

# Groton Daily Independent

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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))

**Anyone interested in sponsoring the C and/or JV VB matches with Webster or Roncalli this upcoming week? Text Paul at 605-397-7460**

**Groton Daily Independent  
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445  
Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460**



## Groton Soccer Teams Sweep West Central Behind Strong Defensive Efforts

The Groton Area Tigers soccer teams delivered a clean sweep at home on Saturday, with both the boys and girls squads earning hard-fought victories over West Central.

### Girls Game: Gilbert's Goal Lifts Tigers to Victory

The Groton girls kicked off the afternoon with a gritty 1-0 win, improving their record to 5-2 on the season. It was a crucial victory as Groton entered the game ranked third in the state power ratings, while West Central was just behind them in fourth.

The game's lone goal came with 16:05 left in the first half when Carly Gilbert broke free and buried a shot past the West Central goalkeeper. Head Coach Matt Baumgartner said the scoring play was the result of sustained offensive pressure rather than a single quick strike.

"That was one of those possessions where we just kept the ball in our attacking mode for several minutes,"



**Ryelle Gilbert gets ready to kick the ball.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Karson Zak uses quick footwork to keep control of the ball.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Baumgartner explained. "As players move and occupy different spaces, opportunities open up, and Carly made a great shot when the chance came."

Baumgartner noted that the game was heavily defensive, with West Central applying pressure throughout, especially late in the match.

"I'd say it was an evenly matched game," he said. "They've got quality pieces, good speed, and playmakers, just like we do. With it being Labor Day week, homecoming, and a long road trip earlier, our girls had a lot going on. For them to come out on a Saturday and bring the energy like they did was huge."

The Tigers' defense held firm in the second half, staying composed and forcing West Central to make the mistakes. Groton's composure and discipline sealed



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**McKenna Tietz eyes the ball and gets ready to make it fly past her defender.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton's record to 5-1-1, tying them with Freeman Academy for second place in the state rankings. West Central dropped to 1-4-1, sitting eighth in the standings.

Both Groton goals came off corner kicks — something Head Coach Ryan Olson said has been a point of strength for his team.

"Last year, a lot of our scoring came off corner kicks, and we've continued to make that a focus," Olson said. "We make sure everyone is covering their areas, and it's paying off."

The first goal came with 31:46 left in the first half when Axel Abeln battled through heavy traffic in front of the goal and forced the ball across the line after a scramble.

Groton struck again with 27:27 remaining in the game, this time with Ethan Kroll finishing on a perfect assist from Ryder Schwan.

West Central made things interesting late, capitalizing on a missed penalty kick rebound with 11:54 left, as Max Poss buried the follow-up shot to cut the lead in half. But Groton's defense, anchored by their 6-foot-7 goalkeeper, Gage Sippel,

the shutout.

Looking ahead, Groton will travel to Vermilion next Saturday. Baumgartner stressed the importance of maintaining focus.

"Vermilion has been giving up quite a few goals this year, but we can't play down to our opponent," he said. "At this point in the season, we need to play sharp, quality soccer no matter who we're up against."

## Boys Game: Corner Kick Execution Secures Win

In the second game of the day, the Groton boys used set pieces to their advantage, defeating West Central 2-1 in a tightly contested match.

The win improved Gro-



**Sydney Locke keeps the ball away from West Central's Bailey Stallman.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Drake Peterson focuses intently as he prepares to throw the ball back into play.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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held strong to secure the win.

Olson credited his seniors for their leadership and his speedy underclassmen for providing an extra edge.

"Our seniors are doing a great job leading and being vocal on the field," he said. "And that sophomore class — they've got a ton of speed. When we get them the ball with good touches, they can make things happen."

## What's Next

The Groton boys face a tough test Tuesday when they travel to take on undefeated James Valley Christian at 4 p.m.

"James Valley is number one for a reason," Olson said. "We've got two tough games coming up this week with them and then Vermilion on Saturday. We just can't lose focus."

On Saturday, both the boys and girls will head to Vermilion, where the boys will face a 3-2 squad, while the girls will take on a team with a 1-3 record.

This sweep helps solidify Groton's positioning near the top of the state rankings and builds momentum heading into a challenging stretch of games.



**Axel Abeln battles with West Central's Lucas Sidel for the ball.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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## No. 25 Northern State downs Augustana and Black Hills

Chadron, Neb. – The No. 25 Northern State University volleyball team finished the weekend with a pair of wins against Augustana and Black Hills State on Saturday, returning to Aberdeen with an undefeated record. The Wolves out-scored their opponents in the two victories, combining for 116 kills, 111 assists, and 121 digs.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score vs. Augustana: NSU 3, AU 2

Final Score vs. Black Hills State: NSU 3, BHSU 1

Records: NSU 4-0, AU 3-1, BHSU 0-4

### HOW IT HAPPENED vs. AUGUSTANA

After alternating the first four sets, Northern State rallied to secure the victory with a set-5 win

The Wolves scored 79 points in the win against the Vikings with set scores of 19-25, 25-20, 23-25, 25-13, and 15-10

Northern led the match with 63 kills, 59 assists, 66 digs, and 13 blocks, hitting .278 as a team

They held the Vikings to 57 kills, forcing 24 errors for a .209 attack percentage

Linnea Nesheim led the attack for NSU with 17 kills with Natalia Szybinska coming in as a close second with 15 kills

Alex Connatser had a team high .438 attack percentage; she also recorded nine kills and one dig

Abby Schauer led the team on defense with 24 digs while Ava Nilsson dished out 56 of the team's 59 assists

The three team aces came from Ashley Yost, Sara Moberg, and Linnea Nesheim

Abby Brooks had ten blocks and a .304 attack percentage, while Katelyn Schroeder and Natalia Szybinska added four blocks each

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Linnea Nesheim: 17 kills, 43 attacks

Abby Brooks: 12 kills, .304 attack%, 10 blocks

Alex Connatser: .438 attack%, 9 kills

Ava Nilsson: 56 assists, 10 digs

### HOW IT HAPPENED vs. BLACK HILLS STATE

After dropping the first set, Northern State won three straight walking away with the victory

The Wolves scored 60 points in the win against the Yellow Jackets with set scores of 23-25, 25-17, 25-10, and 25-13

Northern led the match with 53 kills, 52 assists, 55 digs, 11 aces, and six blocks, hitting .262 as a team

They held the Yellow Jackets to 34 kills, forcing 21 errors for a .112 attack percentage

Linnea Nesheim led the attack for NSU with 14 kills, followed by Abby Brooks with 13 kills

Alex Connatser had a team leading .438 attack percentage, while Abby Brooks was second on the team with a .364 attack percentage

Abby Schauer had a team high of 22 digs, while Sara Moberg added a season best 14 digs herself

Both Katelyn Schroeder and Schauer had three aces in the match

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Abby Brooks: 13 kills, .364 attack%

Alex Connatser: 8 kills, .438 attack%

Abby Schauer: 22 digs, 3 aces

Ava Nilsson: 45 assists, 8 digs

### UP NEXT

The Wolves hit the court again on Thursday, September 11 against Lake Superior at the Minnesota State Invite. Start time is set for 5:30 p.m. against the Ice Hawks.

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## **Northern Football falls to Sioux Falls in 2025 opener**

Sioux Falls, S.D. – A back-and-forth game from start to finish, the Northern State University football team dropped their season opener in a heartbreaker at the University of Sioux Falls. 21-points by the Cougars in the fourth quarter led to the two-score victory, however the game saw four tie scores.

### **THE QUICK DETAILS**

Final Score: NSU28, USF 42

Records: NSU 0-1 (0-1 NSIC), USF 2-0 (1-0 NSIC)

Attendance: 3562

### **HOW IT HAPPENED**

Sioux Falls opened the contest, scoring on their first drive of the game, however the Wolves quickly responded with the ball in their hands

Daniel Britt connected with Zach Kraft for a 13-yard touchdown, the first of Kraft's Northern State career

The Cougars regained the lead heading into the half break and the two teams entered the locker room with a score of 14-7

Cooper Eisenbeisz took the opening kick-off of the second half to the house, running it back 94-yards for the first touchdown of his career and the game was tied at 14-all

USF was back in the driver's seat and took a 21-14 lead with 11:05 remaining in the third

The lead did not last long, as another Britt-to-Kraft connection led to a 75-yard touchdown for the Wolves

The scoreboard tipped in the Cougars favor to open the fourth quarter at 14:18 on a 13-yard passing score

Britt and the Wolves quickly got to work opening the following drive with a 68-yard rushing score by the NSU quarterback

Sioux Falls took control in their final possessions of the contest scoring on a pair of 2-yard runs at 5:17 and 1:55

Northern led the contest with 235 yards passing, 171 kick return yards, and three sacks, while Sioux Falls converted all six times they entered the red zone, possessed the ball for just over 42-minutes, and recorded a game leading 421 yards of total offense

Britt threw for 186 yards and rushed for 73, combining for three touchdowns; he tallied 75-yard long in the air and 68-yard long on the ground

Kraft had a career day for NSU, scoring the first two touchdowns of his career with 98 yards receiving

The NSIC North Division Preseason Player of the Year did not miss a beat, leading the team with 21 tackles; Jake Adams recorded 14 solos stops and 0.5 tackle for a loss in the career high

Javonnee Szymanski was second on the defense with 11 tackles and one pass break-up

The three Wolves sacks were recorded by Kegan Mountain, Gabe Gutierrez, and Carl Pevey Jr. for a combined 25 yards lost

Gutierrez also led the team with 2.0 tackles for a loss, while Noah Hutmacher added 1.0 and Lorenzo Jones Jr. tallied 0.5

In the kicking game, Jeremy Caruso tallied 307 yards on kickoffs, averaging 61.4 yards per kick, while Jackson Isakson notched 112 yards punting, averaging 37.3 yards per punt

### **NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS**

Daniel Britt: 186 yards passing, 2 TD, 73 yards rushing, 1 TD

Zach Kraft: 98 yards receiving (career high), 2 TD (career high), 75-yard long

Jake Adams: 21 tackles (career high), 14 solo tackles

Javonnee Szymanski: 11 tackles (career high)

Gabe Gutierrez: 2.0 TFL, 1.0 sack

Cooper Eisenbeisz: 143 return yards, 1 TD, 94-yard long

### **UP NEXT**

Northern kicks off their 2025 home slate next Saturday, September 13, hosting Wayne State. Kick-off is set for 6 p.m. from Dacotah Bank Stadium.





## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*So he set out and  
came to his father.*

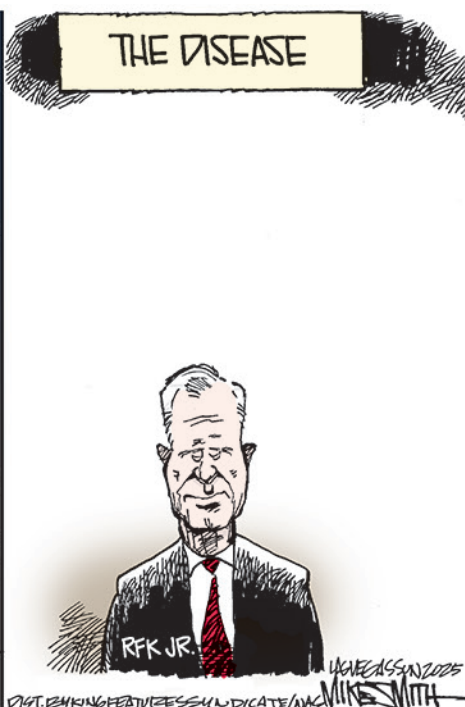
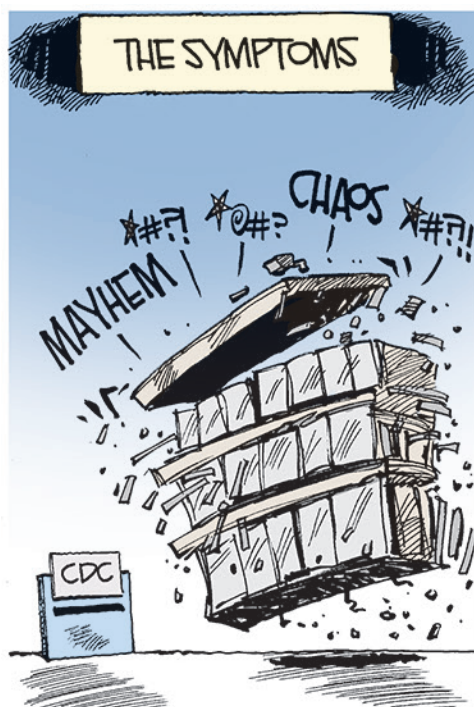
*But when he was still a long  
way off, his father saw him  
and felt compassion for him,  
and ran and embraced him  
and kissed him.*

LUKE 15:20



Detail of "The Return of the Prodigal Son"  
by Rembrandt (1636)

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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Genesis 19, who escaped to Zoar on hearing wicked cities were going to be destroyed? *Gomorrah, Elijah, Lot, Shimei*

3. After beating his mule, who confessed to an angel that he had sinned? *Sodom, Balaam, Samuel, Daniel*

4. From Job 4, who was so frightened by a dream that his hair stood on end? *Eliphaz, Abraham, Ehud, Joseph*

5. Who had to parade his eight sons before a prophet as found in 1 Samuel? *Aaron, Jacob, Naboth, Jesse*

6. From Exodus 14, whose chariots were lost in the Red Sea? *Solomon, Pharaoh, Samson, Ahab*

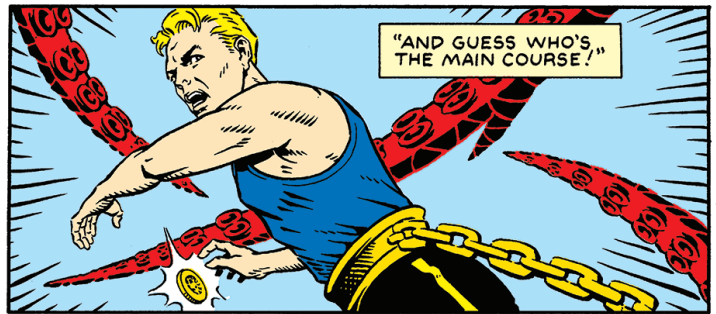
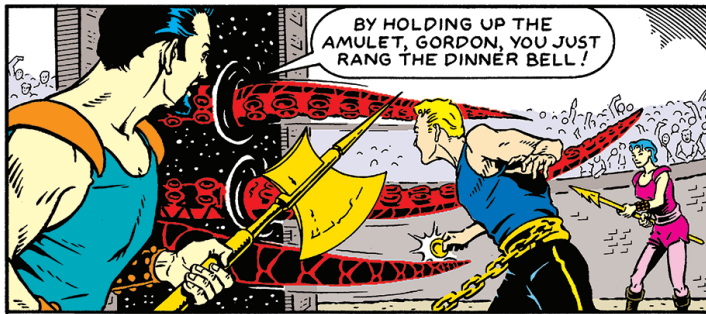
ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Lot, 3) Balaam, 4) Eliphaz, 5) Jesse, 6) Pharaoh

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



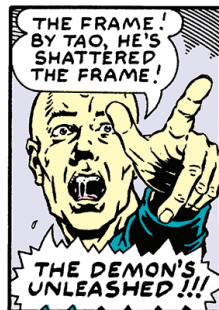
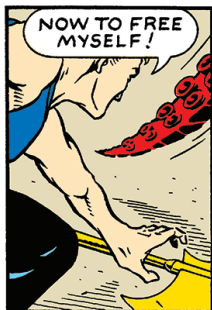
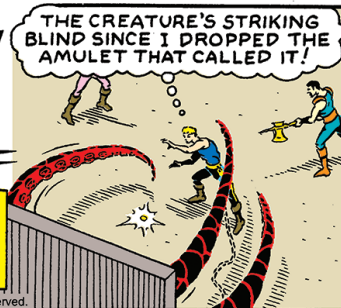
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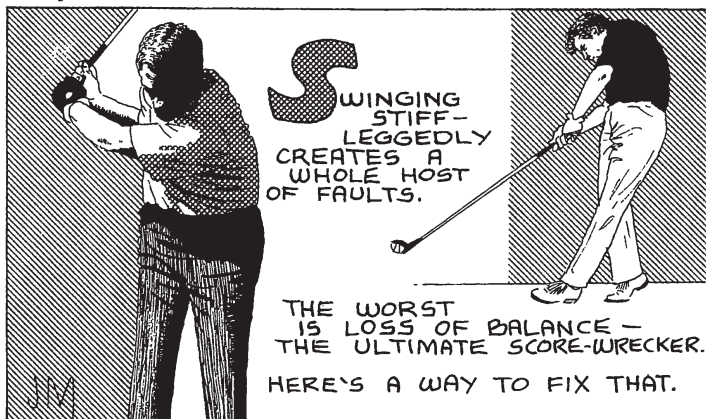


## FLASH GORDON

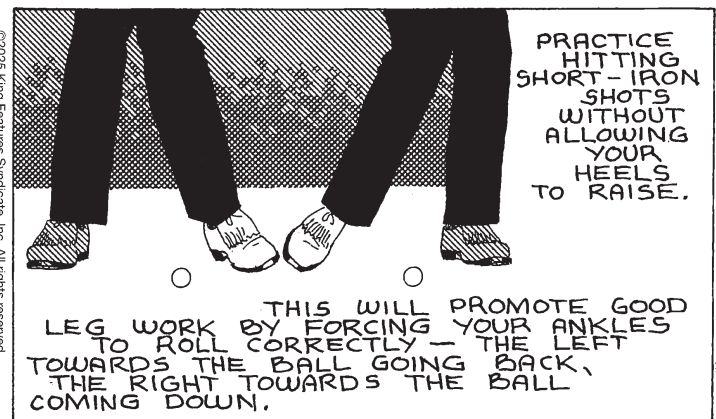
CHAINED TO THE BASE OF THE MACABRE MIRROR, FLASH HAS UNWITTINGLY SUMMONED THE CREATURE FROM WITHIN!



## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



THE WORST IS LOSS OF BALANCE - THE ULTIMATE SCORE-WRECKER. HERE'S A WAY TO FIX THAT.



THIS WILL PROMOTE GOOD LEG WORK BY FORCING YOUR ANKLES TO ROLL CORRECTLY - THE LEFT TOWARDS THE BALL GOING BACK, THE RIGHT TOWARDS THE BALL COMING DOWN.



## Understanding the Association Between 'The Pill' and CANCER

DEAR DR. ROACH: I want to point out a serious health concern. My daughter turned 40 last year and got a mammogram that came back with a shocking diagnosis of stage 3 microinvasive carcinoma. She underwent three surgeries, the last of which was a double mastectomy.

I read that cancer incidence increases with hormone usage that is greater than five years in a row. My daughter's doctor prescribed "the pill" to her for much greater than five years and never even warned her of the risk.

How many other women are unaware of the risks? In many cases, these women are busy, young professionals as my daughter is. They are using the pill because it is so easy. Please warn them and their parents. -- M.R.

ANSWER: The association of combined oral contraceptives with breast cancer is controversial. Many large studies, such as the Nurses' Health Study, didn't find an association between "the pill" with breast cancer, either while a woman is using it or after she stops.

There have been some studies that have shown an increase in risk, but the magnitude of the risk is small. In a large Danish study, the overall increase in risk was about one additional case of breast cancer in 8,000 women taking the pill for a year. For women under 35, the risk was one case in 50,000 women per year. The studies that showed a risk for breast cancer did not show an increased risk when women took them for longer.

Oral contraceptives certainly have risks. Blood clots are more common among users. They have side effects that can be very bothersome and sometimes prevent women from using them. However, there is an overall improvement in mortality risk among users because even in 2025, having a baby puts a mother's life at risk, and oral contraceptives are effective at preventing pregnancy.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a healthy male, age 65. I get 7-8 hours of sleep most nights, but during the night, I typically wake up three to four times with a very full bladder. So, I use the bathroom, then return to bed.

My question is, where do my kidneys get all the water to make so much urine? I'm not drinking during the night, and I don't drink anything before I go to sleep. Where is it coming from? This does not happen during my waking hours. -- B.F.

ANSWER: When you drink or even eat food with a high water content, this fluid will be absorbed into your blood, but it takes time. Once it's in your blood, it will then be filtered by your kidneys to make urine, but this, too, takes time.

In general, I tell my patients to stop drinking 4 hours or more before bedtime. People who have kidneys that aren't at 100% function may need an even longer time so that they can urinate all the fluid out.

There are other considerations. Many men and women over 60 develop swollen legs during the day due to leaky blood vessels and valves in the veins. Taking in excess salt worsens this problem. The fluid will go back into the blood overnight, and it can easily be enough fluid to fill the bladder. Compression stockings can reduce the amount of fluid in the legs.

Finally, the body has a system for reducing urine output at night (the anti-diuretic hormone is secreted at night to prevent you from having to get up), and in some people, this system fails. The hormone can be given nasally in these cases, but since it can affect blood sodium levels, it needs to be used very judiciously.

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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"Superman" (PG-13) -- This superhero film hailing from DC Studios came out a few weeks earlier than Marvel's "The Fantastic Four: First Steps," and "Superman" beat it in reviews as well

as grosses, earning about \$100 million more than "Fantastic Four." David Corenswet, most known

before this for his role in Ryan Murphy's series "Hollywood," transforms into Clark Kent/Superman, opposite Rachel Brosnahan's Lois Lane and Nicholas Hoult's Lex Luthor. Instead of an origin story that we've watched time and time before, this film takes more of a character-study approach (similar to Robert Pattinson's "The Batman") as we watch Superman grapple with ethics and the public's warped, overblown opinion of him, all while he tries to save the world against Lex Luthor's deranged antics. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"The Wedding Banquet" (R) -- This rom-com, out now, is a remake of director Ang Lee's ("Brokeback Mountain") 1993 film of the same name. Led by Bowen Yang ("Wicked") and Lily Gladstone ("Killers of the Flower Moon"), it follows two gay couples, Lee and Angela and Chris and Min, who all live together in Lee's family home in Seattle. As Min's student visa reaches its expiration date, he grasps at straws to put together a plan to keep from him having to return to South Korea. Since Lee and Angela want to have a baby and need money for IVF, Min decides to propose to Angela so that he can stay financially connected to his family, remain in the United States, and help his friends. The only problem? Min's grandmother is promptly on the way from Korea to plan an elaborate wedding, leaving the foolish foursome to pray that they can keep the charade going! Check it out now. (Paramount+)

"Together" (R) -- The arrival of September signifies the start of spooky season for those who celebrate, so from now until October, horror movies will take up a bit more of the spotlight as fanatics search for movies that can scratch their spooky-season itch. Perhaps this new film starring real-life couple Alison Brie and Dave Franco will scratch that itch for you! (Body-horror lovers, I'm looking at you!) Brie and Franco, respectively, play Millie and Tim, a couple who moves to the country for a fresh start in their relationship. When hiking around their new home, they encounter a cave where Tim drinks water from and shortly after, he begins to experience episodes where he feels so drawn to Millie, like he almost wants to become her. As the episodes worsen to where the couple is quite literally stuck together, they're left to wonder if they can escape their fate of becoming one. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

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**Alison Brie, left, and Dave Franco star in "Together."** (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

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1. Which artist wrote and released "I'll Have to Say I Love You in a Song"?
2. Name the artist who wrote and released "You Wear It Well."
3. "I Believe in You" was used in which musical film?
4. Which artist released "Town Without Pity"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Some people stay far away from the door if there's a chance of it opening up."

Answers

1. Jim Croce, in 1974. The single was released posthumously, taken from Croce's "I Got a Name" album after he

died in a plane crash in 1973.

2. Rod Stewart, in 1972. The group DeBarge also penned and released a different song with the same title in 1985.

3. "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," starring Robert Morse, in 1967. As J. Pierrepont Finch, a window washer trying to climb the corporate ladder using a self-help book, he sings the song to himself in the men's room mirror.

4. Gene Pitney, in 1961.

5. "An Innocent Man," by Billy Joel, in 1983. A single from Joel's album of the same name, the song stayed at the top of the adult contemporary chart for a week.

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**GRIN and BEAR IT** *Wagner*



"We'd like to see some pictures of the food."

## 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. Tree trunk is wider. 2. Sun is smaller. 3. Walking stick is shorter. 4. Cap design is different. 5. Thumb is moved. 6. Cloud is not as large.

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\* Frugal doesn't have to mean unfashionable. There are plenty of how-to instructions on the internet for turning fashion trash into treasure. For starters, try searching how to turn an old T-shirt into a skirt with a minimum of fuss, then explore sites like Pinterest and Instructables.com for more projects.

\* Want a fun way to save? Pick a particular currency item (maybe a \$5 bill or dimes) and every time you get one, put it in a jar. See how much you save in a month doing this. See how long you can go without missing the money.

\* "To clean a vase with an impossibly skinny neck, try adding a scoop of rice to a little hot water and dish soap. Shake to scrub." -- M.M. in Indiana

\* A better use for soda: Use it to scrub your pots and pans.

If you have grime and slime, try letting the acids in soda pop work it out for you. Pour enough soda to cover the bottom of the pots or pans and let soak for 5-10 minutes. Then scrub away.

\* "When the weather starts to dry out and along with it my skin, I turn to coconut oil. I keep a jar in the bathroom, and I apply it even before I get out of the shower. My skin gets really red and torn up otherwise. I thought this might help other people." -- K.S. in Massachusetts

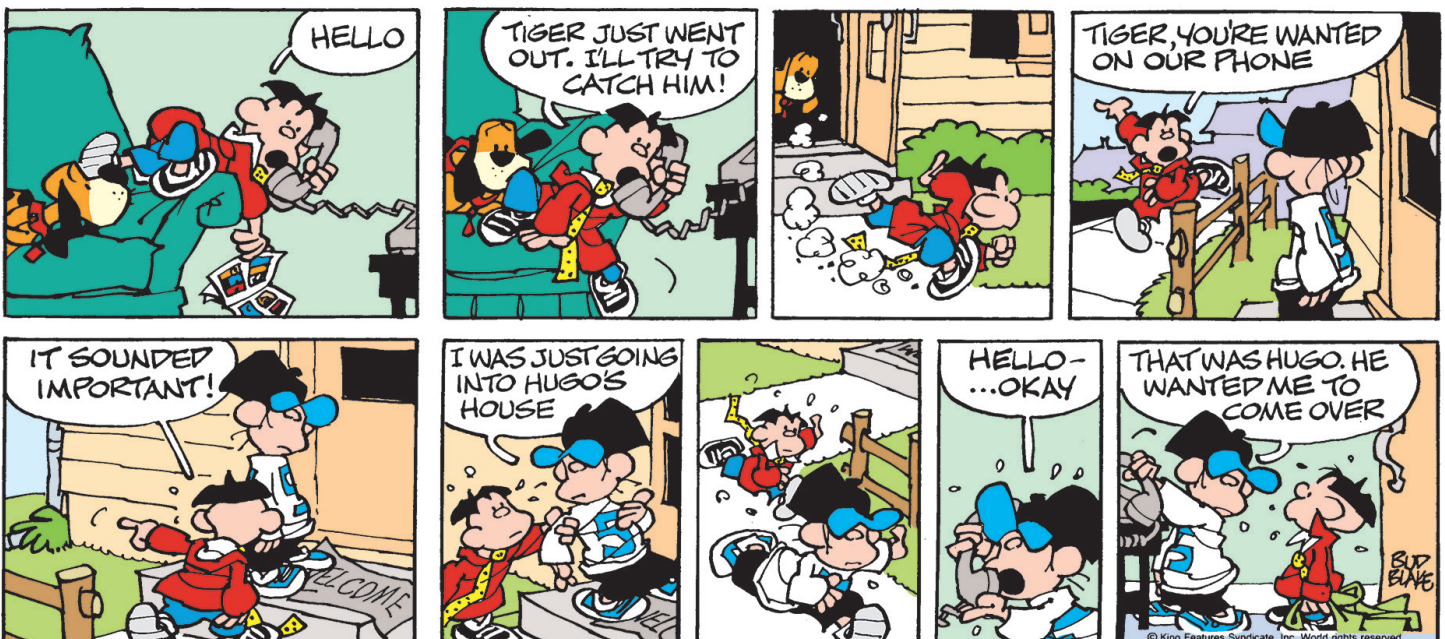
\* When choosing an airline seat, you should know that you'll feel less turbulence at the front of the cabin. Exit rows have more legroom, but they tend to be colder as well. Sound carries forward, so if you don't want to be bothered by the little ones or random chatter, sit toward the back.

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

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**TIGER**

by BUD BLAKE





## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Cambridge sch.  
4 Tizzies  
9 NPR's Shapiro  
12 "Rocks"  
13 Old Testament book  
14 Guitar master Paul  
15 Puzzle solver's epiphany  
17 "Tasty!"  
18 Director DuVernay  
19 Postpones  
21 Supervised  
24 Appear  
25 Blackbird  
26 Back talk  
28 "Swell!"  
31 Aliases  
33 Corn core  
35 "Go no further!"  
36 Nerd  
38 "Don't Start Now" singer Lipa  
40 Tolkien creature  
41 First lady of scat  
43 Distress signals  
45 Band around a sleeve  
47 Reunion gp.  
48 Grazing tract  
49 Black Sea region

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12				13						14		
15				16						17		
				18				19		20		
21	22	23					24					
25				26		27		28			29	30
31				32		33		34		35		
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- 54 New England cape  
55 Yo-Yo Ma's instrument  
56 Farm female  
57 Dijon denial  
58 Head lights?  
59 "Evil Woman" gp.  
8 Lustrous fabric  
9 Yale, to Jodie Foster  
10 — Martin (cognac)  
11 Doctrines  
16 Irrate  
20 Cask sediment  
21 Round of applause  
22 Sufficient, old-style  
23 "Save Me" singer  
27 Group of whales  
29 Vocal quality  
30 Makes a choice  
32 Vend  
34 Beast on a nickel  
37 Laundry additive  
39 Los —, New Mexico  
42 Confused  
44 "— Blue?"  
45 Astronaut Shepard  
46 Gambling city  
50 Unwell  
51 Formerly known as  
52 Hogwarts messenger  
53 Old Oldsmobile

### DOWN

- 1 Actress Farrow  
2 German pronoun  
3 Chai, e.g.  
4 Digging tool  
5 Itinerant  
6 British verb ending  
7 Looks after

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## — King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

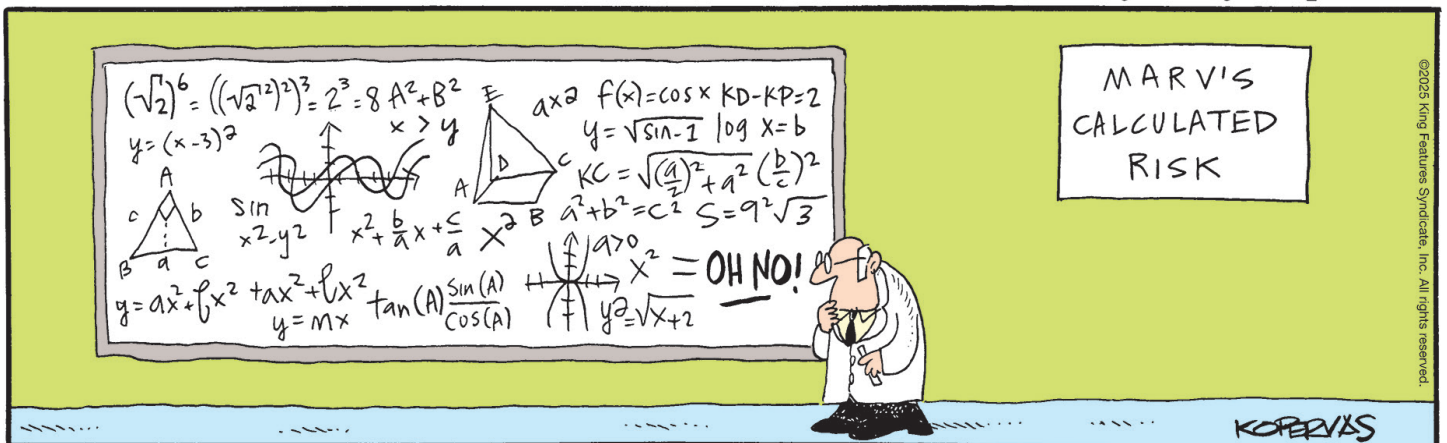
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Olive



Out on a Limb

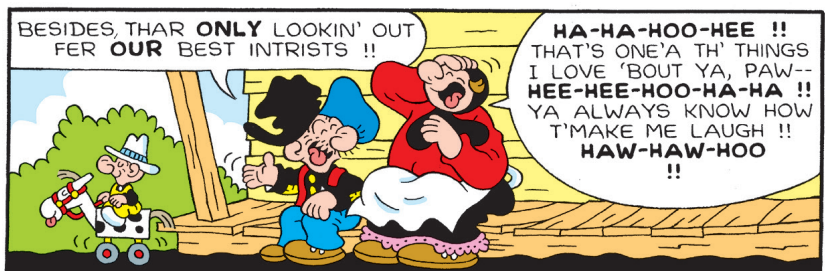
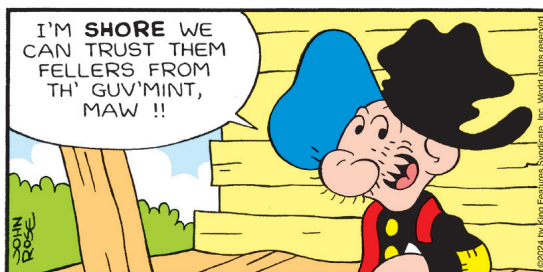
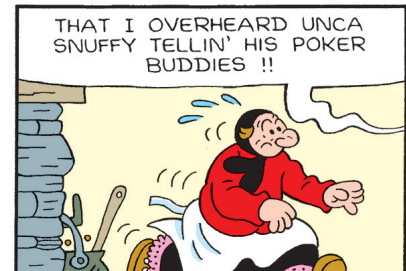
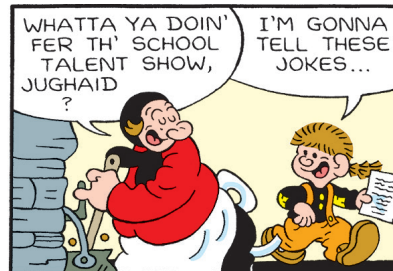
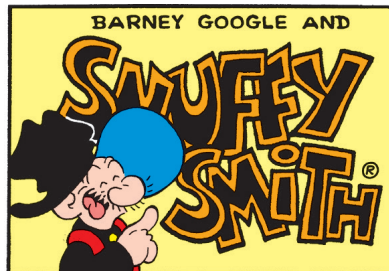
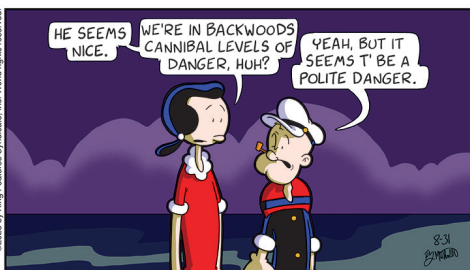
by Gary Kopervas





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CALYPSO THROWS HER LEOPARDS AT VAL AND BUKOTA, BUT THE AFRICAN KNOWS THESE ANIMALS AND IS NOT INTIMIDATED ...



