

# Groton Daily Independent

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## **Sunday, Aug. 31**

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.

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

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

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

## **Monday, Sept. 1**

LABOR DAY

Soccer at Mitchell (Girls at 11 a.m., Boys at 1 p.m.)

Homecoming Coronation, 8 p.m.

## **Tuesday, Sept. 2**

School Breakfast: Muffins.

School Lunch: Tater tot hot dish, corn.

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies LWML, 1 p.m.

## **Groton Daily Independent**

**PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445**

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

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Boys Golf at Hub City Invitational (Lee Park), 10 a.m.

Football hosts EllendaleEdgeley/Kulm, JH at 4 p.m., JV at 5 p.m.

Volleyball at Ipswich: 7th at 5 p.m.; C at 5 p.m., 8th at 6 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity to follow.

## **Wednesday, Sept 3**

School Breakfast: Oatmeal

School Lunch: Pasta Primavera, cooked broccoli.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.

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

Groton Chamber Meeting, noon City Hall

## **Thursday, Sept 4**

School Breakfast: Maple French Toast Bake.

School Lunch: Sloppy Joe, potato wedges

Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.

Volleyball: Sisseton at Groton: (Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)

Cross Country at Redfield, 10 a.m.

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## Farmers Feed 1,000 State Fair Fairgoers for Only 52 Cents

Today (August 30) at the South Dakota State Fair, family farmers and ranchers feed 1,000 fairgoers lunch for only 52 cents each during the South Dakota Farmers Union Farmers Share Lunch.

Why only 52 cents? It's the farmers' share for the meal's ingredients.

"There is a big difference between what we all pay at the grocery store and the share the farmer receives for the food they raise," explained Karla Hofhenke, Executive Director of South Dakota Farmers Union.

Understanding the economic challenges facing family farmers and ranchers as well as providing an opportunity for fairgoers to meet the families who do the work of our state's number one industry of agriculture are among the goals of the Farmers Share Lunch, explained Wessington Springs rancher, Scott Kolousek.

"After a fairgoer learns how little we receive for the food we produce, they say it really opens their eyes," Kolousek said. "When beef hits \$8 a pound in the grocery store and buns are \$3, we believe it is important that consumers understand those of us raising the cattle and the wheat are only receiving a fraction of the amount they spend at the grocery store."

Megan and Derek Pedersen agreed. They are attending the State Fair from Lesterville. And when they learned that the 52 cents they paid for a pulled pork sandwich, chips and milk lunch was the farmers' share for the ingredients, they were surprised.

"It sounds like a lot of hard work for nothing," Derek said.

"Sounds like changes should be made," Megan added. "Because the processors/packagegers seem to be making most of the profit, not the people who put in the blood, sweat and tears. This should somehow be reversed."

### An opportunity to advocate for agriculture

South Dakota Farmers Union is the premier sponsor of the South Dakota State Fair. And in addition to the Farmers Share Lunch, the state's largest agriculture organization said the event provides a great opportunity for family farmers and ranchers to share their story.

Kolousek is among a group of Farmers Union members who make time during State Fair to meet with fairgoers – handing out stickers and backpacks with farm-friendly messaging.

"We as individual farmers and ranchers don't have a lot of time to tell our story, but we know that if we don't make time to tell our story, someone else will," Kolousek said. "This is the reason our family are Farmers Union members – this grassroots organization is run by farmers. It provides us with opportunities, like State Fair, where we can tell our story."

### Farm Safety Quiz Bowl and More

In addition to the Farmers Share Lunch, South Dakota Farmers Union is also hosting the 2025 Farm Safety Quiz Bowl championships. FFA teams from Brandon Valley, Canton, Howard and Wessington Springs will compete for cash and championship title.

"It's important all youth understand how to stay safe on farms and ranches because agriculture is our state's number one industry – and the work involved can be dangerous," explained Doug Sombke, President of South Dakota Farmers Union and a fourth-generation Brown County farmer.

And the grassroots organization is also hosting a panel of legislative leaders, local officials and state tax experts for a forum focused on property tax. Fairgoers joined in the discussion during Who Pays the Bill? South Dakota's Property Tax Crossroads forum.

To learn more about how South Dakota Farmers Union works to support family farmers and ranchers, visit [www.sdfu.org](http://www.sdfu.org).

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## September Groton Community Calendar

### Monday, Sept. 1

LABOR DAY

Soccer at Mitchell (Girls at 11 a.m., Boys at 1 p.m.)

Homecoming Coronation, 8 p.m.

### Tuesday, Sept. 2

School Breakfast: Muffins.

School Lunch: Tater tot hot dish, corn.

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies LWML, 1 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Boys Golf at Hub City Invitational (Lee Park), 10 a.m.

Football hosts EllendaleEdgeley/Kulm, JH at 4 p.m., JV at 5 p.m.

Volleyball at Ipswich: 7th at 5 p.m.; C at 5 p.m., 8th at 6 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity to follow.

### Wednesday, Sept 3

School Breakfast: Oatmeal

School Lunch: Pasta Primavera, cooked broccoli.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.

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

Groton Chamber Meeting, noon City Hall

### Thursday, Sept 4

School Breakfast: Maple French Toast Bake.

School Lunch: Sloppy Joe, potato wedges

Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.

Volleyball: Sisseton at Groton: (Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)

Cross Country at Redfield, 10 a.m.

### Friday, Sept. 5

School Breakfast: Breakfast boats.

School Lunch: Hot dogs, baked beans.

Homecoming Parade, 1 p.m.

Football hosts Winner, 7 p.m.

### Saturday, Sept 6

Groton Fly-In/Drive-in at Groton Municipal Airport

Fall City Wide Rummage Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Junior High Volleyball Tournament at Northwestern, 9 a.m.

Soccer hosts West Central (Girls at noon, Boys at 2 p.m.)

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## Sunday, Sept. 7

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

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

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.

Groton Fly-In/Drive-in at Groton Municipal Airport

Olive Grove Sunflower Couples Golf Tourney

Doggie Day at the Pool, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## Monday, Sept. 8

School Breakfast: Eggs.

School Lunch: Chef salad at elementary, build your own salad at MS/HS.

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

Groton Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Football at Webster (JH at 4 p.m., JV at 5 p.m.)

3rd-6th GBB Skills, 6 -8 p.m.

## Tuesday Sept. 9

School Breakfast: Scones.

School Lunch: Pasta with meat sauce, corn.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.; Caring Team Meeting, 1 p.m.

Boys Golf at Milbank, 10 a.m.

Cross Country at Britton, 4 p.m.

Boys Soccer at James Valley Christian, 4 p.m.

Volleyball at Webster ((7th-5, 8th-6; C-5, JV-6, V-7:15))

## Wednesday, Sept 10

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.

School Lunch: Vegetable soup ham sandwich

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; League 6:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.

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

## Thursday, Sept 11

School Breakfast: Cereal

School Lunch: Chicken tacos.

Groton Lions Club Meeting, 6 p.m., 104 N Main St.

Boys Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course, 10 a.m.

Volleyball at Roncalli ((7th-5, 8th-6; C-5, JV-6, V-7:30))



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## Friday, Sept. 12

School Breakfast: Egg wraps.

School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, green beans.

Football hosts Milbank, 7 p.m.

## Saturday, Sept. 13

Soccer at Vermillion (Girls at 1 p.m., Boys at 2:30 p.m.)

## Sunday, Sept. 14

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

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

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

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

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

GHS FCS Kickoff meeting, 2 p.m.

## Monday, Sept 15

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Corn dog, baked beans.

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

St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.

Groton Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cross Country at Webster, 2 p.m.

JV Football at Milbank, 4 p.m.

3rd-6th GBB Skills, 6 p.m.

## Tuesday, Sept. 16

School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.

School Lunch: Pizza burger, tri tater.

St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Cross Country at Redfield, 10 a.m.

JH Football at Milbank, 7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)

Soccer at Dakota Valley (Girls at 4 p.m., Boys at 5:30 p.m.)

## Wednesday, Sept. 17

School Breakfast: Omelets.

School Lunch: Mac and cheese peas.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

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

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## Thursday, Sept. 18

School Breakfast: Biscuits.  
School Lunch: Burrito. Bowl, corn.  
Cross Country at Lee Park, Aberdeen, 11 a.m.  
Volleyball at Clark ((7th-5, 8th-6; C-5, JV-6, V-7:15))

## Friday, Sept. 19

School Breakfast: Doughnuts.  
School Lunch: Cheese pizza, green beans.  
Football at Deuel, 7 p.m.

## Saturday, Sept. 20

Volleyball at Hamlin Invitational, 9 a.m.  
JH/JV Football at Webster Jamboree, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Boys Soccer at Freeman Academy, Noon

## Sunday, Sept. 21

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Groton Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.  
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.  
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.  
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

## Monday, Sept. 22

FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN  
School Breakfast: Egg bake.  
School Lunch: Hot dogs, chips.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
Groton Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, potluck at Noon  
Cross Country at Deuel, 4 p.m.  
3rd-6th GBB Skills, 6-8 p.m.

## Tuesday, Sept. 23

School Breakfast: Muffins.  
School Lunch: Chicken nuggets mashed potatoes.  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.  
JH/JV Football at Langford vs. Britton-Hecla. JH at 4:30, JV at 5:30  
Volleyball at Warner: (Welke: 7th-5:15, 8th-6:30; Arena: C-5:15, JV-6:30, V-7:45))

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## Wednesday, Sept. 24

School Breakfast: Oatmeal.

School Lunch: Pizza crunchers cooked carrots.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; League 6:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.

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

FFA Land and Range Contest at Webster

## Thursday Sept. 25

School Breakfast: Maple French Toast Bake.

School Lunch: Chicken patty cooked broccoli.

Cross Country at Sisseton, 10 a.m.

Volleyball at Tiospa Zina ((7th-4, 8th-5; C-5, JV-6, V-7:15))

Boys Soccer hosts James Valley Christian, 4 p.m.

## Friday, Sept. 26

School Breakfast: Breakfast boats

School Lunch: French bread pizza, green beans.

Football hosts Clark/Willow Lake, 7 p.m.

## Saturday, Sept. 27

C Team/JH Volleyball at Matchbox Tournament, 9 a.m.

Soccer at West Central (Boys at noon, Girls at 2 p.m.)

## Sunday, Sept. 28

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

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

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

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

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

5th Grade Grils Basketball at GHS, 4 p.m.

## Monday, Sept. 29

School Breakfast: Eggs.

School Lunch: Beef stroganoff, rice.

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

Region 1A Boys Golf at Madison, 10 a.m.

JH/JV Football at Clark (JH at 4 p.m., JV at 5 p.m.)

Cross Country Meet at Olive Grove, 4 p.m.

Soccer hosts Dakota Valley (Girls at 4 p.m., Boys at 5:30 p.m.)

3rd-6th GBB Skills, 6-8 p.m.

## Tuesday Sept. 30

School Breakfast: Scones.

School Lunch: Chicken breast, baby bakers.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

5th Grade Girls Basketball, 4:15 p.m.

Volleyball hosts Great Plains Lutheran: ((C at 5, JV at 6, V-7:15))

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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

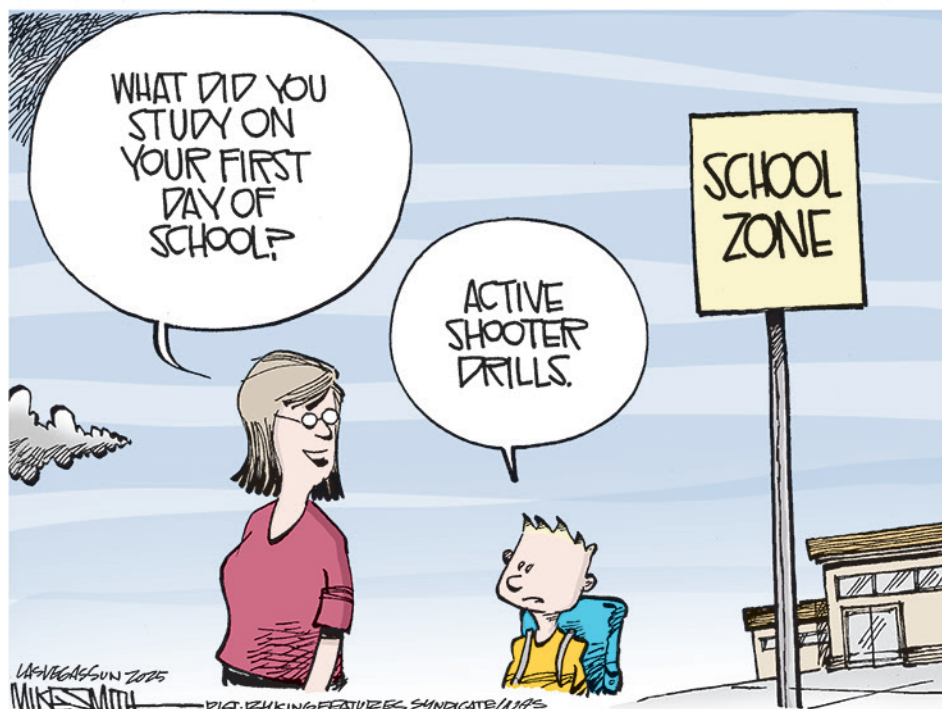
*Your adornment must not be  
merely the external —  
braiding the hair, wearing  
gold jewelry, or putting on  
apparel; but it should be  
the hidden person of the heart,  
with the imperishable quality  
of a gentle and quiet spirit,  
which is precious  
in the sight of God.*

❧ 1 PETER 3:3-4 ❧



*Detail of "L'Arlesienne"  
by Vincent Van Gogh (1888-89)*

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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Labour in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Acts 20:35, "That so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words, it is more \_\_\_\_\_ to give than to receive." *Righteous, Understanding, Blessed, Bountiful*

3. Ecclesiastes 3:13 states, "And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God." *Will, Gift, Guidance, Law*

4. From Proverbs 14:23, "In all labour there is profit: but the \_\_\_\_\_ of the lips tendeth only to penury." *Whispering, Closing, Talk, Howling*

5. In Ephesians 4:28, "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his \_\_\_\_\_." *Brothers, Soul, Might, Hands*

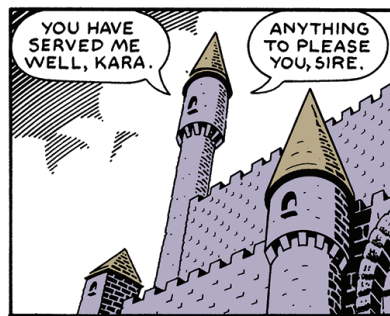
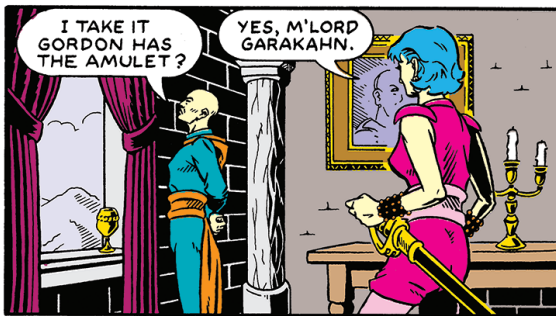
6. From Exodus 20:9, how many days shalt thou labour and do all thy work? *Two, Four, Six, Seven*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Blessed, 3) Gift, 4) Talk, 5) Hands, 6) Six

*Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.*

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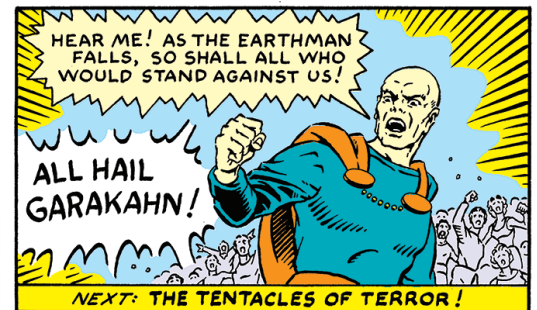
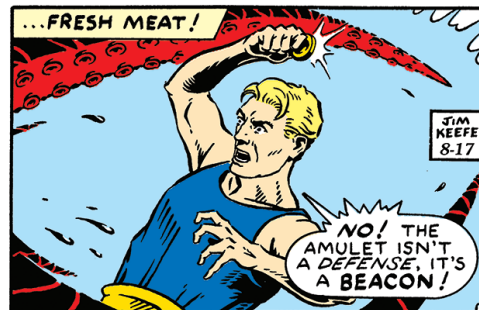
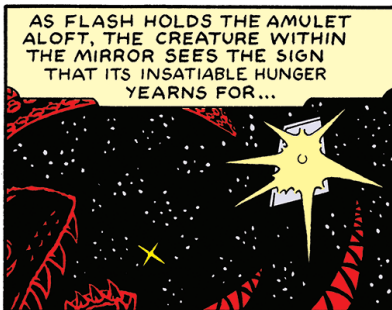
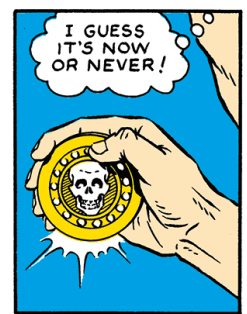
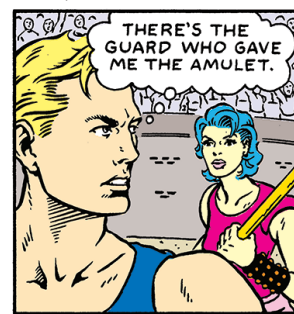
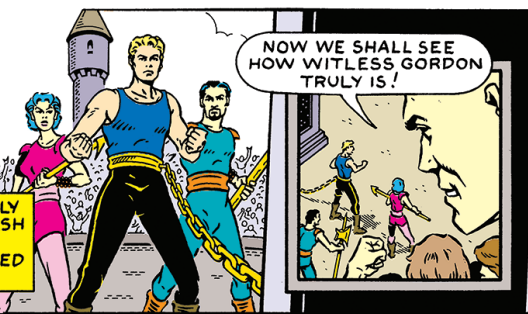
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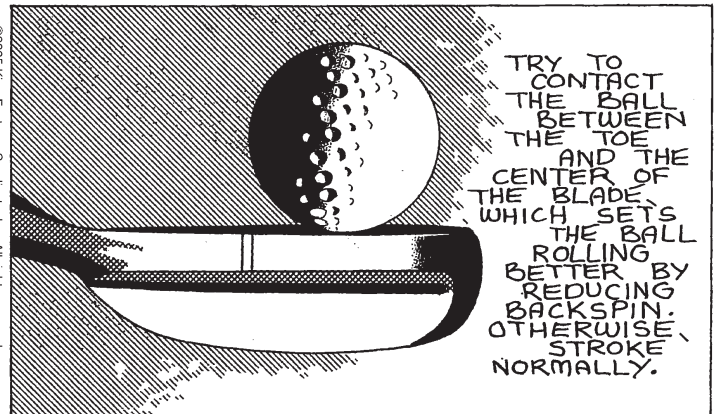
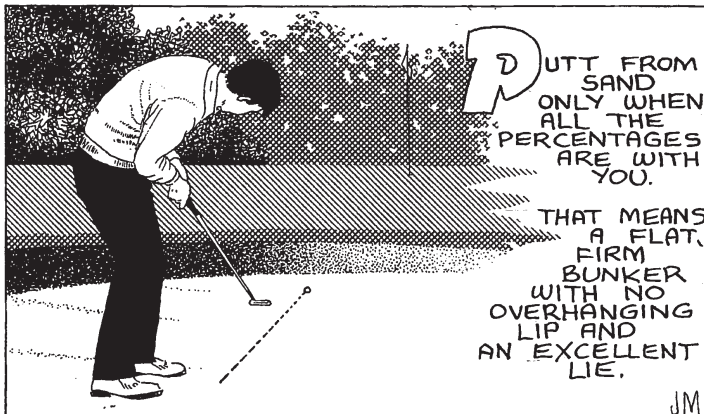
## FLASH GORDON

HOLDING THE AMULET HE FALSELY BELIEVES WILL PROTECT HIM, FLASH IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE MYSTICAL MIRROR TO BE SACRIFICED TO THE CREATURE WITHIN!

