dish its signature "scoopable" texture.

Ice cream's celebratory nature brings people together, especially in the days before widespread home refrigeration. In the late 1600s, Paris's Café Procope first began serving the sweet treat to the public; the trend quickly spread, particularly in Italy, where some parlors have been open since the 1700s.

## More From 1440

Science & Technology: Tuesday, we'll explore Jupiter, the solar system's largest planet—and learn why it's shrinking

Business & Finance: Thursday, we'll find out why Sears, once the world's largest retailer, now has only eight stores in the US

Society & Culture: Saturday, it's all about the working-class sensibility of Bruce Springsteen's life and work

Historybook: Shakespeare's 11-year-old son Hamnet dies (1596); Frederick Douglass gives Nantucket speech that launches him as a public lecturer (1841); Apple cofounder Steve Wozniak born (1950); Painter Jackson Pollock dies in a car accident (1956); Minnesota's Mall of America opens (1992)



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## Conde Municipal Building Restoration Fundraiser



**The crowd was filling in as the day went on at the Conde Municipal Building Restoration Fundraiser event held Saturday.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Music by Bob Styles started off the evening entertainment.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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**People were standing in line for food that was served by Trixy Schwabe.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Rhonda Burke was giving directions to the two security people - Douglas Dobbins and Justin Ellenson.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Brenda Guthmiller was pouring champagne in front of the municipal building.** (Photo by Paul

Kosel)



**Darlene Sass, Daelyn Dirksen, Danielle Dobbins and Trixy Schwabe were serving food at the Conde event. Crazy Moos of Conde is their business.** (Photo by Tina Kosel)



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**Above: Steve Nigg was busy polishing the concrete floor in the basement of the Conde Municipal Building. Bottom: Organizers were serving cake in front of the municipal building on Saturday.** (Photos by Paul Kosel)



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**There were lots of items for the live auction event at the Conde Municipal Building Restoration Event held Saturday.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Inside the Conde Municipal Building is the old theater that is located upstairs.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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**Daelyn Dirksen was busy grilling burgers and brats.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**There was a bounce house for the kids.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The late band was music by The Barstool Prophets.** (Photo by Tina Kosel)



**People sat under the umbrellas as they ate their food and visited.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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## **Highway Patrol Sturgis Rally Daily Information**

**Compiled from 6 a.m. Saturday, August 2, 2025, to 6 a.m. Saturday, August 9, 2025**

| <b>Item</b>          | <b>Sturgis Zones</b> | <b>Rapid City Zones</b> | <b>District Totals</b> | <b>Last Year to Date</b> |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| DUI Arrests          | 94                   | 18                      | 112                    | 142                      |
| Misd Drug Arrests    | 184                  | 54                      | 238                    | 259                      |
| Felony Drug Arrests  | 77                   | 17                      | 94                     | 145                      |
| Total Citations      | 793                  | 568                     | 1,361                  | 1,326                    |
| Total Warnings       | 3,020                | 1,347                   | 4,367                  | 4,054                    |
| Cash Seized          | \$0.00               | \$0.00                  | \$0.00                 | \$71,504.00              |
| Vehicles Seized      | 1                    | 0                       | 1                      | 1                        |
| For Drug Poss.       | 1                    | 0                       | 1                      | 1                        |
| For Serial No.       | 0                    | 0                       | 0                      | 0                        |
| Non-Injury Accidents | 19                   | 8                       | 27                     | 45                       |
| Injury Accidents     | 25                   | 38                      | 63                     | 33                       |
| Fatal Accidents      | 1                    | 3                       | 4                      | 3                        |
| # of Fatalities      | 1                    | 3                       | 4                      | 3                        |

Fatal Crashes:

None

Injury Crashes:

At 7:47 a.m. Friday, Liberty Boulevard and Reagan Avenue (Box Elder): A 2025 Honda Pilot (Unit 1) was stopped at a stop sign on Reagan Avenue facing north. A 2015 Toyota 4Runner (Unit 2) was traveling south on Liberty Blvd. Unit 1 attempted to make a left turn to go north in front of Unit 2. Unit 2 was unable to avoid a collision in the intersection. The driver of Unit 1 was wearing a seatbelt and was transported to Monument Health in Rapid City with serious non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of Unit 2 was wearing a seatbelt and received minor injuries. Both vehicles were towed.

At 9:00 a.m. Friday, US Highway 16A, mile marker 53: A 2013 Harley Davidson motorcycle (Unit 1) was traveling east bound on US Hwy 16A. Unit 1 failed to negotiate a curve and crossed the center line. A 1989 Harley Davidson motorcycle (Unit 2) was traveling west bound on US Hwy 16A near MM 53. When unit 1 crossed the center line he collided with unit 2 head on. The male driver and female passenger of Unit 1 were wearing helmets and sustained serious non-life-threatening injuries. They were transported to Monument Health in Rapid City. The male driver and female passenger of Unit 2 were not wearing helmets and received serious non-life-threatening injuries. They were also transported to Monument Health in Rapid City.

At 12:17 p.m. Friday, South Dakota Highway 87, mile marker 77: A 2006 Victory motorcycle (Unit 1) was traveling south on South Dakota Hwy 87 near MM 77. The driver failed to negotiate a left curve and slid off the roadway into the west ditch. The driver was wearing a helmet and received minor injuries.

At 6:34 p.m. Friday, US Highway 14A, mile marker 47: A 2005 Harley Davidson motorcycle (Unit 1) was traveling east on US 14A near MM 47. Unit 1 failed to negotiate a curve in the roadway and ran off the



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roadway to the right. Unit 1 slid on its side and the driver was separated from the motorcycle. The driver was wearing a helmet and sustained serious, non-life-threatening injuries. He was transported to Deadwood Hospital.

At 11:00 p.m. Friday, South Dakota Highway 79, mile marker 117: A 1986 Suzuki motorcycle (Unit 1) was traveling north on South Dakota Hwy 79 when an elk entered the roadway. The driver was unable to avoid a collision. The driver of Unit 1 was not wearing a helmet and sustained serious, non-life-threatening injuries. He was transported by ambulance to Monument Health in Sturgis.

All information released so far is only preliminary.

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



**Jeslyn Kosel got a picture of her dad caught in the action doing the sermon for August 8th. The message was recorded in front of the Tiger Lilies and can be viewed on the Preacher Paul page on Facebook.**

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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

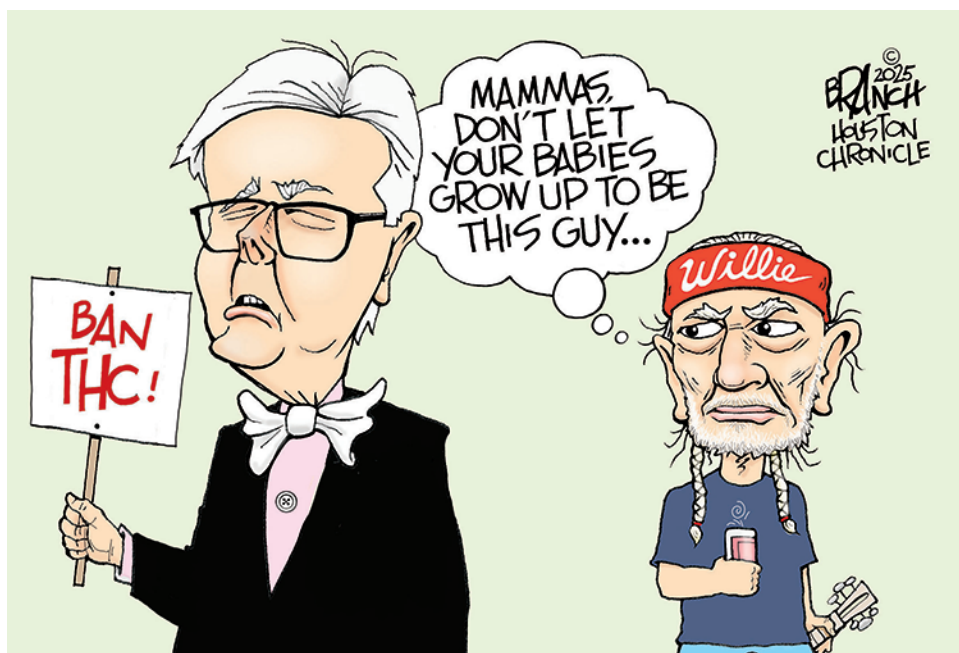


*The Lord created me at the beginning  
of His way, before His works of old.  
From eternity I was established, from the  
beginning, from the earliest times of the  
earth. When there were no ocean depths,  
I was born, when there were no springs  
abounding with water.*

*Before the mountains were settled,  
before the hills, I was born...*

❧ PROVERBS 8:22-25 ❧

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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Genesis 38, who was the first individual killed by God for being wicked? *Cain, Er, Onan, Gomorrah*

3. How long had the woman been sick that touched the hem of Jesus' garment? *1 month, 6 months, 3 years, 12 years*

4. From 1 Kings 6, who constructed the first altar covered with gold? *Gideon, Josiah, Noah, Solomon*

5. How often does the Year of Jubilee come around, once every how many years? *5, 25, 50, 75*

6. Which king ordered Daniel into the lion's den? *Darius, Eglon, Herod, Caesar*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Er, 3) 12 years, 4) Solomon, 5) 50, 6) Darius

*Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscribersite at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).*

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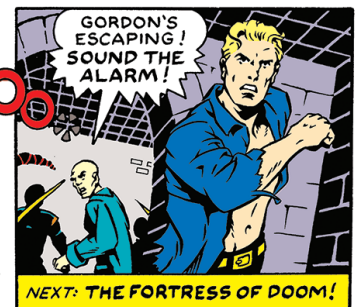
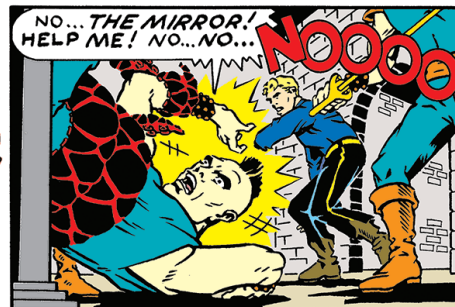
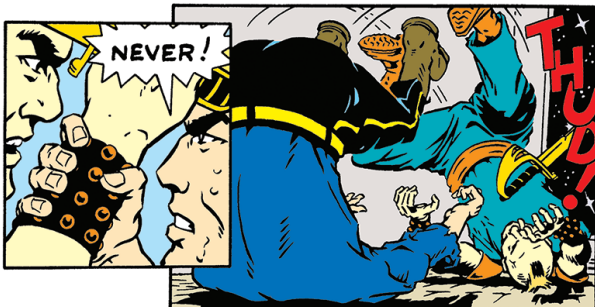
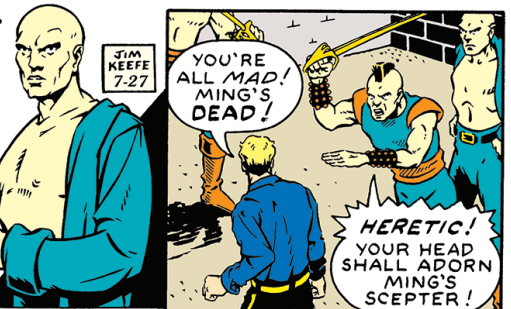
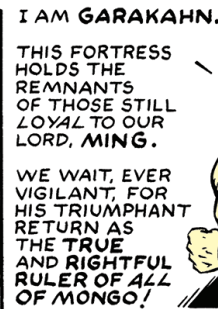
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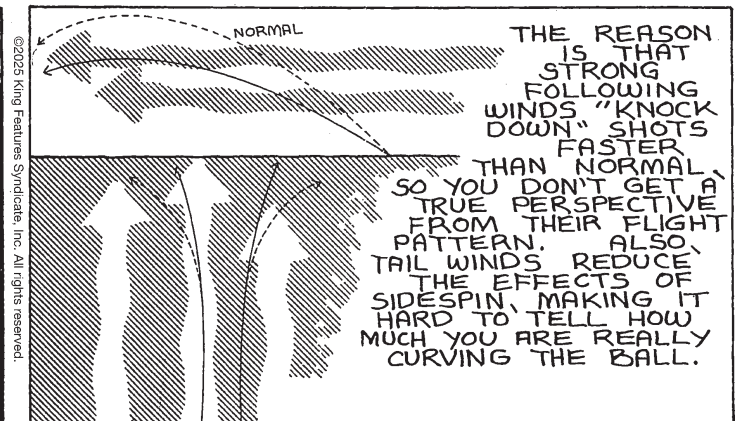
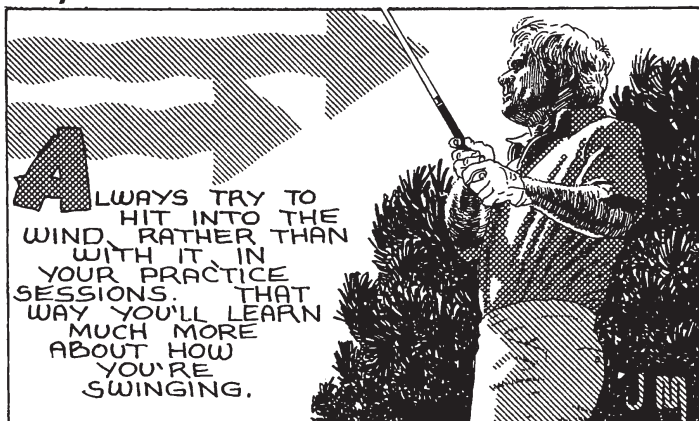
## FLASH GORDON

HAVING BARELY SURVIVED THE DARK DIMENSION, DAZED, DISORIENTED, FLASH STANDS DEFENSELESS AS HIS UNKNOWN ASSASSINS APPROACH!

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





## Understanding What Hyperbaric Oxygen Can Do for Hearing Loss

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was just diagnosed with sudden sensorineural hearing loss. They gave me a steroid injection into the ear and more steroids by mouth, but they say it's up to me whether I want to try hyperbaric oxygen.

Do you have any opinion on it? How does breathing pure oxygen at 2 atmospheres help anything? Is there some underlying theory to explain why people do this? It seems to me all this accomplishes is that it raises my blood oxygen level from 97% to 100%. How can this help anything? -- D.J.L.

ANSWER: Sudden sensorineural hearing loss is an uncommon condition. It can often be misdiagnosed, and since some people get better on their own, it is sometimes never diagnosed at all.

I suspect there isn't one single cause in all cases as several causes have been proposed, including infections (especially viral), medications and recreational drugs, brain tumors, autoimmune diseases, head trauma, and associations with other diseases. But most cases have no clear underlying cause.

In addition to a careful exam, hearing tests and an MRI of the brain are generally recommended. Early treatment with steroids (either by injection, orally, or both) has been shown to enhance recovery.

In people with more severe hearing loss, hyperbaric oxygen has been shown to improve outcomes compared to steroids alone. It is thought that the high amount of oxygen delivered via the hyperbaric chamber may be able to deliver oxygen to areas of the cochlea that were damaged, but the mechanism of action isn't completely clear.

The benefit of hyperbaric oxygen isn't that it gets your red blood cells more oxygenated. You can't do better than 100%, and 97% is very close to 100%. With hyperbaric oxygen, the fluid of the blood itself carries much more oxygen, which is then dissolved in the plasma -- not in the red blood cells. The oxygen in the fluid is 60 times higher with 3 atmospheres of oxygen compared to room air, which is enough to deliver oxygen to your tissues without red blood cells.

Carefully done, the risks of hyperbaric oxygen are small. The high pressure can cause pain and pressure in the ear and sinuses, which can be relieved by equalizing pressure through maneuvers that open the Eustachian tube (such as yawning or swallowing).

While I understand why physicians want to get your opinion on your treatment, it doesn't sound like they gave you enough information to make an informed choice. In my opinion, they should have gone over the risks and benefits, then given you a clear recommendation.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: In a recent column, you stated that the body works to keep blood pH levels steady. My urologist has recommended that I drink baking soda in water to alkalinize my urine. Is it true that urine pH levels can be changed even though blood pH levels cannot? -- C.T.

ANSWER: This is true. Your urologist is taking advantage of the fact that your kidneys will excrete the bicarbonate ion into your urine very quickly after you take it in by mouth. (Baking soda is sodium bicarbonate. We sometimes use potassium bicarbonate for this purpose, too.) Your blood pH will stay normal, but the urine pH will go up into the alkaline range.

Kidney stone specialists use this to reduce formation of uric acid stones. Potassium citrate also has the same effect on urine pH levels. With a higher urine pH (even just to 6.5 or 7), uric acid cannot form stones. Long-term treatment with urinary alkalization dramatically decreases stone formation.

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](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

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"Highest 2 Lowest" (R) -- The latest Spike Lee joint is a reimagining of the 1963 Japanese film "High and Low," directed by Akira Kurosawa. For his leading man, he signed on none other than



**Denzel Washington stars in "Highest 2 Lowest."** (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

Denzel Washington ("Gladiator II"), and for his supporting man, he chose Jeffrey Wright ("American Fiction"), who knows how to create the perfect

balance of delivering comedic lines while still being an honest actor. The film centers around a ransom plot involving the son of a businessman (Washington), who's left with no choice but to bend his ethics and his knee to a young criminal in way over his head. Rappers A\$AP Rocky and Ice Spice make appearances in the film, which is available to stream starting Aug. 15. (Apple TV+)

"Night Always Comes" (R) -- English actress Vanessa Kirby is having quite a year! Not only is she raking in the money with a leading role in "The Fantastic Four: First Steps" (\$367.4 million at the box office so far), but she is also expecting her first child with partner Paul Rabil. Now Kirby's adding to her repertoire both a starring and producing role in this dramatic crime-thriller, which hits Netflix on Aug. 15. The film follows Lynette (Kirby), who is struggling tirelessly to achieve a stable future for herself and her brother, Kenny (Zack Gottsagen), in the Pacific Northwest. With loan sharks hounding her for \$25,000 and no solid way to come up with the money, the desperate Lynette is forced to resort to awful measures so that she can get the money in time. (Netflix)

"King of the Hill: Season 14" (TV-14) -- The reboot era has brought back yet another cult classic and revived it for both newer and older generations to enjoy together! With all 10 episodes of the new season out now to stream, the animated sitcom "King of the Hill" makes its return to television with voice actors Mike Judge, Kathy Najimy and Pamela Adlon returning as Hank, Peggy and Bobby Hill, respectively. Stephen Root returns as Bill, as well as Johnny Hardwick as Dale. Notably missing is the late actress Brittany Murphy, who voiced Luanne, and the late musician Tom Petty, who voiced Lucky. Also missing is Jonathan Joss, who voiced John Redcorn and was recently murdered due to a hate crime, according to allegations made by his husband. (Disney+)

"The Pickup" (R) -- Pete Davidson and Eddie Murphy, two of the most unserious actors on Earth, teamed up for this heist-comedy film out now to stream! The pair respectively play a couple of truck drivers Russell (Murphy) and Travis (Davidson), who get caught in the middle of a robbery and are forced to become accomplices. The consequences if they don't comply could be deadly, specifically for Russell's wife, Natalie (Eva Longoria). And as if the matters couldn't get any worse, the head criminal in charge, Zoe (Keke Palmer), was a recent first date of Travis's. Guess he shouldn't cross his fingers for a second one! (Amazon Prime Video)



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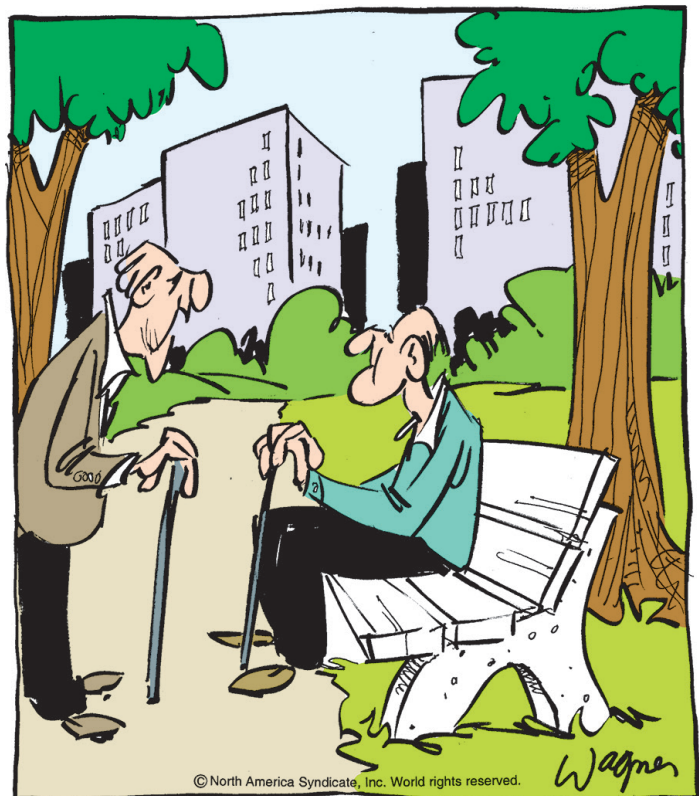
1. Where did Depeche Mode get its name?
2. Name the group that released "Candy Girl" in 1963.
3. Which female artist released "Saving All My Love for You"?
4. Who wrote and released "Just Like a Woman"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I'm the friendly stranger in the black sedan, Oh won't you hop inside my car? I got pictures, got candy, I am a lovable man."