HAL FOSTER'S  
**Prince Valiant**  
BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

... LEAVING VAL FREE TO RUSH TO THE AID OF ZULFA, WHOSE DISSIDENT CALYPSO SEEKS TO CRUSH SWIFTLY AND BRUTALLY.



ALTHOUGH THE SELF-APPOINTED GODDESS-QUEEN OF THE SIRENS' FEROCITY AND STRENGTH ARE FORMIDABLE, VAL TEARS HER FROM ZULFA AS EASILY AS THOUGH SHE WERE A CHILD...

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... SENDING THE CRAZED WOMAN FURTHER INTO MADNESS: "KILL THEM! KILL THEM ALL NOW!" SHE SPUTTERS TO HER FOLLOWERS...



... BUT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO HER ORDERS. "PERHAPS - PERHAPS ASYLUM ON THE MISTY ISLES IS WORTH DISCUSSING..." SPEAKS ONE.

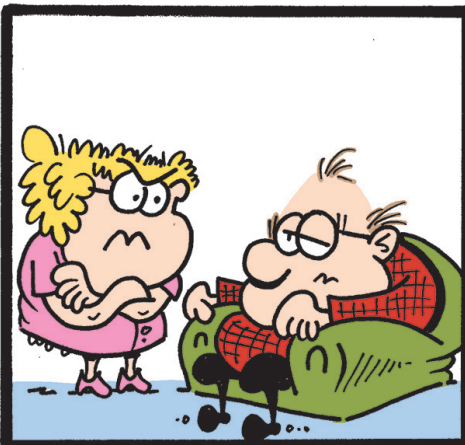
AND WITH THAT, CALYPSO SCREAMS A CURSE AND FLEES HER CHAMBERS!



NEXT:  
The great bow

## The Spats

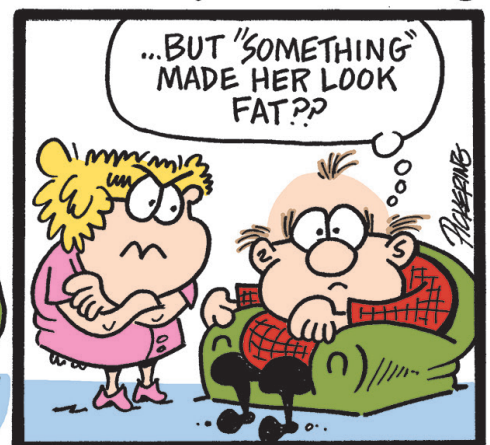
by Jeff Pickering



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OKAY, SO MAYBE IT WASN'T THE DRESS...



...BUT "SOMETHING" MADE HER LOOK FAT??



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## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Expired products at home?

When the pandemic began over five years ago and our stores were keeping odd hours and sometimes the shelves were empty, many of us stocked up on food and supplies when we could get them. We chose canned goods and dry boxed foods like pasta, as well as staples like bleach and sanitizing wipes.

Where are those items now? Are some of them still on our shelves at home, maybe tucked in the back and kept for emergencies?

It's time to check those items for expiration dates. Most are likely too old to be used, and many of them can make us sick if we do.

Here are a few hints as you go through your stash:

You'll likely need a magnifying glass as you look at each item because the dates are often very small.

The dilemma with foods is that the experts don't agree. Some claim that an expiration date doesn't really mean the food is no longer good, while some say to pay attention to the dates. Plus, there's a difference between "best by," "sell by" and "use by" dates. Confusing, isn't it? I tend to go by the date that's printed as the cutoff date.

Bleach really does expire and lose potency, and so do the sanitizing wipes, antibacterial hand soap and other cleaning products. Look on the product for a lot number and check the company's website for dates of manufacture or how to decode the batch number.

Even your shampoo has a limit to the time it can sit unused in your bathroom cabinet, and so do toothpaste, deodorant, hand lotion, eye drops -- nearly everything you use. Go online to [www.checkfresh.com](http://www.checkfresh.com). Click the brand of your item and type in the lot number. It will tell you when it was made.

When in doubt, call the manufacturer. It's better to be safe than to use an expired product.

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1. Horacio Llamas, the first Mexican-born player in the NBA, spent two seasons from 1997-98 with what team?

2. How old was Danish swimmer Inge Sorensen when she won a bronze medal at the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics?

3. Name the Little Caesars Pizza founder who was the owner of the NHL's Detroit Red Wings and Major League Baseball's Detroit Tigers.

4. The Cincinnati Suds, Milwaukee Schlitz, Kentucky Bourbons and Cleveland Stepien's Competitors were professional teams that played what sport in the late 1970s and early 1980s?

5. Name the former ESPN sportscaster who served as the New York Yankees' radio play-by-play announcer from 2002-04 before joining the Los Angeles Dodgers' radio and TV broadcast booth in 2005.

6. What Cuban baseball player helped the 1965 Minnesota Twins to a World Series championship and was named American League MVP that year?

7. Calbert Cheaney scored a Big Ten Conference career record 2,613 points playing for what college basketball team from 1989-93?



## Answers

1. The Phoenix Suns.
2. 12 years old.
3. Mike Ilitch.
4. Men's slow-pitch softball.
5. Charley Steiner.
6. Zoilo Versalles.
7. The Indiana University Hoosiers.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps







## The case of the chronically constipated cat

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My 13-year-old cat, "Tibbles," has suddenly developed a litter box problem. He pees quite a lot -- I'm constantly scooping the box -- but I have not seen any poo for about three days. Tibbles seems comfortable and doesn't seem distressed. -- Jamie B. in Milwaukee

DEAR JAMIE: A significant change in litter box habits is a signal that something is going on, and you should call the veterinarian.

Cats are famously good at hiding illness. It's an instinctive trait to keep predators away. If they're feeling a bit off, you'll almost never notice. If they're seriously

ill, they may hide themselves away. Senior cats like Tibbles become very secretive as their body ages. They walk more slowly and jump less if arthritis is developing. Their personality may change. They may yowl from discomfort or confusion.

Your cat may be developing a kidney problem, but to confirm this, you'll need to bring Tibbles to the vet for some tests. It would be helpful to collect a urine sample and a stool sample (if he goes before your visit), so the vet can present results faster. If you're not able to do that ahead of the visit, the vet may give you collection tools and instructions on how to get those samples and bring them in later.

Make sure that your cat is hydrating as well as possible. Keep his water bowl filled. Give him less dry kibble and more paté-style cat food. Limit his treats to just one or two pieces a day, or switch to a "lickable" treat (available in packets at most retailers).

The veterinarian will provide further dietary adjustments, and possibly medication, once they've observed and tested your cat. Follow their instructions precisely to help Tibbles become regular again.

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE


- \* The world's tiniest robot is smaller than a grain of salt.
- \* Despite what you see when you gaze at the night sky, the moon's actually shaped like a lemon, with flattened poles and bulges on its near and far sides around its equator.
- \* In Utah, birds have the right of way on a highway.
- \* What's in a name? Well, a casket is a rectangular box with a lid, and a coffin is a six-sided box that's wider at the shoulders and narrower at the feet. In America, caskets are more commonly used than coffins.

- \* On the Titanic, more than 700 third-class passengers had to share just two bathtubs.
- \* Black and orange are the traditional colors of Halloween because the ancient Celts believed black symbolized the "death" of summer and orange represented the fall harvest.
- \* For the film "A Star Is Born," Bradley Cooper spent six months with a dialect coach trying to imitate Sam Elliott's voice, before he knew Elliott would be cast as his brother.
- \* Some female sharks store sperm after mating, potentially holding on to it for years before they're ready to reproduce.
- \* When trick-or-treating began gaining popularity in the 1930s, adults worried that kids "threatening" people with tricks if they didn't get candy would encourage them to become criminals later in life.
- \* The first cigarette lighter was invented three years before the first friction match.
- \* In 1993, a Mexican zoo owner was arrested for illegally purchasing an FBI agent in a gorilla suit, thinking the agent was an actual gorilla.
- \* On his deathbed, Steve Jobs asked for five different oxygen masks so he could choose the one with the best design.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "To acquire knowledge, one must study, but to acquire wisdom, one must observe." -- Marilyn vos Savant

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**The Garden Bug**

*Ailanthus altissima*, known as Chinese sumac or tree-of-heaven, is native to China. In the late 1700s, it was brought to the U.S. as an attractive, fast-growing ornamental tree. Since then it has spread throughout much of North America, filling fields and forests with its dense thickets, destroying habitats and crowding agricultural fields and roadsides. It can regrow even when most of the plant is thought to be removed, and it is tolerant of poor soil and drought. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: [www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org), [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)



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by Freddy Groves

## Recent accomplishments at the VA

The headline said it all: The VA has processed more disability claims in one year than they've ever done before. They surpassed last year's total months before the end of this fiscal year. Specifically, the backlog of veterans waiting for benefits is down over 37%.

And that's not all the VA is accomplishing. In the last six months, the VA has opened 16 new health care clinics scattered around the country. Fredericksburg and North Battlefield Clinics in Virginia, Florence Clinic in South Carolina, and 13 more. Fingers crossed that the planned clinics for 2026 will happen as well.

They're spending an additional \$800 million to upgrade existing facilities. Elevators, sprinklers and fire alarms, boilers and air conditioning and more -- all in the name of making the facilities better for veterans and staff.

The VA has made it easier for veterans to access community health care, cutting out the middle steps that dragged things out. Additionally, there are 30 categories of care that only require an authorization once a year.

They've identified and saved \$106 million from duplicate billings caused by cases where millions of veterans were enrolled in both VA health care and Medicare. Providers were double billing, raking in the cash, and now the VA is going after that money.

Ten thousand workers have been brought back to the office, no longer able to telework. There are eligibility criteria to continue to work remotely, such as a disability or living more than 50 miles from work, but for the most part, they are back in the office.

The VA is phasing out treatment of gender dysphoria; in other words, stopping voice training, wigs, chest binders, hormone therapy and other sex change services. The saved money will instead go to helping amputees and paralyzed veterans.

Veterans at some locations say there is a shortage of physicians and other medical staff, but for the most part it looks like the VA is moving in the right direction.

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## Wishing Well®

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4	5	8	6	5	8	6	4	5	8	6	8	6
W	P	E	C	E	D	E	S	N	G	S	E	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. SCIENCE: Which of the major oceans is the saltiest?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which two primary colors mix to make the color purple?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Falkland Islands located?
4. MOVIES: What are the villains in the movie "Transformers" called?
5. LITERATURE: Hercule Poirot is a detective featured in more than 30 of which author's novels?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many olfactory receptors are in a dog's nose on average?
7. MUSIC: When did the Woodstock Music and Art Fair take place in rural New York state?
8. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear of speaking in public called?
9. U.S. STATES: In which state is the Rocky Mountain National Park located?
10. LANGUAGE: What is the most commonly used letter in the English alphabet?

### Answers

1. The Atlantic Ocean.
2. Red and blue.
3. South Atlantic Ocean.
4. Decepticons.
5. Agatha Christie.
6. 300 million.
7. August 1969.
8. Glossophobia.
9. Colorado.
10. The letter "e."

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South Dakota Governor



**Larry Rhoden**



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

## Results

Growing up on the ranch, you learn that results matter. No matter how much you wish it might rain or wish it wouldn't hail, the only thing that matters is whether it did – the actual result. And it doesn't matter whether you planned to do a task – what matters is whether you got it accomplished – the actual result.

Results matter. And I'm pretty proud of some of our recent results to keep South Dakota safe.

We recently wrapped up the first saturation patrol in the Sioux Falls area as part of Operation: Prairie Thunder. I shared the results with some members of the media, but I'd like to share them with all of you, as well.

Some questioned whether the saturation patrol would be effective, and the results speak for themselves. Our Highway Patrol troopers worked with local law enforcement to target drug hotspots around Sioux Falls over a three-day operation. Here are the results:

- 174 drug charges, including 44 felony charges;

- 44 arrests for outstanding warrants, including 24 felony warrants – that means we got 24 felons off the streets;

- 336 traffic citations, plus 256 warnings and 6 DUIs;

- Eight illegal aliens handed over to ICE (these were incidental contacts – we weren't seeking out illegal aliens);

- Three members of gangs and cartel affiliates arrested; and

- Four absconders (whether for parole or probation) arrested.

Nice work to the fifteen Highway Patrol troopers who surged to Sioux Falls for the operation and achieved those incredible results!

I also want to take the opportunity to say "thank you" to a woman who focused on results throughout her entire time as a leader of one of our state agencies. Secretary of Corrections Kellie Wasko recently announced that she'll be stepping down from her role in October. Over her three-and-a-half years in the job, she accomplished some pretty great things for the state.

I'd like to share just a few of the many results she achieved during her tenure:

- Raised pay for correctional officers by 43% and reduced officer vacancies from 36% down to 3%;

- Upgraded equipment, both for our correctional officers and for security at our prison facilities;

- Improved policies and trainings to promote staff security;

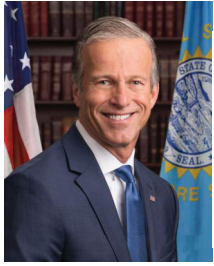
- Improved inmate health programs, including curing over 300 offenders with Hepatitis C;

- Reduced escapes from our prisons from 41 to just 1 in just three years;

- Started construction of a new women's prison in Rapid City, which is ahead of schedule.

I'm sure I'm leaving some out, but you get the point – her positive results were many and widely varied. Thank you, Kellie. I look forward to seeing the results that you accomplish in your next role!

I'm going to continue focusing on delivering results to keep South Dakota strong, safe, and free. If there are any particular results you would like to see, please do not hesitate to let me know!



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

## Tax Relief for Hardworking Americans

Next year, working families in every county in South Dakota will see tax relief thanks to the One Big, Beautiful Bill. And because Republicans worked to make the tax cuts enacted in 2017 permanent, hardworking South Dakota families can be sure that they won't face a massive tax hike down the road, which means they can spend, invest, and save more of their hard-earned money with more certainty about the future.

In 2017, we lowered tax rates for every income level, doubled the child tax credit, and nearly doubled the standard deduction, among other reforms. This year, Republicans made those reforms permanent. Lower tax rates mean big savings for working families. The higher standard deduction both simplifies the process and lowers your tax burden. Plus, we enacted a new \$6,000 bonus deduction for seniors, giving roughly 200,000 South Dakota seniors more breathing room next tax season.

This bill also eliminated taxes on tips and overtime pay. That will bring significant tax savings for millions of workers who earn tips. And folks like first responders, police officers, nurses, and other workers picking up extra shifts and earning overtime pay will now be able to keep more of their hard-earned money too.

South Dakota small business owners, farmers, and ranchers will also see tax relief because of this bill. They will benefit from lower tax rates and the 199A small business deduction, as well as from investment incentives that make it easier to invest in new equipment and free up cash to invest in their employees and operations. And this bill raises the death tax exemption threshold, which means a lot more family-owned businesses, farms, and ranches won't have to worry about a big tax bill wiping out what they've spent their lives building when they pass their business down to the next generation.