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





## Physician Bills Patient for Exam But Wasn't in the Room for It

DEAR DR. ROACH: When I have appointments with my physicians at our local, highly rated academic health system, they no longer do a physical exam. But in the after-visit note, there is a documented and complete physical exam that doesn't reflect reality. This happened on all types of visits, including annual visits and pre- and post-surgery visits.

If I am examined by a resident, the attending physician will attest in the after-visit note to having examined me alongside the resident when, in actuality, the physician was not in the room. I find this appalling, but it seems to be common practice. These doctors are billing for services that they do not deliver. Do you see any effort in the medical world to respond

to this? -- J.H.

ANSWER: The new electronic medical record systems make it easy to document a complete physical exam, sometimes with a single click. If this happens once, it's a mistake. If it happens consistently, this is at least a system error, if not deliberate deception. The term used in the industry is "upcoding" because documentation of a complete examination allows for higher billing to the insurance company.

Physicians need to be very careful not to document a physical exam that they didn't do. A less-kind word for consistently doing this practice is "fraud." Penalties can be up to tens of thousands of dollars per false claim.

The rules for resident supervision are complicated. In general, billing can only be done for services that are provided by or are under the direct supervision of the attending physician. There are exceptions to this, such as resident physicians who provide primary care. However, once again, saying that you were there supervising the resident when you weren't is against the law.

Now if the attending physician comes in the room and asks questions to confirm the key findings of your medical history, they do not have to do a complete examination to fulfill the obligations for the primary care exemption.

Outside of primary care, the attending physician must be physically present for the key portions of the services that are being billed.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: I saw your recent column about the wife with intractable depression. I can relate, but you barely glanced over what has been life-changing for me as a treatment: TMS (transcranial magnetic stimulation).

It is quick, easy and painless, and most insurance companies (even Medicare) fully cover it. To be frank, Doc, not nearly enough suffering people have ever even heard of TMS as an option. Would you illustrate to your readers just a tad more about how powerful it can be as a treatment option? -- R.F.W.

ANSWER: Most people with depression respond well to treatment with a combination of psychotherapy and one of the standard medications, but some people need to try several medications before they find one that works for them. Unfortunately, there are people who do not get good results with medication. TMS is an option in these situations (but you don't have to fail with multiple medications to try TMS).

Even in people who have failed with multiple medications, about 30% will have a "marked" improvement or a resolution of their symptoms. TMS doesn't cure everybody, but I agree that it's a therapy that needs to be more widely used. The biggest problem is that it isn't available everywhere.

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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"F1: The Movie" (PG-13) -- Sleek director Joseph Kosinski ("Top Gun: Maverick" and "Spiderhead") signed on the most elusive cool guy in Hollywood, Brad Pitt, to be his leading man in his latest re-

lease, which is out now to rent. This sports-drama film follows F1 driver Sonny Hayes (Pitt), who is coaxed into coming out of retirement after 30 years to race in the underdog team APXGP. The owner of APXGP is his former teammate Ruben Cervantes (Javier Bardem), which is why he extends Ruben the favor, but his new teammate, rookie Joshua Pearce (Damson Idris), does not plan to make this an easy return for him. The film became the highest-grossing film of Pitt's career, earning \$603.4 million worldwide at the time of this writing. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Eddington" (R) -- "Elevated horror" director Ari Aster's latest film is deemed a "neo-Western black comedy thriller," which seems directly on brand if you've seen any of his previous works ("Hereditary" and "Midsommar"). Even though it starred a handful of Hollywood's most popular actors, such as Joaquin Phoenix, Pedro Pascal, Austin Butler and Emma Stone, it bombed at the box office, not even making up half of its budget. However, critics gave the film mostly positive reviews and praised how it showcased a growing problem in our current society: the way our digital world shapes our political climate, both locally and federally. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

"The Naked Gun" (PG-13) -- For fans of the Leslie Nielsen series "The Naked Gun" and those who enjoy slapstick comedy (hard pass for me), this action-comedy reboot should be first on your watchlist this week! Starring Liam Neeson ("Absolution") and Pamela Anderson ("The Last Showgirl"), the film follows Lt. Frank Drebin's (Nielsen) son, Frank Drebin Jr. (Neeson), as he investigates the death of a software engineer. Also joining the investigation in a discreet way is the software engineer's sister, Beth (Anderson), who is convinced that her brother's death wasn't a suicide. As their interrogations lead them closer to the truth, Frank and Beth also get to enjoy a bit of romance -- not unlike their real-life counterparts who announced that they were dating during the film's press cycle. Available to rent on Sept. 2. (YouTube)

"The Paper" (TV-14) -- Who can believe that in the year of 2025, we'd be experiencing a spin-off to the series "The Office"? It looks like audiences find great comfort in mockumentary sitcoms because it only took a year for Peacock to put together the series, with help from key players/executive producers Greg Daniels (developer of "The Office") and Ricky Gervais (who starred in the British version of the series from 2001 to 2003). The spin-off centers around the Toledo Truth-Teller, a Midwestern paper struggling to stay afloat. The new editor-in-chief Ned Sampson (Domhnall Gleeson) is ready to shake things up, and by the look of its undertrained staff, he has a lot of work ahead of him. All 10 episodes will be available to stream starting Sept. 4. (Peacock)



**Pamela Anderson, left, and Liam Neeson star in "The Naked Gun."** (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)



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1. A plaque commemorating a Simon & Garfunkel song hangs in a train station in Widnes, England. Name the song.
2. Name the group that released "Never Been to Spain."
3. Who was the first to release "Love Will Keep Us Together"?
4. Which group topped the charts with "Crazy Little Thing Called Love"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I wanna know if she loved me. Did she really love me? Was she just playing me for a fool?"

Answers:

1. "Homeward Bound," released in 1966. Simon wrote the song as he sat in the Widnes Central Station. There's debate, however, about whether he was actually in a different station, despite the plaque.
2. Three Dog Night, in 1972. It had been released by the songwriter, Hoyt Axton, the year before.
3. Songwriter Neil Sedaka, in 1973. The Captain & Tennille followed with a cover in 1975. Their version netted a Grammy for Record of the Year and was the best-selling song of 1975.
4. Queen, in 1980.
5. "There Goes My Baby," by the Drifters, in 1959. The song was added to the Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Songs of All Time and has been covered by several others, including Jay and the Americans.

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**GRIN and BEAR IT** *Wagner*

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"Ms. Figby, you were supposed to remind me not to be a jerk today!"

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

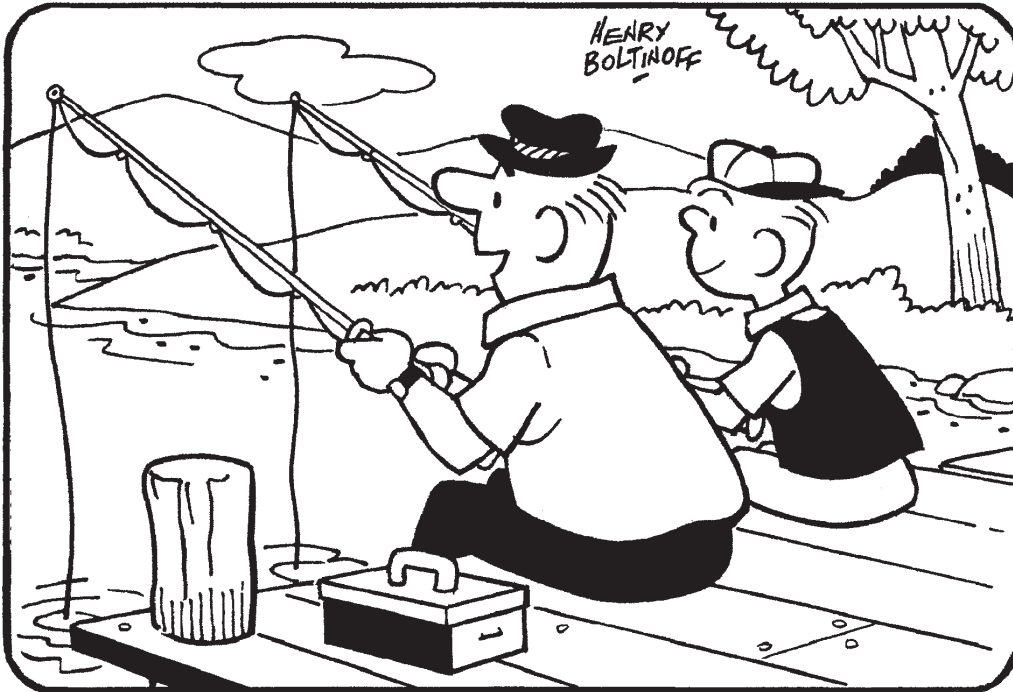
by Dave T. Phipps



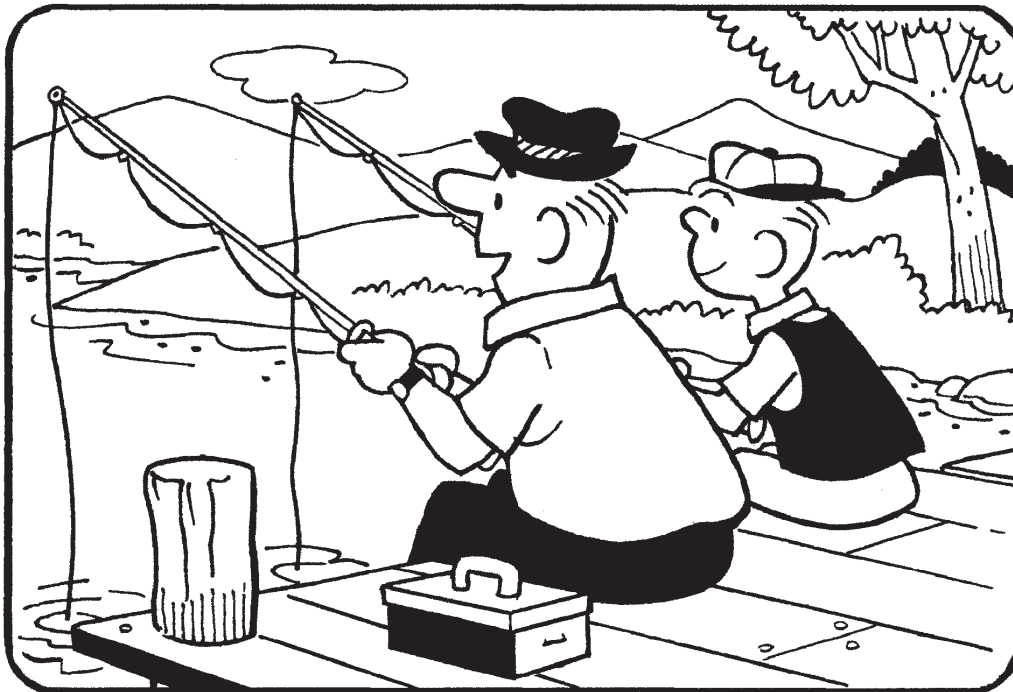
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Box is moved. 2. Bush is taller. 3. Hat is larger. 4. Line is added to board. 5. Cloud is smaller. 6. Mountain is added.

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\* "Wet a plain kitchen sponge and place it in a zip-top baggie in the freezer. It's great for bumps and bruises, tired eyes and overheated kids." -- V.I. in New Hampshire

\* Always rest your bar soap on a sponge. You won't have a soap slime problem ever again, and the soap stays put. When the sponge starts to look questionable, you can replace it or just toss it in the wash with your towels.

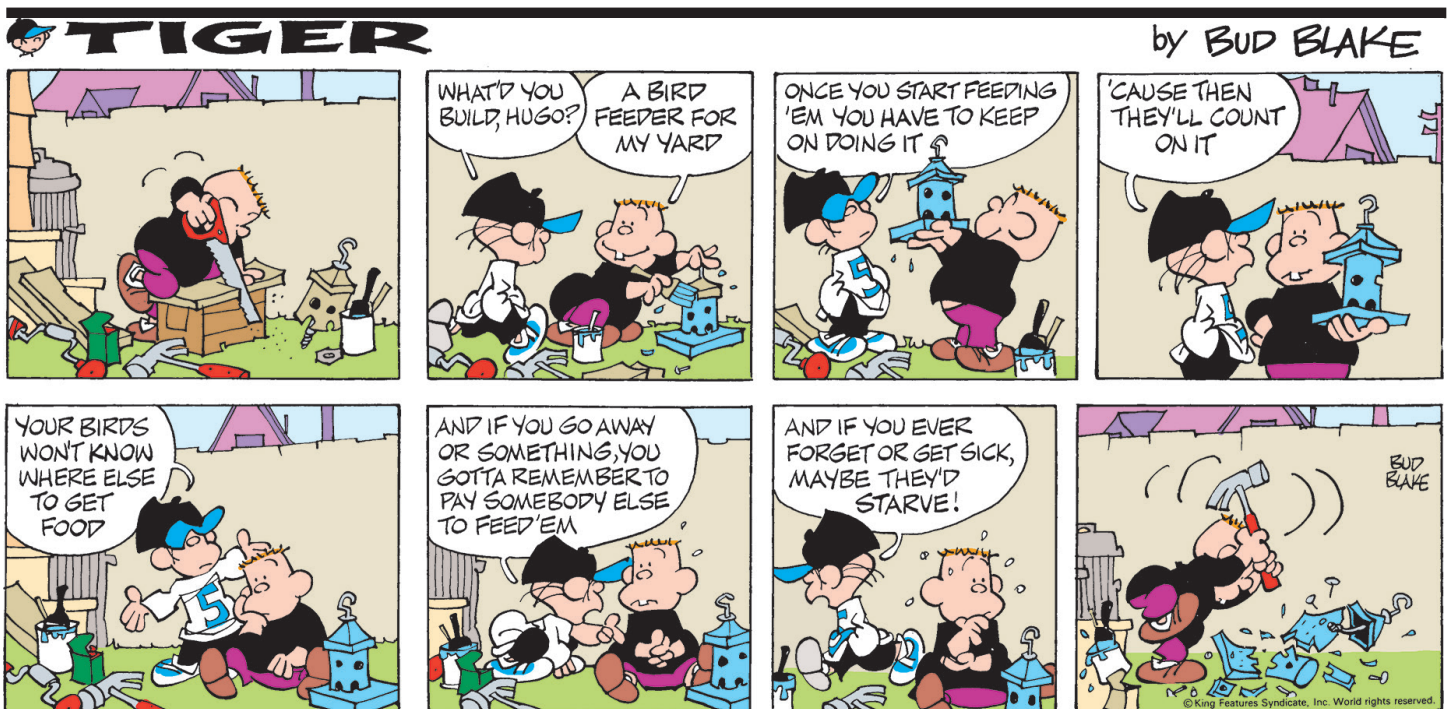
\* "Sunday dinner is great for so many reasons, as our family reserves this day to be together at mealtime. It has also become a day to touch base on appointments and obligations for the coming week. We discuss what each of us has going on upcoming, and we post our schedules on the fridge on Sunday evening. This way, we can help one another and keep each of us accountable. It works for us!" -- A.A. in California

\* "A really nice gift for a family with young children is a family membership to a local science and history museum. It's a gift that keeps on giving, and it's very flexible, because with a membership, you can go all day or just a few hours to keep it light." -- C.W. in Virginia

\* A great way to organize in the kitchen is to use the space on the inside of your cabinet doors. You can install a metal sheet (to stick magnetic items to), a chalkboard, a small rack or a section of pocket organizer. The possibilities are endless.