Answers

1. From a French fashion magazine. The translation meant "fashion update" or "hurried fashion." Their first No. 1 single was "People Are People" in Germany in 1984.
2. The Four Seasons. Several songs with girl names as titles were released in 1963: "Denise," "Ruby Baby," "Alice in Wonderland" and "Donna, the Prima Donna," as well as many more.
3. Whitney Houston, in 1985. The song was Houston's first to top the Hot 100 chart, and she won a Grammy for Best Female Pop Vocal for her performance.
4. Bob Dylan, in 1966. The album version was twice as long as the single, at 4 minutes 53 seconds.
5. "Vehicle," by Ides of March, in 1970. Despite the big success of the song, the group never reached that level again. The song itself, however, found success in television commercials.

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**GRIN and BEAR IT** *by Wagner*



"Would you like someone to grumble with?"

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

LISTEN, FRANK, DID YOU EVER CONSIDER MAYBE YOU'RE NOT MEETING ANY LADIES BECAUSE YOU'RE WEARING A FLEA AND TICK COLLAR?



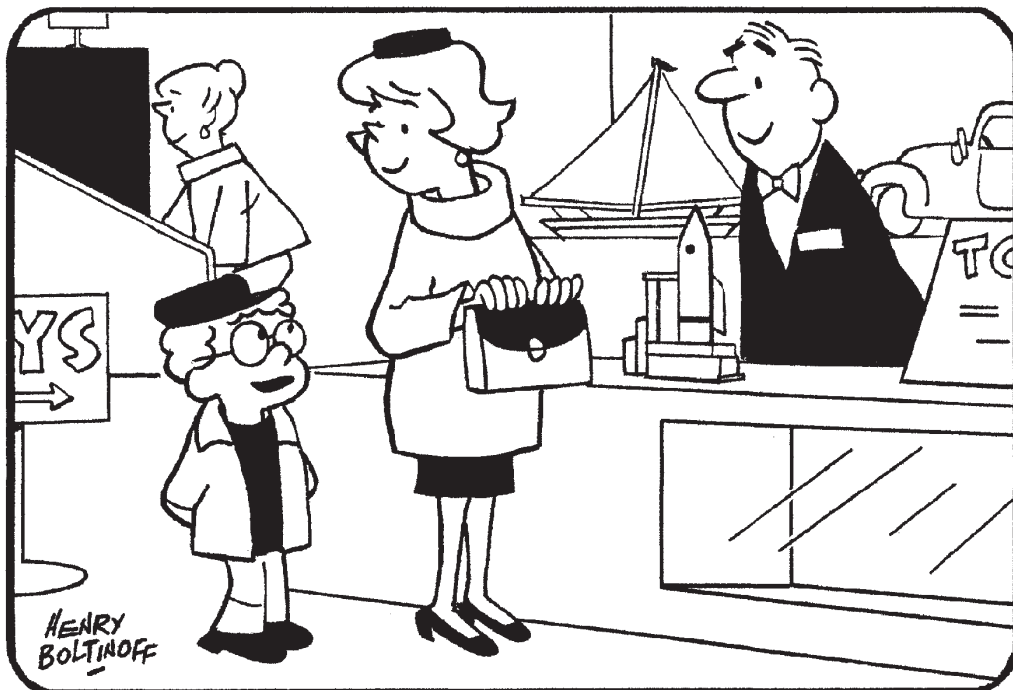
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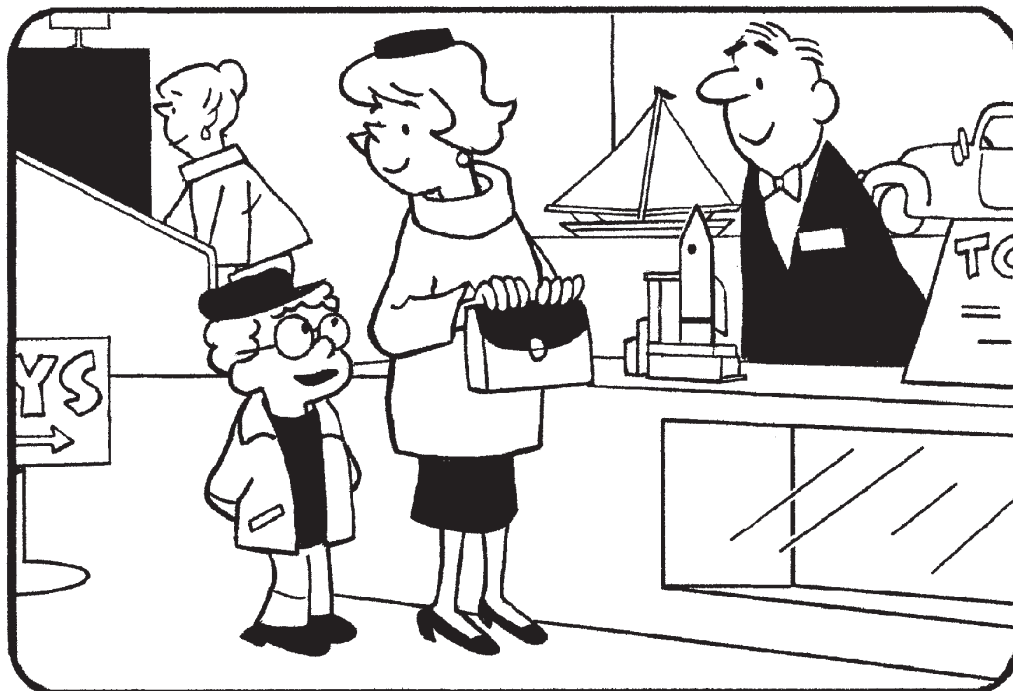
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Sign is lower. 3. Sailboat is smaller. 4. Skirt is longer. 5. Pocket is added. 6. Boy is moved.

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\* "Every member of our family has a plastic bin in his/her closet to hold items not currently in use. For the littler ones, it's hand-me-downs that are not quite ready for use. For my husband and myself, it is out of season items. And for everyone, there is a bin in the garage where we place usable items that no longer fit. Whenever it's full, we either donate it or start planning our next tag sale." -- A.E. in Massachusetts

\* "If you have to talk to someone at the cable company, call on a Thursday (unless it's urgent), as that's the day they tend to have the fastest response times, experts say." -- J.C. in Florida

\* If you have lost a zipper pull, you can create a temporary one with a paperclip.

\* You can use a salad spinner to gently "wring out" delicate hand washables. Remove excess water, and then hang dry or lay flat according to the garment's instruction.

\* Here's an oldie but a goodie! Iced coffee is at its best when brewed with twice the usual amount of ground coffee, because the coffee is diluted by the (melting) ice cubes. Or use regular-strength brewed ice coffee and serve over coffee ice cubes. They're easy to prepare: Pour cool brewed coffee into ice-cube trays and freeze.

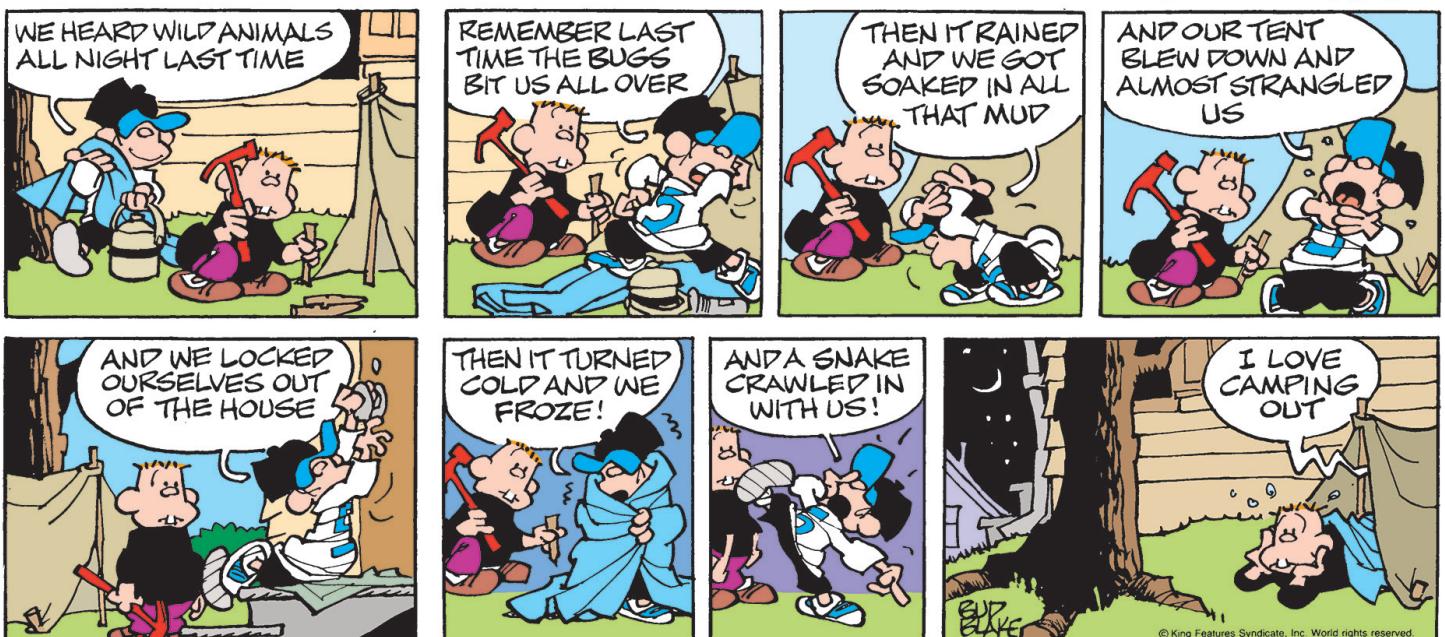
\* Clear bins make it easy to group like items in your pantry. You can remove the bin, get what you need and replace it rather than digging through cans and boxes on a shelf and having to straighten it back up when you're done.

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 AWOL pursuers  
4 Lab sci.  
8 Beach crawler  
12 Fair-hiring letters  
13 Corporate symbol  
14 Aware of  
15 — pro nobis  
16 Long-haired feline  
18 Windshield cleaner  
20 Hide-hair insert  
21 Elite alternative  
24 Bar legally  
28 Three digits after 1  
32 Lighten  
33 Auction action  
34 Tools for duels  
36 — Na Na  
37 Beatnik's assent  
39 "The danger has passed"  
41 Aquarium favorite  
43 Morales of "Jericho"  
44 Non-dairy milk type  
46 Bounds  
50 "Play it cool"

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  |    | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |    | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |    |
| 18 |    |    | 19 |    |    |    | 20 |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 21 |    | 22 | 23 |    | 24 |    | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    | 31 |    | 32 |    |    |    |
| 33 |    |    |    | 34 |    |    |    | 35 |    | 36 |    |    |
| 37 |    |    | 38 |    | 39 |    |    |    | 40 |    |    |    |
| 41 |    |    |    | 42 |    | 43 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 44 |    | 45 |    |    | 46 |    | 47 | 48 | 49 |
| 50 | 51 | 52 |    |    |    | 53 | 54 |    |    | 55 |    |    |
| 56 |    |    |    |    | 57 |    |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |
| 59 |    |    |    |    | 60 |    |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |

- 55 Protrude  
56 Challenge  
57 — Domini  
58 Whatever  
59 Egg on  
60 Harvest  
61 Reuben bread  
7 Earth circler  
8 Sandpaper type  
9 GOP org.  
10 — glance  
11 Droid  
17 Caviar  
19 Ecol. watchdog  
22 Nightclub of song  
23 "Rumour Has It" singer  
25 Hit with a stun gun  
26 Job-safety org.  
27 Dessert fruit  
28 Slightly  
29 Go by subway  
30 Redact  
31 Congers  
35 Edible mollusk  
38 Food seller  
40 Fib  
42 Small battery  
45 Despot  
47 Slightly open  
48 Weak  
49 Eyelid woe  
50 Billboards  
51 Tube top  
52 Capote nickname  
53 French article  
54 Navarro of "The View"

### DOWN

- 1 Calico's call  
2 Actress Gilpin  
3 Ivory, for one  
4 "The Silence of the Lambs" role  
5 Sweetie  
6 Custard ingredient  
7 Earth circler  
8 Sandpaper type  
9 GOP org.  
10 — glance  
11 Droid  
17 Caviar  
19 Ecol. watchdog  
22 Nightclub of song  
23 "Rumour Has It" singer  
25 Hit with a stun gun  
26 Job-safety org.  
27 Dessert fruit  
28 Slightly



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## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | P | S |   | C | H | E | M |   | C | R | A | B |
| E | E | O |   | L | O | G | O |   | O | N | T | O |
| O | R | A |   | A | N | G | O | R | A | C | A | T |
| W | I | P | E | R |   |   |   | N | O | R |   |   |
|   |   |   | P | I | C | A |   | E | S | T | O | P |
| A | R | E | A | C | O | D | E |   | E | A | S | E |
| B | I | D |   | E | P | E | E | S |   | S | H | A |
| I | D | I | G |   | A | L | L | C | L | E | A | R |
| T | E | T | R | A |   | E | S | A | I |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | O | A | T |   |   | L | E | A | P | S |
| A | C | T | C | A | S | U | A | L |   | J | U | T |
| D | A | R | E |   | A | N | N | O |   | A | N | Y |
| S | P | U | R |   | R | E | A | P |   | R | Y | E |

Olive



Out on a Limb

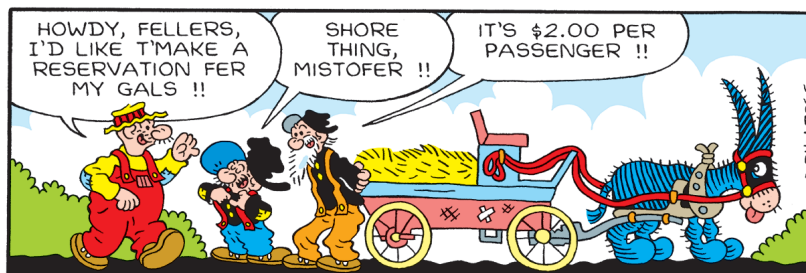
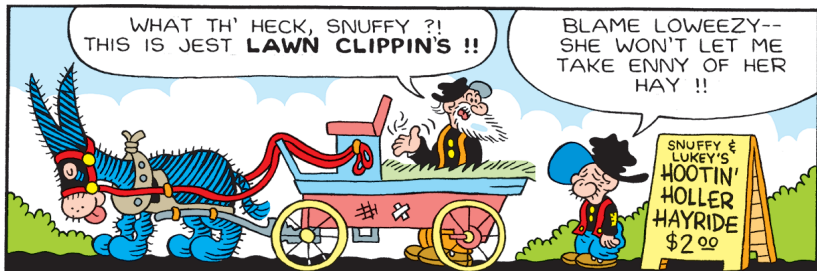
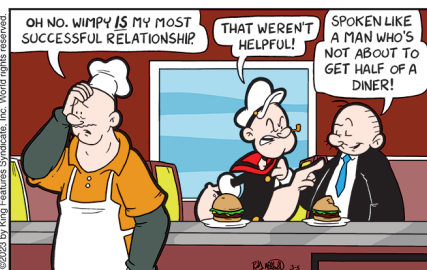
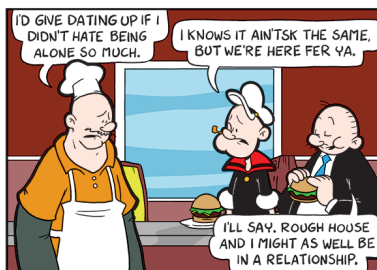
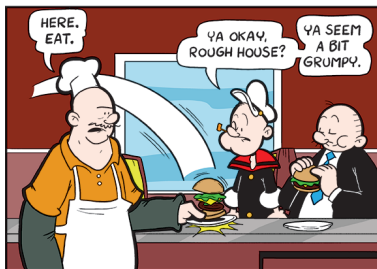
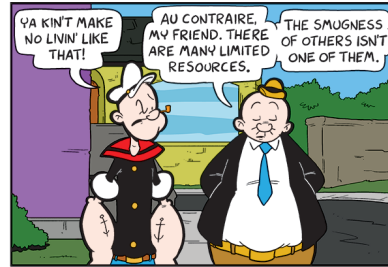
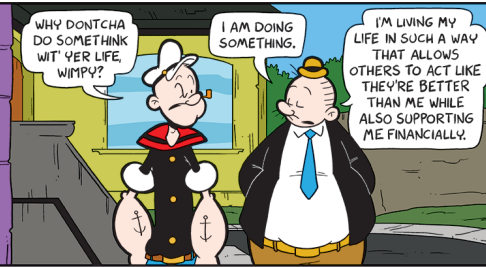
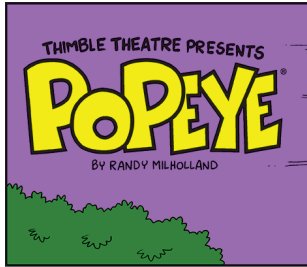
by Gary Kopervas



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# Groton Daily Independent

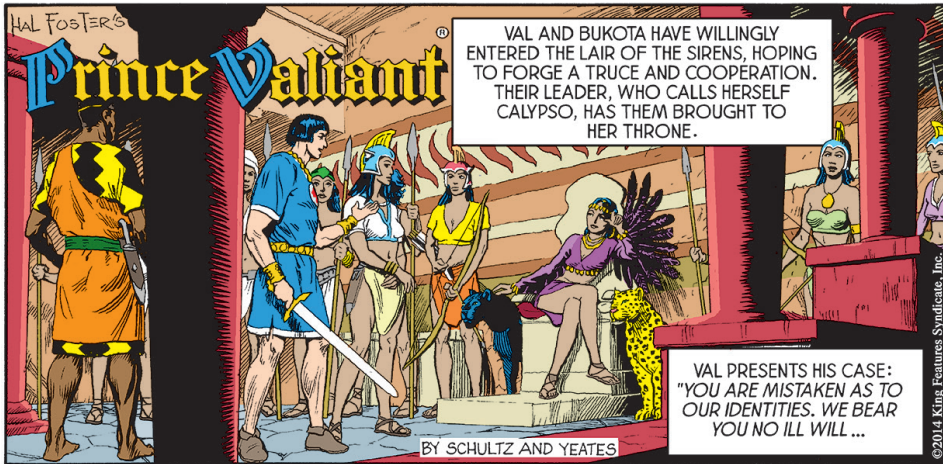
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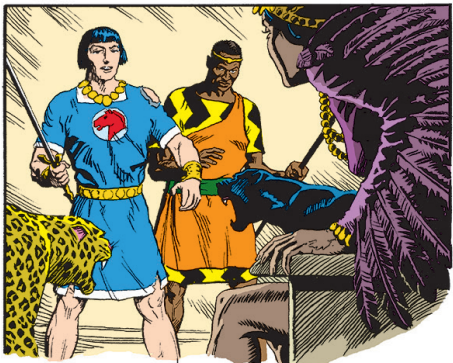


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"... AND WOULD INSTEAD PLACE YOU UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE MISTY ISLES AND CAMELOT," BUT CALYPSO SEEMS NOT TO HEAR: "IF YOU ARE NOT MY ULYSSES, HOW COULD YOU DESTROY MY IMMORTAL POLYPHEMUS?"



"MAYBE YOU ARE A FURY, SENT TO TORMENT ME!" AS CALYPSO GROWS AGITATED, SO DO THE LEOPARDS WHO MIND HER - THEY BEGIN TO SLINK FORWARD, SNARLING. "SHE IS MAD," THINKS VAL.

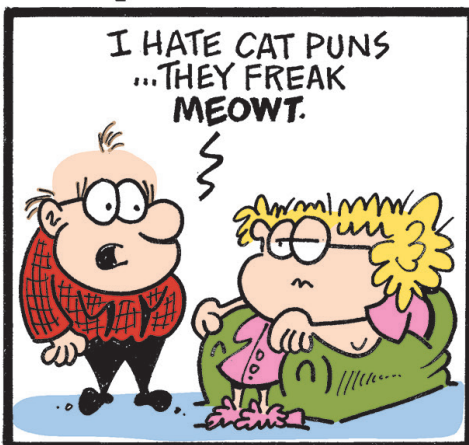


WHILE BACK IN THE CAVERN HAVEN, THE SUPPOSEDLY DESTROYED POLYPHEMUS SUDDENLY FLEXES HIS INJURED BODY AND RENDS HIS BONDS!

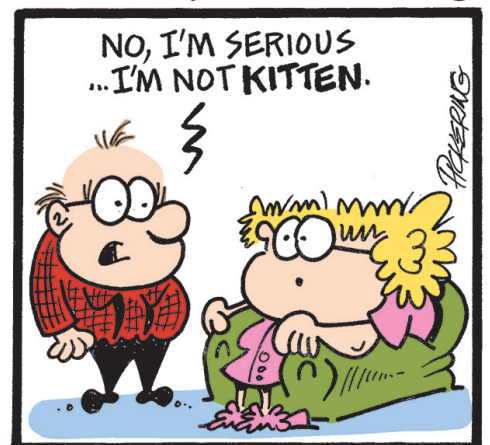
NEXT: **Unexpected ally**

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Doing the right thing

How many of us are continuing to do things we feel we should, even if we don't want to?