We also included a number of provisions to the tax code that benefit South Dakota families. We further raised the child tax credit and created new investment accounts for children that come with an initial \$1,000 from the government. The money that families invest in these accounts can be used down the road for children's education, to buy their first home, or start a business – to get a running start on their American Dream.

Thanks to this bill, America's tax code is now permanently oriented toward supporting working families, building up our nation's economy, and creating jobs here at home. I'm proud that Republicans have delivered permanent tax relief, and I'm eager to see the results begin to play out in South Dakota and across America.



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## Guest Column:

### "Attending West Point was the Greatest Adventure of My Life"

By Landon, Rep. Dusty Johnson's Military and Veteran Services Representative

I was in fifth grade when the 9/11 terrorist attacks happened. From then on, I knew I wanted to serve my country, and I joined as soon as I could. In fact, the month I turned 17 is when I joined the Army National Guard with my parents' permission.

I became an infantryman in the Iowa National Guard, and in 2011, saw combat in Afghanistan. As the end of my deployment drew near, I began to think about what would come next. I had already spent a year at South Dakota State University, and I wondered if I would go back there. But I felt it would be hard for me to go back to a "normal" school environment after my experiences in Afghanistan. I wanted more purpose and direction in my life.

I decided I wanted to serve my country full-time and was willing to accept the challenge and burden of leadership as an officer. I wanted to be around other driven, military-focused people like me, like those at a United States Service Academy. I decided to apply to the United States Military Academy, commonly known as West Point.

After I applied, my commander nominated me, which is an option given to only about 100 enlisted service members for each academy. I also pursued additional nominations from my Congresswoman and Senators. Before I could complete the application process for these nominations, I was accepted by West Point for the Class of 2016.

Attending West Point was the greatest adventure of my life. I was pushed to my limits and grew in many ways. I met other determined and driven people like me and gained confidence as I accomplished things I didn't know I could do.

After West Point, the challenges only increased. I became an Infantry Officer and successfully completed Ranger School. I led and trained a platoon of 46 soldiers and deployed with them to Afghanistan. Later, I became a Company Executive Officer, and finally a Ranger Instructor at the school I went to at the start of my officer career. Now, I am the Military and Veteran Services Representative for Congressman Dusty Johnson.

My experiences at the Academy and in the Army shaped who I am today. It is a path that is not for the weak or fainthearted, but I wouldn't trade it for anything.

Congressman Dusty Johnson's office is accepting Service Academy nominations for the Class of 2030 at the Air Force Academy, Naval Academy, Merchant Marine Academy, and Military Academy at West Point. For anyone who thinks they're up to the challenge, I encourage you to apply to attend a Service Academy.

Information and nomination applications can be found at <https://dustyjohnson.house.gov/services/service-academy-nominations> or you can call our office at 605-275-2868.



Landon in uniform

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

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## Swimming in an Ocean of Pills

I have a confession to make. I never realized that the older I get, the more difficult life seems to be. Oh, for those good ole days.

As a young person, I thought that when I got older, all of my problems would be solved. At the time, I did not know all the problems I was going to face in life. Maybe that's why my face looks like it does!

The one thing I never really anticipated was the medical issue. I never thought that I would be swimming in an ocean of pills as I got older. Every time I see my doctor, he has a new pill for me.

There seems to be a pill for every problem in the world. If I could come up with a pill for being crazy, I would be a very wealthy man in no time. But no matter how many pills I have been prescribed, not one of those pills has anything to do with my being crazy. I'm crazy, no matter how many pills I take.

Every time I go to see my doctor, Dr. Pills-A-Lot, he has some new pill for me. I've seen him so many times that if you look at the pills on the table, you would think I was a drug addict.

It started a few years ago when I was hit with shingles. Fortunately, I caught it in time, so it didn't get as bad as it could have. Then, a few years later, I had a heart attack, which required more pills. Then, this year I had several skin cancers removed. All of that stuff required pills.

There is no way under God's beautiful heaven that I could ever manage all of those pills. I have to take certain ones at breakfast, then at lunch, and then after supper. If I had to pick them, I would not know which one is which. To me, a pill looks the same. I know there are some with different colors. But at my stage, what does that really matter?

I have one thing that gets me through all of this pill management. That is, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She manages all of my pills all of the time. If I had to manage my pills, I probably would forget to take any.

But she manages my pill regimen quite successfully. Every week, she prepares my pills for the week. Every day she has laid out all the pills I need to take and when I need to take them.

Even when she has to go out of town with our daughters for five days, she always sets up all the pills I need to take and when to take them.

She also manages my doctor visits. I hate visiting my doctor. I know when I visit my doctor and he examines me, he will find something that needs a pill.

I have to be careful what I say in front of her. If I happen to mention that I have a pain somewhere, she jumps into action and gets a pill for me. I'm not sure what that pill is for or what it is, but she insists I take it.



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There is one pill that she hasn't been able to discover, and that is the pill for the Silly Boy Syndrome, of which I have most assuredly.

If, for example, I happen not to take my pills for breakfast and she discovers it, then she says, "What's wrong with you, you silly boy?"

Once I snuck into the kitchen and quietly opened the freezer door where there was some ice cream and began to pick one up and who should walk into the kitchen but The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She looked at me and said, "You silly boy, you're not getting ice cream are you?"

And I can name several other ones, but evidently, she is convinced that I have the Silly Boy Syndrome. I once dared to ask her, "Oh, my dear, do you have a pill for that?"

I don't have to tell you that she was not smiling as she looked at me with both hands on her hips. I never said it out loud after that. But I thought it quite a few times.

She knows as much about my pills as the doctors do. She knows all by name and knows exactly what they're for. At least, that's what she tells me.

I'm not sure what I would do without her supervision of my pills. I certainly couldn't keep up with all the pills that the doctors prescribed for me.

I thought I had for some time, what would happen if, for one week, I didn't take my pills?

The worst scenario would be that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would find it out, and you know what would happen after that.

Regularly taking my pills cures two things. The first, of course, is my health. But the second, more important, is it makes my wife happy.. And when she's happy, I'll take as many pills as is needed.

I couldn't help but think of my favorite Bible verse. Proverbs 17:22, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones."

Sometimes it takes effort to have a merry heart. But, believe me, it is well worth the effort not only for me but for those around me.

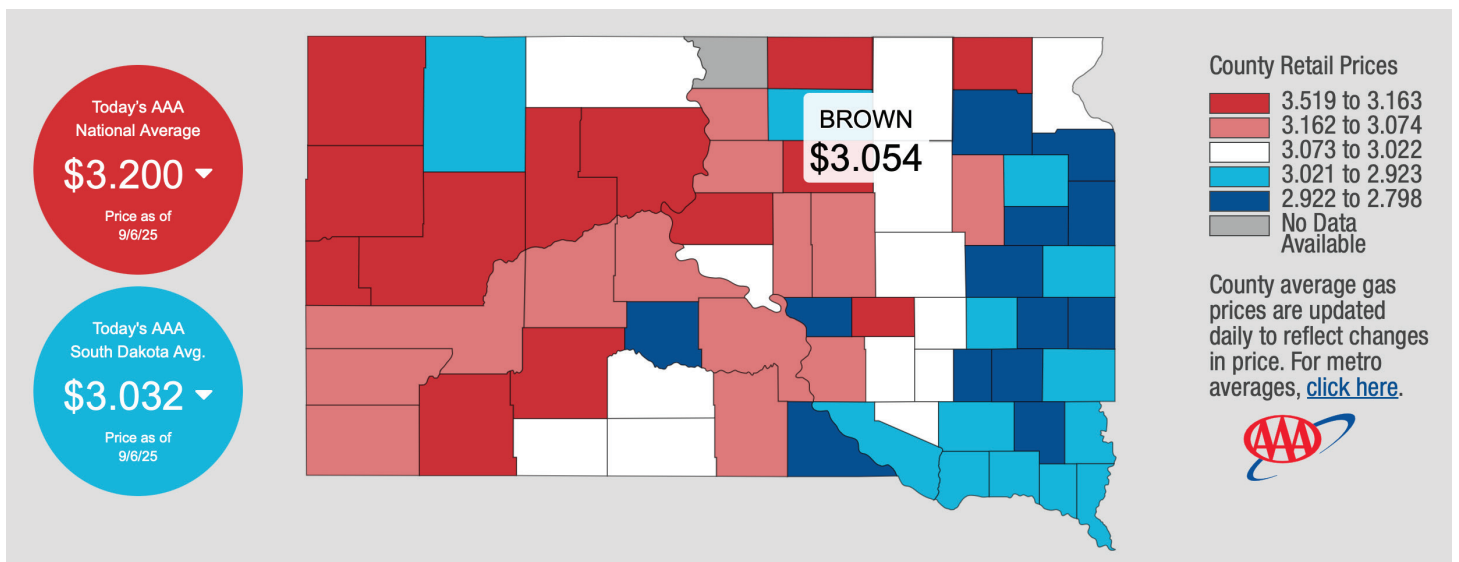
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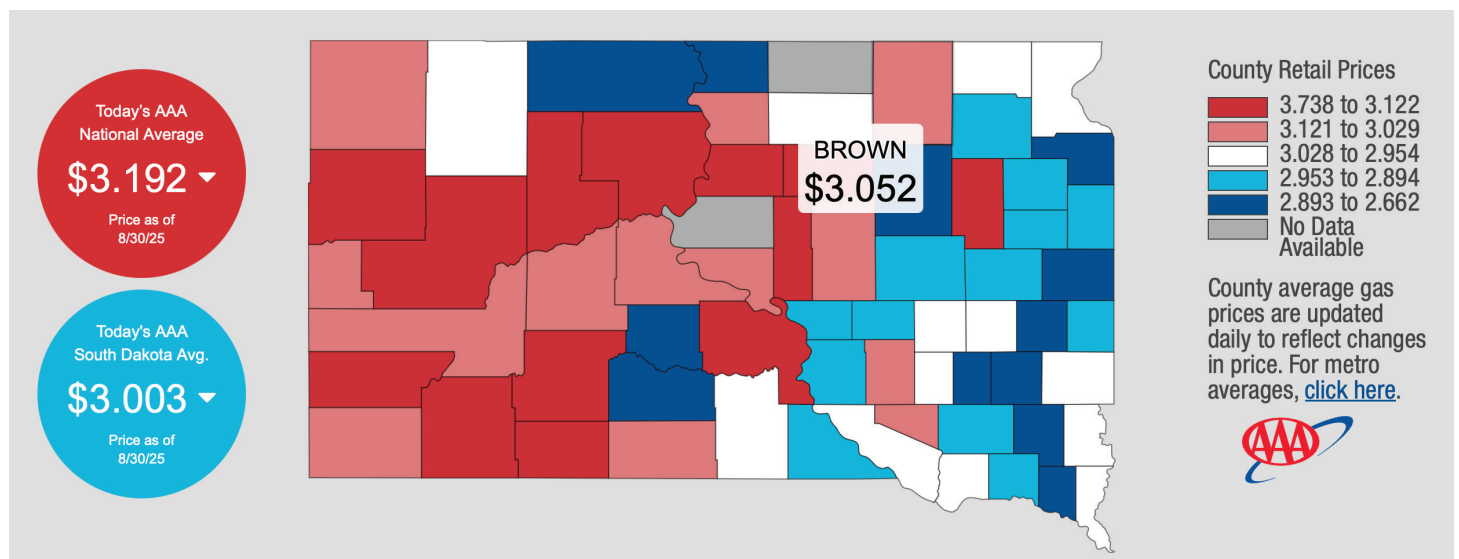
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.032	\$3.194	\$3.663	\$3.434
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.040	\$3.189	\$3.658	\$3.423
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.003	\$3.183	\$3.653	\$3.371
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.024	\$3.212	\$3.697	\$3.400
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.193	\$3.390	\$3.801	\$3.383

### This Week



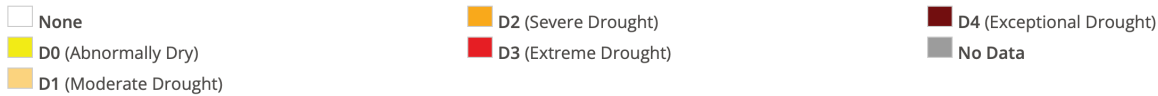
### Last Week



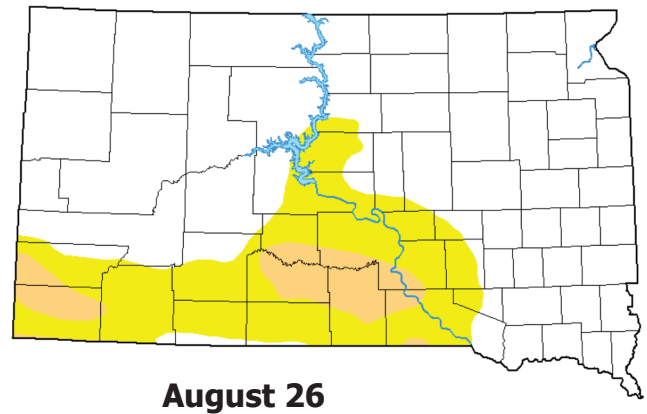
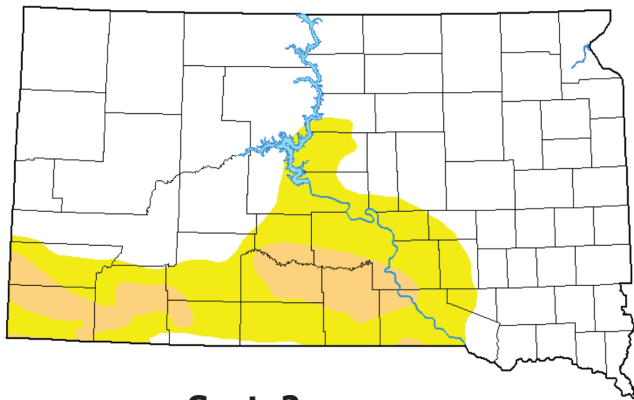
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## Drought Classification



## Drought Monitor



On this week's map, improvements were made in the region, namely in northern Kansas, and southern Nebraska, where some isolated shower activity (1 to 5+ inches) during the past week continued to help chip away at the longer-term precipitation deficits. For the past 60-day period, the Lincoln AP observed its 6th wettest on record with 10.24 inches (+3.69 departure from normal), according to the SERCC. Conversely, conditions deteriorated on the map in the southwestern extent of South Dakota where a combination of short and long-term precipitation deficits have persisted leading to expansion of areas of Moderate Drought (D1). For the week, above-normal temperatures (ranging from 2 to 10 degrees F) were logged across northern North Dakota, while much of the remainder of the region experienced below normal temperatures (ranging from 1 to 10 degrees F), especially in the southern extent of the entire region.



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## EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Are escaped balloons a problem for the environment and what can we do to prevent it from happening?

-- Meg D., Larchmont, NY

Escaped balloons have become a prevalent source of land and marine pollution worldwide, so much so that balloons were ranked as the third deadliest form of marine debris behind fishing gear and plastic bags. Marine debris, defined as human-created waste in large bodies of water, has significant negative impacts on wildlife, human health and safety, global economies and habitats.

One way balloons can impact wildlife is by entangling animals, leading to serious injury or death in extreme cases. Animals may also attempt to consume balloons, causing throat or digestive tract obstruction and gut damage. Christian Daniels, creator of the Desert Balloon Project, explained, "Desert tortoises mistake them for flowers and will eat them. The desert tortoises are already in danger with the constant building and loss of habitat and predation, and the mylar balloons cause another disturbance with them." Besides desert tortoises, birds and bighorn sheep are also often impacted.

Beyond impacts on marine life, balloons are a big contributor to marine and land pollution, as they're able to travel vast distances—over a thousand miles in certain cases. Foil Mylar balloons cannot break down and instead simply divide into smaller pieces of plastic. While the standard latex balloon is biodegradable, the breakdown process takes several months. The plastic pieces that do not break down end up as microplastics, turning up in lakes or rivers that are used as drinking sources. These microplastics can also degrade the beauty of coastal environments, leading to economic loss in tourist areas.

Furthermore, balloons are infrastructure hazards, as they can cause power outages. This is due to the conduciveness of their foil layer. Released balloons can also become entangled in power lines, leading to outages and damage to transmission equipment. These effects are so prevalent that Clean Virginia Waterways of Longwood University gathered evidence that up to 20 percent of electrical power outages are caused by balloons making contact with power lines.

To combat balloon pollution, various policies have been passed. For example, as a result of Christian Daniels's efforts, Nevada Governor Lombardo signed AB194 into law, which effectively banned balloon releases in the state. Nine other states in the U.S. have implemented laws against balloon releases, while several colleges have stopped balloon releases at football games.