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

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Pitcher's pride  
4 Country great McEntire  
8 Chew (on)  
12 Singer Rawls  
13 Holiday lead-ins  
14 Peregrinate  
15 Belief  
16 Tide variety  
17 Currier's partner  
18 Dick Tracy's sweetie  
21 Method  
22 Gear tooth  
23 Daisy part  
26 "Incidentally," in a text  
27 Lass  
30 Crooned  
31 Hosp. areas  
32 Pizzazz  
33 Boy king  
34 Coach Parseghian  
35 Used a stopwatch  
36 "Exodus" hero  
37 007 creator Fleming  
38 Classic Hank Williams song  
45 Dutch cheese  
46 Ovid's  
47 "A pox upon thee!"

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15				16					17			
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- 48 Jeansmaker Strauss  
49 Harrow rival  
50 Mimic  
51 Future atty.'s exam  
52 Big rig  
53 Scarlet  
7 Features  
8 "Peer Gynt Suite" composer  
9 Bright star  
10 Say it's so  
11 Compass point  
19 Booty  
20 Explanation  
23 Calif. clock setting  
24 Water (Fr.)  
25 Blaster's need  
26 Bikini top  
27 Tiara jewel  
28 Enzyme suffix  
29 British "Inc."  
31 Baltimore baseballers  
32 Fan publication  
34 Rainbow  
35 Sesame paste  
36 Fess up  
37 Figure of speech  
38 Prison room  
39 Praiseful pieces  
40 Volcanic flow  
41 Low-calorie  
42 Miles away  
43 Ready for harvest  
44 Ticked (off)

### DOWN

- 1 Landed  
2 Valentine flower  
3 Fall bloomers  
4 Tourist's car  
5 Without exception  
6 Suitor



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## — King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

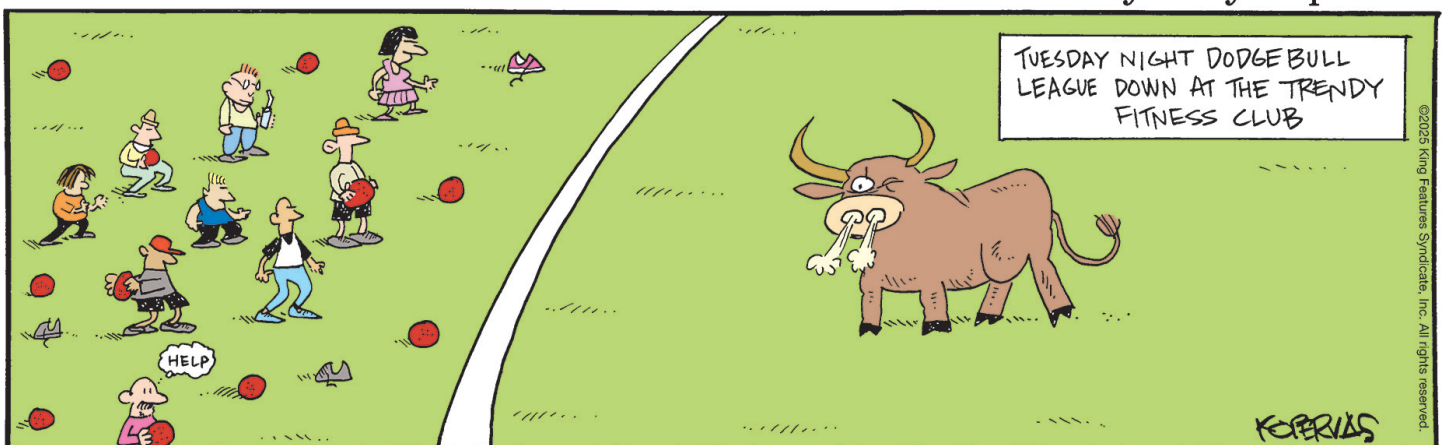
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T	U	T		A	R	A		T	I	M	E	D
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C	O	L	D	C	O	L	D	H	E	A	R	T
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L	E	V	I		E	T	O	N		A	P	E
L	S	A	T		S	E	M	I		R	E	D

Olive



Out on a Limb

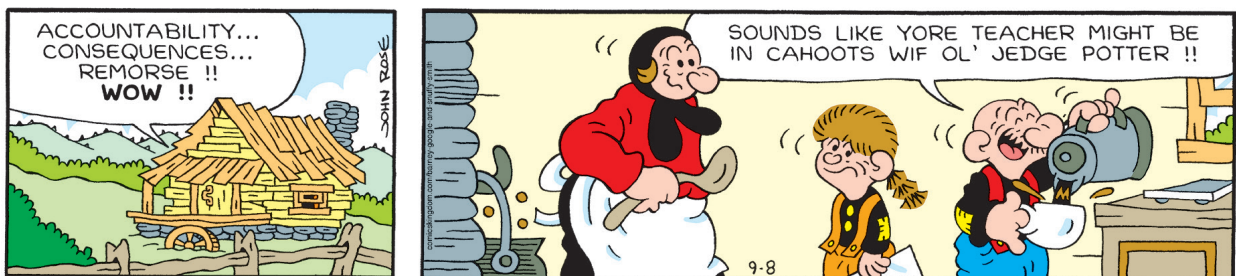
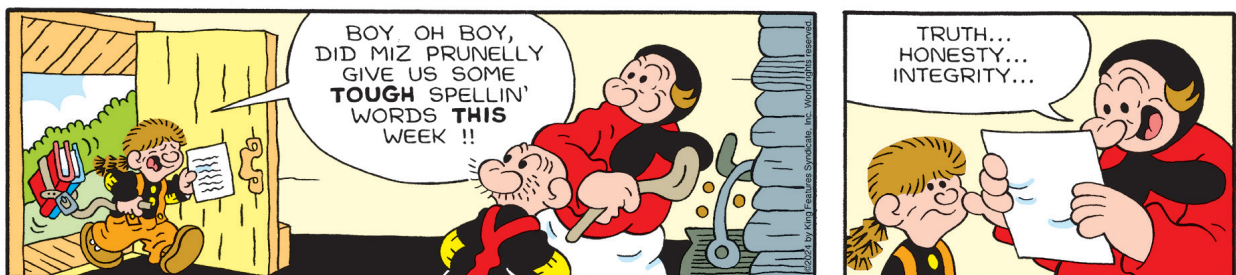
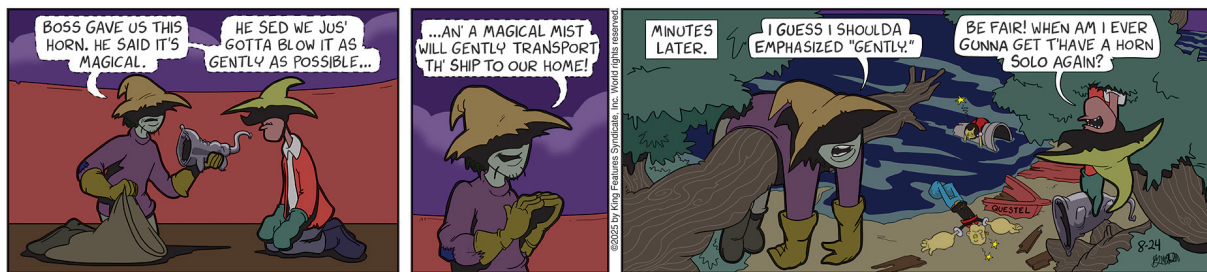
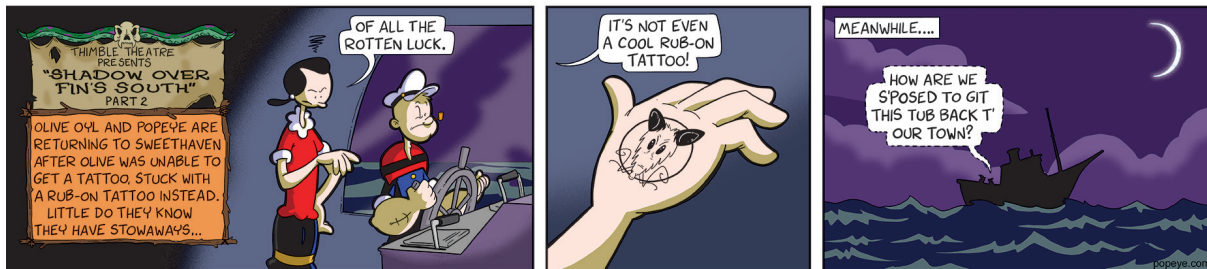
by Gary Kopervas



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# Groton Daily Independent

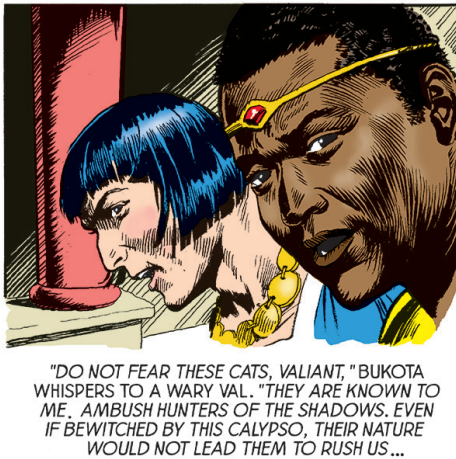
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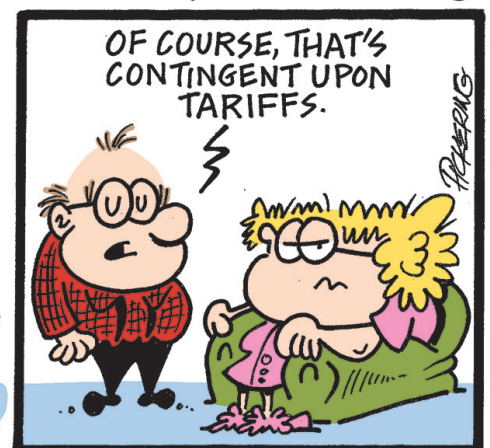


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## The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Retirement regrets?

I was eavesdropping on two senior ladies in a big box store, specifically in the furniture aisle. Being discussed was a very large TV cabinet with doors and shelving. While it was on sale, the price was apparently not enticing.

"I regret not buying a big television back when I had the money for one, before I went on Social Security," said one.

"I hear that," replied the other one. "But my regret is moving into a place that's too small for me to even have a big TV cabinet like this."

And there I was, enticed. What is it we all most regret now that we're seniors? I posed the question to AI (artificial intelligence).

Our most common regret, says AI, is that we didn't save enough for retirement. Or that we didn't start saving early enough in our lives.

Money was a major theme, according to AI, especially when it came to underestimating health care expenses.

For a different take on things, I turned to my local informal poll group.

The replies ranged from "I regret moving into a community with no sidewalks" to "I regret not getting a cat because now I've reached the cutoff age and the animal shelter won't let me adopt a very young cat because I might die before the cat does." The third one chuckled, "Well, I regret encouraging my son to take that job across the country because now he's not around to do heavy lifting." Another was serious when he replied, "I wish I'd bought a boat. It would be paid for by now. I'd head for the Bahamas."

If you're curious about what kinds of regrets seniors have about retirement (especially if you haven't yet retired and have time to make a course correction in your retirement plans), do an online search for "biggest regrets of retirees," or something similar.

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1. Johnny "Red" Kerr was head coach (1966-1968) and broadcaster (1975-2008) for what NBA team?

2. What event, held at Washington's Emerald Downs racetrack, involves people wearing inflatable dinosaur costumes competing in a footrace?

3. Hungary's Rudolf Karpati won six gold medals in four different Summer Olympics from 1948 to 1960, competing in what sport?

4. What soul music legend tried out for a roster spot with the NFL's Detroit Lions in 1970?

5. In November 2024, Anya Bannasch of California set a new Guinness World Record for putting 711 items of what sports equipment in her hair?

6. Toni Stone became the first woman to play regularly for an American pro baseball team when she took the field for which Negro American League team in 1953?

7. First awarded in 1999, the trophy presented to the NHL's top goal-scorer in the regular season is named after what Hockey Hall of Famer?



by Ryan A. Berenz

## Answers

1. The Chicago Bulls.

2. The T-Rex World Championship Races.

3. Fencing.

4. Marvin Gaye.

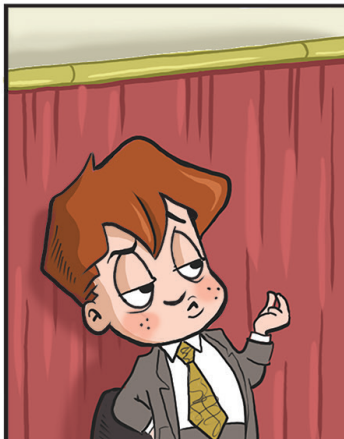
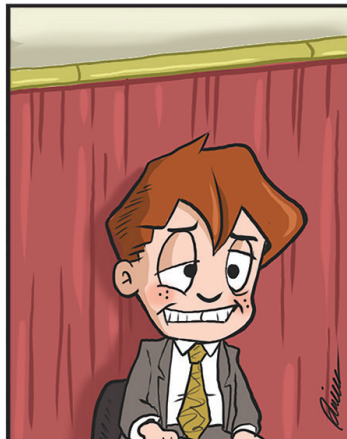
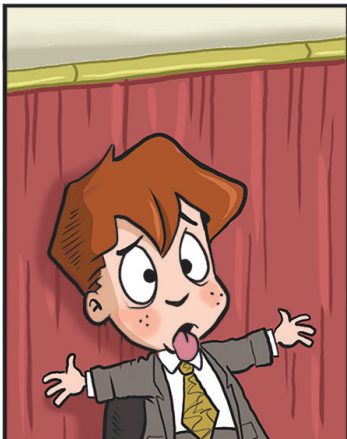
5. Golf tees.

6. The Indianapolis Clowns.

7. Maurice "Rocket" Richard.

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## Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



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## Pill Time Solutions



DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I read your article regarding the cat not swallowing his medications. My father taught us years ago to teach our puppies to eat wet food off a spoon. Now that the dogs are older and our vet has them on glucosamine and vitamins C and E, we put the pills with the spoonful of wet dog food and voila, they eat it! In fact they look forward to their pill time. I don't know if the same method would work with a cat, but I would think so. -- Sharon A., via e-mail

\*\*\*

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: After reading your column on getting cats to swallow pills, I wanted to share information about a product I found to be helpful in this regard.

It is called Pill Pockets, and it is available at many veterinary hospitals and most major pet stores. The product is essentially a treat with an open side to allow the pill to be put inside and then closed up by pressing in the sides. It comes in pouches of approximately 45 treats and in different flavors like salmon and chicken.

My cat loves the treat, and it allows me to give her a pill without any hassle or stress for either of us. It is also available for dogs. Please check it out. Your readers may find this product helpful. -- Elaine B., Belmont, Calif.

DEAR SHARON AND ELAINE: Many thanks to both of you! I received several helpful tips from readers on giving medications to pets, from hiding the pills in food to ordering custom preparations from pharmacists. Sometimes a pet owner will have to try more than one method to see which works best, and I'm grateful to everyone for their suggestions.

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

\* AI systems can simulate the language patterns and personality traits of the dead using their digital footprints, resulting in “deadbots” or “griefbots.” Researchers from the University of Cambridge have warned that this “afterlife industry” could cause psychological harm unless strict design safety standards are implemented.

\* According to one study, most dogs reach peak cuteness between 6 and 8 weeks old.

\* The American Psychiatric Association’s DSM-5 handbook

classifies caffeine withdraws as a mental disorder.

\* A Canadian police officer named Ward Clapham created a program that gives “positive tickets” to people who do good deeds.

\* “Baby,” “sport” and “waterproof” sunscreens don’t exist. They’re just marketing tactics.

\* In 2016, scientists measured pollution variation in Los Angeles and Chicago, and found that violent crime rose when pollution was worse.

\* Snow in Alpine regions can be pink due to pigments produced by algae, resulting in what’s known as “watermelon snow.”

\* Michelle Pfeiffer was literally vacuum-sealed into her Catwoman costume in “Batman Returns.”

\* The Venus flytrap plant can count -- it waits for something to tap its pads twice before they shut.

\* In 1864, Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman captured Savannah, Georgia, and in a telegram to President Lincoln wrote, “I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah, with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, also about 25,000 bales of cotton.”

\* The largest playable instrument in the world is the Great Stalacpipe Organ, located in the Luray Caverns in Virginia. It uses rubber mallets to tap on the cave’s natural stalactites.

\* At a specific temperature and pressure, water can exist simultaneously as a solid (ice), liquid (water) and gas (steam).

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: “Life ought to be a struggle of desire toward adventures whose nobility will fertilize the soul.” -- Rebecca West

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The  
Garden  
Bug

Fall  
veggie  
harvest

These veggies can take a light frost (temps of 30 - 32°F): beets, Chinese cabbage, cauliflower, celery, collards, green onions, Bibb and leaf lettuce, mustard, parsnips, radishes, spinach and Swiss chard. These veggies can survive freezes down to 20°F: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, kale, leeks, rutabagas and turnips. - Brenda Weaver

Source: [www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)





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by Freddy Groves

## When claims aren't checked out

A veteran and wife duo have been indicted for a whole menu of crimes against the VA, including conspiracy to defraud the United States, theft of government funds and conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Their scams brought in a lot of VA benefit cash because the husband claimed a variety of problems, including traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder and back issues, for which

he was granted a 100% disability rating. By later getting a permanent and total disability rating, he no longer had to show up for any reevaluation of his condition.

The couple grabbed additional benefit cash because the wife said she was his caregiver -- since the husband claimed he couldn't even go outside and needed his wife for everything, including feeding and bathing.

Over the years the wife alone had taken in over a quarter of a million dollars. The scam fell apart when an investigation revealed that he'd never been in a combat zone and surveillance showed him driving a vehicle, doing home maintenance up on a ladder, shoveling snow and more.

How, we want to know, was this veteran thief ever approved for a permanent disability rating before anybody even looked in his personnel file and talked to former unit members? At this point the pair could get 20 years each and a fine of \$250,000. I hope this isn't like so many of the crimes against the VA where the thieves are only sentenced to a fraction of what their total sentence could be.

Because here's another case where a scammer could have been sentenced to up to five years and a \$250,000 fine, yet he ended up with a year of supervised release. In this one, the founder of a medical device company offered doctors a way to make a bit of money in the form of product development consulting fees -- for which they never actually did any work. By law those transactions should have been reported.