A neighbor bemoaned the fact that her husband had signed them up for yet another line dancing class at the senior center. "And I don't want to go," she said. "I'm tired of learning new dances. I'd like to just enjoy the ones I already know."

Like many of the people at the senior center, my neighbor and her husband were generally signed up for one or more classes being offered. And to the staff's credit, there is a wide variety of classes to choose from on a rotating basis. We have tech classes, language classes, seated yoga, drawing and painting, Cooking for One, writing your memoir ... and another line dance class. We've been through several and now there's apparently one called Cowboy Hustle.

And my neighbor didn't want to learn it.

Curiosity got the better of me, and one recent day at the senior center I asked the group waiting for a class what they keep doing just because it's the right thing to do. There was a variety of replies:

- Attempting to walk thousands of steps per day.
- Walking the neighbor's dog so she doesn't have to give it up.
- Counting calories.
- Sewing clothes for the grandchildren.
- Eating vegetables every day.
- Taking the mother-in-law out to lunch every Friday.

I saw my "no more line dancing" neighbor again. Maybe he just wants to keep both of you active and healthy, I suggested. And maybe he enjoys doing things with you, I added. She smiled and nodded, acknowledging that her husband was actually a good guy. And I knew that she'd be there learning the Cowboy Hustle alongside her good guy husband.

How about you? What do you keep doing just because it's the right thing to do?

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Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



Senior Citizens 65+  
Physical Therapy.

**\$20 a month**

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1. East Germany's Margitta Gummel and the Soviet Union's Nadezhda Chizhova were rivals who competed in what Olympic athletics event in the 1960s and 1970s?

2. The "Punch-up in Piestany" was a bench-clearing brawl during a game between which two teams in the 1987 World Junior Ice Hockey Championships?

3. Two-time NBA Finals MVP Kawhi LEOnard played two seasons of college basketball from 2009-2011 with what team?

4. What insurance company was the title sponsor of NASCAR's second-tier series from 2008-2014?

5. In road cycling, what French word is used to describe a rider whose primary goal is not to win the race, but to aid the team and its leader?

6. What Federal Prospects Hockey League team based in Athens, Georgia, is named in honor of a song by the new wave band The B-52s?

7. In 1970, what Los Angeles Dodgers player hit a foul ball that struck 14-year-old fan Alan Fish in the head, resulting in Fish's death four days later?



by Ryan A. Berenz

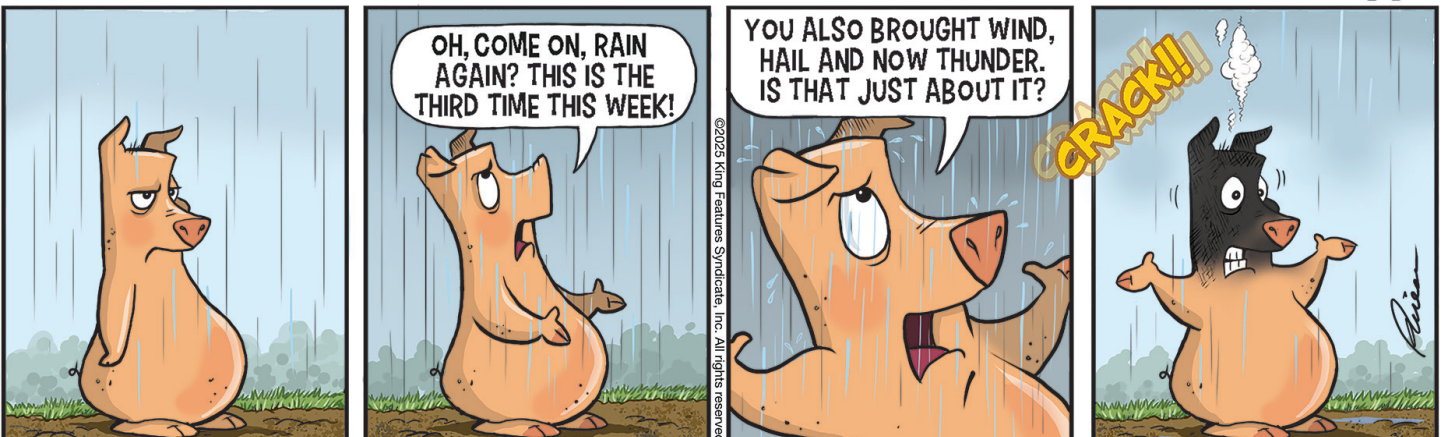
## Answers

1. Shot put.
2. Canada and the Soviet Union.
3. The San Diego State Aztecs.
4. Nationwide.
5. Domestique ("servant").
6. The Athens Rock Lobsters.
7. Manny Mota.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## Is crate training working for this hyper puppy?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My best friend adopted a puppy a few months ago. Training seems to be going well: "Freya" gets regular walks, and she heels pretty well and responds when called. However, my friend uses a kennel crate, and whenever Freya acts up (which is pretty normal for puppies, right?) she puts her into the crate. I don't think crates should be used as punishment. What's your advice? -- Glen in Marietta, Georgia

DEAR GLEN: While you're correct that a crate shouldn't be used as punishment, crate training a puppy can get complicated sometimes. Those little guys are wriggly, fast and always a bit hyper. The line between "calm and relaxed" and "zooming around your ankles" is paper-thin.

Before giving your friend advice about how to crate her dog, ask a tactful question or two. Like, "How do you know when it's time for Freya to go into her crate?" or, "Freya is so good at going into the crate on command. How did you accomplish that?" Owners are often willing to reply in detail about their training method, especially when it's working well.

Signs that it's not going well are when both owner and pet seem stressed near the crate; when the dog is deeply reluctant to enter the crate, or even fearful. If the owner is yelling or yanking the dog's leash or collar, that's not a good sign; there's a bigger issue than the crate happening.

Ideally, both owner and dog should be relaxed, calm and happy around the crate. That's a huge help in crate training, because Freya will associate the crate with those emotions (and treats). You could point your friend to the AKC's page on crate training: [www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/how-to-crate-train-your-dog-in-9-easy-steps](http://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/how-to-crate-train-your-dog-in-9-easy-steps).

Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).

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## Strange BUT TRUE

\* Beef and liver paste, squeezed from a tube, was the first meal eaten in space, consumed by Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin, who chose it because it was space-friendly.

\* Cigarettes were once advertised as a source of relief for asthma and hay fever.

\* September is the only month to have the same number of letters in its name as its number in the calendar year.

\* A full head of hair can support the weight of two elephants.

\* The original recipe for Oreos, which were originally called Oreo Biscuits (though it's not clear where "Oreo" came from), included pork fat for the cookie's creamy center.

\* Ninety-five percent of books that are submitted to traditional publishers are rejected.

\* Senet, or senet net hab ("game of passing through"), the oldest known board game, dates back more than 5,000 years and has been found in the tombs of Egyptian royalty, including King Tut.

\* Canada's Parliament once argued about the appropriateness of using the word "fart" on the chamber floor.

\* In medieval Europe, animals, especially pigs, were put on trial for crimes, with prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges.

\* Oct. 31, 2000, was the last day all humans were together on Earth. Since that time, there has always been at least one person in space.


\* In early 2019, an 18-karat gold toilet named "America," made by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan and valued at \$6 million, was stolen from Blenheim Palace in England. The four thieves responsible were captured, but the toilet's ultimate fate remains a mystery, though authorities suspected it may have been melted down.

\* The bite of a mountain gorilla is twice as strong as a lion's.

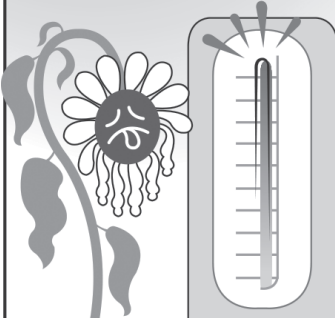
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Thought for the Day: "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." -- Abraham Lincoln

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### Heat exhaustion



Plants have different ways to deal with high temperatures. Some plants reduce the leaf area exposed to the sun by curling their leaves. Other plants let their leaves wilt, but as soon as the sun goes behind a cloud or sets in the evening, the leaves quickly recover. Many plants, especially trees, cannot do this, so they move water to as much of the leaf as possible, and let the outer edge fend for itself. These edges dry into brown sections known as "summer scorch." Flowering annuals may react to the heat by producing fewer flowers. – Brenda Weaver

Sources: [extension.usu.edu](http://extension.usu.edu), [eos.com](http://eos.com)

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by Freddy Groves

## When the punishment isn't enough

It's most disturbing when one in a position of authority, someone tasked with the specific job of helping veterans, turns out to be a thief. This is what came to light recently when a Veterans Service Representative (VSR) pleaded guilty to stealing money from the very veterans he was supposed to help.

The scammer broke a federal law when he solicited and accepted gratuities for helping veterans prepare their claims for retroactive disability benefits. He had his hand out for between 10 and 20% of each veteran's benefits after their claims were approved -- while he was employed by the VA.

He's scheduled to be sentenced later this year and could get five years in prison, as well as a hefty fine.

Then we have the scammer nailed for identity theft and stalking. By stealing personal information, he was able to stalk victims online and in person, do transactions at their banks, change the routing information for their direct deposits, impersonate them at banks and other places, change their account information -- and have their benefits terminated. This criminal could have been given a sentence of 164 years. But no, five years it is. Why is that?

Then we have a former CEO of a Veteran Service Organization (VSO) who scammed money in federal grant funding that had been given to a nonprofit shelter for homeless veterans. He'd submitted multiple applications for the grant funding, claiming it was for counseling services that nobody ever got, and put over a million dollars in his pocket from the VA and a cool half million from the Department of Labor. His punishment could be only 10 years in prison.

Interestingly enough, there is a man with the exact same name in the same location who once claimed to be an investment counselor and had a radio talk show and who went to prison for scamming banks ...

Is he back? Is this what happens when the prison sentences are too short?

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## Wishing Well®

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| S | T | U | M | A | E | C | T | C | R | O | K | E |
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| Y | D | N | H | A | J | S | R | E | O | S | I | Y |
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 5 |
| A | P | N | A | I | L | I | E | R | A | A | F | G |
| 2 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
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| L | S | A | L | N | I | T | N | C | L | G | I | N |
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| E | A | G | N | I | D | D | D | E | E | A | A | S |

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

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1. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Saudi Arabia?
3. TELEVISION: Ron Swanson is a character on which sitcom?
4. MOVIES: Who is the villain in the animated film "The Little Mermaid"?
5. SCIENCE: What part of the cell contains genetic material?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president established the Peace Corps?
7. HISTORY: Which country is home to Botany Bay, an early British colony?
8. MATH: Who is known as the father of geometry?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: When did the Great Smoky Mountains National Park open?
10. MYTHOLOGY: What animal did Zeus turn into to kidnap Europa?

### Answers

1. Ohio.
2. Riyadh.
3. "Parks and Recreation."
4. Ursula.
5. Nucleus.
6. John F. Kennedy.
7. Australia.
8. Euclid.
9. 1940.
10. Bull.

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South Dakota Governor



**Larry Rhoden**



**South Dakota:** *Under God, the People Rule*

## Dangerous Freedom

"I prefer dangerous freedom over peaceful slavery." The man who wrote those words knew a thing or two about the subject. After all, he had authored a Declaration of Independence making the bold, dangerous proclamation that the thirteen original colonies "[were], and of right ought to be, free and independent states."

When Thomas Jefferson wrote about "dangerous freedom," he was writing to fellow Founding Father James Madison, the architect behind America's Constitution. These two men realized that freedom is not always clean and tidy – not always safe and predictable. Freedom can be messy, even chaotic. And the order that emerges from that chaos is far more wonderful than anything "peaceful slavery" could ever achieve.

I can think of no better example of "dangerous freedom" than the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Hundreds of thousands of bikers descend on South Dakota's Black Hills to celebrate their freedom, and they don't do so half-heartedly. They rev their engines, blast their music, and enjoy their comradery. The air has a wild tinge to it. It's chaotic, even dangerous – but it's free.

That being said, there is a thin blue line keeping that freedom from becoming too dangerous. The men and women of law enforcement attend the Rally in numbers, as well. They do heroes' work to tamp down on the overindulgence of the Rally's vices. I attended several events at the Rally, including the annual Law Enforcement Picnic (an event I try to never miss), and I thanked those brave men and women in uniform for everything they do to keep the event safe.

Amidst all that freedom, flags wave everywhere you turn. Old Glory is on proud display, whether it be in the hundreds of flags in the field at the Buffalo Chip or towering from a crane above downtown Sturgis. And the rallygoers take the time to honor the men and women who served in our nation's armed forces. I also attended the annual Military Appreciation Day festivities. It was a privilege to honor those who signed their name on the dotted line to make sure that our freedoms remain intact.

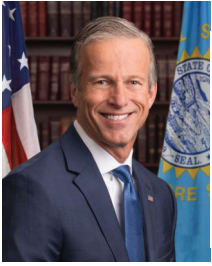
I've often said that South Dakota is the freest state in a nation founded on the principle of Freedom. And during the Rally, Sturgis becomes the freest city in the freest state. Men and women from across the country – and around the globe – come here to celebrate Freedom. I was born in Sturgis, a fact that I'm very proud of. And I ranch just about 40 miles to the east. My family has been on that land for generations. There is no better place in the world to be free!

But Freedom is not promised to us. We have to do what it takes to defend it. When we take the opportunity to celebrate what it means to be free, then we gain a deeper appreciation for that freedom.

I hope the men and women who attended the Rally appreciated the opportunity to celebrate their dangerous freedom. I sure enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate with them. As the Rally ends and everyone heads for home – no matter what city, state, or country that home may be – I hope they take that spirit of freedom home with them, and in so doing, make their homes just a bit more like Sturgis: free, with just a touch of danger.

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**JOHN THUNE**  
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

## One Big, Beautiful Summer

It's summertime, which means a lot of South Dakotans are taking to the roads and the skies to get a few days of rest and relaxation with their families. Everyone looks forward to a few days at the lake, or a road trip to the Badlands, a visit to Mount Rushmore or Wind Cave.

I know parents work hard all year to put money aside for a family vacation. And Republicans have worked to make summer vacations – and family life, more generally – easier for families with the One Big Beautiful Bill. That starts with permanent tax relief for working families so they can keep more of their hard-earned money to save, invest, and spend how they see fit, rather than sending it to Washington.

We prevented a massive tax hike on working families with this bill and made the lower tax rates we passed in 2017 permanent. We increased the child tax credit to \$2,200 and linked it to inflation so its value will never go down. We also increased the standard deduction and created a new bonus deduction for seniors. And we included a number of policies that will help expand opportunities for workers and grow paychecks by growing our economy.

For a lot of South Dakotans, the summer can also be an opportunity to earn some extra money. I can remember looking forward to the busy summers and extra tips when I worked at the Star Family Restaurant in Murdo, where families would pass through on their vacations to the Black Hills. This is a busy time of year for those in the restaurant and tourism industries and for first responders who are keeping our county fairs and events safe. And now these hardworking folks can look forward to keeping more of the money they earn, thanks to the One Big Beautiful Bill eliminating taxes on tips and overtime pay.

This bill will also help provide an affordable supply of energy to the American people, which helps to make fueling up for a road trip or keeping the AC on during the summer more manageable. Our country is rich in natural resources – from oil and gas to biofuels produced right here in South Dakota – and this bill ensures that those resources are being put to use for the benefit of the American people.

South Dakotans who take to the skies for summer vacations can also rest assured that travel will get better in the coming years thanks to the down payment this bill makes on our air traffic control system. Incidents in the last few years have demonstrated the need to upgrade our air safety systems. This bill makes a major investment in improving infrastructure and training to move toward a more advanced system for safer skies and fewer delays.

The One Big Beautiful Bill is about making life better for hardworking Americans. Thanks to this bill, Americans will be able to keep more of the money they earn. They will benefit from a more affordable supply of energy and a more advanced air traffic control system. Republicans will keep working to make life better for the American people and to make our country safer, stronger, and more prosperous.



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## Innovation is American

### BIG Update

Public-private partnerships are a critical part of a strong national defense. The Department of Defense created the Accelerate the Procurement and Fielding of Innovative Technologies program which awards grants to small businesses that support our military readiness.

The Pentagon also hosts a Rapid Prototype Display to showcase prototypes that have been developed in coordination with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. South Dakota's own MMS Products participated in the display with its drone munitions. I had the honor of visiting the Pentagon to visit with MMS Products and see what modern and future warfighting looks like..

### BIG Idea

A project that takes six months to get approved to build in Germany takes six years in the United States. Tedious regulations and an arcane permitting process have failed to ensure domestic projects are on time and on-task, slowing domestic development or losing it to other countries.

I introduced the ePermit Act to modernize the process by using digital technology rather than paper documents. Digitizing the system will speed up the process, save federal dollars, and cut down delays. The Trump Administration and Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy agree – it's time to modernize the permitting process and let America build again.

### BIG News

Blockchain technology has the potential to transform every single industry in the same way the internet did. Unfortunately, America is falling behind other countries in digital asset development due to a lack of regulation and unclear rules of the road.

This week, I voted to pass my bill, the CLARITY Act, to establish a clear regulatory framework for digital assets. Normally, regulations complicate processes, but for digital assets, regulations will protect consumers, provide certainty to developers, and strengthen transparency for market participants. The CLARITY Act will unlock innovation so America can be the global leader in digital asset development.

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JULY 28 – AUGUST 3, 2025



We had another busy week out in DC as we continue to work on confirming the President's nominees. While we also had our usual schedule of meeting with South Dakotans and attending hearings and briefings, I was honored to be invited to the White House by President Trump this past week

to attend an event on Making Health Technology Great Again. The President and his administration are utilizing AI technology to improve access to patients' electronic medical records. The information used in these records will make it easier for patients to be diagnosed using AI. As a co-chair of the Senate's AI Caucus, I'm excited about the potential this has to save lives and improve the quality of life for those who voluntarily participate. Watch a clip from the event here, and read more on the rest of my week in my Weekly Round[s] Up:

South Dakota groups I met with: Dr. Ben Jones and Tyler Tordsen, who are both serving on South Dakota's planning commission for America's 250th birthday next year; Dr. José-Marie Griffiths, President of Dakota State University; and Billy Mawhiney and Malachi Nelson, leaders from the South Dakota Afterschool Network.

South Dakota towns represented: Madison, Rapid City and Sioux Falls.

Other meetings: Dr. Joseph Jewell, nominee for Assistant Secretary of Defense for Science and Technology; leaders from Rwanda; David Beck, nominee for Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs at the National Nuclear Security Administration; Christopher Pilkerton, nominee for Assistant Secretary for Investment Security at the Department of Treasury; Neel Kashkari, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis; and members of the American Council of Blind and American Foundation of the Blind.

I also co-hosted a dinner this past week for all of the former governors with my fellow former governor and current colleague Senator John Hickenlooper of Colorado. There are 12 of us in the Senate and we always enjoy reminiscing on what many of us consider to have been the best job in the world! I also attended our Senate Bible Study, where our verse of the week was Galatians 5:25, and our Senate Prayer Breakfast, where Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota was our speaker.

Committee work: I attended two committee events. The first was a business meeting in the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. At this business meeting, we marked up and passed the Road to Housing Act out of committee. I had four of my bills included in this package of legislation addressing housing issues. Access to safe affordable housing is critical to the strength and future of our communities. I'm proud that my legislation became key provisions in this bill, including modernizing rural housing programs, cutting burdensome regulations and giving local communities more tools to address homelessness and housing shortages. View a full list of my bills and read more about this legislation here.

I also chaired a hearing this past week in the Senate Banking Committee's Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment, titled "Guardrails and Growth: AI's Role in Capital and Insurance Markets." The hearing examined how artificial intelligence is transforming financial services and Congress' role in fostering innovation while promoting transparency and accountability. Read more here.



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**Briefings and markups:** I attended four classified briefings this past week: one classified briefing as part of my work on the Armed Services committee, one as part of my work on the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and two closed briefings in the Select Committee on Intelligence. I also attended another markup in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

**Legislation introduced:** I reintroduced bipartisan, bicameral legislation to promote artificial intelligence (AI) innovation in the financial services industry. The Unleashing AI Innovation in Financial Services Act would direct financial regulatory agencies to create Innovation Labs for regulated entities to test AI projects, allowing them to experiment with cutting-edge technologies in a safe way. [Read more about this bill here.](#)

**Votes taken:** 63 – we confirmed an additional 18 nominees to the executive and judicial branch this week. We also passed three of our 12 appropriations bills. The Senate is finally making a return to regular order appropriations under Leader John Thune and Appropriations Chair Senator Collins’ leadership. This past week, the Senate passed the Milcon-VA, Agriculture and Legislative Branch appropriations bills, with \$21.9 million for projects in South Dakota included. Glad to have worked on these as part of my first year serving on the Committee. Three bills down, nine to go!

**My staff in South Dakota visited:** Aberdeen, Chamberlain, Mitchell and Rosebud.

**Steps taken:** 54,580 steps or 24.64 miles.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

## What It Was, Was A Cookie

At least once a month The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and her daughter will spend a day visiting thrift stores in our community. I'm not sure, so don't quote me, but I think there's a 100-mile radius where they do their shopping.

