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Sunday, Sept. 14

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

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

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

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

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

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

GHS FCS Kickoff meeting, 2 p.m.

Monday, Sept 15

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Corn dog, baked beans.

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

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

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

Cross Country at Webster, 2 p.m.

JV Football at Milbank, 4 p.m.

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

Groton Daily Independent
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We the People

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



By David Adler

To Pete Hegseth: You Are Bound to Obey the Law

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth's indifference to the Constitution and American law, his disdain for "tepid legality" as the governing standard for the use of U.S. military power, places him at sharp odds with those who founded this nation and held the Office of the Presidency. John Quincy Adams, after serving as Secretary of State and President, said, "the war power is strictly constitutional." Adams, like his predecessors in the nation's highest office, fully understood that the president's authority over foreign relations was no less circumscribed than the domestic powers conferred by the Constitution.

Hegseth's blithe disregard of law is unbecoming of a constitutional officer whose authority exists only by virtue of that vested in his office by the Constitution, which he has sworn an oath to uphold, and such powers as Congress, to which he is legally accountable and subject to removal through impeachment, may choose to confer upon him. Hegseth's arrogant dismissal of legal boundaries invites the scale of scorn that the founders reserved for usurpers, those who abused power and obstructed justice, beginning with King George III, whom they singled out in the Declaration of Independence as a tyrant.

Hegseth's enthusiasm for President Donald Trump's executive order, changing the name of "Department of Defense" to the "Department of War," was reflected in his resort to slam poetry to explain that the rebranding order represents not just a name change, but a shift in attitude, posture and strategy. Hegseth said the war department is "going to go on offense, not just defense. Maximum lethality, not tepid legality. Violent effect, not politically correct." Successful prosecution of wars always has been, and always will be, the goal of our armed forces, but it is critical to recall that war, from its commencement to its conclusion, must be conducted in accord with the Constitution and applicable laws. On this point, the founders, and judicial rulings issued at the dawn of the republic, were crystal clear.

Respect for the Constitution and its allocation of the war power to Congress, fortified by the presidential oath of office and the Article II duty "to take care to faithfully execute the laws," informed the decisions of founding presidents when questions of war and military hostilities arose. No early president—Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, for example—shared Hegseth's disdain for legality.

In 1801, and again in 1805, President Jefferson, faced with military threats from Tripoli and Spain, respectively, refused to go on "offense," when, "considering that Congress alone is constitutionally invested with changing our condition from peace to war, I have thought it my duty to await their authority for using force." The threat of invasion did not stop Jefferson from consultation with Congress. President Madison, the chief architect of the Constitution, reiterated the constitutional governance of the use of force on June 1, 1812, when he called attention to the English attacks on American shipping. He referred to Congress the question of whether we should oppose "force to force in defense of our national rights," which he said, was a "solemn question which the Constitution wisely confides to the legislative department of the Government." After the adoption of the Monroe Doctrine, Colombia sought protection from France in 1824. President Monroe, who was a delegate to the Virginia Convention, stated, "The Executive has no right to compromit the nation in any question of war." He echoed Secretary of State Adams, who declared that the Constitution vests that power in Congress, alone.

Chief Justice John Marshall, a vigorous participant in the Virginia Ratification Convention, stated in *Talbot v. Seeman* (1801): "The whole power of war being, by the Constitution vested in Congress, the acts of that body can alone be resorted to as our guides in this inquiry." There was no departure from this understanding in the crisis of the Civil War. In the *Prize Cases* (1862), the Court held: "By the Constitution, Congress alone has the power to declare a national or foreign war." The president, "has no power to initiate or declare war against a foreign nation or a domestic State. If a war be made by invasion of a foreign nation, the president is bound to resist force by force. He does not initiate the war but is bound to accept the challenge."

In matters of war and peace, the founders, unlike Secretary Hegseth, demonstrated respect, not disdain, for legality.

Groton Area girls roll past Vermillion, set up showdown with Dakota Valley



Mia Crank
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

VERMILLION — The Groton Area Tigers girls' soccer team put together one of their strongest performances of the season Saturday afternoon, earning a 7-0 road victory over Vermillion.

Head coach Matt Baumgartner said the team took a little while to find their rhythm but responded in a big way once the scoring opened up.

"I just think teamwork worked really well after we kind of settled in and got the first goal," Baumgartner said. "Everyone came a little bit flustered to start the game ... but once the game settled in, everyone found their composure and started to play how we know how to play."

Mia Crank put the Tigers on the board in the 22nd minute, finishing a pass from McKenna Tietz. Jerica Locke added another late in the first half, and Groton carried a 2-0 advantage into halftime.

The Tigers erupted in the second half with five more goals. Tietz scored twice, Locke added her second, Sydney Locke found the net, and Brenna Imrie tapped in a cross from senior captain Jaedyn Penning.



Jerica Locke
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jaedyn Penning
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Ryelle Gilbert
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Carly Gilbert
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Baumgartner also highlighted a special moment between his keepers. Penning, normally the starter in goal, moved out onto the field in the second half while seventh grader Tori Schuster stepped into net for the first time this season.

"The conversation around the team is Tori's probably the next one up to play goalie," Baumgartner said. "It was nice to see her make two really big saves and not be scared back there. That really helps her confidence."

The coach said Penning's leadership was valuable even when she wasn't in goal.

"She's a really big communicator," Baumgartner said. "Her bringing that communication up thirty, forty yards towards the goal really helps at times. She even got an assist to Brenna, so that was nice to see."

Scoring summary

1st Half — Crank (Tietz) 21:56; J. Locke 1:40

2nd Half — Tietz 38:01; S. Locke 31:44; J. Locke (C. Gilbert) 29:57; Imrie (Penning) 13:13; Tietz (R. Gilbert) 1:51

Goalkeepers — Penning 50 minutes, 2 saves; Schuster 30 minutes, 2 saves



Tori Schuster
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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With the win, Groton improved its record and kept pace with the top teams in Class A. Next up is one of the most anticipated matchups of the season: the No. 1-ranked Tigers take on fellow No. 1 Dakota Valley in the coaches' poll Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 4 p.m. in North Sioux City.

"We've got a lot of bus time coming up, but this is a chance to make a statement," Baumgartner said. "Dakota Valley is right at the top, and we need a good result — whether it's a win, tie, or even a close loss — to set us up for the postseason push."



McKenna Tietz
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Taryn Traphagen
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Both games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Groton Legion, Heartland Energy, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge and The MeatHouse in Andover. Paul and Jeslyn Kosel were on hand for the events.

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Vermillion boys top Groton, 5-1

The Groton Area boys' soccer team couldn't recover from an early deficit Saturday, falling 5-1 to Vermillion. The Tanagers struck three times in the opening half to take a commanding 3-0 lead at the break. They added two more goals early in the second half before the Tigers finally broke through. With 12:14 left to play, a corner kick from JJ Muller found its way to Ethan Kroll, who used his body to direct the ball into the net for Groton's lone score.



Connor Kroll
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Haden Harder
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Head coach Ryan Olson said his team came out flat in the opening 40 minutes, but he was encouraged by the way the Tigers responded after halftime.

"The second half was way better on defense," Olson said. "We had control of the ball and were able to shoot the ball even more often compared to that first half. We probably only had two shots in the first half."



JJ Muller
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Karsten Fliehs
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Olson credited his players for pushing forward despite the hot conditions and a strong opponent. He noted that Vermillion only plays eight games in a season, compared to Groton's twelve to fourteen, which may give the Tigers an advantage in overall experience.

"I think it kinda hurts them in the long run not to play as much," Olson said. "But for us, it's nice to have more games under our belt."

The coach was glad to see Kroll's goal finally get the Tigers on the board.

"That was nice," Olson said. "JJ did the corner kick and Ethan got it in with his body. It was good to see us finish one."

Looking ahead, Olson hopes Tuesday's road trip to Dakota Valley will be a chance for his team to reset and get back in the win column.

"It should be a nice game for us where we can hopefully get back into the winning category," he said. "I'm pleased with where we're at, but we can't let go of the throttle. We've had some really tough games these past two or three, and we just need to get our momentum and confidence going again."

Olson also noted that, despite the heat, the Tigers came away without any major injuries.

"We've got some bum ankles and stuff going on, but nothing too severe," he said. "Luckily, we didn't get any cramping out there tonight. I don't like the heat—I'd rather play in the cold—but the kids handled it well."

Groton's record now stands at 6-3 on the season, while Vermillion improves to 3-1.



Easton Weber
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Axel Abeln
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Northern State opens home slate defeating Wayne State

NORTHERN STATE OPENS THEIR HOME SLATE DEFEATING WAYNE STATE

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University football team entered the win column on Saturday from the friendly confines of Dacotah Bank Stadium. Five thousand faithful cheered on the Wolves to a 19-point victory over Wayne State College. The Wolves offense was propelled by some big moment plays, while the defense held the Wildcats scoreless through three quarters.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 26, WSC 7

Records: NSU 1-1 (1-1 NSIC), WSC 1-2, (1-1 NSIC)

Attendance: 5233

HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern scored three points in the first, three in the second, six in the third, and 14 in the fourth en route to their first victory of the season

Jeremy Caruso scored eight points in the win, including a pair of field goals in the opening half from 38 and 36 yards

Brock Bagozzi broke through with the first touchdown of the contest in the third on a 2-yard run at 6:04 following a 61 yards drive; the Wolves attempted a 2-point conversion with Cade Kaiser connecting with Bagozzi, however came up a yard short

The Wolves second touchdown came off the hand of Bagozzi, connecting with Hank Kraft for Kraft's first score of 2025; a 26-yard diving reception into the endzone at 14:09 in the fourth

Wayne State answered at the 11:11 mark with a 28-yard receiving score by Keaten Bonderson

Northern wasn't finished as the clock ticked down in the fourth with Bagozzi's second passing score of the evening, this time to Jacoby Boykins

The 45-yard was the first of Boykins Northern State career and capped off the double figure win for the Wolves

NSU led the contest with 22 first downs, 139 yards rushing, 328 yards passing, and 467 yards of total offense

They averaged 3.9 yards per rush and 15.6 yards per completion with a 55.9 pass completion percentage

The defense held WSC to 119 yards rushing and 130 yards passing, forcing three interceptions and recording five tackles for a loss

The Wolves converted 8-of-15 on third down and 2-of-2 on fourth down, while the Wildcats converted 5-of-13 on third down and 1-of-2 on fourth down

Daniel Britt threw for 144 yards with a 40-yard long, while Bagozzi tallied 184 yards passing and two touchdowns

Wyatt Block led the ground attack with 85 yards, averaging 4.5 yards per carry, following by Kraft with 49

In the air, DJ Smith notched the first 100-yard game of his career, recording 107 yards receiving with a 46-yard long; he averaged 26.8 yards per catch

Boykins was close behind with 83 total yards, including the 45-yard receiving score

Jake Adams added a new value to his 2025 stat line, grabbing his first interception since the 2023 season; he added a team leading 15.0 tackles including a tackle for a loss with Max Van Landingham

Cooper Logan was second on the defense with eight tackles, while Gabe Gutierrez notched five, including the team's lone sack

Kegan Mountain and Andrew Ewald each tallied an interception and combined for 25 return yards in the win

Caruso went 2-for-4 in field goal attempts, added two extra points, and averaged 61.2 yards per kickoff, while Jackson Isakson averaged 41.0 yards per punt

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NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Brock Bagozzi: 184 yards passing, 2 touchdowns, 5 yards rushing, 1 touchdown

Hank Kraft: 49 yards rushing, 51 yards receiving, 1 touchdown

DJ Smith: 107 yards receiving, 26.8 yards per reception, 46-yard long

Jake Adams: 15 tackles, 0.5 tackle for a loss, 1 interception

Jeremy Caruso: 2 field goals, 8 points

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

Adams is zeroing in on the Northern State career tackles record for the Division II era, just eight behind Logan Dosch

Northern State is now 15-7 from Dacotah Bank Stadium under the direction of head coach Mike Schmidt

They improve to 21-11 all-time against Wayne State, recording their third straight victory over the Wildcats

UP NEXT

Northern returns to Dacotah Bank Stadium next Saturday for the annual Gypsy Days game. NSU will out Concordia-St. Paul for a 2:30 p.m. kickoff. For full promotional details [CLICK HERE](#). Tailgating and stadium information can be found [HERE](#). In addition to the football contest, Northern State University, Wolves Athletics, and the NSU Foundation will host a number of events in celebration.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Let the beauty of the Lord
our God be upon us,
and establish the work
of our hands for us;
yes, establish the work
of our hands.*

PSALM 90:17



Detail of "Cumaeen Sibyl in a Landscape"
by Agostino Veneziano (1516)

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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Daniel 4, who had the vision of a tree growing higher and higher until it could be seen by everyone? *Silas, Josiah, Nebuchadnezzar, Solomon*

3. Which book could be summarized, "God, why don't you stop bad things from happening"? *Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Malachi*

4. What hour mentioned in the Bible means the last possible moment something can be done? *1st, 3rd, 11th, 12th*

5. From Judges 6, where did Gideon encounter an angel? *Prison, Oak tree, Temple, Well*

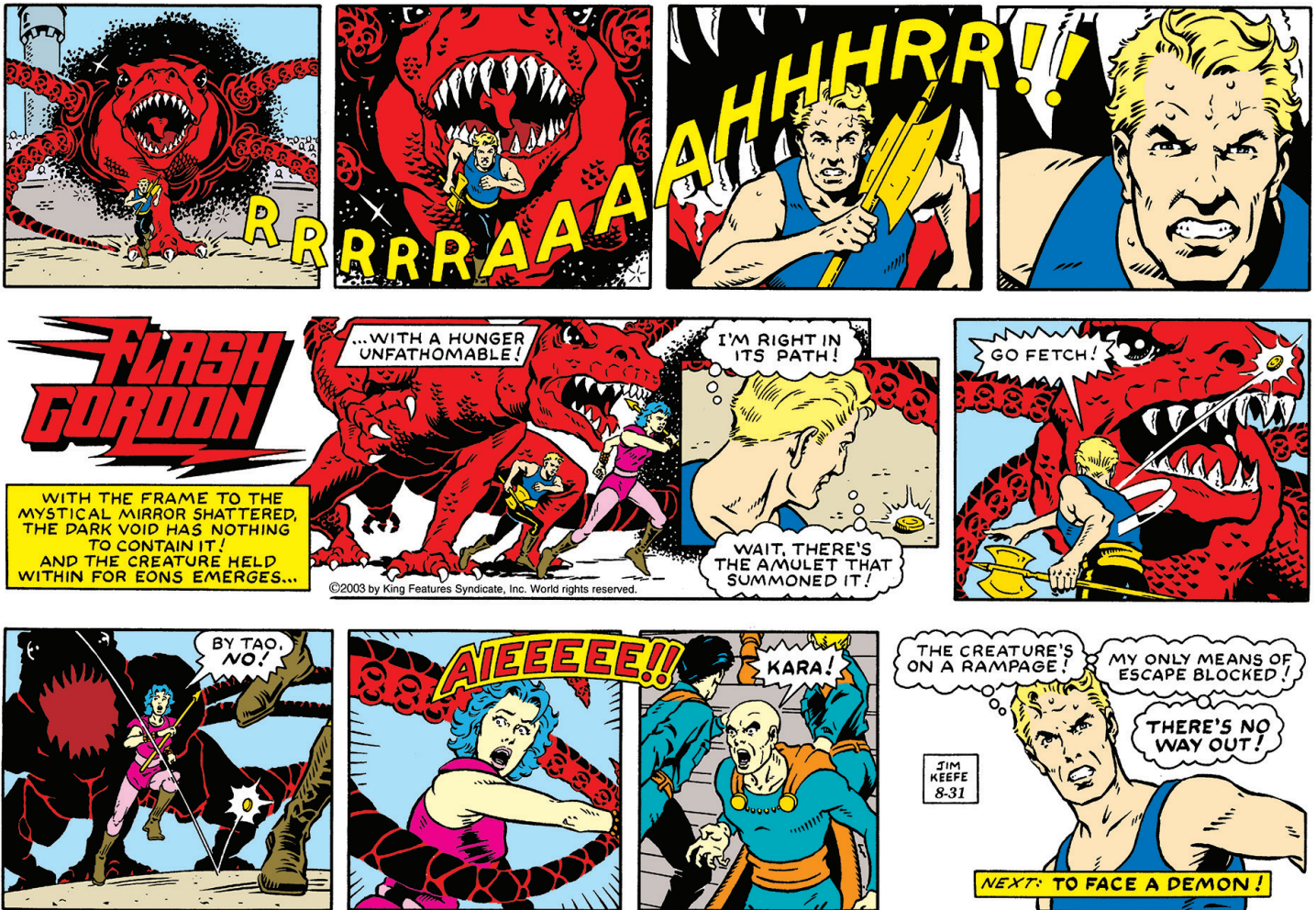
6. What was Adam's occupation in Eden? *Preacher, Shepherd, Carpenter, Gardener*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Nebuchadnezzar, 3) Habakkuk, 4) 11th, 5) Oak tree, 6) Gardener

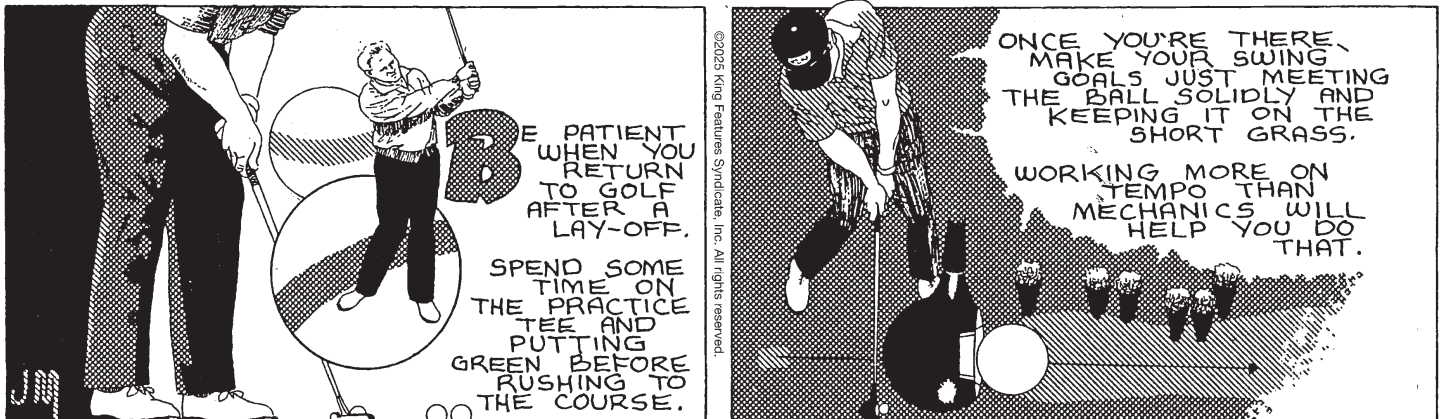
Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscribersite at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Man Waiting for Hip Replacement Is Torn Between Surgeons

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband is 72 years old and on a waiting list for a hip replacement due to severe osteoarthritis. The surgeon he was referred to is quite young, has been performing anterior minimally invasive hip replacements for five years, and does about 250 per year.