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## Wishing Well®

7	6	4	8	4	7	2	5	2	6	3	2	7
B	J	T	Y	A	E	Y	F	O	O	S	U	C
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8	3	8	5	3	8	5	8	5	8	5	8	5
E	E	A	P	R	P	E	O	A	E	R	M	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. FOOD & DRINK: The Middle Eastern dish called falafel is made mostly of what ingredient?

2. GEOGRAPHY: Which country has the most UNESCO World Heritage sites?

3. TELEVISION: What is the name of Hawkeye's living quarters in the "M\*A\*S\*H" sitcom?

4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a male swan called?

5. LITERATURE: Which Irish author wrote his last novel in crayon?

6. MEASUREMENTS: How many square feet are in a square yard?

7. SCIENCE: What's the main function of red blood cells?

8. MOVIES: Streaming movies became eligible for the 2021 Oscar awards for what reason?

9. ANATOMY: What type of acid is found in the human stomach?

10. U.S. CITIES: Which city was named for a British prime minister?

### Answers

1. Chickpeas or fava beans.
2. Italy.
3. The Swamp.
4. A cob.
5. James Joyce.
6. 9.
7. To carry oxygen.
8. COVID-19 pandemic.
9. Hydrochloric acid.
10. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (William Pitt the Elder).

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South Dakota Governor



**Larry Rhoden**



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

## Celebrations at the State Fair

The South Dakota State Fair is something to celebrate. Once a year for a few days, it seems like the whole state is in Huron, and everyone has a smile on their face.

At one event this year, we kicked off the celebration of America's 250th Birthday with a mock signing of the Declaration of Independence – I signed, and so did about 100 kids. Quoting the Declaration, I said that everywhere you look at the fair, you see South Dakotans pursuing happiness!

In many ways, the State Fair is a celebration – or a series of celebrations. We celebrate agriculture, our most important industry. We celebrate our veterans. And we celebrate so many things that make South Dakota the greatest and freest state in America.

The State Fair is primarily focused on agriculture, and that's as it should be. Ag is king in South Dakota, and it's worthy of celebrating. We honored family farms that have been in the same family for 100 years or more alongside the South Dakota Farm Bureau and Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. 100 years – that's pretty remarkable! Our state depends on ag, and ag depends on our family farms, so anytime a farm stays in the same family for that long, it's a testament to South Dakota's strength and stability.

We also honored our veterans, both with a Salute to Veterans event during the daytime and at the Bull Bash rodeo in the evening. None of this – not the State Fair, not even our state or our nation – would be possible without the service and sacrifice of the men and women in uniform. I particularly enjoyed the F-16 flyover by the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing out of Sioux Falls – what a powerful symbol of American freedom!

We finally cut the ribbon on a project that's been several years in the making, the new SHED, which will be the open class sheep facility at the fairgrounds for many years to come. This high-quality facility will also make our fairgrounds more attractive for national events!

As always at the State Fair, we took time to meet with leaders from all our state's ag groups. I heard them out on each of their priorities and shared a few of my own. We talked about the need for property tax relief, especially in certain counties, and how my proposal does so in a way that doesn't harm agriculture in the process. We also discussed the importance of advancing South Dakota ag on the international stage, as I've been doing with my trade missions.

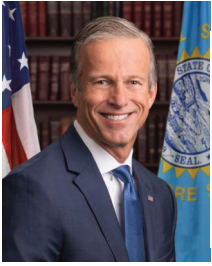
Finally, we celebrated South Dakota's state sport: rodeo! One of my favorite accomplishments from my time in the legislature was carrying and passing the bill to make rodeo South Dakota's official state sport, and the Tuff Hedeman Bull Bash is as good as any rodeo in the state. Like I said before, we also took time to honor our veterans at this event – and that's something else that makes rodeo pretty special: we honor our nation and our heroes.

To everyone who has an opportunity to enjoy the State Fair this year, I hope you enjoyed the celebration. And if you didn't, I hope we'll see you next year!



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

## Summer in South Dakota

It doesn't get much better than a summer day in South Dakota. This time of year brings out so much of what I love about our state. It's a great time to explore its natural beauty, go to the fair, or take in a local baseball game. I love traveling far and wide during the summer, visiting our communities and hearing directly from South Dakotans in every corner of our state.

Summer is fair season in South Dakota, and I love spending a day walking the fairgrounds, meeting South Dakotans, and touching base with our state's farmers and ranchers. I had a great time meeting old friends and new ones at the Turner County Fair. At the Brown County Fair and Dakotafest, I had discussions with South Dakota farmers and ranchers about how the One Big, Beautiful Bill will help agriculture producers and had the opportunity to hear from them about some of the challenges their industry is facing.

I've also had the opportunity to visit a number of small towns this summer, which is always a highlight of my travels. In Hoven, I stopped into City Hall, one of my favorite ways to learn about a community's needs and how I can help. I toured the hospital in Mobridge, stopped by Mr. Bob's Drive-In and Shorty's One Stop in Selby and at Bauer's Super Valu and Buttercup Coffee Shop in Faulkton.

I was proud to be able to report to South Dakota's small business owners on the tax relief we recently secured in the One Big, Beautiful Bill. This bill makes permanent the lower tax rates Republicans enacted in 2017 as well as the pro-growth policies that help small business owners, farmers, and ranchers invest in their operations and create jobs. I also had a great conversation with the Sioux Empire Homebuilders about how this bill will help make building and buying a home more affordable.

Some of my favorite moments traveling in our state come when I have a chance just to say "thank you." It's always a pleasure to be a part of ag appreciation events at the Sioux Empire Fair and Central States Fair. I met with first responders from Aberdeen Fire Rescue and law enforcement officers from the Rapid City Police Department and Pennington County Sheriff's Office to thank them for serving. And it was humbling to reflect on the service of South Dakotans past and present at the Battleship South Dakota Memorial Day of Honor and at the 28th Bomb Wing change of command ceremony at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

The summer is coming to a close, but the work continues. As always, that work is going to focus on a lot of the things I've heard from fellow South Dakotans. We've already accomplished a lot this year: permanent tax relief, securing the border, and strengthening our military. We're setting our country up for a stronger and more prosperous future, and I can't wait to see that future unfold in South Dakota.

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## Seniors, Soldiers, and the State Fair

### BIG Update

I joined the Peaceful Pines Senior Living Center in Huron to talk about my work in Washington and the policies in the One Big Beautiful Bill that will help seniors. Policies like cutting taxes on Social Security, expanding access to home and community-based care, and ensuring longevity for health and social programs will make a meaningful impact on the lives of many seniors.

I also shared some of the things I'll continue to work on in Congress like banning individual stock trading for members of Congress and the threat of farmland purchases from the Chinese Communist Party.

### BIG Idea

The Chinese government will find any avenue to infiltrate and influence the United States. In fact, technology developed and manufactured in China, like LiDAR, can be used as spyware here in the United States. LiDAR is commonly used in autonomous vehicles and transportation projects, creating highly detailed 3-D maps of our infrastructure. If our adversaries, like China, have access to critical infrastructure like maps of ports, railways, airports, roads, or bridges, they could disrupt our supply chains and cause a national security crisis.

I introduced a bill to prohibit the U.S. Department of Transportation from using Chinese-made technology for transportation projects. Congress must protect our critical infrastructure from the malign interests of the Chinese Communist Party.

### BIG News

The State Fair is a beloved event in South Dakota. Many people gather for food, fellowship, and a celebration of what makes South Dakota great. During the Bull Bash, I helped honor Vietnam veterans who served our country. This recognition is hosted annually by Red Wilk during the rodeo.

I also joined the South Dakota Pork Producers at the fair to talk with producers about some of the things I've been working on. I'm leading the Save Our Bacon Act which will end California's Proposition 12 rules that negatively impacting pork producers across the country. We also discussed trade and commodity prices and how Congress is working to support our producers.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

## I Didn't Have Google, I Had Grandma

It was Thursday, and as usual, I was busy working on weekend projects. My biggest project, of course, was my Sunday sermon. Most people don't understand the amount of hard work that goes into preparing a Sunday sermon. And I work hard.

I was spending time researching some ideas on Google. I spend a lot of time on Google because it helps with my research. I'm able to find certain subjects very quickly.

Until Thursday, I didn't realize how much time I spent on Google. It's really a blessing in my life.

I had some coffee, and I was resting in my chair, thinking about what I was finding on Google. I thought back to when I was a youngster, and back then, we didn't have Google, nor did we have the Internet. What would young people do today if they didn't have Google, the Internet, or cell phones? I'm not sure they would have a life.

In my younger days, we didn't have any of that, but there was one thing we did have that made all the difference in the world. We may not have had Google, but we had Grandma.

I spent some time with my Grandma, especially during the summer. If I wanted to know anything, all I had to do was ask her, and she always had the answer.

Looking back now, I realize how important my Grandma was to me in that regard. There wasn't a subject that I could bring up that she didn't know something about it. Whether she was making things up or not, I will never know. All I know is, she had an answer for every question I could put in front of her.

Once, I had to do an essay for my science class. I was really stumbling around, and then Grandma stopped by to visit us. When that happened, I had a brilliant idea.

I went to Grandma and asked her about my subject and if she knew anything about it. She said she did, and she began explaining everything to me about that, and I took notes. Looking at those notes afterward, I didn't quite understand everything, but I put them together as best I could and prepared my essay.

That was the first essay I received an A. My teacher took me aside and asked me how I came up with all of these wonderful ideas in my essay. I did not know what to say, I was a little embarrassed. I simply told him I had done research on that subject. He smiled at me, congratulated me, and said, "Well done. Keep up the good work."

I hope that when he said "keep up the good work," he was referring to my relationship with my Grandma on these subjects.



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I don't know how my grandmother got so smart. No matter what the subject people were talking about, my grandmother had something to say about it. She was known throughout the community as a very wise lady, and I could understand why.

I've always wanted to ask her how she knew all the things she knew. If I had that answer, maybe I could be as smart as she was. But I never dared to ask her why she was so smart about so many things.

Throughout my teenage years, I received advice from my grandmother. Her advice always turned out to be the right advice. I learned to trust her advice, and it helped me out.

One area of my life that I never ask her for advice on was my "Dating Life." Actually, I did not have such a life, but if I had sat down with Grandma, I'm sure she could have given me advice along that line. I'm not sure I would've taken her advice, but it probably would've been good advice.

Looking back, I'm glad I didn't ask her about that. That may have changed my life entirely, and I'm glad my life is the way it is today.

Every once in a while, when I'm searching for something on Google, I think of my Grandma. In my mind, she was Google before Google was even invented. Where she acquired all her wisdom is beyond me, but I was glad to draw on it when I needed to.

I have learned that asking the right question to the right person will bring you to the right answer. And that sure described my Grandma. Thinking about that lately, I wanted to sit down with my Grandma and go over a list of questions I have today. As I think of it, what would be some of the answers that she would give me?

Over the last few years, I hope I have inherited some of Grandma's wisdom. I'm not sure I have, but I'm going to pretend I did, and pass it on to my grandchildren, just like my Grandma did.

A verse of Scripture came to mind. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed" (James 1:5-6).

God's wisdom is better than Grandma's. I just need to ask Him. Asking opens the door to the flow of wisdom I need in my life.

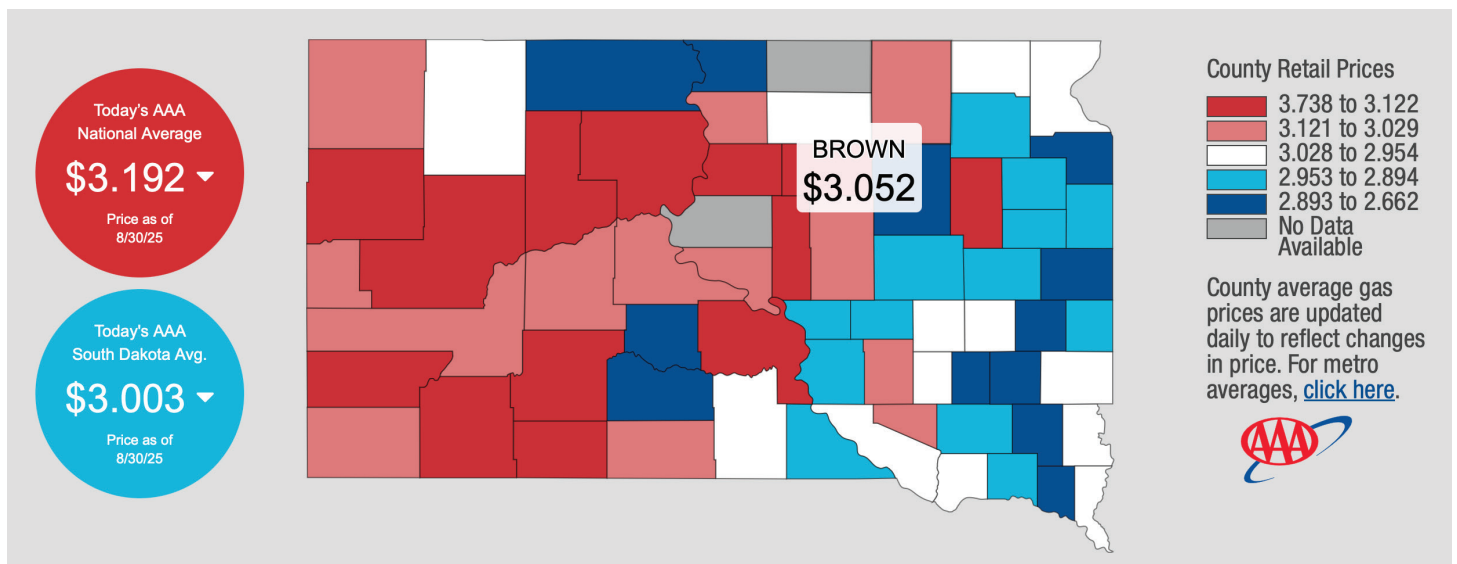
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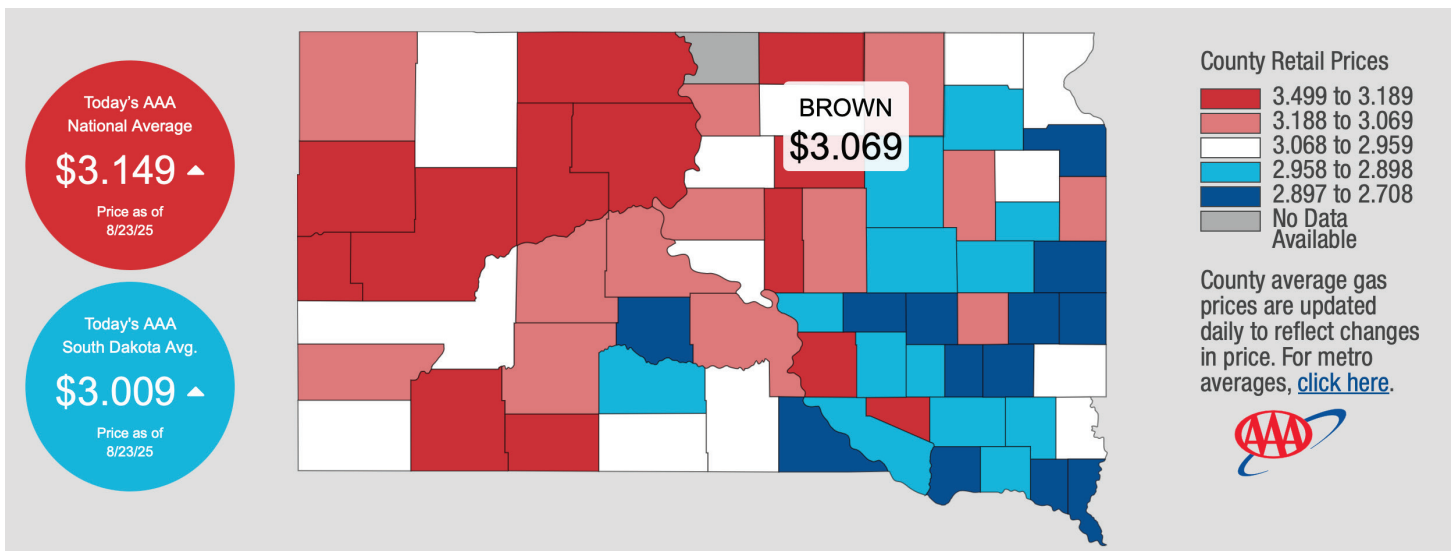
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.003	\$3.183	\$3.653	\$3.371
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.019	\$3.193	\$3.661	\$3.372
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.009	\$3.177	\$3.648	\$3.365
Month Ago Avg.	\$2.995	\$3.152	\$3.609	\$3.378
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.223	\$3.435	\$3.857	\$3.397

### This Week



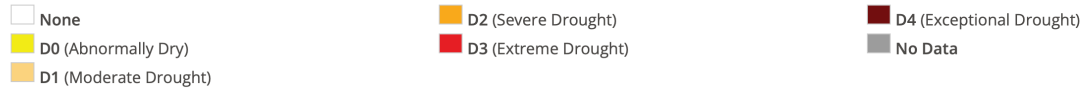
### Last Week



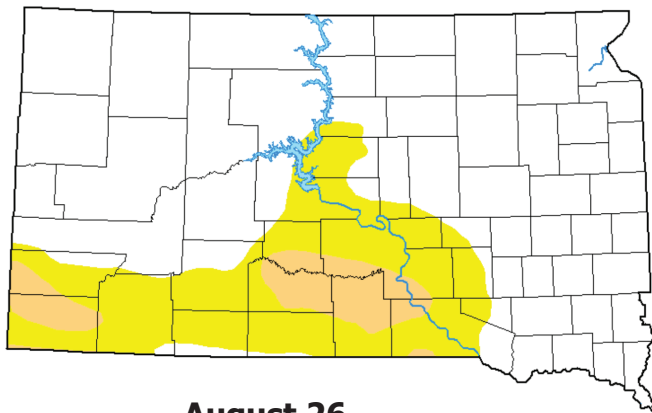
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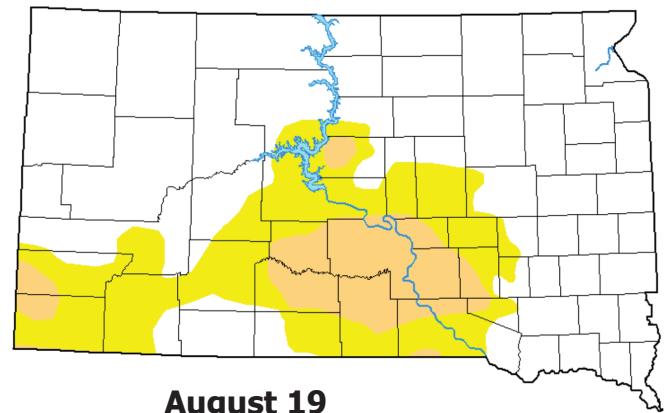
## Drought Classification



## Drought Monitor



August 26



August 19

The High Plains region experienced a mix of drought improvement and deterioration. The region's most significant drought exists across western sections of Colorado and Wyoming. On August 24, statewide topsoil moisture—as reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture—was rated 70% very short to short in Wyoming. During the drought-monitoring period, the most significant drought improvement occurred in central Colorado, although there were also targeted improvements in Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota.