Community efforts can help further tackle pollution. Thus far, the combined efforts of 16 million volunteers for the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup have collected 340 million pounds of trash. Other effective methods include ceasing balloon releases, particularly in large amounts, reusing balloons in good condition, and giving latex balloons to local recycling facilities after use. Through these collective efforts, the negative environmental effects of balloons can be significantly mitigated.



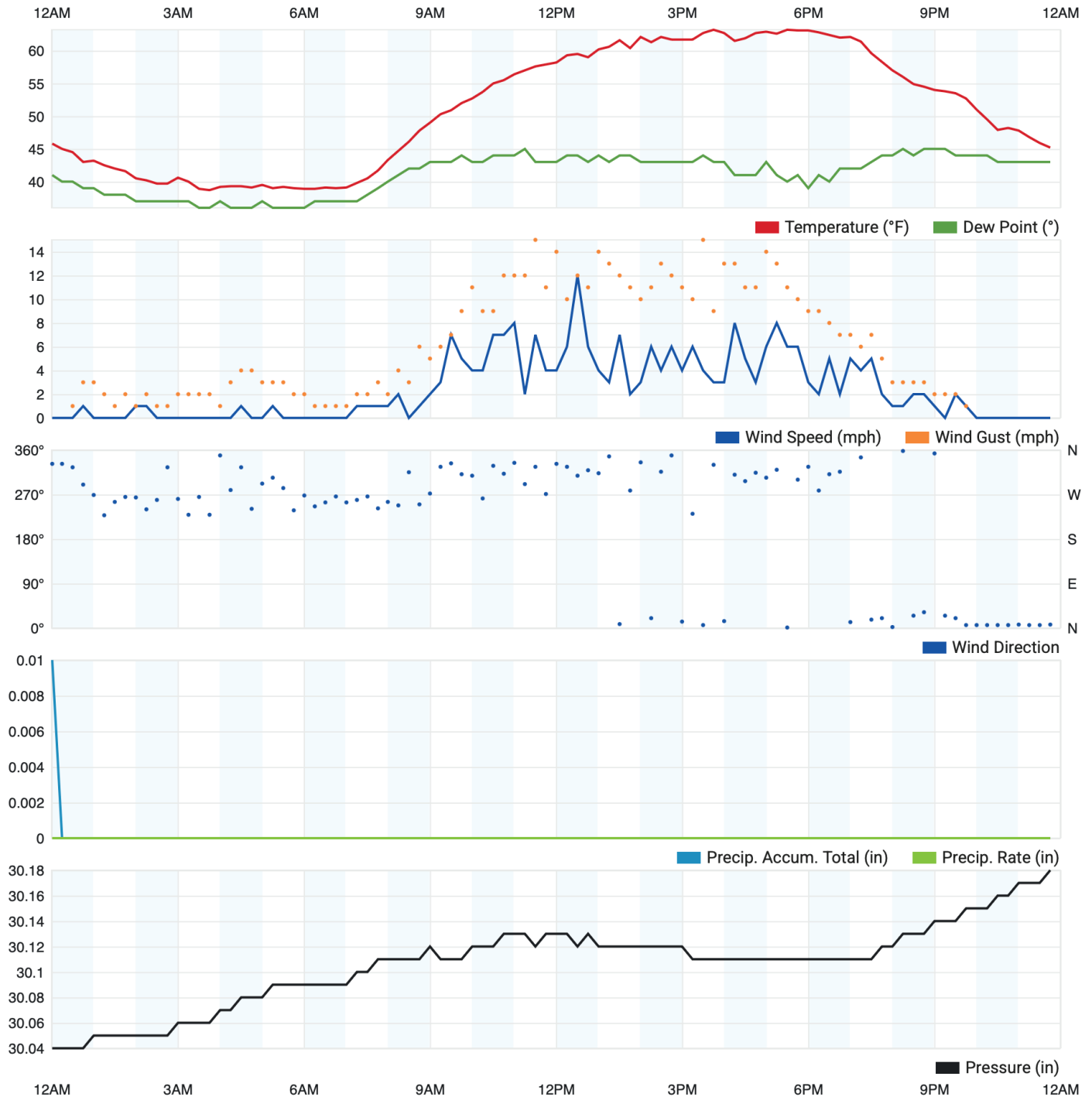
**Escaped balloons are increasingly becoming a nuisance and a contributor to the degradation of our natural environment...** Credit: Pexels.com.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

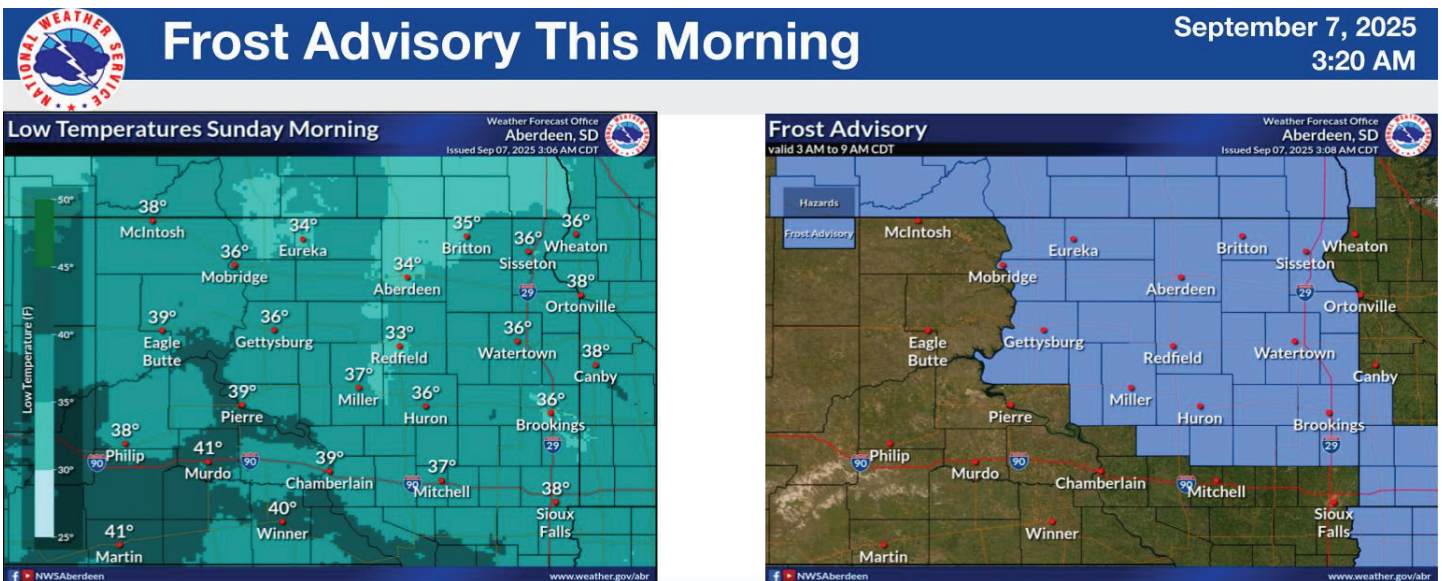
September 6, 2025



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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
<b>High: 70 °F</b>	<b>Low: 52 °F</b>	<b>High: 83 °F</b>	<b>Low: 56 °F</b>	<b>High: 81 °F</b>
Patchy Frost and Areas Fog then Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny



## Key Messages:

- A **Frost Advisory** is in effect for portions of north central, and northeastern SD from 3 to 9 AM CDT this morning
  - ◆ Temps are expected to drop into the mid to upper 30s that could result in frost formation
- **Impacts**- Frost could harm sensitive outdoor vegetation
  - ◆ **Sensitive outdoor plants may be killed if left uncovered**



Patchy frost is expected this morning, mainly east of the Missouri River, as temperatures drop into the 30s. A Frost Advisory is in effect for portions of north central and northeastern SD from 3 to 9 AM CDT.



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## Warmer Temperatures Ahead

Monday



Highs: 79-88°F  
Lows: 55-60°F

20-25% chance of  
PM showers/storms  
over far eastern SD

Tuesday



Highs: 77-88°F  
Lows: 55-59°F

Wednesday



Highs: 77-86°F  
Lows: 57-62°F

20-30% chance of  
PM showers/storms

Thursday



Highs: 77-86°F  
Lows: 61-64°F

20-30% chance of  
PM showers/storms



Looking ahead to the work week, highs in the 70s and 80s return, as do some shower/storm chances. Overnight lows will also be much warmer.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 64 °F at 3:46 PM**

**Low Temp: 38 °F at 3:47 AM**

**Wind: 17 mph at 5:00 PM**

**Precip: : 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 101 in 1897

Record Low: 29 in 1895

Average High: 78

Average Low: 50

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.47

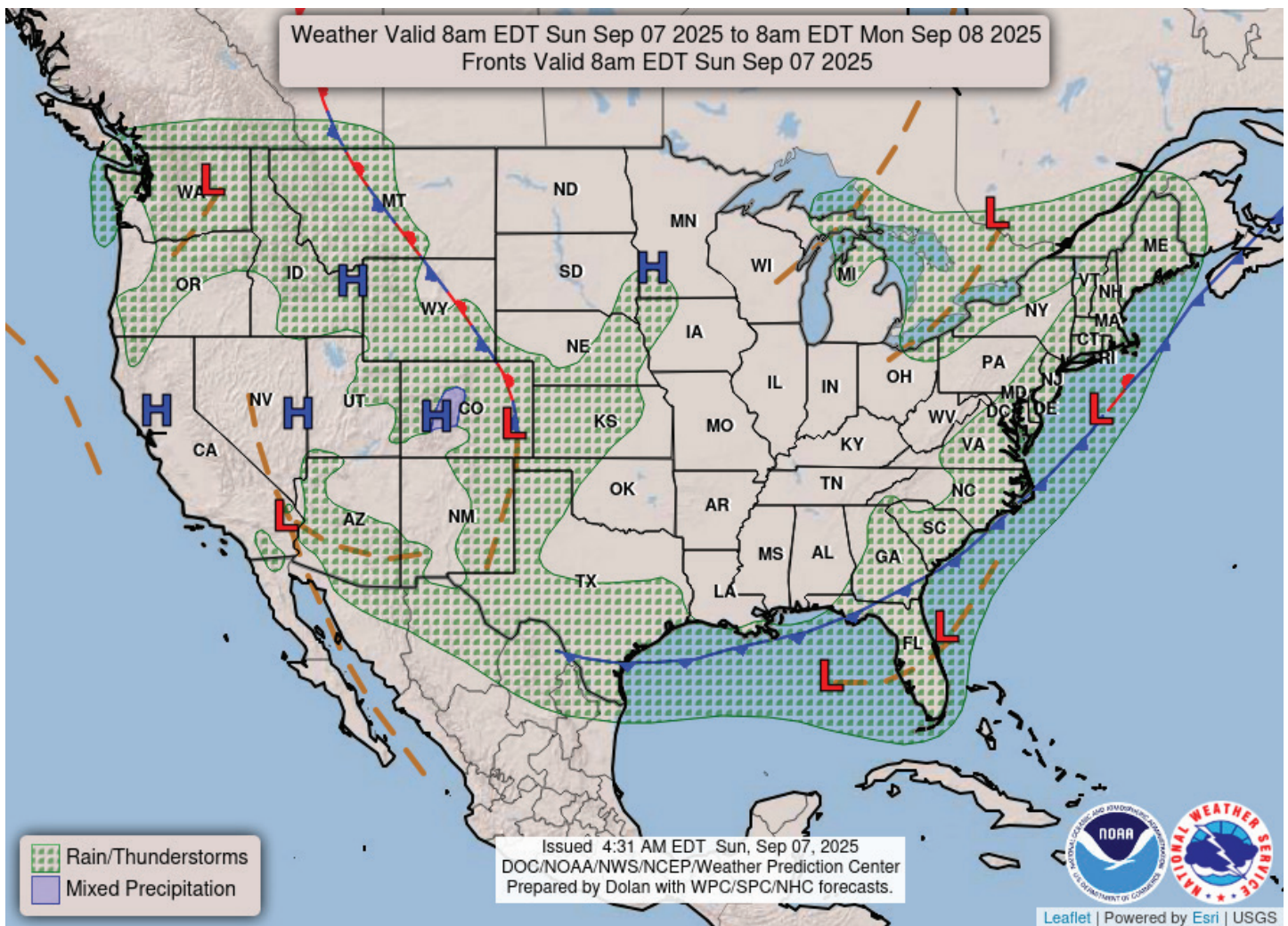
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.02

Average Precip to date: 16.81

Precip Year to Date: 20.32

Sunset Tonight: 7:59 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:02 am



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## **Today in Weather History**

September 7, 1961: A tornado struck a farm near the McPherson-Brown county line, or about 10 miles east and 2 miles north of Leola, at around 825 pm CDT. All farm buildings were destroyed, including two chicken coops, granary, machine shop, and two trailer homes. The house was pushed about a foot off its foundation and had windows broken, plaster cracked, and part of the roof ripped. A farm truck and tractor were both blown about 500 feet and demolished. Rain up to 2.5 inches and hail accompanied the storm and caused minor damage.

1769: Considered one of the worst storms of the Eighteenth century, this hurricane passed over Williamsburg, Virginia.

1881 - The temperature soared to 101 degrees at New York City, 102 degrees at Boston MA, and 104 degrees at Washington D.C. (David Ludlum)

1888 - Much of the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast Region experienced freezing temperatures. Killer frosts resulted in a million dollars damage to crops in Maine. (David Ludlum)

1909 - Topeka, KS, was drenched with 8.08 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a record for that location. (6th- 7th) (The Weather Channel)

1970 - A lightning bolt struck a group of football players at Gibbs High School in Saint Petersburg FL, killing two persons and injuring 22 others. All the thirty-eight players and four coaches were knocked off their feet. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms produced 4 to 8 inch rains in three to six hours in Virginia, with totals across the state for the Labor Day weekend ranging up to fourteen inches. The Staunton River crested at 34.44 feet at Altavista on the 8th, its highest level since 1940. Damage due to flooding was estimated at seven million dollars around Bedford, Henry, and Franklin. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Fifty cities across the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 56 degrees at Mobile AL was their coolest reading of record for so early in the season. The mercury dipped to 31 degrees at Athens OH, and to 30 degrees at Thomas WV. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms in the central U.S. produced four inches of rain at Texamah overnight, and up to six inches of rain in southwestern Iowa. Evening thunderstorms in eastern Colorado produced golf ball size hail at Clear Creek and at Nederland. Late evening thunderstorms in Iowa drenched Harlan with more than four inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1998: Two Derechos occurred on this day with one affecting most of Pennsylvania and New York City, the other impacting central New York.



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*Seeds of Hope*  
Guido Ministries

Our skills and talents are gifts from God — and what we do with them is our gift to God...

Unfortunately, most of us do it without thinking about it. It has become part of our nature, and we do it constantly — much to the displeasure of God.

The "It"? Rewarding the undeserving.

Our hearts go out to them: the unfortunates. Because we think of them as being unfortunate. Or incapable. Or unable. Or not having had opportunities. Or not having a teacher or mentor or who or whatever it took to get what they are or got. But if they were or are capable of getting what they got, according to Solomon, the "it" is not fitting. Rarely do we think of them as being what we must come to accept: the unwilling. This is a category that we have allowed to become eroded in our thinking and behavior.

"It is not fitting for a fool to live in luxury," wrote Solomon.

Perhaps we need to look at it is not fitting more closely. It is more accurately translated as inappropriate. This is the point he wants us to understand, accept, and apply.

Unearned gifts to others, no matter how deserving we may think the recipient is, do not reflect God's wisdom. Those gifts, the "its" of life, are not a result of a person living according to the teachings of God's Word or the application of His wisdom.

Our skills and talents are gifts from God — and what we do with them is our gift to God. Developing our skills and talents to enjoy the luxuries of life is important and most of all, God-honoring.

Receiving an inheritance, winning the lottery, or receiving any gift that is unearned often reveals a person's flawed character. Unearned gifts are often squandered in the pursuit of selfish and self-centered luxuries that are unneeded, unnecessary, and ungodly.

There is nothing essentially wrong with having luxuries. But there is something wrong with not earning them by honoring God's ways and wisdom.

The wealth that comes from hard work honors God because we learn the value of earning the "luxuries" that He gives us as rewards.

Today's Prayer: Work began in Creation. It is something You did willingly and nobly and set the example for us to follow. May we honor You and then enjoy the fruits of our labor. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "It is not fitting for a fool to live in luxury - how much worse for a slave to rule over princes!" Proverbs 19:10

*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: 09.05.25

6 14 36 58 62 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$358,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.06.25

3 9 35 39 48 1

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$2,650,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.06.25

4 12 14 15 21 9

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 41 Mins 19 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.06.25

6 23 26 31 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$20,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.06.25

21 29 34 41 65 17

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.06.25

11 23 44 61 62 17

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$20,000,000**

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

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## News from the **AP** Associated Press

### **Mason throws two OT touchdowns, FCS No. 2 South Dakota State defeats FCS No. 3 Montana State 30-24**

BOZEMAN, Mont. (AP) — Chase Mason threw three touchdowns passes, including two in overtime, and FCS No. 2 South Dakota State defeated third-ranked Montana State 30-24 on Saturday night.