Originally we had asked to be referred to a different surgeon who has 30 years of experience, but we were told that older surgeons, although very experienced, do not do this procedure. Instead, they tend to do what they were initially trained to do, which includes cutting through muscle and tendon to access the hip. Apparently this causes a lengthier recovery period.

What are your thoughts on this? -- D.M.

ANSWER: In general, I do not recommend telling a surgeon which specific type of surgery to perform. You place yourself in the surgeon's hands and expect to be treated to the best of their expertise. Depending on your particular issues, one type of surgery may be better than another, but only a surgeon can decide this.

I reviewed the published literature on minimally invasive surgery versus conventional surgery. Not everyone is a candidate for the minimally invasive procedure. There are some benefits to the minimally invasive surgery such as less postoperative pain, reduced hospital stay, and less blood loss.

However, there has been no consistent benefit shown for infection rates and complications such as dislocation or fracture near the prosthesis. There also isn't evidence of any revision of the procedure. Some studies have suggested a higher rate of nerve injury with the minimally invasive procedure.

Since there are some short-term but no proven long-term benefits to the minimally invasive procedure, I advise you to find a surgeon you trust and listen to their recommendation for the right procedure in your husband's case.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have a couple issues with my bladder and a sleep aid. I am an 81-year-old male in fairly good health. I have a difficult time getting back to sleep after getting up to empty my bladder. My solution for this was to take a melatonin tablet after each trip back to bed. This seemed to help.

However, I researched melatonin online and found that some people, my wife included, can get nausea and stomach cramps from using it. While this does not happen with me, I'm wondering if taking 3 mg per night could be harmful to me, given the reaction my wife gets. -- J.T.M.

ANSWER: Although melatonin is generally safe, it can cause some side effects. In addition to the stomach cramps, people have reported vivid dreams or nightmares, short-term depression, dizziness, and headaches. A few people find the medication helpful enough that they are willing to live with these side effects, but many people will give up and try a different treatment for sleep.

If melatonin isn't causing you any side effects, then it is likely safe for you. Many people use melatonin, and although long-term safety has not been proven in trials, it is increasingly unlikely that any long-term adverse effects haven't been discovered.

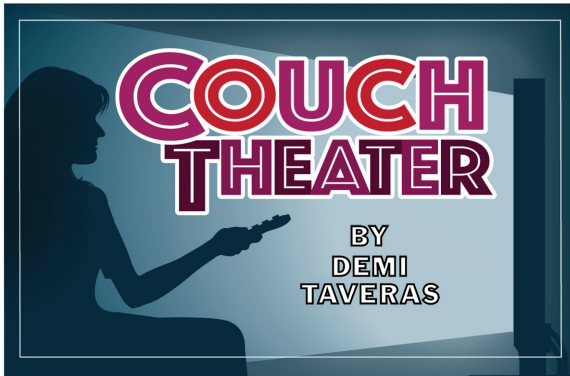
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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"The Girlfriend" (TV-MA) -- Every person who's been in a romantic relationship knows what it's like to dread meeting their significant other's parents. Even worse, when the parents themselves are

dreading meeting you! This series starring Olivia Cooke ("House of the Dragon") and Robin Wright ("House of Cards") depicts what this feeling is like -- but on steroids. Danny (Laurie Davidson) introduces

his girlfriend, Cherry (Cooke), to his mother, Laura (Wright), but Laura instantly gets a bad vibe from Cherry and finds her untrustworthy. Laura's suspicions cause her to act out of character to protect her son, but is it all just a figment of her imagination? Or is Cherry really hiding something sinister? Find out in just six episodes, all of which are out now! (Amazon Prime Video)



Olivia Cooke stars in "The Girlfriend." (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

"Black Rabbit" (TV-MA) -- Netflix has been giving us a few good shows to binge at this moment, and next up is this crime-thriller miniseries led by Jude Law ("Star Wars: Skeleton Crew") and Jason Bateman ("Carry-On"). The duo plays a pair of brothers: Jake (Law), a New York City club owner, and Vince (Bateman), his scrappy, chaotic brother. Jake opens his door to Vince during Vince's time of need, only to find out that Vince owes a large debt to some dangerous loan sharks. Left with no choice but to help his brother, Jake gets sucked into Vince's turbulent world and faces losing his business if they don't succeed in getting the money. All eight episodes premiere on Sept. 18. (Netflix)

"The Morning Show: Season 4" (TV-MA) -- Two of America's favorite leading ladies, Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon, are back with their hit show "The Morning Show," and this season looks juicier than ever! Picking up two years after season three, Alex (Aniston) and Bradley (Witherspoon) are dealing with the aftereffects of the UBA network's merger with NBN, as misinformation and conspiracy theories continue to infiltrate the news. Marion Cotillard ("Extrapolations") is a new addition to the cast and plays an intriguing high-level executive, while Boyd Holbrook ("A Complete Unknown") joins the cast as a provocative talk-show host. New relationships are teased, and the tension between all the characters continues to rise. The first episode releases Sept. 17 with a weekly Wednesday release through Nov. 19. (Apple TV+)

"Dancing with the Stars: Season 34" (TV-PG) -- It's that time of year again, where celebrities lace up their shoes to hit the "Dancing with the Stars" ballroom and compete to win the mirror ball trophy! Contestants this year include actor Zac Efron's younger brother, Dylan Efron; nostalgic actors like Corey Feldman ("The Lost Boys") and Danielle Fishel ("Boy Meets World"); singers Scott Hoying (of Pentatonix) and Lauren Jauregui (of Fifth Harmony); social media influencer Alix Earle; and Robert Irwin, son of Steve Irwin and brother of mirror ball champion Bindi Irwin. The first episode premieres on Sept. 16, with subsequent episodes releasing every Tuesday night thereafter. Don't forget to vote for your favorites! (Disney+)

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1. Who was the first to release "This Time I'm in It for Love"?
2. Mary Hopkins released a song that was originally written in Russian. Name the song.
3. Name the debut single of the group that wore Civil War uniforms as their stage costumes.
4. Which two Patti LaBelle songs were used in the 1984 comedy film "Beverly Hills Cop"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I fell for you and I knew the vision of your loveliness, I hope and I pray that someday I'll be the vision of your happiness."

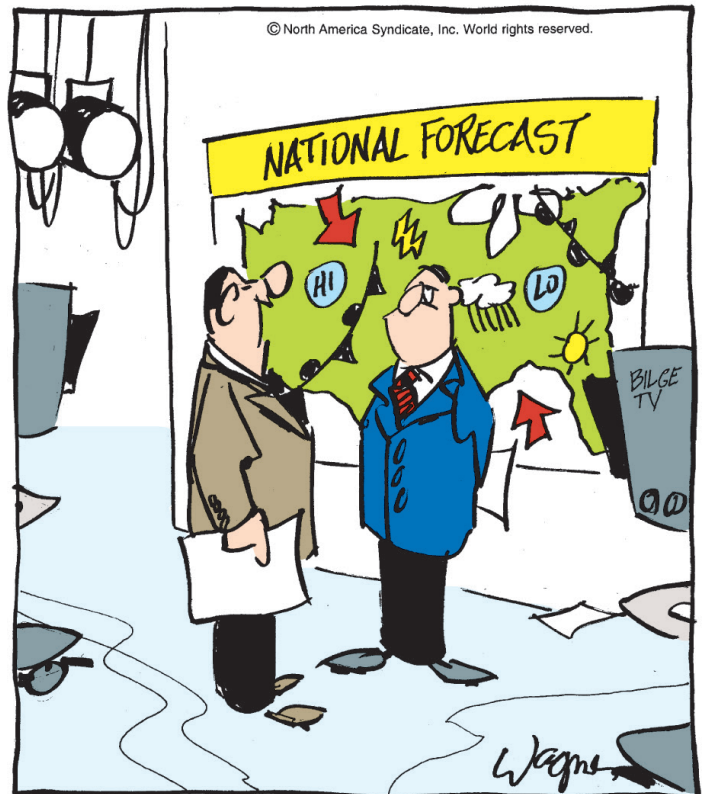
Answers

1. Austin Roberts, in 1976, but it was the cover by Player in 1978 that climbed the charts and stayed there for four months.
2. "Those Were the Days," in 1968. After Hopkins' version (which was her debut single) topped the charts around the globe, the song was written in several languages.
3. "Woman, Woman" by Gary Puckett & The Union Gap, in 1967.
4. "New Attitude" and "Stir It Up."
5. "Earth Angel," by the Penguins, in 1954. Considered a classic example of doo-wop, it was one of 50 songs that the LIBRARY of Congress added to the National Recording Registry in 2005.

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GRIN and BEAR IT *Wagner*

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"You look a little under the weather, Stormy."

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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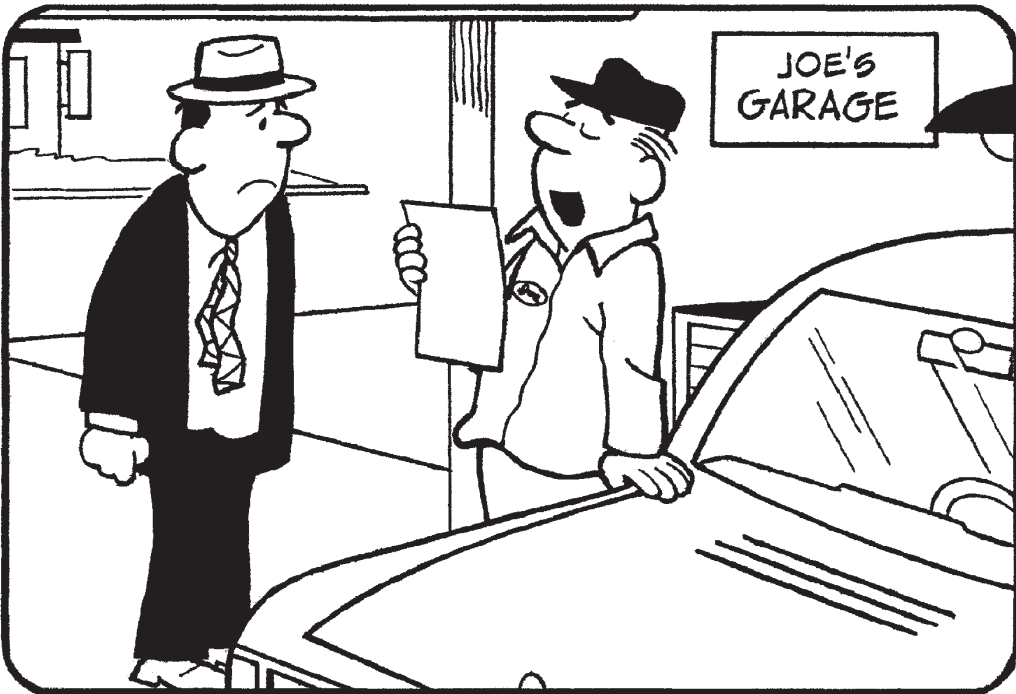
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Paper is longer. 2. Mirror is moved. 3. Man's left arm is not showing. 4. Light is lower. 5. Hood is different. 6. Pants are different.

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* If you get a gray-colored film on your utensils after they come out of the dishwasher, try cleaning them with a cream of tartar paste. Additionally, clean out the filter regularly.

* "I love my blender and use it all the time, but I don't always have time to clean the blades properly when I'm in a rush. There is a spot under the blades that I find it hard to clean if my smoothie gets dried on. I have found a way to clean it now, though, with rice! A couple of spoonfuls in the otherwise clean blender, and the rice buffs any residue right off. I even use the rice powder in a homemade facial mask that makes my skin feel great!" -- D.W. in Oregon

* Have you nailed down your holiday shopping list yet? Many find it distasteful to see Christmas and other holiday items out

so early, but studies show that the earlier you start, the less you spend. Likely because you are not rushed and are able to take advantage of sales and to shop smart.

* Use cola to marinate your meat! The acids in the soda pop make meat nice and tender before cooking, and sugar can actually give you a nice caramel flavor on the outside too. You can use a cola bath for meat on the grill or search cookbooks or internet sites for great slow-cooker recipes.

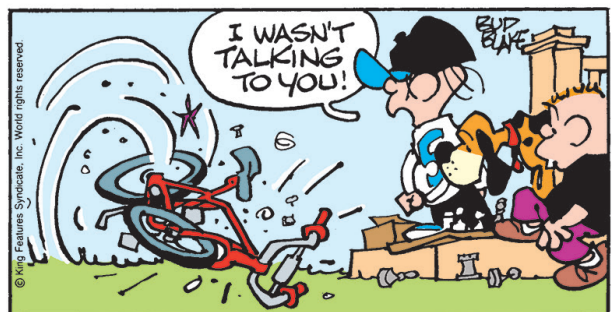
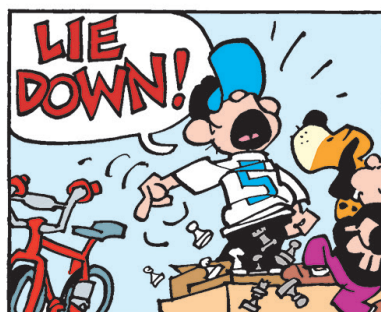
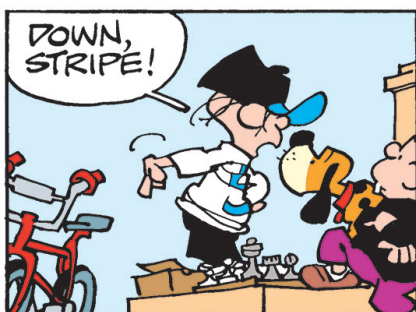
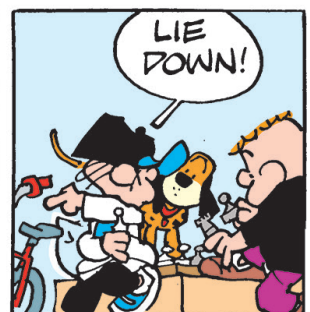
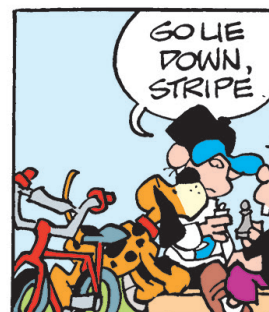
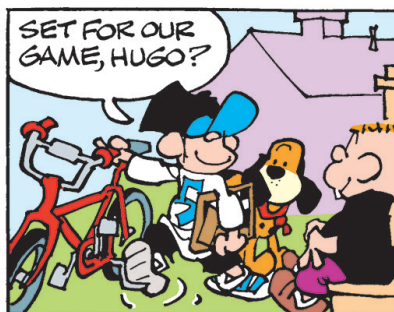
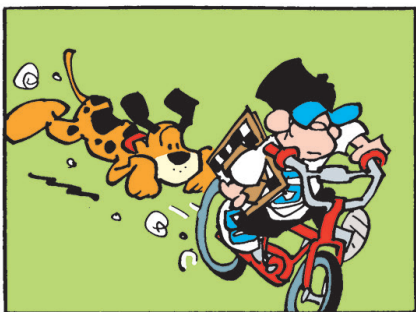
* "If your cat regularly has issues with hair balls, try giving it a teaspoon of olive oil a day. Mine loves it and will lick it right off a saucer, but you could drizzle it over food too. It's better than butter, because it's good fats not bad." -- Y.E. in Missouri

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

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 **TIGER**

by **BUD BLAKE**



Groton Daily Independent

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Like lemons
5 Rock concert booster
8 Farm fathers
12 "The Kite Runner" boy
13 Saloon
14 Buffalo's lake
15 Yellow-brown gemstone
17 Blaze
18 Industrious insect
19 Actor Karl
21 Entices
24 Small rodents
25 Common connections
26 Vision tests
30 Enjoy Aspen
31 Camper owners, for short
32 Yule quaff
33 Close watch
35 Blog entry
36 Hibernia
37 Trousers
38 Brief time
41 Debussy's "La —"
42 Author Hunter
43 Good-looking person
48 Laptop connection
49 Fair-hiring letters
50 Shabby beer joint

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
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33				34					35			
				36					37			
38	39	40					41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

- 51 Feeder filler
52 Slangy denial
53 Way out
11 Viewed
16 ER workers
20 Experts
21 Pyramid part
22 "Puppy Love" singer
23 Beatnik's assent
24 "No way!"
26 Katniss in "The Hunger Games"
27 Shortly
28 Lion's share
29 Boot camp
31 Check
34 Mr. Brezhnev
35 Saint Patrick's Day event
37 Chest muscle
38 Stitches
39 Marisa's "Only Love" role
40 Parisian eatery
41 Cat call
44 Pro vote
45 Veto
46 506, in old Rome
47 However

DOWN

- 1 Bit of ink
2 " — Blue?"
3 Fix illegally
4 Goodies
5 Help a hood
6 Spring month
7 Opening night
8 Automatic reaction
9 Saharan
10 Swampy terrain

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

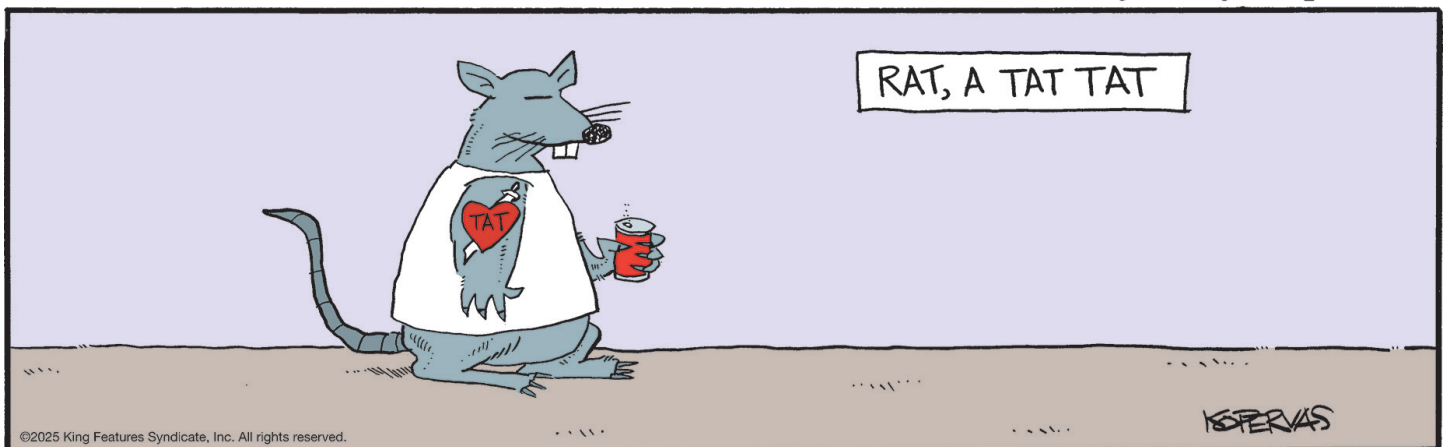
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A	N	D	S		E	Y	E	E	X	A	M	S	
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E	A	G	L	E	E	Y	E		P	O	S	T	
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S	E	E	D			N	A	W		E	X	I	T