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## EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Any ideas on how to engage my slacker teenager on issues of climate and environment?

-- Name Withheld

Climate change details the rapid increase of Earth's temperature resulting from the excessive emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. When relaying this explanation to a teenager, you might describe it as actively threatening the livelihood of the planet humanity calls home, and that if we continue to not regulate the growth of this phenomenon, we will be in very big trouble. Whatever way you explain it, climate change will affect future generations to come.

New Jersey was the first state to uphold and require climate education in schools, incorporating climate education in 2020 in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Connecticut followed suit right after. However, in the rest of the U.S., climate education, when present, is not primarily focused on in science curriculums. So your child is no slacker if the education being taught is slacking!

There are certain ways, however, that your young people can become educated on climate issues, and that is through incorporating genuine entertainment with education. One of the things that interests teenagers are video games, simulations that many people's eyes are glued to, adults and teens alike.

One game, in particular, stands out: Mission 1.5's mobile game. The game lets a user play for a certain time, and when an ad pops up, instead of advertising a product, the ad serves to educate the user on climate issues. Not only that, Mission 1.5, among others, further asks users to vote on the best ways to lead on in the fight for climate change, prompting further thought.

"Fast Forward (to today), we have about six million people that have played the game so far in 58 countries.... when people start it, they really play it, which is something we're really excited about," United Nations Development Programme Cassie Flynn explains to UN News.

For a more hands on approach, intrigue your youngsters in hand-made projects that are both fulfilling and fun. For example, edible greenhouse projects, which use toothpicks and gumdrops to recreate models of gases that contribute to global warming. These science projects contain simple methodologies that are expeditious for parents to set up for their child.

Teen-only focused group settings can stimulate more of an interest in climate issues rather than only with an adult as well. It's important to still maintain an attitude of companionship and hope between one's peers regarding issues of our climate to engage youth. Disinterest can go away in an instant if one's teen is immersed in the material through doing activities that appeal to their way of learning.



**Getting teenagers off the couch and into the fight to protect our climate is no easy task these days but some parents are prevailing.** Credit: Pexels.com.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### State denies federal accusation about gender language in grant-funded sex education

**Advocates for transgender people condemn demand to remove content**

**BY: JOSHUA HAIAR**

The Trump administration's accusation that South Dakota's federally grant-funded sex education materials contain "gender ideology" is not accurate, according to state officials, while advocates for transgender people are condemning the federal government's demand to remove language referencing them.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sent letters on the topic this week to 40 states, including South Dakota. The department said the states could lose a total of \$81.3 million in remaining funds from the Personal Responsibility Education Program, or PREP, if they do not eliminate instances of "gender ideology" from grant-funded sexual education materials within 60 days. South Dakota stands to lose \$606,410, according to the department.

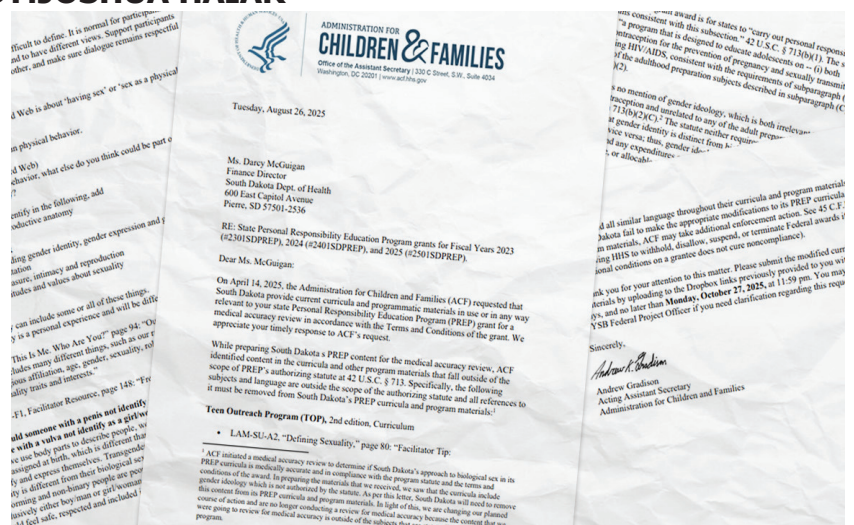
The policy appears to target references to transgender or nonbinary people. Transgender people have a gender identity that doesn't match their sex assigned at birth. Nonbinary people don't identify as strictly male or female.

In the letter to South Dakota's Department of Health, the language identified for removal includes a definition of the term "transgender," discussion prompts about why a person would identify as transgender, and an explanation of sexuality as "complex" and "difficult to define," among other examples.

A spokeswoman for the state department, Tia Kafka, responded with emailed statements to questions from South Dakota Searchlight. She said grant-funded programming in the state utilizes material from Wyman, a nationwide nonprofit based in Missouri. Kafka acknowledged that the Wyman materials may contain content that the Trump administration deems objectionable, but she said the state does not include that particular content in the programming it offers.

"We are working with our federal partners to make sure that is clear," Kafka wrote. "The state will respond to the letter within the 60 days notifying our federal partners that we do not have gender ideology concepts or terminology in our programming."

Wyman CEO and President Allison Williams said in an emailed statement to Searchlight that the nonprofit's curriculum is "a nationally recognized, evidence-based youth development program providing teens with the tools and opportunities to build life and leadership skills, strengthen relationships, avoid risky behaviors and engage with their communities." She said the "curriculum includes 140 lessons centered in positive



**A letter from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the state of South Dakota, demanding the removal of gender-related language from grant-funded sex education materials.** (Photo illustration by Joshua Haiar/

South Dakota Searchlight)

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youth development providing flexibility in the lessons partners choose to provide.”

The four-page letter from the federal government says it asked the state in April to provide curricula and programmatic materials “in use or in any way relevant” to the grant program. The letter says the state provided the material, and the federal Administration for Children and Families reviewed it and identified content that “falls outside of the scope” of the grant program’s authorizing law. The letter goes on to provide multiple examples.

A South Dakota Department of Health webpage devoted to PREP grant programming says the state has received the funding since 2010. The program “aims to educate young people on abstinence and contraception to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS,” the webpage says. The program is intended for youth ages 10-19 who are pregnant or parenting, homeless, in foster care, in rural areas, or in geographic areas with high teen birth rates. Additional program training covers topics including healthy relationships, positive adolescent development, financial literacy and parent-child communication.

The webpage says the state awarded a contract to Lutheran Social Services to implement an evidence-based program. A search of the state’s financial information website, OpenSD, yields two contracts identifying Lutheran Social Services as the sub-recipient of a total of \$427,500 in funding for the program since June 2024.

Lutheran Social Services, when contacted by Searchlight, deferred all questions to the state Department of Health.

A program evaluation report published by the state department says PREP programming reached a total of 224 youth in Sioux Falls and Rapid City during the 2024 fiscal year. Locations for PREP programming identified in the report were Lutheran Social Services’ Arise East and Arise West youth centers, its New Alternatives independent living program in Rapid City, the Juvenile Services Center in Rapid City and Juvenile Detention Center in Sioux Falls, the Wellfully treatment center in Rapid City, and ACE Academy in Sioux Falls.

Samantha Chapman, advocacy manager for the American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota, criticized the Trump administration’s threat to cancel grant funding, calling it an attack not only on transgender and nonbinary people but also anyone challenging traditional views of gender and sexuality.

“The policy seeks to force people into narrow, outdated definitions of male and female tied to rigid, 1950s-style gender roles,” Chapman said.

She added that the policy will harm young people by denying them knowledge and support.

Cody Ingle, a doctoral student in public health in South Dakota and an LGBTQ+ advocate, said the federal policy reflects a misunderstanding of gender, science and public health, reducing complex identities to rigid, binary definitions. He said transgender and nonbinary people have always existed and that increased visibility today reflects greater safety and acceptance, not an “ideology” being pushed onto kids.

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

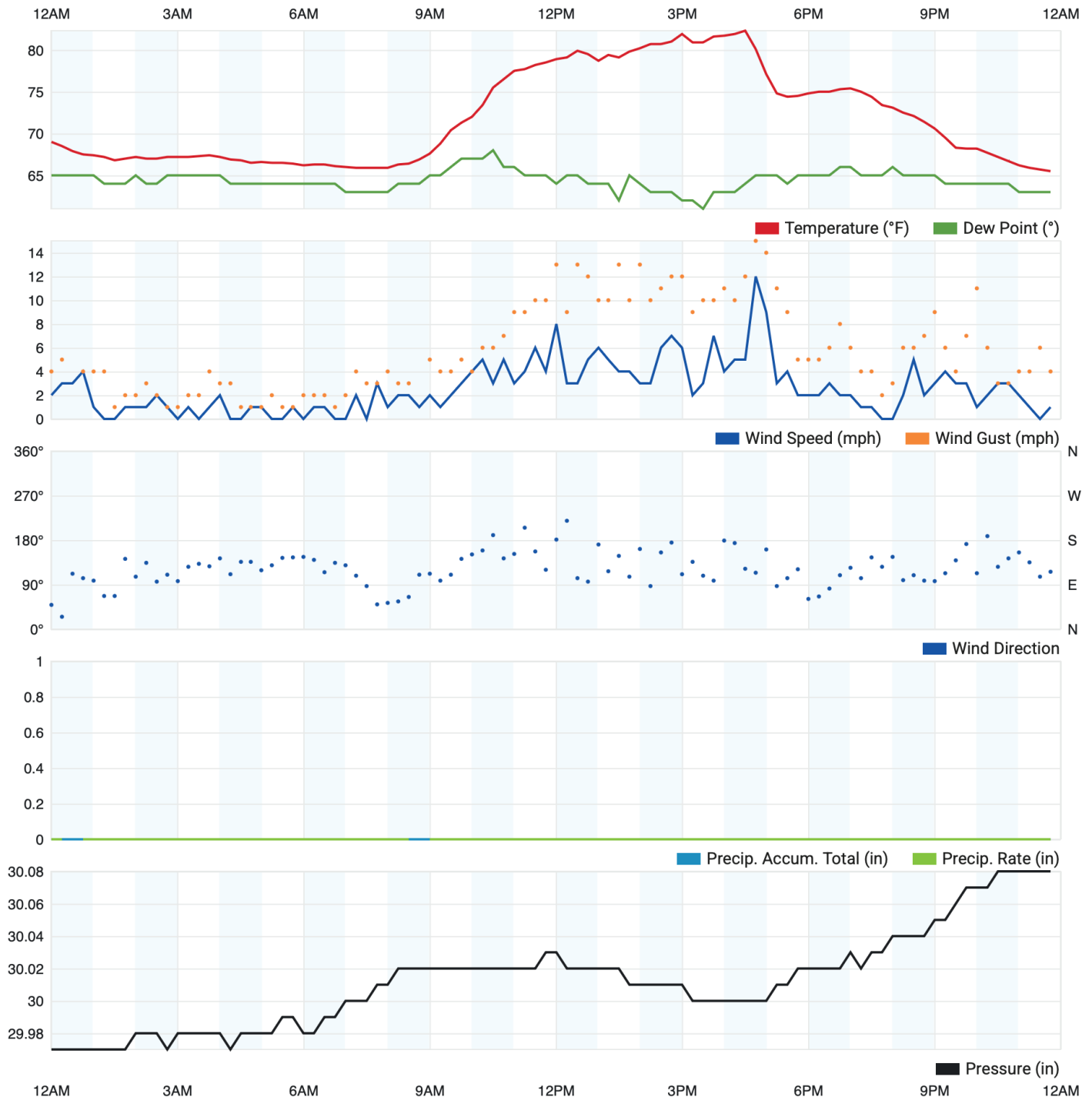


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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

August 30, 2025



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Sunday



High: 76 °F

Mostly Cloudy  
then Slight  
Chance

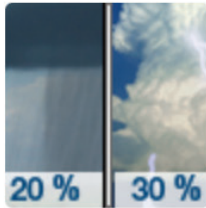
Sunday Night



Low: 58 °F

Mostly Cloudy

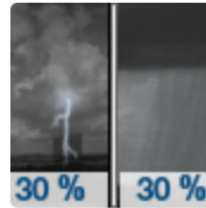
Labor Day



High: 75 °F

Slight Chance  
Showers and  
Patchy Fog

Monday Night



Low: 57 °F

Chance  
T-storms then  
Chance

Tuesday



High: 80 °F

Mostly Sunny  
then Chance  
T-storms



## Labor Day Weekend And Beyond

August 31, 2025  
4:03 AM

→ Day-time highs within a few degrees of “normal”, until Wednesday

→ Night-time lows within a few degrees of “normal”, until Wednesday

### Maximum Temperature Forecast (°F)

	8/31 Sun	9/1 Mon	9/2 Tue	9/3 Wed	9/4 Thu	9/5 Fri	9/6 Sat
Aberdeen	76	77	80	66	68	69	71
Miller	72	72	80	65	68	69	70
Mobridge	74	79	81	68	71	72	73
Murdo	68	75	83	67	73	72	76
Ortonville	74	74	76	61	62	64	66
Pierre	71	78	85	70	75	75	77
Sisseton	77	75	77	61	63	66	68
Watertown	74	74	77	63	64	67	68

### Minimum Temperature Forecast (°F)

	8/31 Sun	9/1 Mon	9/2 Tue	9/3 Wed	9/4 Thu	9/5 Fri	9/6 Sat
Aberdeen	58	57	57	48	40	47	41
Miller	58	57	58	49	40	48	44
Mobridge	57	57	57	51	42	45	45
Murdo	56	55	53	54	42	46	46
Ortonville	56	56	59	48	42	44	44
Pierre	58	57	54	55	44	50	46
Sisseton	57	57	60	48	41	48	44
Watertown	57	57	59	48	40	43	43

Daytime temperatures will reach into the 70s to low 80s through Tuesday. Then, behind a cold front's passage on Tuesday, cooler daytime temperatures in the 50s and 60s are expected for Wednesday. Low temperatures Thursday morning are being watched closely, as for some, lows could potentially dip into the upper 30s!

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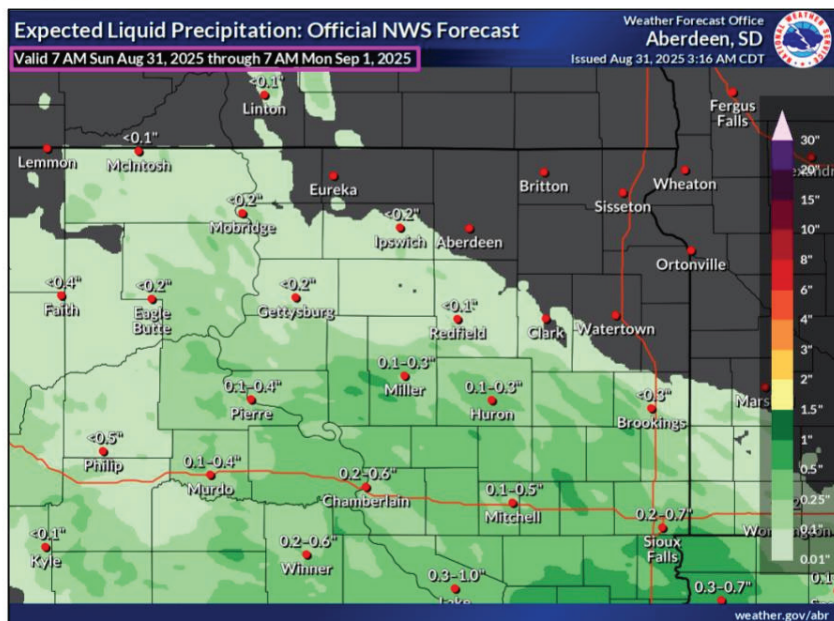


## Precipitation Forecast For Sunday and Sunday Night

August 31, 2025

4:09 AM

Localized Heavy Rainfall Possible Mainly Over Portions of central South Dakota



- Showers persist off and on especially over central SD today and tonight
  - Weak thunderstorms are possible
    - No severe weather anticipated, but a cold air funnel or two is not out of the question this afternoon
  - Locally higher rainfall amounts are possible where slow-moving storms occur
- Highest chances (20-50%) for 0.50in or more today reside mainly along and south of U.S. Highway 14



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Rain chances continue today and tonight as a slow moving system over central SD continues a slow track toward north central and northeast Nebraska over the next couple of days. Generally less precipitation is expected today than the past couple of days. There is a 20-50% chance of at least 0.50in of rainfall across central South Dakota, generally along and south of U.S. Highway 14.