The Jackrabbits (2-0) scored twice in three plays across the two overtime periods, and the defense held Montana State five yards short to complete the victory.

In the first overtime, Mason found Jayden Oliver from two yards out for a score, but Montana State answered with a 2-yard rushing score from Adam Jones. And in the second overtime, Mason connected with Brayden Delahoyde on the first play of the drive.

Lofton O'Groske had 11 receptions for 139 yards and a touchdown, scoring in the fourth quarter for SDSU's second touchdown. Julius Loughridge had 83 yards rushing on 23 attempts.

SDSU held Montana State to 5 for 15 on third downs and forced two turnovers.

The Bobcats (0-2) were led by Justin Lamson's 96 yards rushing on 20 carries and one touchdown.

The Jackrabbits have won three straight and five of their six meetings against Montana State.

\_\_\_ Get poll alerts and updates on the AP Top 25 throughout the season. Sign up here. AP college football: <https://apnews.com/hub/ap-top-25-college-football-poll> and <https://apnews.com/hub/college-football>

### **PREP FOOTBALL**

Brandon Valley 55, Rapid City Stevens 3

Sioux Falls Jefferson 47, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 0

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

### **PREP VOLLEYBALL**

Aberdeen Central def. Huron, 25-22, 23-25, 25-21, 25-16

Burke def. Lyman, 25-9, 25-18

Castlewood def. Sioux Valley, 23-25, 25-20, 25-15, 25-16

Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-17, 27-25

Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-13, 25-20

Edgemont def. Colome, 25-15, 25-14

Estelline-Hendricks def. Waubay/Summit, 25-22, 25-20

Estelline-Hendricks def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-11, 25-18

Great Plains Lutheran def. Langford, 14-25, 25-19, 25-13

Great Plains Lutheran def. Waubay/Summit, 25-18, 25-10

Gregory def. Edgemont, 22-25, 25-21, 25-22

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Dell Rapids St Mary's, 27-25, 25-22

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Estelline-Hendricks, 18-25, 25-22, 25-25

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Langford, 25-11, 25-5

Langford def. Wilmot, 25-17, 19-25, 25-21

Lyman def. Bennett County, 25-22, 25-22

Lyman def. Colome, 25-8, 25-9

Lyman def. Edgemont, 25-10, 25-21

Mitchell def. T F Riggs High School, 25-12, 25-14, 25-16

Sturgis Brown High School def. Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud, 25-14, 25-14, 25-21

Todd County def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-10, 25-14, 25-15

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Waubay/Summit def. Wilmot, 25-10, 25-17  
Waverly-South Shore def. Wilmot, 25-5, 25-12  
Canton Volleyball Invitational=  
Canton def. Garretson, 25-15, 25-20  
Garretson def. West Sioux, Iowa, 25-14, 25-18  
Vermillion def. Garretson, 25-16, 25-17  
Gillette Invitational=  
Bronze Bracket=  
Semifinal=  
Rapid City Central def. Wheatland, Wyo., 25-17, 25-22  
Championship=  
Rapid City Central def. Riverton, Wyo., 25-22, 25-17  
Gold Bracket=  
Cody, Wyo. def. Rapid City Christian, 25-27, 25-15, 15-13  
Laramie, Wyo. def. Spearfish, 23-25, 25-13, 15-9  
Rapid City Stevens def. Sundance, Wyo., 25-27, 25-20, 17-16  
Consolation=  
Rapid City Christian def. Sundance, Wyo., 25-21, 22-25, 15-13  
Semifinal=  
Cody, Wyo. def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-20, 23-25, 16-14  
Silver Bracket=  
Big Horn, Wyo. def. St Thomas More, 25-9, 17-25, 15-12  
Consolation=  
St Thomas More def. Douglas, Wyo., 25-16, 25-19  
I Have A Dream Volleyball Tournament=  
Beresford def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-16, 25-15  
Beresford def. Corsica/Stickney, 22-25, 25-11, 25-20  
Beresford def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 23-25, 25-23, 25-20  
Centerville def. Canistota, 25-16, 18-25, 25-23  
Corsica/Stickney def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-19, 25-19  
Corsica/Stickney def. Deubrook, 26-24, 25-23  
Deubrook def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 22-25, 25-20, 25-18  
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Menno, 25-13, 25-11  
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-12, 25-17  
Ethan def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-18, 25-19  
Ethan def. Tri-Valley, 25-27, 25-23, 25-22  
Ethan def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-21, 25-15  
Gayville-Volin High School def. Centerville, 25-17, 25-17  
Gayville-Volin High School def. Howard, 25-11, 25-14  
Gayville-Volin High School def. Platte-Geddes, 25-9, 25-13  
Gayville-Volin High School def. Wessington Springs, 25-12, 25-16  
Irene-Wakonda def. Sioux Falls Lutheran, 28-26, 25-20  
Madison def. Canistota, 25-13, 25-19  
Madison def. Deubrook, 25-10, 25-18  
Madison def. Platte-Geddes, 25-13, 25-17  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-20, 25-17  
Parkston def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-11, 25-10  
Parkston def. Howard, 25-9, 25-13  
Parkston def. Wessington Springs, 25-12, 25-16  
Platte-Geddes def. Canistota, 25-16, 25-21



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Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Howard, 25-12, 25-20  
Tri-Valley def. Menno, 25-8, 25-17  
Tri-Valley def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-18, 25-16  
Viborg-Hurley def. Menno, 25-15, 25-23  
Wessington Springs def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-22, 25-23  
Semifinal=  
Gayville-Volin High School def. Ethan, 25-10, 25-18  
Madison def. Parkston, 25-16, 25-21  
Championship=  
Madison def. Gayville-Volin High School, 25-13, 25-19  
Millard West Tournament=  
Gold=  
Lincoln North Star, Neb. def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 21-25, 25-18, 26-24  
Pool B=  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Bennington, Neb., 25-20, 24-26, 25-20  
Southwest Minnesota Challenge=  
Bloomington Jefferson, Minn. def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 17-25, 25-13, 15-10  
Owatonna, Minn. def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-18, 25-21  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Medford, Minn., 25-20, 25-22  
White River Triangular=  
Stanley County def. Little Wound, 21-25, 25-23, 25-12, 25-16  
White River def. Stanley County, 25-23, 25-22, 25-15

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

## **Opportune scoring lifts Lamar over South Dakota in 20-13 upset**

BEAUMONT, Texas (AP) — Robert Coleman and Josh Robinson each scored on the ground and Lamar overcame an early 10-point deficit to pull off the upset of FCS No. 4 South Dakota, 20-13.

Despite managing just 204 yards of offense, the Cardinals (1-1) took advantage of scoring opportunities when they had them. They were 3 for 3 on fourth-down conversions and scored on 67% of their drives.

Lamar forced a turnover on downs on South Dakota's final drive, holding them to four yards in four plays. The Cardinals then ran out the clock to complete the upset victory.

Major Bowden led with 48 rushing yards, and Jaydn Girard reeled in three catches for 25 yards. Coleman was 8-for-16 for 65 yards through the air, and added 23 yards on the ground.

Ben Woodard was good on both of his field goal attempts, connecting from 30 and 26 yards out.

Defensively, Brayden Faulkner and Kevin Thomas each had six total tackles.

Aidan Bouman threw for 108 yards and a touchdown for the Coyotes (0-2), and L.J. Phillips Jr. rushed for 60 yards on 14 carries.

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## **Chicago's Mexican Independence Day celebrations shadowed by Trump's threats for the city**

By CHRISTINE FERNANDO, BEN FINLEY, MELINA WALLING and SARAH RAZA Associated Press  
CHICAGO (AP) — President Donald Trump's plan to dispatch National Guard troops and immigration agents into Chicago has put many Latino residents on edge, prompting some to carry their U.S. passports while giving others pause about openly celebrating the upcoming Mexican Independence Day.

Though the holiday falls on Sept. 16, celebrations in Chicago span more than a week and draw hundreds

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of thousands of participants. Festivities kicked off with a Saturday parade through the heavily Mexican Pilsen neighborhood and will continue with car caravans and lively street parties.

But this year, the typically joyful period coincides with Trump's threats to add Chicago to the list of other Democratic-led cities he has targeted for expanded federal enforcement.

His administration has said it will step up immigration enforcement in Chicago, as it did in Los Angeles, and would deploy National Guard troops. In addition to sending troops to Los Angeles in June, Trump deployed them last month in Washington, D.C., as part of his unprecedented law enforcement takeover of the nation's capital.

Trump posted an illustration of himself against a Chicago-skyline ablaze with flames and helicopters on Truth Social on Saturday.

"Chicago about to find out why it's called the Department of WAR," he posted, along with "I love the smell of deportations in the morning," referencing a 1979 war film. Trump has ordered the Defense Department to be renamed the Department of War.

"The President of the United States is threatening to go to war with an American city," Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker wrote on the social platform X. "Illinois won't be intimidated by a wannabe dictator."

Although details about the promised Chicago operation have been sparse, there's already widespread opposition as protesters marched through downtown on Saturday evening. State and city leaders have said they plan to sue the Trump administration.

Mixed feelings about postponing festivities

The extended Mexican Independence Day celebrations reflect the size and vitality of Chicago's Mexican American community. Mexicans make up more than one-fifth of the city's total population and about 74% of its Latino residents, according to 2022 U.S. Census estimates.

Parade and festival organizers have been divided over whether to move forward with precautions or postpone, in hopes that it will feel safer for many participants to have a true celebration in several months' time. El Grito Chicago, a downtown Mexican Independence Day festival set for next weekend, was postponed this week by organizers in order to protect people.

"But also we just refuse to let our festival be a pawn in this political game," said Germán González, an organizer of El Grito Chicago.

In Pilsen and Little Village, two of the city's best-known neighborhoods with restaurants, businesses and cultural ties to Mexican culture, residents expressed disappointment that the potential federal intervention instilled such fear and anxiety in the community at a time usually characterized by joy, togetherness and celebration of Mexican American heritage.

Celebrating, but with precautions

On Saturday morning, some parade-goers grabbed free, bright-orange whistles and flyers from volunteers standing outside the Lozano Branch of the Chicago Public Library. "Blow the whistle on ICE!" the flyers read, encouraging a nonviolent tactic to raise alarm if they saw agents.

Marchers held up cardboard signs painted with monarch butterflies, the migratory species that travels between the U.S. and Mexico. Many cheered "Viva Mexico!"

Drivers of vintage cars honked their horns and a drummer kept time for a group of dancers bedecked in feathers. Horseback riders clip-clopped down the street, and one lifted up a large Mexican flag.

Claudia Alvarez, whose 10-year-old daughter was nearby riding a pony, said it's important that politicians see people out celebrating, though the crowd seemed smaller this year.

"At these hours you should be able to see plenty of people in the streets enjoying themselves, but now there's not really a lot of people," she said.

Fabio Fernandez, 39, owner of an art and T-shirt company with a residency at a Pilsen streetwear shop, called it "troubling" and "disheartening" that the possibility of federal intervention has impacted celebrations.

He said there's a mood of anxiety in the neighborhood, which has translated to lower sales and reduced foot traffic for local businesses like his, Fernandez said.

"Come back to 18th Street. Support small businesses here. They're still working hard as hell to keep

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their businesses alive," he said.

Alejandro Vences, 30, became a U.S. citizen this year, "which gives me some comfort during this time," he said while eating pozole verde at a local Mexican restaurant. Still, he said, the anxiety is palpable.

"For us, our Independence Day has always been a celebration of our culture," he said. "It's always been a celebration of who we are. It feels like we don't get to celebrate our culture in the same way."

Protest against ICE

A few miles away in downtown, more than a thousand protesters marched through the streets on Saturday evening with signs bearing slogans like "I.C.E. out of Illinois, I.C.E. out of everywhere."

Speakers offered the crowd instructions on what to do if encountering Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. They also drew comparisons between the proposed ICE crackdown on Chicago and Israel's presence in Gaza.

"We are inspired by the steadfastness of Palestinians in Gaza, and it is why we refuse to cower to Trump and his threats," Nazek Sankari, co-chair of the U.S. Palestinian Community Network, said to the crowd as many waved Palestinian flags and donned keffiyehs.

Viviana Barajas, leader with the community organization Palenque LSNA, promised that Chicagoans would "stand up" as Los Angeles had if Trump deploys the National Guard in their city.

"If he thinks these frivolous theatrics to undermine our sovereignty will shut out the passion we have for protecting our people, this is Chicago, and he is sorely mistaken," Barajas said. "We have been studying LA and D.C., and they have stood up for their cities."

Finley reported from Norfolk, Virginia and Raza reported from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Associated Press writers Morgan Lee in Santa Fe and Cal Woodward in Washington contributed.

## **What to know about a large-scale immigration raid at a Georgia manufacturing plant**

By HALLIE GOLDEN Associated Press

Hundreds of federal agents descended on a sprawling site where Hyundai manufactures electric vehicles in Georgia and detained 475 people, most of them South Korean nationals.

This is the latest in a long line of workplace raids conducted as part of the Trump administration's mass deportation agenda. But the one on Thursday is especially distinct because of its large size and the fact that it targeted a manufacturing site state officials have long called Georgia's largest economic development project.

The detainment of South Korean nationals also sets it apart, as they are rarely caught up in immigration enforcement compared to other nationalities.

Video released by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Saturday showed a caravan of vehicles driving up to the site and then federal agents directing workers to line up outside. Some detainees were ordered to put their hands up against a bus as they were frisked and then shackled around their hands, ankles and waist. Others had plastic ties around their wrists as they boarded a Georgia inmate-transfer bus.

Here are some things to know about the raid and the people impacted:

The workers detained

South Korea's Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Saturday that more than 300 South Koreans were among the 475 people detained.

Some of them worked for the battery plant operated by HL-GA Battery Co., a joint venture by Hyundai and LG Energy Solution that is slated to open next year, while others were employed by contractors and subcontractors at the construction site, according to Steven Schrank, the lead Georgia agent of Homeland Security Investigations.

He said that some of the detained workers had illegally crossed the U.S. border, while others had entered the country legally but had expired visas or had entered on a visa waiver that prohibited them from working.



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But an immigration attorney representing two of the detained workers said his clients arrived from South Korea under a visa waiver program that enables them to travel for tourism or business for stays of 90 days or less without obtaining a visa.

Attorney Charles Kuck said one of his clients has been in the U.S. for a couple of weeks, while the other has been in the country for about 45 days, adding that they had been planning to return home soon.

The detainees also included a lawful permanent resident who was kept in custody for having a prior record involving firearm and drug offenses, since committing a crime of "moral turpitude" can put their status in jeopardy, Lindsay Williams, a public affairs officer for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said Saturday.

Williams denied reports that U.S. citizens had been detained at the site since "once citizens have identified themselves, we have no authority."

Hyundai Motor Company said in a statement Friday that none of its employees had been detained as far as it knew and that it is reviewing its practices to make sure suppliers and subcontractors follow U.S. employment laws. LG told The Associated Press that it couldn't immediately confirm how many of its employees or Hyundai workers had been detained.

The South Korean government expressed "concern and regret" over the operation targeting its citizens and is sending diplomats to the site.

"The business activities of our investors and the rights of our nationals must not be unjustly infringed in the process of U.S. law enforcement," South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lee Jaewoong said in a televised statement from Seoul.

Most of the people detained have been taken to an immigration detention center in Folkston, Georgia, near the Florida state line. None of them have been charged with any crimes yet, Schrank said, but the investigation is ongoing.

Family members and friends of the detainees were having a hard time locating them or figuring out how to get in touch with them, James Woo, communications director for the advocacy group Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta, said Saturday in an email.

Woo added that many of the families were in South Korea because many of the detainees were in the United States only for business purposes.

Raid is the result of a monthslong investigation

The raid was the result of a monthslong investigation into allegations of illegal hiring at the site, Schrank said.

In a search warrant and related affidavits, agents sought everything from employment records for current and former workers and timecards to video and photos of workers.

Court records filed this week indicated that prosecutors do not know who hired what it called "hundreds of illegal aliens." The identity of the "actual company or contractor hiring the illegal aliens is currently unknown," the U.S. Attorney's Office wrote in a Thursday court filing.

The sprawling manufacturing site

The raid targeted a manufacturing site widely considered one of Georgia's largest and most high profile.

Hyundai Motor Group started manufacturing EVs at the \$7.6 billion plant a year ago. Today, the site employs about 1,200 people in a largely rural area about 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of Savannah.