This past week was one of those days. As she was backing out of the driveway, I watched her and smiled as I waved goodbye. As she was going, something was bothering me, and I just couldn't figure out what it was.

I closed the door, walked over to my easy chair and sat down for a few moments to finish drinking my coffee. I was trying to figure out what was bothering me, but nothing came to mind at the time. Finally, I just shrugged it off and got back to my day at hand.

I had to go to the grocery store to pick up a few things for The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. As I got into the store, I walked past the bakery section. I wasn't thinking about what I was doing, I was just focused on getting what I came to the store to get. Walking past the bakery store, it suddenly came to mind what was bothering me. What it was, was a cookie.

The last time I had a cookie is beyond my memory because cookies are The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's no-no for our house. She is obsessed by sugar and works very hard to remove it from our culinary experience. According to her, sugar is not allowed in our home. Since I have to live here I had to comply with her desires.

As I walked by the bakery section, I happened to notice it right in front of me. There were at least a dozen cookies wrapped up in front of me. I couldn't help but go over and look at them, and the more I looked at them, the more appealing they seemed to be..

I didn't know which one to take, but all of a sudden there it was, a chocolate chip cookie. Who in the world doesn't like chocolate chip cookies? In that cookie box were six wonderful chocolate chip cookies.

I picked it up, and then got what I came for, went to the checkout and got ready to go home.

Driving home, the aroma of those chocolate chip cookies made the drive so enjoyable.

I wasn't sure what I would do with all six of those chocolate chip cookies, but I needed to work out a plan so The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage wouldn't catch me with them. That would be a disaster for me.

When I got home, I went to my office and opened the bottom drawer of my desk, where I put them. Of course, I had to take one out before I closed the drawer.



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As I munched on that chocolate chip cookie, my head was filled with the amazing aroma that just wouldn't go away.

Before The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage got home, I had delighted myself with three of those chocolate chip cookies. It's been a long time since I had cookies like that.

I got to work on my latest project and was still working on it when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage got home and walked in the front door.

As she walked in, I heard her mumbling, "What is that smell?"

She came into my office, looked at me, and said, "What is that smell throughout the house? You didn't buy any cookies today while I was away, did you?"

I sat there somewhat stunned. How in the world did she know about those cookies? I was very careful in hiding them in my desk. How would she know that there were any such things in the house?

I looked at her and shook my head and said, "I don't smell anything. I don't know what you're talking about."

"There is a smell in this house that wasn't here when I left this morning." She just looked at me and was waiting for me to make a confession.

I tried to hide my secret as long as I could. I wasn't going to rat out on myself because I knew some of the consequences.

She then walked over to my desk and began sniffing.. "That smell is here in your desk. What are you hiding in your desk?"

"I don't know what you're talking about," I said, "I've been working here at my desk all day and I haven't smell the thing."

I knew that in the bottom drawer of my desk were my last two cookies. I did not want her to know about it because my plans were to enjoy both of those cookies.

Looking at me, she said with one of her smiles, "You do know I will find out what you're hiding."

With that, she walked out of my office leaving me thinking on this. As I was thinking, I remembered a verse in the Bible. "For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known," (Luke 12:2).

My thoughts got me evaluating my situation. One thing that came to my mind was, if I can't hide anything from the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, how do I think I can hide anything from God?

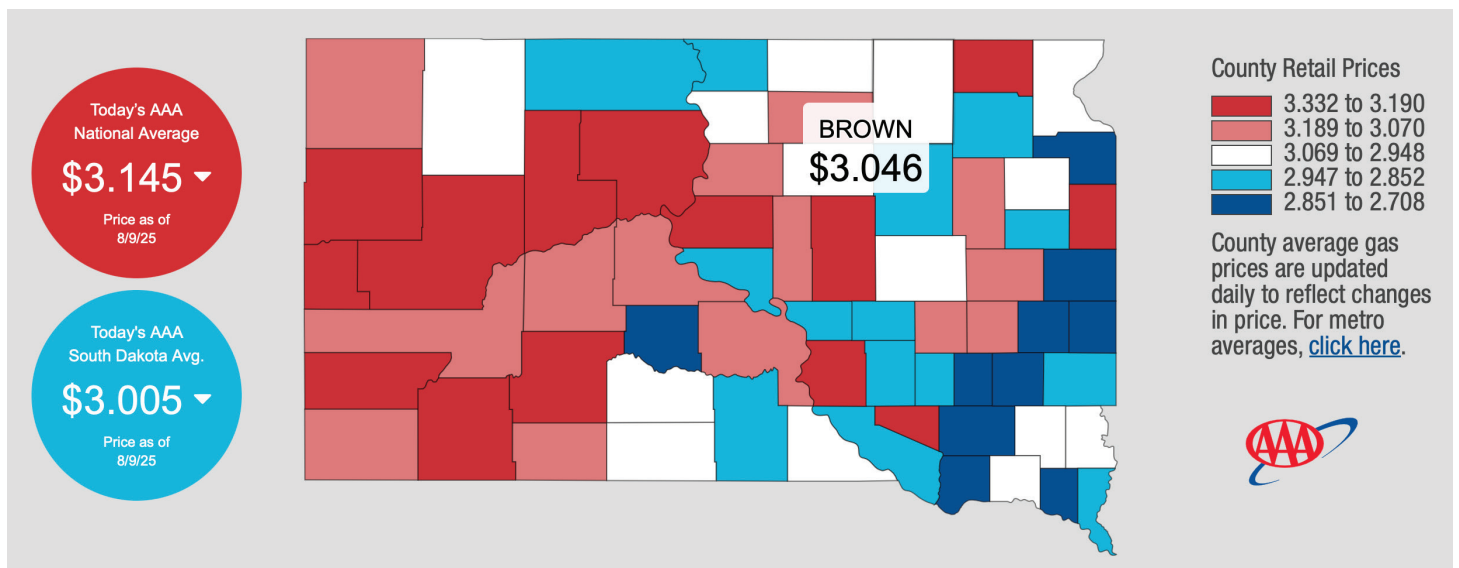
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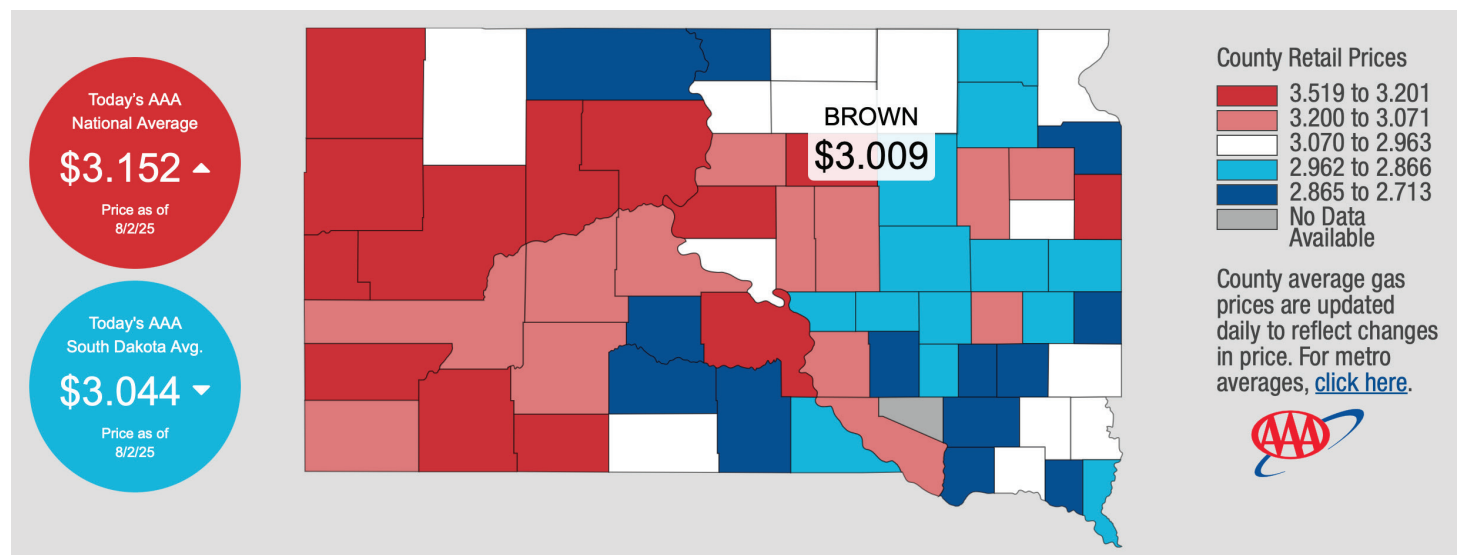
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

|                | Regular | Mid-Grade | Premium | Diesel  |
|----------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Current Avg.   | \$3.005 | \$3.195   | \$3.650 | \$3.391 |
| Yesterday Avg. | \$3.012 | \$3.199   | \$3.669 | \$3.388 |
| Week Ago Avg.  | \$3.044 | \$3.223   | \$3.715 | \$3.406 |
| Month Ago Avg. | \$2.974 | \$3.167   | \$3.614 | \$3.360 |
| Year Ago Avg.  | \$3.312 | \$3.521   | \$3.957 | \$3.447 |

### This Week



### Last Week

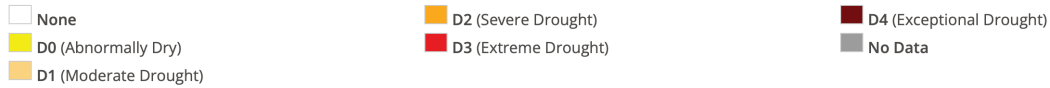




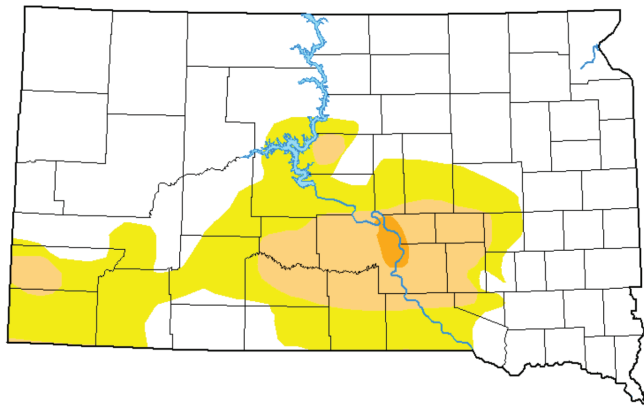
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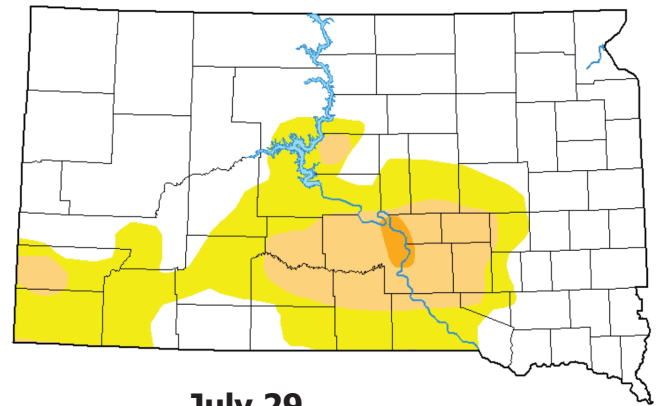
## Drought Classification



## Drought Monitor



August 5



July 29

Rainfall varied in intensity across the High Plains Region, with abundant rainfall amounts falling on a large part of the Plains while lesser, subnormal totals were observed in the higher elevations farther west. A similar pattern has been observed periodically for several weeks now, resulting in significantly worse conditions in the western part of the region than farther east. A solid swath of moderate drought (D1) or worse covers most of southern and western Wyoming and the western half of Colorado, with severe drought (D2) covering a large part of this region, and extreme drought (D3) noted in a sizeable portion of west-central and northwestern Colorado. This represents a significant increase in the extend of D2 and D3 coverage compared to last week. In contrast, another wet week led to a continued reduction in the coverage of the abnormal dryness (D0) to locally severe drought (D2) over the Great Plains. A broken pattern of heavy rainfall – with upwards of 3 inches reported in spots – prevailed from northern Kansas through much of the Dakotas, although higher amounts were more common in some areas than others. The improvements left severe drought confined to part of south-central Nebraska and adjacent Kansas, southwestern Nebraska, and a small area in south-central South Dakota. Moderate drought (D1) coverage also decreased, mainly across Nebraska and a few adjacent locations in the far eastern sections of Colorado and Wyoming. The USDA reported short or very short subsoil moisture across about one-third of Colorado and two-thirds of Wyoming. In addition, 17 percent of the Colorado corn crop was in poor or very poor condition, and drier weather earlier in the summer has left one-third of the Nebraska oat crop in poor or very poor condition.

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## EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Does exposure to air pollution cause "brain fog"? – Mark H., Raleigh, NC

Exposure to air pollution has long been connected to respiratory and cardiovascular issues. More recently, researchers have found evidence that it may also impair brain function. Studies suggest air pollution is associated with cognitive decline, memory problems and short-term cognitive performance—what many call brain fog—accentuating concerns about the effects of polluted air on mental clarity and brain health.

Air pollution is a combination of harmful gases and particles, such as fine particulate matter (PM2.5), carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide. These pollutants, frequently released by vehicles, industries and wildfires, can enter the bloodstream and access the brain. Research shows that high levels of air pollution are linked to heightened brain inflammation, interrupted neural connections and diminished oxygen supply, which may all lead to cognitive impairment. A 2025 study in *Nature* discovered that extended exposure to air pollution may hasten cognitive deterioration, especially among older individuals.

People exposed to elevated pollution levels usually experience symptoms like trouble focusing, memory issues and mental exhaustion. Dr. Caleb Finch at the University of Southern California, states, "The aging brain is vulnerable to air pollution." His studies show that exposure to pollutants might elevate the risk of neurodegenerative conditions like Alzheimer's disease. Kids and young individuals could also be in danger. The growing brain is especially sensitive to environmental toxins, and certain studies indicate that children subjected to elevated pollution levels might encounter decreased IQ scores and attention issues.

According to research from the University of California, Davis, polluted air is also associated with mood disorders like anxiety and depression, emphasizing how important it is to create cleaner environments in order to improve outcomes related to both physical and mental health.

Reducing the impact of air pollution on brain function necessitates joint efforts. Decreasing air pollution levels by implementing stricter emission regulations, expanding green spaces and encouraging cleaner transportation alternatives can aid in minimizing exposure risks. On a personal level, individuals can safeguard themselves by using air purifiers, refraining from outdoor activities during high pollution days, and promoting measures that encourage cleaner air policies. By lowering pollution exposure, we can make great strides in protecting brain health for upcoming generations.



**Studies suggest air pollution is associated with cognitive decline, memory problems and short-term cognitive performance.** Credit: Pexels.com





## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Former state trooper plans run as Democrat for secretary of state

BY: JOHN HULT - AUGUST 9, 2025 9:10 AM

A 39-year-old former state trooper plans to seek the office of South Dakota secretary of state for the Democratic Party.

If the party chooses him at its nominating convention next year, Terrence Davis could face Republican Secretary of State Monae Johnson in the general election.

Johnson was elected in 2022, and has announced her intention to seek reelection.

In South Dakota, the secretary of state oversees elections, maintains voter registration records, and catalogs and manages campaign finance reporting for state office-seekers and political action committees. It also catalogs businesses and corporate filings, among other duties.

Davis, a Sioux Falls resident and Tennessee native, sent an announcement on his candidacy this week. The married father of one spent a year working for the South Dakota Highway Patrol, from 2021-2022, and another five working as a state trooper in Tennessee. He currently works for East River Legal Services in Sioux Falls, and is pursuing a doctoral degree in law and public policy through Liberty University.

He pledged to bring "transparency" and "accountability" to the office, and to deliver "more efficient, accessible services with the respect South Dakotans deserve." Davis' announcement also said he would make voting "both secure and accessible, especially for rural communities."

"When people deny elections, fail to protect your privacy, they silence your voice. Incompetence is just as dangerous — it threatens our democracy and the future of South Dakota," Davis said in his news release.

The quote does not name Johnson, but references criticisms of her work in office and statements made prior to taking it.

During the 2022 election, Johnson declined to say if the results of the 2020 presidential election, won by Joe Biden, were fair and legitimate.

Last month, Johnson's office publicly released a list of registered voters that included confidential information on how they registered, including during applications for public assistance programs. The voter rolls were made available at no cost to the public pursuant to a state law that took effect July 1, but Johnson, after reporting by Searchlight and other media, apologized for including the confidential information and retracted it from the database.

Johnson did not immediately return emails requesting comment on Davis' criticisms.



**Terrence Davis has declared his intention to seek the Democratic nomination for South Dakota secretary of state in 2026.** (Courtesy of

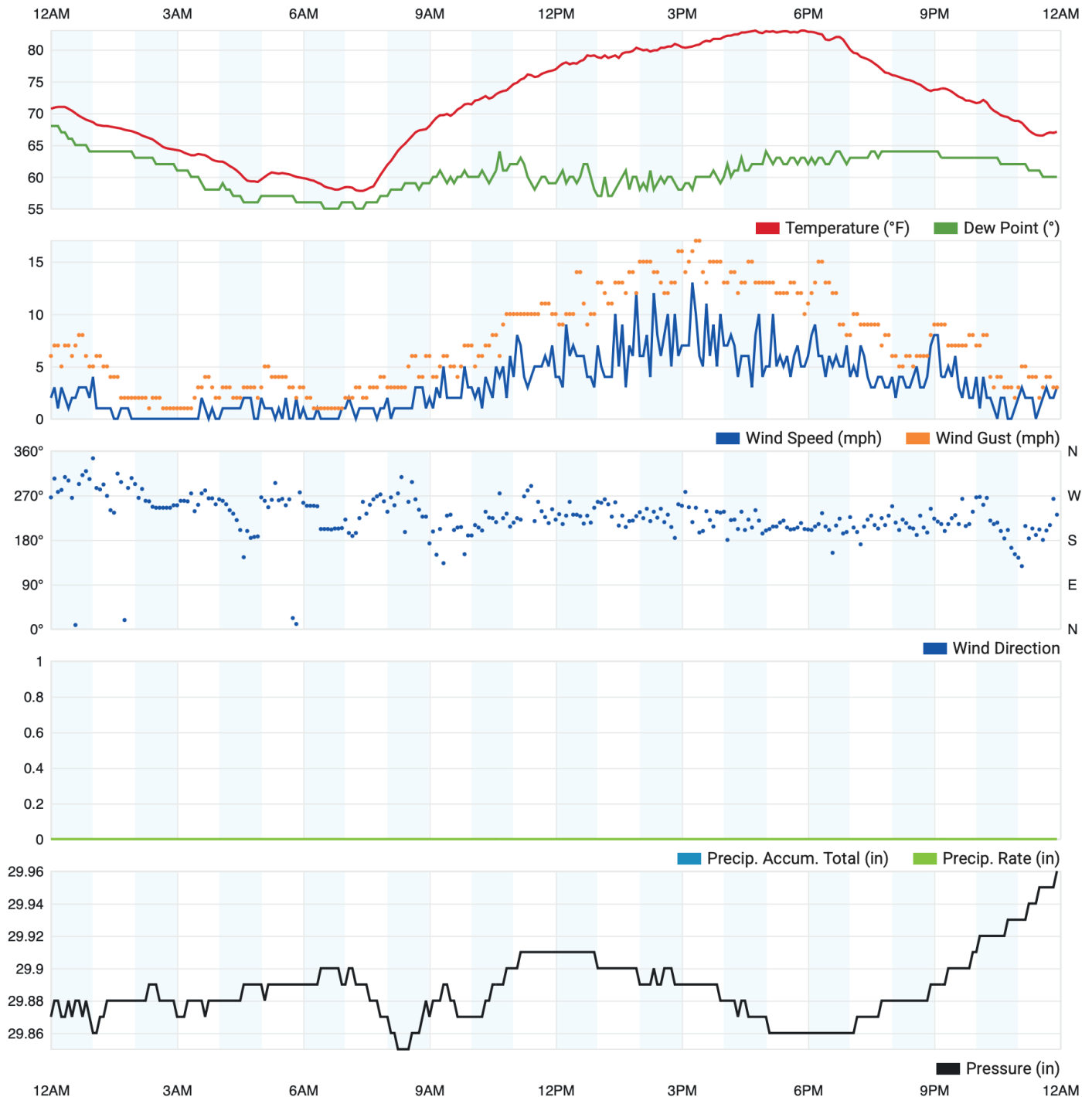
Davis for South Dakota)

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

August 9, 2025



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Today



**High: 79 °F**

Mostly Sunny

Tonight



**Low: 58 °F**

Areas Smoke

Monday



**High: 86 °F**

Areas Smoke

Monday Night



**Low: 60 °F**

Areas Smoke  
then Mostly  
Clear

Tuesday



**High: 80 °F**

Sunny

## What's Ahead

SMOKE

**TODAY**

Mostly sunny skies. Smoke.

Highs: 72-85°

SMOKE

**MONDAY**

Mostly sunny skies. Warmer.  
Smoke. Isolated P.M. showers  
over north central South Dakota

Highs: 81-94°

**TUESDAY**

Mostly sunny skies. Warm.