## Dense Fog This Morning

August 31, 2025

3:59 AM

### Key Messages

- Fog, some of which is locally dense, is developing/expanding across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota early this morning.
- Visibility reduced, at times, to one quarter mile or less.

### Impacts

- **Poor visibility** in fog will lead to difficult traveling conditions this morning.

Dense Fog Advisory  
Flood Warning

Graphic Created  
August 31st, 2025  
3:50 AM CDT



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 83 °F at 4:24 PM**

**Low Temp: 66 °F at 11:29 PM**

**Wind: 16 mph at 4:42 PM**

**Precip: : 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 98 in 1921

Record Low: 32 in 1987

Average High: 80

Average Low: 53

Average Precip in August.: 2.24

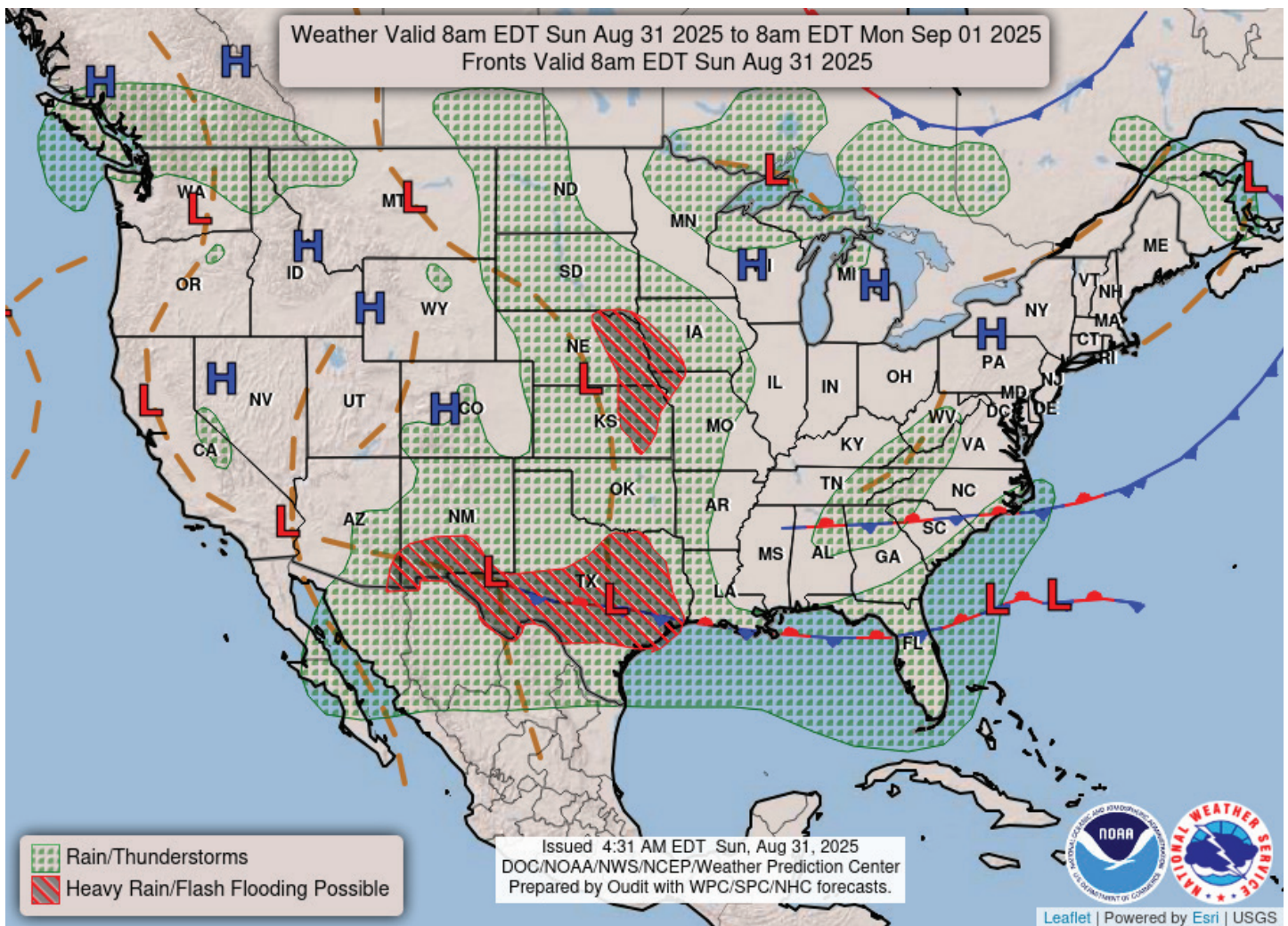
Precip to date in August: 4.42

Average Precip to date: 16.34

Precip Year to Date: 20.30

Sunset Tonight: 8:12 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:54 am



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## Today in Weather History

August 31, 1977: High winds accompanying thunderstorms moved across the southern part of Brown County during the early morning hours. A barn was destroyed three miles west of Warner. Many trees were damaged in the Stratford area. A large, empty fuel tank, southeast of Watertown was folded inward by strong winds. High wind damage was also reported in Faulk and Day Counties.

August 31, 2013: Thunderstorms produced numerous reports of large hail and damaging winds in and near Sioux Falls on the evening of August 31st. Large hail broke windows and damaged many vehicles, as well as siding and roofs on the west side of Sioux Falls. One automobile dealer with a large temporary outdoor display reported four thousand cars were damaged. Estimated property damage was listed at four million dollars. Thunderstorm winds also destroyed several businesses, including a large retail store which was also struck by lightning. The large store lost part of its roof, while the stockroom of the same store and its contents were also damaged. A canopy type tent was destroyed, and a 20-foot retaining wall was blown down. The winds caused extensive tree damage, including several trees blown down, one of which blocked a major intersection when it fell.

1886: A magnitude 7.3 earthquake shook Charleston, South Carolina around 9:50 pm on this day. This earthquake is the most damaging quake to occur in the southeast United States. This earthquake caused 60 deaths and between 5 to 6 million dollars in damage to over 2,000 buildings in the southeastern United States.

1915 - The temperature at Bartlesville, OK, dipped to 38 degrees to establish a state record for the month of August. (The Weather Channel)

1922: An incredible hailstorm occurred near West Chester, PA dropped so much hail that fields were covered with up to two feet of drifted hail the next day.

1935: The most intense hurricane to make landfall was a modest tropical depression on this day. Called the Labor Day Hurricane, this storm went through phenomenal intensification to become a Category 5 hurricane by September 2nd.

1954 - Hurricane Carol swept across eastern New England killing sixty persons and causing 450 million dollars damage. It was the first of three hurricanes to affect New England that year. (David Ludlum)

1971 - The low of 84 degrees and high of 108 degrees at Death Valley, CA, were the coolest of the month. The average daily high was 115.7 degrees that August, and the average daily low was 93.4 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1984 - Lightning ignited several forest fires in Montana, one of which burned through 100,000 acres of timber and grassland. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Eight cities in Washington and Oregon reported record high temperatures for the date, including Eugene OR and Portland OR with afternoon highs of 102 degrees. The high of 102 degrees at Portland smashed their previous record for the date by twelve degrees. Frost was reported in South Dakota. Aberdeen SD established a record for the month of August with a morning low of 32 degrees, and Britton SD dipped to 31 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - August ended on a relatively mild and tranquil note for most of the nation. Forest fires in the northwestern U.S. scorched 180,000 acres of land during the last week of August. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front spread severe weather from Minnesota to Indiana through the course of the day and night. Thunderstorms in Minnesota produced baseball size hail near Saint Michael and Hutchinson, and drenched Moose Lake with nine inches of rain in six hours. Tucson AZ hit 100 degrees for a record 79th time in the year, surpassing a record established the previous year. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



## A HEART THAT DOES KIND THINGS

It was the final set in a tennis match. One of the players had demonstrated his strength and skill as his opponent struggled to stay competitive. Suddenly the player who had been doing so well began to hit the ball out of the lines, into the net and even missed the ball. It seemed as though he lost his focus.

His father approached him during a break and asked, "Keller, what's going on? You were doing so good. Now, you may lose the match and not go to the state finals. What's going on?" he demanded.

"It's O.K., Dad. Leave me alone. I know I can win. I've been missing the balls on purpose. I don't want him to feel bad about losing. I want to encourage him."

Keller did go on to win. But in the process, he not only thought of "doing a kind thing" but showed what kindness "looked like" to someone who was struggling to defeat him and win the match.

Life gives us many opportunities to "do kindness." In fact, God "makes doing kind things available" to us each day. For example, we can open a door for a senior citizen; or be gracious and express our gratitude to a cashier during the rush hour at a grocery store; give a smile to someone who looks like they need encouragement; give a compliment to one who is guiding us when we place an order on the phone; or take care to explain something that is unfamiliar to us.

"Doing kindness" is one of the most important things we Christians can do. It represents what God's grace is all about. If an opportunity to "do kindness" appears, seize it!

Prayer: Help us to be alert, Lord, for opportunities to show Your grace through acts of kindness and love. Help us to show a strong contrast when compared to "the wicked" so people turn to you. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: – In return for my friendship they accuse me, but I am a man of prayer. Psalm 109:4

*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: 08.29.25

13 31 32 44 45 21

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$302,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.30.25

10 16 19 21 45 2

All Star Bonus: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$2,500,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.30.25

6 12 38 43 45 7

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 37 Mins 16 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.30.25

1 6 15 25 26

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$20,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.30.25

7 15 36 42 65 14

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.30.25

3 18 22 27 33 17

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$1,100,000,000**

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

### **Loughridge, South Dakota State give Dan Jackson first collegiate head-coaching win**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Julius Loughridge rushed for 159 yards on 22 carries and South Dakota State defeated Sacramento State 20-3 to give Dan Jackson a win in his collegiate head coaching debut on Saturday.

Jackson returned to coach at his alma mater after serving as defensive coordinator at Idaho last season and led the Jackrabbits to their 30th consecutive home win, the longest active streak in the FCS.

Sacramento State's Brennan Marion also made his collegiate head coaching debut. He was offensive coordinator at UNLV the past two seasons.

The Jackrabbits, ranked third in the coaches poll, outgained No. 14 Sacramento State 430-131, holding the Hornets to 24 yards rushing. Linebackers Cullen McShane had seven solo tackles and Chase Van Tol four.

The Jackrabbits outgained the Hornets 299-74 in the opening half but were tied at 3-all after a first quarter in which they muffed a punt and lost another fumble while holding the Hornets to 3 yards offense. They got untracked in the second quarter, Chase Mason rolling out to hit Andrew Gustad with a 4-yard score and Lofton O'Groske scoring from 3 yards out on fourth down for a 17-3 halftime lead.

Mason, a senior making his first career start, was 17-of-23 passing for 190 yards and a touchdown. Eli Stader kicked two field goals.

Grant Meadors' field goal provided the Hornets' only points.

### **Rocco Becht sets school record for accuracy in No. 22 Iowa State's 55-7 win over South Dakota**

By ZANDER WHITE Associated Press

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Rocco Becht threw for 278 yards and three touchdowns, two to tight end Benjamin Brahmer, and No. 22 Iowa State defeated South Dakota 55-7 on Saturday.

Iowa State (2-0), which beat Kansas State 24-21 in Ireland last week, opened with back-to-back wins for the fourth time under coach Matt Campbell.

Becht completed his first 14 passes and finished 19 for 20, a school-record 95%. He threw a touchdown pass in a program-record 20th straight game.

"He's a young man for us that just continues to do great things in a powerful way," Campbell said. "I told him, 'You just have to go out there and win,' and he felt really good about it."

Brahmer caught seven balls for 47 yards and tight end Gabe Burkle had four catches for 85 yards and a touchdown.

"Those guys are big targets," Campbell said. "When you have big targets, it certainly creates space, especially when the vertical space can be reduced."

Of 23 completions by Becht and Alex Manske, 13 went to players at that position.

Kyle Konrardy set the school record for longest field goal with a 63-yarder as time expired in the first half. Konrardy's kick was second-longest in Big 12 history behind Martin Gramatica's 65-yarder for Kansas State in 1998.

"You can tell as a kicker if it's going in," Konrardy said. "I do my best to focus on the fundamentals and prepare myself when the time comes."

Campbell said he was confident in Konrardy's ability to split the uprights.

"You just trust that guy" Campbell said. "More importantly, did what we needed to do and executed in that situation."

Iowa State's Dylan Lee led all rushers with 81 yards and a touchdown, all in the second half.

South Dakota's only touchdown came on a 6-yard pass from Aidan Bouman to Lorenzo Fenner in the

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first quarter. Bouman, who spent his first two years at Iowa State, was 15 of 29 for 126 yards and a touchdown with two interceptions.

"We didn't play well enough," South Dakota coach Travis Johansen said. "We know where we're at and how far we have to go. It's a lot of coaching and lots of planning from this."

The takeaway

South Dakota: The Coyotes reached the Football Championship Subdivision semifinals last season, but were overmatched against a Top 25 opponent.

Iowa State: Iowa State improved to 10-0 against South Dakota, including 8-0 in Ames. The Cyclones have allowed just 19 points all-time against the Coyotes.

Up next

South Dakota: visits Lamar on Saturday.

Iowa State: hosts Iowa on Saturday.

## PREP VOLLEYBALL

Jones County def. Bison, 25-7, 25-12, 25-13

Mobridge-Pollock def. Chamberlain, 25-23, 25-23, 25-18

Rapid City Stevens def. Aberdeen Central, 23-25, 25-13, 26-28, 25-22, 15-10

T F Riggs High School def. Rapid City Central, 25-16, 28-30, 25-15, 25-22

Crawford Triangular=

Crawford, Neb. def. Oelrichs, 25-2, 25-16

Hemingford, Neb. def. Oelrichs, 25-7, 25-6

Custer Invite=

Edgemont def. Pine Ridge, 25-23, 25-23

Hot Springs def. Edgemont, 25-23, 25-17

Huron Invite=

Brandon Valley def. Northwestern, 25-19, 25-23

Brandon Valley def. Watertown, 25-21, 25-21

Chester def. Douglas, 25-19, 25-13

Chester def. Huron, 25-19, 25-19

Chester def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 16-25, 27-25, 25-18

Chester def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-8, 25-14

Dell Rapids def. Brandon Valley, 20-25, 25-23, 25-16

Dell Rapids def. Mitchell, 25-17, 25-8

Dell Rapids def. Spearfish, 25-16, 25-20

Douglas def. Brandon Valley, 25-11, 25-8

Huron def. Douglas, 25-9, 25-11

Mitchell def. Brookings, 25-17, 25-16

Mitchell def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-11, 25-20

Northwestern def. Mitchell, 25-15, 25-7

Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Brookings, 25-16, 25-16

Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Huron, 25-21, 25-18

Spearfish def. Brookings, 25-10, 25-18

Watertown def. Dell Rapids, 25-16, 24-26, 27-25

Watertown def. Spearfish, 25-18, 14-25, 25-23

Watertown def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-16, 25-19

Lady Trojan VB Tournament=

Parkston def. Hill City, 25-22, 25-21

Parkston def. Kimball-White Lake, 25-12, 25-8

Wagner def. Parkston, 21-25, 25-22, 25-23

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Warner def. Parkston, 25-15, 25-17  
Lady Trojan Volleyball Tournament=  
Warner def. Hill City, 25-16, 25-15  
Warner def. Kimball-White Lake, 25-11, 25-14  
Warner def. Wagner, 25-20, 25-23  
Norfolk Invitational=  
Pool A=  
Bennington, Neb. def. Yankton, 25-16, 25-16  
Norfolk, Neb. def. Yankton, 25-15, 25-19  
Rapid City Christian Tournament=  
Chadron, Neb. def. St. Francis Indian, 25-9, 25-10  
White River def. Chadron, Neb., 25-23, 25-18  
Wall Triangular=  
Bennett County def. Stanley County, 25-10, 25-14, 25-19  
Bennett County def. Wall, 25-18, 25-18, 25-16  
Wall def. Stanley County, 25-15, 22-25, 25-19, 25-13

Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

## **Missouri is next to answer Trump's call for redrawn maps that boost GOP in 2026**

By DAVID A. LIEB and ANDREW DeMILLO Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo (AP) — Republican Gov. Mike Kehoe said Friday that he is calling Missouri lawmakers into a special session to redraw the state's U.S. House districts as part of a growing national battle between Republicans and Democrats seeking an edge in next year's congressional elections.

Kehoe made the announcement just hours after Texas GOP Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law a new congressional voting map designed to help Republicans gain five more seats in the 2026 midterm elections. It marked a win for President Donald Trump, who has been urging Republican-led states to reshape district lines to give the party a better shot at retaining control of the House.

Missouri is the third state to pursue an unusual mid-decade redistricting for partisan advantage. Republican-led Texas took up the task first but was quickly countered by Democratic-led California, where Gov. Gavin Newsom is asking voters to approve a map aimed at giving his party five more seats.

Kehoe scheduled Missouri's special session to begin Sept. 3. He released a proposed new map that targets Democratic Rep. Emanuel Cleaver's Kansas City-area district by stretching it eastward into rural Republican-leaning areas.

His agenda also includes another Republican priority — a proposed constitutional amendment that would make it harder to approve citizen-initiated ballot measures, such as abortion-rights and marijuana legalization amendments adopted in recent years.

Kehoe cast both items as a defense against liberal politicians and activists.

"Missouri's conservative, common-sense values should be truly represented at all levels of government," he said in a statement.

Democrats were quick to express outrage. Missouri state House Minority Leader Ashley Aune called Kehoe a "Trump puppet" attempting to "steal a congressional seat for Republicans" and gut the ballot initiative process.

It "marks the worst threat to the integrity of our state government since pro-slavery lawmakers voted for Missouri to join the Confederacy in 1861," Aune said in a statement.

Missouri is represented in the U.S. House by six Republicans and two Democrats — Cleaver and Rep. Wesley Bell in St. Louis.

Cleaver called the proposed redistricting an attack on democracy perpetrated by Trump.