Olive



Out on a Limb

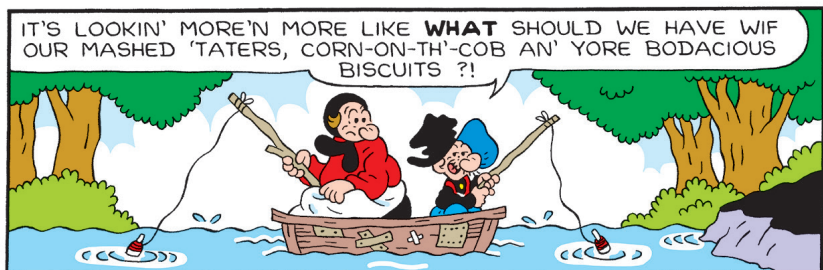
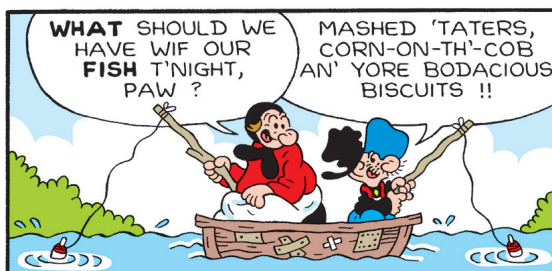
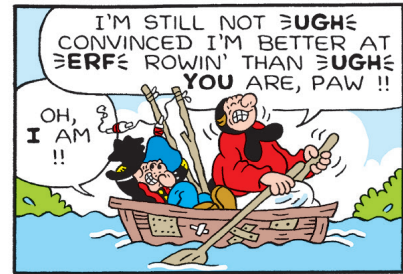
by Gary Kopervas



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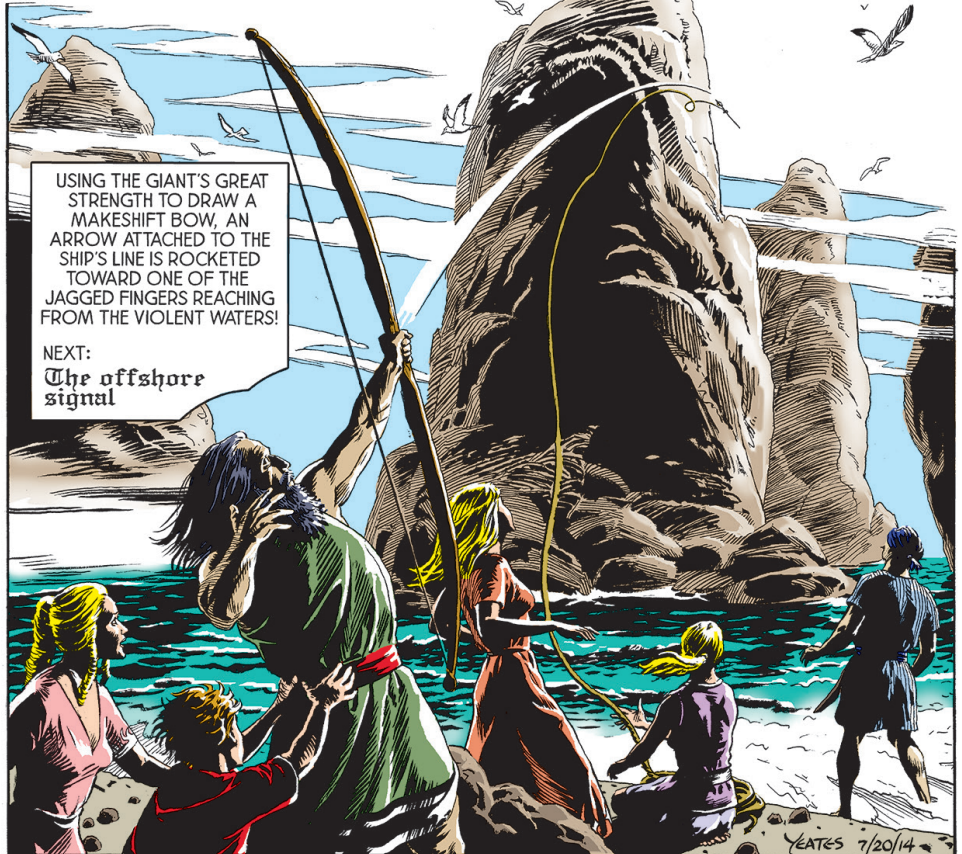
CALYPSO HAS FLED HER DISOBEDIENT SIRENS, WHO, AT ZULFAS URGING, TALK WITH VAL ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ASYLUM IN THE MISTY ISLES.

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BUT THE ESCAPED SLAVES REMAIN OPENLY FEARFUL OF A VENGEFUL CALYPSO AND HER KNOWLEDGE OF BOTH THE NATURAL AND SUPERNATURAL WORLDS.

WHILE BACK ON THE ROCKY SHORE, ALETA AND HER CHILDREN, GURRYAN, AND THE GIANT BUT CHILDLIKE POLYPHEMUS HAVE FASHIONED THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO BEGIN THE SALVAGE OF THE SUNKEN ISLAND QUEEN.



USING THE GIANT'S GREAT STRENGTH TO DRAW A MAKESHIFT BOW, AN ARROW ATTACHED TO THE SHIP'S LINE IS ROCKETED TOWARD ONE OF THE JAGGED FINGERS REACHING FROM THE VIOLENT WATERS!

NEXT:
The offshore signal

YEATES 7/20/14

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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PICKERING

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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Know the Signs of Senior Abuse

Sometimes it takes watchful eyes to keep seniors safe. Whether it's physical, emotional or financial abuse, or any other kind, those who come in contact with seniors can look for signs that all is not well.

In banking, if you spot a senior who seems distressed and who repeatedly takes large sums of money out of an account (or changes his or her routine), that senior might be a victim of abuse or a scam. (Seniors, don't use the drive-up teller window. Go inside so staff can get to know you. Sign a new signature card every six months so your handwriting sample is current.)

If you spot personality changes in a senior, the cause might be physical -- or it might be a result of abuse. Ask what's going on. If a senior who used to dress immaculately is now wearing the same clothes for days in a row, ask. If a senior is no longer as sociable or doesn't participate in previous activities, ask. If you spot bruises or injury, ask.

In a caregiver or hospital situation, you might see lack of care or physical abuse. A neighbor who's had relatives move in might suddenly change his or her routines. At home, the senior might be denied food or medicine or mail.

If you want more information to help seniors, go online to the National Center on Elder Abuse ([ncea.acl.gov](https://www.ncea.acl.gov)) or call 855-500-3537. Learn about the signs of abuse and what you can do when you suspect it's taking place. Check [eldercare.gov](https://www.eldercare.gov), or call 800-677-1116. You'll find information on getting help for housing, in-home services, long-term care, nutrition ... and abuse.

Seniors, if you think you're being abused in any way, call the police. You don't have to put up with abusive treatment.

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1. He won five NBA championships and has his No. 10 retired by the Detroit Pistons. His daughter has played on the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team. Who are they?

2. Germany's Isabell Werth won 14 medals over seven Summer Olympics from 1992-2025, competing in what sport?

3. In rowing, the coach of the boat responsible for steering, safety and motivating the crew is known as what?

4. At the 2025 Major League Baseball All-Star Game, which Philadelphia Phillies slugger hit three home runs in the game's first "swing-off" tiebreaker round to give the AL a 7-6 win over the NL?

5. Founded in 1908, The Strongest is the oldest active soccer club in what South American country?

6. What NFL quarterback was going to purchase a \$2.99 million, fully functioning Batmobile replica until a December 2024 robbery at his home made him reconsider?

7. Name the Basketball Hall of Famer who was head coach of the University of Louisville Cardinals men's basketball team from 1971 to 2001.



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Dennis and Trinity Rodman.

2. Equestrian.

3. The coxswain.

4. Kyle Schwarber.

5. Bolivia.

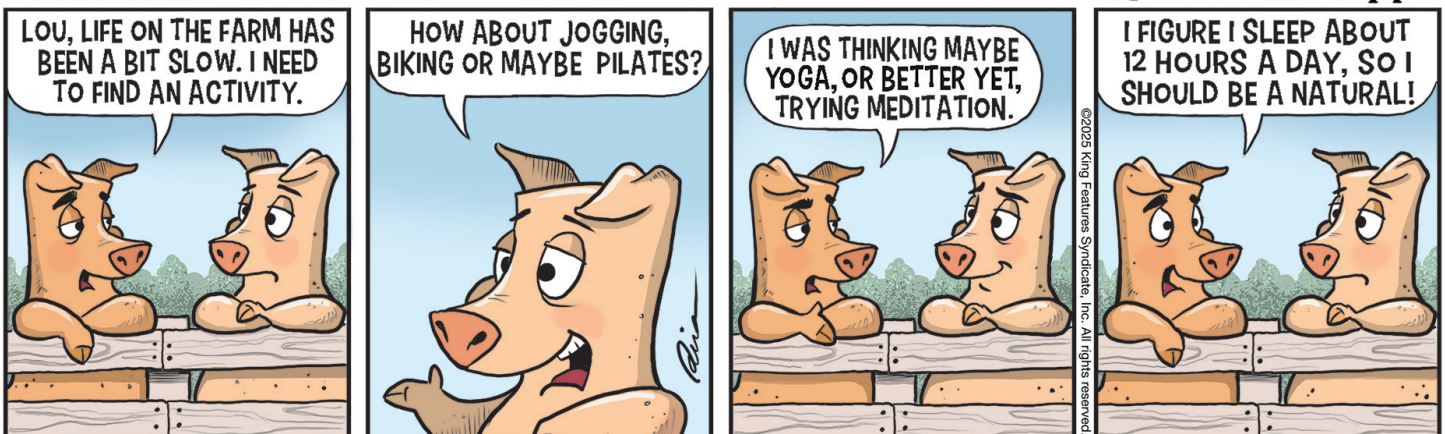
6. Joe Burrow.

7. Denny Crum.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Puppy training 101: Basic commands

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I'm bringing home a 2-month-old puppy soon. And as I get my apartment ready, I also want to start her training right away. What do you recommend? -- Francine J., Jacksonville, Florida

DEAR FRANCINE: Congratulations! Sounds like your new puppy will get a great start. Basic obedience training is the foundation of all your puppy's training. It can improve behavioral issues or stop them before they start. It keeps your puppy safe, because she'll respond to you -- very important if she slips her leash outside or tries to nab something from the kitchen counter.

The six most important commands are:

Come: Your dog should stop whatever she's doing and immediately come back to you.

Sit: Your puppy should sit calmly on your command.

Down: Your dog should lay down on their stomach, head up and alert.

Stay: Your dog should remain sitting (or laying) once you place them in that position.

Heel: Directs the dog to walk next to you -- not ahead, behind or darting off to the side.

Leave It: Commands her to drop and move away from any object.

As you start her training, remember:

Keep training sessions short but frequent. Puppies' attention spans are super-short because they are still exploring their new world. Plus, they tire quickly.

Potty break first, then training. A puppy can't concentrate on commands when she has to go.

Create a routine. Each day, train your puppy in a familiar, safe spot.

Keep treats handy. Soft, puppy-appropriate treats given when your puppy does anything right. Cut them into very small pieces so they don't eat too much.

Online training guides are very helpful. Search specifically for basic obedience training tutorials. I also recommend group or private puppy training sessions with a local trainer.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* The U.S. postmaster general was in the line of succession to the presidency until 1971.

* There are more mobile phones than people alive.

* In the late 18th century, Sweden's King Gustav III tried to prove that coffee was a deadly substance by making one twin drink coffee and the second one tea on a daily basis, while betting on which would be the first to succumb. Both twins survived and outlived both the king and the doctors conducting the experiment.

* The longest English word that generally appears in dictionaries is "pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis," the name of a lung disease.

* Watermelons were often used as canteens by early explorers and travelers.

* The tobacco industry spends almost \$4 billion per year to promote smoking, more than is spent advertising and promoting any other product.

* Black holes aren't black. They glow slightly, giving off light across the whole spectrum.

* The world's largest playable guitar is 43.5 feet long.

* Before an NHL game, hockey pucks are frozen to make them glide more smoothly and reduce bouncing.

* The ancient Greeks believed that amethysts could ward off intoxication and hangovers, so they often drank wine from cups carved from the gemstone.

* Seven percent of Americans steal toilet paper rolls in hotels or motels.

* About 70-75% of the world's population does not even use toilet paper.

* In 2009 a pigeon named Winston raced Telkom, South Africa's largest ISP, to see which one could deliver 4GB of data to a location 60 miles away the fastest. By the time Winston arrived with the 4GB flash drive, Telkom had transmitted only 4% of the data.

Thought for the Day: "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born ... and the day you find out why." -- Mark Twain

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Old pots made new

Try freshening up older clay pots with paint, mosaics, stucco or gluing items like shells, buttons, etc. It helps mismatched pots look more uniform, and gives your garden or patio some fresh color, without the cost of replacing all your pots. - Brenda Weaver

Inspect used pots for cracks, damage, mold and mildew. Clean and repair each pot.



Let dry. Sand surface lightly, then refinish.



When finished and completely dry, seal with clear water-proof finish.





by Freddy Groves

Unions are out at the VA

One wonders how this was allowed to happen in the first place: Last year the VA paid out \$45 million to employees who were working for federal unions instead of being at their jobs.

But no more. Not only are most of them no longer employed at the VA, but the ones who are still employed have been directed to be on the job -- and that \$45 million is going back into the VA coffers to be used on veteran services.

A month ago the VA terminated the union bargaining agreements for most of those employees, canceling the contracts that had kept VA managers in a stranglehold and unable to hire and fire as they wanted and needed.

To get an idea of how the unions operated (to the detriment of the VA), the VA was forced to pay out \$134 million to former employees who had been fired for misconduct (which included harassment and patient abuse). Unions opposed the MISSION Act, which had a direct impact on veterans getting health care. And unions were against whistleblower protections.

Nurses alone were paid \$1.25 million for doing union business instead of taking care of patients. VA employees were paid for working 750,000 hours doing union business instead of doing their jobs at the VA. Others being paid for doing union business included attorneys and pharmacists.

Over 187,000 square feet of VA property had been used by the unions, for free, for union business, as well as over 2,000 pieces of equipment such as computers and phones. In one VA medical center alone the unions had used 7,500 square feet of office space, 3,500 square feet at another and over 2,000 square feet at nearly a dozen other VA facilities.

Following the VA's example, several other government agencies have followed suit and terminated their contracts with unions. Those include the Health and Human Services, Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Homeland Security.

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Wishing Well®

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7	8	4	7	8	3	7	4	8	4	3	4	4
I	O	D	N	U	D	G	E	S	A	S	L	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. MOVIES: What was the name of Ron Burgundy's dog in "Anchor-man"?
2. LITERATURE: The middle school student Greg Heffley is the protagonist of which book series?
3. SCIENCE: What is the Abyssal Zone in the ocean?
4. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the island of Aruba located?
5. TELEVISION: Which city is the setting for the series "Breaking Bad"?
6. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear of colors called?
7. ANATOMY: What connects muscles to bones?
8. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the Badlands National Park?
9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the sixth president of the United States?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is September's traditional birthstone?

Answers

1. Baxter.
2. "Diary of a Wimpy Kid."
3. The deepest and darkest part of the ocean, at depths of 3,000 to 6,000 meters.
4. Southern Caribbean Sea.
5. Albuquerque, New Mexico.
6. Chromophobia.
7. Tendons.
8. South Dakota.
9. John Quincy Adams.
10. Sapphire.

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Open and Civil Discourse

Decades before the American Revolution, Benjamin Franklin wrote, "Without freedom of thought, there can be no such thing as wisdom; and no such thing as public liberty, without freedom of speech."

Our Founding Fathers believed so strongly in civil and open public discourse that they put freedom of speech in the First Amendment. They knew that our American republic could only function if people openly shared their beliefs and the reason for those beliefs – and that had to happen at all levels of society, from statehouses and the U.S. Capitol to individual conversations between friends, family, and neighbors.

Recently here in South Dakota, we embarked on a process rooted in civil and open public discourse. When the previous prison plan failed during the legislative session, I started a prison task force to build consensus on this issue. I knew that the Legislature was very divided on the subject, so I included an even number of supporters and opponents of the original plan, as well as both Republicans and Democrats.

I challenged the task force to answer three questions: 1) Do we need a new prison? 2) How big should it be? 3) Where should it go? The task force met four times in open session and took hours of public comment. Through debate and negotiation, they came to unanimous agreement on each of the three questions.

The prison task force proved that civil and open public discourse doesn't just make for a good process – it makes for good policy.

Just a few days ago, our nation lost one of our greatest advocates and examples of open and civil discourse. Charlie Kirk was a great champion of free speech. He would go onto college campuses, environments where most folks did not agree with him, and offer everyone the opportunity to debate him. He did not attack individuals personally. His answers were focused on his Christian faith, his conservative principles, and his reason and common sense.

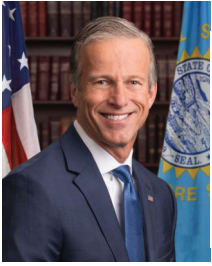
We could sure use a lot more Charlie Kirks in the world today.

Charlie Kirk was killed doing what he loved: participating in open and civil discourse. He was shot for the crime of having a difference of opinion and practicing the very thing that the First Amendment protects. We can honor his legacy by continuing to talk to each other and focusing on reason and principle, rather than personal attacks.

As we approach the upcoming special session on the new prison, I hope that everyone takes the time to review the facts and make their decision based on common sense and the principles of public safety and fiscal conservatism. We had a good process, we have a good plan, and we have the money to pay for it. Let's get it done so that we can focus on rehabilitating people and make our state a better, safer place to live.

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JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

No More Delays: Republicans Are Restoring the Senate

Last year, the American people gave President Trump a mandate. Like every president before him, President Trump needs a team to help enact his agenda. But unlike his predecessors, President Trump has had to face unprecedented obstruction from Senate Democrats in getting members of his administration confirmed quickly. Republicans are putting an end to Democrats' antics to ensure the Senate can do its job and President Trump can have his administration at full strength.

It takes more than 1,000 Senate-confirmed officials to fill a president's administration. To get so many people on the job quickly, the Senate has historically bundled noncontroversial, lower-level nominees in batches and confirmed them by voice vote. But that's not how things have gone this year. While previous presidents have had a majority of their nominees approved in this more efficient manner, President Trump is the first president on record not to have a single nominee confirmed this way. Because Democrats have refused to speed things up even for nominees who have bipartisan support, the Senate has had to consider all of President Trump's nominees one at a time.