Highs: 74-89°

**WEDNESDAY**

Mostly sunny skies. Warm.

Highs: 76-99°



NWS Aberdeen, SD  
Sun Aug 10, 2025 2:28 AM

Seasonal temperatures are expected with little in the way of rain chances. Smoke, aloft and near the surface, will impact air quality and visibility today and Monday.



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## Hazy Conditions Today And Monday

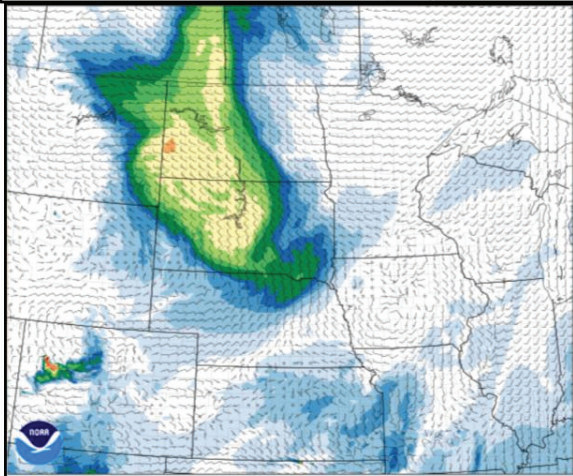
August 10, 2025

3:01 AM

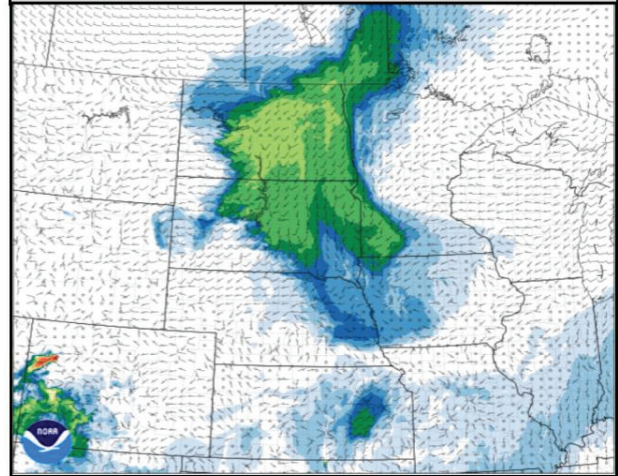
Smoke, aloft and near the surface, will reduce visibility and air quality and cause skies to get hazy.

- Smoke from Canada wildfires will move into central and northeast South Dakota today, increasing in concentration tonight before eventually dissipating/moving east out of the area Monday night.
- This time around, near surface smoke is expected to have noticeable concentrations, potentially reducing visibility to less than 3 miles.

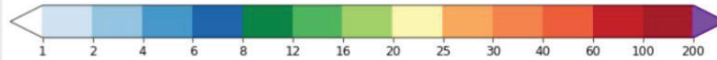
Near Surface Smoke Noon Sunday, August 10th



Near Surface Smoke 7AM Monday, August 11th



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



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Smoke, aloft and near the surface, from Canada wildfires will move into the region today and stick around through Monday before conditions improve Monday night.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 83 °F at 4:41 PM**

**Heat Index: 85 °F at 4:45 PM**

**Low Temp: 58 °F at 7:16 AM**

**Wind: 18 mph at 3:16 PM**

**Precip: : 0.00**

Day length: 14 hours, 22 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 106 in 1947

Record Low: 42 in 1985

Average High: 84

Average Low: 58

Average Precip in August.: 0.73

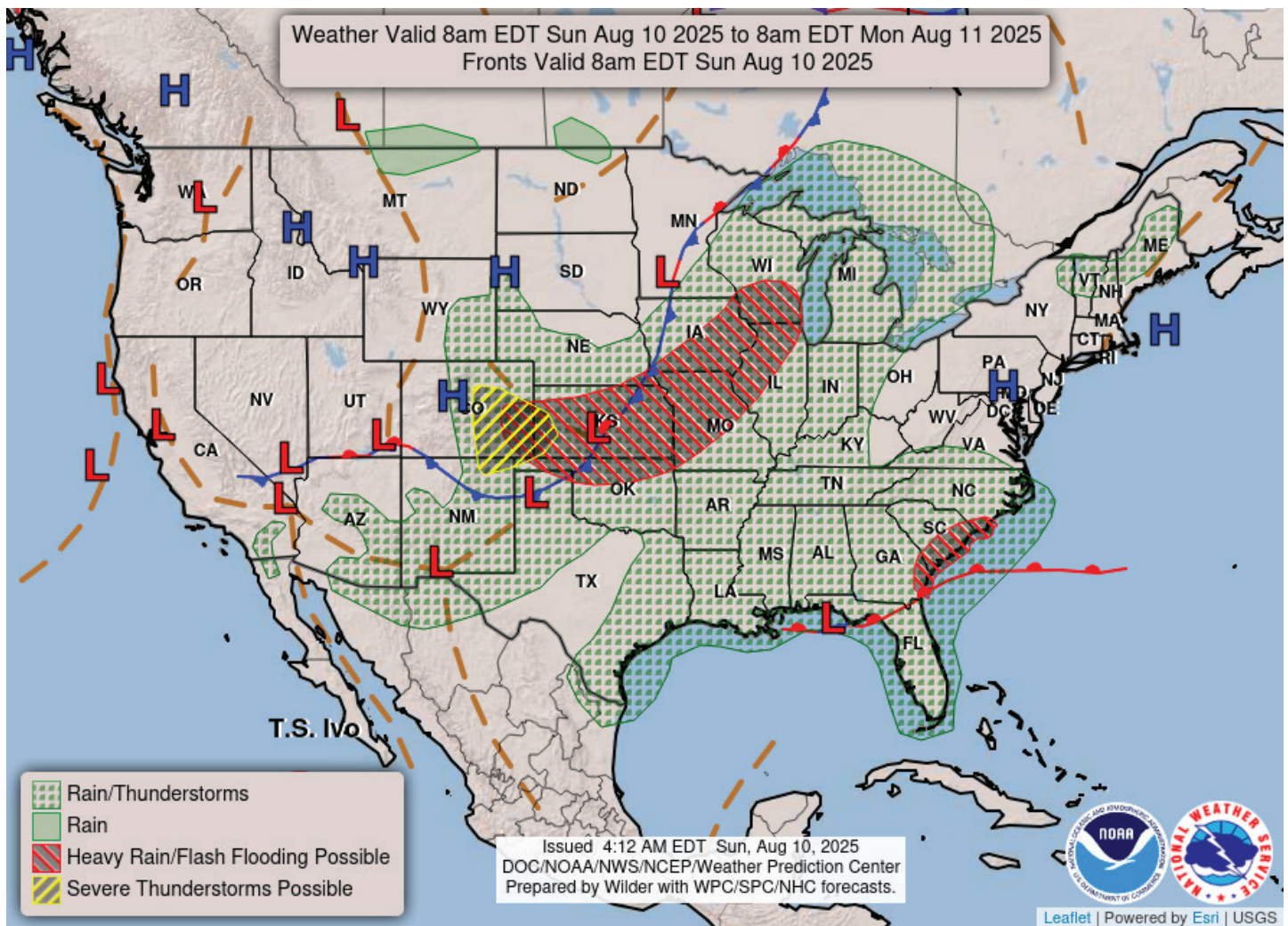
Precip to date in August: 1.43

Average Precip to date: 14.83

Precip Year to Date: 16.49

Sunset Tonight: 8:49:04 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:27:31 am





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## Today in Weather History

August 10, 1886: An estimated F3 tornado moved southeast from 10 miles northwest of Aberdeen. This massive tornado destroyed four homes and a dozen barns. This is the earliest significant tornado on record for Brown County.

August 10, 2007: Several supercell thunderstorms developed along a frontal boundary during the evening bringing large hail, damaging winds, along with a couple of tornadoes. An EF0 tornado touched down north of Timber Lake with no damage reported. Another EF0 tornado touched down briefly north of Trail City with no damage occurring. Wakpala, in Corson County, and Mobridge saw golf ball sized hail. The hail broke some windows and damaged the siding on several houses in the Mobridge area.

1856: A hurricane destroyed Isle Dernieres or Last Island, a pleasure resort south-southwest of New Orleans on this day. The highest points of the island were under five feet of water. The resort hotel was destroyed, along with the island's gambling establishments. Over 200 people perished, and the island lost all its vegetation and split in half. Only one cow remained on the island after the catastrophe. The Last Island is now just a haven for pelicans and other seabirds. The steamer Nautilus foundered during the storm. The lone survivor clung to a bale of cotton and washed ashore sometime later.

1882 - Sandusky OH noted a four minute snow squall during the morning, frost was reported in the suburbs of Chicago, and a killing frost was reported at Cresco IA. (The Weather Channel)

1884 - An earthquake, centered near New York City and registering a magnitude 5.5, hit the region a little after 2 PM. The tremor made houses shake, chimneys fall, and residents wonder what the heck was going on, according to a New York Times article two days later.

1898 - The temperature at Pendleton OR climbed all the way to 119 degrees at set a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1924 - Colorado's deadliest tornado killed a woman and nine children in one house along its twenty-mile path east southeast of Thurman. Mennonite men had left the farm to provide possible aid, as the 200-yard wide storm was first seen while far away.(The Weather Channel)

1936 - The temperature soared to 114 degrees at Plain Dealing, LA, and reached 120 degrees at Ozark AR, to establish record highs for those two states. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - Hurricane Allen came ashore above Brownsville, TX, dropping fifteen inches of rain near San Antonio, and up to 20 inches in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Tidal flooding occurred along the South Texas coast. Hurricane Allen packed winds to 150 mph, and also spawned twenty-nine tornadoes. Total damage from the storm was estimated at 750 million dollars. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Unseasonably hot weather continued in the southeastern U.S. Ten cities in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina reported record high temperatures for the date. Macon GA hit 101 degrees. A tropical depression deluged southeastern Texas and southwestern Louisiana with torrential rains. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Citizens of Bluefield, WV, where the Chamber of Commerce provides free lemonade on days when the temperature warms into the 90s, were able to celebrate their record high of 90 degrees. Eight other cities also reported record high temperatures for the date,including Bismarck ND with a reading of 102 degrees.(The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thirty-eight cities in the south central and southeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Asheville NC with a reading of 48 degrees, and Victoria TX with a low of 63 degrees. Oklahoma City OK reported a record cool afternoon high of 71 degrees, and the daily high of 64 degrees at Raleigh NC established a record for August. In Arizona, a record sixty-four day streak of 100 degree days at Phoenix came to an end.(The National Weather Summary)



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## GOD'S CURE FOR SLEEPLESSNESS

Charles Dickens is considered to be one of the world's greatest novelists and storytellers. One of His most interesting, compelling, and heart-touching stories is: "A Christmas Carol." It is considered to be a "classic."

However, there is an interesting story about him that that few people know. Whenever he left his home to travel and spend the night with his friends, he would take his faithful and dependable compass with him. After looking at his compass and before he retired for the night, he would always turn the head of his bed to the north. He believed that he would sleep deeply and more comfortably with his bed in that position.

David had his own "routine" for falling asleep. He said, "I will lie down in peace and sleep, for you, O Lord, will keep me safe!" The important word in this verse of Scripture is peace. David did not say that he would lie down and sleep in peace. Rather, he believed that the peace that he experienced in his heart is what enabled him to lie down and sleep.

But where does this peace come from? For David, it came from the Lord. David said that God gave him a greater joy than those who had experienced "abundant harvests." The joy and gladness that David experienced and brought peace to his heart came from his relationship with God.

We never find joy, gladness, or peace if we seek them for selfish reasons. But they fill the life of a Christian when we meet Him in prayer, seek Him in His Word, and worship Him faithfully.

Prayer: Father, give us confidence in the promises of Your Word so that we may rest in your love and enjoy Your enduring peace through Christ our Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: I will lie down in peace and sleep, for you, O Lord, will keep me safe. Psalm 4:8

*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: 08.08.25

2 6 8 14 49 12

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$182,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.09.25

1 9 24 37 40 1

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$2,050,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.09.25

9 19 35 44 45 17

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 23 Mins 5  
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.09.25

12 16 18 30 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$88,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.09.25

5 22 26 29 40 6

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.09.25

7 14 23 24 60 14

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$501,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS



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## **Upcoming Groton Events**

08/09/2025 Groton Legion 30th Anniversary Celebration  
08/07/2025 Groton Firemen Summer Splash in the GHS Parking Lot 7:30-8:30pm  
08/11/2025 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 3:30-6pm  
08/23/2025 Glacial Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course  
09/05/2025 Homecoming Parade 1pm  
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm  
09/06-07/25 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport  
09/07/2025 Couples Sunflower Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am  
09/07/2025 9th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3-5pm  
10/10/2025 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am  
10/11/2025 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm  
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm  
10/31/2025 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm  
11/15/2025 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party 6:30pm  
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving 11:30am-1:30pm Community Center (Thanksgiving)  
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

### **Taliban investigating death threats against United Nations' Afghan female staff, report says**

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The Taliban are investigating explicit death threats against dozens of Afghan women working for the United Nations, according to a report published Sunday.

In its latest update on the human rights situation in Afghanistan, the U.N. mission to the country said that dozens of female national staff were subjected to explicit death threats in May.

The threats came from unidentified individuals related to their work with the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, or UNAMA, other agencies, funds, and programs, "requiring the U.N. to implement interim measures to protect their safety," according to the report.

It said that the Taliban told the U.N. mission that their personnel were not responsible for the threats. An Interior Ministry investigation is underway, the report said.

Afghan authorities, including the Interior Ministry, didn't immediately respond to requests for comment on the report or the investigation.

The Taliban barred Afghan women from working at domestic and foreign nongovernmental organizations in December 2022, extending this ban to the U.N. six months later, and then threatening to shut down agencies and groups still employing women.

Humanitarian agencies say the Taliban have hampered or interfered with their operations, allegations denied by authorities.

The U.N. report is the first official confirmation of death threats against Afghan women working in the sector. The report also highlighted other areas affecting women's personal freedoms and safety.

In Herat, inspectors from the Vice and Virtue Ministry began requiring women to wear a chador, a full-body cloak covering the head. Dozens of women deemed "not in compliance" were barred from entering markets or using public transportation. Several women were detained until relatives brought them a chador, the report said.

In Uruzgan, women were arrested for wearing a headscarf, a hijab, rather than a burqa.

Women have also been denied access to public areas, in line with laws banning them from such spaces. In Ghor province, police forced several families to leave a recreational area. They warned the families against visiting outdoor picnic sites with women.

In Herat, Vice and Virtue inspectors stopped family groups with women and girls from accessing an open recreational area, only allowing all-male groups.

Nobody from the Vice and Virtue Ministry was immediately available to comment on the Ghor, Herat and Uruzgan incidents, which the U.N. said happened in May.

In Kandahar, the Public Health Department instructed female health care workers to be accompanied to work by male guardians with an identification card proving that they were related to the woman by blood or marriage.

It wasn't immediately clear if the card is specific to Kandahar or will be rolled out across Afghanistan.

"The process to apply for a mahram (male guardian) identification card is reportedly cumbersome and can take up to several weeks as it requires the de facto Department for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice and a member of the local community (e.g. malik, imam or village elder) to verify the relationship," the U.N. report said.

## European leaders rally behind Ukraine ahead of Trump-Putin meeting

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — European nations rallied behind Ukraine, saying peace in the war-torn nation can't be resolved without Kyiv, ahead of a planned meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Trump had said Friday's meeting in Alaska with his Russian counterpart was to discuss ending the more than three-year war.

Zelenskyy responded by thanking European allies and wrote on X on Sunday: "The end of the war must be fair, and I am grateful to everyone who stands with Ukraine and our people."

Trump-Putin meeting spikes worries

Saturday's statement by top European leaders came after the White House confirmed the U.S. president was willing to grant Putin the one-on-one meeting Russia has long pushed for, and suggestions from Trump that a peace deal could include "some swapping of territories," raising fears Kyiv may be pressured into giving up land or accepting other curbs on its sovereignty.

A White House official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as they aren't allowed to speak publicly, told The Associated Press that Trump remained open to a trilateral summit with both the Russian and Ukrainian leaders, but for now, he will have a bilateral meeting requested by Putin.

Meanwhile, U.S. Vice President JD Vance met Saturday with top European and Ukrainian officials at the British Foreign Secretary's weekend residence to discuss how to end the war.

Trump had earlier said he would meet with Putin even if the Russian leader would not meet with Zelenskyy.

The Trump-Putin meeting may prove pivotal in a war that began when Russia invaded its western neighbor and has led to tens of thousands of deaths, although there's no guarantee it will stop the fighting since Moscow and Kyiv remain far apart on their conditions for peace.

The statement

Saturday's statement, signed by the president of the European Union and leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Finland and the UK, stressed the need for a "just and lasting peace" for Kyiv, including "robust and credible" security guarantees.

"Ukraine has the freedom of choice over its own destiny. Meaningful negotiations can only take place in the context of a ceasefire or reduction of hostilities," the statement said.

"The path to peace in Ukraine cannot be decided without Ukraine. We remain committed to the principle that international borders must not be changed by force," the Europeans added.

A fruitless push toward a truce

A monthlong U.S.-led push to achieve a truce in Ukraine has so far proved fruitless, with Kyiv agreeing in principle while the Kremlin has held out for terms more to its liking.

Trump had also moved up an ultimatum to impose additional sanctions on Russia and introduce secondary tariffs targeting countries that buy Russian oil if the Kremlin did not move toward a settlement. The deadline was Friday. The White House did not answer questions Saturday about possible sanctions.

The Kremlin earlier this week reiterated demands that Ukraine give up territory, abandon its bid to join NATO, and accept limits on its military, in exchange for a withdrawal of Russian troops from the rest of the country.

Zelenskyy said Saturday that Ukraine "will not give Russia any awards for what it has done" and that "Ukrainians will not give their land to the occupier."

Ukrainian officials previously told the AP privately that Kyiv would be amenable to a peace deal that would de facto recognize Ukraine's inability to regain lost territories militarily. But Zelenskyy on Saturday insisted that formally ceding land was out of the question.



## **Demonstrators seeking release of Gaza hostages to march in London as Middle East tensions grip UK**

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Police in London braced for another day of demonstrations on Sunday as the war in Gaza continues to inflame tensions across the United Kingdom.

Demonstrators demanding the immediate release of all the remaining hostages in Gaza plan to march through central London to the prime minister's residence at No. 10 Downing Street on Sunday afternoon. The march comes a day after police arrested 474 people at a protest in support of a banned pro-Palestinian organization.

Among those expected to attend the rally is Noga Guttman, a cousin of 24-year-old hostage Eviatar David, who was featured in a video that enraged Israelis when it was released by Hamas militants last week. The video showed an emaciated David saying he is digging his own grave inside a tunnel in Gaza.

Hamas-led militants kidnapped 251 people when they attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. Some 50 of the hostages still haven't been released, of whom 20 are thought to be alive.

Israel last week announced its intention to occupy Gaza City as part of a plan to end the war and bring the captives home. Family members and many international leaders have condemned the plan, saying it would lead to more bloodshed and endanger the hostages.

"We are united in one clear and urgent demand: the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages," Stop the Hate, a coalition of groups organizing the march, said in a statement. "Regardless of our diverse political views, this is not a political issue — it is a human one."

On Saturday, police arrested hundreds of people in central London as demonstrators sought to pressure the government to overturn its decision to ban the group Palestine Action as a terrorist organization. Legislation passed last month makes it a crime to publicly support the group.

The Metropolitan Police Service said it arrested 466 people for supporting Palestine Action. A further eight were arrested on other charges, including assaults on police officers.

The government banned Palestine Action after activists broke into a Royal Air Force base and damaged two tanker planes to protest British support for the war in Gaza. Palestine Action had previously targeted Israeli defense contractors and other sites in Britain that they believe have links with the Israeli military.

Supporters of Palestine Action are challenging the ban in court, saying the government has gone too far in declaring a direct action group a terrorist organization.

## **Russia and Ukraine hold fast to their demands ahead of a planned Putin-Trump summit**

By The Associated Press undefined

The threats, pressure and ultimatums have come and gone, but Russian President Vladimir Putin has maintained Moscow's uncompromising demands in the war in Ukraine, raising fears he could use a planned summit with U.S. President Donald Trump in Alaska to coerce Kyiv into accepting an unfavorable deal.

The maximalist demands reflect Putin's determination to reach the goals he set when he launched the full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

Putin sees a possible meeting with Trump as a chance to negotiate a broad deal that would not only cement Russia's territorial gains but also keep Ukraine from joining NATO and hosting any Western troops, allowing Moscow to gradually pull the country back into its orbit.

The Kremlin leader believes time is on his side as the exhausted and outgunned Ukrainian forces are struggling to stem Russian advances in many sectors of the over 1,000-kilometer (over 600-mile) front line while swarms of Russian missiles and drones batter Ukrainian cities.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also has stood firm in his positions, agreeing to a ceasefire proposed by Trump while reaffirming the country's refusal to abandon seeking NATO membership and rejecting acknowledgment of Russia's annexation of any of its regions.

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A look at Russian and Ukrainian visions of a peace deal and how a Putin-Trump summit could evolve: Russia's position

In a memorandum presented at talks in Istanbul in June, Russia offered Ukraine two options for establishing a 30-day ceasefire. One demanded Ukraine withdraw its forces from Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson — the four regions Moscow illegally annexed in September 2022 but never fully captured.