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"This attempt to gerrymander Missouri will not simply change district lines, it will silence voices. It will deny representation," Cleaver said in a statement while vowing not to concede the seat.

Missouri Democrats have little ability to prevent Republican lawmakers from enacting a new map. Unlike in Texas, where Democrats left the state for two weeks to delay a vote, Missouri Democrats' absence would not prevent a quorum for business. And although Democrats could filibuster in the Senate, Republicans could use procedural maneuvers to shut that down, as they did earlier this year to pass a proposed constitutional amendment restricting abortion.

Republicans won a 220-215 House majority over Democrats in 2024, an outcome that aligned almost perfectly with the share of the vote won by the two parties in districts across the U.S., according to a recent Associated Press analysis. Although the overall outcome was close to neutral, the AP's analysis shows that Democrats and Republicans each benefited from advantages in particular states stemming from the way districts were drawn.

Democrats would need to net three seats in next year's election to take control of the chamber. The incumbent president's party tends to lose seats in the midterm elections, as was the case for Trump in 2018, when Democrats won control of the House and subsequently launched investigations of Trump. Seeking to avoid a similar situation in his second term, Trump has urged Republican-led states to fortify their congressional seats.

In Texas, Republicans already hold 25 of the 38 congressional seats.

"Texas is now more red in the United States Congress," Abbott said in a video he posted on X of him signing the legislation.

Newsom, who has emerged as a leading adversary of Trump on redistricting and other issues, tauntingly labeled Abbott on X as the president's "#1 lapdog" following the signing. Democrats already hold 43 of California's 52 congressional seats.

Voting rights groups filed a lawsuit this week ahead of Abbott's signing the bill, saying the new map weakens the electoral influence of Black voters. Texas Democrats have also vowed to challenge the new map in court.

Some Missouri Republicans had pushed for a map that could give them a 7-1 edge when redrawing districts after the 2020 census. But the GOP legislative majority ultimately opted against it. Some feared the more aggressive plan could be susceptible to a legal challenge and could backfire in a poor election year for Republicans by creating more competitive districts that could allow Democrats to win three seats.

Republican officials in Florida, Indiana and elsewhere also are considering revising their U.S. House districts, as are Democratic officials in Illinois, Maryland and New York.

In Utah, a judge recently ordered the Republican-led Legislature to draw new congressional districts after finding that lawmakers had weakened and ignored an independent commission established by voters to prevent partisan gerrymandering. Republicans have won all four of Utah's congressional seats under the map approved by lawmakers in 2021.

## **Handmade cards from classmates comfort a girl wounded in Minneapolis church shooting, aunt says**

By DAVE COLLINS Associated Press

Lying in an intensive care unit hospital bed, 11-year-old Genevieve Bisek is comforted by the many handmade cards she has received from fellow classmates after Wednesday's shooting at a Minneapolis church.

Some are decorated with beads, some with sparkling stars. All of them are taped to the walls of her room at the Hennepin County Medical Center, where she has been recovering. Her condition has been upgraded from critical to satisfactory.

"All of these handmade cards are just absolutely adorable and heartfelt," Genevieve's aunt, Wanda Stipek, told The Associated Press in a phone interview Saturday. "This is coming from other kids who also have their own trauma and yet are still reaching out and showing their love for her. She has these cards taped up on the walls in her room so that she can see this and be surrounded by that love."

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Genevieve was one of the 20 people who were shot during the attack at the Church of Annunciation, as hundreds of students from the nearby Annunciation Catholic School and others gathered for a Mass. The shooter fired 116 rifle rounds through the church's stained-glass windows, leaving two students dead and 18 people wounded, nearly all of them children. The shooter, 23-year-old Robin Westman, died by suicide.

At least seven people were still in the hospital on Saturday. A spokesperson for Hennepin County Medical Center said five children were being treated there, including four in satisfactory condition and one in critical condition, as well as one adult who was in serious condition. A spokesperson for Children's Minnesota – Minneapolis Hospital said doctors there were treating one patient.

Genevieve, a sixth grader at the Catholic school who loves animals and playing outside, was conscious after the shooting, Stipek said. After authorities cleared the church from danger, she was gathered with other children to assess their injuries and was brought to the hospital in an ambulance with another wounded student, she said.

Medical staff sedated Genevieve until Thursday.

"Genevieve is a very sensitive and compassionate little girl," Stipek said. "When she did wake up from her sedation after the event, the first thing that she wanted to talk about, she asked about the other children."

Stipek said Genevieve told her mother, "I can't say that I wish this wouldn't have happened to me because I don't want it to have happened to anyone else either."

Stipek said Genevieve has not been told yet who died. She said one of the students killed, Fletcher Merkel, 8, was a neighbor and friend of the family.

The handmade cards and other outpourings of support from the community, including ribbons tied around trees in the neighborhood and donations made online, have helped the family cope with their trauma, Stipek said.

"I think sometimes that when something terrible like this happens, you think of the world as a scary and dangerous place full of bad people. But we are very moved by the goodness," she said. "All of those things show the love and support, and all of it helps us know that there's goodness out there. I think that's part of the healing process. It's important for us to remember that the world is still full of good people."

Priest speaks of light coming through the darkness

At a Mass held Saturday night in the Annunciation school's auditorium, the Rev. Dennis Zehren spoke of hope for better days.

"We welcome the light of a new day here at Annunciation," he said. "And it reminds us when death and darkness has done its worst, that's when God says 'Now see what I will do.' And that's kind of a strange mystery that in the most intense darkness the light somehow seems to shine even more brightly."

## **Sayin, defense propel No. 3 Ohio State past top-ranked Texas 14-7**

By JOE REEDY AP Sports Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio State coach Ryan Day and his players spent the preseason saying the opener against top-ranked Texas wouldn't be about defending last year's national championship but about establishing the identity of this year's team.

Julian Sayin and the defense took a big first step toward accomplishing that.

In his first collegiate start, Sayin gave Ohio State a two-score advantage early in the fourth quarter with a 40-yard touchdown pass to Carnell Tate. Add in the defense containing the much-hyped Arch Manning, along with two pivotal stops in the red zone and it resulted in the third-ranked Buckeyes defeating the Longhorns 14-7.

It was the fourth time the No. 1 team in the AP preseason poll has met the previous season's national champion in the opener. The defending champ has won the last three.

"When you start a season, you want to set the tone," Day said. "There's a lot of guys who are stepping into roles for the first time ever. And for these guys to step in and really have great energy about them, I thought they were poised. I thought the moment was not too big for them."

Sayin completed 13 of 20 passes for 126 yards as the Buckeyes improved to 4-3 all-time against a visiting

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top-ranked team. Coach Ryan Day admitted the game plan was a bit conservative, but with a first-time starter he wanted to put his signal caller in the best possible position.

"I thought he handled himself well. He took care of the ball and made some throws when he needed to. A couple times when it wasn't there, he didn't force it," Day said. "We talked about it this week. In Week 1, we can't beat ourselves. We wanted to make them beat us."

Sayin's best pass of the day came with 13:08 remaining in the game, when Tate beat Texas cornerback Jaylon Guilbeau for the Buckeyes' longest completion of the day. Tate juggled the ball before pulling it down in the end zone to put them up by two touchdowns.

"Before the drive, they kind of let me know, 'Hey, this might be coming.' But we had done a great job in practice that week of repping that play," Sayin said. "Carnell ran a great route and made a great catch and the offensive line protected me well up front."

The defense under first-year coordinator Matt Patricia made Manning a non-factor for three quarters. Manning completed 17 of 30 passes for 170 yards, a touchdown and an interception, but most of those yards came in the fourth quarter.

"I thought they tried to do everything we asked them to do. They were in some tough spots. It's a really good Texas team," Patricia said of his unit. "Arch is a great quarterback. I'm proud of our guys for stepping up to that challenge and all the way across the board, from the front end to the back end. I think those guys just did a tremendous job with the adjustments."

Texas' downfall was going 1 of 5 on fourth down, including being stopped twice inside the Ohio State 10. Manning was stuffed at the 1-yard line on fourth-and-goal by Caden Curry and Lorenzo Styles Jr. on a QB sneak in the third quarter.

The other red-zone stop came midway through the fourth quarter when Ohio State's Davison Igbinosun broke up a pass intended for Parker Livingstone.

"Granted the receivers are really good, but they've got an excellent secondary, and they've got a good scheme, and they've got a very smart secondary so they made Arch work," Texas coach Steve Sarkisian said.

## Opening the scoring

CJ Donaldson Jr. opened the scoring midway through the second quarter on a 1-yard run up the middle to cap a 13-play, 87-yard drive that took eight minutes off the clock. The Buckeyes benefitted from a pair of penalties, including a face mask call on Colin Simmons that wiped out an incomplete pass on third-and-4.

## One last chance

Texas finally got points with 3:28 remaining in the fourth quarter when Manning connected with Livingstone on a 32-yard touchdown.

The Longhorns defense forced a three-and-out, giving Texas a chance to tie.

The Longhorns took over on the 15, but Jack Endries was stopped by Caleb Downs 1 yard short of a first down at the Buckeyes 47 to end hopes of a comeback.

"Ultimately, not good enough. Obviously you don't want to start off the season 0-1," Manning said. "They're a good team. I thought we beat ourselves a lot, and that starts with me. I've got to play better for us to win."

## The takeaway

Texas: The Longhorns had their 11-game winning streak in true road games snapped. The run included five victories against ranked opponents.

Ohio State: The Buckeyes should take over the top spot in the AP poll.

## Up next

Texas: Hosts San Jose State on Sept. 6.

Ohio State: Hosts Grambling State on Sept. 6.



## Montana man who evaded authorities for a week after bar shooting faces four counts of murder

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A man suspected of killing four people at a Montana bar and evading capture for a week while hundreds of law enforcement officers searched for him in the nearby mountains faces four counts of murder, according to court records.

Defendant Michael Paul Brown lived next door to The Owl Bar in Anaconda, Montana, where a bartender and three patrons were shot and killed Aug. 1.

Authorities have not commented on a potential motive for the 45-year-old former soldier. His niece has said Brown long struggled with mental illness.

The charges Brown faces were posted on a court website Saturday after the case previously had been under seal by a state judge. Charging documents were not immediately available.

Following the shooting, authorities said Brown stole a truck and then ditched it a few miles outside of town, close to where he was eventually apprehended.

He hid in nearby forests, moving locations while helicopters and drones circled overhead and officers and dogs searched on the ground, officials said. But he was eventually flushed into a sparsely populated area near a state highway by the pressure of so many officers searching for him, according to officials.

Brown was captured on Aug. 8 inside an unoccupied structure near a state highway.

Investigators also are examining whether he had any contact with individuals or property owners who might have helped him while he was on the run.

State Department of Justice spokesperson Chase Scheuer said Friday that the probe is ongoing.

Brown is scheduled to make an initial district court appearance on Sept. 3. He is being held on \$2 million bail and represented by attorney Walter Hennessey, who did not immediately respond to telephone messages on Friday or Saturday.

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

The owner of The Owl Bar has said Brown patronized it over the past several decades, but he was not aware of any conflicts between the suspect and victims.

A conviction for murder, known in Montana as deliberate homicide, is punishable by death in the state. Executions have been on hold since 2015 under a court ruling regarding a drug used in lethal injections.

## Israel soon will halt or slow aid to northern Gaza as military offensive grows

By JULIA FRANKEL and WAFAA SHURAFI Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel will soon halt or slow humanitarian aid into parts of northern Gaza as it expands its military offensive against Hamas, an official said Saturday, a day after Gaza City was declared a combat zone.

The decision was likely to bring more condemnation of Israel's government as frustration grows in the country and abroad over dire conditions for both Palestinians and remaining hostages in Gaza after nearly 23 months of war.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media, told The Associated Press that Israel will stop airdrops over Gaza City in the coming days and reduce the number of aid trucks arriving as it prepares to evacuate hundreds of thousands of people south.

Israel on Friday ended daytime pauses in fighting to allow aid delivery, describing Gaza City as a Hamas stronghold and alleging that a tunnel network remains in use. The United Nations and partners have said the pauses, airdrops and other recent measures fell far short of the 600 trucks of aid needed daily in Gaza.

"We left because the area became unlivable," Fadi Al-Daour, displaced from Gaza City, said as vehicles

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piled high with people and belongings rolled through a shattered landscape. "No one is searching, and there are no journalists to film. There is nothing."

Remains of another hostage are identified

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office announced that the remains of a hostage that Israel on Friday said had been recovered in Gaza were of Idan Shtivi. He was kidnapped from the Nova music festival in the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, that sparked the war.

Forty-eight hostages now remain in Gaza of the over 250 seized. Israel has believed 20 are still alive.

Their loved ones fear the expanding military offensive will put them in even more danger, and they rallied again Saturday to demand a ceasefire deal to bring everyone home.

"Netanyahu, if another living hostage comes back in a bag, it will not only be the hostages and their families who pay the price. You will bear responsibility for premeditated murder," Zahir Shahar Mor, nephew of hostage Avraham Munder, said in Tel Aviv.

A 'massive population movement' coming

In recent days, Israel's military has increased strikes on the outskirts of Gaza City, where famine was recently documented and declared by global food security experts.

By Saturday there had been no airdrops for several days across Gaza, a break from almost daily ones. Israel's army didn't respond to a request for comment or say how it would provide aid to Palestinians during another major shift in Gaza's population of over 2 million people.

"Such an evacuation would trigger a massive population movement that no area in the Gaza Strip can absorb, given the widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure and the extreme shortages of food, water, shelter and medical care," Mirjana Spoljaric, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said in a statement.

It's impossible that a mass evacuation of Gaza City can be done in a safe and dignified way, she said.

Killed while seeking food

AP video footage showed several large explosions across Gaza overnight. Israel's military Saturday evening said it had struck a key Hamas member in the area of Gaza City, with no details.

An Israeli strike on a bakery in Gaza City's Nasr neighborhood killed 12 people including six women and three children, the Shifa Hospital director told the AP, and a strike on the Rimal neighborhood killed seven.

Hamas in a statement called the strike on a residential building in Rimal a "brutal escalation against civilians."

Israeli gunfire killed four people trying to get aid in central Gaza, according to health officials at Al-Awda Hospital, where the bodies were taken.

Gaza's Health Ministry said another 10 people died as a result of starvation and malnutrition over the past 24 hours, including three children. It said at least 332 Palestinians have died from malnutrition-related causes during the war, including 124 children.

At least 63,371 Palestinians have died in Gaza during the war, said the ministry, which does not say how many are fighters or civilians but says around half have been women and children. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals. The U.N. and independent experts consider it the most reliable source on war casualties. Israel disputes its figures but has not provided its own.

## **Israeli airstrike kills Houthi rebel prime minister in Yemen's capital**

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An Israeli airstrike killed the prime minister of the Houthi rebel-controlled government in Yemen's capital Sanaa, the Houthis said Saturday. He was the most senior Houthi official killed in the Israeli-U.S. campaign against the Iranian-backed rebels.

Ahmed al-Rahawi was killed in Thursday's strike in Sanaa along with a number of ministers, the rebels said in a statement. Other ministers and officials were wounded, the statement added without providing details.

The premier was targeted along with other members of his Houthi-controlled government during a

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"routine workshop held by the government to evaluate its activities and performance over the past year," the Houthi statement said.

Thursday's strike took place as the rebel-owned television station was broadcasting a speech by Abdul Malik al-Houthi, the secretive leader of the rebel group, in which he was sharing updates on the latest Gaza developments and vowing retaliation against Israel. Senior Houthi officials used to gather to watch al-Houthi's prerecorded speeches.

Al-Rahawi wasn't part of the inner circle around al-Houthi that runs the military and strategic affairs of the group. His government, like the previous ones, was tasked with running the day-to-day civilian affairs in Sanaa and other Houthi-held areas.

The strike that killed the prime minister targeted a meeting for Houthi leaders in a villa in Beit Baws, an ancient village in southern Sanaa, three tribal leaders told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared repercussions.

On Thursday, the Israeli military said it "precisely struck a Houthi terrorist regime military target in the area of Sanaa in Yemen." Late on Saturday, the military in a statement confirmed killing al-Rahawi "along with additional senior officials." It said senior officials among the dozens at the facility struck were responsible for "terror actions" against Israel.

"Yemen endures a lot for the victory of the Palestinian people," al-Rahawi had said following an Israeli strike last week that struck an facility owned by the country's main oil company, which is controlled by the rebels in Sanaa, as well as a power plant.

The Aug. 24 strike came three days after the Houthis launched a ballistic missile toward Israel that its military described as the first cluster bomb the rebels had launched at it since 2023.

The prime minister hailed from the southern province of Abyan, and was an ally to former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. He allied himself with the Houthis when the rebels overran Sanaa, and much of the north and center of the country in 2014, initiating the country's long-running civil war. He was appointed as prime minister in August 2024.

The United States and Israel began their air and naval campaign against the Houthis in response to the rebels' missile and drone attacks on Israel and on ships in the Red Sea. The Houthis targeted ships in response to the war in Gaza, saying they were acting in solidarity with the Palestinians. Their attacks over the past two years have upended shipping in the Red Sea, through which about \$1 trillion of goods pass each year.

The U.S. and Israeli strikes killed dozens of people in Yemen. One U.S. strike in April hit a prison holding African migrants in northern Sadaa province, killing at least 68 people and wounding 47 others.

Ahmed Nagi, a senior Yemen analyst with the Crisis Group International, a Brussels-based think tank, called the killing of the Houthi prime minister a "serious setback" for the rebels.

He said it marks an Israeli shift from striking the rebels' infrastructure to targeting their leaders, including senior military figures, which "poses a greater threat to their command structure."

In May, the Trump administration announced a deal with the Houthis to end the airstrikes in return for an end to attacks on shipping. The rebels, however, said the agreement did not include halting attacks on targets it believed were aligned with Israel.

## **Russian drone and missile attack on southern Ukraine kills 1 and wounds dozens**

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia launched a large aerial attack on southern Ukraine, officials said Saturday, two days after a rare airstrike on central Kyiv killed 23 and damaged European Union diplomatic offices as U.S.-led efforts to end the three-year war staggered.