That stops now. Republicans have taken steps to restore the Senate's traditional confirmation process so we can get the rest of President Trump's team in place. What we've done is simply codify in Senate rules what was once understood to be standard practice, and that is confirming lower-level nominees expeditiously in batches. It's an idea that Democrats actually proposed themselves, and it's a step toward both the Senate and executive branch working more efficiently for the American people.

The status quo is simply untenable. The Senate has been in session longer and has taken more votes in the last eight months than any Senate has at this point since the 1980s. Yet, at our current pace, facing the same Democrat obstruction, there would still be hundreds of vacancies remaining when President Trump's term ends. Not to mention the fact that the more time the Senate spends on nominations, the less time we have for working on legislation.

Eight months of petty partisanship is long enough. Democrats have broken the confirmation process. Republicans are fixing it, and we're ensuring that, in the future, duly elected presidents are able to get their teams in place without unnecessary and partisan delays so they, and the Senate, can fulfill their responsibilities to the American people.

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A Turning Point

BIG News

Charlie Kirk was a family man and a young, conservative leader in politics. He was known for his spirited debates where he respectfully engaged with others about the issues facing America. Our nation is mourning the assassination of Charlie. I join with many others in praying for his wife and two young kids and hope that God comforts them in this tragic loss.

The assassination is inexcusable and an attack on the idea of free, civil debate in America. Too often, we view people with differing opinions as enemies, rather than fellow Americans. Political violence is never the answer. Our nation must find a better path forward—together.

BIG Update

America's military should be the strongest, most prepared fighting force in the world. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) makes sure our service members have what they need when they need it.

The bill included many of my priorities, including support for our troops, necessary equipment, construction funds, and \$20 billion of savings. The Ellsworth Air Force Base will receive \$378 million for construction, and nearly \$3.5 billion is going toward procurement of the B-21 Raider. The NDAA also strengthens America's deterrence of China and works to eliminate the Department of Defense's reliance on Chinese products and tech for our warfighters.

I was proud to vote to pass the NDAA to keep the United States safe, strong, and secure and ensure America projects peace through strength on the global stage.

BIG Idea

Black Hills Works provides employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and veterans on AbilityOne federal contracts in South Dakota. I got to meet with Mark to hear how AbilityOne has provided him the opportunity for mission-driven employment at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

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SEPTEMBER 1-7, 2025

Welcome back to the Weekly Round[s] Up! We are back in session in Washington after spending the month of August working in South Dakota. It's always great to be home, but we have a lot to address in DC this month. We've already begun to advance the National De-

fense Authorization Act, legislation which authorizes critical funding for military programs, personnel and equipment. We also continue to work toward funding the government before the end of the Fiscal Year, September 30.

In addition, Senate Democrats are carrying out historic obstruction when it comes to confirming President Trump's nominees. The numbers tell the story: in the first eight months of the Trump Administration, only 135 nominees have been confirmed. By contrast, President Biden had 817 confirmed in his first two years, and even President Trump's first term saw 715. Historically, more than 90% of nominees have been cleared quickly by unanimous consent or voice vote. Under Trump II, that number is zero. Instead, each nominee is dragged through time-consuming roll call votes, with confirmations of nominees with bipartisan support taking an average of 94 days. Nearly a quarter into the term, less than 12% of positions are filled, proof Democrats are deliberately grinding government to a halt for partisan gain. Despite this, Senate Republicans are committed to getting these nominees confirmed and in place. All this to say, we're geared up for a busy month ahead. More in my Weekly Round[s] Up:

South Dakota work period: As I mentioned, I spent most of August in South Dakota. A few highlights from the month included the Brown County Fair in Aberdeen, the Central States Fair's Ag Appreciation Event in Rapid City, Dakotafest's Annual Congressional Forum in Mitchell and the Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce's Inside Washington Event in Sioux Falls. I appreciate everyone who took the time to come out to these events, ask questions and share comments on the work we're doing in DC.

Other meetings this past week: I met with Secretary of Energy Chris Wright to discuss the important work happening at the Sanford Underground Research Facility near Lead. I also met with Dr. Stephen Miran, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors and nominee to serve on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors; General Christopher Mahoney, nominee to serve as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and leaders from the Embassy of Rwanda. I spoke at the Defense News Conference in a fireside chat addressing information warfare.

Hearing: We had one hearing in the Senate Banking Committee to hear from a group of nominees, including Dr. Stephen Miran who I met with earlier in the week. You can watch a clip of my questions from that hearing [here](#).

Votes taken: 4 – two of these were procedural votes to advance this year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). While we still need to vote on a few amendments to this piece of legislation, I am hopeful that it will pass the full Senate before the end of the month.

My staff in South Dakota visited: Martin and Sioux Falls.

Steps taken: 44,644 steps or 20.80 miles.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

How Much Fun Is Too Much?

If you don't have any fun in life, what is the purpose? I know life is more than just having fun, but there is a place for fun in our daily lives.

Everyone has their idea of what fun is, and we don't always agree on that. Take, for example, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has an entirely different idea of fun than her husband.

What I consider to be fun, she doesn't like at all. What she considers fun, I don't understand at all. But there are quite a few times that we have had fun together. I should really write them down so that I don't forget them. The next time we have fun together, I'm going to make a note.

As for me, I get things confused, and sometimes I say the wrong word. Everybody is guilty of that at some time. But when I do it, I get into some really deep trouble.

Last week, for instance, we went to the mall together. We don't often do that because I really don't like the mall. When I go to the mall, I like to go to the coffee shop, get some coffee, and let The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage do all the shopping.

This week we went together, and just as we got into the mall, we encountered some friends of ours that we haven't seen for a while. I always enjoy catching up with friends and having a little fun together.

He and I drifted away from my wife and his wife. I'm not quite sure what the ladies were talking about, but then I wouldn't understand it anyway, even if I had heard it.

My friend was a little obsessed with his wife buying purses all the time. He never called them purses; he called them bags.

"I don't understand," he said to me, "why women need so many of these bags. Why can't they be satisfied with just one."

Then he went on describing all of those "bags" his wife had at home.

"I can bet that she's going to buy another bag today here at the mall," he said with a little bit of sarcasm. We laughed together because we both knew what he was talking about.

I then pointed over to my wife and said, "Look at that lovely bag over there."

I didn't realize that I used the wrong word. My friend always called a purse a bag, and so I followed along with him. I wanted him to see the nice purse my wife had. But when I said, "Look at that lovely bag over there," I got into so much trouble that I don't know if I'm out of it today. As usual, my wife heard every word that I said, and she looked at me with one of her looks and both hands on her hips.

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That alone convinced me I was in for some trouble. My fun time had evolved into "I'm in trouble time". I didn't say what she heard me say but what she heard me say is what I said. How I'm going to get out of this is beyond my pay scale.

Sometimes when we're having fun, people hear us say something, but they interpret it in the opposite direction. There's something about words that can really get you into trouble.

I like to have fun and enjoy pulling friends into the experience, but I need to know where to draw the line. And after all of these years of matrimonial bliss, I don't know where to draw the line.

I stared at my friend for a moment, and he began to smile because he knew that I was in trouble.

"Well," he said to me, "my wife and I need to get going." And they walked away, leaving me with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and the trouble I was in.

The way she looked at me, I knew I had come to the end of having fun that day. Nothing I could say or do could ever undo what I said.

As we walked out of the mall to our vehicle, I tried to think of something to say that would make up for my blunder. Even though I work with words all the time I could not come up with the right words to use at this time.

As we drove home in the Sissy Van, she was very quiet and focused solely on driving. I, on the other hand, was focused on being quiet. There's a time to speak and a time to be quiet. As a veteran husband, I am still learning when it's time to be quiet.

I'm not going to give up on having fun; I'm just going to try to be more delicate in the fun I choose at the time. That will not be easy, but sometimes you have to pay for the fun that you have.

As I was thinking through this, I couldn't help but think of a special Bible verse.

"Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding" (Proverbs 17:28).

When I open my mouth, people can see what a fool I am. If I keep my mouth shut, I hide all that foolishness. My new goal is to show a smile with my mouth and keep my mouth shut.

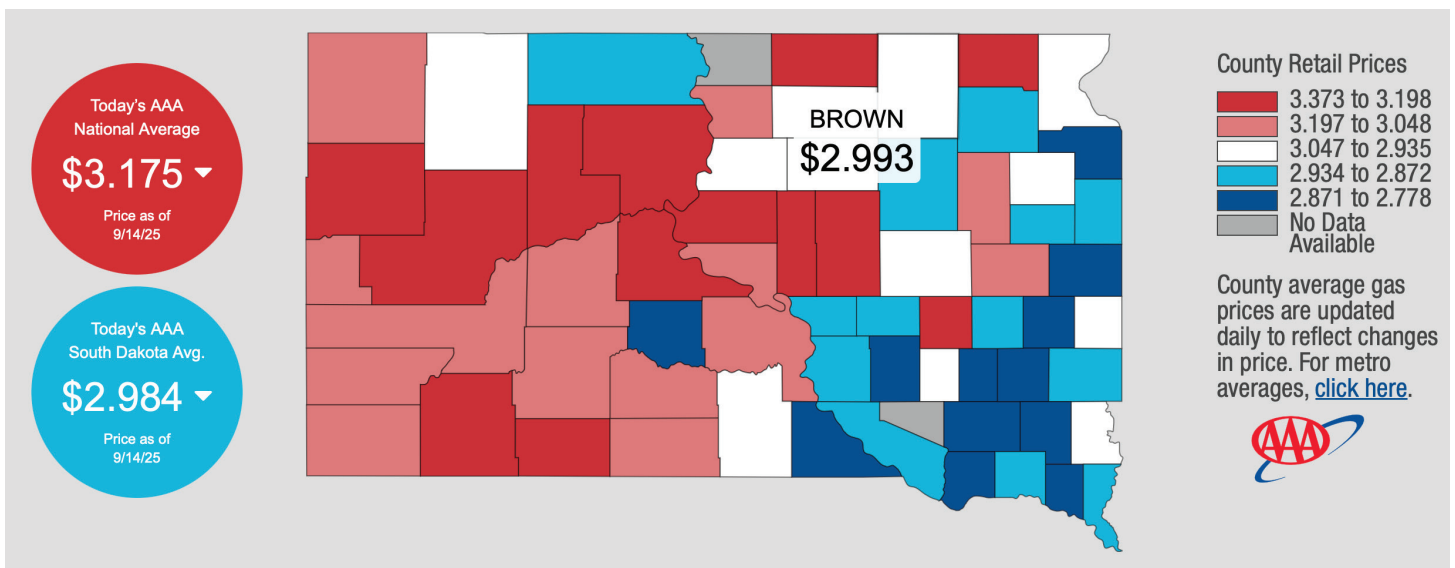
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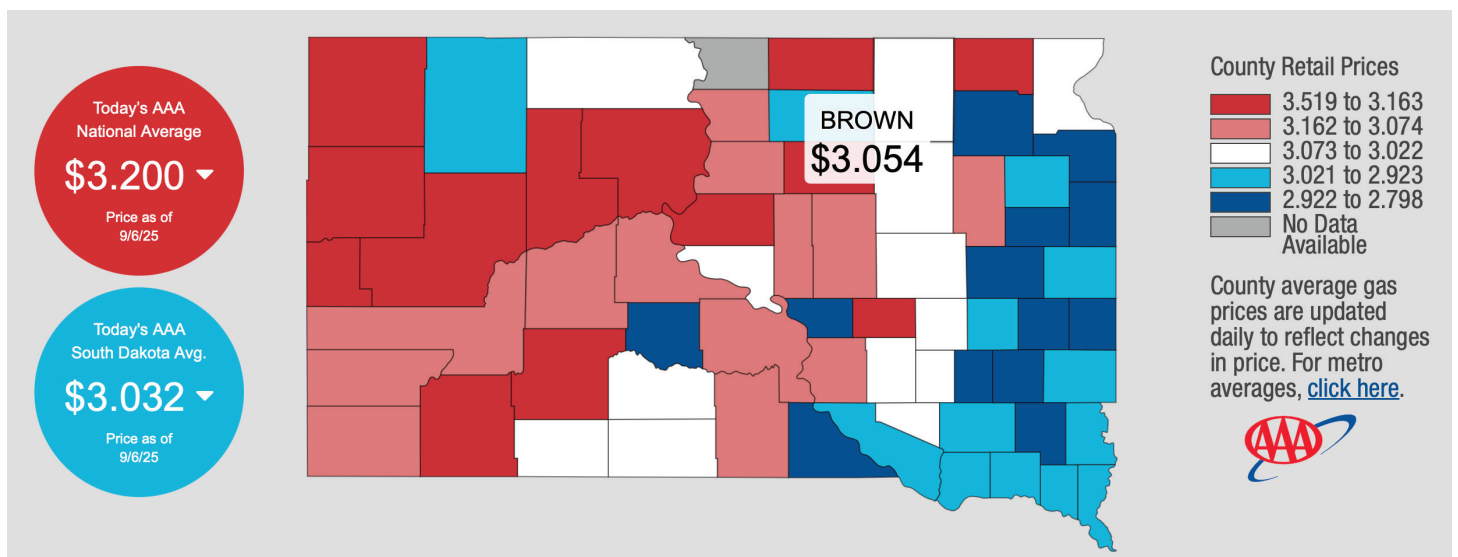
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$2.984	\$3.168	\$3.638	\$3.401
Yesterday Avg.	\$2.991	\$3.173	\$3.637	\$3.402
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.024	\$3.196	\$3.680	\$3.441
Month Ago Avg.	\$2.986	\$3.195	\$3.638	\$3.399
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.134	\$3.338	\$3.733	\$3.322

This Week



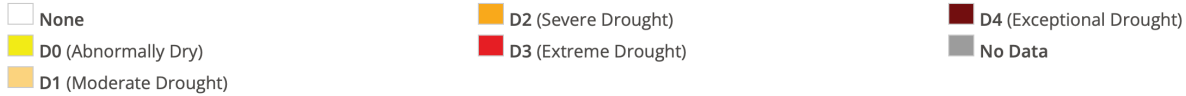
Last Week



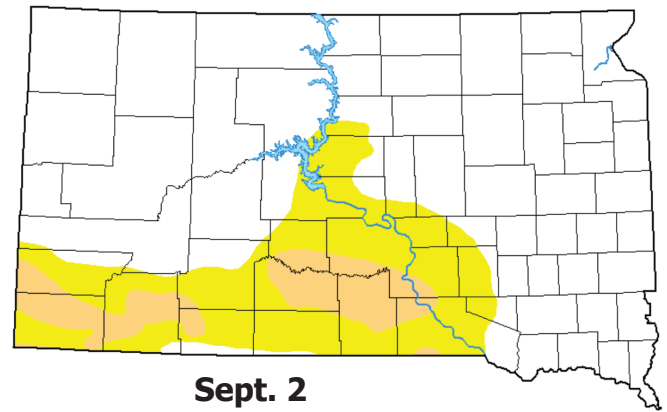
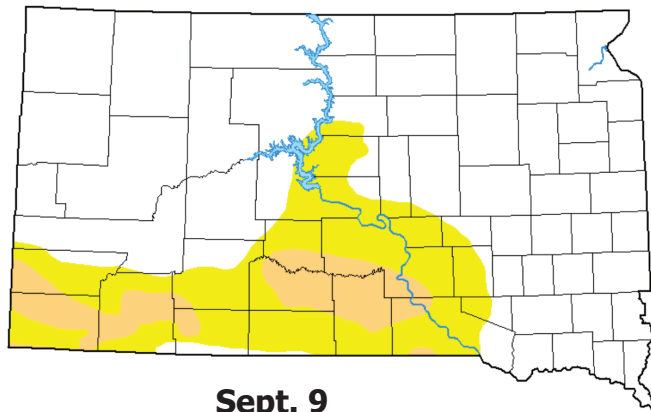
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Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



Heavy precipitation (more than 2 inches) occurred in D-nada areas of central Kansas, but significant precipitation (1.5 to inches) led to a minor decrease in abnormal dryness (D0) in southwestern Kansas. Conversely, a slight increase in D0 and moderate drought (D1) was made to eastern Kansas. Significant precipitation (more than 0.5" and locally 2-3") supported improvements across southern Colorado, while worsening SPIs led to a slight expansion of severe (D2) to extreme (D3) drought for northern Colorado. A majority of the Dakotas, Nebraska, and eastern Wyoming remain drought-free.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: What's the connection between global warming and increased eye problems for humans? —Pauline Mercy, Wilmington, NC

When most people think of global warming, they picture melting glaciers, intense heat waves, or rising seas. What is less widely recognized is the growing impact of climate change on human eye health. Rising global temperatures, worsening air quality, shifting disease patterns, and increasing water scarcity are all contributing factors that heighten the risk of eye-related problems worldwide. As the atmosphere warms and the ozone layer thins in some regions, people are exposed to more intense ultraviolet radiation. This type of radiation has been strongly linked to conditions such as cataracts, macular degeneration, and pterygium, also known as "surfer's eye." Dr. Anne Lynch of Stony Brook University notes, "The eyes, like the skin, are vulnerable to UV damage—and we're seeing an uptick in related conditions as temperatures rise globally." In other words, the same sunlight that burns the skin can also quietly damage vision.

Air pollution exacerbates the problem. Climate change drives an increase in wildfires, worsens urban smog, and traps fine particulate matter in the air, all of which irritate the eyes and can trigger dry eye syndrome, allergic conjunctivitis, and other inflammatory conditions. Some research even shows that during wildfire seasons, hospital emergency rooms see measurable increases in eye-related visits. Meanwhile, warmer and wetter environments allow insects that carry pathogens to expand into new regions. This has resulted in the spread of infectious diseases such as trachoma, a bacterial infection that can cause blindness if untreated, while fungal and viral eye infections are also becoming more common under shifting climate conditions.

Water scarcity adds another dimension. Prolonged droughts and shrinking access to clean water make it harder for people, especially in low-income regions, to maintain basic hygiene. Without enough clean water, the risk of eye infections rises sharply. Tragically, those who contribute least to climate change are often the ones who suffer the most severe consequences.

There are, however, meaningful steps that can help. On an individual level, wearing sunglasses that block ultraviolet rays provides critical protection, and reducing exposure to polluted air can lessen irritation and disease risk. On a broader scale, stricter air quality regulations, programs that expand access to safe water, and greater public awareness of climate change's hidden health impacts all play essential roles. Climate change is not only altering weather systems and ecosystems but also directly affecting human vision, making clear that the eyes are yet another front line in the struggle to adapt to a warming world.



Climate change is taking a toll on humans' eye health and health care professionals are wondering what to do...



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Support for SD biomedical students falls victim to Trump diversity cuts upheld by Supreme Court

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER-SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 7:00 AM

A program supporting rural and first-generation college students pursuing graduate degrees in biomedical research at the University of South Dakota is among the victims of Trump administration grant cancellations upheld recently by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The court ruled last month that \$783 million in nationwide research grants related to health disparities, LGBTQ+ health and vaccines could be terminated by the National Institutes of Health. The Trump administration canceled the grants as part of a crackdown on diversity, equity and inclusion-related studies.