Agents specifically honed in on an adjacent plant that is still under construction at which Hyundai has partnered with LG Energy Solution to produce batteries that power EVs.

The Hyundai site is in Bryan County, which saw its population increase by more than a quarter in the early 2020s and stood at almost 47,000 residents in 2023, the most recent year data is available. The county's Asian population went from 1.5% in 2018 to 2.2% in 2023, and the growth was primarily among people of Indian descent, according to Census Bureau figures.

Raid was the 'largest single site enforcement operation'

From farms and construction sites to restaurants and auto repair shops, there have been a wide array of workplace raids undertaken in this administration. But most have been smaller, including a raid the same day as the Georgia one in which federal officers took away dozens of workers from a snack-bar

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manufacturer in Cato, New York.

Other recent high-profile raids have included one in July targeting a legal marijuana farm northwest of Los Angeles. More than 360 people were arrested in one of the largest raids since Trump took office in January. Another one took place at an Omaha, Nebraska, meat production plant and involved dozens of workers being taken away.

Schrank described the one in Georgia as the "largest single site enforcement operation" in the agency's two-decade history.

The majority of the people detained are Koreans. During the 12-month period that ended Sept. 30, 2024, only 46 Koreans were deported during out of more than 270,000 removals for all nationalities, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Community members and advocates have mixed reactions

Kemp and other Georgia Republican officials, who had courted Hyundai and celebrated the EV plant's opening, issued statements Friday saying all employers in the state were expected to follow the law.

The nonprofit legal advocacy organization Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta described the raid in a joint statement as "unacceptable."

"Our communities know the workers targeted at Hyundai are everyday people who are trying to feed their families, build stronger communities, and work toward a better future," the statement said.

Sammie Rentz opened the Viet Huong Supermarket less than 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) from the Hyundai site six months ago and said he worries business may not bounce back after falling off sharply since the raid.

"I'm concerned. Koreans are very proud people, and I bet they're not appreciating what just happened. I'm worried about them cutting and running, or starting an exit strategy," he said.

Ellabell resident Tanya Cox, who lives less than a mile from the Hyundai site, said she had no ill feelings toward Korean nationals or other immigrant workers at the site. But few neighbors were employed there, and she felt like more construction jobs at the battery plant should have gone to local residents.

"I don't see how it's brought a lot of jobs to our community or nearby communities," Cox said.

AP reporter Mike Schneider in Orlando, Florida contributed to this report.

## **Davey Johnson, who won World Series twice with Baltimore as player, managed Mets to title, dies**

By STEPHEN WHYNO and NOAH TRISTER AP Sports Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — When the winning run scored in Game 6 of the 1986 World Series, the New York Mets melted into a white-and-blue swirl near home plate, celebrating their implausible comeback from the brink of defeat.

Right in the middle of all that humanity was Davey Johnson, who had arrived at the mob scene before many of his players.

Those '86 Mets — with all their brashness, belligerence and unapologetic brilliance — would not have been the same without their 43-year-old manager.

Johnson died Friday at age 82. Longtime Mets public relations representative Jay Horwitz said Johnson's wife Susan informed him of his death after a long illness. Johnson was at a hospital in Sarasota, Florida.

"His ability to empower players to express themselves while maintaining a strong commitment to excellence was truly inspiring," Darryl Strawberry posted on Instagram with a photo of him, Johnson and Dwight Gooden. "Davey's legacy will forever be etched in the hearts of fans and players alike."

Strawberry and Gooden were the young stars of that 1986 team, and their talent and off-field troubles came to symbolize an era of Mets baseball. It was Johnson's third World Series title after he won two as a player with the Baltimore Orioles.

A four-time All-Star, Johnson played 13 major league seasons with Baltimore, the Atlanta Braves, Philadelphia Phillies and Chicago Cubs from 1965-78 and won three Gold Gloves at second base. He managed the Mets, Cincinnati Reds, Los Angeles Dodgers and Washington Nationals during a span from 1984-2013.

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"Davey was a good man, close friend and a mentor," former Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo said in a text message. "A Hall of Fame caliber manager with a baseball mind ahead of his time."

Born Jan. 30, 1943, in Orlando, Florida, Johnson won World Series titles with the Orioles in 1966 and 1970 and also made the final out of the 1969 Fall Classic against the Mets — an irony given his future role with them. In 1973, Johnson hit a career-high 43 home runs with the Braves, joining Darrell Evans (41) and Henry Aaron (40) as part of the first trio of teammates in major league history to reach 40 in the same year.

Johnson's first managerial job was with the Mets when he was in his early 40s. In steering that famously rowdy group to a title in '86, he earned a reputation for giving his players their freedom. When that team began to decline, he was fired in 1990, but his days as a manager were far from over.

Johnson's tenure in Cincinnati ended unusually. He was a lame duck at the start of the 1995 season, with Reds owner Marge Schott prepared to give Ray Knight — the man who scored that winning run in Game 6 for the Mets in '86 — the managing job once that season was over. After guiding Cincinnati to a division title in '95, Johnson went back to Baltimore to manage the Orioles.

"Davey Johnson was one of the best managers I ever had the privilege of working with in my career," Jim Bowden, Cincinnati's general manager that year, said on social media Saturday. "He taught me so much about baseball specifically how to build bullpens, develop young pitchers and put together elite coaching staffs. He was a brilliant, kind leader and teammate."

When Johnson took over the Orioles, he had enough credibility to move Cal Ripken Jr. from shortstop to third base, and Baltimore made the playoffs each of his two seasons at the helm. It was the first time the Orioles had done so since 1983, and they wouldn't qualify again until 2012.

Like in Cincinnati, Johnson won a division title in what turned out to be the last year of his tenure in Baltimore. Amid a feud with owner Peter Angelos, Johnson resigned after the 1997 season — hours after receiving his first Manager of the Year award.

He won it again in 2012, when he led the Nationals to baseball's best regular-season record and the franchise's first postseason spot since moving from Montreal to Washington.

"Davey was a world-class manager," Nationals owner Mark Lerner said in a statement. "I'll always cherish the memories we made together with the Nationals, and I know his legacy will live on in the heads and minds of our fans and those across baseball."

Johnson studied math at Trinity University in Texas, and he had an innovative side. Even when he was a player, he was already using data to try to optimize the Orioles' lineup, although Hall of Fame manager Earl Weaver wasn't turning that duty over to his infielder.

But when dealing with his own players as a manager, Johnson had a blunt, old-school manner, according to Mike Bordick, Baltimore's shortstop in 1997.

"He was so easy to play for," Bordick said. "He just knew the right buttons to push."

Ryan Zimmerman, who played for Johnson with Washington from 2011-13, said Johnson was an even better human than he was a baseball man.

"He knew how to get the best out of everyone — on and off the field," Zimmerman said in a text message. "I learned so much from him, and my career would not have been the same without my years with him. He will be deeply missed by so many people."

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AP National Writer Howard Fendrich contributed to this report. Noah Trister reported from Baltimore.

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AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/hub/mlb>

## **RFK. Jr's family members say he is a 'threat' to Americans' health and call for his resignation**

Associated Press undefined

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s family are calling for him to step down as health secretary following a contentious congressional hearing this past week, during which the Trump



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Cabinet official faced bipartisan questioning about his tumultuous leadership of federal health agencies. Kennedy's sister, Kerry Kennedy, and his nephew, Joseph P. Kennedy III, issued scathing statements Friday, calling for him to resign as head of the Health and Human Services Department.

The calls from the prominent Democratic family came a day after Kennedy had to defend his recent efforts to pull back COVID-19 vaccine recommendations and fire high-level officials at the Centers for Disease Control at a three-hour Senate hearing.

"Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is a threat to the health and wellbeing of every American," Joseph P. Kennedy III said in a post on X. The former congressman added: "None of us will be spared the pain he is inflicting." His aunt echoed those claims, saying "medical decisions belong in the hands of trained and licensed professionals, not incompetent and misguided leadership."

This is not the first time Kennedy has been the subject of his family's ire. Several of his relatives had objected to his presidential run in the last campaign, while others wrote to senators earlier this year, calling for them to reject his nomination to be Trump's health secretary due to views they considered disqualifying on life-saving vaccines.

Kennedy, a longtime leader in the anti-vaccine movement, has spent the last seven months implementing his once-niche, grassroots movement to the highest level of America's public health system. The sweeping changes to the agencies tasked with public health policy and scientific research have resulted in thousands of layoffs and the remaking of vaccine guidelines.

The moves — some of which contradict assurances he made during his confirmation hearings — have rattled medical groups and officials in several Democratic-led states, which have responded with their own vaccine advice.

## Israel calls on famine-stricken residents to flee and targets more high-rises in Gaza City

By WAFAA SHURAF and BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — The Israeli army issued evacuation orders and targeted high-rise buildings in Gaza City on Saturday, urging Palestinians to flee south ahead of an escalating offensive to seize the city of nearly 1 million.

Aid groups warn that a large-scale evacuation would exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza City, which the world's leading hunger watchdog announced last month was officially suffering from famine as a result of Israeli restrictions on food aid.

Most Palestinian families have been repeatedly displaced in the nearly two-year-long war and say they have nowhere left to go. The Israeli military has previously bombed tent encampments designated as humanitarian zones.

"There is no safe tent, no safe house, no safe place, no safety at all," said Nadia Marouf, who fled Israel's offensive in the north with her children and resettled in Gaza City — only to see her tent destroyed Saturday in an Israeli airstrike that wiped out a 15-story building and surrounding encampment.

"Where do I go? We went to the south, there is no space in the south, where can we go?"

Israeli army urges Palestinians to move to a 'humanitarian zone'

Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee called on Palestinians to flee to southern Gaza, announcing on social media that the army had redrawn the borders of a humanitarian zone to encompass the overcrowded encampment of Muwasi and parts of the southern city of Khan Younis.

Aid groups have raised alarm about woefully inadequate shelter, sanitation, water and food in Muwasi. Months of Israeli bombardment have decimated civilian infrastructure in Khan Younis.

The Israeli military said it would work to provide field hospitals, water pipelines and food supplies within its humanitarian zone.

Hamas urged Palestinians to stay put in defiance of the latest evacuation orders. Exhausted and despairing, many Palestinians had their own reasons for refusing to pack up and uproot themselves again.

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"I can't walk, I am in pain, and I do not know what to do or where to go," said Ala Alfarani, whose tent was crushed beneath a pile of rubble in Israel's strike on a high-rise in the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood of south Gaza City.

Israel targets high-rises in Gaza City

Israel on Saturday issued evacuation warnings for two high-rises in Gaza City, with Adraee, the military spokesperson, accusing Hamas of operating inside or near the towers.

Soon after, Adraee said that the military had struck one of them.

Hamas rejected the allegations, insisting the high-rises were residential towers.

Residents of Sousi Tower, a prominent 15-story building, told The Associated Press that the Israeli army gave them around 20 minutes to grab their belongings and flee before warplanes razed the building.

"We were sitting at home and people started shouting," recalled resident Aida Abu Kas, describing panic and confusion rippling through the building. "Some said it was a lie and other said it was real. We went out and didn't know what to do."

It was not immediately clear if people had been killed or wounded in the strike.

Israel Katz, Israel's defense minister, posted a video of the Sousi Tower collapsing in an enormous cloud of smoke along with the words: "We continue."

It was the second Gaza City tower demolished in as many days. On Friday, Israel hit Mushtaha Tower, a local landmark that housed dozens of families, saying that Hamas militants had used it for surveillance. Hamas denied those claims.

The leveling of high-rises comes as Israel ramps up its offensive against Hamas after announcing plans to take control of Gaza's largest city, where displaced Palestinian families have pitched tents on the ruins of bombed-out buildings.

Earlier this week, the Israeli military said it had seized control of 40% of the city.

Israel says the assault is aimed at pressuring Hamas to surrender. Critics of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accuse him of prolonging the war for political reasons.

More Palestinians killed by Israeli fire at aid sites

Medical officials at Gaza City's Shifa Hospital reported receiving the bodies of 11 Palestinians whom they said had been shot and killed by Israeli soldiers Saturday while gathering to get food at the Zikim crossing between Gaza and Israel.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the shooting deaths. But it has previously acknowledged its forces opening fire to disperse large crowds at food distribution sites or as warning shots when Palestinians approach in what it says is a threatening manner.

Such deadly episodes often occur at Zikim crossing, where desperate Palestinians rush toward U.N. humanitarian aid trucks entering the enclave as hunger spreads across the territory. Netanyahu has rejected reports of famine in Gaza as a "global campaign of lies."

The director of Shifa Hospital, Mohamed Abu Selmiya, said that on Friday, another 23 Palestinians were killed across the Gaza Strip while seeking aid, six of them at Zikim.

"It's the same every day, gunfire and tank shelling whenever we try to approach the aid trucks," said Ibrahim al-Taweel, 24, who endures the mayhem at Zakim to get food otherwise unaffordable in Gaza City due to shortages and price gouging.

The Gaza Health Ministry reports that over 2,000 Palestinians have been killed at distribution sites in recent months, many of them by Israeli fire.

Thousands protest for return of hostages

Thousands of Israelis rallied across Jerusalem and Tel Aviv on Saturday evening to increase pressure on Netanyahu to reach a deal with Hamas that would free the remaining 48 hostages held in Gaza.

The protesters vented their outrage at the military's renewed assault on Gaza City, fearing the escalation will further endanger their captive loved ones. The Israeli military estimates that 20 hostages in Gaza are still alive.

"That is not how you return abducted men and women," said Gil Dickmann, whose cousin Carmel Gat, was killed in captivity last year. "That is how you kill abducted men and women."

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In Jerusalem, massive crowds marched through the city shouting “all of them now!” and spilled into the streets outside Netanyahu’s residence, chanting “traitor, traitor!”

“The government is burying them alive,” one protest sign read. “An unsigned deal kills them all,” read another.

A Hamas propaganda video released Friday, the 700th day of the war, has intensified anxiety over the fate of the hostages. The apparently recent footage showed two hostages — Guy Gilboa-Dalal and Alon Ohel — looking gaunt and exhausted while being driven around Gaza City.

“Enough waiting, enough understanding, enough already!” Michel Iluz, whose son Guy Iluz was killed while captive in Gaza, shouted into the microphone at the Jerusalem protest, the pain in his voice mounting to a howl. “We’re fed up! How much longer can you abuse us?”

In Tel Aviv, demonstrators poured into Hostages Square for the weekly Saturday night demonstration, unfurling a massive banner appealing to U.S. President Donald Trump to “save the hostages now!”

A lasting truce has proven elusive. Hamas said it had accepted a ceasefire proposal from Arab mediators last month. Israel has not yet responded to the offer, vowing to continue the war until Hamas disarms and releases all hostages.

Israel also has insisted on retaining open-ended security control of the territory of some 2 million Palestinians — a condition unacceptable to Hamas.

The war erupted when Hamas-led militants invaded southern Israel and killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251 others on Oct. 7, 2023.

Israel’s retaliatory offensive has killed more than 64,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants beyond saying that women and children make up around half the dead.

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Mroue reported from Beirut.

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Follow AP coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/israel-hamas-war>

## How Donald Trump is weaponizing the government to settle personal scores and pursue his agenda

By JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump, once a casino owner and always a man in search of his next deal, is fond of a poker analogy when sizing up partners and adversaries.

“We have much bigger and better cards than they do,” he said of China last month. Compared with Canada, he said in June, “we have all the cards. We have every single one.” And most famously, he told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in their Oval Office confrontation earlier this year: “You don’t have the cards.”

The phrase offers a window into the worldview of Trump, who has spent his second stint in the White House amassing cards to deploy in pursuit of his interests.

Seven months into his second term, he has accumulated presidential power that he has used against universities, media companies, law firms, and individuals he dislikes. A man who ran for president as an angry victim of a weaponized “deep state” is, in some ways, supercharging government power and training it on his opponents.

And the supporters who responded to his complaints about overzealous Democrats aren’t recoiling. They’re egging him on.

“Weaponizing the state to win the culture war has been essential to their agenda,” said David N. Smith, a University of Kansas sociologist who has extensively researched the motivations of Trump voters. “They didn’t like it when the state was mobilized to restrain Trump, but they’re happy to see the state acting to fight the culture war on their behalf.”



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How Trump has weaponized the government

Trump began putting the federal government to work for him within hours of taking office in January, and he's been collecting and using power in novel ways ever since. It's a high-velocity push to carry out his political agendas and grudges.

This past month, hundreds of federal agents and National Guard troops fanned out across Washington after Trump drew on a never-used law that allows him to take control of law enforcement in the nation's capital. He's threatened similar deployments in other cities run by Democrats, including Baltimore, Chicago, New York and New Orleans. He also fired a Federal Reserve governor, pointing to unproven claims of mortgage fraud.