Among other locations hit, the assault overnight into Saturday struck a five-story residential building, killing at least one civilian and wounding 28 people, including children, in the Zaporizhzhia region, Gov. Ivan Fedorov reported.



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Russia launched 537 strike drones and decoys, as well as 45 missiles, according to Ukraine's air force. Ukrainian forces shot down or neutralized 510 drones and decoys and 38 missiles, it said.

The Kremlin on Thursday said Russia remained interested in continuing peace talks, despite the air attack on Kyiv that was one of the largest and deadliest since Moscow's full-scale invasion in 2022.

The attacks came less than two weeks after a presidential summit in Alaska between Donald Trump of the United States and Vladimir Putin of Russia that marked the end of Putin's diplomatic isolation in the West but yielded few details on how the war might end.

Thursday's strike was one of the few times Russian drones and missiles have penetrated the heart of the Ukrainian capital. Children were among the dead, and search and rescue efforts continued for hours to pull people from the rubble.

Hours after the attack, the United States approved an \$825 million arms sale to Ukraine that will include extended-range missiles and related equipment to boost its defensive capabilities. Washington's efforts to broker peace between Ukraine and Russia appear to have stalled.

Russia accused of slow-walking peace talks as its troops press on

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday expressed frustration with what he called Russia's lack of constructive engagement.

Ukraine has accepted a U.S. proposal for a ceasefire and a meeting between Putin and Zelenskyy, but Moscow has raised objections. Trump said last week he would know within two weeks whether Russia was serious about entering negotiations.

Ukraine's European allies have accused Putin of dragging his feet in peace efforts and avoiding serious negotiations while Russian troops move deeper into the country.

Trump, in an interview with the Daily Caller, a conservative U.S. news site, that was published Saturday, said he believed three-way talks involving Putin, Zelenskyy and himself would still happen.

After his separate meetings with Putin and Zelenskyy this month, Trump said he was arranging face-to-face talks between the Russian and Ukrainian leaders and then he might meet with the two if necessary. But in the Daily Caller interview, Trump expressed less confidence he will be able to arrange those bilateral talks.

"We got along. You saw it, we've had a good relationship over the years, very good, actually," Trump said of Putin. "That's why I really thought we would have this done. I would have loved to have had it done."

Moscow's forces are waging a "nonstop" offensive along almost the whole 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line in Ukraine, and have the "strategic initiative," the chief of Russia's general staff said Saturday. Valery Gerasimov's address to his deputies was published by Russia's Defense Ministry.

Since March, Moscow has taken more than 3,500 square kilometers (1,351 square miles) of Ukrainian territory, and captured 149 settlements, Gerasimov said. It was not immediately possible to verify the situation on the battlefield.

Russian forces this month broke into Ukraine's southeastern Dnipropetrovsk region, a Ukrainian military official said Wednesday, pressing into an eighth Ukrainian province in a possible bid to strengthen the Kremlin's negotiating hand. Gerasimov on Saturday said Moscow's troops have so far taken seven settlements in Dnipropetrovsk.

EU officials mull how to make Russia pay for invasion

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU was advancing toward seizing frozen Russian assets to hand to Ukraine.

"It's clear that the predator has to pay for what he did," she said, referring to Putin.

Von der Leyen spoke Saturday in Estonia in a joint news conference with Prime Minister Kristen Michal, while on a four-day tour of European states bordering Russia or its ally Belarus.

Kaja Kallas, the EU's foreign policy chief, said that "everyone agrees that Russia should pay for the damages, not our taxpayers," but that there was disagreement within the EU about confiscating the assets.

Belgian Foreign Minister Maxime Prévot said his government opposed the move, as it "would trigger a system financial instability, and also erodes trusts in the euro." He said the assets should remain frozen until Russia pays Ukraine reparations.

Kallas and Prévot spoke during a summit of EU foreign and defense ministers in Copenhagen. Over two

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days on Friday and Saturday, EU officials discussed sanctions on Russia, ramping up defense supplies to Kyiv, postwar security guarantees and Ukraine's prospects for joining the 27-nation bloc.

Ukraine hits more Russian oil refineries

Separately, Ukraine has continued to strike oil refineries inside Russia that it says have supplied Moscow's war effort, the Ukrainian general staff reported Saturday. It said two facilities were hit overnight: in the Krasnodar region near occupied Crimea, and the Samara region farther northeast.

Falling drone debris sparked a fire at a refinery in the city of Krasnodar, regional Russian authorities confirmed Saturday. They said the blaze was extinguished, damaging one of the facility's processing units but causing no casualties. The Krasnodar refinery produces approximately 3 million tons per year of petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel and aviation fuel.

A separate drone strike caused a fire at the Syzran Oil Refinery in the Samara province, according to the Ukrainian general staff.

Gas stations have run dry in some regions of Russia after Ukrainian drones struck oil infrastructure in recent weeks, with motorists waiting in long lines and officials resorting to rationing or cutting off sales altogether. To try to ease the shortage, Russia has paused gasoline exports, with officials Wednesday declaring a full ban until Sept. 30 and a partial ban affecting traders and intermediaries until Oct. 31.

Analysts expect the gasoline crisis to ease by late September as demand subsides and the annual summer maintenance for many refineries is finished. Still, the shortages have highlighted a vulnerability on the homefront that Ukraine could exploit further as drone warfare evolves.

Former Ukrainian lawmaker shot dead

In a separate development, Ukraine's former parliament speaker and a prominent pro-Western politician was shot dead in the city of Lviv on Saturday, according to statements by Zelenskyy and local authorities.

Little is known so far about the perpetrator, or why Andriy Parubiy was targeted. Zelenskyy decried Parubiy's "terrible murder," and vowed to open an investigation.

Parubiy, 54, was a lawmaker from the Lviv region who participated in Ukraine's Orange Revolution in 2004 and led self-defense volunteer units during the Maidan protests of 2014, which forced pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich from office. He was parliament speaker from 2016 to 2019.

## **A look at the hostages taken to Gaza, by the numbers**

By The Associated Press undefined

Israel on Saturday said it had identified the body of a hostage, Idan Shtivi, whose recovery had been announced a day earlier.

Israel said Shtivi was 28 when he was kidnapped from the Nova music festival in the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, that sparked the war.

The announcement came a day after Israel said the body of Ilan Weiss, 55, was recovered in a covert operation, along with the body now identified. The military did not provide details about the operation.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 251 hostages in the Oct. 7 attack. The ensuing war has killed more than 63,000 Palestinians in Gaza, mostly women and children, Gaza's Health Ministry said Saturday. The ministry doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants.

Here are details on the hostages:

Total hostages captured during Oct. 7 attack: 251

Hostages taken before the Oct. 7 attack: four (including two who entered Gaza in 2014 and 2015 and the bodies of two soldiers killed in the 2014 war)

Hostages released in exchanges or other deals: 148, of which eight were dead

Bodies of hostages retrieved by Israeli forces: 51

Hostages rescued alive: eight

Hostages still in captivity: 48, of which the Israeli military believes 20 are still alive

Non-Israeli hostages in captivity: four (two Thai nationals and one Tanzanian who have been confirmed dead, and one Nepalese national)

## Minneapolis shooting reignites debate over gun control and prayer

By PETER SMITH and TIFFANY STANLEY Associated Press

Thoughts and prayers.

The invocation appears like a litany after every mass shooting — and the backlash is just as inevitable. As if the slaughter of children amid screams and shattered stained glass wasn't cause enough for grief, American opinion makers were convulsed once again this week in a debate over the role of prayer in the wake of a mass shooting, this time at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis.

Those who support some legal restrictions on guns, often Democrats, say that Republican politicians who appeal to prayer are trying to distract from their own inaction on such things as red flag laws or stricter background checks on gun purchases.

"Don't just say this is about thoughts and prayers right now. These kids were literally praying," Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey told a news conference after the shooting, in which an assailant killed two Annunciation students and wounded 18 other people attending Mass.

Critics, especially on the right, chided the Democratic mayor.

"It is shocking to me that so many left wing politicians attack the idea of prayer in response to a tragedy," Republican Vice President JD Vance, a Catholic, posted on X. "Literally no one thinks prayer is a substitute for action. We pray because our hearts are broken and we believe that God is listening."

The debate is not just about the power of prayer. In the United States — with both a large religious population and the most mass shootings in the world — it's also a polarized debate about gun control.

In other words, the episode set off rhetorical skirmishes along two of the biggest dividing lines in America's cultural and political wars: God and guns. (That doesn't even count the scrutiny over the motives and gender identity of the shooter, who died by suicide after the attack.)

Prayers good but 'not enough'

Frey tapped into the principle of "Tikkun Olam," in his Jewish faith, which speaks about repairing the world.

"The meaning there is, prayers are good, but they are not enough," Frey said on CNN. "It's only adequate if you can attach an action to the work. And in this case, we know what the solutions are. They've been the same solutions three years ago, five years ago, 15 years ago."

He said if Vance would support legislation to curb gun violence, "maybe we're not really having an argument."

Fred Guttenberg, whose daughter was one of 17 murdered in the 2018 school shooting in Parkland, Florida, replied angrily to Vance's post on X.

"I am not a left wing politician. I am the father of Jaime who was murdered in the Parkland shooting," Guttenberg posted on X. "YOU ARE MISERABLE AND WRONG. It is shocking to me how politicians like you mock and use the idea of 'thoughts and prayers' to cover for your prior and future inaction and the reality that I visit my forever 14 daughter at the cemetery."

This has been a long-running debate. After a 2015 California mass shooting left 14 people dead, the New York Daily News ran a front-page headline, "GOD ISN'T FIXING THIS," surrounded by tweets from Republican politicians offering prayers in response. The newspaper opined that "cowards who could truly end gun scourge continue to hide behind meaningless platitudes."

Similar sentiments followed the latest Minneapolis shooting. "America prays but does not act. Gun worship is killing us," the Rev. Jacqui Lewis of Middle Collegiate Church in New York posted on X.

Republicans, in turn, have framed mass gun violence in terms of a mental health crisis or, in cases such as the Annunciation attack, hate crimes against religious groups, while emphasizing the constitutional right to "keep and bear arms."

The debate after the Minneapolis attack quickly and starkly turned political.

Current and former White House spokeswomen also got into the mix.

Jen Psaki, who was spokesperson for former President Joe Biden, stated on X: "Prayer is not freaking enough. ... Prayer does not bring these kids back."

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Karoline Leavitt, spokesperson for President Donald Trump, retorted in a news conference: "In a time of mourning like this, when beautiful young children were killed while praying in a church, it's utterly disrespectful to deride the power of prayer in this country, and it's disrespectful to the millions of Americans of faith."

Talking past each other

John Fea, a historian of American politics and religion, said politicians have long called for prayers in crises such as the American Revolution and the Civil War. Most religious traditions would say that "at least prayers are appropriate in a situation like this," he said.

But both sides talk past each other about next steps.

Everyone wanting stricter gun laws "sees the idea of thoughts and prayers as not accomplishing anything," said Fea, a fellow at the Lumen Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

And to be sure, "a significant number of those who offer thoughts and prayers at these moments also oppose gun control," he noted.

It's not that they don't want action, but they are "raising questions of spiritual problems in the culture or mental health issues that need to be addressed," Fea said. "Anything but gun legislation."

The two major parties have starkly different religious constituencies, which reflects how they talk about prayer. Republicans have drawn strong support from conservative white and Latino evangelicals and other white Christians; Democrats have a more diverse coalition of minority racial and religious groups and secular voters.

Catholics across the divide

Pope Leo XIV focused on the spiritual in his response, sending "heartfelt condolences and the assurance of spiritual closeness to all those affected by this terrible tragedy, especially the families now grieving the loss of a child."

While the first American pope didn't address gun control this week, he appeared to do so when he was a lesser-known Bishop Robert Prevost in 2017, according to the Substack site Letters from Leo. After a mass shooting in Las Vegas, a Twitter account in Prevost's name retweeted a senator's post that castigated his colleagues for not approving more gun controls, saying their "cowardice to act cannot be whitewashed by thoughts and prayers."

Catholic bishops reflect the divide.

"While we join our prayers with others that those injured in body and spirit will heal and that the murdered children will be received into heaven, we must also cry out for action to prevent even one more such tragedy," said Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich.

In a statement, he called for "common sense" policies to limit guns' availability, lamenting that such ideas "have been largely rejected in the name of a freedom not found in our constitution." He also called for restoration in funding cuts to mental health.

Bishop Robert Barron called Mayor Frey's comment's "asinine," in a Fox News Digital interview that he reposted on his Facebook page, which has 3 million followers. Barron is bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, but has a wider reach with his Word on Fire Ministries.

"Friends, prayer doesn't magically protect us from suffering," Barron added in his post. "At its core, prayer is raising the mind and heart to God, which is absolutely appropriate in times of deep pain."

Saint Paul and Minneapolis Archbishop Bernard Hebda, whose flock includes those at Annunciation, emphasized both prayer and action.

"We need an end to gun violence," he said.

"Our community is rightfully outraged at such horrific acts of violence perpetrated against the vulnerable and innocent," he said. "They are far too commonplace. While we need to commit to working to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies, we also need to remind ourselves that we have a God of peace and of love, and that it is his love that we will need most as we strive to embrace those who are hurting so deeply."



## Trump is cutting 500-plus jobs at Voice of America and its parent agency despite legal challenges

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The agency that oversees Voice of America and other government-funded international broadcasters is eliminating jobs for more than 500 employees, a Trump administration official said. The move could ratchet up a monthslong legal challenge over the news outlets' fate.

Kari Lake, acting CEO of the U.S. Agency for Global Media, announced the latest round of job cuts late Friday, one day after a federal judge blocked her from removing Michael Abramowitz as VOA director.

U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth had ruled separately that the Republican administration had failed to show how it was complying with his orders to restore VOA's operations. His order Monday gave the administration "one final opportunity, short of a contempt trial" to demonstrate its compliance. He ordered Lake to sit for a deposition by lawyers for agency employees by Sept. 15.

On Thursday, Lamberth said Abramowitz could not be removed without the approval of the majority of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board. Firing Abramowitz would be "plainly contrary to law," according to Lamberth, who was nominated to the bench by Republican President Ronald Reagan.

Lake posted a statement on social media that said her agency had initiated a reduction in force, or RIF, eliminating 532 jobs for full-time government employees. She said the agency "will continue to fulfill its statutory mission after this RIF— and will likely improve its ability to function."

"I look forward to taking additional steps in the coming months to improve the functioning of a very broken agency and make sure America's voice is heard abroad where it matters most," she wrote.

A group of agency employees who sued to block VOA's elimination said Lake's move would give their colleagues 30 days until their pay and benefits end.

"We find Lake's continued attacks on our agency abhorrent," they said in a statement. "We are looking forward to her deposition to hear whether her plan to dismantle VOA was done with the rigorous review process that Congress requires. So far we have not seen any evidence of that."

In June, layoff notices were sent to more than 600 agency employees. Abramowitz was placed on administrative leave along with almost the entire VOA staff. He was told he would be fired effective Aug. 31.

The administration said in a court filing Thursday that it planned to send RIF notices to 486 employees of VOA and 46 other agency employees but intended to retain 158 agency employees and 108 VOA employees. The filing said the global media agency had 137 "active employees" and 62 other employees on administrative leave while VOA had 86 active employees and 512 others administrative leave.

The agency also houses Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, Middle East Broadcasting Networks and Radio Marti, which beams Spanish-language news into Cuba. The networks, which together reach an estimated 427 million people, date to the Cold War and are part of a network of government-funded organizations trying to extend U.S. influence and combat authoritarianism.

## Today in History: August 31, Diana, Princess of Wales, dies in Paris crash

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Aug. 31, the 243rd day of 2025. There are 122 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Aug. 31, 1997, Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed after the car she was riding in crashed in Paris; her partner Dodi Fayed and driver Henri Paul (who was found to have been intoxicated at the time of the accident) also died.

Also on this date:

In 1881, the first U.S. tennis championships (for men only) began in Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1886, an earthquake with an estimated magnitude of up to 7.3 devastated Charleston, South Carolina,

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killing at least 60 people.

In 1962, the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago became independent of British colonial rule.

In 1980, Poland's Solidarity labor movement was born with an agreement signed in Gdansk (guh-DANSK') that ended a 17-day-old strike.

In 1992, white separatist Randy Weaver surrendered to authorities in Idaho, ending an 11-day siege by federal agents that had claimed the lives of Weaver's wife, son and a deputy U.S. marshal.

In 1994, Russia officially ended its military presence in the former East Germany and the Baltics after half a century.

In 2006, Edvard Munch's painting "The Scream" was recovered by Norwegian authorities after being stolen nine days earlier.

In 2010, President Barack Obama announced the end of the U.S. combat mission in Iraq, declaring no victory after seven years of bloodshed and telling those divided over the war in his country and around the world: "it's time to turn the page."

In 2019, a gunman carried out a shooting rampage that stretched ten miles between the Texas communities of Midland and Odessa, leaving seven people dead before police killed the gunman outside a movie theater in Odessa.

Today's Birthdays: World Golf Hall of Famer Isao Aoki is 83. Violinist Itzhak Perlman is 80. Singer Van Morrison is 80. Rock musician Rudolf Schenker (The Scorpions) is 77. Actor Richard Gere is 76. Actor Stephen McKinley Henderson is 76. Attorney and author Marcia Clark is 72. Olympic gold medal hurdler Edwin Moses is 70. Rock singer Glenn Tilbrook (Squeeze) is 68. Rock musician Gina Schock (The Go-Go's) is 68. Singer-composer Deborah Gibson is 55. Queen Rania of Jordan is 55. Golfer Padraig (PAH'-drig) Harrington is 54. Actor Chris Tucker is 54. Actor Sara Ramirez is 50. Former NFL wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald is 42. NBA All-Star Jalen Brunson is 29.