The federal government awarded USD \$1.1 million over the last five years to start a Graduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement, or G-RISE, program. The university had spent all but \$174,661 of the money when the grant was terminated.

University officials had hoped to get a "no-cost extension" to spend the remaining funds for a year beyond the grant deadline, said USD spokesperson Alissa Matt.

The program focused on recruiting and retaining underrepresented students to pursue graduate degrees through the USD Division of Biomedical and Translational Science, Matt added. Associate Professor Lisa McFadden said the program looked for students "eager" to become researchers and enrolled applicants based on academic performance, research potential and commitment to the field.

Several other universities throughout the country have G-RISE programs.

"We were also excited about the chance to use this funding to support first-generation and rural students — two of the groups NIH identified as underrepresented in its initial request for proposals," Matt said in an emailed statement.

Since 2020, the program financially supported 11 graduate students with stipends. Most of the program's professional development, mentoring and research activities were open to all USD graduate students.

McFadden said in an emailed statement that students in the program are resilient, creative and determined, "often coming from rural communities where resources are limited, yet proving they can thrive in biomedical research."

"Their success reflects the values of South Dakota: resilience, resourcefulness, and the ability to do more with fewer NIH resources," McFadden said.

The program was a "strong fit" for USD, Matt said, because it connected students with meaningful training experiences and improved student outcomes. That included increasing the number of fellowships Biomedical and Translational Science graduates received and an increase in publications per student. The program improved retention, with 100% of G-RISE fellows completing the program, and decreased the time it took an average student to graduate.

The university wants to continue the program, so officials are "exploring other grant programs" to support graduate students, Matt said, including applying for other National Institutes of Health grants.

Programs like G-RISE and other projects committed to supporting South Dakota students, McFadden said, "can help South Dakota retain and grow the biomedical workforce our state needs."

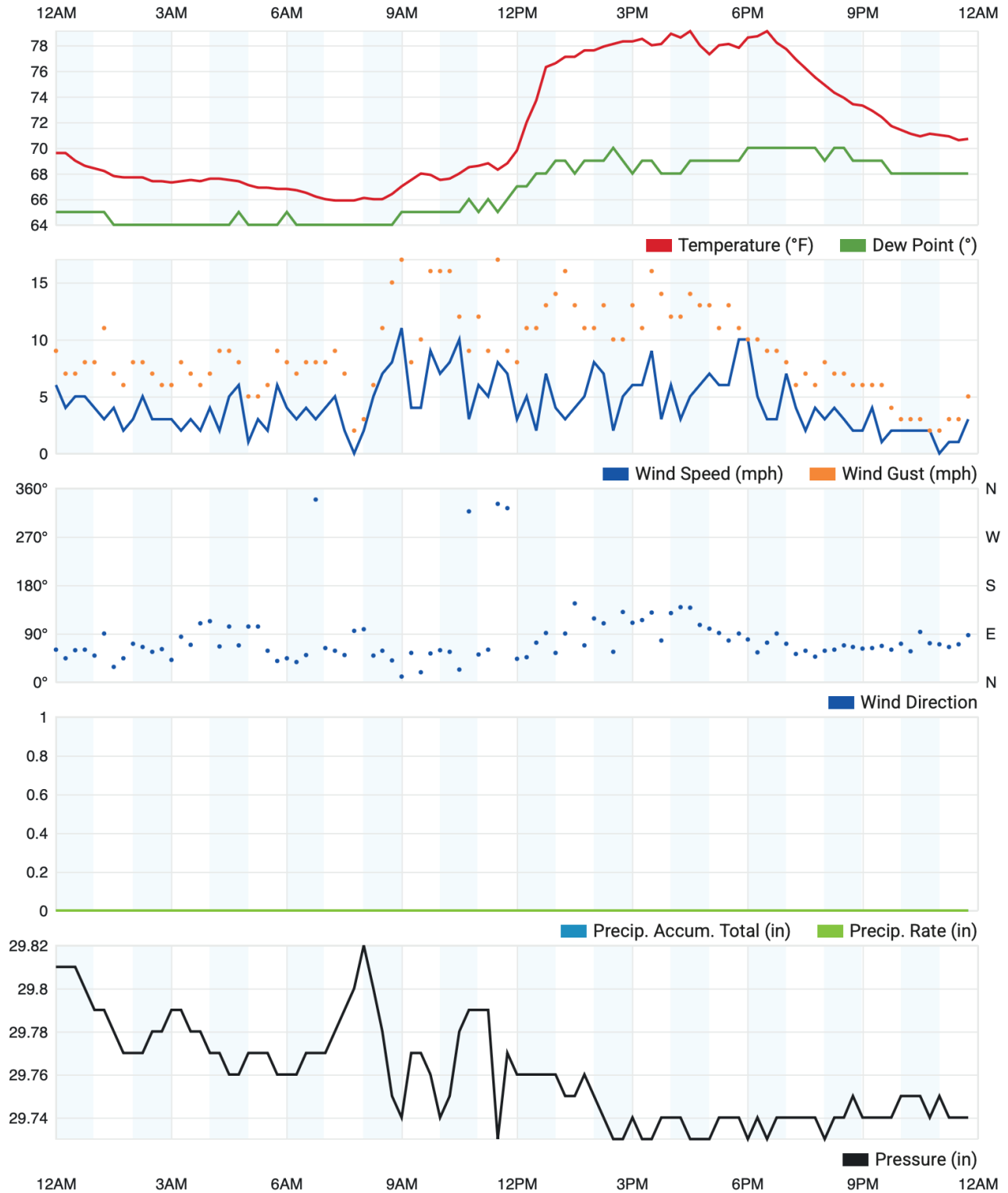
Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota's Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a 2024 finalist for the national Livingston Awards.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

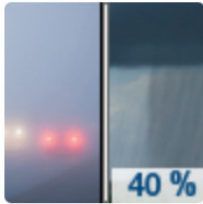
September 13, 2025



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Today



High: 84 °F

Areas Fog
then Chance
Showers

Tonight



Low: 61 °F

Chance
Showers

Monday



High: 82 °F

Chance
Showers

Monday Night



Low: 58 °F

Mostly Clear

Tuesday



High: 81 °F

Mostly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
Showers

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Scattered Severe Storms
Possible

TIMING

Early Afternoon-
Early Evening

PRIMARY THREAT



LARGE HAIL
(QUARTER SIZE)



ONE OR TWO
TORNADOES
POSSIBLE

SECONDARY THREATS

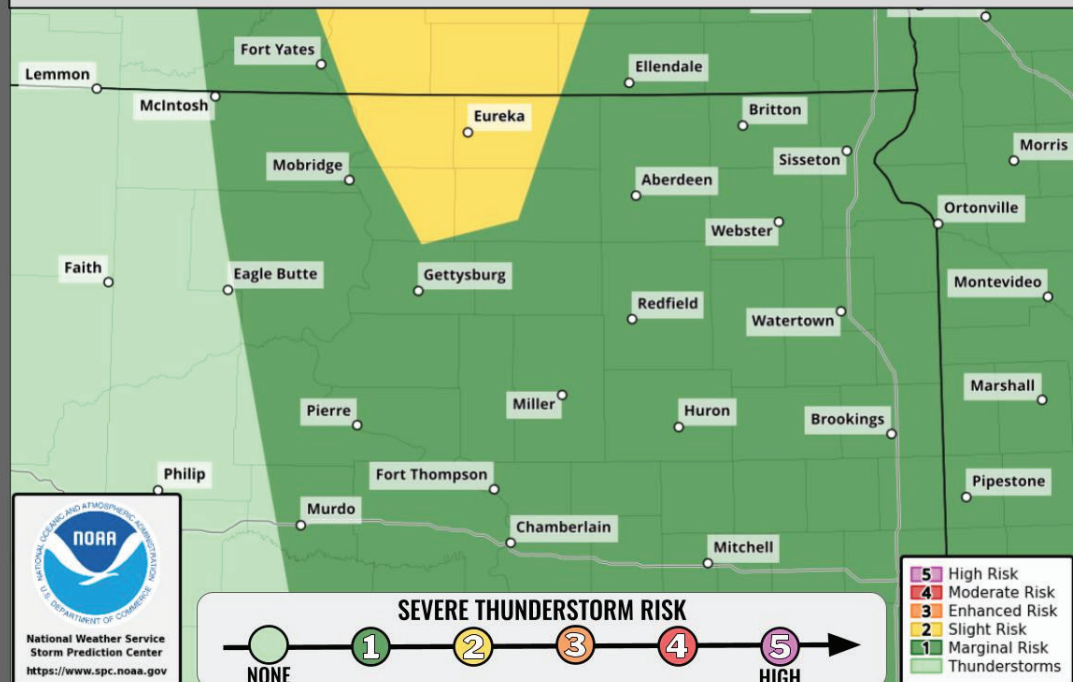


HEAVY RAIN
CAUSING
FLOODING



DAMAGING
WIND GUSTS OF
60+ MPH

Severe Storms Possible Today



There is a Slight Risk (level 2 out of 5) for scattered severe storms today across a portion of north central South Dakota. A Marginal Risk (level 1 out of 5) for severe weather has been issued for most areas along and east of the Missouri Valley. The main threats will be a tornado or two and large hail up to the size of quarters. Locally heavy rain and localized strong wind gusts up to 60 mph will also be possible. Storms will become strong to severe by early afternoon and persist into the early evening hours.

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Severe Weather Threats - Tornado

September 14, 2025

4:29 AM

Tornado Threat Highlights:

Discrete supercells may produce a tornado or two during the afternoon hours. Threat diminishes around sunset.

Area of Greatest Risk:

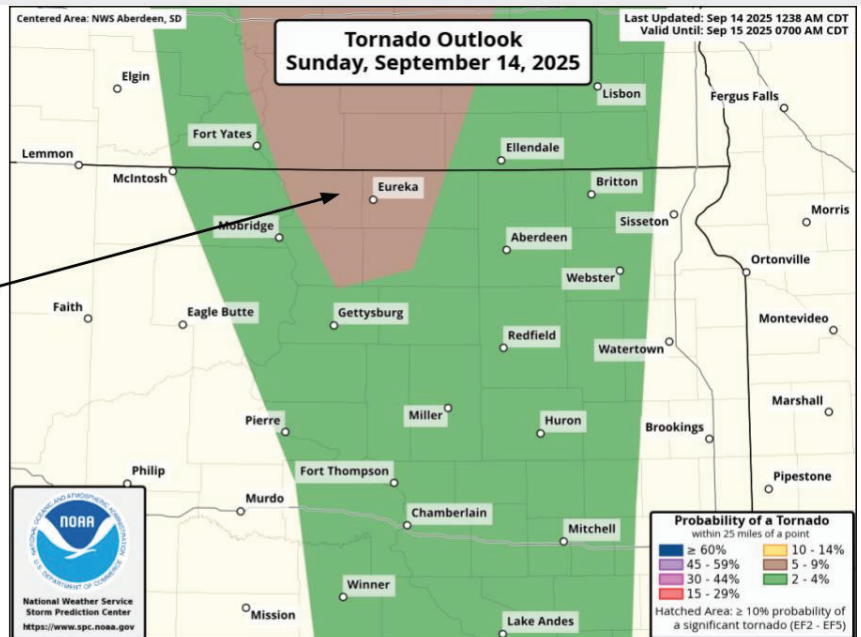
Mainly central South Dakota, between the Missouri and James rivers with the highest probability of a tornado over portions of north central SD

Probability of a Tornado

within 25 miles of a point

≥ 60%	10 - 14%
45 - 59%	5 - 9%
30 - 44%	2 - 4%
15 - 29%	

Hatched Area: ≥ 10% probability of a significant tornado (EF2 - EF5)



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Severe weather will be possible again today as a persistent area of low pressure remains anchored in the region and upper level energy rotates through. This pattern will be most conducive to producing severe storms this afternoon, with the strongest cells capable of producing a tornado or two. The best chances of seeing this will be between the Missouri and James Valleys with the highest probabilities across portions of north central South Dakota. The threat for tornadoes will begin to diminish around sunset this evening as the intensity of the storms wane.

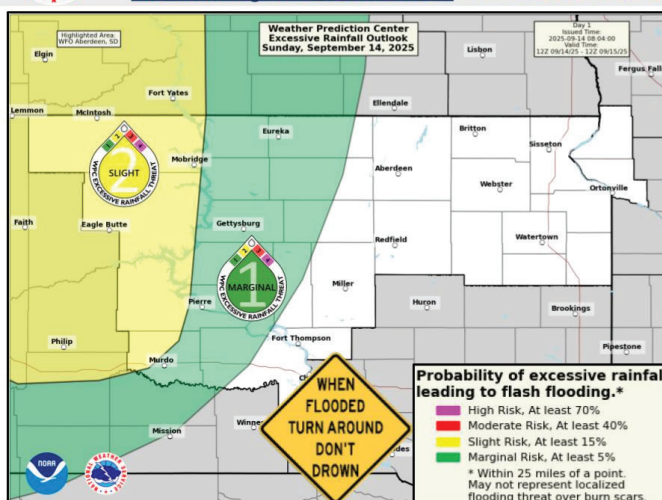


Heavy Rain Threat Continues Today

September 14, 2025

4:43 AM

Mid Morning to Late Afternoon will see best chances (70-90%) for rainfall



- Slow moving storms spread north across central SD this morning, becoming more numerous and widespread through the day. Coverage of storms spreads east into northeast SD this afternoon.

- 1-2" rainfall possible. Localized areas could exceed 2" across portions of central South Dakota, mainly along and west of the Missouri River.

- The Weather Prediction Center has issued a Slight Risk for Excessive Rainfall for locations in yellow for today.

- Urban areas, roads, small streams, washes or gullies remain the most vulnerable areas for localized flash flooding.

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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 79 °F at 3:58 PM

Low Temp: 66 °F at 7:25 AM

Wind: 18 mph at 11:27 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 102 in 1948

Record Low: 28 in 1949

Average High: 76

Average Low: 48

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.95

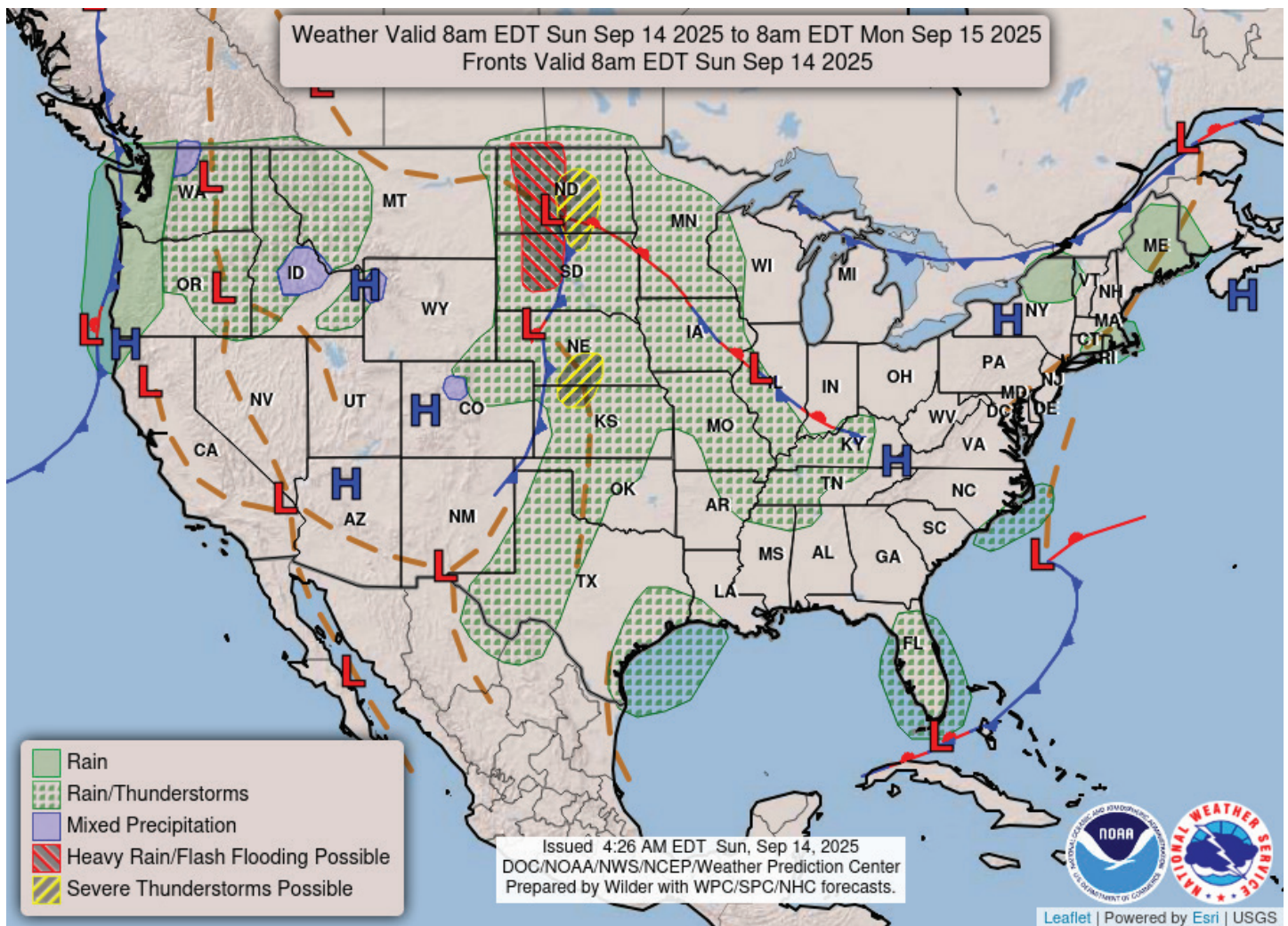
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.24

Average Precip to date: 17.29

Precip Year to Date: 20.54

Sunset Tonight: 7:45 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:11 am



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Today in Weather History

September 14, 1993: An early freeze and frost hit the state of South Dakota on the 14th and 15th. On the morning of the 14th, some low temperatures included 24 degrees at Rapid City, 19 degrees at Camp Crook and Porcupine, and 31 degrees at Pierre. The 24 degrees low at Rapid City broke the old record for the date by 10 degrees and was the earliest in the season it has ever been that cold. The air mass had moderated some by the time it hit eastern South Dakota early on the 15th. Some low temperatures on the 15th included 28 degrees at Brookings, 30 degrees at Watertown, and 32 at Sioux Falls.

1928: A violent, estimated F4 tornado, with winds of 200 mph, tore across Rockford, Illinois. The tornado first touched down 8 miles south-southwest of Rockford and moved across the southeast part of the city. The tornado was on the ground for 25 miles with a width varying from 200 to 500 feet. A total of 14 people were killed, with around 100 injuries reported in Rockford alone. Two hundred buildings were damaged or destroyed.