As an alternate condition for a ceasefire, Russia made a "package proposal" for Ukraine to halt mobilization efforts, freeze Western arms deliveries and ban any third-country forces on its soil. Moscow also suggested Ukraine end martial law and hold elections, after which the countries could sign a comprehensive peace treaty.

Once there's a truce, Moscow wants a deal to include the "international legal recognition" of its annexations of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and the four regions in 2022.

Russia says a peace treaty should have Ukraine declare its neutral status between Russia and the West, abandon its bid to join NATO, limit the size of its armed forces and recognize Russian as an official language on par with Ukrainian — conditions reflecting Putin's earliest goals.

It also demands Ukraine ban the "glorification and propaganda of Nazism and neo-Nazism" and dissolve nationalist groups. Since the war began, Putin has falsely alleged that neo-Nazi groups were shaping Ukrainian politics under Zelenskyy, who is Jewish. They were fiercely dismissed by Kyiv and its Western allies.

In Russia's view, a comprehensive peace treaty should see both countries lift all sanctions and restrictions, abandon any claims to compensation for wartime damage, resume trade and communications, and reestablish diplomatic ties.

Asked Thursday whether Moscow has signaled any willingness to compromise to make a meeting with Trump possible, Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov responded that there haven't been any shifts in the Russian position.

Ukraine's position

The memorandum that Ukraine presented to Moscow in Istanbul emphasized the need for a full and unconditional 30-day ceasefire to set stage for peace negotiations.

It reaffirmed Ukraine's consistent rejection of Russian demands for neutral status as an attack on its sovereignty, declaring it is free to choose its alliances and adding that its NATO membership will depend on consensus with the alliance.

It emphasized Kyiv's rejection of any restrictions on the size and other parameters of its armed forces, as well as curbs on the presence of foreign troops on its soil.

Ukraine's memorandum also opposed recognizing any Russian territorial gains, while describing the current line of contact as a starting point in negotiations.

The document noted the need for international security guarantees to ensure the implementation of peace agreements and prevent further aggression.

Kyiv's peace proposal also demanded the return of all deported and illegally displaced children and a total prisoner exchange.

It held the door open to gradual lifting of some of the sanctions against Russia if it abides by the agreement.

Trump's positions

Trump has often spoken admiringly of Putin and even echoed his talking points on the war. He had a harsh confrontation with Zelenskyy in the Oval Office on Feb. 28, but later warmed his tone. As Putin resisted a ceasefire and continued his aerial bombardments, Trump showed exasperation with the Kremlin leader, threatening Moscow with new sanctions.

Although Trump expressed disappointment with Putin, his agreement to meet him without Zelenskyy at the table raised worries in Ukraine and its European allies, who fear it could allow the Russian to get Trump on his side and strong-arm Ukraine into concessions.

Trump said without giving details that "there'll be some swapping of territories, to the betterment of both" Russia and Ukraine as part of any peace deal that he will discuss with Putin when they meet Friday.

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Putin repeatedly warned Ukraine will face tougher conditions for peace if it doesn't accept Moscow's demands as Russian troops forge into other regions to build what he described as a "buffer zone." Some observers suggested Russia could trade those recent gains for the territories of the four annexed by Moscow still under Ukrainian control.

"That is potentially a situation that gives Putin a tremendous amount of leeway as long as he can use that leverage to force the Ukrainians into a deal that they may not like and to sideline the Europeans effectively," Sam Greene of King's College London said. "The question is, will Trump sign up to that and will he actually have the leverage to force the Ukrainians and the Europeans to accept it?"

Putin could accept a temporary truce to win Trump's sympathy as he seeks to achieve broader goals, Greene said.

"He could accept a ceasefire so long as it's one that leaves him in control, in which there's no real deterrence against renewed aggression somewhere down the line," he said. "He understands that his only route to getting there runs via Trump."

In a possible indication he thinks a ceasefire or peace deal could be close, Putin called the leaders of China, India, South Africa and several ex-Soviet nations in an apparent effort to inform these allies about prospective agreements.

Tatiana Stanovaya of the Carnegie Russia and Eurasia Center argued Putin wouldn't budge on his goals.

"However these conditions are worded, they amount to the same demand: Ukraine stops resisting, the West halts arms supplies, and Kyiv accepts Russia's terms, which effectively amount to a de facto capitulation," she posted on X. "The Russian side can frame this in a dozen different ways, creating the impression that Moscow is open to concessions and serious negotiation. It has been doing so for some time, but the core position remains unchanged: Russia wants Kyiv to surrender."

She predicted Putin might agree to meet Zelenskyy but noted the Kremlin leader would only accept such a meeting "if there is a prearranged agenda and predetermined outcomes, which remains difficult to imagine."

"The likely scenario is that this peace effort will fail once again," she said. "This would be a negative outcome for Ukraine, but it would not deliver Ukraine to Putin on a plate either, at least not in the way he wants it. The conflict, alternating between open warfare and periods of simmering tension, appears likely to persist for the foreseeable future."

## **Jen Pawol breaks MLB's gender barrier as the first female umpire to work a regular-season game**

By CHARLES ODUM AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Jen Pawol felt love and support from fans, family, peers and players as she made history as the first female umpire to work a regular-season game in the major leagues.

"It was amazing when we took the field," Pawol said. "It seemed like quite a few people were clapping and calling my name. That was pretty intense and emotional."

Pawol's much-anticipated debut came as the first base umpire for Saturday's first game of a split double-header between the Atlanta Braves and Miami Marlins. It was a smooth debut.

"She did a good job," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "You can tell she knows what she does."

Pawol said she had a group of about 30 friends and family members, including her father, at the game and she immediately identified a major difference of working in a major league stadium. Those familiar faces were not so easy to find at Truist Park.

"When I looked up they weren't in the lower tier like in the minor leagues," Pawol said. "When I looked up it took me a while. Whoa, they're up there! I'll never forget that. That was just awesome."

"The dream actually came true today. I'm still living in it. I'm so grateful to my family and Major League Baseball for creating such an incredible work environment. ... I'm just so thankful."

Pawol's first real test came in the third inning of Atlanta's 7-1 win when she called Braves catcher Sean



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Murphy safe on a close play. Marlins manager Clayton McCullough did not challenge the call.

Pawol also showed she will make animated calls. When Miami's Xavier Edwards grounded into a double play in the third inning, Pawol pumped her fist and lifted her leg when she called Edwards out.

Pawol couldn't help but notice her debut was being watched closely. Fans responded with a warm ovation when the video board focused on the umpire between innings, forcing her to take a quick glance at her image.

Pawol worked third base in the second game of the doubleheader. She will be in the spotlight when she calls pitches behind the plate in Sunday's final game of the series. As a rover, she'll then be waiting for her next assignment.

While she waits, the umpire cap she wore in her first game will be on the way to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

"This is one of the proudest moments in all my career," crew chief Chris Guccione said. "I've been blessed with working playoffs, I've worked two World Series, All-Star games, and this is right up there. It gives me chills even thinking about it. And the magnitude, it just hit me just now the magnitude of this thing and how hard she's worked.

"This is just a great role model for girls and women out there and I'm just so proud of her. This is a special moment. I'm so proud of her."

There was much anticipation for her historic debut on Saturday. A crowd of photographers gathered while waiting for the umpires to walk onto the field from their entry ramp near the Marlins dugout.

McCullough and Braves bench coach Walt Weiss greeted Pawol when lineups were exchanged at home plate before the game. Pawol then jogged down the first base line. She shook hands with Marlins first base coach Tyler Smarslok before taking her position on the right field line for the first pitch.

Pawol said Thursday she was "overcome with emotion" when notified she would make her Major League Baseball debut this weekend.

Pawol, 48, has been working in the minor leagues since she was assigned to the Gulf Coast League in 2016. She was assigned the Triple-A championship game in 2023 and worked spring training games in 2024 and again this year.

"Anytime anybody grinds their way through the minor leagues, I don't care who it is, that's a tough thing," Snitker said. "I'm happy for anybody who grinds it out."

Asked if she is prepared for a confrontation with a manager upset about a call, including some known to kick dirt onto umpires, Pawol said it wouldn't be the first time.

"More than dozens of times," she said. "It doesn't go very well for him. The night is usually over for him. It's just part of the game."

Pawol, who is from New Jersey, had only a few days to prepare for Saturday's doubleheader. She said she was told of her long-awaited promotion during a Wednesday conference call with director of umpire development Rich Rieker and vice president of umpire operations Matt McKendry.

Pawol was a three-time all-conference softball selection pick at Hofstra. She worked as an NCAA softball umpire from 2010-16.

Pawol's rise to make MLB history came 28 years after the NBA gender barrier for game officials was broken and 10 years after the NFL hired its first full-time female official. The men's soccer World Cup first hired a female referee three years ago. The NHL has not had any women as on-ice officials.

## **CDC shooter believed COVID vaccine made him suicidal, his father tells police**

By JEFF AMY and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A Georgia man who opened fire on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention headquarters, shooting dozens of rounds into the sprawling complex and killing a police officer, had blamed the COVID-19 vaccine for making him depressed and suicidal, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The 30-year-old shooter also tried to get into the CDC's headquarters in Atlanta but was stopped by

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guards before driving to a pharmacy across the street and opening fire late Friday afternoon, the official said. He was armed with five guns, including at least one long gun, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the investigation.

DeKalb County Police Officer David Rose was mortally wounded while responding.

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., whose skepticism of vaccines has been a cornerstone of his career, voiced support for CDC employees Saturday. But some laid-off CDC employees said Kennedy shares responsibility for the violence and should resign.

**CDC shooter identified**

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation named Patrick Joseph White as the shooter, but authorities haven't said whether he was killed by police or killed himself.

The suspect's father contacted police and identified his son as the possible shooter, the law enforcement official told AP. The father said his son had been upset over the death of the son's dog, and he had also become fixated on the COVID-19 vaccine, according to the official. The family lives in Kennesaw, Georgia, an Atlanta suburb about 25 miles (40 kilometers) northwest of CDC headquarters.

A voicemail left at a phone number listed publicly for White's family wasn't returned Saturday.

**Employees at the CDC are shaken**

The shooting left gaping bullet holes in windows across the CDC campus, where thousands work on critical disease research. Employees huddled under lockdown for hours while investigators gathered evidence. Staff was encouraged to work from home Monday or take leave.

At least four CDC buildings were hit, Director Susan Monarez said on X.

Sam Atkins, who lives in Stone Mountain, said outside the CVS pharmacy on Saturday that gun violence feels like "a fact of life" now. "This is an everyday thing that happens here in Georgia."

**Kennedy reaches out to staff**

"We are deeply saddened by the tragic shooting at CDC's Atlanta campus that took the life of officer David Rose," Kennedy said Saturday. "We know how shaken our public health colleagues feel today. No one should face violence while working to protect the health of others."

Some rejected the expressions of solidarity Kennedy made in a "Dear colleagues" email, and called for his resignation.

"Kennedy is directly responsible for the villainization of CDC's workforce through his continuous lies about science and vaccine safety, which have fueled a climate of hostility and mistrust," said Fired But Fighting, a group of laid-off employees opposing changes to the CDC by President Donald Trump's administration.

Under Kennedy, CDC has laid off nearly 2,000 employees. Trump proposes cutting the agency's budget in half next year, moving some CDC functions into a new Administration for a Healthy America. Kennedy has a history as a leader in the anti-vaccine movement, but he reached new prominence by spreading distrust of COVID-19 vaccines. For example, he called it "criminal medical malpractice" to give COVID-19 vaccines to children.

Kennedy parlayed that attention into a presidential bid and endorsement of Trump, leading to Trump naming him secretary. Kennedy continues to undercut the scientific consensus for vaccines, ordering \$500 million cut from vaccine development funding on Tuesday.

**Opponents say officials' rhetoric contributed**

Fired But Fighting also called for the resignation of Russell Vought, noting a video recorded before Trump appointed him Office of Management and Budget director with orders to dismantle much of the federal government.

"We want the bureaucrats to be traumatically affected," Vought said in the video, obtained by ProPublica and the research group Documented. "When they wake up in the morning, we want them to not want to go to work, because they are increasingly viewed as the villains."

A request for comment from Vought's agency wasn't returned.

This shooting was the "physical embodiment of the narrative that has taken over, attacking science, and attacking our federal workers," said Sarah Boim, a former CDC communications staffer who was fired this

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year during a wave of terminations.

A distrust of COVID-19 vaccines

A neighbor of White told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that White spoke with her multiple times about his distrust of COVID-19 vaccines.

Nancy Hoalst, who lives on the same street as White's family, said he seemed like a "good guy" while doing yard work and walking dogs for neighbors, but he would bring up vaccines even in unrelated conversations.

"He was very unsettled, and he very deeply believed that vaccines hurt him and were hurting other people," Hoalst told the Atlanta newspaper. "He emphatically believed that."

But Hoalst said she never believed White would be violent: "I had no idea he thought he would take it out on the CDC."

Slain officer leaves wife and 3 kids

Rose, 33, was a former Marine who served in Afghanistan, graduated from the police academy in March and "quickly earned the respect of his colleagues for his dedication, courage and professionalism," DeKalb County said.

"This evening, there is a wife without a husband. There are three children, one unborn, without a father," DeKalb County CEO Lorraine Cochran-Johnson said.

Growing security concerns

Senior CDC leadership told some staff Saturday that they would do a full security assessment following the shooting, according to a conference call recording obtained by the AP.

One staffer said people felt like "sitting ducks" Friday. Another asked whether administrators had spoken with Kennedy and if they could speak to "the misinformation, the disinformation" that "caused this issue."

It is clear CDC leaders fear employees could continue to be targeted. In a Saturday email obtained by the AP, CDC's security office asked employees to scrape old CDC parking decals off their vehicles. The office said decals haven't been required for some time.

## **Zelenskyy rejects formally ceding Ukrainian territory, says Kyiv must be part of any negotiations**

By SAMYA KULLAB and ELISE MORTON Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Saturday rejected the idea that his country would give up land to end the war with Russia after U.S. President Donald Trump suggested a peace deal could include "some swapping of territories."

Zelenskyy said Ukraine "will not give Russia any awards for what it has done" and that "Ukrainians will not give their land to the occupier."

Later Saturday, European and Ukrainian officials met with U.S. Vice President JD Vance in England to discuss how to end the more than three-year war. The talks came after Trump said he would meet with Vladimir Putin even if the Russian leader would not meet with Zelenskyy.

Representatives from the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Finland and Poland attended the meeting in Kent, Zelenskyy said in a post on X, calling the talks constructive.

"I have not heard any partners express doubts about America's ability to ensure that the war ends," Zelenskyy said. "The President of the United States has the levers and the determination."

Earlier in the day, Zelenskyy dismissed the planned Trump-Putin summit, scheduled for Friday in Alaska, warning that any negotiations to end Europe's biggest conflict since World War II must include Kyiv.

"Any decisions that are without Ukraine are at the same time decisions against peace. They will not bring anything. These are dead decisions. They will never work," he said.

Ukrainian officials previously told The Associated Press privately that Kyiv would be amenable to a peace deal that would de facto recognize Ukraine's inability to regain lost territories militarily.

The Trump-Putin summit

The Trump-Putin meeting may prove pivotal in a war that began when Russia invaded its western neighbor



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and has led to tens of thousands of deaths, although there's no guarantee it will stop the fighting since Moscow and Kyiv remain far apart on their conditions for peace.

"It seems entirely logical for our delegation to fly across the Bering Strait simply, and for such an important and anticipated summit of the leaders of the two countries to be held in Alaska," Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said Saturday in a statement posted to the Kremlin's news channel.

The president of the European Union and leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Finland and the UK issued a joint statement late Saturday in support of Ukraine and ending the war.

"We are convinced that only an approach that combines active diplomacy, support to Ukraine and pressure on the Russian Federation to end their illegal war can succeed," the statement said.

In his comments at the White House Friday, Trump gave no details on the "swapping of territories." Analysts, including some close to the Kremlin, have suggested that Russia could offer to give up territory it controls outside of the four regions it claims to have annexed.

Trump said his meeting with Putin would come before any sit-down discussion involving Zelenskyy. His announcement that he planned to host one of America's adversaries on U.S. soil broke with expectations that they'd meet in a third country.

Nigel Gould-Davies, a senior fellow for Russia and Eurasia at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, told the AP that the "symbolism" of holding the summit in Alaska was clear and that the location "naturally favors Russia."

"It's easy to imagine Putin making the point. ... We once had this territory and we gave it to you, therefore Ukraine had this territory and now should give it to us," he said, referring to the 1867 transaction known as the Alaska Purchase when Russia sold Alaska to the United States for \$7.2 million.

## Reactions in Kyiv

On the streets of Kyiv, reactions to the idea of Ukraine ceding territory to Russia ranged from skepticism to quiet resignation.

"It may not be capitulation, but it would be a loss," said Ihor Usatenko, a 67-year-old pensioner, who said he would consider ceding territory "on condition for compensation and, possibly, some reparations."

Anastasia Yemelianova, 31, said she was torn: "Honestly, I have two answers to that question. The first is as a person who loves her country. I don't want to compromise within myself," she told the AP. "But seeing all these deaths and knowing that my mother is now living in Nikopol under shelling and my father is fighting, I want all this to end as soon as possible."

Svitlana Dobrynska, whose son died fighting, rejected outright concessions but supported halting combat to save lives.

"We don't have the opportunity to launch an offensive to recapture our territories," the 57-year-old pensioner said, "But to prevent people from dying, we can simply stop military operations, sign some kind of agreement, but not give up our territories."

## Ultimatums and sanctions

Before Trump announced the summit, his efforts to pressure Russia to stop the fighting had delivered no progress.

Trump had moved up an ultimatum to impose additional sanctions on Russia and introduce secondary tariffs targeting countries that buy Russian oil if the Kremlin did not move toward a settlement. The deadline was Friday. The White House did not answer questions Saturday about possible sanctions.

The Kremlin's bigger army is slowly advancing deeper into Ukraine at great cost in troops and armor while it relentlessly bombards Ukrainian cities.

## Russia and Ukraine trade attacks

On Saturday, two people died and 16 were wounded when a Russian drone hit a minibus in the suburbs of the Ukrainian city of Kherson, regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said. Two others died after a Russian drone struck their car in the Zaporizhzhia region, according to regional Gov. Ivan Fedorov.

Ukraine's air force said it intercepted 16 of the 47 Russian drones launched overnight, while 31 drones hit targets across 15 different locations. It also said it shot down one of the two missiles Russia deployed.

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Russia's Defense Ministry said its air defenses shot down 97 Ukrainian drones over Russia and the Black Sea overnight and 21 more Saturday morning.

## **Israel faces growing condemnation over military expansion in Gaza**

By WAFAA SHURAF, SAM METZ and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — International condemnation grew Saturday over Israel's decision for a military takeover of Gaza City, while tens of thousands of Israelis rallied in what local media called one of the largest anti-government protests in recent months following 22 months of war.

Ceasefire efforts appeared to be reviving with Israel's announcement. U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff was expected to meet with Qatar's prime minister in Spain on Saturday to discuss a new proposal to end the war, according to two officials familiar with the talks, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak with the media.

Mediators Egypt and Qatar are preparing a new ceasefire framework that would include the release of all hostages — dead and alive — in one go in return for the war's end and the withdrawal of Israeli forces, two Arab officials have told The Associated Press.

Health officials said that 20 Palestinians seeking aid were shot dead Saturday and 11 adults died of malnutrition-related causes in the past 24 hours, as the criticism of Israel came with pleas to allow far more food to reach people in the besieged enclave.

'Shut the country down'

Hostages' families pressured Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government amid new fears for the 50 remaining hostages, with 20 of them thought to be alive and struggling.

Einav Zangauker, whose son Matan is held in Gaza, called on Israelis including the powerful Histadrut labor union to "help us save the hostages, the soldiers and the state of Israel" and appeared to call for a general strike: "Shut the country down."

A joint statement by nine countries including Germany, Britain, France and Canada said that they "strongly reject" Israel's decision for the large-scale military operation, saying it will worsen the "catastrophic humanitarian situation," endanger hostages and further risk mass displacement. They said any attempts at annexation or settlement in Gaza violate international law.

A separate statement by more than 20 countries including ceasefire mediators Egypt and Qatar along with Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates called Israel's decision a "dangerous and unacceptable escalation." Meanwhile, Russia said Israel's plan will aggravate the "already extremely dramatic situation" in Gaza.

The U.N. Security Council planned an emergency meeting Sunday.

Killed while seeking aid

Officials at Nasser and Awda hospitals said that Israeli forces killed at least 11 people seeking aid in southern and central Gaza. Some had been waiting for aid trucks, while others had approached aid distribution points.

Israel's military denied opening fire and said that it was unaware of the incidents. The military secures routes leading to distribution sites run by the Israeli-backed and U.S.-supported Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Two witnesses told the AP that Israeli troops fired toward crowds approaching a GHF distribution site on foot in the Netzarim corridor, a military zone that bisects Gaza. One witness, Ramadan Gaber, said that snipers and tanks fired on aid-seekers, forcing them to retreat.