Trump, his aides and allies throughout the executive branch have trained the government, or threatened to, on a dizzying array of targets:

—He threatened to block a stadium plan for the Washington Commanders football team unless it re-adopted the racial slur it used as a moniker until 2020.

—He revoked security clearances and tried to block access to government facilities for attorneys at law firms he disfavors.

—He revoked billions of dollars in federal research funds and sought to block international students from elite universities. Under pressure, Columbia University agreed to a \$220 million settlement, the University of Pennsylvania revoked records set by transgender swimmer Lia Thomas and presidents resigned from the University of Virginia and Northwestern University.

—He has fired or reassigned federal employees targeted for their work, including prosecutors who worked on cases involving him.

—He dropped corruption charges against New York Mayor Eric Adams to gain cooperation in his crack-down on immigrants living in the country illegally.

—He secured multimillion-dollar settlements against media organizations in lawsuits that were widely regarded as weak cases.

—Attorney General Pam Bondi is pursuing a grand jury review of the origins of the Trump-Russia investigation and appointed a special prosecutor to scrutinize New York Attorney General Letitia James and U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff.

That's not weaponizing government, says White House spokesperson Harrison Fields; it's wielding power.

"What the nation is witnessing today is the execution of the most consequential administration in American history," Fields said, "one that is embracing common sense, putting America first, and fulfilling the mandate of the American people."

Trump has a sixth sense for power

There's a push and a pull to power. It is both given and taken. And through executive orders, personnel moves, the bully pulpit and sheer brazenness, Trump has claimed powers that none of his modern predecessors came close to claiming.

He has also been handed power by many around him. By a fiercely loyal base that rides with him through thick and thin. By a Congress and Supreme Court that so far have ceded power to the executive branch. By universities, law firms, media organizations and other institutions that have negotiated or settled with him.

The U.S. government is powerful, but it's not inherently omnipotent. As Trump learned to his frustration in his first term, the president is penned in by the Constitution, laws, court rulings, bureaucracy, traditions and norms. Yet in his second term, Trump has managed to eliminate, steamroll, ignore or otherwise neutralize many of those guardrails.

Leaders can exert their will through fear and intimidation, by determining the topics that are getting discussed and by shaping people's preferences, Steven Lukes argued in a seminal 1974 book, "Power: A Radical View." Lukes, a professor emeritus at New York University, said Trump exemplifies all three dimensions of power. Trump's innovation, Lukes said, is "epistemic liberation" — a willingness to make up facts without evidence.

"This idea that you can just say things that aren't true, and then it doesn't matter to your followers and to a lot of other people ... that seems to me a new thing," at least in liberal democracies, Lukes said. Trump

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uses memes and jokes more than argument and advocacy to signal his preferences, he said.

Trump ran against government weaponization

Central to Trump's 2024 campaign was his contention that he was the victim of a "vicious persecution" perpetrated by "the Biden administration's weaponized Department of Justice."

Facing four criminal cases in New York, Washington and Florida, Trump said in 2023 that he yearned not to end the government weaponization, but to harness it. "IF YOU GO AFTER ME, I'M COMING AFTER YOU!" Trump wrote on Truth Social on Aug. 4, 2023.

"If I happen to be president and I see somebody who's doing well and beating me very badly, I say, 'Go down and indict them,'" he said in a Univision interview on Nov. 9, 2023. And given a chance by a friendly Fox News interviewer to assure Americans that he would use power responsibly, he responded in December that year that he would not be a dictator "except on day one."

He largely backed off those threats as the election drew closer, even as he continued to campaign against government weaponization. When he won, he declared an end to it.

"Never again will the immense power of the state be weaponized to persecute political opponents — something I know something about," Trump said in his second inaugural address.

A month later: "I ended Joe Biden's weaponization soon as I got in," Trump said in a Feb. 22 speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference outside Washington. And 10 days after that: "We've ended weaponized government, where, as an example, a sitting president is allowed to viciously prosecute his political opponent, like me."

Two days later, on March 6, Trump signed a sweeping order targeting a prominent law firm that represents Democrats. And on April 9, he issued presidential memoranda directing the Justice Department to investigate two officials from his first administration, Chris Krebs and Miles Taylor.

With that, the weaponization has come full circle. Trump is no longer surrounded by tradition-bound lawyers and government officials, and his instinct to play his hand aggressively faces few restraints.

## Mahjong nights draw young crowds to San Francisco bars and restaurants

By TERRY CHEA Associated Press

San Francisco (AP) — When Ryan Lee first played mahjong two years ago, he got hooked. He dug out sets of the classic Chinese tile game from his parents' house and brought them to San Francisco, where he started hosting mahjong nights in his apartment.

The gatherings became so popular that the 25-year-old Chinese American began hosting pop-up mahjong parties in restaurants, bars and nightclubs around San Francisco.

Mahjong, invented in 19th century China, is gaining popularity with a new generation of players looking to get off their phones and socialize in the real world.

Lee's Youth Luck Leisure (YLL) Mahjong Club now hosts bimonthly parties with up to 30 tables and 200 guests. They attract a diverse, young crowd drawn to the festive atmosphere, live DJs, custom cocktails and chance to meet new friends. Instructors are on hand to teach novices.

"A lot of people are just really intrigued even though they don't really know how to play," Lee said. "There's a cultural component they're trying to connect with. It's kind of like a cultural nostalgia."

Eventbrite reports there was a 179% increase in U.S. mahjong events on its platform from 2023 to 2024.

There's been a 179% increase in mahjong events in the U.S. from 2023 to 2024, according to Eventbrite, a popular ticketing app. The event platform says Gen Z is also showing a growing interest in other "gran-nycore" activities such as baking workshops and needlework circles that happen offline.

In mahjong, four players draw and discard tiles with different suits, numbers and Chinese characters. The object is to build a winning hand of four sets of three and one pair.

"It's a really tactile game, and it's really a social game. It really easily builds community among people," said Nicole Wong, a writer and audio producer in Oakland. "It's a good way to unplug and not just be on

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your phone.”

Wong learned how to play when she visited her Chinese grandparents in New Zealand in 2009. Several years ago she found her parents’ mahjong table and game sets, and started hosting mahjong nights with her friends.

In 2019, she launched The Mahjong Project, an instructional guide and oral history project inspired by her family’s love of the game. That led her to publish “Mahjong: House Rules from Across the Asian Diaspora,” an illustrated book that explores the game’s history, strategies, traditions and styles of play.

“For the Asian American community, I think there’s interest in connecting to your heritage and your culture in a way that was not the case when I was growing up,” Wong said.

YLL Mahjong Club has held nearly 20 events in San Francisco since it started last year. Lee said it’s an opportunity to introduce people to the game as well as bring business to local restaurants, bars and food vendors. Lee’s sister started hosting similar events in Los Angeles. There are plans to expand to other U.S. cities.

“The demand is rising,” said Lee, a management consultant in business school. “It’s not just an interest to learn how to play mahjong, but to find a third space or another community to do things with.”

Joyce Yam, YLL Mahjong Club’s sponsorship manager, helps manage the San Francisco events, which sell out fast and have long waiting lists.

“We welcome people who have no experience at mahjong at all, and we have TA’s who teach the people how to play the game. And they love it so much that they keep coming back,” Yam said.

Ethan Vuong, a Florida native who lives in San Francisco, started playing with friends a couple years ago. He saw it as a way to connect with his Chinese heritage and make new friends. He’s a regular at Oakland’s Baba House and YLL Mahjong Club events, where he volunteers to teach newcomers.

“It’s not just a skill or mechanics-based game, it’s an expression of your personality,” Vuong said. “I just keep playing because I have this goal that I’m going to beat my grandma one day.”

## **U.S. says it will deport Kilmar Abrego Garcia to Eswatini because he fears deportation to Uganda**

By TRAVIS LOLLER Associated Press

Attorneys for Immigration and Customs Enforcement said in a Friday letter that they intend to send Kilmar Abrego Garcia to the African nation of Eswatini after he expressed a fear of deportation to Uganda.

The letter from ICE to Abrego Garcia’s attorneys was earlier reported by Fox News. It states that his fear of persecution or torture in Uganda is “hard to take seriously, especially given that you have claimed (through your attorneys) that you fear persecution or torture in at least 22 different countries. ...Nonetheless, we hereby notify you that your new country of removal is Eswatini.”

Eswatini’s government spokesperson told The Associated Press on Saturday that it had not received no communication regarding Abrego Garcia’s transfer there.

The Salvadoran man lived in Maryland for more than a decade before he was mistakenly deported to El Salvador earlier this year. That set off a series of contentious court battles that have turned his case into a test of the limits of President Donald Trump’s hardline immigration policies.

Although Abrego Garcia immigrated to the U.S. illegally around the year 2011, when he was a teenager, he has an American wife and child. A 2019 immigration court order barred his deportation to his native El Salvador, finding he had a credible fear of threats from gangs there. He was deported anyway in March — in what a government attorney said was an administrative error — and held in the country’s notorious Terrorism Confinement Center.

Facing a court order, the Trump administration returned him to the U.S. in June only to charge him with human smuggling based on a 2022 traffic stop in Tennessee. While that court case is ongoing, ICE now seeks to deport him again. For his part, Abrego Garcia is requesting asylum in the United States.

He was denied asylum in 2019 because his request came more than a year after he arrived in the U.S.,



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his attorney Simon Sandoval-Mosenberg has said. Since he was deported and has now re-entered the U.S., the attorney said he is now eligible for asylum.

"If Mr. Abrego Garcia is allowed a fair trial in immigration court, there's no way he's not going to prevail on his claim," he said in an emailed statement.

As part of his asylum claim, Abrego Garcia expressed a fear of deportation to Uganda and "nearly two dozen" other countries, according an ICE court filing in opposition to reopening his asylum case. That Thursday filing also states that if the case is reopened, the 2019 order barring his deportation to El Salvador would become void and the government would pursue his removal to that country.

## **LGBTQ+ Catholics make Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome and celebrate a new feeling of welcome**

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Over 1,000 LGBTQ+ Catholics and their families participated in a Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome on Saturday, celebrating a new level of acceptance in the Catholic Church after long feeling shunned, and crediting Pope Francis with the change.

Some wept as they walked through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in the rite of passage of Holy Year pilgrims. They said the moment felt important, historic even, in the life of the church and their community.

"It just felt epic, like I was able to touch the hand of God," said Justin del Rosario, who carried a big wooden crucifix across the threshold of the Holy Door with a group of pilgrims from the United States that included his husband.

Several LGBTQ+ groups participated in the pilgrimage, which was listed in the Vatican's official calendar of events for the Holy Year, the once-every-quarter century celebration of Catholicism. Vatican organizers stressed that the listing in the calendar didn't signal endorsement or sponsorship, but was a logistical tool to help organizers and pilgrims alike.

The main sponsor of the pilgrimage was an Italian LGBTQ+ advocacy organization, "Jonathan's Tent," but other groups participated, including a group of trans women from southern Rome, DignityUSA and Outreach, another U.S. group, as well as the Brazilian National Network of LGBT+ Catholic Groups.

"I was here 25 years ago at the last Holy Year with a contingent of LGBTQ people from the U.S. and we were actually detained as a threat to the Holy Year programs," said DignityUSA's Marianne Duddy Burke.

To now be invited to walk through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica "fully recognized as who we are and the gifts we bring to the church, and that we have both our faith and our identities combined, is a day of great celebration and hope," she said.

Pope Leo XIV celebrated a special Jubilee audience Saturday at the Vatican for all pilgrim groups in Rome this weekend, but made no special mention of the LGBTQ+ Catholics.

A legacy of LGBTQ+ acceptance

Many of the pilgrims attributed their feeling of welcome to Francis. More than any of his predecessors, Francis distinguished himself with a message of welcome, from his 2013 quip, "Who am I to judge?" about a purportedly gay priest, to his decision to allow priests to bless same-sex couples.

He never changed church teaching saying homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered." But during his 12-year papacy from 2013 to 2025, Francis met with LGBTQ+ advocates, ministered to a community of trans women and, in a 2023 interview with The Associated Press, declared that "being homosexual is not a crime."

John Capozzi of Washington D.C., who was participating in the pilgrimage with his husband, del Rosario, said Francis' attitude brought him back to the church after he left it in the 1980s, at the height of the AIDS crisis. Then, he said, he felt shunned by his fellow Catholics.

"There was that feeling like I wasn't welcome in the church," he said. "Not because I was doing anything, just because I was who I was," he said. "It was this fear of going back in because of the judgment."

But Francis, who insisted that the Catholic Church was open to everyone, "todos, todos, todos," changed all that, he said.

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"I was a closeted Catholic," Capozzi said. "With Pope Francis, I was able to come out and say, 'Hey, you know, I am Catholic and I'm proud of it and I want to be part of the church.'"

A message of welcome and hope

Capozzi spoke during a standing room-only vigil service for the pilgrims Friday night at the main Jesuit church in Rome. The service featured testimonies from gay couples, the mother of a trans child and a moving reflection by an Italian priest, the Rev. Fausto Focosi.

"Our eyes have known the tears of rejection, of hiding. They have known the tears of shame. And perhaps sometimes those tears still spring from our eyes," Focosi said. "Today, however, there are other tears, new tears. They wash away the old ones."

"And so today these tears are tears of hope," he said.

On Saturday morning, Italian Bishop Francesco Savino celebrated Mass for the pilgrims and received a sustained standing ovation in the middle of his homily when he recalled that Jubilee celebrations historically were meant to restore hope to those on the margins.

"The Jubilee was the time to free the oppressed and restore dignity to those who had been denied it," he said. "Brothers and sisters, I say this with emotion: It is time to restore dignity to everyone, especially to those who have been denied it."

Leo's position comes into focus

Leo's position on LGBTQ+ Catholics had been something of a question. Soon after he was elected in May, remarks surfaced from 2012 in which the future pope, then known as the Rev. Robert Prevost, criticized the "homosexual lifestyle" and the role of mass media in promoting acceptance of same-sex relationships.

He later acknowledged Francis' call for a more inclusive church, saying Francis "made it very clear that he doesn't want people to be excluded simply on the basis of choices that they make, whether it be lifestyle, work, way to dress, or whatever."

Leo met Monday with the Rev. James Martin, an American Jesuit who has advocated for greater welcome for LGBTQ+ Catholics. Martin emerged saying Leo told him he intended to continue Pope Francis' policy of LGBTQ+ acceptance in the church and encouraged him to keep up his advocacy.

"I heard the same message from Pope Leo that I heard from Pope Francis, which is the desire to welcome all people, including LGBTQ people," Martin told The Associated Press after the audience.

Savino, vice president of the Italian bishops conference, said he too had received Leo's blessing to celebrate the Mass for the LGBTQ+ pilgrims.

Del Rosario, Capozzi's husband, said he now felt welcome after long staying away from the faith he was raised in.

"Pope Francis influenced me to return back to church. Pope Leo only strengthened my faith," he said.

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Associated Press journalists Isaia Montelione and Maria Selene Clemente contributed to this report.

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## **Today in History: September 7, Germany launches Blitz on UK**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 7, the 250th day of 2025. There are 115 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 7, 1940, Nazi Germany began an intense bombing campaign of Britain during World War II with an air attack on London; known as The Blitz, the eight-month campaign resulted in more than 40,000 civilian deaths.

Also on this date:

In 1921, the first Miss America Pageant was held in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

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In 1943, a fire at the Gulf Hotel, a rooming house in Houston, claimed 55 lives.

In 1963, the Pro Football Hall of Fame opened in Canton, Ohio and enshrined its first 17 members.

In 1977, the Panama Canal Treaty, which called for the U.S. to turn over control of the waterway to Panama at the end of 1999, was signed in Washington by U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos.

In 1986, Bishop Desmond Tutu was installed as the first Black clergyman to lead the Anglican Church in southern Africa.

In 1996, rapper Tupac Shakur was shot and mortally wounded on the Las Vegas Strip; he died six days later.

In 2005, police and soldiers went house to house in New Orleans to try to coax remaining residents into leaving the city shattered by Hurricane Katrina.

In 2021, El Salvador became the first country in the world to make Bitcoin legal tender.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Sonny Rollins is 95. Singer Gloria Gaynor is 82. Actor Julie Kavner is 75. Rock singer Chrissie Hynde (The Pretenders) is 74. Actor Corbin Bernsen is 71. Actor Michael Emerson is 71. Pianist-singer Michael Feinstein is 69. Singer/songwriter Diane Warren is 69. Actor J. Smith-Cameron is 68. Actor Toby Jones is 59. Actor-comedian Leslie Jones (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 58. Actor Tom Everett Scott is 55. Actor Shannon Elizabeth is 52. Actor Oliver Hudson is 49. Actor Evan Rachel Wood is 38. Olympic gold medal swimmer Ariarne Titmus is 25. Actor Ian Chen (TV: "Fresh Off the Boat") is 19.