1977: Severe thunderstorms produced several tornadoes in eastern Arkansas, killing one.

2005: Hurricane Ophelia caused some damage and beach erosion along the United States coastline from Florida to North Carolina. The closest approach occurred on September 14 and 15 with its western eyewall crossing land and the eye remaining just offshore in the Carolinas.

2008: Hurricane Ike became extratropical on this day. The St. Louis Metropolitan Area experienced hurricane conditions, with Ike's remnants inflicting severe damage to homes. Several areas in Illinois and Indiana, already flooded by the frontal boundary to the north, saw significant additional rainfall. Due to flooding in Chicago, a state of emergency was declared for Cook County due to flooding of the Des Plaines River. Hurricane-force wind gusts were reported to the east of the center across parts of Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania with significant wind damage including structural damage to buildings and trees.

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God alone, through the
work of Christ on the
cross, can remove our
sins and cleanse us!

Paul echoed Solomon's words when he wrote, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." But Solomon forces us to address the same fact by asking a pointed question no one can escape: "Who can say, 'I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin?'"

Sometimes we look at sin as a big lump of things we did or did not do. Sin, we believe, has its origin outside of us or is the result of something that happened to us, and we simply have to deal with it the best we can by trying to do better. But that is impossible.

Sin is a heart problem and something we cannot change on our own. No one has ever been able to free themselves from sin. And here we find the reason.

If I were able to talk with Solomon, he might begin by asking, "Larry — have you kept your heart pure?" Heart, as you will recall, includes the sum total of us — our thoughts, feelings, attitudes, behaviors, values, and goals — that forms the way we relate to everything in life. And if our hearts are not pure, whatever we do will be impure. Only God can purify our hearts through the work of Christ. Only God can free us from an impure heart and the consequences of sin.

When Solomon posed this question, he framed it in such a way that anyone who answered it would be forced to respond by saying, "Not I." In his wisdom, he forces us to look inside of ourselves, at our own heart, and answer for our own impurities. We each must answer for our own sins. There is no way for us to escape our individual accountability or responsibility for what we have done. No one has kept their heart pure. No not one!

God alone, through the work of Christ on the cross, can remove our sins and cleanse us!

Today's Prayer: Father, how very grateful we are to have the promise of a pure heart that is available through Christ. May we, through Your grace, accept Him as our Savior and Lord! Amen!

Today's Scripture: "Who can say, 'I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin?'" Proverbs 20:9

If this message spoke to you today, don't keep it to yourself. Send it to a friend or loved one—God often uses simple moments like this to lift someone's spirit right when they need it most.

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: 09.12.25

17 18 21 42 64 7

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$400,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.13.25

20 24 25 28 46 1

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,800,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.13.25

20 21 23 29 39 11

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 41 Mins 49 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.13.25

8 19 24 31 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$23,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.13.25

3 6 20 34 49 12

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.13.25

28 37 42 50 53 19

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$64,000,000

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 Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Brandon Valley 43, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 15
Harrisburg 41, Rapid City Central 10
Sturgis Brown High School 41, Rapid City Stevens 10

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

South Dakota State gets 2 touchdowns from Julius Loughridge in 37-21 win against Drake

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Julius Loughridge scored two of South Dakota State's four rushing touchdowns and the Jackrabbits defeated Drake 37-21 on Saturday night.

South Dakota State, ranked No. 2 in the FCS coaches' poll, spotted Drake the first touchdown but Loughridge's TDs of 15 and 4 yards helped the Jackrabbits build a 28-10 lead with 11 minutes left in the third quarter.

Two-time defending Pioneer Football League champion Drake bounced back with a short rushing score by QB Logan Inagawa to make it 28-18 midway through the third.

The Jackrabbits put the game away with Ryan Harrington's 39-yard field goal and a 5-yard touchdown run by Corey Blair Jr.

The South Dakota State defense held Drake to just seven plays on two possessions between Inagawa's touchdown and a late drive that resulted in a short field goal with four seconds left.

Chase Mason completed 18 of 25 passes for 225 yards with one touchdown for the Jackrabbits (3-0).

Inagawa was 15-for-25 passing for 140 yards for the Bulldogs (1-1). He was intercepted once.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Aberdeen Central def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-14, 25-18, 25-11

Arlington def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-20, 22-25, 25-14

Harrisburg def. Huron, 25-16, 25-8, 25-16

Rapid City Christian def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-18, 25-16, 25-17

Spearfish def. T F Riggs High School, 25-12, 25-15, 22-25, 25-13

Arlington Tournament=

Arlington def. Deubrook, 25-18, 25-21

Burke def. Deubrook, 25-19, 25-22

Burke def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-16, 25-12

Deubrook def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 19-25, 25-17, 25-23

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Faulkton, 25-20, 25-19

Warner def. Arlington, 25-13, 25-22

Warner def. Burke, 25-16, 25-23

Warner def. Deubrook, 25-15, 25-17

Warner def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-11, 25-10

Warner def. Faulkton, 25-10, 25-17

Clark-Willow Lake Tournament=

Clark-Willow Lake def. Britton-Hecla, 25-18, 25-10

Clark-Willow Lake def. Deuel, 25-14, 25-15

Clark-Willow Lake def. Webster, 25-13, 25-21

DeSmet def. Florence-Henry, 25-20, 25-8

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DeSmet def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-16, 25-18
DeSmet def. Wilmot, 25-9, 25-15
Championship=
Clark-Willow Lake def. DeSmet, 25-18, 25-11
North Central Tournament=
Ipswich def. McIntosh High School, 25-11, 25-20
Ipswich def. North Central, 15-25, 25-23, 25-22
Ipswich def. Stanley County, 25-21, 25-13
Ipswich def. Timber Lake, 25-9, 25-13
North Central def. McIntosh High School, 25-15, 25-17
North Central def. Timber Lake, 25-4, 25-12
Rapid City Volleyball Tournament=
Gold Bracket=
Brookings def. Rapid City Central, 25-23, 25-23
Custer def. Cheyenne South, Wyo., 27-29, 27-25, 25-9
Dakota Valley def. Hill City, 25-18, 25-14
Rapid City Stevens def. Kadoka, 25-18, 25-20
Championship=
Dakota Valley def. Brookings, 25-16, 23-25, 25-21
Semifinal=
Brookings def. Custer, 22-25, 25-15, 25-13
Dakota Valley def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-17
Silver Bracket=
Belle Fourche def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-18, 25-8
Douglas def. Todd County, 30-28, 25-21
Lakota Tech def. Hot Springs, 27-25, 14-25, 32-30
St Thomas More def. Mahpíya Lúta Red Cloud, 25-9, 25-11
Championship=
St Thomas More def. Douglas, 25-13, 25-8
Semifinal=
Douglas def. Belle Fourche, 25-23, 25-12
St Thomas More def. Lakota Tech, 25-11, 25-14

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

Phillips runs for 301 yards, powers South Dakota over Northern Colorado 24-17 in OT

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — L.J. Phillips Jr. rattled off 301 yards on the ground and two touchdowns — including the overtime winner — as FCS No. 20 South Dakota pulled away late over Northern Colorado 24-17 on Saturday.

Phillips scored on a 13-yard run in the extra period. Eric Gibson's pass to Luke Wooten on 4th-and-10 for Northern Colorado was incomplete to end it.

Phillips racked up 197 yards rushing and a touchdown on 16 carries in the first half — scoring on a 1-yard rush up the middle. He nearly broke Amos Allens' single-game rushing record of 306 yards set in 2007 against North Dakota.

Northern Colorado's Jacob Willig hit an 18-yard field goal with three seconds remaining to tie it at 17 and force overtime.

Eric Gibson Jr. was 28 of 39 for 336 yards passing with a touchdown for the Bears (1-2).

Aidan Bouman finished the game 7 of 19 for 99 yards, with an interception and a touchdown pass for

South Dakota (1-2).

Bouman found Zach Witte on a 12-yard touchdown pass that extended the Coyotes' lead to 17-6 late in the fourth. Gibson struck back with a 24-yard touchdown pass to Charles Garrison and a two-point conversion to pull within 17-14.

Israel ramps up strikes on Gaza City and hospital says at least 32 are dead

By WAFAA SHURAFU Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — A barrage of airstrikes killed at least 32 people across Gaza City as Israel ramps up its offensive there and urges Palestinians to evacuate, medical staff reported Saturday.

The dead included 12 children, according to the morgue in Shifa Hospital, where the bodies were brought.

Israel in recent day has intensified strikes across Gaza City, destroying multiple high-rise buildings and accusing Hamas of putting surveillance equipment in them.

On Saturday the army said it struck another high-rise used by Hamas in the area of Gaza City. It has ordered residents to leave, part of an offensive aimed at taking over Gaza territory's largest city, which it says is Hamas' last stronghold. Hundreds of thousands of people remain there, struggling under conditions of famine.

One of the strikes overnight and into early morning Saturday hit a house in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood, killing a family of 10, including a mother and her three children, said health officials. The Palestinian Football Association said a player for the Al-Helal Sporting Club, Mohammed Ramez Sultan, was killed in the strikes with 14 members of his family. Images showed the strikes hitting followed by plumes of smoke.

Israel's army didn't immediately respond to questions about the strikes.

Hostages' relatives rally in Israel

Meanwhile, relatives of Israeli hostages held by Hamas rallied in Tel Aviv on Saturday to demand a deal to release their loved ones and criticized what they said was a counterproductive approach by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in securing a resolution.

Einav Zangauker, the mother of hostage Matan Zangauker, described as a "spectacular failure" Israel's attempted assassination of Hamas leaders in Qatar this week.

"President Trump said yesterday that every time there is progress in the negotiations, Netanyahu bombs someone. But it wasn't Hamas leaders he tried to bomb — it was our chance, as families, to bring our loved ones home," Zangauker said.

Some Palestinians are leaving Gaza City but many are stuck

In the wake of escalating hostilities and calls to evacuate the city, the number of people leaving has spiked in recent weeks, according to aid workers. However, many families remain stuck because of the cost of finding transportation and housing, while others having been displaced too many times and don't want to move again, not trusting that anywhere in the enclave is safe.

In a message on social media Saturday, Israel's army told the remaining Palestinians in Gaza City to leave "immediately" and move south to what it's calling a humanitarian zone. Army spokesman Avichay Adraee said more than a quarter of a million people had left Gaza City, from an estimated 1 million who live in the area of north Gaza around the city.

The United Nations however, put the number of people who have left at around 100,000 between mid-August and mid-September. The U.N. and aid groups have warned that displacing hundreds of thousands of people will exacerbate the dire humanitarian crisis. Sites in southern Gaza where Israel is telling people to go are overcrowded, according to the U.N., and it can cost money to move, which many people don't have.

An initiative headed by the U.N. to bring temporary shelters into Gaza said more than 86,000 tents and other supplies were still awaiting clearance to enter Gaza as of last week.

Gaza's Health Ministry said Saturday that seven people including children died from malnutrition-related causes over the past 24 hours, raising the toll to 420, including 145 children, since the war began.

The bombardment Friday night across Gaza City came days after Israel launched a strike targeting Hamas

leaders in Qatar, intensifying its campaign against the militant group and endangering negotiations over ending the war in Gaza.

Families of the hostages still held in Gaza are pleading with Israel to halt the offensive, worried it'll kill their relatives. There are 48 hostages still inside Gaza, around 20 of them believed to be alive.

The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, abducting 251 people and killing some 1,200, mostly civilians. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 64,803 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were civilians or combatants. It says around half of those killed were women and children. Large parts of major cities have been completely destroyed and around 90% of some 2 million Palestinians have been displaced.

Venezuela says US navy raided a tuna boat in the Caribbean as tensions rise

Associated Press undefined

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Personnel from a U.S. warship boarded a Venezuelan tuna boat with nine fishermen while it was sailing in Venezuelan waters, Venezuela's foreign minister said on Saturday, underlining strained relations with the United States.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Tensions between the two nations escalated after U.S. President Donald Trump in August ordered the deployment of warships in the Caribbean, off the coast of the South American country, citing the fight against Latin American drug cartels.

While reading a statement on Saturday, Foreign Minister Yván Gil told journalists the Venezuelan tuna boat was "illegally and hostilely boarded by a United States Navy destroyer" and 18 armed personnel who remained on the vessel for eight hours, preventing communication and the fishermen's normal activities. They were then released under escort by the Venezuelan navy.

The fishing boat had authorization from the Ministry of Fisheries to carry out its work, Gil said at a press conference, during which he presented photos of the incident.

Along with the statement, Venezuela's foreign affairs ministry distributed a short video, taken, according to the ministry, by the Venezuelan fishermen. In the video, it is alleged that part of the fishing boat, U.S. Navy personnel and the U.S. warship can be seen.

"Those who give the order to carry out such provocations are seeking an incident that would justify a military escalation in the Caribbean," Gil said, adding that the objective is to "persist in their failed policy" of regime change in Venezuela.

Gil said the incident was "illegal" and "illegitimate" and warned that Venezuela will defend its sovereignty against any "provocation."

The Venezuelan foreign minister's complaint comes days after Trump said that his country had attacked a drug-laden vessel and killed 11 people on board. Trump said the vessel had departed from Venezuela and was carrying members of the Tren de Aragua gang, but his administration has not presented any evidence to support that claim.

Venezuela accused the United States of committing extrajudicial killings. The South American country's interior minister, Diosdado Cabello, said Washington's version is "a tremendous lie" and suggested that, according to Venezuelan government investigations, the incident could be linked to the disappearance of some individuals in a coastal region of the country who had no ties to drug trafficking.

The Trump administration has accused Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro of leading a cartel to flood the U.S. with drugs, and doubled the reward for his capture from \$25 million to \$50 million.

The U.S. government has given no indication that it plans to carry out a ground incursion with the more than 4,000 troops being deployed in the area.

But the Venezuelan government has nonetheless called on its citizens to enlist in the militias - armed volunteers - in support of its security forces in the event of a potential incursion. On Saturday, it urged them to go to military barracks for training sessions.

Patel faces congressional hearings after missteps in Kirk assassination probe and turmoil at FBI

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hours after the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, FBI Director Kash Patel declared online that “the subject” in the killing was in custody. The shooter was not. The two men who had been detained were quickly released. Utah officials acknowledged that the gunman remained at large.

The false assurance was more than a slip. It spotlighted the high-stakes uncertainty surrounding Patel’s leadership of the bureau when its credibility is under extraordinary pressure, as is his own.

Patel now approaches congressional oversight hearings this coming week facing not just questions about that investigation but broader doubts about whether he can stabilize a federal law enforcement agency fragmented by political fights and internal upheaval.

Democrats are poised to press Patel on a purge of senior executives that has prompted a lawsuit, his pursuit of President Donald Trump’s grievances long after the Russia investigation ended, and a realignment of resources that has prioritized the fight against illegal immigration and street crime.

The hearings will offer Patel his most consequential stage yet, and perhaps the clearest test of whether he can convince the country that the FBI, under his watch, can avoid compounding its mistakes in a time of political violence and deepening distrust.

“Because of the skepticism that some members of the Senate have had and still have, it’s extremely important that he perform very well at these oversight hearings” on Tuesday and Wednesday, said Gregory Brower, the FBI’s former top congressional affairs official.

The FBI declined to comment about Patel’s coming testimony.

He claimed the subject was ‘in custody’

Kirk’s killing was always going to be a closely scrutinized investigation, not only because it was the latest burst of political violence inside the United States but also because of Kirk’s friendships with Trump, Patel and other administration figures and allies.

While agents investigated, Patel posted on X that “the subject for the horrific shooting today that took the life of Charlie Kirk is now in custody.” Utah Gov. Spencer Cox said at a near-contemporaneous news conference that “Whoever did this, we will find you,” suggesting authorities were still searching. Patel soon after posted that the person in custody had been released.

As the search stretched on, Patel angrily vented to FBI personnel Thursday about what he perceived as a failure to keep him informed, including that he was not quickly shown a photograph of the suspected shooter. That’s according to people familiar with the matter who were not authorized to discuss it by name and spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press. The New York Times earlier reported details of the call.

Asked about the scrutiny of Patel’s performance, the FBI said it had worked with local law enforcement to bring the suspect, Tyler Robinson, to justice and “will continue to be transparent.”

Patel’s overall response did not go unnoticed in conservative circles. One prominent strategist, Christopher Rufo, posted that it was “time for Republicans to assess whether Kash Patel is the right man to run the FBI.”

Then there’s the personnel purge

On the same day Kirk was killed, Patel also faced a lawsuit from three FBI senior executives fired in an August purge that they characterized as a Trump administration retribution campaign.

Among them was Brian Driscoll, who as acting FBI director in the early days of the Trump administration resisted Justice Department demands for names of agents who investigated the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol. Driscoll alleged in the lawsuit that he was let go after he challenged the leadership’s desire to terminate an FBI pilot who had been wrongly identified on social media as having been part of the FBI search for classified at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate.

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The upheaval continues a trend that began before Patel took over, when more than a half-dozen senior executives were forced out under a Justice Department rationale that they could not be “trusted” to implement Trump’s agenda.

There’s since been significant turnover in leadership at the FBI’s 55 field offices. Some left because of promotions or retirements, but others because of ultimatums to accept new assignments or resign. The head of the Salt Lake City office, an experienced counterterrorism investigator, was pushed out of her position weeks before Kirk was killed at a Utah college, said people familiar with the move.

FBI’s priorities shift under Patel

Patel arrived at the FBI having been a sharp critic of its leadership, including for inquiries into Trump that he says politicized the institution. Under Patel and Attorney General Pam Bondi, the FBI and Justice Department have become entangled in their own politically fraught investigations, such as the one into New York Attorney General Letitia James.

He’s moved quickly to remake the bureau, with the FBI and Justice Department working to investigate one of the Republican president’s chief grievances — the years-old Trump-Russia investigation. Trump calls that probe, which did not establish a criminal conspiracy between Russia and Trump’s campaign, a “hoax.”

The Justice Department appeared to confirm in an unusual statement that it was investigating former FBI Director James Comey and former CIA Director John Brennan, pivotal players in the Russia saga but did not say for what. Bondi has directed that evidence be presented to a grand jury.

Critics of the fresh Russia inquiry consider it a transparent attempt to turn the page from the fierce backlash the FBI and Justice Department endured from Trump’s base following their July announcement that they would not be releasing any additional documents from the Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking investigation.

Patel has meanwhile elevated the fight against street crime, drug trafficking and illegal immigration to the top of the FBI’s agenda, in alignment with Trump’s agenda.

The bureau makes no apologies for aggressive policing in American cities the Trump administration contends have been consumed by crime. Patel says the thousands of resulting arrests, many immigration-related, are “what happens when you let good cops be good cops.”

But some are concerned the street crime focus could draw attention from the sophisticated public corruption and national security threats for which the bureau has long been primarily, if not solely, responsible for investigating.

They witnessed Charlie Kirk’s assassination.