In the north, Israeli fire killed at least nine and wounded over 200 as people sought aid entering Gaza through the Zikim crossing, said Fares Awad, head of the Health Ministry's ambulance and emergency service in the area. There was no immediate Israeli comment.

In Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, some aid-seekers cheered the latest airdrops of aid. Hundreds of people rushed to grab what they could. Aid organizations have called airdrops expensive, insufficient and poten-

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tially dangerous for people on the ground.

Israel's military said that at least 106 packages of aid were airdropped Saturday as Italy and Greece joined the effort for the first time. Footage from Italy's defense ministry showed packages parachuted over Gaza's dry and devastated landscape.

Barefoot children collected rice, pasta and lentils that spilled from packages onto the ground.

"This way is not for humans, it is for animals," said one man, Mahmoud Hawila, who said he was stabbed while trying to secure an airdropped package.

Israel alleges, without giving evidence, that Hamas systematically diverts aid from the existing U.N.-led system, which denies it. That system has called for more of the trucks waiting outside Gaza to be allowed not just into the territory, but safely to destinations inside it for distribution.

With temperatures reaching above 90 degrees F (32 degrees C) in Gaza, families fanned themselves with pieces of cardboard or metal trays and slept on the ground outside their tents, while some women collected water well before dawn.

"My children cry day and night. My son scratches his body because of the heat," said Nida Abu Hamad, whose displaced family shelters in Gaza City.

More deaths from hunger

Gaza's Health Ministry said the new adult deaths from malnutrition-related causes over the past 24 hours brought the total to 114 since it began counting such deaths in June. It said that 98 children have died of malnutrition-related causes since the war began with the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, with militants killing around 1,200 people and abducting 251.

Israel is "forcing Palestinians into a state of near-starvation to the point that they abandon their land voluntarily," Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told a news conference in Egypt.

The toll from hunger isn't included in the ministry's death toll of 61,300 Palestinians in the war. The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals, doesn't distinguish between fighters or civilians, but says around half of the dead have been women and children. The U.N. and independent experts consider it the most reliable source on war casualties.

Israel disputes the ministry's figures, but hasn't provided its own.

## **Astronauts return to Earth with SpaceX after 5 months at the International Space Station**

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

Four astronauts returned to Earth on Saturday after hustling to the International Space Station five months ago to relieve the stuck test pilots of Boeing's Starliner.

Their SpaceX capsule parachuted into the Pacific off the Southern California coast a day after departing the orbiting lab.

"Welcome home," SpaceX Mission Control radioed.

Splashing down were NASA's Anne McClain and Nichole Ayers, Japan's Takuya Onishi and Russia's Kirill Peskov. They launched in March as replacements for the two NASA astronauts assigned to Starliner's botched demo.

Starliner malfunctions kept Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams at the space station for more than nine months instead of a week. NASA ordered Boeing's new crew capsule to return empty and switched the pair to SpaceX. They left soon after McClain and her crew arrived to take their places. Wilmore has since retired from NASA.

Before leaving the space station on Friday, McClain made note of "some tumultuous times on Earth" with people struggling.

"We want this mission, our mission, to be a reminder of what people can do when we work together, when we explore together," she said.

McClain looked forward to "doing nothing for a couple of days" once back home in Houston. High on her



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crewmates' wish list: hot showers and juicy burgers.

It was SpaceX's third Pacific splashdown with people on board, but the first for a NASA crew in 50 years. Elon Musk's company switched capsule returns from Florida to California's coast earlier this year to reduce the risk of debris falling on populated areas. Back-to-back private crews were the first to experience Pacific homecomings.

The last time NASA astronauts returned to the Pacific from space was during the 1975 Apollo-Soyuz mission, a détente meet-up of Americans and Soviets in orbit.

## **A top Federal Reserve official says dour jobs data backs the case for 3 rate cuts**

NEW YORK (AP) — A top official at the Federal Reserve said Saturday that this month's stunning, weaker-than-expected report on the U.S. job market is strengthening her belief that interest rates should be lower.

Michelle Bowman was one of two Fed officials who voted a week and a half ago in favor of cutting interest rates. Such a move could help boost the economy by making it cheaper for people to borrow money to buy a house or a car, but it could also threaten to push inflation higher.

Bowman and a fellow dissenter lost out after nine other Fed officials voted to keep interest rates steady, as the Fed has been doing all year. The Fed's chair, Jerome Powell, has been adamant that he wants to wait for more data about how President Donald Trump's tariffs are affecting inflation before the Fed makes its next move.

At a speech during a bankers' conference in Colorado on Saturday, Bowman said that "the latest labor market data reinforce my view" that the Fed should cut interest rates three times this year. The Fed has only three meetings left on the schedule in 2025.

The jobs report that arrived last week, only a couple of days after the Fed voted on interest rates, showed that employers hired far fewer workers last month than economists expected. It also said that hiring in prior months was much lower than initially thought.

On inflation, meanwhile, Bowman said she is getting more confident that Trump's tariffs "will not present a persistent shock to inflation" and sees it moving closer to the Fed's 2% target. Inflation has come down substantially since hitting a peak above 9% after the pandemic, but it has been stubbornly remaining above 2%.

The Fed's job is to keep the job market strong, while keeping a lid on inflation. Its challenge is that it has one main tool to affect both those areas, and helping one by moving interest rates up or down often means hurting the other.

A fear is that Trump's tariffs could box in the Federal Reserve by sticking the economy in a worst-case scenario called "stagflation," where the economy stagnates but inflation is high. The Fed has no good tool to fix that, and it would likely have to prioritize either the job market or inflation before helping the other.

On Wall Street, expectations are that the Fed will have to cut interest rates at its next meeting in September after the U.S. jobs report came in so much below economists' expectations.

Trump has been calling angrily for lower interest rates, often personally insulting Powell while doing so. He has the opportunity to add another person to the Fed's board of governors after an appointee of former President Joe Biden stepped down recently.

## **Justice Department targets New York attorney general, a Trump foe. Here's what to know**

By BEN FINLEY Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — President Donald Trump's Justice Department is zeroing in on New York Attorney General Letitia James with a subpoena for records related to the \$454 million civil judgement she won against Trump for lying about his wealth, a person familiar with the matter has told The Associated Press.

The subpoena is part of an investigation into whether James violated Trump's civil rights, another person

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said. The people could not publicly discuss details of the investigation and spoke Friday to the AP on the condition of anonymity.

Another subpoena seeks records related to James' lawsuit involving the National Rifle Association, a person familiar with the matter said. On top of that, U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi recently named a special prosecutor to help conduct a mortgage fraud investigation into James.

James has sued Trump and his Republican administration dozens of times over his policies as president and over how he conducted his private business empire. Trump vowed on the campaign trail to seek retribution against his opponents, and the moves against James are among the most serious yet against Trump's political foes by the Justice Department.

Here's what to know about James and the escalating investigations:

James says she's being politically targeted

The Democratic attorney general has denied any wrongdoing and said the mortgage probe is politically motivated.

Her personal attorney, Abbe D. Lowell, called the subpoenas "improper."

"Weaponizing the Department of Justice to try to punish an elected official for doing her job is an attack on the rule of law and a dangerous escalation by this administration," Lowell said.

'The art of the steal'

James is the first Black woman elected to statewide office in New York, the state's first Black attorney general and the first woman elected to the post. She fixated on Trump during the 2018 campaign, branding him as a "con man" and pledging to shine a "bright light into every dark corner of his real estate dealings."

As soon as she took office, James launched several lawsuits over his immigration and environmental policies. She inherited a state lawsuit against Trump's charitable foundation and steered it to a settlement that included a \$2 million fine.

She filed another civil lawsuit against Trump in September 2022, alleging that his company deceived banks, insurers and others by overvaluing assets and his net worth on financial paperwork.

"It's the art of the steal," she said when announcing the case against Trump, turning the title of Trump's book "The Art of the Deal" against him.

Trump says James never intended to be fair

In 2024, a New York judge ruled that Trump lied for years about his wealth and ordered him to pay \$354.9 million in penalties plus nearly \$100 million in interest.

Trump is appealing the judgement. He also posted a \$175 million bond to halt the state from collecting what he owes and seizing his assets.

Trump says his financial statements actually understated his wealth and that any mistakes in the documents were harmless errors that played no role in banks' lending decisions. He and his lawyers repeatedly accused James of engaging in "lawfare" for political purposes — a claim she denies.

Trump has long criticized James' legal volleys as political theater designed to catapult her to fame. Trump also complained that her comments about him, prior to her election, show she never intended to be fair.

'Corporate death penalty'

In her role as a regulator of charities and nonprofit groups registered in New York, James sued the NRA and its longtime leader Wayne LaPierre. A jury last year found that LaPierre misspent millions of dollars and used the organization's funds to pay for an extravagant lifestyle, while the NRA itself failed to properly manage its assets and violated whistleblower protections.

A New York judge also banned LaPierre from holding a paid position with the organization for a decade, but declined to appoint an independent monitor to oversee the group.

James had sought to dissolve the powerful gun advocacy organization, however a judge ruled that the allegations did not warrant a "corporate death penalty."

Mortgage fraud investigation

FBI Director Kash Patel in May confirmed James was being investigated after a Trump administration official accused her of mortgage fraud. James' lawyer says the accusation was a lie based on a purpose-

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ful misreading of documents.

The investigation centers on forms James signed in 2023 while helping a niece buy a home in Norfolk, Virginia. One form stated that James intended to occupy the home as her "principal residence." But in other documents, James made clear she had no intention of living there. An email to the mortgage loan broker two weeks before she signed the documents stated the property "WILL NOT be my primary residence."

This week, Bondi named Ed Martin as a special prosecutor to help conduct a mortgage fraud investigation into James, according to the person familiar with the matter. James denied any wrongdoing and called the claim politically motivated.

Martin leads the Weaponization Working Group, which is examining Trump's claims of anti-conservative bias inside the Justice Department. Martin's nomination for District of Columbia U.S. attorney was pulled amid Republican lawmakers' concerns about his scant prosecutorial experience and support for Jan. 6 rioters.

## London police arrest 365 people as pro-Palestinian protesters defy new law

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British police said they arrested 365 people in central London on Saturday as supporters of a recently banned pro-Palestinian group intentionally flouted the law as part of their effort to force the government to reconsider the ban.

Parliament in early July passed a law banning Palestine Action and making it a crime to publicly support the organization. That came after activists broke into a Royal Air Force base and vandalized two tanker planes to protest against Britain's support for Israel's offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Backers of the group, who have held a series of protests around the U.K. over the past month, argue that the law illegally restricts freedom of expression.

Daring police to arrest them

More than 500 protesters filled the square outside the Houses of Parliament on Saturday, many daring police to arrest them by displaying signs reading "I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action." That was enough for police to step in.

But as the demonstration began to wind down, police and protest organizers sparred over the number of arrests as the organizers sought to show that the law was unworkable.

"The police have only been able to arrest a fraction of those supposedly committing 'terrorism' offenses, and most of those have been given street bail and allowed to go home," Defend Our Juries, which organized the protest, said in a statement. "This is a major embarrassment to (the government), further undermining the credibility of this widely ridiculed law, brought in to punish those exposing the government's own crimes."

London's Metropolitan Police Service quickly hit back, saying this wasn't true and that many of those who gathered in the square were onlookers, media or people who didn't hold placards supporting the group.

"We are confident that anyone who came to Parliament Square today to hold a placard expressing support for Palestine Action was either arrested or is in the process of being arrested," the police force said in a statement.

On Friday, police said the demonstration was unusual in that the protesters wanted to be arrested in large numbers so as to place a strain on police and the broader criminal justice system.

Why the group is being banned

The government moved to ban Palestine Action after the activists broke into a British air force base in southern England on June 20 to protest British military support for the Israel-Hamas war. The activists sprayed red paint into the engines of two tanker planes at the RAF Brize Norton base in Oxfordshire and caused further damage with crowbars.

Palestine Action had previously targeted Israeli defense contractors and other sites in the United King-



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dom that they believe have links with the Israeli military.

Supporters of the group are challenging the ban in court, saying the government has gone too far in declaring Palestine Action a terrorist organization.

"Once the meaning of 'terrorism' is separated from campaigns of violence against a civilian population, and extended to include those causing economic damage or embarrassment to the rich, the powerful and the criminal, then the right to freedom of expression has no meaning and democracy is dead," Defend Our Juries said on its website.

**Busy weekend of protests**

The arrests outside Parliament came amid what is expected to be a busy weekend of demonstrations in London as the war in Gaza and concerns about immigration spur protests and counterprotests across the United Kingdom.

While Prime Minister Keir Starmer has angered Israel with plans to recognize a Palestinian state later this year, many Palestinian supporters in Britain criticize the government for not doing enough to end the war in Gaza.

Pro-Palestinian protesters gathered Saturday afternoon in central London for a march that ended outside the gates of No. 10 Downing Street, the prime minister's official residence and offices.

On Sunday, a number of groups are scheduled to march through central London to demand the safe release of the Israeli hostages in Gaza. Palestinian militants have held the captives since Hamas-led attackers surged into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people and taking 251 hostage. There are 50 remaining hostages, with 20 of them thought to be alive.

Police are also preparing for protests outside hotels across the country that are being used to house asylum-seekers. Protesters and counterprotesters have squared off outside the hotels in recent weeks, with some saying the migrants pose a risk to their communities and others decrying anti-immigrant racism.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Ade Adelekan said the scale of the events would "put pressure" on the police department.

"This is going to be a particularly busy few days in London with many simultaneous protests and events that will require a significant policing presence," Adelekan said before the protests began.

## **Death of NYPD officer spotlights rise of Bangladeshi immigrants within ranks**

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Outside the Bronx mosque where a New York City police officer was eulogized last week, a group of officers in their formal navy blue uniforms solemnly hung a banner bearing the young officer's photograph and the name of his fraternity, the Bangladeshi American Police Association.

Didarul Islam — one of four people killed in the July 28 shooting at the Manhattan office tower housing the NFL's headquarters — was the NYPD's first Bangladeshi American officer killed in the line of duty.

His funeral underscored the fertile recruiting ground the department has found in the city's thriving Bangladeshi community. More than 1,000 of the NYPD's roughly 33,000 uniformed members are Bangladeshi Americans, according to the association. Another 1,500 people of Bangladeshi heritage are among the department's 19,000 civilian employees.

Those numbers are up from just a handful of officers a few decades ago, a phenomenon some Bangladeshi officers attribute partly to their own patriotic response to anti-Muslim sentiment after the 9/11 attacks, as well as active recruitment and word-of-mouth in the community.

Among the sea of NYPD officers who lined the street to honor Islam, 36, were some who opted for traditional South Asian attire, their police badges worn around their necks. Many joined the throngs of mourners who knelt in the street in prayer.

"He actually uplifted our community in a way that was not imaginable before," said Shamsul Haque, one of the co-founders of the NYPD's Bangladeshi officers' group. "His legacy will endure not only as a hero who gave his life protecting others, but also as a symbol of hope, integrity and the American dream."

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Bangladeshi immigrants join NYPD following Sept. 11 terror attacks

When Haque joined the NYPD in 2004, he was one of just a few Bangladeshi immigrants. Many of those who joined around then wanted to dispel the notion that all Muslims were terrorist sympathizers, he said.

Haque, who immigrated to the U.S. in 1991, had recently graduated college with a business administration degree when the twin towers fell. But rather than follow his peers into a financial field, he enrolled in the police academy, a decision he acknowledged was initially met with skepticism from his parents.

In the aftermath of 9/11, the NYPD built up a domestic surveillance program that for years systematically spied on Muslim communities and monitored local businesses, mosques and student groups in a hunt for terror cells.

Haque, 52, who retired earlier this year after becoming the first South Asian and first Muslim to attain the rank of lieutenant commander in the NYPD, said the perception of Muslims among rank-and-file members has improved.

Early in his career, he recalled feeling singled out when a counterterrorism expert warned officers during a training session about the possibility of al-Qaida operatives infiltrating the force.

"Over the years, people started to realize that we work hard, we are ethical," Haque said. "Although we are immigrants, we are patriotic."

Path to NYPD badge begins with civilian police jobs

To grow their numbers, Haque and others went out into the community proselytizing a sensible path for recently arrived immigrants.

Aspiring Bangladeshi officers were encouraged to take civilian jobs in the department, such as traffic enforcement officers and school safety agents, that don't require U.S. citizenship. After gaining citizenship, usually in about five years, they could then apply for the police academy to become a uniformed officer.

Some 60% of all officers of Bangladeshi heritage in the NYPD followed this pipeline, Haque estimated. Islam, the officer killed last week, began his career as a school safety officer after immigrating to the U.S. about 16 years ago.

The visible growth of Bangladeshis in the NYPD has helped many aspire to leadership roles in the department, just as generations of Irish, Italian and Latino immigrants did before them.

Among the uniformed officers with Bangladeshi roots are 10 detectives, 82 sergeants, 20 lieutenants and four inspectors, said Sgt. Ershadur Siddique, current president of the Bangladeshi American Police Association. The department's uniformed ranks are roughly 38% white, 33% Hispanic, 17% Black and nearly 12% Asian, according to NYPD data.

"I never dreamt that I would go this far, but I always had an ambition to go somewhere where I can be challenged," said Siddique, now a member of Mayor Eric Adams' security detail. "I always say, 'Listen, give me a chance, see if I can do better than anybody else,' you know? Give me a chance."

Young officer reflects on shooting

Ishmam Chowdhury, a 26-year-old officer who graduated from the academy in May, said Islam's death just a few months into his own career has left a lasting impression.

Like Islam's wife, who is expecting their third child, Chowdhury's wife is due to give birth to their first soon.

"It just hit us a little different because like that made us think, what if it happens to me today? It can," he said. "So yeah, I guess that's a wake-up call for us that even though this is a noble job, we are definitely at grave risk."

Chowdhury said he dreamed of joining law enforcement even before he immigrated to the U.S. in 2019. As a teenager in Bangladesh, he and other family members were robbed multiple times. The feeling of helplessness and humiliation stuck with him, he said.

Chowdhury started as an unarmed volunteer member of the NYPD auxiliary before joining the civilian ranks as a 911 operator in 2021.

He also served about a year in the police force in Washington, D.C., after it opened applications to green card holders in 2023, but he and his wife felt isolated from friends and family. So after receiving his citizenship last year, the couple moved back to Queens and he enrolled in the police academy.

"That's what makes this city, this country, great. It doesn't matter where somebody comes from," Chow-

dhury said. "If somebody really works hard and truly wants to do something, they can do it."

## **Firefighters battle to prevent reignition of France's largest wildfire as residents return home**

PARIS (AP) — About 1,400 firefighters were deployed Saturday in France's southern Aude region to prevent the country's largest wildfire in decades from reigniting, as all residents were allowed to return to their homes.

Aude prefect Christian Pouget said the fire has been contained since Thursday after burning this week more than 160 square kilometers (62 square miles) in the wooded region, known for its wineries. All roads have been reopened but authorities issued a strict ban on accessing the forest, Pouget said at a news conference on Saturday.

"The fight is continuing, firefighters are still working on (fire) reignition," he said.

The blaze left one person dead and 25 people have been injured, including 19 firefighters, Pouget said. High temperatures in the coming days are expected to complicate firefighters' efforts.

"The fire won't be extinguished for several weeks," Col. Christophe Magny, director of the Aude fire department, said, pointing to several "hot spots" that are being closely monitored.

France's national weather agency Météo France placed the southern half of France on a "high vigilance" alert for heat wave, with temperatures expected in the Aude region of up to 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit) on Saturday.

In neighboring Spain, firefighters continued to battle a wildfire in Avila province, over 100 km (62 miles) west of Madrid. Víctor Fernández, a technician at the advanced command post, told reporters Saturday the fire was being contained but warned the next hours would be "critical." Extreme temperatures are expected to continue until at least next week, according to Spain's national weather service.

The fire began on Friday afternoon with the Spanish Military Emergencies Unit working through the night to bring it under control and prevent it from approaching roads and train lines.

Southern Europe has seen multiple large fires this summer. Scientists warn that climate change is exacerbating the frequency and intensity of heat and dryness, making the region more vulnerable to wildfires.

## **The nation's capital waits for Trump's next move as a federal takeover threat looms**

By ASHRAF KHALIL and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Around 2 a.m., noisy revelers emerging from clubs and bars packed the sidewalks of U Street in Washington, many of them seeking a late-night slice or falafel. A robust but not unusual contingent of city police cruisers lingered around the edges of the crowds. At other late-night hot spots, nearly identical scenes unfolded.

What wasn't apparent in Friday's earliest hours: any sort of security lockdown by a multiagency flood of uniformed federal law enforcement officers. That's what President Donald Trump had promised Thursday, starting at midnight, in the administration's latest move to impose its will on the nation's capital.

In short, that law enforcement surge to take control of the District of Columbia's streets did not appear to unfold on schedule. A two-hour city tour, starting around 1 a.m. Friday, revealed no overt or visible law enforcement presence other than members of the Metropolitan Police Department, the city's police force.

That still might change in the coming evenings as Trump puts into action his long-standing plans to "take over" a capital city he has repeatedly slammed as unsafe, filthy and badly run. According to his Thursday declaration, the security lockdown will run for seven days, "with the option to extend as needed." In an online post Saturday, the Republican president said the Democratic-led city would soon be one of the country's safest and he announced a White House news conference for Monday, though he offered no details.