Now students reckon with the trauma

By JESSE BEDAYN, HANNAH SCHOENBAUM, LINDSEY WASSON and RIO YAMAT Associated Press
OREM, Utah (AP) — One student holed up in his house for two days after witnessing Charlie Kirk’s assassination, nervous about going back to the Utah college campus where the conservative activist was shot. Another, unable to sleep or shake what she saw and heard, called her dad to come take her home.

As investigators spend the weekend digging deeper into suspect Tyler James Robinson ahead of his initial court appearance Tuesday, students who witnessed Wednesday’s shooting at Utah Valley University are reckoning with trauma, grief and the pall the killing has cast on their community.

Robinson’s arrest late Thursday calmed some fears. Still, questions persist about the alleged shooter’s motive and planning, as well as security lapses that allowed a man with a rifle to shoot Kirk from a rooftop before fleeing.

The university has said there will be increased security when classes resume on Sept. 17.

In Robinson’s hometown, about 240 miles (390 kilometers) southwest of campus, a law enforcement presence was significantly diminished Saturday after the FBI executed a search warrant at his family’s home. A gray Dodge Challenger that authorities say Robinson drove to UVU appeared to have been hauled away.

No one answered the door Saturday at his family’s home in Washington, Utah, and the blinds were closed.

The killing has prompted pleas for civility in American political discourse, but those calls were not always heeded, and some people who have criticized Kirk in the wake of his death have been fired or suspended

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from their jobs.

On Friday, Office Depot said it fired a worker at a Michigan store who was seen on video refusing to print flyers for a Kirk vigil and calling them "propaganda." On Thursday, a conservative internet personality filmed a video outside Illinois Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker's home, urging viewers to "take action" after Kirk's assassination. Pritzker's security has been stepped up.

At a makeshift memorial near Utah Valley University's main entrance in Orem, people have been leaving flowers. Cars looped nearby streets Saturday, honking horns, flying American flags and displaying messages such as "We love you Charlie," "Charlie 4 Ever" and "RIP Charlie."

In the area where the Turning Point USA co-founder was shot, a crew has begun taking down tents and banners and scrubbing away reminders of the killing.

A memorial to Kirk brings stunned students together

Student Alec Vera stopped at the memorial after finally leaving his house Friday night for a drive to clear his head. Vera said he had been in a daze, unable to concentrate and avoiding people, since watching Kirk collapse about 30 or 40 feet (9 to 12 meters) in front of him.

"I just kind of felt the need to come here, to be with everyone, either to comfort or to be comforted, just to kind of surround myself with those that are also mourning," Vera said.

One woman knelt, sobbing. Others stood quietly or spoke softly with friends. On the campus' perimeter, trees were wrapped in red ribbons.

A handful of cars remained stranded in parking lots by students who left behind keys while fleeing the shooting. One student pleaded with an officer to let him retrieve his bike from beyond the police tape and cracked a smile as the officer let him through. The university said people can pick up their belongings early next week.

Anxious about returning to campus

Student Marjorie Holt started crying when she brought flowers to campus Thursday, prompting her to change her mind about returning to campus this weekend.

Hours after the shooting, the 18-year-old said she lay in bed, haunted by the horror she witnessed: the sound of a single gunshot as Kirk answered a question and then, "I saw him fall over, I saw the blood, but for some reason it couldn't click to me what happened."

Unable to sleep because of a pounding headache, nausea and the day's trauma, she called her dad, who brought her home to Salt Lake City, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) to the north.

Returning to campus, Holt said, is "going to feel like a terrible, like a burden on my heart."

Vera said Kirk was shot in the campus' main gathering spot — where students take naps, meditate, do homework and hang out.

"Seeing it when I go back, I will be pretty uncomfortable at first, knowing I have to walk past it each time, knowing what had just occurred here," Vera said.

Struggling with flashbacks and a weird heaviness

Student Alexis Narciso said he has flashbacks when he hears a bang, a honking horn or other loud noise. He was about 10 feet (3 meters) away.

"I just feel numb. I don't feel anything," Narciso said. "I want to cry but at the same time I don't."

Jessa Packard, a single mother of two who lives nearby, said even with a suspect in custody, her feeling of unease hasn't lifted. Packard's home security system captured video of the Dodge Challenger that police say Robinson drove to campus. After the shooting, she said, law enforcement officers descended on her neighborhood, searching yards and taking security footage.

"There's this really weird heaviness and I think, honestly, a lot of fear for me personally that hasn't gone away," Packard said. "The fact that there was like this murderer in my neighborhood, not knowing where he is but knowing he's been through there, cursing things out, is a really eerie feeling."

Searching for closure from one campus to another

Halle Hanchett, 19, a student at nearby Brigham Young University, said she had just pulled her phone out to start filming Kirk when she heard the gunshot followed by a collective gasp. Hanchett said she saw

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blood, Kirk's security team jump forward and horror on the faces around her. She dropped to the ground in the fetal position, wondering: "What is going on? Am I going to die?"

On Friday, she brought flowers and quietly gazed at the place where the kickoff to Kirk's "American Comeback Tour" ended in violence.

"The last few days I've just, haven't really said much, I just kinda like zone out, stare off," Hanchett said, standing with her fiancé as water fountains bubbled nearby. "The memory, it just replays."

She's praying for the strength to move forward, she said, "and take it as: 'OK, I was here for this. How can I learn from this? And how can I help other people learn from this?'"

A neighbor of Robinson's looks for answers

In Robinson's hometown, neighbor Kris Schwiermann recalled him as a shy, studious and "very respectful" student who loved to read. Schwiermann, 66, was head custodian at the elementary school that Robinson and his siblings attended.

She said she was stunned by the news of his arrest, describing the Robinsons as a "very tight-knit family."

Like the Robinsons, Schwiermann is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She said they belonged to the same congregation, though she said the family hadn't been active in the church in at least eight years.

"I want to make sure that people know that we don't have any ill feelings towards their family or him," Schwiermann said. "He made the wrong choice."

FACT FOCUS: Assassination of Charlie Kirk prompts flood of false and misleading claims online

By MELISSA GOLDIN Associated Press

A flood of false and misleading claims filled social media in the two days it took officials to arrest and publicly identify 22-year-old Tyler Robinson as the suspect in Wednesday's assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University.

The reaction followed a well-worn pattern of misinformation and conspiracy theories that often come after breaking news events when facts can be fluid. Those kinds of posts appeared within hours of the shooting, with some of the earliest incorrectly identifying the gunman before officials had released any information about a suspect. More claims spawned on Thursday and Friday, presenting old videos and photos as recent footage of the shooter and erroneously reporting on Robinson's background.

Here's a look at the facts.

CLAIM: Robinson is a registered Republican.

THE FACTS: This is false. Utah records say Robinson was registered as a voter, but not affiliated with either political party. His voter status is inactive, meaning he did not vote in two regular general elections after receiving a notice from his county clerk. According to Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, Robinson's family said he had become "more political in recent years" and had criticized Kirk, mentioning that he was due to appear at an event in Utah. Cox stated that ammunition found at the scene was engraved with taunting, anti-fascist and meme culture messaging.

CLAIM: Robinson is a member of the Democratic Socialists of America.

THE FACTS: This is false. Priscilla Yeverino, spokesperson for the group, confirmed that "we have no members in DSA named Tyler Robinson anywhere in the country." A photo of a person who bears a resemblance to Robinson wearing a Salt Lake City DSA shirt with the slogan "bee the change" has been used to support this claim. Yeverino declined to confirm that person's identity "for this person's privacy and safety." Prior to Robinson's arrest, many on social media were quick to assume the shooter was a Democrat and prominent conservative figures, including President Donald Trump, blamed liberal politics for Kirk's death.

CLAIM: A video of a man running toward a parking lot shows the shooter escaping.

THE FACTS: This is false. The video was filmed on July 28, more than a month before Kirk was shot and

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began spreading before Robinson was arrested. It shows Dakota Hawver, the suspected gunman who killed three people and injured three others at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada, running from the front of the resort in the direction of its front parking lot. Multiple local news networks published the footage after the Reno shooting. Hawver was shot by police and died in the hospital days later. A version of the misrepresented video included a caption falsely stating: "video shows Charlie Kirk's real shooter escaping."

CLAIM: Democrats opposed a moment of prayer for Kirk in the House.

THE FACTS: This is misleading. On Wednesday, the House observed a "moment of prayer for Charlie Kirk and his family" at the request of Speaker Mike Johnson. A subsequent request for a "moment of prayer out loud" elicited vocal objections and chaos on the House floor. Footage shows members standing silently for about 30 seconds. Johnson then bangs his gavel and Rep. Lauren Boebert says that "silent prayers get silent results" before requesting that someone lead a spoken prayer as well. An audible "no" can be heard in response, among other protests. Shouting continues for about a minute, requiring Johnson to bang his gavel and state, "the House will be in order" several times. In the commotion, Johnson also says: "We will join for prayer right after this, OK?" Many posts claiming that Democrats had opposed a moment of prayer for Kirk shared clips that omitted Johnson's initial request and the ensuing silence.

CLAIM: The shooter was identified as Michael Mallinson or George Zinn.

THE FACTS: This is false. Robinson was named as the suspected shooter on Friday. Others, including Mallinson and Zinn, were misidentified as the shooter as authorities searched for a suspect. Mallinson is a 77-year-old Toronto resident who told the CBC that he found out he had been wrongly accused after waking up from a nap and receiving a panicked call from his daughter telling him to delete his social media accounts. He said that before the shooting he had "never heard of Charlie Kirk." Mallinson bears a resemblance to a man named George Zinn, who was filmed being dragged away handcuffed by two officers. The video spread widely on social media after the shooting. The Utah Public Safety Department said in a statement that it "initially took in George Zinn as a suspect," but that he was later released and charged with obstruction. The statement said Zinn, as well as a second person who was taken into custody and released after interrogation, has "no current ties to the shooting."

Judge extends temporary measures protecting Guatemalan children from deportation

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge is temporarily keeping in place measures preventing the Trump administration from deporting Guatemalan migrant children in government custody.

Judge Timothy J. Kelly's decision Saturday keeps the government from removing Guatemalan children who came to the U.S. alone and are currently living in government shelters and foster care through Sept. 16.

Kelly's order said he needed a brief extension to continue to study the issue because up until a hearing on Sept. 10 the facts of the case were still changing. His decision comes after the government during that hearing backtracked on previous claims that the children's parents requested them back.

The court decision stems from a Labor Day weekend operation when the Trump administration attempted to remove dozens of Guatemalan migrant children who had come to the U.S. alone and were living in U.S. government shelters and foster care.

In a late night operation on Aug. 30, the administration notified shelters where migrant children traveling alone initially live after they cross the southern border that they would be returning the children to Guatemala and that they needed to have the kids ready to leave in a matter of hours.

Contractors for Immigration and Customs Enforcement picked up the Guatemalan children from shelters and foster care and transported them to the airport. The government has said in court filings that it identified 457 children for possible removal to Guatemala although that list was eventually whittled down to

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327. In the end, 76 got as far as boarding planes in El Paso and Harlingen, Texas, early morning on Aug. 31 and were set to depart to Guatemala in what the government described as a first phase.

Immigration and children's advocates, who had been alerted of possible efforts to remove Guatemalan minors, immediately sued the Trump administration to prevent the children's removal. The advocates argued that many of these children were fleeing abuse or violence in their home countries and that the government was bypassing longstanding legal procedures meant to protect young migrants from being returned to potentially abusive or violent places.

A federal judge in Washington granted advocates a 14-day temporary restraining order largely preventing the Trump administration from removing migrant children in its care except in limited circumstances where an immigration judge had already ordered their removal after reviewing their cases. Kelly's Saturday order extends that protection three more days.

The government has argued that it has the right to return children in their care and it was acting at the behest of the Guatemalan government.

The Guatemalan government has said that it was concerned over minors in U.S. custody who were going to turn 18 and would then be at risk of being turned over to adult detention facilities.

Children who cross the border alone are generally transferred to the Office of Refugee Resettlement, which falls under the Health and Human Services Department. The children usually live in a network of shelters across the country that are overseen by the resettlement office until they are eventually released to a sponsor, usually a relative.

Children's advocates have also asked the Washington court for longer-term protections preventing the government from removing all children in government custody, with a few limited exceptions, while the lawsuit plays out in court. Advocates made that request after hearing reports that the government was intending to remove Honduran children as well. The court has yet to rule on that request.

There are also temporary restraining orders in separate cases in Arizona and Illinois also filed during the Labor Day weekend where advocates sued to restrict the government from removing Guatemalan and later Honduran children, but those cases are more narrow in scope of children they cover than the Washington case.

Rare portraits of enslaved Mississippians displayed together at Mississippi Museum of Art

By SOPHIE BATES Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — With powerfully haunting eyes and an enigmatic expression, "Portrait of Frederick," an enslaved man painted circa 1840, stares out at visitors of the Mississippi Museum of Art.

A little further into the museum is Delia, a Black woman dressed in red and wearing a headscarf who bears a similarly unknowable expression. The pair of portraits are the only known preemancipation paintings of enslaved people in Mississippi.

Now, for the first time, they hang together for the public to see.

"I was mesmerized by the painting," museum visitor Staci Williams said. "The colors, the expression. His humanity seemed to jump off of the page."

The portraits evoke questions about who Frederick and Delia were, why they were painted and what went through their minds as their faces were captured stroke by stroke for generations to see.

"We don't know, for example, if either of these people had the choice to sit for the portrait. We don't know if they had the choice of what they were wearing when they were painted," said Betsy Bradley, the Laurie Hearin McRee director of the museum. "They certainly weren't allowed to own their own portrait."

The museum bought "Portrait of Frederick" in partnership with the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas. The museums will pass the portrait back and forth, each displaying it for several years at a time.

Bradley said purchasing the portrait brought up complicated feelings. Until emancipation freed him, Frederick was considered property. Now, more than 150 years later, his portrait is property, bought and

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sold to the highest bidder.

"If it enables us to have important conversations with each other about the human cost of slavery and why it mustn't ever happen again, then having it in a public place can be meaningful," Bradley said.

Since the 1860s, "Portrait of Frederick" has been displayed at Longwood, an antebellum mansion in Natchez, Mississippi, that belonged to the family of his enslavers. There, Frederick's likeness was used to whitewash history.

According to research by the Neal Auction Company, which sold the painting to the Mississippi Museum of Art, tour guides in the 1970s informed the public that Frederick had grown up alongside his enslaver Haller Nutt, and the two were best friends. They claimed Nutt freed Frederick and referred to him by the belittling moniker "Uncle Frederick."

In actuality, Frederick oversaw other slaves on the plantation. He collected data on field production, analyzed growing conditions and acted as a manager. His role was important, and he and his family may have received better living conditions as a result.

Frederick was about 70 when the Civil War ended. He took the surname Baker and became ordained. Prior to emancipation, Black people were not allowed to marry. Frederick married at least 69 couples after it became legal.

Less is known about Delia. Her portrait was painted between 1840 and 1849. She appears to be sewing, which leads some to believe she worked inside her enslavers' home. Delia's portrait was kept by the descendants of her enslavers until the Mississippi Museum of Art bought it 2019.

Both portraits are unique in that Frederick and Delia are the sole subjects of the works. Oftentimes, Black people were painted alongside white people, likely as a way of underscoring the white person's wealth.

Frederick is dressed in regal garb — something he likely would not have worn in his everyday role on the plantation. Both are depicted in a three-quarters composition, which was used for dignified and important subjects.

Upon looking at "Portrait of Frederick," Williams said she felt a surprising mixture of pride and sadness.

"I wonder about what he's thinking," Williams mused. "He doesn't seem to give anything away."

More than 100,000 attend London protest organized by far-right activist, with clashes breaking out

By BRIAN MELLEY and JOANNA CHAN Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A London march organized by far-right activist Tommy Robinson drew more than 110,000 people and became unruly on Saturday as a small group of his supporters clashed with police officers who were separating them from counterprotesters.

Several officers were punched, kicked and struck by bottles tossed by people at the fringes of the "Unite the Kingdom" rally, Metropolitan Police said. Reinforcements with helmets and riot shields were deployed to support the 1,000-plus officers on duty.

Twenty six police officers were injured — four who were seriously hurt, including broken teeth and a concussion, a possible broken nose and a spinal injury. At least 25 people were arrested for offenses including violent disorder, assaults and criminal damage, and the investigation continues, police said.

"There is no doubt that many came to exercise their lawful right to protest, but there were many who came intent on violence," Assistant Commissioner Matt Twist said. "They confronted officers, engaging in physical and verbal abuse and making a determined effort to breach cordons in place to keep everyone safe."

The rally drew an estimated crowd of between 110,000 and 150,000 people, far surpassing expectations, police said. The rival "March Against Fascism" protest organized by Stand Up To Racism had about 5,000 marchers.

Anti-migrant theme

Robinson, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, founded the nationalist and anti-Islam English

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Defense League and is one of the most influential far-right figures in Britain.

The march was billed as a demonstration in support of free speech — with much of the rhetoric by influencers and several far-right politicians from across Europe aimed largely at the perils of migration, a problem much of the continent is struggling to control.

"We are both subject to the same process of the great replacement of our European people by peoples coming from the south and of Muslim culture, you and we are being colonized by our former colonies," far-right French politician Eric Zemmour said.

Elon Musk, the Tesla CEO and owner of the X platform who has waded into British politics several times this year, was beamed in by video and condemned the left-leaning U.K. government.

"There's something beautiful about being British and what I see happening here is a destruction of Britain, initially a slow erosion, but rapidly increasing erosion of Britain with massive uncontrolled migration," he said.

Robinson told the crowd in a hoarse voice that migrants now had more rights in court than the "British public, the people that built this nation."

The marches come at a time when the U.K. has been divided by debate over migrants crossing the English Channel in overcrowded inflatable boats to arrive on shore without authorization.

Numerous anti-migrant protests were held this summer outside hotels housing asylum-seekers following the arrest of an Ethiopian man who was later convicted of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl in a London suburb. Some of those protests became violent and led to arrests.

Sea of flags

Participants in the "Unite the Kingdom" march carried the St. George's red-and-white flag of England and the union jack, the state flag of the United Kingdom, and chanted "we want our country back."

U.K. flags have proliferated this summer across the U.K. — at events and on village lampposts — in what some have said is a show of national pride and others said reflects a tilt toward nationalism.

Supporters held signs saying "stop the boats," "send them home," and "enough is enough, save our children."

At the counterprotest, the crowd held signs saying "refugees welcome" and "smash the far right," and shouted "stand up, fight back."

Robinson supporters chanted crude refrains about U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, leader of the center-left Labour Party and also shouted messages of support for slain U.S. conservative activist Charlie Kirk.

Several speakers paid tribute to Kirk, who was remembered in a moment of silence, followed by a bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace."

One demonstrator held a sign saying: "Freedom of speech is dead. RIP Charlie Kirk."

Crowd covered blocks of London

The crowd at one point stretched from Big Ben across the River Thames and around the corner beyond Waterloo train station, a distance of about three-quarters of a mile (around a kilometer).