On Friday night, a White House official said Thursday night's operations included arrests for possession of two stolen firearms, suspected fentanyl and marijuana. The official was not authorized to speak



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publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The official said more than 120 members of various federal agencies — the Secret Service, the FBI and the U.S. Marshals Service — were to be on duty Friday night, upping the complement of federal officers involved.

"This is the first step in stopping the violent crime that has been plaguing the streets of Washington, D.C.," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement.

Mayor Muriel Bowser, who publicly faced off against Trump in 2020 when he called in a massive federal law enforcement response to disperse crowds of protesters, has not said a public word since Trump's declaration. The police department has gone similarly silent.

A crackdown came after an assault

The catalyst for this latest round of takeover drama was the assault last weekend on a high-profile member of the bureaucracy-slashing Department of Government Efficiency by a group of teenagers in an attempted carjacking.

Police arrested two 15-year-olds and were seeking others. Trump quickly renewed his calls for the federal government to seize control.

"If D.C. doesn't get its act together, and quickly, we will have no choice but to take Federal control of the City, and run this City how it should be run, and put criminals on notice that they're not going to get away with it anymore," Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social. He later told reporters he was considering everything from repealing Washington's limited "home rule" autonomy to "bringing in the National Guard, maybe very quickly."

The threats come at a time when Bowser's government can legitimately claim to have reduced the number of homicides and carjackings, both of which spiked in 2023. The number of carjackings overall dropped significantly the following year in 2024, from 957 to just under 500, and is on track to decline again this year, with less than 200 recorded so far more than halfway through the year.

The portion of juveniles arrested for carjacking, though, has remained above 50%, and Bowser's government has taken steps to reign in a new phenomenon of rowdy teenagers causing disarray and disturbances in public spaces. Emergency legislation passed by the D.C. Council this summer imposed tighter youth curfew restrictions and empowered Police Chief Pamela Smith to declare temporary juvenile curfew zones for four days at a time. In those areas, a gathering of nine or more under the age of 18 is unlawful after 8 p.m.

This lies within presidential authority

Trump is within his powers in deploying federal law enforcement assets on D.C. streets. He could deploy the National Guard, although that is not one of the dozen participating agencies listed in his declaration. The first Trump administration called in the National Guard during Black Lives Matter protests in 2020 and again on Jan. 6, 2021, when his supporters overran the Capitol.

Further steps, including taking over the police department, would require a declaration of emergency. Legal experts believe that would most likely be challenged in court. Such an approach would fit the general pattern of Trump's second term in office, when he has declared states of emergency on issues ranging from border protection to economic tariffs. In many cases, he moved forward while the courts sorted it out.

Imposing a full federal takeover of Washington would require a congressional repeal of the Home Rule Act of 1973. It's a step that Trump said lawyers are examining.

That law was specific to Washington, not other communities in the United States that have their own home rule powers but generally retain representation in their state legislatures, said Monica Hopkins, executive director for the American Civil Liberties Union of the District of Columbia.

Signed into law by President Richard Nixon, the measure allowed D.C. residents to elect their own mayor, council and local commissioners. The district had been previously run by federally appointed commissioners and members of Congress, some of whom balked at having to deal with potholes and other details of running a city of 700,000 residents.

So far, Trump's criticisms of Washington can be felt most directly in the actions of the National Park Service, which controls large pieces of land throughout the capital. In Trump's second administration, the agency has stepped up its clearing of homeless encampments on Park Service land and recently carried

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out a series of arrests of people smoking marijuana in public parks.

Earlier in the week, the agency said a statue of a Confederate military leader that was toppled by protesters in 2020 would be restored and replaced, in line with an executive order.

## Some Democrats want new leadership.

### Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden says he has what it takes to resist Trump

By CLAIRE RUSH Associated Press

WASCO, Ore. (AP) — Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden is in his fifth decade in Congress and showing no inclination to step aside even as pressure builds on aging Democratic officeholders to give way to a new generation.

He says he plans to seek another term in 2028, when he will be 79 years old. He has traveled to all 36 Oregon counties every year he has been in the Senate and intends to keep doing so.

After a recent town hall in Wasco in conservative Sherman County, Wyden said questions about age are “fair game for debate” but that he is still up to the job and the fight against Republican President Donald Trump’s policies.

“I believe you ought to be held accountable,” he told The Associated Press in an interview. “But I think that the Founding Fathers wanted a results-oriented, commonsense approach to government, and that’s what I’m trying to do. And I’ve got the energy.”

Calls for a new generation of leaders

Many Democrats have lingering anguish about Joe Biden’s decision to seek a second White House term despite persistent concerns about whether he was up to the job at age 81. He dropped out in July 2024 and Trump went on to defeat then-Vice President Kamala Harris.

“I’ve consistently called for all elected officials over the age of 70 to make this their final term — to step down with dignity and make room for the next generation of leaders,” said Amanda Litman, co-founder and president of Run for Something, a group that supports progressive young candidates.

Many Democrats feel Biden withdrew too late and cost the party the presidency. Multiple Democratic senators have announced this year that they won’t seek reelection, including 80-year-old Dick Durbin of Illinois. Durbin’s career in Congress began in 1983, two years after Wyden joined the House.

Litman said she hopes another Democrat emerges to challenge Wyden.

“I think competitive primaries in particular are how we as a party decide what we believe,” she said.

‘Every Oregonian counts’

Wyden continues to travel across his state engaging with voters of all political stripes. The Wasco town hall was the 23rd he has held this year, and the 1,125th town hall of his career. Some 20 people gathered at a former grade school nestled among wheat fields and wind turbines.

“Every Oregonian counts, no matter where they live,” Wyden told them.

As other Democrats grapple over strategy, the senator says the old-school town hall tradition has become a key communication tool in an era of deepening division.

“I believe the town meetings are more important now than ever, because they allow for an opportunity in a community to chip away at some of the polarization and the mistrust,” he told the AP.

That stands in contrast to congressional Republicans, who in recent months have largely avoided town hall meetings, where they often face protesters. The National Republican Campaign Committee recently encouraged GOP lawmakers to promote the new tax breaks and spending cuts law, but in smaller settings they can control.

A civil exchange

Some 75% of Sherman County’s voters cast ballots for Trump last November, and Wyden hasn’t carried the county of about 2,000 people since 2004. Yet the small town hall gathering stood out for its civility, compared with the raucous crowds faced recently by other members of Congress, both Democrats and Republicans.

Meeting with a small group of Democrats, Republicans and independents in Wasco, Wyden talked at length about health care, trade and democracy. While some pressed Wyden, they waited to be called on

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and thanked him for coming.

Charlie Hogue, 71, asked a question that went to the heart of Democratic concerns that leaders aren't pushing back hard enough against Trump.

"I thought we had checks and balances in this country, and I'm beginning to lose hope because the current administration ignores court orders," he said. "So are the Democrats planning to just message for the next elections ... or do you have a plan?"

Wyden cited examples of how he had challenged Trump: a recent trip to Canada, where the senator spoke with the prime minister about trade, and discussions with Oregon wheat farmers about tariffs.

T.L. Fassbender, 76, wondered why it seems that Democrats support immigrants who entered the country illegally.

Wyden responded that he believed the immigration system was "broken" and noted that a bipartisan border bill collapsed in the Senate last year after then-candidate Trump came out against it.

In the ensuing exchange, Fassbender said he didn't think Wyden had answered his question, so the senator tried again.

"If somebody has committed a crime, for example, I don't think that should be something that is protected as part of legislation," Wyden said. "What's been going on, unfortunately, is we have some government agencies coming and swooping up people who've done nothing wrong."

When immigration came up again later, Wyden noted that his parents were fleeing Nazi Germany when they came to the United States.

"I believe that legal immigration makes our country better and stronger," he said.

Pursuing the Epstein records

Recently, Wyden has emerged as a leading Democratic voice in pressing for more information on the Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking case. He isn't new to the effort, which has become a political crisis for Trump.

The president's supporters are angry that his administration didn't keep promises to release records from the investigation into the wealthy financier's exploitation of underage girls for sex. The Justice Department and FBI recently said there was no Epstein "client list," walking back a notion that the administration had previously promoted.

As the top Democrat on the powerful Senate Finance Committee, Wyden had been pressing for Epstein's financial records long before the scandal resurfaced.

"We spent three years following the money," he told the AP after the Wasco town hall. "And we're going to stay at it until the facts come out."

Wyden said Democrats agonizing over low voter morale and party strategy should hold more meetings in conservative areas, where they might learn something from the people they represent.

"The old saying is, 'most of life is just showing up,'" he said. "But it's especially important in government because there is a sense that this is rigged."

## Nagasaki marks 80th A-bomb anniversary as survivors put hopes of nuclear ban in the hands of youth

By MAYUKO ONO and MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

NAGASAKI, Japan (AP) — The southern Japanese city of Nagasaki on Saturday marked 80 years since the U.S. atomic attack that killed tens of thousands and left survivors who hope their harrowing memories can help make their hometown the last place on Earth to be hit by a nuclear bomb.

The United States launched the Nagasaki attack on Aug. 9, 1945, killing 70,000 by the end of that year, three days after the bombing of Hiroshima that killed 140,000. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, 1945, ending World War II and the nearly half-century of aggression by the country across Asia.

About 2,600 people, including representatives from more than 90 countries, attended a memorial event at Nagasaki Peace Park, where Mayor Shiro Suzuki and Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba spoke, among other guests. At 11:02 a.m., the exact time when the plutonium bomb exploded above Nagasaki, participants



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observed a moment of silence as a bell rang.

"Even after the war ended, the atomic bomb brought invisible terror," 93-year-old survivor Hiroshi Nishioka said in his speech at the memorial, noting that many who had survived without severe wounds started bleeding from gums and losing hair and died.

"Never use nuclear weapons again, or we're finished," he said.

Doves released

Dozens of doves, a symbol of peace, were released after a speech by Suzuki, whose parents are survivors of the attack. He said that the city's memories of the bombing are "a common heritage and should be passed down for generations" in and outside Japan.

"The existential crisis of humanity has become imminent to each and every one of us living on Earth," Suzuki said. "In order to make Nagasaki the last atomic bombing site now and forever, we will go hand-in-hand with global citizens and devote our utmost efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of everlasting world peace."

'A world without war'

Survivors and their families gathered Saturday in rainy weather at Peace Park and nearby Hypocenter Park, located below the bomb's exact detonation spot, hours before the official ceremony.

"I simply seek a world without war," said Koichi Kawano, an 85-year-old survivor who laid flowers at the hypocenter monument decorated with colorful origami paper cranes and other offerings.

Some others prayed at churches in Nagasaki, home to Catholic converts who went deep underground during centuries of violent persecution in Japan's feudal era.

The twin bells at Urakami Cathedral, which was destroyed in the bombing, also rang together again after one of the bells that had gone missing following the attack was restored by volunteers.

Despite their pain from wounds, discrimination and illnesses from radiation, survivors have publicly committed to a shared goal of abolishing nuclear weapons. But they worry about the world moving in the opposite direction.

Passing down lessons

Aging survivors and their supporters in Nagasaki now put their hopes of achieving nuclear weapons abolition in the hands of younger people, telling them the attack isn't distant history, but an issue that remains relevant to their future.

"There are only two things I long for: the abolition of nuclear weapons and prohibition of war," said Fumi Takeshita, an 83-year-old survivor. "I seek a world where nuclear weapons are never used and everyone can live in peace."

In the hope of passing down the lessons of history to current and future generations, Takeshita visits schools to share her experience with children.

"When you grow up and remember what you learned today, please think what each of you can do to prevent war," Takeshita told students during a school visit earlier this week.

Teruko Yokoyama, an 83-year-old member of a Nagasaki organization supporting survivors, said that she thinks of the growing absence of those she had worked with, and that fuels her desire to document the lives of others who are still alive.

The number of survivors has fallen to 99,130, about a quarter of the original number, with their average age exceeding 86. Survivors worry about fading memories, as the youngest of the survivors were too young to clearly recall the attack.

"We must keep records of the atomic bombing damages of the survivors and their lifetime story," said Yokoyama, whose two sisters died after suffering illnesses linked to radiation.

Her organization has started to digitize the narratives of survivors for viewing on YouTube and other social media platforms with the help of a new generation.

"There are younger people who are beginning to take action," Yokoyama told The Associated Press on Friday. "So I think we don't have to get depressed yet."

Nagasaki hosted a "peace forum" on Friday where survivors shared their stories with more than 300

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young people from around the country. Seiichiro Mise, a 90-year-old survivor, said that he's handing seeds of "flowers of peace" to the younger generation in hopes of seeing them bloom.

Japan's security dilemma

Survivors are frustrated by a growing nuclear threat and support among international leaders for developing or possessing nuclear weapons for deterrence. They criticize the Japanese government's refusal to sign or even participate in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as an observer because Japan, as an American ally, says it needs U.S. nuclear possession as deterrence.

In Ishiba's speech, the prime minister reiterated Japan's pursuit of a nuclear-free world, pledging to promote dialogue and cooperation between countries with nuclear weapons and nonnuclear states at the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons review conference scheduled for April and May 2026 in New York. Ishiba didn't mention the nuclear weapons ban treaty.

"Countries must move from words to action by strengthening the global disarmament regime," with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, or NPT, at the center, complemented by the momentum created by the nuclear weapons ban treaty, said U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, in his message read by Under-Secretary-General Izumi Nakamitsu in Nagasaki.

Nagasaki invited representatives from all countries to attend the ceremony on Saturday. The government in China notably notified the city that it wouldn't be present without providing a reason.

The ceremony last year stirred controversy because of the absence of the U.S. ambassador and other Western envoys in response to the Japanese city's refusal to invite officials from Israel.

## **Leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan shake hands and sign deal at White House peace summit**

By SEUNG MIN KIM and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan shook hands Friday at a White House peace summit before signing an agreement aimed at ending decades of conflict.

President Donald Trump was in the middle as Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan flanked him on either side. As the two extended their arms in front of Trump to shake hands, the U.S. leader reached up and clasped his hands around theirs.

The two countries in the South Caucasus signed agreements with each other and the U.S. that will reopen key transportation routes while allowing the U.S. to seize on Russia's declining influence in the region. The deal includes an agreement that will create a major transit corridor to be named the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity, the White House said.

Trump said at the White House on Friday that naming the route after him was "a great honor for me" but "I didn't ask for this." A senior administration official, on a call before the event with reporters, said it was the Armenians who suggested the name.

Trump has sought to be known as a peacemaker and made no secret of the fact that he covets a Nobel Peace Prize. Friday's signing adds to a series of peace and economic agreements brokered by the U.S. this year.

Both leaders said the breakthrough was made possible by Trump and his team.

"We are laying a foundation to write a better story than the one we had in the past," Pashinyan said, calling the agreement a "significant milestone."

"President Trump in six months did a miracle," Aliyev said.

Trump remarked on how long the conflict went on between the two countries. "Thirty-five years they fought, and now they're friends and they're going to be friends a long time," he said.

That route will connect Azerbaijan and its autonomous Nakhchivan exclave, which are separated by a 32-kilometer-wide (20-mile-wide) patch of Armenian territory. The demand from Azerbaijan had held up peace talks in the past.

For Azerbaijan, a major producer of oil and gas, the route also provides a more direct link to Turkey and onward to Europe.

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Trump indicated he'd like to visit the route, saying, "We're going to have to get over there."

Asked how he feels about lasting peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Trump said "very confident."

Aliyev and Pashinyan on Friday joined a growing list of foreign leaders and other officials who have said Trump should receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in helping ease long-running conflicts across the globe.

The peace deal between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda helped end the decadeslong conflict in eastern Congo, and the U.S. mediated a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, while Trump intervened in clashes between Cambodia and Thailand by threatening to withhold trade agreements with both countries if their fighting continued. Yet peace deals in Gaza and Ukraine have been elusive.

US takes advantage of Russia's waning influence

The signing of a deal between Armenia and Azerbaijan, both former Soviet republics, also strikes a geopolitical blow to their former imperial master, Russia. Throughout the nearly four-decade conflict, Moscow played mediator to expand its clout in the strategic South Caucasus region, but its influence waned quickly after it launched the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The Trump-brokered deal would allow the U.S. to deepen its reach in the region as Moscow retreats, senior U.S. administration officials said.

The Trump administration began engaging with Armenia and Azerbaijan in earnest earlier this year, when Trump's key diplomatic envoy, Steve Witkoff, met with Aliyev in Baku and started to discuss what a senior administration official called a "regional reset."

Negotiations over who will develop the Trump Route — which will eventually include a rail line, oil and gas pipelines, and fiber optic lines — will likely begin next week, and at least nine developers have expressed interest already, according to the senior administration official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

Separate from the joint agreement, both Armenia and Azerbaijan signed deals with the United States meant to bolster cooperation in energy, technology and the economy, the White House said.

Trump previewed much of Friday's plan in a social media post Thursday evening, in which he said the agreements would "fully unlock the potential" of the South Caucasus region.

"Many Leaders have tried to end the War, with no success, until now, thanks to 'TRUMP,'" Trump said on his Truth Social site.

The Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict has lasted for decades

The two nations were locked in conflict for nearly four decades as they fought for control of the Karabakh region, known internationally as Nagorno-Karabakh.

The area was largely populated by Armenians during the Soviet era but is located within Azerbaijan. The two nations battled for control of the region through multiple violent clashes that left tens of thousands of people dead over the decades, all while international mediation efforts failed.

Most recently, Azerbaijan reclaimed all of Karabakh in 2023 and had been in talks with Armenia to normalize ties. Azerbaijan's insistence on a land bridge to Nakhchivan had been a major sticking point, because while Azerbaijan did not trust Armenia to control the so-called Zangezur corridor, Armenia resisted control by a third party because it viewed it as a breach of sovereignty.

But the prospect of closer ties with the United States, as well as being able to move in and out of the landlocked nation more freely without having to access Georgia or Iran, helped entice Armenia on the broader agreement, according to U.S. officials.

Meanwhile, Russia stood back when Azerbaijan reclaimed control of Karabakh in the September 2023 offensive, angering Armenia, which has moved to shed Russian influence and turn westward. Azerbaijan, emboldened by its victory in Karabakh, also has become increasingly defiant in its relations with Moscow.



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## **Today in History: August 10, derecho rakes the US Midwest**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Aug. 10, the 222nd day of 2025. There are 143 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Aug. 10, 2020, a powerful derecho struck several Midwest U.S. states, causing four fatalities and an estimated \$11 billion in damage, making it the costliest thunderstorm in modern U.S. history.

Also on this date:

In 1792, during the French Revolution, mobs in Paris attacked the Tuileries (TWEE'-luh-reez) Palace, where King Louis XVI resided. (The king was later arrested, put on trial for treason, and executed.)

In 1821, Missouri became the 24th state admitted to the Union.

In 1945, a day after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Imperial Japan conveyed its willingness to surrender provided the status of Emperor Hirohito remained unchanged. (The Allies responded the next day, saying they would determine the Emperor's future status.)

In 1969, Leno and Rosemary LaBianca were murdered in their Los Angeles home by members of Charles Manson's cult, one day after actor Sharon Tate and four other people were slain.

In 1977, postal employee David Berkowitz was arrested in Yonkers, New York, accused of being "Son of Sam," the gunman who killed six people and wounded seven others in the New York City area.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a measure providing \$20,000 payments to still-living Japanese-Americans who were interned by their government during World War II.

In 1993, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was sworn in as the second female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, serving until her death in September 2020.

In 2006, British authorities announced they had thwarted a terrorist plot to simultaneously blow up 10 aircraft heading to the U.S. using liquid explosives made to look like soft drinks.

In 2018, Richard Russell, a 29-year-old airline ground agent, stole a commercial plane from Sea-Tac International Airport near Seattle; he flew for 75 minutes, performing dangerous stunts while being chased by military jets before crashing into a remote island in Puget Sound, killing himself.

In 2019, Jeffrey Epstein, accused of orchestrating a sex-trafficking ring and sexually abusing dozens of underage girls, was found unresponsive in his cell at a New York City jail; he was later pronounced dead at a hospital. (The city's medical examiner ruled the death a suicide by hanging.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor James Reynolds is 79. Rock singer-musician Ian Anderson (Jethro Tull) is 78. Country musician Gene Johnson (Diamond Rio) is 76. Singer Patti Austin is 75. Actor Daniel Hugh Kelly is 73. Folk singer-songwriter Sam Baker is 71. Actor Rosanna Arquette is 66. Actor Antonio Banderas is 65. Rock musician Jon Farriss (INXS) is 64. Singer Julia Fordham is 63. Actor Chris Caldovino is 62. Singer Neneh Cherry is 61. Singer Aaron Hall is 61. Former boxer Riddick Bowe is 58. Actor Sean Blakemore is 58. R&B singer Lorraine Pearson (Five Star) is 58. Singer-producer Michael Bivins is 57. Actor-writer Justin Theroux is 54. Actor Angie Harmon is 53. Country singer Jennifer Hanson is 52. Actor JoAnna Garcia Swisher is 46. Singer Cary Ann Hearst (Shovels & Rope) is 46. Actor Aaron Staton is 45. Actor Ryan Eggold is 41. Actor Lucas Till is 35. Reality TV star Kylie Jenner is 28. Actor Jeremy Maguire is 14.