The marches had been mostly peaceful, but toward the late afternoon, "Unite the Kingdom" supporters threw items at the rival rally and tried to break through barriers set up to separate the groups, police said. Officers had to use force to keep a crowd-control fence from being breached.

Counterprotesters heckled a man with blood pouring down his face who was being escorted by police from the group of Robinson supporters. It wasn't immediately clear what happened to him.

While the crowd was large, it fell far short of the one of the biggest recent marches when a pro-Palestinian rally drew an estimated 300,000 people in November 2023.

Robinson had planned a "Unite the Kingdom" rally last October, but couldn't attend after being jailed for contempt of court for violating a 2021 High Court order barring him from repeating libelous allegations against a Syrian refugee who successfully sued him. He previously served jail time for assault and mortgage fraud.

Anti-Israel protests turn the Spanish Vuelta cycling race into a diplomatic battleground

By JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — As an alderperson in northwestern Spain, Rosana Prieto tends to the running of her tiny village and is far removed from major cities, often rocked by protests over geopolitical issues. But with one of the world's biggest cycling races coursing through the bucolic hills nearby, she and hundreds of like-minded townspeople sensed a chance to make their small voices heard, denouncing Israel's military campaign in Gaza.

Palestinian flags in hand, they stood precisely where they knew the television cameras would broadcast their message to the world: the last turn before the finish line of the 15th stage, as cyclists of the Spanish Vuelta whirled past. Further up the road, a protester carrying a Palestinian flag got too close to the speeding peloton and caused a pair of cyclists to crash.

Protests targeting an Israeli-owned team have repeatedly seized the limelight at the Vuelta, Spain's version of the Tour de France, in which over 180 cyclists pedal 3,100 kilometers (1,900 miles) through rural Spain's sleepy back-roads. Six of the last 10 days of racing have been either cut short or interrupted, with over 20 people detained by police.

Israel's 23-month military grind into Palestinian territory, launched in response to Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, deadly attack on Israel, had already enraged many Spaniards, including its outspoken left-wing government. The protests on the sidelines of the Vuelta have earned the government's tacit endorsement and catalyzed nudging it toward staking out one of the strongest positions against Israel of any European nation since the sustained military operation began.

"The protests were born from the idea that our only chance to defend human rights regarding Israel is the Spanish Vuelta," Prieto, 48, told The Associated Press by phone. "It is an international spotlight for us to say that we are against what Israel is doing."

Israel has defended its military actions in Gaza and accused Spain of standing with Hamas.

The war has so far killed at least 64,803 people in the Gaza Strip, according to the territory's health ministry, as famine grips its largest city.

Spain pressures for Israeli team's exclusion

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez joined Ireland and Norway in recognizing a Palestinian state last year, and Spain became the first European country to ask a U.N. court for permission to join South Africa's case accusing Israel of genocide.

The Vuelta protesters argue that if Russian teams have been banned from international sporting events for the war in Ukraine, then Israeli teams should likewise be punished.

Spain's government agrees.

Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares said he would support the Israeli-owned team's expulsion from the race, while government spokesperson Pilar Alegría, who is also minister of sports and education, said neutrality is no longer possible in the face of the death and destruction in Gaza.

"What we are seeing at the protests, in my opinion, is logical," Alegría told Cadena Ser radio on Sept. 11. "Sports cannot be isolated from the world that surrounds them."

Protesters push race to the limit

For the Vuelta's security detail, it was logistically impossible to lock down the entire route through its twisting roads, much of which is lined by forest. Large groups have gathered in towns and protesters have jumped out of cover to block the path of riders, causing two athletes to crash, although it's unclear if that was the protesters' intention. Neither of the riders who crashed was on the Israeli team. The cyclists participating in the race voted Wednesday that they would quit if their safety was again put at risk.

The team under fire, Israel Premier Tech — which only has one Israeli rider at the Vuelta — issued a statement saying that quitting the race is out of the question, as it would "set a dangerous precedent."

But Israel Premier Tech has been endeavoring to keep a low profile. Riders have avoided speaking to the media and it took the step midrace of removing its team name from its riding uniforms.

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The team is owned by Israeli-Canadian businessman Sylvan Adams, who emigrated to Israel in 2016, and has played a key role in promoting Israel via sports. He helped arrange Israel's hosting of the start of Giro d'Italia, cycling's third Grand Tour race, in 2018.

"Great job to Sylvan and Israel's cycling team for not giving in to hate and intimidation," Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu posted to social media platform X on Sept. 5. "You make Israel proud!"

The bright spot for the team is that American rider Matthew Riccitello is set to finish in the Vuelta's white jersey for being the fastest cyclist under the age of 25.

'A little scared'

There have been occasional confrontations between police, security personnel, and protesters. Prieto said that she needed medical treatment for abrasions and knocks after a police officer dragged her across the ground. She said she and her cohorts behaved peacefully, and is waiting to see whether she faces charges.

Cycling teams have decried some protester actions. Joxean Fernández Matxin, the team boss of UAE Emirates, said that some of them hit riders with flag poles and tossed tacks in their path.

"Everyone has a right to protest, but it's a shame that it has to happen here and in this way and that we can't finish the race," race leader Jonas Vingegaard, a two-time Tour de France winner, said after Wednesday's stage finish was shortened.

Reigning Tour champion Tadej Pogačar skipped the Vuelta. Yet cycling's biggest star was worried that the protests could spread to other races.

"I think all the riders are a little scared of what could happen," Pogačar told reporters in Quebec Thursday. "When we see what's going on at the Vuelta, we talk about it and we think it could happen here or in other races between now and the end of the season."

The next day, a few dozen protesters gathered in the Canadian city of Quebec during a one-day race Pogačar participated in.

Diplomatic spat intensifies

As the protests disrupted the Vuelta, a fleet of activists' ships loaded with humanitarian aid set sail from Barcelona, aiming to break Israel's naval blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Spain's prime minister chose this week to denounce Israel's operations in Gaza as "genocide" and make a nationally televised address announcing an arms embargo and blocking Israel-bound fuel deliveries from passing through Spanish ports.

The move inflamed a diplomatic dispute that resulted in the ban of ministers from both countries. Israeli leaders called the Spanish government's actions "antisemitic" and a "blatant genocidal threat."

If the protests gain strength, they could become a concern for Israel, which has long prided itself on its close relations with the European Union. The European Commission's president, Ursula von der Leyen, this week called for partially suspending trade ties with Israel, and the Netherlands said it would boycott the popular Eurovision song contest next year if Israel is allowed to participate.

For analyst Oriol Bartomeus, professor of political science at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Sánchez's long campaign against Israel's incursion in Gaza is both benefiting from and fueling the grass-roots protest movement at the cycling race.

"What is happening at the Vuelta is a symptom of the anger of the left over this issue," Bartomeus told the AP. "This is poised to be a major point of cohesion of Spanish society. Sánchez is not stupid, and he has gotten right in there."

Protesters aim to take action again on Sunday, when the race concludes in Madrid. Authorities will deploy 1,500 police for the final stage, adding to the 130 officers already traveling with the race.

Trump calls on all NATO countries to stop buying Russian oil, threatens 50% to 100% tariffs on China

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

BASKING RIDGE, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump said Saturday he believes the Russia-Ukraine

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war would end if all NATO countries stopped buying oil from Russia and placed tariffs on China of 50% to 100% for its purchases of Russian petroleum.

Trump posted on his social media site that NATO'S commitment to winning the war "has been far less than 100%" and the purchase of Russian oil by some members of the alliance is "shocking." As if speaking with NATO members, he said: "It greatly weakens your negotiating position, and bargaining power, over Russia."

Since 2023, NATO member Turkey has been the third largest buyer of Russian oil, after China and India, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. Other members of the 32-state alliance involved in purchasing Russian oil include Hungary and Slovakia. It's unclear whether Trump would want to directly confront Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan or Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. That leaves uncertain whether the threats might actually lead to new tariffs or a ban on Russian oil purchases.

Trump's post arrives after the Wednesday flight of multiple Russian drones into Poland, an escalatory move by Russia as it was entering the airspace of a NATO ally. Poland shot down the drones, yet Trump played down the severity of the incursion and Russia's motives by saying it "could have been a mistake."

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Saturday that the drone incursion was "unacceptable and unfortunate and dangerous" as he judged NATO's response so far to be appropriate. Still, Rubio said it was unclear if the drones were intentionally sent to Poland.

"The question is whether the drones were targeted to go into Poland specifically," Rubio said. "If that's the case, that the evidence leads us there, then obviously that would be a highly escalatory move."

While Trump as a candidate promised to end the war quickly, he has yet to hit the pressure points needed to end the violence and has at times been seen as reluctant to confront Russian President Vladimir Putin. Congress is currently trying to get the U.S. president to back a bill toughening sanctions, after Trump last month hosted Putin in Alaska for talks that failed to deliver on progress toward peace.

The U.S. and its allies are seeking to show a firmer degree of resolve against Russia. At an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting Friday, acting U.S. Ambassador Dorothy Shea said America "will defend every inch of NATO territory" and that the drones entering Poland "intentionally or otherwise show immense disrespect for good-faith U.S. efforts to bring an end to this conflict."

Britain on Friday also took steps to penalize the trading of Russian oil, including a ban on 70 vessels allegedly used in its transportation. The United Kingdom also sanctioned 30 individuals and companies, included businesses based in China and Turkey, that have supplied Russia with electronics, chemicals, explosives and other weapons components.

Trump in his post Saturday said a NATO ban on Russian oil plus tariffs on China would "also be of great help in ENDING this deadly, but RIDICULOUS, WAR."

The president said that NATO members should put the 50% to 100% tariffs on China and withdraw them if the war that launched with Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine ends.

"China has a strong control, and even grip, over Russia," he posted, and powerful tariffs "will break that grip."

The U.S. president has already imposed a 25% import tax on goods from India, specifically for its buying of Russian energy products. He has placed in total a 50% tariff on India, though Trump has indicated that negotiations with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi could help settle differences.

The prospect of further import tax hikes on China and its retaliation could carry collateral damage for the U.S. and European economies.

Earlier this year, Trump hit Chinese goods with new tariffs totaling 145%, prompting China to respond with 125% import taxes on American goods. Taxes at that level were essentially a blockade on commerce between the world's two largest economies, causing worries about global growth that led to negotiations that ratcheted down the tariffs being levied by both nations.

So that trade talks could proceed, America lowered its tariffs against China to a still-high 30%, while China took its rate to 10%.

In his post, the Republican president said responsibility for the war fell on his predecessor, Democrat Joe Biden, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He did not include in that list Putin, who launched

the invasion.

Trump's post builds on a call Friday with finance ministers in the Group of Seven, a forum of industrialized democracies. During the call, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called on their counterparts to have a "unified front" to cut off "the revenues funding Putin's war machine," according to Greer's office.

Poland deploys planes in its airspace because of threat of drone strikes in nearby Ukraine

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Polish and allied aircraft were deployed in a "preventive" operation in Poland's airspace Saturday because of a threat of drone strikes in neighboring areas of Ukraine, and the airport in the eastern Polish city of Lublin was closed, authorities said.

The alert lasted around two hours. It came after multiple Russian drones crossed into Poland on Wednesday, prompting NATO to send fighter jets to shoot them down and underlining long-held concerns about the expansion of Russia's more than three-year war in Ukraine.

The Polish military's operational command posted on X on Saturday afternoon that ground-based air defense and reconnaissance systems were on high alert. It stressed that "these actions are preventive in nature," and were aimed at securing Poland's airspace and protecting the country's citizens. It cited a threat of drone strikes in regions of Ukraine bordering Poland, but didn't give further details.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk also posted that "preventive air operations" had begun in Polish airspace because of the threat posed by Russian drones operating over nearby areas of Ukraine. The Polish Air Navigation Services Agency said that Lublin Airport was closed to air traffic "due to military aviation activities," and the government security center warned of a threat of air attack for several border counties in the region.

Later Saturday, the military's operational command wrote on X that the operation "has been completed" and that ground-based defense and reconnaissance systems had returned to normal.

Russia has said it didn't target Poland on Wednesday, and Moscow's ally, Belarus, said that the drones went astray because they were jammed. But European leaders have expressed certainty that the incursions were a deliberate provocation by Russia.

Polish aircraft have been scrambled repeatedly in recent months to patrol the country's airspace in connection with Russian airstrikes in Ukraine, but those strikes have usually occurred overnight or in the early morning.

Separately, Romania said it deployed two F-16 jets to intercept a drone that briefly entered its airspace on Saturday afternoon.

"The drone did not fly over inhabited areas and did not represent an imminent danger to the security of the population," the NATO member's defense ministry said in a statement.

The ministry said that teams of specialists would conduct searches for potential debris. Romanian authorities didn't specify where they thought the drone originated from.

Iraq's Yazidis rediscover lost history through photos found in a museum archive

By MARYCLAIRE DALE Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Archeologists studying ancient civilizations in northern Iraq during the 1930s also befriended the nearby Yazidi community, documenting their daily lives in photographs that were rediscovered after the Islamic State militant group devastated the tiny religious minority.

The black-and-white images ended up scattered among the 2,000 or so photographs from the excavation kept at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, which led the ambitious dig.

One photo — a Yazidi shrine — caught the eye of Penn doctoral student Marc Marin Webb in 2022,

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nearly a decade after it was destroyed by IS extremists plundering the region. Webb and others began scouring museum files and gathered almost 300 photos to create a visual archive of the Yazidi people, one of Iraq's oldest religious minorities.

The systematic attacks, which the United Nations called a genocide, killed thousands of Yazidis and sent thousands more into exile or sexual slavery. It also destroyed much of their built heritage and cultural history, and the small community has since become splintered around the world.

Ansam Basher, now a teacher in England, was overwhelmed with emotion when she saw the photos, particularly a batch from her grandparents' wedding day in the early 1930s.

"No one would imagine that a person my age would lose their history because of the ISIS attack," said the 43-year-old, using an acronym for the extremist group. Basher's grandfather lived with her family while she was growing up in Bashiqa, a town outside Mosul. The city fell to IS in 2014.

"My albums, my childhood photos, all videos, my two brothers' wedding videos (and) photos, disappeared. And now to see that my grandfather and great-grandfather's photo all of a sudden just come to life again, this is something I'm really happy about," she said. "Everybody is."

A cache of cultural memory

The archive documents Yazidi people, places and traditions that IS sought to erase. Marin Webb is working with Nathaniel Brunt, a Toronto documentarian, to share it with the community, both through exhibits in the region and in digital form with the Yazidi diaspora.

"When they came to Sinjar, they went around and destroyed all the religious and heritage sites, so these photographs in themselves present a very strong resistance against that act of destruction," said Brunt, a postdoctoral student at the University of Victoria Libraries. The city of Sinjar is the ancestral homeland of the Yazidis near the Syrian border.

The first exhibits took place in the region in April, when Yazidis gather to celebrate the New Year. Some were held outdoors in the very areas the photos documented nearly a century earlier.

"(It) was perceived as a beautiful way to bring memory back, a memory that was directly threatened through the ethnic cleansing campaign," Marin Webb said.

Basher's brother was visiting their hometown from Germany when he saw the exhibit and recognized his grandparents. That helped the researchers fill in some blanks.

The wedding photos show an elaborately dressed bride as she stands anxiously in the doorway of her home, proceeds with her dowry to her husband's village, and finally enters his family home as a crowd looks on.

"I see my sister in black and white," said Basher, noting the similar green eyes and skin tone her sister shares with their grandmother, Naama Sulayman.

Her grandfather, Bashir Sadiq Rashid al-Rashidani, came from a prominent family and often hosted the Penn archaeology crews at his cafe. He and his brother, like other local men, also worked on the excavations, prompting him to invite the westerners to his wedding. They in turn took the photos and even lent the couple a car for the occasion, the family said.

Some of the photos were taken by Ephraim Avigdor Speiser, the Penn Museum archaeologist who led excavations at two ancient Mesopotamian sites in the area, Tepe Gawra and Tell Billa.

"My grandfather used to talk a lot about that time," said Basher, who uses a different spelling of the family surname than other relatives.

Her father, Mohsin Bashir Sadiq, 77, a retired teacher now living in Cologne, Germany, believes the wedding was the first time anyone in the town used a car, which he described as a 1927 model. It can be seen at the back of the wedding procession.

Basher has shared the photos on social media to educate people about her homeland.

"The idea or the picture they have in their mind about Iraq is so different from the reality," she said. "We've been suffering a lot, but we still have some history."

Found photos, history awakened

Other photos in the collection show people at home, at work, at religious gatherings.

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To Marin Webb, an architect from Barcelona, they show the Yazidis as they lived, instead of equating them with the violence they later endured. Locals who saw the exhibit told him it “shows the world that we’re also people.”

An isolated minority, the Yazidis have been persecuted for centuries.

Basher is grateful the photos remained safe — if largely out of sight — at the museum all this time. Alessandro Pezzati, the museum’s senior archivist, was one of several people who helped Marin Webb comb through the files to identify them.

“A lot of these collections are sleeping until they get woken up by people like him,” Pezzati said.

Today in History:

September 14, Roosevelt becomes youngest US president

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 14, the 257th day of 2025. There are 108 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 14, 1901, President William McKinley died in Buffalo, New York, of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin eight days prior; Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him, becoming the youngest-ever U.S. president at age 42.

Also on this date:

In 1847, during the Mexican-American War, U.S. forces under Gen. Winfield Scott took control of Mexico City.

In 1861, the first naval engagement since the start of the Civil War took place as the USS Colorado attacked and sank the Confederate private schooner Judah off the coast of Pensacola, Florida.

In 1927, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan died in Nice, France, when her scarf became entangled in a wheel of the sports car in which she was riding.

In 1982, Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly film star Grace Kelly, died at age 52 of injuries from a car crash the day before.

In 1991, the government of South Africa, the African National Congress and the Inkatha (in-KAH'-tah) Freedom Party signed a national peace pact.

In 1994, on the 34th day of a strike by players, Acting Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig announced the 1994 season was over.

In 2001, Americans packed churches and public squares on a day of remembrance for the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. President George W. Bush prayed with his Cabinet and attended services at Washington National Cathedral, then flew to New York, where he waded into the ruins of the World Trade Center and addressed rescue workers in a show of resolve.

In 2012, fury over an anti-Muslim film ridiculing the Prophet Muhammad sparked violent clashes across the Muslim world.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Walter Koenig (KAY'-nihg) ("Star Trek") is 89. Architect Renzo Piano is 88. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown is 85. Actor Sam Neill is 78. Country singer John Berry is 66. Actor Melissa Leo is 65. Actor Faith Ford is 61. Film director Bong Joon-Ho is 56. Supreme Court justice Ketanji Brown Jackson is 55. Actor Kimberly Williams-Paisley is 54. Actor Andrew Lincoln is 52. Rapper Nas is 52. Olympic gold medal middle-distance runner Hicham El Guerrouj is 51. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is 47. Chef/TV personality Katie Lee is 44. NBA All-Star Jimmy Butler is 36. Golfer Tony Finau is 36. Actor Emma Kenney is 26.